

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Sept. 28, 2017

Town Board hears proposals; OKs amendments

On the heels of Hurricane Irma, kudos were expressed at the September Town Board meeting last Thursday for the town employees who Mayor Pat Taylor and Town Manager Josh Ward said went above and beyond for Highlands' citizens.

"All 67 town employees are a special group of workers. They know what to do and don't need to be told," said Mayor Taylor. "We experienced a very difficult situation that knocked down vital parts of our infrastructure. Whether in the office or in the field, the town

employees went above and beyond their duties."

In his report, Town Manager Ward concurred.

"They pulled together from cleaning the streets to answering the phones. I am proud to work with them," he said.

Ward also said Verizon has begun work on the Bear Pen tower and expects it to be up and running by the end of November.

As to recycling in town, Ward said happily, the county has agreed to pay the \$16,000 for the recy-

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HS Middle School Volleyball 2017



Ava Schmitt, Reese Schmitt, Gracie McCall, Brandy Zagal, Ashlyn Wilson, Haley Small, Emma Minton, Karmen Jenkins, Kaylee Oakley, Ella Crook, Emily Briggs, Stephanie Barnes. Not pictured: practice team: Allie Buck, Anna Silverthorn, Jasmine Oakley, Brooke Fogerty, Ansley Hughes. See HS sports coverage on page 11. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Highlands School exceeds academic growth expectations

Highlands School is called one of the best schools in the region, state and nation.

Highlands was one of only two schools in Macon County to exceed growth expectations on the annual North Carolina Department of Public Instruction School Performance Grades report released earlier this month. Highlands, along with Macon Middle School exceeded growth, meaning they achieved all of the performance goals set by school leadership for the school year.

"Increasing student academ-

•See EXCEEDS page 15



Pine Creek Road.

Photo by Linda Barden

Early color; prelude to fall

It's September in the hills when Western Carolina University's fall foliage forecaster Beverly Collins attempts to quantify the quality of the annual color show in Western North Carolina through a scientific-based prediction. And Collins is anticipating a good display across the mountains this year.

Each fall, the region's autumnal colors emerge as chlorophyll in leaves breaks down, revealing pigments that were hidden by the green.

"I think it will be a colorful fall this year," said Collins, a professor in WCU's Department of

Biology. "If we have a typical fall with bright, sunny days and cool nights in mid- to late-September and a cold snap in early October, chlorophyll will fade and the other pigments will be exposed, giving us the bright colors. The warm, wet spring and most of the summer has been ideal for photosynthesis. Under those conditions, plants make abundant chlorophyll and associated leaf pigments, such as yellows, oranges and reds, to produce sugars."

The peak color around WNC could arrive around the second

• See COLOR page 6

Planning for Highlands' future on board's agenda

On Monday night the Highlands Planning Board met to discuss the writing of a comprehensive plan to take into consideration future needs of the town and how to handle them.

Under the guidance of the new Town Planner Andrew Bow-

en, while compiling the plan that is expected to take two years, the board will be dealing with transportation, utilities, recreation, infrastructure, the economics of tourism and land use – all while keeping in mind the need for envi-

•See PLANNING page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

What constitutes an emergency?

Lamar Nix, Director of Public Works, informs me that the town is back to normal operations after the storm. There are several related items I want to address.

During the evening of the storm the 911 emergency system was inundated with power outage calls. When a tree and electrical wires are down blocking a road or highway, that situation is an emergency situation. On the other hand, loss of power does not constitute a 911 emergency.

One of my past public communications, as well as information on the town telephone after-hours answering system, may have been unclear. The town's after-hours messaging system now directs folks to call 526-4131 if residents are experiencing a power outage or a loss of water. The 526-4131 number is the nonemergency number to the Macon County 911 Emergency Management Center. The dispatcher can direct such nonemergency calls to the proper responders such as town crews or the police. Dangerous, medical and life threatening situations should continue to be called into 911.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Another issue for some residents was in clearing fallen trees off roadways. Confusion revolved around which government agency is responsible for what roads.

Macon County, just like every NC county, has no ownership of roads. Therefore, Macon County has no county road department. In North Carolina there are state highways and roads, town roads and private roads. So, in all counties NC DOT has maintenance facilities that are responsible for removing fallen trees on roads like US 64, NC 28 and NC 106.

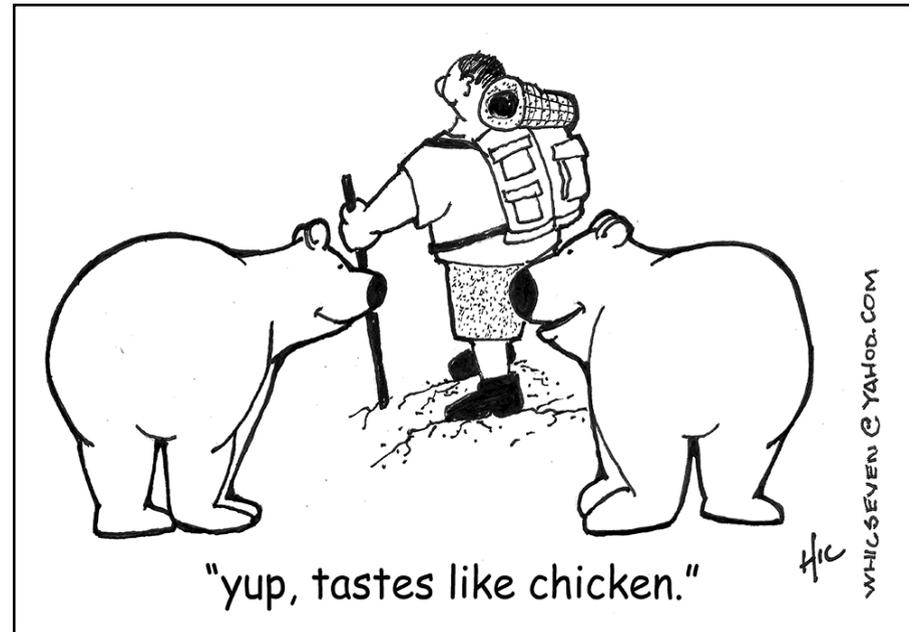
DOT responded very quickly after the storm, but had a huge area to cover. Within Highlands there are both state and town roads. Horse Cove, Big Bear Pen and Bowery are just some of the state roads in our area. The five-member town road department quickly mobilized, along with our electrical, water and sanitation crews, to clear roads in Highlands, whether they were state or town roads. State crews also worked in and around town. Our crews also cleared private roads since they, too, had to be opened for restoring power and maintaining emergency services.

I felt somewhat frustrated in responding to this massive storm. My motto has been a "mayor on duty" who responds immediately. During those days there were no quick fixes to the storm damage. Our crews responded as fast as they could safely work.

To see the impact of the storm just ride by the recreation department's lower level parking lot on Foreman Road. It is the emergency debris site that is being operated by the county. The massive debris is filling almost the entire parking lot. The debris will be ground into mulch.

In preparing for coming winter storms, all residents need to be connected to the county's emergency management code-red system. Go to the Macon County website. Click on the button "For Residents." A button will appear for code red signup. This system automatically makes calls to residents in the event of impending dangerous weather events or other emergencies.

• HIC'S VIEW



• OBITUARY •

Kenneth Victor Kaplan

Kenneth Victor Kaplan, 76, of Franklin, NC passed away Tuesday, September 19, 2017. He was born in Lansing, Michigan April 20, 1941, the son of the late Joseph and Ester Barman Kaplan.

Mr. Kaplan worked at the University of Central Florida and also retired from there. He lived in Sky Valley, Georgia for thirteen years before moving to Franklin. He volunteered at Friends for Life Forever Farm, he loved animals, loved the North Carolina Mountains and loved life. He was very outgoing and a sweetheart.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Leslie Ann Kaplan and one brother.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Kaplan family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



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...TOWN BOARD continued from page 1

cling trailer for which the county initially wanted the town to pay.

The recycling trailer has individual bins within the structure that will be set up adjacent to the dumpster in the Rec Park parking lot. The county will service the dumpster – traveling to Highlands daily to empty the bins as needed.

The recycling trailer has to be custom built. Ward hopes it will be ready in two months.

Upper Portion of Satulah Ridge Road

A lot of time was spent discussing a request by the newly formed Satulah Ridge Road Homeowners Association for the town to take over the upper portion of Satulah Ridge Road and all its spur roads. This is not the first time homeowners in the subdivision have made the request, but since the roads are not up to town standards the request was denied, again.

“Lamar Nix, town engineer, has re-

viewed the request and determined the roadway construction doesn't meet the current standards and since no improvements have been made, he doesn't recommend the town accept the upper section of Satulah Ridge Road and its spurs,” said Ward.

He said Town Board minutes from 1995 indicate that the town agreed to accept the lower portion of Satulah Ridge Road because it was constructed to town standards at that time. The upper portion was not.

Since the subdivision was built, the town has adopted strict subdivision rules regarding road width, sewer, culverts and rights-of-way, so homeowners can be properly serviced but also so town trucks and emergency vehicles can maneuver safely.

Katherine Dohn, HOA president said there are 50 lots within the town limits, 11 of which are undeveloped, four short spur roads and all the roadways in the subdivi-

• See TOWN BOARD page 19

Public Notice

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to NCGS §160A-267 the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners has authorized the sale of a 2006 Isuzu with Tymco Air Sweeper truck to be disposed by private sale to the Town of Sylva 10 days after publication. This 25th day of September, 2017.

Gibby Shaheen

Town Clerk



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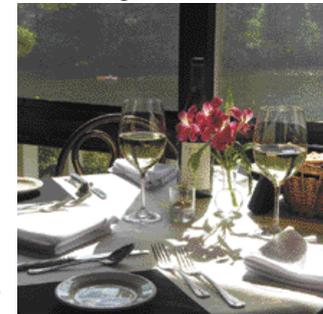
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Sports Page

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THE CURIOUS
MIND
KNOWS NO
BOUNDS

...COLOR continued from page 1

and third week in October, depending on elevation, she said.

The much-anticipated fall color season is important for a region that benefits from travel and tourism, said Steve Morse, economist and director of the Hospitality and Tourism Program in WCU's College of Business. "We consider the fall foliage tourist season to be primarily an October event — and October is the highest month for tourist spending in WNC," Morse said. "Many mountain locations are hosting major fall festivals and events, including all-star celebrity concerts at Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Resort.

"We predict a 3 to 4 percent growth in 2017 October tourist spending over 2016 October tourist spending," he said. "While we know the Aug. 21 solar eclipse brought many first-time visitors to WNC, many of these visitors may be second-time visitors for the fall foliage season."

"From a scientific perspective, as a botanist and ecologist, I understand how many factors contribute to plant

responses such as leaf color change and how variable and unpredictable factors such as weather are," said Collins.

And several variables may still come into play. A few conditions could make the fall less colorful, Collins said.

- An active hurricane season that affects WNC — A windstorm could knock leaves off trees and thin the fall canopy. The remnants of Hurricane Irma did not have a widespread negative impact, Collins said.

- Herbivores — A good year for photosynthesis means a good year for insects that feed on leaves. For example, folks have been noticing the recent fall webworm outbreak, especially on black walnut, cherry and black locust trees. Herbivores can eat holes in leaves, cause them to turn brown and fall, or even defoliate an entire tree. However, WNC's diversity of tree species means herbivore effects are usually spotty over the landscape.

- Above-normal temperatures through fall — Although the decreasing daylight hours in fall are the primary cue for plants to make less chlorophyll, continued warm temperatures can slow down color change.

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Sucked in Again



Kathy Manos Penn

If you're a regular reader of my columns, you've gathered by now that I'm an avid reader. Novels are reserved for evening reading, and the rest of the time, you can find me reading emails on a variety of topics. Before I retired, my days were consumed not only with conference calls and emails from work teammates but also a variety of financial, leadership and communications newsletters I'd signed up to receive. Add to that my surfing of CNBC and the WSJ online each morning, and it's easy to see I was absorbing lots of information throughout the day. How much of it I retained is a topic for another time.

Now that I'm retired, I don't have conference calls and work emails, but I have the WSJ online, and their several daily emails along with emails about books and a host of other topics. Add to that my monitoring of my blog site, my Facebook author site, and my website, and once again I'm absorbing tons of information.

But here's the deal: one thing leads to another when you're reading online. I received a financial blog the other day titled Money and Yoga, an intriguing title to me because I've been taking a weekly yoga class for many years. Of course, I had to click on the link to the WSJ article that had inspired this blog, an article which contained a link to another article titled 22 Things You Should Never Do

Again After 50, which in turn had links to several similarly titled articles like Things You Should Never Wear Again.

And there I was, sucked in again. My first mental image was of a mini-me being sucked head-first into the computer screen and then happily traipsing around from website to website. Next, I pictured Alice tumbling down the rabbit hole, but that image didn't hold up because poor Alice takes no detours on the way down; she just lands at the bottom and finds herself in Wonderland. Then again, Wonderland might be an

• See PENN page 10

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• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Movies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified In-

structor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

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.

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• 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 Sneak 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.

Wed. through October

• "Where Art & Science Meet"

events at Carolina Gallery, 411 N. 4th Street. **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.

Wednesday-Saturday

• The Highlands Historic Village is open June-October. It's free. Visit the Highlands Historical Museum, the Prince Houe, Bug Hill Cottage, Furman Vinson's Boat, The Old Jail while taking a break in the peaceful setting that commemorates Highlands' past.

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.

• 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

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

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

2nd and 4th Thursdays

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

Thurs., & Sat.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from 11a to noon. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

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

* Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.

• 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. 727-871-8298.

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

Fri., Sept. 29

• Regions Bank is celebrating with GREEN! Join us as we commemorate 15 years of serving our friends in Highlands. Drop by for food and fun on Friday from 11am to 1pm. The first 50 visitors on Friday take home a Regions GREEN piggy bank as a thank you. Until Sept. 29 enter for a chance to win a green bike!

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor in the Hudson Library Meeting Room 11 a to noon. The topic "The Future of the Playhouse."

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

Sept. 30-Oct. 28

• "Where Art & Science Meet" – works from 20 local artists who spent the summer painting and sculpting in the Highlands Botanical Garden will be on display at Carolina Gallery, 411 N. 4th Street with a closing auction on October 28 to benefit the Highlands Biological Station.

Sat., Sept. 30

• Second Satulah-bration on Saturday. 10 am-12:30 pm – free hike to Satulah – meet at Founders Park; 1-4 pm – Family-friendly Satulah-bration at Founders Park: chili cook-

off, free concert, ultimate selfie booth with The Bascom; 1-3 pm – Taste and judge the chili (\$10 includes cornbread, iced tea and dessert); 1-3 pm FREE music in the park by Colby Deitz Band; 3:45 pm – Chili Cook-off winners announced. • At PAC, The Billy McGuigan Band with Yesterday & Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience at 8pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Sun., October 1

• Blessing of the Animals at K-H Founders Park in Sunday at 2 PM. Bring your pets!

• At the Nature Center, Highlands on the 1/2 Shell -- 4:30pm 'til dark. Cost: \$75 members, \$100 non-members. Feast on oysters, shrimp and jambalaya while enjoying live music to benefit the Highlands Biological Foundation. For info, call (828) 526-2221.

• The First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will host the Empty Bowls luncheon from 11.30-1.30 in Coleman Hall. Tickets \$20 each at local churches or call 828/526-0890. Proceeds benefit the Food Pantry.

Mon. Oct 2

• The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation presents Jeffrey Small, a popular CLE speaker, in the sanctuary Monday, 10a to noon. The topic is God and the Brain. Jeffrey will discuss how humanity is wired to believe in God.

Tues., Oct. 3

• "Autumn Leaves Excursion" Join us for a hike through the falling leaves of red and gold and learn about the science behind the scenery with our own botanist, Dr. Gary Wein. 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.hitrust@earthlink.net

Sat., Oct. 7

• Macon County Health Dept. Flu Shot Clinic 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Highlands First Baptist Church. \$30 for the regular dose and \$50 for the high dose. Insurance will be filed.

• Macon TRACS 10th Annual Blue Jean Ball! at the Macon County Fairgrounds 6-8:30 pm. Cowgirl & cowboy attire encouraged. BBQ Dinner, Cake Walk, Music & Dancing, Silent Auction & Raffles! Adults \$15 Children & Takeout \$7

• ColorFest! A Dazzling Display of Hand-Craftsmanship at the 9th Annual Dillsboro's Fine Arts & Crafts Fair, 10am - 4pm

Mon., Oct. 9

"The Importance of Digestive Health" with Medea Galligan, MS Nutrition, CHHC AADP, at the Highlands Community Building on Poplar Street from 6-8 p.m. It's free. For more info, call the Rec Dept. at 828-526-3556.

Thurs-Sun., Oct. 12-22

• Highlands-Cashiers Players production "Guilty Conscience" at PAC. For tickets call the HCP box office, 828-526-8084, or reserved on line at highlandscashiersplayers.org.



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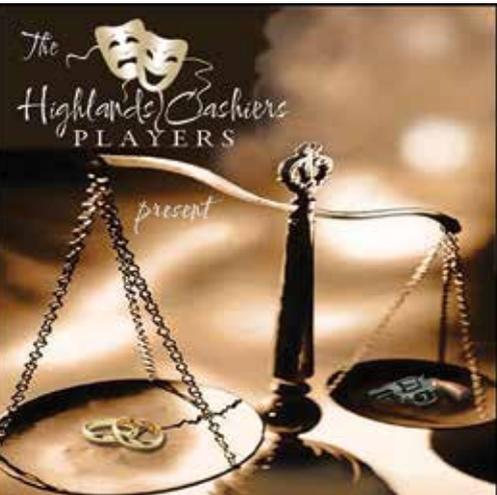
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MON	CHOOSE EITHER: MEXICAN MONDAY: FOUR CHEESE AND FOUR CHICKEN ENCHILADAS, REFRIED BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM --OR-- 24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN TENDERS AND HAND CUT FRIES	\$21.95 SERVES 4
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WED	CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE & A LARGE SALAD	\$21.95 SERVES 4
THURS	ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD	\$21.95 SERVES 4
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present

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Written by Richard Levinson and William Link
Directed by Michael Lanzilotta

For tickets & more info: 828-526-8084
highlandscashiersplayers.org

- Thursday–Sunday October 12-15
- Thursday–Sunday October 19-22
- Evenings at 7:30
- Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm
- Performing Arts Center
- 507 Chestnut St. Highlands, NC

Interactive Beatles concert at PAC Sat.



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present The Billy McGuigan Band with Yesterday & Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience on Saturday, September 30 at 8pm. The audience will make up the entire set list. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

...PENN continued from page 7

apt name for the internet. But I digress.

Does this happen to you? You decide to check your email just before you start dinner, and you look up to find that you've spent an hour or two wandering the internet? It happens to me all too often. I get an email from Amazon or Barnes & Noble or Stop You're Killing Me! suggesting several books to read, and before I know it, I've visited Goodreads and author websites for more information. There, I see a few more books that sound intriguing. I might even visit the Library website to see if the books are available to reserve, and on it goes.

Sometimes, I feel as though I need breadcrumbs to find my way back to where I started. I guess that's what the back arrow is really for. Occasionally, I'm smart enough to save the intriguing links to visit later. Somehow I know, though, that no matter how many I save, I'll never get back to them all. It seems that Frank Zappa's quote about books could be applied to links as well: "So many links, so little time."

• Find Kathy's new book "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" and her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

...PLANNING continued from page 1

ronmental protection and the town's interest in historic preservation.

An issue that has been batted around for decades – employee housing – was discussed as was parking.

"I do want to make the point that I in no way am encouraging employee housing development in town," said Bowen, "but simply would direct the board to be ready for it, as I think the request will grow more frequent."

Once completed, it's hoped that the comprehensive plan will serve Highlands for the next 15 years or more.

The board hopes to have public input and encourages citizens to attend Planning Board meetings which meets the fourth Monday of each month at the Community Building on Poplar Street.

"I am excited to get started on finishing the comprehensive plan," said Bowen. "My simple goal is to insure that Highlands sustains its quality of life and continues to be an awesome community for all to enjoy."



Performing Arts Center

All Audience Request

Yesterday & Today
Interactive Beatles Experience
Saturday 9.30.17
8pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

• HS SPORTS •

with Kedra McCall

On a winning streak!

Highlands School teams pushed through the week with no losses!

Middle school volleyball played Nantahalla and Rabun Gap. They travelled to Nantahalla for a double header. They played both of their games against them due to rescheduling after the storm. They won both in 2 sets. Later in the week they traveled to Rabun Gap and won in 2 sets.

Their next home game will be today, September 28th. They will play Cullowhee Valley starting at 4 pm.

Middle school soccer beat both Rabun Gap and Swain. They beat Swain 6-2. Later in the week they played at Rabun Gap and after an hour delay, won 2-1. Their next home game will be today, September 28th against Swain starting at 4:30 pm.

High school volleyball played Nantahalla and Cherokee. Only varsity played Nantahalla and came out with a win in 3 sets. Both varsity and JV played Chero-



kee. Varsity won in 4 sets and JV won in 2 sets. After a slight struggle to break through while playing Cherokee they didn't give up and fought through for a win. Their next home game will be tonight, September 28th. They will play Rosman with JV starting right after middle school and varsity after them.

High school soccer played Swain and Hendersonville. Before they could start their game against Swain, there was an hour and a half delay due to refs being delayed by storms occurring during other games. Even with a late start they came out with a 7-0 win. Later in the week they played Hendersonville who had previously beaten them. They came back after a defeat to show who they were and what they had. They came out with a 1-1 tie. Their next home game will be on Monday, October 9th. They will play Andrews starting at 5 pm.

Come show your Highlander's your support in their upcoming games!



Chela Green (VVB) hitting it to Cherokee's defense.



Emma Minton (MSVB) serving in against Nantahalla.

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Fall Home Improvement

3 Home Projects to Transform Your Yard into a Refuge for Birds

(StatePoint) Millions of wild birds are killed each year flying into windows, including private homes. Birds face other dangers, too, in your yard, whether they are migrating or flying locally.

Everyone, but especially those who enjoy having birds visit their yards and gardens, should take steps to make their homes a safer place for birds.

“Birds are part of a healthy ecosystem. Turning your home into a refuge for birds is good for the environment, saves lives and can add beauty to your garden,” says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert, a company that offers decals and UV Liquid that are highly visible to birds but barely noticed by people.

Schock is offering three home projects you can do to help protect birds.

- Do some planting: Creating a bird-friendly yard



does not have to be at odds with your desire to have a beautiful garden. Plant trees, shrubs and flowers that provide birds with the nourishment and shelter they need. The good news is that there are many beautiful varieties of bird-friendly vegetation.

To be a good environmental steward, opt for species native to your region.

- Make Windows Visible: Preventing birds from striking your windows is easier than you may think because birds can see certain light frequencies that humans can't. An easy way to make your windows visible to birds in a way that won't disrupt your view outside your window is by applying UV decals and UV liquid to your windows. Consider those from WindowAlert, which are proven to effectively alter the flight path of birds and prevent window strikes. While the ultraviolet coating will look like etched

glass to you, it will be quite visible to birds. For best application techniques, visit windowalert.com.

- Monitor the Cat: If you have cats that like to spend time outdoors, be sure to monitor them to prevent bird hunting. If possible, consider keeping birds safe by creating an outdoor area for your cat to roam that's enclosed. If you're handy, you may try building this area yourself, but keep in mind, read-made structures are widely available, too.

With a few simple steps, you can convert your garden and yard into a veritable safe haven for birds.



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Fall Home Improvement

Updates to Transform Your New House into Your Dream Home

(StatePoint) Congratulations, you've purchased a home! Now what? You've saved a million ideas on Pinterest and you're ready to start making improvements. But how do you prioritize to make the most of your money? Consider these simple upgrades to transform your new house into your dream home.

1. Update Lighting

Cost: \$10 (box of light bulbs) - \$300 (new fixture)

Benefits: Brightens the room, enhances ambience, increases energy efficiency.

Let there be light!

There are several ways to make a room feel brighter. Start with something quick, like swapping out bulbs to brighter or more efficient choices. For a mid-level task and a dose of style, add new lampshades. Or go big by replacing outdated fixtures with on-trend options.

2. Find a Better Faucet

Cost: \$150 - \$500

Benefits: Boosts home appeal, improves kitchen functionality.

One in five millennials say they want to update their kitchen, according to Moen research, and a simple faucet upgrade can be impactful. Replacing a basic kitchen faucet with a one-handle pulldown, like Moen's Sleek faucet, creates a clean, modern look while adding functionality that makes cleanup a breeze, thanks to the easy-to-manuever spray wand. Equipped with Power Clean technology, it provides more spray power while containing splash, which means faster cleanup for tough-to-rinse foods.

3. Install a Kitchen Backsplash

Cost: \$125 - \$250 (varies based on materials and if paying a pro)

Benefits: Creates a focal point, protects walls from cooking splatter, prevents water damage.

If your new kitchen has the blahs, a fresh backsplash may be the solution. In addition to protective and easy-to-clean qualities, a backsplash provides many customization possibilities, from material and color, to cost. Options could be glass mosaics, salvaged brick, or even peel-and-stick tile for easy installation (hello afternoon project!).

4. Replace Your Showerhead

Cost: \$75 - \$150

Benefits: Offers personalization, adds style, enhances daily routine.

New to DIY? Replacing a showerhead is an easy way to get your feet wet -- pun intended! Whether trying to save water with a low-flow fixture or updating something out of style, swapping showerheads can be done in minutes. For ultimate customization, try a multi-function showerhead like Moen's Attract combination hand-shower and rainshower with Magnetix, which provides three showering options for your perfectly personalized shower every time. Plus, the magnetic dock on the hand-shower makes re-docking a snap.

5. Add a Coat of Paint

Cost: \$25 - \$60

Benefits: Provides an instant makeover.

Whether your space is screaming for a makeover (mustard walls, anyone?), or you're itching to try new trends, a coat of paint makes a big impact. Try creating an



accent wall with a pop of color or fun pattern -- it's a smaller project that's easy for first-time DIYers.

6. Maximize Space with Shelves

Cost: \$10 - \$45

Benefits: Maximizes space, revamps walls.

One in three millennials lacks the confidence to hang a shelf, according to Moen research, but they shouldn't! With practice and the right

tools, installing shelving is an inexpensive project to help better utilize space. Creative ways to add storage include installing floating shelves for books or adding floor-to-ceiling shelving in a closet.

Homebuyers (especially first timers) can often be overwhelmed with improvements, but tackling one project at a time will leave you saying, "there's no place like home."

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •**Change is in the air**

By Dr. Curtis Fussell,

Co-Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Highlands

I like the month of October. I like the deep blue skies of October. I really like the change in the air - literally. Autumn's cool days are a wonderful relief from the hot summer days. I love the change in the colors of Autumn leaves.

October also sets out a time of change in our lives. Summer days are behind us. Thanksgiving and Christmas will shortly arrive. The seasons will change for a good reason - and so will we, if we allow it.

Change can be difficult for us. We prefer our comfort zone. It's familiar. A routine life is easier. Yet, with God, change becomes the norm. When Jesus said, "you must be born again," he meant it as a continuous effort in the face of daily living, not merely as a one-time event.

I came across a useful insight on this subject of change:

"People change when they: hurt enough that they have to, learn enough that they want to, and receive enough that they are able to."

As this statement notes our tendency to resist change. We will only change if we are compelled in some way to change. Yet, I cannot think of anyone who does not want and does not seek, to live a better, more rewarding life. Such a desire of course will involve changes in one's life.

During this autumn time as you see the changes in

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 21


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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

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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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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; Ch. 5p

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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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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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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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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...EXCEEDS continued from page 1

ic achievement is a high priority because academic growth is the bar by which the state measures a school's growth," said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter. "Highlands School continues to exceed the state's growth expectations because of its small size, small classes, energetic Board of Education member, clear-visioned School Board, proactive Superintendent, supportive parents, talented teachers, involved community, and fantastic, hard-working students."

Five schools in Macon County, Cartoogechaye Elementary, Franklin High School, Iotla Valley Elementary, Macon Early College, and Nantahala School all met their grown expectations, with four schools, East Franklin Elementary, Mountain View Intermediate, South Macon Elementary, and Union Academy, not meeting growth expectations.

North Carolina introduced school performance grades in 2013, and the first report card was released in 2014. In addition to growth expectations from year-to-year, each school is given a "report card" grade.

For the second consecutive year, Highlands, along with Nantahala and Macon Early College maintained their "B" score. Franklin High School and Macon Middle school both improved a letter grade, earning Bs for their academic achievement scores.

The district's remaining six schools all earned "C" grades, which meant several scores went down a letter grade. Schools earning a "C" included all elementary schools, Cartoogechaye Elementary, South Macon Elementary, East Franklin Elementary and Iotla Elementary, as well as Mountain View Intermediate and Union Academy.

"Overall, the Macon County School system performed well with regard to the NC state report cards. We are pleased that Highlands School, Macon Middle School, Nantahala School, Franklin High School and Macon Early College achieved a school grade of "B." said MC School Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "Additionally, both Highlands School and Macon Middle School exceeded their projected academic growth expectations."

Besides earning a "B" in academic

growth again, its the third straight year that it has exceeded academic growth expectations.

"The students, staff and parents of Highlands School continue to prove that Highlands School is one of the best schools in our region, state and nation," said Baldwin.

The School Performance Grade scale explained:

North Carolina uses a system called the Education Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) to calculate a school's grade on a 10-point scale. Using end-of-year testing and end-of-year grades, EVAAS measures the school's academic achievements and individual student growth. The test and achievement results are converted into a 100-point system, which is used to calculate the school's grade. 80 percent of the school's grade is the achievement score and 20 percent is based on growth.

A: 85-100 points; B: 70-84 points; C: 55-69 points; D: 40-54 points; F: Less than 40 points.

Among all schools in North Carolina receiving a D or an F -- none of which were located in Macon County -- 93 percent had enrollments with at least 50 percent of students from low-income families, the report said.

"Conversely, among schools that received at least a B, 72.5 percent had enrollments with less than 50 percent of students from low-income families," the report said.

In addition to tracking individual schools' academic growth, the report follows each school's graduation rate.

Macon County averaged a graduation rate of 92 percent, with three schools, Highlands, Macon Early College, and Franklin High School each showing graduation rates above 95 percent. While Nantahala did not have enough students to be counted, Union Academy's graduation rate was 55.3 percent.

Individual concentrations are also graded on the report.

One Macon County School received the lone "A" grade, with Nantahala receiving an "A" in Math.

Highlands scored "Bs" in both Math and Reading. Nantahala scored a "B" in reading, with South Macon scoring a "B" in math. All other schools in the district received "Cs" for both Math and Reading.



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Highlands vacation homes benefit tremendously from smart improvements. When a second home is Smart, it means that it can be monitored from afar. In addition, the better the WIFI the more time people are able to spend in the home. This allows people to spend more time than ever on vacation while still being able to keep up with work. A smart home is an attractive home.

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smart improvements include everything from controlling lights and temperature to doorbells and alarm systems. Many systems in a Highlands home can be controlled from a tablet or smart phone inside the home or from afar.

• Lynn Kimball has over 43 years of real estate experience, with 32 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and

previously served as Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex, at 488 Main Street or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@BHHSMMR.com

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No expense was spared in the quality of materials and craftsmanship, from the beautiful landscaping to the stone porches and terrace to exquisite finishes at every turn. 6bd/5.5ba Scottish Style Manor at the top of Highlands Country Club is sure to impress. Views of Satulah, Whiteside and Shortoff Mountains. 2 story stone fireplace adorns the greatroom. Stone terrace with outdoor kitchen, hidden waterfall and another stone fireplace is perfect for entertaining guests. Gourmet kitchen with walk-in pantry, 2 gracious master suites with spa style baths and home theater are just a few more favorites in this luxury manor. \$5,595,000 MLS #85997



3bd/2.5ba move-in ready home in Scaly Mtn. Beautifully landscaped on 1 acre, enjoy this quiet and peaceful neighborhood. Open concept kitchen/dining/living is perfect for entertaining. Reduced! \$189,000 MLS #86003



Under Contract

This is a must see 4bd/4ba meticulously maintained home located on a cul-de-sac with nice views in Highlands Falls CC. Possibility of 2 separate living areas including 2 decks. Wood floors, tile baths, cathedral ceilings, and jacuzzi tubs add to the desirability of this great property. \$525,000 MLS #85453

LOT LISTING

1.36 acre wooded lot with multiple easy-build home sites. Community water & roads. Located between Highlands and Cashiers. \$69,900 MLS #85497



One level living in a quiet, well maintained neighborhood. Move-in ready 3bd/2.5ba. This home would be a great year round home or rental property. Located between Highlands and Cashiers. \$285,000 MLS #85477



If a luxury mountain retreat is what you seek, look no further than this magnificent custom built home located in the private, gated community of HeatherStone Tops. 5bd/6ba/2 half bath estate on over 4 acres with sweeping mountain and golf course views. \$2,395,000 MLS #85624



3bd/3ba less than 5 minutes to town. Master on main, upper level loft and lower level complete with 2 large recreation rooms, kitchenette, 2 bonus rooms and bath. Enjoy a walk to Apple Lake for fishing or canoeing, deede lake access. Perfect large family retreat or rental opportunity. \$495,000 MLS #85617

LOT LISTING

12.46 acre lot with direct views of pastures, a pond and vineyards. Located in the Scaly Mtn. area. \$279,900 MLS #82604



Located in Sky Valley, GA inside the gated community of Heatherstone Tops. Elegant custom home offers 3bd/4.5 ba with large office, two living rooms and a huge bonus room. Sits on 1.13 acre lot with breathtaking views. New Price \$650,000 MLS #85362



3bd/3ba farmhouse on 4.74 acres is a must see property. Enjoy country living in privacy. Additional "Pond House" set on Golden Pond made from old barn wood is perfect for entertaining guests. \$349,900 MLS #84081



Walk to all that downtown Highlands has to offer from this lovingly renovated 3br/3ba Highlands Manor condo. Vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace in the main living area. Updates to the kitchen include granite and stainless steel. The spacious deck is a perfect spot for relaxing in the private wooded setting. \$449,000 MLS #86768



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Under Contract

Overlooking tee boxes on the 4th fairway at Highlands Falls CC. Lovely 3bd/3ba with wood flooring and stone fireplace in living room. Terrace level with large family room and 1 car garage. Offered fully furnished and move in ready. \$399,000 MLS #85542



Cozy rustic mountain home with 3bd/2ba. Light and bright with wrap around deck to take in the sounds of nature. Low maintenance landscaping and level area to add garage. \$325,000 MLS #85539



Under Contract

Newly Priced! Bright, light, open floorplan makes this home live large. 3bd/3ba one level home with soaring ceilings and stone fireplace in greatroom that opens to large screened porch. Open kitchen plan, master suite with soaking tub and 2 guest suites complete this great home in gated community. \$500,000 MLS #86438



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Police & Fire Reports

The Highlands Police log entries from Sept. 14 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 14

- At 12:59 p.m., officers responded to a call about someone using a bank card without permission to purchase items.

Sept. 15

- At 9:45 a.m., officers responded to a call about a dog barking on Picklesimer Road.

- At 1 p.m., officers responded to a call about a man communicating threats to two other men.

- At 2 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

Sept. 18

- At 5 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Laurel Street.

Sept. 19

- At 8:27 p.m., officers responded to a call of a simple physical assault at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Sept. 13.

Sept. 13

- At 11:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire on Ridge Trail.

Sept. 14

- At 8:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a shorted receptacle on Oak Street.

- At 9:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a smoking washing machine at a residence on Hudson Road.

- At 4:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO alarm at a residence on Homer Potts. Road.

Sept. 15

- At 8:37 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Netsi Place.

- At 2:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wildwood Road.

- At 2:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

- At 6:45 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

- At 9:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Half Mile Drive.

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...TOWN BOARD continued from page 3

sion, save one, have the required 40-foot right-of-way.

Dohn said the property owners pay taxes, utilities and paid to be connected to town sewer so the town should therefore take over the upper portion.

Commissioner Eric Pierson asked if the homeowners would pay to bring the upper portion of the road into compliance. Dohn said no, but there was plenty of right-of-way the town could purchase to expand the width of the road.

That fell on deaf ears.

The reason the homeowners want the upper portion of Satulah Ridge Road to become a town street is so it will be properly maintained.

Nix said the town maintains it to a minimum – scrapes snow, cleans culverts, mows easements – so town trucks and emergency vehicles can negotiate the narrow roadways.

“Upkeep of the subdivision is the responsibility of the homeowners, but we do the minimum,” said Nix.

The board voted unanimously not to take over the upper portion of Satulah Ridge Road but said it would consider it in the future if the roads were brought up to town standards.

Main Street Webcam Proposal

Joe Schmauch, owner of AirOne-LIVE presented a proposal to erect a webcam on Main Street at no cost to the town if it would provide power and the internet.

He has one in Greenville, Sylva and Hendersonville. Claiming Highlands doesn't have a webcam, he said the purpose is to promote Highlands and give people a way to see the weather – snow, rain, etc. – as it's falling.

In the end, the board voted 3-2 not to entertain the proposal.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway said he just didn't see the point in it. Commissioner John Dotson said he didn't want to be an involuntary watchdog and didn't want to support a surveillance system for businesses.

“If they want a surveillance system, they should install one of their own,” he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she found it to be creepy and because other towns have it, Highlands shouldn't.

“Let's be unique and not do it,” she said.

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club Sewer Line Extension

Sewer is needed for WCCC's employee housing on US 64 west (previously Tally's Court). It is currently connected to an on-site wastewater system. An extension of the town's sewer line along US 64 west from Cullasaja Drive to Trillium Circle would be required. McGill Engineering has developed a plan for the extension. It meets town's standards and the line will be turned over to the town once it's complete. The town would then collect monthly sewer fees from WCCC. The board voted yes to the request.

Highlands Food & Wine Festival Amendment

Representative of the HF&W Festival – Chamber president Bob Kielytyka and David Bock -- were on hand to request permission to close K-H Founders Park Tuesday-Sunday, Nov. 7-12 to the public. The event begins Thursday night and continues through Sunday. Tuesday and Wednesday will be used to set up a tent that will cover the paved portion of Pine Street.

The Gospel Luncheon which was going to be at the Piermont House on South Street will now be held in the park under the tent instead; all other events – except for the Food Truck event and the Main Street event

between 4th and 5th streets – will be held under the tent, as well.

If the weather doesn't hold out, the ticketed Main Event on Main Street may also move under the tent Saturday, Nov. 11. The board voted unanimously to allow the changes.

Amendment to Pole Attachment Agreement

Town Attorney Jay Coward proposed a

change in verbiage whereby the town would hire one contractor to make the necessary changes to wire attachments on poles when needed to accommodate a new applicant.

This would alleviate the problem of a company not hurrying to move its lines when an attachment has to be moved to accommodate a “new guy.”

• See TOWN BOARD page 21



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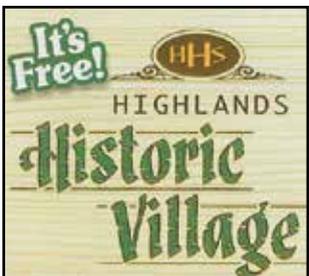
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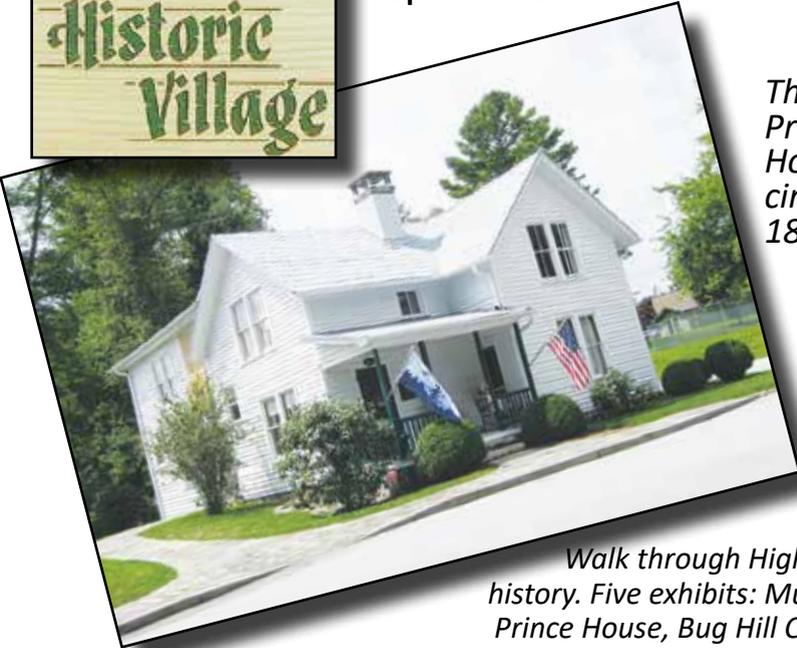


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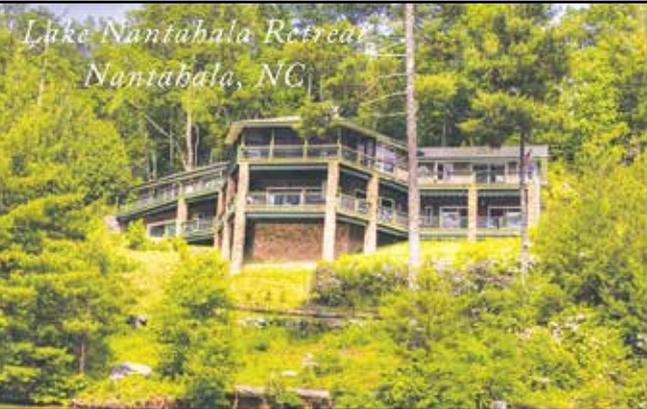


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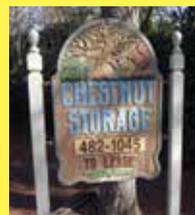
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HCP's 'Guilty Conscience'

One play over and another begins for the Highlands Cashiers Players—the second play of their 23rd season. The cast has now been chosen and rehearsals started for *Guilty Conscience*, the clever and intriguing mystery by William Link and Richard L. Levinson.

David Spivey of Franklin plays the role Arthur Jamison, a ruthless defense attorney who plans to kill his wife. In the courtroom of his mind, he creates an imaginary prosecutor, played by Adair Simon of Cashiers, against whom Arthur tests various alibis for the murder he intends to commit. Lauretta Payne of Sky Valley, GA, and Alabama, and Megan McLean of Sapphire NC play the women in the attorney's life.

Directed by Michael Lanzilotta, the play opens October 12 and runs through two weekends, Thursdays through Sundays, ending October 22.

Tickets will go on sale for season subscribers on Thursday and Friday, October 5 and 6, and for the general public beginning on Saturday, October 7. Requests for reservations may be left at the HCP box office, 828-526-8084, or reserved on line at highlandscashiersplayers.org.

...TOWN BOARD from page 19

The newest company on the pole would pay the contractor and it would pay for a bigger pole if needed.

The board voted unanimously to amend the pole attachment agreement.

Closed Session

The board voted to purchase a 3/4-acre tract located on the corner of Satulah Road and Old Walhalla Road for the purpose of locating a new water tank system. The purchase price was \$175,000. The current, adjacent concrete water tank will be demolished and removed after the new tank goes into service. With the new water tank the water department can increase capacity to the area the existing tank serves.

— Kim Lewicki

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...SPIRITUALLY from page 14

the season, be aware that you can change too. You are not alone to make the life-giving changes. God is with you to help you to change things in your life for the better. Maybe you need more trust. Maybe you need more hope. You might need less anger, less hurt, less arrogance. Maybe you need a vision for your life. Maybe there's a relationship that needs repair. Whatever change you need or want, seek God's guidance and move forward into a better life. Have a blessed day! -Dr. Curtis Fussell, Co-Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC.

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at a private ranch in Cashiers. Full-time, part-time, & weekend-only positions available. Duties include feeding animals, mucking stalls, general cleaning, other duties as assigned. Must have clean driving record, abil-

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Highlands or call 402-480-5138 or 828-200-5311. (st. 6/29)

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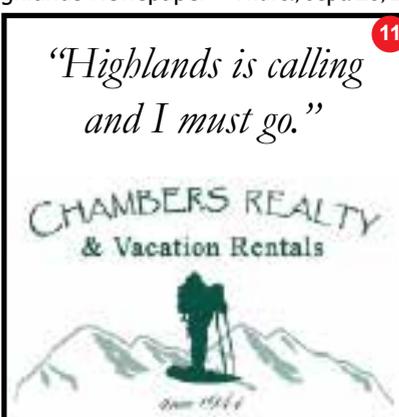


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