Highlands School ranked 29th in North Carolina

In its 2017 annual report, US News & World Report ranked and awarded medals to two of the five high schools in the Macon County School district – Highlands School, which was ranked and received a silver medal and Macon Early College which received a bronze medal.

Out of North Carolina’s 603 public high schools, Highlands School was ranked 29; and ranked 998 out of the nation’s 28,496 public high schools.

“Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement® course work and exams and the AP® participation rate at Highlands School is 47 percent. The student body makeup is 50 percent male and 50 percent female, and the total minority enrollment is 19 percent,” reads the

Mama and cubs come for supper

Mirror Lake homeowner Sara E. Benson was greeted by three black bears at dusk Sunday evening. The bears love a batch of grubs on the lawn which fronts the shoreline along Mirror Lake. At one point the mother bear was reclining on her belly watching one of her babies dig the tasty grubs within 10 feet of her deck. Benson yelled, “Stop that! Go away!” After which the bears slowly retreated into the woods.

Photo by Sara Benson

Mama bear shot; 4 cubs orphaned but safe

It’s that time of year when bear sightings, pictures and stories are rampant. Unfortunately, they don’t always have a happy ending.

On the morning of Friday, April 28, a nuisance mama bear was shot and killed by a homeowner at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club leaving four, four-month old boy and girl cubs.

Evidently hungry and desperate to eat so she could nurse her cubs, the mama bear broke into numerous homes in the club with abandon – she wasn’t afraid of people and she broke in even when the residents were home.

She broke windows, doors, sliding glass doors; anything blocking her way in.

The fifth time she broke into her last home, she was shot.

“Stop the homeowner shot the mama bear shot; 4 cubs orphaned but safe

Mail campaign urges citizens to fight against potential sanctuary cities

Some residents in Highlands have received a a piece of mail requesting them to vote “Not Here” on “Sanctuary” status for the 28741 zip code; and to donate money to the cause.

The request allegedly comes from the Secure America Now (SAN) organization with a pream-ble from Sean Hannity, the host of The Sean Hannity Show, asking readers to support SAN’s sanctuary cause because the nonprofit “stands up for and protects Americans’ rights, country and national security.”

In the pre-amble allegedly

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I have written before about “home rule” for municipalities versus state regulation and control. North Carolina is a Dillon Rules state where almost everything a town does is authorized by enabling legislative statutes. Judge Dillion issued an opinion in the 19th Century ruling that municipalities could not pass ordinances that exceeded state law. North Carolina really embraces the old judge’s opinion. The National League of Cities recently posted an article on state pre-emption of municipalities. The article was in part a response to NC HB 2 which was the state’s preemption of Charlotte’s public bathroom ordinance. The state nullified Charlotte’s ordinance with HB2. Some legislators pointed out Charlotte’s ordinance exceeded state law, which in fact it did. The National League of Cities article contained a chart showing how each state regulates seven areas that directly impact municipalities. These areas are, minimum wage, paid leave, anti-discrimination, home share, ride share, tax/expenditure limits, and municipal broadband.

Vermont and Connecticut have no state limits on these seven areas. They pretty much have “home rule.” Most states have laws with limitations in two to five of these areas. But one state tops the preemption scale by regulating 6 of the 7 areas, North Carolina! The only area our state does not regulate is home share, at last for now.

House Bill 142 repealed HB 2, but imposed a moratorium on ordinances passing any anti-discrimination, minimum wage, and bathroom ordinances for the next three years. But, there is impending legislation that may also preempt towns and cities. Pending legislation could limit municipalities in the areas of building code enforcement, zoning, development and billboard regulations. The billboard bill is supposedly an effort to standardize regulations throughout the state. Under this proposal, a town could not have billboard regulations that exceeded the new state law. For now the billboard bill is on hold, but it is illustrative of Dillion’s Principle of state preemption authority over any municipal ordinance.

To be fair, a case can be made that states should be able to preempt municipalities when ordinances exceed state law. Legislation argues the state law making process has to be congruent with federal constitutional law, and cities cannot be exempt from this check and balance process. On the other hand, the National League of Cities has concerns that too much state preemption limits municipalities in responding to local problems such as providing services and spurring economic development.

A case in point is the lack of county and municipal broadband networks in the state’s 85 rural counties. Major private providers are unwilling to invest the huge amounts of capital necessary to connect these small communities. Excessive state broadband regulations on counties and municipalities will hamper development of this critical economic need. HB 69 - The Bright Futures Act is designed to regulate and support the development of broadband in these rural counties. Regulations are easy to develop in Raleigh. Infusion of state funds to build broadband in smaller counties is desperately needed.

Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor
denigrating the media and anyone else who happens to disagree with him, and achieving
the lowest approval ratings in recent history are signs that he’s on the right track.
Here’s a suggestion Mr. President...get over yourself and your colossal ego. Stop play-
ing “who’s the man” with a seriously demented Kim Jong Un and possibly get us into an
armed conflict or even worse, a nuclear war with North Korea. In case you’ve forgotten
Mr. President, we lost thousands of American lives in the first Korean War.
Secondly, stop those childish tweets. You’re how old...70? If you must tweet, at least
take some remedial grammar lessons.
Third, try acting presidential. It’s probably a stretch, but if you have a point to make,
how about speaking from the heart rather than reading from a prepared script. There’s
nothing more off-putting than losing eye contact with your audience. I’m surprised your
handlers haven’t coached you on this.
Fourth, I understand you haven’t read any books about your predecessors, their ex-
periences, successes and failures. It just might be a good idea. You could probably learn
something rather than conducting the affairs of the country “on instinct” which obviously
hasn’t worked so far.
Finally, try a reality check. You are indeed the president of the most incredible and
powerful country in the world. But at the same time you are just one man who must deal
with the other branches of government, the media (fake and otherwise), and all the elector-
ate, not just the minority who voted for you.
Perhaps, just perhaps, you might become the leader you so dearly want to be, not the
one-term president you’re likely to become.

Kurt J. Volker
Otto, NC

The Five Human Senses: Are There More?

Dear Editor,

Since grade school we’ve been taught the five basic senses... touch, hearing, sight, taste
and smell. These senses give us a balance or direction in life of what can be enjoyed, or
what can be harmful. The simple touch of a loved one can comfort a troubled heart, but
the touch of a burning flame can be painful. Hearing screams from a child brings panic and
fear into the heart of any parent, yet hearing a child’s laughter brings delight and joy. Sights
of magnificent beauty bring awe and wonder in what is seen, but sights of harm and death
depthly trouble the heart. Taste and smell are enjoyed if sweet and fragrant, but bitterness
and foul smells are repulsive.

We all relate to these senses every day, whether we realize it or not. We can be
handicapped by the lack of one or more of the five senses, but even within a handicap all
humanity senses a need for “love and justice,” and its necessity for living life. All humanity
seeks acceptance... a need for being wanted, and searches for a correction of all that’s wrong
in our troubled world.

Scientists are amazed of how a microscopic living cell can be so complex and have deep
within itself mind-boggling information; that one cell can produce billions of cells that
make up a complex human being. They state that there must be an intelligent mind behind
such magnificence. As our world advances, it points more and more to a divine creator.
God is not confined within the pages of a book because He speaks though what He has

Proctors needed at Highlands School

End of Grade tests for Grades 3-8 begin on Tuesday, May 16th, and second semester
High School exams begin Tuesday, May 23rd. The State of North Carolina requires that
certain settings have proctors in addition to the administrator of the tests. Every year,
we solicit volunteers to assist us with our testing schedule as proctors. Volunteers cannot
proctor in their child’s or a relative child’s classroom. However, we have a number of test
settings, so we will be able to use you somewhere.

Generally tests begin at 8AM and end about 11:45 most days. Some settings require
longer sessions. If you are available to proctor regular settings or longer settings, please let
us know.

Please check the dates below and contact us at 828-526-2147 or by email: Nicole Lui
(nicole.lui@macon.k12.nc.us) or Frances Beck frances.beck@macon.k12.nc.us) – if you are
able to assist us with our testing this year.

TESTING DATES: May 16th (Tue); May 17th (Wed); May 19th (Fri); May 23rd (Tues)
May 24th (Wed); May 25th (Thurs); May 26th (Fri); May 18th (Thurs)
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...LETTERS from page 3

created. We see this through the five senses he has given us, but more so through what he has placed within each of us.... the need for love, both to be given and to be received. His existence and being is “love and justice,” and if his love is given for only the present, then He is very cruel, for if he is eternal, then his love is eternal, and he made this for us to be eternal with Him. In making sense of what we struggle with; pain, suffering, even joy and laughter ... at the end is it all for nothing?.. is life ending the cruelty of it all? Or are we made for something more.? God makes sense, His story makes sense. We can follow why we are what we are, and how to live life in its fullness. Our world is broken and we all sense and want something different, with love and a peace that we all can be part of. If love was totally realized and given unselfishly by all, we would have no need for justice, but in our selfishness which we are all part of, we need justice, we all have done wrong. God's love is pure, but within his Holiness, he must also be ‘Just.’ He has placed this “wanting” into the heart of us all.

Deni Shepard
Franklin

...MA YOR from page 2

these networks is another issue. Matching grants with communities and private partners could make a huge difference. On the other hand, preemptive regulations will only delay this critical economic need for these small, rural areas.

The staff and board will be discussing this issue, as well as other budget items, at our first budget workshop this afternoon at 3 at the conference center.
The purchase of almost 14 acres in the town of Franklin could help expand Macon County’s Little Tennessee River Greenway.

Mainspring Conservation Trust, a regional land trust based in Franklin, closed Wednesday, April 26 on 13.9 acres off Siler Road that borders Southwestern Community College, Macon Early College and the Macon County Public Library. The land includes 1,200 feet of Cartoogechaye Creek and was identified in the original Greenway plan and in the recent “Bike Walk Franklin” plan as an important tract for extending the Greenway closer to the Macon County Recreation Park.

When the property became available for sale, Mainspring was contacted by several county residents asking them to acquire the property and hold it until it could become part of the Greenway system. Sharon Taylor, Mainspring executive director, said they were glad to step up for the community. “This is one of those great projects that touches all three of our core initiatives: conserve the land, restore the water and connect people to nature.”

Although Mainspring will not be part of extending the County owned Greenway, Taylor feels there is much support for the extension and looks forward to working with the County leaders to help make it possible.

While Mainspring owns the property, there are plans to address the restoration needs of the land. Jordan Smith, Land Conservation Manager for Mainspring, is seeking grant money to restore the streambank and wetland portion of the property and funds to convey a conservation easement to the State of North Carolina. “Once we protect the property’s natural resources and restore the streambank and wetland areas, we hope to work with partners to develop interpretive and educational signage on the extended Greenway, as an opportunity for folks to be able see the benefits of restoration work and land conservation.”

Smith is excited about the possibilities. “Like all of our projects, this one is going to take a lot of partners to make it happen. But we know the backing for this is out there and I hope to see people show their support for the Greenway extension that has been talked about for some time.”

Currently celebrating its 20th anniversary, Mainspring has conserved more than 25,000 acres and connected thousands of youth to nature in the six western-most counties in North Carolina and northern Rabun County, Georgia.
# Mountain Fresh Grocery

**Porch Dinners Every Friday and Saturday Night from 6 to 8pm**

## Steakhouse Friday Night
From 6pm to 8pm (Dine in Only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-Ounce Ribeye</td>
<td>23.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Ounce NY Strip</td>
<td>18.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Ounce Filet</td>
<td>24.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Louis Rack of Ribs</td>
<td>21.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grilled Wild Caught Salmon</td>
<td>18.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Jumbo Broiled Shrimp</td>
<td>18.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two 5-Ounce Lobster Tails</td>
<td>24.99</td>
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</tbody>
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## Fish Camp Saturday Night
From 6pm to 8pm (Dine in Only)

- $19.99 Per Person
- Unlimited, Continuously Served Fresh from the Hot Bar.

### Selections such as:
- Butter Broiled Shrimp
- Seared Scallops Sautéed Trout
- Fried Flounder Fried Shrimp Salmon

### With sides such as:
- Clam Fritters, Cole Slaw, Baked Potatoes, Steak Fries, House Made Hush Puppies, Mac N Cheese, Clam Chowder, Tartar Sauce, Cocktails Sauce, Fresh Lemons, Caramel and Coconut Cake, and a Full Salad Bar

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SCHOOL continued from page 1

Highlands School also has a 100% graduation rate.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter attributes Highlands School’s success to three factors: teachers, students and parents.

“We have really good teachers who focus on increasing student academic achievement. To do that they must know what the state’s standards are; know how to help students learn those standards and know how to motivate students to learn those standards. All of that takes intelligence, knowledge, and darn hard work on our teachers’ part,” he said. “Walk through our halls on any day, at any time, and you will see teachers doing the hard work of teaching. They won’t be sitting at their computer, they will be engaged with the students who are in their classrooms. That continual engagement is very hard work.”

Jetter said Highlands School teachers know that a connection with their students leads to increasing student achievement, “and they do everything in their power not to break that connection in the classroom,” he said.

Jetter also said the students at Highlands School want to learn and grow academically.

“These students take pride in their achievement and work hard to gain it,” he said.

And of course, parents’ involvement is paramount.

“We have parents who make school important to their children by staying involved in school activities, and monitoring their children’s progress,” said Jetter.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said Highlands School and Macon Early College’s rankings speak well of the school system.

“This recognition is an honor for both our community and our school system. Achievement of this kind is due to a high-quality faculty and staff along with tremendous community support. The fact that Highlands School is a K-12 school is an additional benefit. In this setting, students, teachers and parents are able to build constructive relationships from an early age that help get the most from a child’s education,” he said.

To that point, last week Principal Jetter announced that all 3rd grade students have met the state’s Read to Achieve (RTA) requirements for the 2016-2017 school year.

“Third-grade students must meet the RTA requirements to be allowed to advance to 4th grade.”

He said that is a required milestone that will help ensure successful school years. As the saying goes, “students learn to read and then read to learn.”

In the 2017 U.S. News Best High Schools in North Carolina rankings, 16 schools earned gold medals, 36 schools earned silver medals and 90 earned bronze medals.

According to the report, there are four steps to being ranked:

STEP 1: Students perform better than expected in their state.

“We looked at reading and math results for students on each state’s proficiency tests and then factored in the percentage of economically disadvantaged students, who tend to score lower.”

STEP 2: Disadvantaged students perform better than state average.

“We compared each school’s math and reading proficiency rates for disadvantaged students - black, Hispanic and low-income - with the statewide results for these student groups and then selected schools that were performing better than their state averages.”

STEP 3: Student graduation rates meet or exceed a national standard.

“We excluded schools from consideration if their graduation rates were lower than 75 percent - a threshold that is higher than a federal law that requires states to give extra resources to schools below 67 percent.”

STEP 4: Students are prepared for college-level coursework.

“We calculated a College Readiness Index, which is based on the school’s AP participation rate and how well the students did on those tests. Tie-breakers were used to determine ranks of schools that achieved the same College Readiness Index.”

– Kim Lewicki

Montana McElroy, Jesus Damian, John Murphy, David Rogers, Caden Smolarsky, Carson Talbert, Pablo Jimenez, Jose Jimenez. Not pictured is Riely Rivers and Freddi Lopez.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki
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Deli – Serving all day
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Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage, pancetta, and daily specials.

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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 overnight and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls $25.95 serves two

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Whether buying or selling a home there are reasons you should always use a Realtor

There are many situations in life where you seek out professional advice. Why would you not seek a professional when making one of the biggest and possibly most expensive decisions you will undertake. A professional, experienced Realtor will have many hours of education and experience to help guide you through the home buying or selling experience.

One of the main things a real estate professional will do is educate you rather than simply sell. They will explain each step thoroughly to help you understand the hows and whys of the many decisions you will need to make in a transaction. While getting this education, it’s important to still value and listen to the advice of the ‘teacher’. An individual will be involved in an average of 3 - 5 real estate transactions in their lifetime. A professional agent can be involved in that many transactions in a month. Go with the expertise.

Realtors are marketing experts when it comes to having a home in peak condition to put on the market. If the Realtor doesn’t have the ‘eye’ to tell you how to stage your home, they will have experts they can call upon to assist. A professional Realtor will work with the best supporting cast available to ready and market your home. More and more, first impressions are made before a buyer walks into a home. The talented and professional photographer is one of the Realtor’s biggest assets. The individual or company website is key to this marketing performance as well.

Market and area knowledge are key factors in the Realtor’s arsenal of talents. These factors are important in all markets, but are crucial in the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau market. Professionals who have worked and taught in other markets and areas are constantly amazed at the uniqueness and ‘quirks’ of our local market. This portion of the Realtor’s importance can’t be stressed enough in our market as not only is the market unique, usually neither the sellers or buyers are ‘full-time’ residents.

Negotiation ability. While not really a stand alone sentence, it is one of the other key talents you get and should expect from your Realtor. Your experience in negotiations normally take place in other fields. If you are a good negotiator in your chosen field, then you, more than others should realize that the overall knowledge of a product, situation and market are keys to a successful negotiation. A true professional Realtor knows that each step in the process involves negotiation. Coming to an agreement on price, who takes care of what portion of the repairs, when will you close, what about the furniture, there are multiple areas of negotiation in a real estate transaction. You need an expert negotiator on your side.

A key reason for using a professional Realtor is their ability to handle stressful situations and encounters. It would be outstanding if each and every real estate deal was sunshine, roses and hugs throughout the entire process. However, this is not always the case. With the larger rewards and dollar amounts involved, the potential for disagreement between parties accelerates. Having that professional who can maintain their perspective and keep the parties ‘on course’ is crucial to a successful transaction.

There are several other key factors for choosing and using a professional Realtor, one being the long hours and overall efforts they work on your behalf. How many of you have called your Realtor after normal working hours and had them take care of your individual needs or situation. One of the outstanding results from these hours of searching, marketing, negotiating and calming is that you will often maintain a relationship with a strong professional Realtor for years. They don’t close the file and flip the switch when the deal is done.

- Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group’s Highlands office. Landmark also has offices in Cashiers and Burlingame providing the Highlands Cashiers Plateau with professional and friendly service. Visit their website at www.Landmarkrg.com
Every space in this 3/3 home was updated. Two-tiered deck with views of the mountains, the lake, and the 5th fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club. The floor plan is perfect for entertaining. In addition, there is a one bedroom guest house with a new kitchen. $699,000 MLS #82523

Located at the end of a cul de sac with National Forest on two sides. Lovely open floor plan. 3/3 with beautiful, easy care landscaping. $695,000 MLS#67817

Newly renovated 3bd/3ba home. Granite breakfast bar and stainless steel appliances. On more than an acre with long range mountain views. $280,000 MLS #85787

This timeless home is on the National Register of Historic Places. Enjoy the 3+ acres of lush native plantings combined with colorful annuals and perennials in several gardens. 5/3 & sleeping porch. $1,070,000 MLS #82122

3bd, 3.5ba in Holly Forest. NO NEIGHBORS, buffer/adjacent for FREE as part of this amazing deal! Perfect for family entertaining. $395,000 MLS #85604

In exclusive HIGHGATE, only 4 minutes to downtown Highlands. 5br/6.5ba home with open floor plan with high ceilings and a “walkout” terrace level w/ separate entrance. ‘His’ and ‘hers’ baths and closets. $1,195,000. MLS #83155

Beautiful log cabin located between Highlands and Franklin. This meticulously kept 2bd, 2ba would make a great vacation or rental property. $347,000 MLS #85731

Beautiful log cabin located between Highlands and Franklin. This meticulously kept 2bd, 2ba would make a great vacation or rental property. $347,000 MLS #85731

Private location and mountain view in prestigious Cullasaja Club. This 4 br/4.5 ba Lupoli built home is decked out in beautiful stone and exudes quality. Spacious screened porch with a second fireplace and a lavish master suite. MLS $1,695,000 #83822

Located at the end of a cul de sac with National Forest on two sides. Lovely open floor plan. 3/3 with beautiful, easy care landscaping. $695,000 MLS#67817

Meticulously maintained home with tremendous mountain views! 3.46 acres for plenty of privacy. Kitchen features granite counter tops, new appliances, cabinets and flooring. $500,000 MLS #80134

Luxury mountain spec home. Superb finishes and design throughout this 3bd, 3.5ba home in Riverwalk. Gourmet kitchen and main level master second to none. $950,000 MLS #82612

Meticulously maintained home with tremendous mountain views! 3.46 acres for plenty of privacy. Kitchen features granite counter tops, new appliances, cabinets and flooring. $500,000 MLS #80134

Create lasting family memories at this 4bd, 4ba Trillium Links & Lake Club home. Breathtaking year round lake & mtn views from over 1,200 sq ft of outdoor living space. $895,000 MLS #85779

Best priced home the prestigious Highlands Country Club. Totally renovated, expanded and redesigned in 2002. This 4br/4ba home features wrap around decks and mountain views. $895,000. MLS #84686
**NOTICE:**

- Highlands School: Due to the loss of instructional time from inclement weather delays, May 5, 2017 will now be a regular day of school instead of a teacher work day

**Ongoing**
- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm.
- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels from inclement weather delays, May 5, 2017 will now be a regular day of school instead of a teacher work day

**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**
- 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 1 p.m. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

**Mon. & Thurs.**
- The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m. 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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30 a.m. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

**Tuesdays**
- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6 p.m.
- The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story is discussed.

**Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus Concert at First Presbyterian this Sunday**

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a free concert at First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Chorus is conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster who also serves as Conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus and Director of Worship/Music at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Chorus, a 24-voice advanced choral ensemble, was founded by Lancaster in the fall of 2016. The group will also sing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church on May 7. The public is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

**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 Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828-331.1524

**Third Tuesday**
- The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

**Tuesday and Thursdays**
- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
- Pickle ball from 11:30 a.m to 1 p.m. in the gym at the Rec Park.
- Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 p.m. This will be a combination class with many different styles of exercise.

**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 3:30 p.m. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

**3rd Wednesdays**
- Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

**Thursdays**
- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 a.m. Open to the public.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 p.m 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 5 p.m. For more information call 770-823-0601.
- 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 p.m. 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 Sylva: from 7:30-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430
- 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.

**Fridays**
- 49ers 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, 6-8 p.m in Town Square. Live music.
Third Fridays
- Senior Dinners are held on the third Friday of each month from November through April at noon in the Rec Park.

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 Mountain Top Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.
- At The Bascom Pottery Sale in the barn from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 a.m. until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., May 4
- Leadership & Literature Event: At 6 p.m., a Tasting Buffet with Special Guests Mountain Faith enjoy an evening filled with fellowship, good food and great music! Attendees are encouraged to bid on some exciting silent auction items to raise funds for Iotla Valley Elementary School. Tickets are purchased in advance at $25 per person. Please see an IVE staff member for ticket information or call the school at 524-2938.

Fri. & Sat., May 5 & 6
- At the Nature Center, Wildflower Whimsy - Friday, May 5, 5 – 8 p.m. Cost: $75 members; 828-526-2623

Sat., May 6
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous six-mile hike, elevation change 700 ft., up and down on the NC Bartram Trail from Harrison Gap to Locust Tree Gap, with views of Burningtown area and Wayah Valley, perhaps seeing wildflowers along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m., drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.
- At the Highlands Biological Station, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. $100 non-members Join us for Wildflower Whimsy to learn more about plants’ diminutive world. All proceeds support the Highlands Biological Foundation. Speaker: Gary Kauffman, NC Fish and Wildlife Service.
- At The Bascom. Reception for new exhibits at The Bascom 3-5 p.m. George Beasley, curator of The Second Outdoor Sculpture Invitational will share his inspiration in the selection of the seven artists represented in this year’s invitational, Journeys in Iron at 4 p.m. Enjoy site-specific installations on the Margaret and Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail by current sculpture fellow, Eric Araujo, New Paintings of the South by English-born artist, Jylvan Davis in the Joel Gallery and Photography Members Exhibit in the Education Gallery.
- Pulling for a Cure. Firetruck pull in the Big Lots parking lot at 11 a.m. Hamburger and hotdog lunch. Sponsored by MC Emergency Personnel Relay for Life Team. For more information call 828-421-7822.
- Leadership & Literature Event: At 6 p.m., a Tasting Buffet with Special Guests Mountain Faith enjoy an evening filled with fellowship, good food and great music! Attendees are encouraged to bid on some exciting silent auction items to raise funds for Iotla Valley Elementary School. Tickets are purchased in advance at $25 per person. Please see an IVE staff member for ticket information or call the school at 524-2938.
- The 2nd annual Craft Fair, sponsored by the Cartoogechaye Christian Fellowship will be held on Saturday, at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be approx. 30 artists and crafters selling their handcrafted items, along with a bake sale and food sales. The Cartoogechaye Christian Fellowship (CCF) is a non-profit organization of seven participating churches in western Macon County. The proceeds of the Craft Fair will be used to benefit Cartoogechaye Elementary School, their students, PTO and other programs.

Sun., May 7
- At First Presbyterian Church, a free Asheville Symphony Chamber Concert Corus at 4 p.m.

Mon., May 8
- Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild will welcome “Martha Washington,” our country’s first First Lady, Monday, May 8, at Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street, Franklin. Storyteller, Muriel Pfaff, dressed in authentic period costume, will present Martha Washington’s story and interesting insights about Martha’s everyday life. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m.; meeting at 10 a.m. Anyone interested in the art of quilt making may attend SMQG meetings. For more information about the guild and future events visit www.sokymtnquilters.org

Mon. May 8
- The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Monday in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome.

Tues., May 9
- Occupy WNC’s General Assembly next on Tuesday at 7 p.m., in The Sneak E. Squirrel’s Community Room, 1315 Main Street, Sylva NC. “We are a non-partisan group working for social and economic equality since October, 2011.” We welcome visitors and newcomers.

Wed., May 10
- A Charity Dining Out Event to benefit the WNC Hospice House Foundation at Canyon Kitchen in Cashiers. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m. $175 per person which includes tax and gratuity. $75 is tax deductible. For reservations, call 828-524-8261.

Thurs., May 11
- “Blue Valley Overflow Trek” Join us as we partner with Chattooga River Conservancy on this easy walk through the Overflow Creek Wilderness Area. Co-hosted by H-C Land Trust and The Village Green. Reservations required. $35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, $10 for HCLT members. To reserve: info@hcltrust@earthlink.net.
- Lakeside Restaurant will donate 20% of their gross pro-

See EVENTS page 14
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and visit a small museum and gift shop. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto NC at 2:00 p.m., drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820 for reservations.

Tues.-Fri, May 30 – June 2
- Plants-a-Plenty Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 4 - 6 • 9 am – 11 am daily • Cost $75 per child. Highlands is a perfect place to investigate plant biodiversity. Campers will be exposed to plant and tree basics while exploring in the Highlands Botanical Garden. From flowers to ferns, the fun is never-ending!

Tues., May 30
- Village Nature Series: Hungry Like the Wolf - Learning About Endangered Red Wolves with Ben Prater. Co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. 5:30 PM, rain or shine. For more information contact the land trust at 526-1111 or info.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Wed., May 31
- 100 Day Review of President Trump’s Foreign Policy 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., June 3
- Reviving and Reshaping North Carolina after the Civil War, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Manna Food Bank’s 2017 Blue Jean Ball. Sat., June 3
- Cycling Through Nature. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 6 - 9 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost $110 per child. The natural world is very cyclical. From life cycles of plants and animal to the water cycle and even the seasons, things tend to happen in circular patterns. We will explore the richness of these cycles throughout the week.

Tues., June 6
- The Movies of Burt Lancaster: An American Hero, 10:00-12:00 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Multiple exhibits to open at The Bascom May 6

The Bascom is pleased to have several new exhibitions on view beginning May 6. You are invited to celebrate the Bascom’s Second Outdoor Sculpture Invitation! Come stroll the beautiful setting of our campus enhanced by cast iron sculptures. At 4pm, Curator George Beasley will share his inspiration in the selection of the seven artists represented in this year’s invitational, Journeys in Iron. Continue along the Margaret and Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail to interact with site-specific installations by current sculpture fellow, Eric Araujo. In the Joel Gallery, we will exhibit New Paintings of the South by English-born artist, Julian Davis. Davis lives and works in Asheville, NC and will be sharing local scenes he has frequented over the years to paint. Finally, the Bascom Photography Club member’s exhibit will be in the Education Gallery. Join us in welcoming the artists of all the exhibitions! There is a reception on Saturday May 6, 3-5pm for all these exhibits. The reception is free and open to the public.

While you are at The Bascom, please visit the Bunzel Gallery to see, North Carolina, A Sense of Home which feature extraordinary photographs from The Do Good Fund as well as Intertwined by Guerra de la Paz in the Loft Gallery.

The Bascom offers free admission to all exhibitions Monday-Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-5. For more information about the Bascom’s exhibitions and educational programs can be found at www.thebascom.org.
As an official Emergency Placement Partner with the Humane Society of the United States – one of less than 300 nationwide and one of only four in North Carolina with large scale transport capability – the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society (CHHS) has been called upon to provide assistance in puppy mill raids, cruelty and hoarding cases, and disaster response in five different states. But the rescue that CHHS has been working on since April 13th is by far the largest in scale – in terms of the number of animals at the scene, and the number of animals CHHS is rescuing to bring back to its no-kill shelter in Cashiers – in its 30-year history.

After an initial search and seizure warrant was served, the CHHS Animal Rescue Team was among the first responders on the morning of April 13, 2017 at the scene of a large-scale, multi-species animal neglect case in Clarkesville, GA. More than 350 animals were found living in deplorable living conditions, with many of them living in filth and inches of feces. The animals included 283 dogs and puppies, along with cats, donkeys, pigs, chickens, ducks, doves, bunnies, a horse and an alpaca. The animals were living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions and in need of urgent veterinary care. Charges are pending for the owners of the property.

“I first heard of the case from my personal veterinarian,” said David Stroud, Executive Director of the CHHS. “Dr. Emily Allison has a practice in Alto, GA and she called me around 6 the evening of April 12th as she was assisting in the evaluation of the animals after the warrant was served. I contacted the emergency rescue folks at the Humane Society of the United States and they had also just heard about the case. Around 11pm that night I received a call from Sára Varsa, Senior Director for the HSUS Animal Rescue Team in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and we discussed final plans for deployment. By the next morning, our rescue team from Cashiers was on the road to Clarkesville.”

Members of the CHHS Animal Rescue Team were assigned to the task of helping to extract the 283 dogs from appalling conditions, working with the veterinarians on scene to identify any critical medical needs, and safely transporting the dogs to a temporary shelter a few miles away. It took two full days to help rescue all the dogs. Other teams on the scene were there to simultaneously rescue and relocate the other animal species.

“Not only were the conditions filthy and unacceptable by any humane standards,” said Stroud, “It was by far the worst conditions of matted fur I have ever seen in my career, and I have seen some horrible cases. There were dogs that you could not tell the animal’s head from its tail, and fur so matted that legs couldn’t even move. There were wire pens set up for as far as the eye could see, with no gate to enter each pen. Therefore, these dogs never had any kind of daily touching, petting, let alone much-needed bathing and brushing. We had to use wire cutters to get into the pens to save the dogs.”

One bright moment in otherwise dismal and depressing conditions was that members of the CHHS Animal Rescue Team were reunited with a dear friend of the CHHS, world-renowned animal behavior expert Victoria Stilwell and recipient of the 2014 CHHS Humane Hero of the Year Award. Victoria was there to assist in the rescue and evaluation of the dogs, most of whom were obviously traumatized, confused and afraid.

This is the seventh rescue that CHHS has participated in as an HSUS Emergency Placement partner, and the first rescue for CHHS in the State of Georgia. Previous CHHS rescues have taken place in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and all across the State of North Carolina. Kim Alboum, National Shelter Outreach & Policy Engagement Director for the Humane Society of the United States, commented on the partnership between the two animal welfare organizations: “Our shelter and rescue partners are a vital component of our nationwide rescue efforts. CHHS stands ready to respond in the field or take in victims of cruelty and neglect. Our life saving work depends on their ability to continue the healing journey for many of these animals and we were incredibly grateful to have the Cashiers team on our side during this multi species neglect case.”

Not only was this rescue the largest in CHHS’ history in terms of animals at the scene, it is also the largest in the number of animals CHHS is bringing back for safe refuge at its no-kill shelter. A total of 50 dogs came to CHHS and are available Adoptions will take place a week or two afterwards, depending on the medical conditions of each animal. All dogs rescued by CHHS will receive any and all necessary veterinary care and will be spayed/neutered prior to adoption.

The rescued dogs will be housed in the new CHHS Canine Adoption Center, western North Carolina’s most modern animal welfare facility. The 50 dogs are not purebred, but are a variety of mixes of Maltese, Poodle, Yorkie, Chihuahua, Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu, Terrier and Pomeranian. For adoption information, please call the CHHS shelter at (828)743-5752 between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

• Founded in 1987, the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society has rescued, cared for, and found forever homes for tens of thousands of abandoned and neglected animals. CHHA is a 501(c)3 non-profit no-kill shelter that receives no federal, state or county tax dollars, and no funding from any national animal welfare organization. One hundred percent of CHHS’ revenue comes from donations, grants, bequests and special events to support the mission of rescue, adoption, spay/neuter and humane education.

CHHS is located on Highway 64 in Sapphire, North Carolina, two miles east of the Cashiers Crossroads. The shelter is open 10am-4pm Monday through Saturday. For more information, please call the shelter at 828-743-5752 or email info@chhunamesociety.org.
...BEAR continued from page 1

bear but on his behalf, she came through the window three times while they were there,” said Mike Carraway, wildlife biologist with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission. “She had developed bad habits; breaking into homes while people were there.”

Carraway said relocating a bear like that is not an option.

“We don’t relocate nuisance bears. Even if we had relocated her, she would have continued the behavior somewhere else,” he said.

Carraway was called to the scene Friday afternoon but the cubs were nowhere to be found. He left with instructions to call him if they turned up.

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club manager George Shook said traps were set with donuts and even blueberry pie to lure the cubs into the open but nothing worked.

Finally, Sunday afternoon, April 30, they were treed on the golf course by dogs and Carraway was called.

“Billy Hawkins was good enough to answer his phone on a Sunday afternoon and got a hold of a tree climber who came and got the cubs down with a lasso,” said Shook.

According to Carraway, the cubs are only a month old – two weighing nine pounds, one weighing six pounds and one weighing five pounds – so had only been out of the den about a month.

Carraway took the cubs to his home in Canton, NC, for a couple of days until they could be accepted at a bear sanctuary in the central part of the state. They will be bottle-fed until they are weaned and can eat solid food at which point they will then be penned with eight other orphaned bears with whom they will den through the winter.

Next summer, when they are 1½ years old and weigh 100-150 lbs they will be released into the wild.

“We release them in the summer when natural food sources are abundant – berries, grapes, wild cherries and then acorns and nuts in the fall – so they will be able to forage for food on their own. One benefit of not being with their mother is that mother bears teach their cubs where to find food and she would have taught them how to break into houses. Hopefully, they will have forgotten that by next summer,” said Carraway.

Shook said that it’s a really bad situation all the way around – what happened to the homeowners; what happened to the mother.

“But she was hungry because she had four cubs to nurse and there’s not enough food right now; so you can’t blame her. At least the cubs are safe and will be taken care of,” said Shook.

– Kim Lewicki
...MISSION continued from page 1

hospital, which had a profit of more than $60 million last year, and in an effort to maintain that distinction programs like AMC’s labor and delivery unit are being cut.

According to Dr. Paulus, AMC as a whole, operates with a deficit each year at around $1 million on average, but some years has lost as much as $4 million in one year.

Dr. Paulus said based on demographics of Macon County, an older community, the hospital is going to focus on older residents and the care they need. That group is growing while labor and delivery numbers remain flat.

Several factors contributed to AMC’s financial loss. Dr. Paulus, said proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act currently being debated by Congress, a charge lead by Macon County’s Congressman, Mark Meadows, paired with cuts to Medicare and Medicaid has hurt North Carolina Legislature’s refusal to expand government subsidized health care for the poor has put extraordinary pressure on the health care system, leaving it $37 million behind its original projections with little hope for an upswing. Mission Health started 2017 with a $37 million deficit for overall operations. In 2016, Dr. Paulus said that as a complete system, employees were given raises that totaled $37 million.

Dr. Paulus said that as a critical access hospital in a community that primarily serves low income residents, neither AMC or the Labor and Delivery unit will ever be profitable. Seventy-seven percent of the patients at Angel Medical Center are either uninsured or insured by Medicaid and Medicare. Government subsidies pay far below the cost of delivering care, with Labor and Delivery being a substantial cost.

While AMC will no longer be delivering babies, forcing mothers in the vicinity – including Highlands – to travel to Asheville, or to Jackson County, they do plan to continue to provide pre-and postnatal services, gynecological services, surgical procedures as well as preventive, routine and complex care for women of all ages. While Mission Health hopes to still offer these services for Macon County, they also said that they have no contract or agreement with the current doctors providing the services to continue working in Macon County now that they can no longer deliver at the hospital. The current doctors providing the services in Macon County were part of a recruitment effort a few years ago to expand the Women’s Unit at AMC based on a growing demographic. AMC’s philanthropy raised $36,000 from the community to expand the unit and recruited doctors as part of that initiative.

While as early as last year Mission Health was invested in an expansion of the unit at a cost of $4 million to meet the increase in births in the region. Last Friday Dr. Paulus said the information given to the community over the last few years from Mission health that birth rates were increasing was false and actually there hasn’t been an increase. If the doctors recruited just a few years ago choose to leave the area, women’s health services won’t be offered by Mission Health in Macon County until they recruit new doctors, assuming that’s even possible.

It’s not clear yet where women receiving prenatal services through Angel Medical will deliver their babies. Mission says it will have a final plan in place by June. While the final date for babies to be delivered at AMC is set for July 14, Mission Health said a transition plan hasn’t been made. As of right now, they just know they won’t be delivering after that date.

Mission Health said this year they started $37 million in the red based on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and that AMC loses $1 million a year. However, North Carolina opting out of the Medicaid reimbursement part of ACA played heavily into that.

Karen Gorby, president and CNO of Angel Medical Center, along with Dr. Paulus, also announced Friday that Mission “is contemplating significant, new investments totaling as much as $46M for a newly built hospital and upgrades to existing facilities based upon a detailed analysis of our population, broad health care delivery trends and pending health policy changes.”

According to Gorby, the timeline for the new hospital is in the next 2-3 years, although a location or masterplan for the project isn’t established at this time.

The Macon County community has been vocal in its opposition to AMC’s decision.

Last Sunday, the community gathered at the Franklin Town Square. More than a dozen people spoke at a rally pleading with the Franklin Town Board to do something, anything to stop it from happening.

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott plans to write a letter to Mission Health and AMC opposing the measure. County leaders are also shocked by the move and have been vocal in encouraging the hospital to reconsider its decision.

Mission Health operates or manages six hospitals in WNC including the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Only three facilities in the Mission Health System provide labor and delivery services.
The joy of ‘snapshot’ memories

W e’re doing a pictorial directory at our church, Highlands United Methodist. Though having one’s picture taken can induce a certain amount of stress - “Is my hair in place?” “Is there anything in my teeth?” - I’m delighted that we’re engaging in this season of picture-taking, ministry-celebration and memory-making.

There is a historic quality to church directories. If you belong to a church that has engaged in this time-honored tradition periodically through the years, I invite you to dust off a few and take a walk down memory lane one day soon. Flipping back through old church directories can bring back a flood of memories, and can even cause a chuckle or two. Revisiting old hair styles and past popular clothing can quickly remind us of how things have changed across the years. It can also serve as a reminder not to take ourselves too seriously.

The directory we’re currently creating at HUMC will be up to date for awhile. But we won’t have to break the seal on too many more new calendars to peruse through our 2017 church directory with some degree of nostalgia.

Many years ago, I was visiting with a dear old friend of mine in a nursing home. Clifford was a parishioner of mine. On the night stand by his bed was a framed, black and white photograph taken decades prior. There was Clifford a young boy, standing beside his teenage sister. And I invite you to dust off the family scrapbook or those old church directories. Or better yet, why not meet up with an old friend for coffee and talk about old times.

I’ll just bet you have some really special snapshots you could share!

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**Proverbs 3:5**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”* (NIV)

**John 3:16**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (NIV)
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The Highlands Police log entries from April 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 24
- At 4:11 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on South Street.

April 28
- At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

April 29
- At 10:24 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in front of Park on Main on Main Street.
- At 1:58 a.m., John Andrew Wheeler, 48, of Decatur, GA, was arrested for DWI and resisting arrest in Highlands Plaza. He was issued a $1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is May 24.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 21.

April 21
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Half Mile Drive.

April 23
- The dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Franklin Road.

April 24
- The dept. was first-responders in response to a medical alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

April 26
- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Pine Point. There was no problem.

Highlands References...

“We are extremely pleased with SPI for our credit card processing. Ron checks with me personally on a regular basis. Whenever I need to call their customer service it is excellent and solves my issue quickly. Our rates are the lowest we have had in years.”

— Rod Swanson
Colonel Mustards Specialty Foods

Ron Griffith (828) 482-9309
...SANCTUARY continued from page 1

from Hannity, he claims SAN co-founder David Goder asked him to include his endorsement in the six-page letter that asks citizens to fight anti-American, pro-illegal mayor or county politicians who will try to make their city or a city close to “your home” a sanctuary city — “mayors, city councils and even a few governors who are defying the will of not only President Trump but you, me, and every American who cast a vote for safe borders!” it reads.

“This is a battle that will be won or lost in the next couple of months,” continues the letter. “We need strong borders, not open borders! Please sign the “NOT HERE” referendum included in the letter and send it back with a one-time $35, $50, $100, $250, $500, or $1,000 or more contribution to Secure America Now. We must stop this. We cannot lose our country to the twisted concept of “sanctuary cities.”

As of press time, the Secure America Now website didn’t have anything on it about Sanctuary Cities or the campaign that SAN is allegedly orchestrating right now. Attempts to contact the organization or the co-founder were not possible, either. There is no contact information on the website. So whether this is a genuine request from SAN or a scam is unknown at this time.

Sean Hannity didn’t return emails by press time, so it’s unknown if he is truly involved with the campaign to thwart the sprouting of sanctuary cities in North Carolina, specifically the 28741 zip code; or if it is a scam he is unknowingly involved with. So readers should beware.

The facts?

Governor McCrory signed a bill in 2015 outlawing sanctuary cities in NC and according to the NC League of Municipalities, “as local, state and national news outlets continue to report, there are no known sanctuary cities in North Carolina, specifically the 28741 zip code; or if it is a scam he is unknowingly involved with. So readers should beware.

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