

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 9

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

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019

Being BearWise is a community effort

To protect its bears and its people, Highlands is working hard to become a BearWise community.

The purpose for the label is to give legitimacy to Highlands' commitment to deal with its

bear problem, which in reality is a people problem, and it lets people know the town is serious in its efforts.

So says Cynthia Strain, director of B.E.A.R. Smart, the organization that has been trying to get

citizens and the town to take the issue of bears in Highlands seriously for years.

"Wildlife management is people management. That is how we have to look at this," she said at the

•See BEARWISE page 5

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USFS says Southside Project is finalized

Chattooga Conservancy says fight is not over

Last week the U.S. Forest Service completed its environmental analysis for the Southside project which it believes will improve forest health, diversity, and wildlife habitat in southeastern Macon County and southern Jackson County.

As far as the USFS is concerned, this ends a close to four-year process involving the community which resulted in the tweaking of plans for the project that straddles Macon and Jackson counties east of Highlands.

According to the USFS, the purpose of the Southside Project, which involves 29,090 acres, is to thin old growth areas to spur new growth which will make the forest more resilient and sustainable and will improve breeding and forag-

• See SOUTHSIDE page 9

Highlands Boys JV & Varsity win LSMC



Photos by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News



Left: Highlands boys junior varsity basketball team won the Little Smoky Mountain Conference tournament after beating Hiwassee Dam 67-47 on Thursday in Cashiers. Highlands also won the LSMC regular season championship. Bottom: Highlands boys varsity basketball team won the Little Smoky Mountain Conference tournament after defeating Hiwassee Dam in the finals on Thursday in Cashiers. It was the first time they had won the tournament in the four seasons Brett Lamb has been their head coach. The final score was 57-46. The team holds up four fingers in recognition of winning the regular season championship four years in a row.

AHEC means 'tools' and upgrades at Highlands School

At Monday's regular meeting of the Macon County School Board, Board Member Stephanie McCall updated board members about the Advancing Highlands Education Committee (AHEC). AHEC is a recently formed group made up of members of the community who have come together with the goal of raising private funds to improve education at Highlands School.

Working alongside administration and faculty, the committee has identified specific needs at Highlands School. The goals and the direction to achieve those goals is two-fold; the committee is raising money to improve the infrastructure at Highlands

•See AHEC page 11

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The week that was ...

Last week was very busy for me. On Wednesday I was in Raleigh at the NC League of Municipalities Legislative Dinner. On Thursday we had the February Highlands Town Board meeting, followed by the Community Coffee with the Mayor on Friday morning.

At the dinner in Raleigh, I had the opportunity to discuss town issues with Senator Jim Davis and Representative Kevin Corbin. The president of the league, Michael Lazara ended the ceremonies by noting that the large turnout of 365 elected officials was indicative of an overwhelming commitment to public service at both the state and community level. All the folks in attendance work as part-time officials but put full-time hours into their positions.

Several legislators spoke to the audience, including both Democrats and Republicans. Every speaker addressed core of concerns that cross party lines; healthcare, education, infrastructure and advance economic development to create jobs.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

While I sometimes take jabs at our legislators in Raleigh, I appreciate their commitment. Senator Davis and Representative Corbin drive to Raleigh about every Monday morning, stay in a hotel and attend sessions throughout the week and then return home late Thursday or Friday. Frankly, I don't see how they follow such a rigorous schedule.

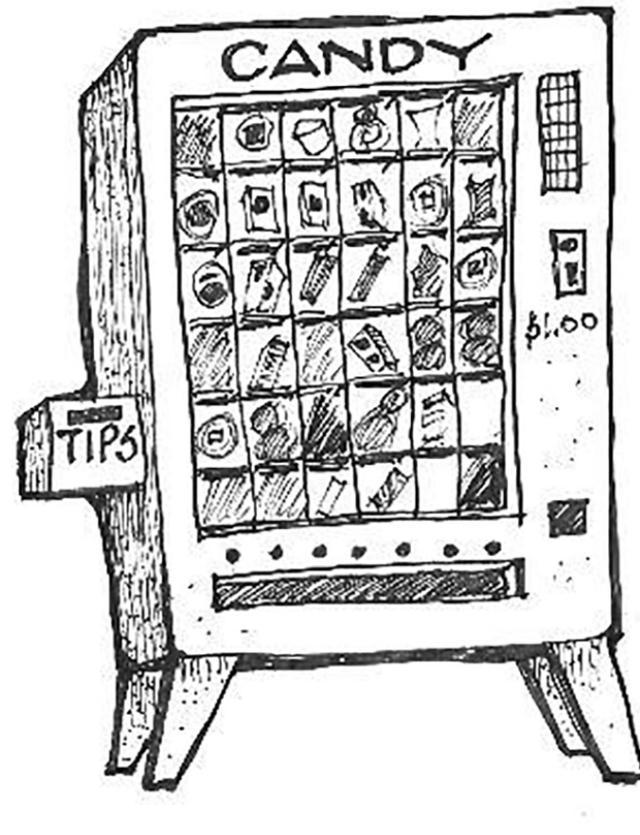
At the board meeting on Thursday night, the purchase of 40 bear-proof street cans was approved by the board. It will take about two months to receive the order and place them in permanent moorings in the business district and on town properties. This initiative is the first in several in addressing our growing bear problem.

At the community coffee on Friday, there was a large turnout to hear how Highlands can become a BearWise community. Cynthia Strain of the B.E.A.R. Task Force presented the major requirements for becoming BearWise. She pointed out we are required to assess the problem, which has already been done. Mitchel Ryan did a comprehensive study as his research project at the Biological Station this past summer. The next steps are to improve the way the entire town secures and disposes of garbage. The purchase of the bear-resistant street cans was a first step in this process. Next will be improving our commercial and residential garbage pickup system. Another step in the process will be to pass ordinances concerning disposal of garbage and feeding bears. And finally, the entire town needs to embrace a bear education program. We will be relying on the B.E.A.R. Task Force to partner with the town in this education effort.

As I stated at the coffee, the BearWise program must be a total community effort. I want to thank the Hudson Library for their continuing support and the Mountain Top Rotary Club for hosting the event.

I also appreciate Justin McVey and Ashely Hobbs, biologist for the NC Wildlife for attending, as well as Mayor Bob Macnair and his folks from Sky Valley. Sky Valley has the same bear problem and is developing similar protocols.

• HIC'S VIEW •



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• THANKS •

Shoebox gifts made a difference

I am writing to thank the residents of Highlands for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this holiday season. The generosity of Highlands and the Western North Carolina Area Team enabled us to collect 19,070 shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child, a project of international Christian relief organization Samaritan's

•See THANKS page 5

• WEATHER •

	Friday 3/1		Saturday 3/2		Sunday 3/3	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	53 F	43 F	57 F	44 F	52 F	32 F
RealFeel®	56 F	44 F	59 F	46 F	46 F	40 F
Winds	4 g 6	3 g 5	4 g 6	4 g 7	5 g 8	4 g 6
T-Storms	4%	20%	19%	20%	5%	3%
Rainfall	0.01	0.14	0	0.01	1.33	0.15
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

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

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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...BEARWISE continued from 1

Coffee with the Mayor, last Friday at the Hudson Library. “Bears are going to be bears and being the supposedly more intelligent species, we have to adapt our behavior.”

Learning how to co-exist with bears was the subject of the Mayor’s talk which came on the heels of last Thursday’s Town Board meeting where commissioners unanimously voted to spend \$55,000 on bear-proof street cans.

During the season, bears have religiously roamed the commercial and residential areas of Highlands feasting off garbage in cans that were easy targets, bags tossed on top of dumpsters, or in dumpsters left open.

Last year the problem came to a head, with bears roaming the commercial district gorging on garbage in the town’s cans on Main and Fourth streets by simply turning them over.

According to Public Works Director Lamar Nix, the sanitation department emptied the cans seven days a week but even that wasn’t enough. In the evenings and wee hours of the morning, the commercial district was the bears’ grocery store.

In the last couple of years, the town has tried to deal with the problem by installing clips on dumpster lids to keep bears out but like the Mayor said, that only works if people clip the lids shut after depositing their trash. Too many times, people leave them unclipped or flipped open, which defeats the entire purpose.

Consequently, Mayor Taylor wants businesses to do away with the shared dumpster concept and replace it with individual bear-resistant toters or bear-proof receptacles like the ones coming to the commercial district within the next two months.

The galvanized steel receptacles will be anchored through the brick sidewalks down into the concrete below so they can’t be turned over by a hungry bear. Town crews will retrieve the bags of garbage from the 40-gallon bin inside the receptacle through a front latch system. There will be a small chute opening on the top of the receptacle large enough to deposit small items – lunch bags, drink cups – but small enough to prevent people from stuffing them with bags of household garbage.

“The sanitation crew will open the front and slide the cans out and dump the bag in the truck. This will also help our workers because having to lift the cans out of the old receptacles has been taking a toll on them,” said the Mayor. “Any time we can avoid lifting up versus sliding out it will help.”

The receptacles will be black to match the street lamps and benches, as suggested by Nix, with the town’s green tree logo affixed to the sides.

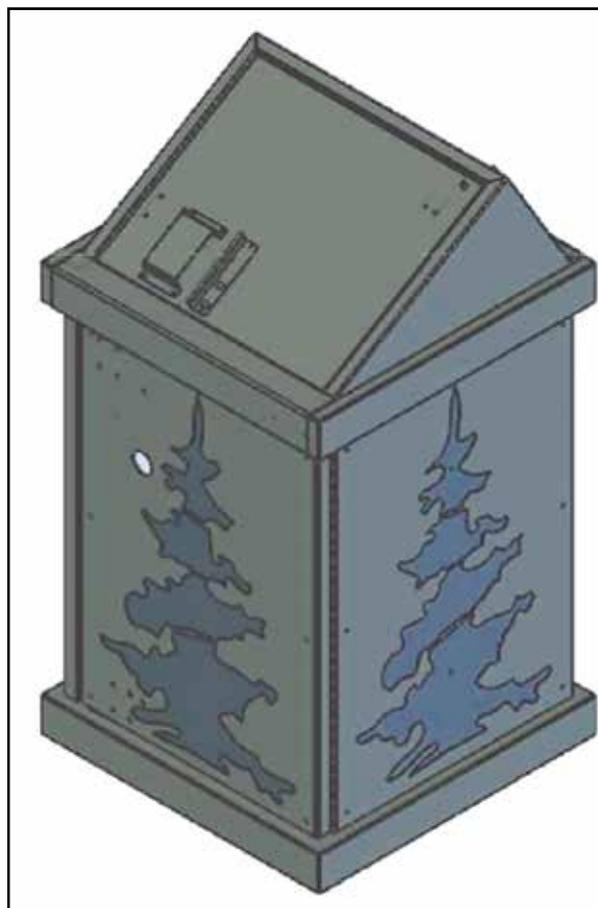
Any business owner or resident who would like a bear-proof receptacle can piggy-back on the town’s order. But requests must be made by March 2 because it will take 4-6 weeks to fill the order and then they will have to be anchored – all this before the season starts in May.

“I think it’s a very good system. We had issues with bears turning over cans on 4th and Main. So, it will help that issue. What is bad or worse, is people stuffing them with bags of garbage which cuts down on the ‘fill capacity’ so this will help that, too,” he said.

Once bears learn the grocery store on Main and 4th streets is closed, and even the ready-morsels in the dumpsters aren’t available, where will they go?

That was a question Commissioner Amy Patterson

•See BEARWISE page 8



Town’s bear proof street can is available for \$1,327. Place your order by March 2.



Bear-resistant garbage toter is available at Reeves for \$219.

...THANKS continued from 2

Purse.

Through shoeboxes—packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items — Highlands volunteers brought smiles to the faces of children around the world affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine by collecting 682 shoeboxes. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God’s love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. The international total for 2018 was 10,623,776 shoeboxes, which will be delivered to children in 112 countries and territories! Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 157 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

It’s not too late for people to make a difference. Though the Highlands drop-off location is closed until November 2019, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a personalized shoebox gift online at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. Participants can also challenge others to pack boxes online with them or use a shoebox gift card to share the opportunity with friends and family. Information about year-round volunteer opportunities can also be found on the website samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project—many who do so year after year. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

June C. Trull, WNC Area Coordinator

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UPDATE

Steady progress on Highlands Biological Station North Campus Project

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

The Highlands Biological Station North Campus project is in full swing with the boardwalk around Lindenwood Lake being set into place, the Lake has been lowered to allow a crane to pound in the pylons for the pavilion and board walk, and rocks are being poured to stabilize the ground for the pavilion area.

The project entails building a teaching pavilion next to Lindenwood Lake (called Ravenel Lake on Google Maps), improving the entrance to HBS from Lower Lake Road, creating a pollinator garden on the slope adjacent to the Lake, and making some upgrades to the nature trail that loops around the Lake.

HBS Project Coordinator Sonya Carpenter said they are taking all precautions possible to protect the environment throughout the construction process, including using a crane to pound in the pylons to avoid bringing heavy machinery into the wetland.

"We're using a crane (to pound pylons) to be as sensitive as we can to the wetland ecosystem and minimize our impact," she said. "This is a very delicate ecosystem. We're also transplanting the sensitive plants under the footprint of the boardwalk as we go."

The Lake was lowered with the help

of a "heavy duty" pump, said Carpenter. Most of the pylons have been installed, but there are a few remaining to be placed in areas of open water to support the pavilion. HBS is installing more pylons than originally planned, now using a total of 81 after receiving a geotechnical report from a third-party consultant.

"They analyze the soil to determine what we need to do," said Carpenter. "The soil is wet, and you can only go so deep, so we're going to follow their instructions."

Carpenter added after all the pylons are placed, the Lake will return to its normal level naturally.

Planks being laid for the boardwalk are Ipe, a wood from the Brazilian Rainforest.

"We can't use chemically treated wood, so we found a product that has longevity but no harmful chemicals," said Carpenter. "The Lake is part of the town's water supply, so we don't want to release chemicals into our water or hurt animals in the wetland."

Within the next month, the boardwalk is expected to be completed and construction will begin on the pavilion.

In the next two months, work is expected to begin on the entrance off of Lower Lake Road and HBS will begin planting the pollinator garden in May or June. Much of this project is subject to weather conditions so Carpenter said she is hoping for the best.



Within the next month, the boardwalk is expected to be completed and construction will begin on the pavilion.



Above: HBS Project Coordinator Sonya Carpenter said they are taking all precautions possible to protect the environment throughout the construction process, including using a crane to pound in the pylons to avoid bringing heavy machinery into the wetland.

Left: Upgrades to the nature trail that loops around the Lake.



For the introduction story see "North Campus Project at Highlands Biological Station gets town approval" in the Jan. 17, 2019 edition. Go to www.highlandinfo.com. Click on News. Scroll down to Jan. 17 listing.

• WORD MATTER •

The Strange Case of Jussie Smollett

In case you've been off the grid for the past couple of weeks you've probably been glued to your preferred news outlet taking in the strange saga of Jussie Smollett. For those of you who have been out of the swirl let me fill in some blanks.

Jussie Smollett is an actor/singer who has found a minute of fame on the network television program Empire. I'm not a viewer of this show about the Hip-Hop music business. Consequently, I was unaware of Mr. Smollett's existence until he made the news recently for having claimed to be the victim of an alleged attack, a hate crime involving both racism and homophobia. Mr. Smollett identifies as black and as a gay man. The alleged attack happened in Chicago. It has been both page one and lead story in virtually every media outlet in the entire civilized world.

As matters unfolded, to enormous supportive outcries from both the black and gay communities, it has become apparent that what happened was not necessarily exactly as may have first been described by Mr. Smollett. At first, Chicago police could not identify or locate the two "attackers," whose images were indistinctly captured on security video. They also could not confirm aspects of Mr. Smollett's story because he refused to share his mobile device with investigators.

As is the case in any fluid situation, in its haste to report a seemingly controversial story before having all of the facts verified, the news media has spent an enormous amount of valuable time serially correcting earlier versions of the story.

As Mr. Smollett's status evolved from alleged victim, to suspect, to having been arrested on felony charges for filing a false report, the viewing public, already having arrived at erroneous conclusions, could be excused for feeling like the ball in a tennis match. This is what happens in a competitive media environment (BREAKING NEWS!!!) where being first and most breathless takes precedence over getting the story right.

Under normal circumstances this might not matter very much. If, as is currently the status of things, Mr. Smollett is found (or admits) to having planned the whole affair as some ill-conceived publicity stunt, what's the big deal? If he wasn't an



Bud Katz

actor on a network television program, would we even know about his misadventures? Would we care?

We should care, and here's why.

Jussie Smollett might have alleged himself victim of a racist, homophobic hate crime as some attention-grabbing career move. What could be better for

his career than for him to be seen as a surviving victim of something terrible?

Here's the problem with that.

What happens to news viewers who have invested time, attention and compassion in what may turn out to be nothing more than a cynical PR stunt, when a real hate crime occurs against a person of color or a gay person? Will we sympathize? Empathize? Will we believe the victim? Or, will we recall our disillusionment at having been hoodwinked by some climber grabbing 15 more minutes of our attention? Might we simply shake our heads and move on?

In the end, Jussie Smollett may have gotten what he wanted. Everyone now knows his name. Everyone now has seen his face.

But he also got a whole lot more.

He's likely lost the trust of many fans who believed his initial report of victimization. His career may stall if producers question the character of someone they might have seen as a rising star. He's already been cut out of the final episodes of this year's season of Empire.

As far as what the real takeaway might be from this sad, sordid affair, don't be surprised if people are going to be skeptical when someone claims victimization based on their skin color or gender identity. Now, that person may actually have to satisfy concerns about the authenticity of his or her victimhood before expecting law enforcement to focus on finding the perpetrators of the crime. The police are only human. They don't want to put time and effort into some false flag account by someone who may or may not be telling the truth.

We live in interesting, complicated times. As of this writing, Jussie Smollett is under arrest for paying two men to "attack" him and call him hateful names. But the story isn't over. Just because someone is charged with a crime doesn't mean he's guilty.

Stay tuned.

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Highlands Swim Team returns from successful meets in Clemson, SC and Cary, NC

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team returned successful from their meet in Clemson, SC in January.

More than 600 swimmers from 20 teams and four states descended on Fike Natatorium on the Clemson University Campus for the 2019 Clemson Aquatics Team (CAT) Tiger Invitational. 18 of those entered were Hurricanes.

The meet was unscored, but ribbons were awarded to the top eight finishers in each event.

Chase Kenter earned 7 ribbons, won 3 events, and had 5 personal records (PR's). Conner Hughes brought home ribbons in 5 events and had 3 PR's. Layla Babac had 3 ribbons and 3 PR's, Aniah McKim got 2 ribbons and 6 PR's. Savannah Byrd, Andre Halldin, and Jack Sumner each won a ribbon. Byrd and Halldin had 4 PR's, Sumner 2. Jelehna McKim set 8 team records and had 6 PR's. Elias McKim broke 6 team records with 6 PR's. Twins Ben and Dasha Halldin each had 5 PR's. Peyton Kaylor set 4 PR's. Tate Wilson, Max Justin, Blake Kenter, and Justin Powell all had

3 PR's each.

Chase Kenter and Conner Hughes both qualified to compete in the North Carolina Swimming Age Group Short Course Championship in Cary, NC which was held February 15-17 at the Triangle Aquatic Center.

The fastest 14 and under swimmers from across the state were in attendance including Kenter and Hughes.

Conner had personal records in two of his four events; the 100 butterfly and the 50 breaststroke.

Chase was one of only three nine-year-old boys to earn medals at the event on the strength of his Personal Record (a AAA time) in the 100 butterfly. Over the course of the meet, he had 5 PRs in his 9 events.

As a result of his swims in both meets, Chase is now ranked 34th nationally for 9-year-old boys via USA Swimming's IMX ranking system.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a year round Highlands Recreation Department Team. The Hurricanes compete in AAU and USA swimming meets locally and



Elias McKim at Clemson.

around the country. The only requirement to join the team is that a swimmer must be able to swim one length of the pool (25 yards) unassisted. For more information on how you can join or even volunteer with the Hurricanes, please contact Head Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-4121.

...BEARWISE continued from page 5

raised last Thursday night.

"Bears are relatively smart animals. And if they know that they come into town to get food, and suddenly they can't, do they get mad and start going into houses, or finding someplace else to get food?"

Mayor Taylor said this is just one step in the town's process to alleviate the bear problem.

"To cut down on the number of bears coming in, we need to address the commercial garbage, and the dumpster problems, and we are going to have to address in my opinion, the household issue, too. Everything is going to have to be not necessarily bear-proof but at least bear-resistant," he said.

Commissioner Eric Pierson said the town has to start some where and Commissioner Donnie Calloway said ordinances will have

to become part of the scenario at some point, too.

The idea is in a few years, bears will have learned that Highlands isn't the place to go eat.

"I understand that," said Commissioner Patterson, "I'm just saying I don't want this to push them into people's homes, restaurants or through the doors of stores. I'm just trying to think of one of the consequences of us taking away one of their grocery stores."

Mayor Taylor said a comprehensive program is necessary, but he doesn't want to delay this until everything is in place.

"I just want to make sure we aren't creating another problem, because the bears are big, strong things that can go in to where they want to go. I just want to make sure we are prepared for whatever

the bears decide because it's not just us working with a brain, it's the bear working with a brain, too. What is their response going to be?"

Commissioner Pierson said once the town takes the initiative, residents have to do their part.

"We need to put the burden on the residents to be responsible for their cans. We need to have the initiative to say, 'we've done our part ... we expect you to do your part.'"

Commissioner Calloway suggested an ordinance that says non, bear-resistant containers won't be allowed because once the town takes care of the commercial district, they may go into neighborhoods even more often in search of food.

And that was the focus of the discussion at the Coffee with the Mayor last Friday ... the town

...SOUTHSIDE continued from page 1

ing habitat for wildlife. Thinning will ultimately increase young forest habitat in the 0-10 year-age class that now makes up only 1% of the project area.

"I thank the public for participating in the process. I am disappointed we could not make everyone happy but we tried to strike a balance, so we have a forest that is resilient and sustainable for all the public's plants and animals," said Nantahala District Ranger Mike Wilkins.

Changes to the proposed project were based on public engagement and interagency coordination over a 4-year period.

According to Wilkins, those interactions began in 2015-'16 when an informal dialogue began with a couple of the environmental groups, wildlife groups and the game commission. At that time, people were invited to provide input to the USFS's prescription for the Southside Project area.

Following that, an official public input period began in February of 2017.

...BEARWISE continued from page 8

and whole community has a role to play. "We have to take leadership, but it involves everyone, residents and businesses," said the Mayor. "We have to implement individual and community practices to coexist with the bears. Bears aren't our friends or our pets. They are wild animals and they are not here to amuse and entertain us. We have to realize this."

Living with bears has long been part of life in North Carolina. There are 20,000 bears in the state, but most live on the east coast but for some reason people there don't have the interactions and problems Highlands has, said the Mayor.

"I would submit that Highlands in particular has a large number of bear encounters and incidents that we need to address," he said.

According to Justin McVey with the NC Wildlife Commission, when there is a mast failure, bears have to move more so that's why people see them more.

Wilkins said members of the USFS then met with the Chattooga Conservancy – the watchdog of such matters – March of 2017.

The Chattooga Conservancy's mission is to protect, promote and restore the natural ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed ecosystems; to ensure the viability of native species in harmony with the need for a healthy human environment; and to educate and empower communities to practice good stewardship on public and private lands.

Then a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was released to the public and in February 2018 public comment was solicited.

Based on input from the public and environmental groups, Wilkins released a draft Decisional EA and Draft Decision on July 11, 2018.

Following that, the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Supervisor Allen Nicholas had an objection resolution meeting Nov. 1, 2018 at his office in Asheville where protesters gathered to voice objections.

"When there is a good crop, they don't have to move around as much. Acorns are their preferred food, but they also like birdseed... birdseed is like candy to them. It's real high in fat and it's sweet. Bears also have a sweet tooth," he said.

BearWise was developed by bear experts in the southeastern states with the biggest emphasis in Florida and now it's making a push in North Carolina. According to Justin McVey and Ashely Hobbs with NC Wildlife Commission, Highlands is the program's guinea pig.

Towns, neighborhoods, country clubs, homeowners' associations, even a business can become BearWise certified by committing to practices to deter bear interaction.

"As the population in Highlands grows, the bear problem grows," said Strain. "As it turns out we like the same habitat and to make this work, it has to be a complete community effort. If we do this, it may push bears into places like Horse Cove or Scaly

Mountain, so this is something that needs to be done regionally."

Benefits of being a BearWise community is it decreases human and bear conflicts. Communities that are BearWise have seen human and bear conflicts reduced by 80%, said Strain.

"This increases confidence in people to safely enjoy the outdoors; helps with other nuisance animals because we know bears aren't the only animals that get in our trash; raccoons, dogs, and birds do, too. And it empowers residents to be involved in wild life encounters," said Strain.

For starters, being BearWise, means identifying and securing all potential bear food sources and attractants including garbage, bird-feeders, pet food even compost.

Strain said educating current and new community members on how to prevent and respond to human/bear interaction is also part of the scenario but it will be a challenge.

"People come on weekends

• See **BEARWISE** page 11



People gathered at the "protest rally Nov. 1, 2018 at the Forest Supervisor office in Asheville. Pictured in the middle are from left: Buzz Williams, Chattooga Conservancy, Allen Nicholas, Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Supervisor and Mike Wilkins, District Ranger, Nantahala Ranger District.

– submitted photo

But Nicole Hayler, Executive Director of the Chattooga Conservancy, which spearheaded opposition to the Southside Project said the Chattooga Conservancy vehemently disagrees with the Forest Service's decision, and intends to keep fighting to protect one of the last, most biologically rich and wild places in the Southeastern U.S.

"Only one-half of 1% of old growth forests remains in the Southeast, and these rare stands of trees on public lands should be preserved — not liquidated," reads her press release.

"The Southside Project approves: 1) Cutting irreplaceable old growth forests; 2) Destroy-

• See **SOUTHSIDE** page 10



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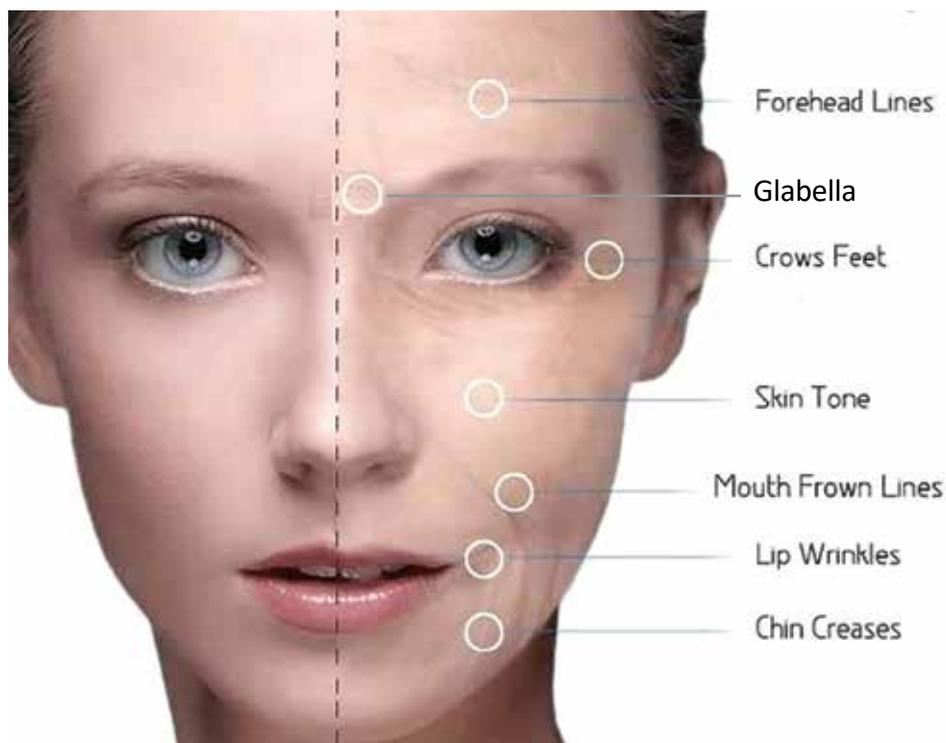
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...SOUTHSIDE continued from page 9

ing essential habitat for imperiled Green Salamanders; 3) Burning over 2,000 acres repeatedly, drastically exceeding natural fire cycles; 3) Widespread, frequent herbicide applications to kill native forest species in favor of “crop trees;” and, 4) Net loss of taxpayers’ money.”

However, Wilkins says the Forest Service is committed to following an old growth strategy and carefully considers forest age classes before embarking on projects like the Southside Project.

About 33 percent of national forest in the project area is over 100 years old. Across the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, the trend towards older trees is increasing such that in 50 years nearly half of the forest will be comprised of trees older than 130 years. Only about 1 percent of the project area is young forest, defined as trees up to 10 years old.

“In the management of national forests there are trade-offs. We make decisions based on the best available science that lead us to cut some trees to make room for others,” said Wilkins. “Forests need diversity and all ages of trees. What’s missing from the Southside area is young forest.”

Removing patches of older trees gives young trees access to sunlight and water allowing them to sprout and grow. Small and medium sized forest openings provide fruit and nutritious foliage and flowers that attract pollinators and other insects and support populations of small mammals that, in turn, are prey for larger animals. Openings can be created by natural processes such as storms or intense wildfires, but in their absence need to be created through active management.

The Southside project will create 317 acres of young forest in 23 separate stands across the 19,000 acres of the project area. Over one-third of the openings will be one acre or less. The project will also rehabilitate existing wildlife openings; establish na-

tive nectar and pollen producing species in wildlife openings, log landings, and roadsides to benefit native pollinators; and improve fisheries habitat in Scotsman Creek.

The irony is that Chattooga Conservancy agrees with Forest Service managers about needing some prescribed burning and cultivating younger forests, but Hayler says it strongly opposes the way the USFS wants to achieve these mutual goals and the science it is using to justify the proposed practices.

Buzz Williams, former Chattooga Conservancy Executive Director and past Forest Service employee, who holds a degree in Forest Management from Clemson University said there are hundreds of places to create young forests on the landscape — without cutting old growth trees and destroying critical habitats — while still conducting prescribed burning within reason.

The Chattooga Conservancy believes the Southside Project should be shelved and redesigned, until after the new Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Plan is in place.

Williams said the public has rallied for the fight to protect the area’s native forests and people can count on the Chattooga Conservancy to enter the next phase of opposition.

According to Wilkins, work in the project area is expected to begin next year though timber management activities will not likely occur until 2021.

Commercial timber harvesting and silvicultural treatments will be used to thin old growth areas while controlling woolly vines to release oaks and hickories to ensure acorn and nut production in the regenerating stands, control non-native invasive species, prolong grass and brushy habitat on temporary roads and skid trails for wildlife benefits and to rehabilitate wildlife openings.

— Kim Lewicki

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...AHEC continued from page 1

School, and secondly, the group is also working to meet the needs of teachers in the classroom.

The group has set a goal of raising \$2.8 million dollars for facility needs at Highlands School. One priority of the building improvement initiative is to expand the school library. A large donation of \$200,000 has been given to the group with the specific purpose of enlarging the library/media center. Improvements to the library include providing a quiet room that could be used for testing, separate elementary and high school areas and space for reading specialists to do one on

one reading with students.

Over the last several months the group has been involved with the community, the school administration, and the teachers of Highlands School directly to identify needs in the classrooms at Highlands School. After polling teachers, technology was identified as a top need in the classrooms. McCall stated one of the goals of the AHEC is to put an iPad into the hands of each student at Highlands School.

With a large donation from the Swift Family Foundation, AHEC has made great progress toward reaching this goal to ad-

dress technology needs by students and teachers. In addition, the committee has also received donations from other community donors to help meet technology goals.

A generous donation of \$5,000 by the Swift Family Foundation to AHEC was used to help support the Literacy Council's goal to purchase iPads for elementary students through 3rd grade. The donation funded the purchase of protective covers for the new iPads which allowed the Literacy Council to use the money saved from buying the covers to also purchase iPads for 4th graders. Future projects of AHEC will continue to raise funds needed to pay for iPads for elementary students in 5th

it works well.

"They jump on it, scratch it and rolled it down the hill, so we have chained it to a tree, but they can't get into it," she said.

Strain said even when food sources are removed, bears will still visit so deterrents like Clorox, ammonia, pine sol, apple cider vinegar poured around the house or at base of deck supports will keep them from climbing up to decks. She said to keep vehicle doors locked and windows closed and not to leave any food even food wrappers in vehicles.

Interestingly, bears are attracted to the sweet smell of formic acid found in many plastics which is why they sometimes rip up car and bicycle seats.

•See BEARWISE page15

through 8th grades.

After donors visited the classrooms, they also identified a need to replace outdated active boards for all the classrooms. Other projects of AHEC will include building a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) closet at the school to properly store STEM research material properly and purchasing virtual reality headsets and viewers allowing students to explore the world from the classroom.

In addition to raising money for the actual school building and technology needs, McCall stated AHEC would like to help Highlands School in other ways. The committee would like to help fulfill teachers' wish lists in the classrooms supplying the funds for individual classroom needs.

"We also would like to help fund continued education for our teachers," said McCall. "That's a difficult thing for teachers to do since North Carolina has taken a lot of our money away for that."



Highlands School Media Center.

– Photo by Brian O'Shea

"AHEC wants to be an arm to the PTO," added McCall. "The PTO helps teachers when they need something in the classroom, and we want to be able to also give them the opportunity to come to us with their needs."

"We have formed this committee to raise funds for the advancement of education at Highlands School," said McCall. "We have raised money for education, so let's get it into the hands of the educators."

Founding members of the AHEC include; Melissa Delaney, Stephanie McCall, Jody Pierson, Janice Raby, Jim Tate, Derek Taylor, Jeff Weller, and Hilary Wilkes.

McCall stated that the board will recognize donors at the May board meeting to be held at Highlands School.

• See Literacy Council gets \$50K for iPads for Highlands' students" in the Jan. 24 edition. Go to www.highlandinfo.com, click on News and scroll down to Jan. 24 edition.

...BEARWISE continued from page 9

and don't know about the bears and they leave a bag of trash curbside on Sunday when they leave," she said.

Mayor Taylor said the public dumpsters and recycle receptacles at the Rec Park have been working well, so well there are plans for a third dumpster. Full-time and seasonal residents are encouraged to use them rather than the commercial dumpsters which are technically off limits. Vacation renters and AirBnB clients are also encouraged to use them.

As part of the BearWise initiative, plans are to work with the chamber of commerce, and real estate agents to help educate visitors and new homeowners about the bears and what they must do to co-exist safely.

The NC Wildlife Resource Commission has a bear hotline, but it asks that people don't call about every bear sighting, just if there is a real serious issue.

"If you have a bear exhibiting strange behavior, trying to den underneath your deck, or being really persistent even though you have removed all the food sources, or if it is acting funny, or if you think it's sick or in poor condition, then use the hotline," said McVey.

Creating ordinances dealing with receptacles, garbage left at construction sites and more, is the last step in becoming BearWise certified.

"But we need ordinances

with serious teeth in them," said Strain. "If people don't suffer a serious fine, they are just not inclined to bother."

BearWise basics are common sense: never approach or bait bears, secure food and garbage and recycling in bear-proof or bear-resistant cans, burn off your grill after use and remove bird feeders when bears are active.

Bear-resistant totes with a bar that can be "hooked" and lifted by the town's garbage trucks was suggested for residents. They come in 64-gallon capacity for about \$219 and are available at Reeves Hardware on Main Street.

"We have a high rate of workers' comp claims due to back problems in the Sanitation Department because we still have the old system where the workers lift up cans, dump them and then put them back. With 3,000 customers getting trash pick-up two times a week, that takes a toll. So, requiring residents to get a bear-resistant toter will serve a dual purpose," said Mayor Taylor. "Plus, the days of just putting trash on the side of the road the morning of pick-up are over."

Taylor said he would like to spend about \$400,000 on bear-resistant totes that residents can rent so if one is damaged, the town will replace it but of course residents investing in their own is an option, too.

One attendee at the Coffee said she has had a 64-gallon bear-resistant toter for seven years and

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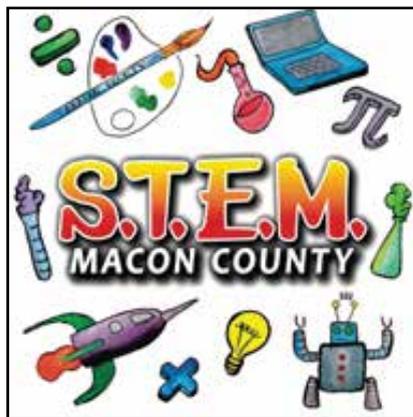
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

STEM FAMILY NIGHT at Highlands School



**Thurs., Feb. 28
6 - 8 pm
Plus
Science Fair
Open House &
Scholastic Book Fair
(after PTO Mtg.)
Highlands PTO
Meeting
6 p.m. in cafeteria**



NOTE

• Sign Up now for Macon County Spring Soccer. For information, call the Reck Park at 828-526-3556.

• The Rec Park is now taking teams for the Spring Men's League Basketball league through February 1st. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse – NEW SCHEDULE – Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 and 4 p.m.; NO MOVIES MONDAY; Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 1, 4, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 / \$2 off on Tuesdays.

• The Bascom has gone to winter hours. We will be open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). The Bascom galleries and shops will be closed Tuesdays - Thursdays. Admin offices and The Dave Drake Studio Barn are open normal business hours. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

Monday - Saturday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 5pm: Open Studio in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

• At the Bascom, Art By Appointment private ceramic classes in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Monday - Friday

• At the Bascom, You Too Can Raku by appointment class in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

• At the Bascom, 10am - 1pm: Studio Alive drawing group. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon.-Wed.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.
• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

Tuesdays

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

• At the Bascom, 3pm - 5pm: Writers group. For more information call 828-526-4949.

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 to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

First 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.

Wed. & Fri.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

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

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library 3:30-5 p.m.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

• Highlands Area Indivisible group meets at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Hudson Library. For info call 770-823-0601

• 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

Fourth Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

First Fridays

• At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Night - all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. For

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

any other information call 828-526-1595.

Fourth Friday

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

Friday - Monday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Saturdays

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

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

Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

Through March 10

• At The Bascom, SOUNDWAVE, Western Carolina University MFA and InkSpace BFA Exhibition. For more information, call 526-4949.

Through Feb. 28

• Book Fair at Highlands School in the media center. Preview Day will be the 21st, students can make wish lists during this time.

Thurs., Feb. 28

• Stem Family Night, Science Fair, Bood Fair and PTO meeting at Highlands School.

Fri., March 1

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Rock Around The Clock Dance" Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Mr Randy Ramsey from Suwanee, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426

Sat., March 2

• At PAC, Donizetti's La Fille Du Régiment. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

Wed., March 6

• Prevent Medicare Fraud with Se-

nior Medicare Patrol! This workshop is aimed at teaching seniors to spot, stop, and report healthcare fraud. This informational workshop will be held at The Crawford Senior Center on Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. The key to preventing healthcare fraud is to protect yourself. For more information about services at the Crawford Senior Services Center, please call (828) 349-2058.

Sat., March 9

• The March 2019 meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club Inc. will be on Saturday starting at 10 AM at the Bascom in Highlands, NC. The Bascom is located at 323 Franklin Rd, Highlands, NC, just north of Downtown Highlands, NC (heading toward Franklin). Drive across the covered bridge into the parking lot, and come into the main entrance near the covered patio. There will be directions on how to get to the wood turning studio. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Highlands the second Saturday of every month between March and November. This month's presenter will be John Tagliarini.

Tues., March 12

• Kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin, for parents, at 10 am in the school's media center. Children who reach the age of 5 on or before August 31, 2019 are eligible for admission into the Class of 2032. PTO will provide complimentary lunch for all students and their parents in the school cafeteria as part of Kindergarten registration. Registration packets can be picked up at Highlands School or at Highlands Community Child Development Center. All forms in the registration packet (except the Health Assessment Transmittal Form), will need to be completed and returned on March 12th. The Health Assessment Transmittal Form should be completed and turned in to the school by August 1, 2019. For more information, call 526-2147.

Sat., March 23

• OEI's Chefs in the House, a dinner series at half-mile farm. Call 828-787-2620 or 828-787-2635 for reservations.

Sat., March 30

• At PAC, Wagner's Die Walküre at 12 noon. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at

the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

Sat., May 11

• At PAC, Poulenc's Dialogues Des Carmelites, at 12 noon. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes

prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Winter Pool schedule

- **Lap Swim:** Monday-Friday 6-10a. 6 lanes and Monday-Thursday 3:30-7p. 1-2 lanes (shared Pool) and Saturday 10-11a 2 or 3 lanes.
- **Adult Swim:** 18 years plus Monday-Friday 11:30-1:30p no lap lanes and Saturday 10-11a shared with lap swim. Available Equipment: water weights, adult pool noodles, fins, water jog belt & kickboards.
- **Public Swim:** Monday-Thursday 3:20-7p Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 1-6pm and Sunday 1-6p.
- **Water Aerobics:** 18 years plus Monday-Friday 10:15-11a.
- **Aqua Dance and Fitness:** Monday 5:30-6:30p.
- **Baby and Me class:** Ages 6 month-3 years Friday 5:30-6p.
- **Movie Night:** all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30 and movie starts at 7p. Call for movie title and prices
- **Pool Parties:** available Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6-8p. Call the pool at 828-526-1595 if you have any questions concerning the pool.

La Fille Du Régiment live via satellite on Saturday at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present, live via satellite the MET Opera's production of La Fille Du Régiment on Saturday, March 2 at 12:55pm. Stars Pretty Yende and Javier Camarena team up for a feast of vocal fireworks on the MET stage. La fille quickly became a popular success, partly because of the famous aria "Ah! mes amis, which requires of the tenor no fewer than nine high Cs. In addition, after more than 40 years spent dominating film and theater—in movies such as The War of the Roses as well as the Tony-nominated stage revival of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?—Kathleen Turner is taking on a new challenge: opera, the voice behind Jessica Rabbit tackles a non-singing role in the MET Opera's retooling of the French comedy La Fille du Régiment. There will be a pre-opera discussion beginning at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

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Helipad to soon reopen at Hospital

Once the renovations began on the H-C Hospital campus some years ago – especially the Emergency Room upgrade – the helipad that was used by MAMA alongside the front entrance area was closed.

MAMA began landing on the Zachary Park fields on Buck Creek and that's where patients had to be transported and where Highlands Fire & Rescue had to standby to ensure the safety of all involved.

Anyone venturing to the H-C Hospital campus recently will notice the two yellow "Aircraft operating area. Give way to aircraft before proceeding" signs.

According to H-C Hospital President/CEO Jackie Medland, the helipad project at the hospital is in the final stages of wrapping up.

"We don't have a firm "go live" date yet but expect it soon. Once completed, we will return to landing at the hospital rather than at an area on Buck Creek Road."

There are many pluses to returning to the hospital campus.

"This will decrease the time it takes to move a patient out of HCH by 10-15 minutes, decrease the use of a local ambulance that is tied up from running 911 calls as-



sisting the flight crew to move the patient and decrease the times the patient is loaded into/out of a vehicle," she said.

Medland said the hospital has automated much of the equipment involved, including cameras, gates, sign alerts, and badge access, to decrease reliance on people-dependent processes and to insure the safe landing and departure of the helicopter.

– Kim Lewicki

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MONDAY – SATURDAY
9AM – 5PM

PRINCESS PUDDIN'

• CATSPEAK •

A brushing ban

Who decided brushing was good for kitties? Certainly not I. We kitties are related to lions and tigers who survived for centuries and still do -- without brushing. I ask you, "Why should we darling domesticated felines be treated any differently?"



Princess Puddin'

I believe that pet parents wanting to brush kitties has nothing to do with what's good for us. It's all about what pet parents think is good for them. They are overly concerned about their furniture, clothes, carpet and whatever else we kitties get close to. How else do you explain Mum grabbing me and holding me tight as I try to squirm out of her arms, carrying me out to the table on the deck, and then holding me down to brush me as I screech?

In truth, I'm not a screecher, but you get the picture. Mum brushes and brushes and brushes and still says I need more. Thankfully, there's a limit to her patience. After she's gathered enough of my hair to fill a small cushion, she lets me go, and I make a beeline for the kitchen door. I disappear to one of my secret hiding spots for an hour or two in the hope that Mum won't think of corralling me again.

"Puddin'," Mum cajoles, "It's not about how you decorate the house and our clothes with fur; it's about hairballs and your health." Oh sure, hairballs, schmairballs; she's not fooling me. I bet lions and tigers eject hairballs too; it's just the feline way.

Who said hairballs were a bad thing? We kitties handle our hairballs and go calmly about our business. It's our pet parents who have little fits. "Oooh, ick," we hear, "grab a paper towel; grab some carpet cleaner." I thought I was exceptionally considerate when I deposited my last hairball on the doormat, so Mum could take the mat right to the laundry room to wash.

...BEARWISE continued from page 11

Strain stressed, despite Highlands bear alert status, bears are not really vicious, evil, or dangerous animals.

"It's a very rare incident when a person or a pet is attacked by a bear. The danger is when they become so accustomed to people and habituated; then it's harder to scare them away," she said. "When we have

You know, if Mum would let me be an indoor/outdoor kitty, I'd politely do my hairball business outside. If I ever even set foot out the door, though, Mum is right there to shoo me back in. If that's the way she wants to be, then she needs to deal with the consequences.

I hear tell Mum had a calico kitty before me who lived for brushing. Katrina would run to the cat tree, flop and roll, and meow to be brushed. That weird behavior ruined my Mum for all the kitties who followed because she expects us all to behave like Katrina. Not a chance. Dancer, my immediate predecessor, screeched the entire time she was being brushed. "Shoot," laughs Mum, "with Dancer sounding like we were torturing her, we worried the neighbors would call the ASPCA on us."

You'd think the Dancer experience would have convinced Mum that brushing was taboo. Unfortunately, one of Mum's flaws is that she's stubborn. Once she makes up her mind about something, so be it, forever and ever.

In an attempt to mollify me, Mum did come up with a more gentle brushing technique. She got Dad a grooming glove. When I'm in his lap, he stealthily puts on the glove and pets me. That removes lots of hair and lulls me to sleep, so I approve. The problem is Mum claims it's not as effective as a good old hard brush. See what I mean about being stubborn? Harrumph. The things we kitties must put up with.

• Princess Puddin' Penn resides in Georgia with her dad, her mom Kathy Manos Penn, and her canine brother Lord Banjo. Similar stories can be found in "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" available at Books Unlimited in Franklin and Highlands Mountain Paws. Please send comments, compliments, and questions to inkpenn119@gmail.com.

a good mast crop, they will go back into the woods, but if they are trained to eat here they won't go because they get more food out of a garbage can or birdfeeder in half an hour than they can get foraging out in the woods."

– Kim Lewicki



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This week, from my kitchen to yours, I wanted to share with you two quick, easy, and homemade dinners. They require minimal ingredients and effort, and are perfect weekday meals. Northwest Salmon with Sauteed Green Beans or Broccoli and Whole Roasted Chicken with Sauteed Green Beans or Broccoli. Enjoy!

Ingredients from The Spice & Tea Exchange:
Signature Spice Blend
Northwest Salmon Spice Blend
Garden Mirepoix Sea Salt
Roasted Black Garlic Sea Salt

Ingredients from grocer:

One whole chicken
Salmon
One bag of steam-able broccoli
One bag of steam-able green beans
One container of mushrooms
Butter
Olive oil

Northwest Salmon with Sauteed Green Beans or Broccoli

- Drizzle Salmon with olive oil and sprinkle with about one tsp of Northwest Salmon Rub Spice Blend on eat piece of fish, or more if you desire.
- Broil for 6 minutes.
- For the green beans or broccoli, steam in the bag and then saute with butter, mushrooms and Garden Mirepoix Sea Salt and enjoy!



Whole Roasted Chicken w/Sauteed Green Beans or Broccoli



- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Melt 2 TBS of butter in a bowl with Signature Spice Blend.
- Rub mixture under chicken skin and cavity.
- Put on roasting rack in a pan and bake for 45 minutes, or until the internal temperature is 165 degrees.
- Steam beans or broccoli in the bag and then saute for 2-3 minutes with olive oil and Roasted Black Garlic Sea Salt, and toss in some Parmesan cheese.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Fly Fishing and Real Estate

"I love any discourse of rivers, and fish, and fly fishing"

— *Issac Walton*

Since 1997, I've been an ardent fly fisherman, a sport I learned here in Highlands from World-Class Fly Fishing Guide, bamboo rod-maker, and renaissance man, Henry Williamson. For 27 years, the 2500+ miles of trout water in our region have been my playground. "Trout Bums" like me fish whenever we can, but never fish as much as we'd like. My "day job" (nights and weekends, too) is as a Real Estate Broker. I can't help sharing how my passion for fly fishing mirrors my profession in the Real Estate business:

LOVE: I fly fish because I love the sport; I practice Real Estate because I love the "sport" of helping others "fish where

the fish are" and discover that special property. We help great people find and invest in a lifestyle, not just buy or sell a house.

RIVERS & LAKES WHERE FISH LIVE: They hold healing powers, peace, and stillness. Living here full-time or part-time promotes wellness and offers a tranquility far from the rigors of a hectic schedule and busy-ness of the city.

RELATIONSHIPS: I've never met a jerk on a trout stream (except for a guy who marched into the stream exactly where I just landed three fish). Likewise, being a Broker here creates lasting friendships with clients. We enjoy one another's company, wise counsel on many subjects, and sharing a meal.

"MATCHING THE HATCH:" To be a successful fly fisherman, you must match your chosen fly with the exact phase of bug life that occurs on the stream at any given moment (Google: entomology of mayflies). Things change constantly, and you must react to weather, time of day, water temperature, stream conditions, and sometimes



Pat Gleeson, Owner, BIC White Oak Realty Group
828-782-0472

you just have to get lucky. It takes research, preparation, and decisiveness. All of these elements are true about Real Estate. We "match" needs of each customer with what's occurring in the market and in their lives, which changes according to what's going on in life (empty nesting, a death in the family, the need for more space, or "second-home-it is," a common but curable ailment). And yes, sometimes you just get lucky!

FRIENDLINESS

Some of my closest friends and customers are fly fishers. They have discovered the sport by living here or they

have fished with me for years. Investing in Real Estate is investing in life, new experiences, and new relationships. Fly fishing is a conduit, common ground, and good times we can enjoy together.

COMMUNITY: Real Estate is about helping others. It's my honor to have served the 3-Rivers Fly Fishing Festival (April 25-27) as a volunteer. 100% of the proceeds benefit Highlands Scholarship Fund. Every graduate from Highlands High School gets a scholarship check, and our festival helps fund them! So many of our customers fly fish in the festival. I am humbled!

In closing, I quote the late great John Voelker who said it so much better than I:

"I fish because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties, and assorted social posturing I thus escape; because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience; because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters; because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out there; and, finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant – and not nearly so much fun."

• *Pat and Deborah (aka Bee) Gleeson and their dog Gemma can be found at White Oak Realty Group, located in downtown Highlands on 4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn. White Oak Realty Group, founded in 2009 by Susie deVille, a leading boutique brokerage firm on the Highlands Cashiers Plateau. You can reach Pat, Bee, or Susie at 828.526.8118.*

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c 828.200.6742 o 828.526.8300
andrea.gabbard@sothbysrealty.com



Andrea is one of the top 25 Real Estate Brokers in 2018.

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is the top selling firm in Highlands since 2013 as per HCMLS Navica.

Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular Board of Commissioners' meeting of February 20, 2014, the Town Board voted to list all Town of Highlands Delinquent Accounts in the newspaper every 6 months. The following accounts are over 60 days past due.

Delinquent Utility Accounts

Kristin Araujo	\$	40.58	Ed Jared	\$	8.83
Mary Beth Buck	\$	986.05	Steven Merlino	\$	793.49
Cheryl Carlton	\$	631.75	Movie Stop	\$	1,149.64
Highlands Smokehouse	\$	1,351.78	Richard Read	\$	506.57
Joan Maps	\$	1,221.94	Karen Reese	\$	158.12
Samantha McCall	\$	1,371.29	Roto-Rooter Plumbers	\$	1,393.81
Mary Propst	\$	1,050.44	Brendon Rowland	\$	613.83
Vincent Rankin	\$	2.73	Schmitt Bldg Cont, Inc.	\$	3,603.64
Samantha Stauch	\$	593.26	The Lost Hiker	\$	2,502.29
Sarah Anderson	\$	181.12	Jeffrey Zerilli	\$	205.67
Kristen Araujo	\$	2,316.59	John Bauman	\$	618.71
Athens Leasing Company	\$	11,691.71	James Christopher Billak	\$	211.42
Samuel Austin	\$	1.60	Grayson & Caryllnn Coblentz	\$	453.38
Roberto Jose Barbosa	\$	442.12	Chris Flowers	\$	1,439.59
Adil Bouazzaoui	\$	263.78	Medea Galligan	\$	84.69
Brick Oven	\$	598.81	Tesa Glass	\$	448.24
Mike Chatlos	\$	826.24	Pamela Moore	\$	109.31
TL Coffeen	\$	1,655.88	Jeremy Robinson II	\$	384.46
Michael & Maxine Davidoff	\$	218.53	Larry Tucker	\$	11.25
Michael Hammond	\$	916.39	James Christopher Billak	\$	211.42
The Highlands BBQ Company	\$	4,783.79			
Michelle Jaffe	\$	101.71			
Thomas Littlejohn	\$	86.27			
Joshua Mendenhall	\$	194.59			
Michael Morrone	\$	187.92			
Prudential MC Realtors	\$	112.87			
Schmitt Building Contractors, Inc.	\$	212.23			
Tonya Wales	\$	449.69			
Devonta "Ladarius" Wilson	\$	373.38			
Devonta "Ladarius" Wilson	\$	414.31			
William John Araujo	\$	48.88			
Connor Brubaker	\$	34.43			
Shukhin Chawla	\$	196.51			

Delinquent Accounts Receivable Accounts

Bates Septic Tank & Concrete Product • Sludge	\$	385.00
Highlands BBQ Sludge	\$	600.00
Mountain Septic Services • Sludge	\$	1,295.00
Roto Rooter Plumbers • Sludge	\$	8,425.00

Payments may be made to: Town of Highlands, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 to bring accounts to a current status to avoid further collection processes and public notice.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Where Do You Place Your Confidence?



CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy,

Our family has one vehicle, that we use regularly, with approximately 190,000 miles on it. This particular SUV has served our family well since 2003. Because we have attended to a regimen of regular maintenance for it, we are confident that the car is in good shape and safe. Nevertheless, we are sure that at some point this vehicle will fail in one respect or another. Someday "old reliable" will succumb to the inexorable march of time and age.

Keeping that scenario in mind, along with a similar realization that even the healthiest of the physically fit will likewise someday succumb to the march of time, I listen to the apostle Paul's words from the 3rd chapter of his letter to the Philippians a little differently. There he writes, "...put no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3, ESV). While Paul lists quite a few excellent reasons to place confidence in his pedigree and the things of this world, he refuses to put his trust in such. Instead, he places his confidence in God, specifically, in Christ Jesus. Anything outside of God Paul considers trash, unworthy of his confidence. Why does he encourage his audience in such a manner?

The answer is really quite simple, as highlighted in both the car and body analogies: they're going to wear out. Anything and everything in this world is wasting away. The tide of time is unstoppable. Therefore, Paul would ask us, why would you or anyone want to place confidence in something that's on its way out? It matters not whether you are an evolutionist or a creationist, we all understand that it is only a matter of time until anything and everything in the physical realm passes away.

Earlier in his life, Paul admits that he had tried to live with confidence in his experience, education and pedigree. His hope was in this world and his fleshly accomplishments. However, after meeting Jesus Christ, he came to realize that living or hoping thusly was futile. It offered no lasting value. He was not about to make the same stupid mistake again. Indeed, Paul realized that his one-time enemy, Jesus Christ, refused to put confidence in the flesh. Why would he, Paul, put confidence in the flesh if the Son of God resisted the temptation to do so? The world and flesh are wasting away. God alone is eternal. God alone is not wasting away, along with those who belong to him.

A friend of mine is fond of saying, "You're gonna be dead a whole lot longer than you're gonna be alive."

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service.

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High School;

10:45am: Child. Program, 10:45am: Worship Service

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands

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

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

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

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

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Pr. Nathan

Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening

Worship, 6p. 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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Father Casimir - 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447, Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

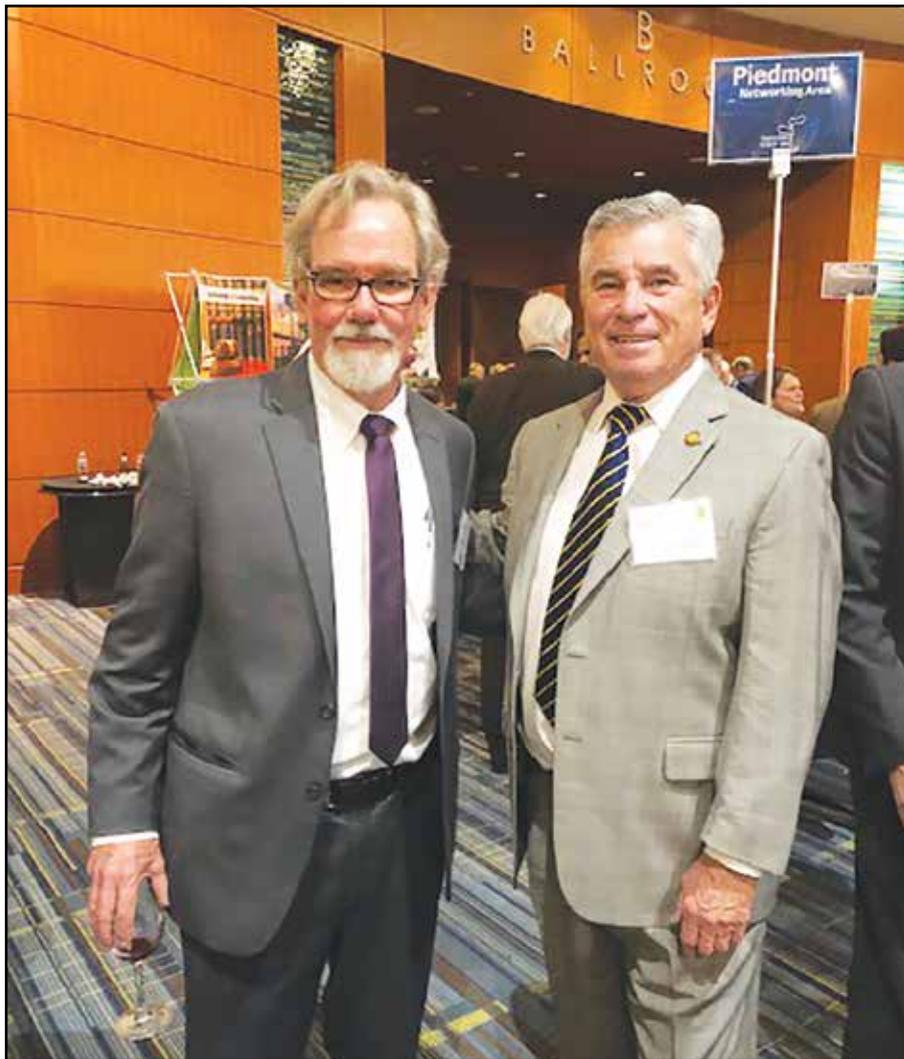
WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Mayor Taylor meets with Sen. Davis and



State Senator Jim Davis met with Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor at the Legislative Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 20th, in Raleigh. The dinner sponsored by the NC League of Municipalities gives legislators and local elected officials the opportunity to discuss pending legislation that will impact local communities. Most on Mayor Taylor's mind was the tractor-trailer traffic on The Gorge Road and the future of Broadband for WNC communities.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

Feb. 8

• At 8:22 p.m., Nicolis James Keith, 28, of Franklin, was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond. His trial date is Aug. 10.

Feb. 15

• At 8:17 a.m., officers responded to a call of vandalism of property at a residence on Lucas Lane where the entry door was kicked in. Damage estimation is \$50.

• At 11:06 a.m., officers responded to a report of a breaking & entering, theft from the building and damage to property where locks were pried off cabinets

• See **POLICE & FIRE** page 20

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 18

Therefore, you had better start planning for all of that dead time!" In a matter of speaking, my friend was saying the same thing that Paul was attempting to communicate to the Philippians, "Put no confidence in the flesh," because it is wasting away and will some day soon be over and gone. It will not attain for you anything of lasting value.

If we are all undeniably wasting away, along with the world in which we live, then

we have a decision to make. Will we put confidence in ourselves and our resourcefulness, a.k.a., the flesh and the world? Or, will we place our confidence in the only person or thing that is not wasting away, in God? Paul and Jesus show us the only ultimately profitable place or person in whom to place our confidence, the Lord God. Let us join them, taking both their example and advice, and put our confidence in God.

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Atlanta

The Farm at Old Edwards | Friday, April 5, 2019

828-787-2635 • 828-787-2620 | OldEdwardsInn.com/RoseWineDinner

...POLICE & FIRE REPORT continued from page 19

estimated at more than \$400 at Cyprus restaurant on Main Street.

Feb. 20

• At 1:45 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at The Bascom.

• At 2:01 a.m., Edward Madison Minus, 31, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over

for driving left of center on Oak Street. He was issued a \$600 unsecured bond. His trial date is March 19, 2019.

• At 3:20 p.m., officers received a report of a computer hacking of banking informations at Celebrity Collections on Main Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Feb. 19, 2019.

Feb. 19

• At 1:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at Hospital Drive.

• AT 12:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

• At 10:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wahoo Trail.

Feb. 20

• At 10:11 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a motorist at S. 4th and Cook Road.

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hutchinson Court.

• At 8:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

Feb. 21

• At 3:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

• At 4:08 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the Cashiers FD.

• At 9:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 11:09 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Franklin Road.

Feb. 22

• At 4:16 p.m., the dept. handled traffic control on US 64 west.

Feb. 24

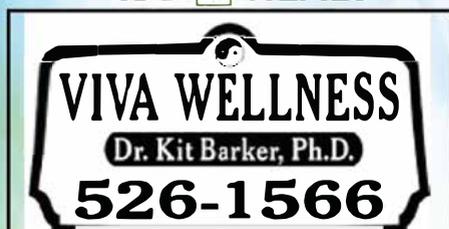
• At 11:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Skylark Drive.

Feb. 25

• At 10:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 11:57 a.m., the dept. responded to a water pump fire at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

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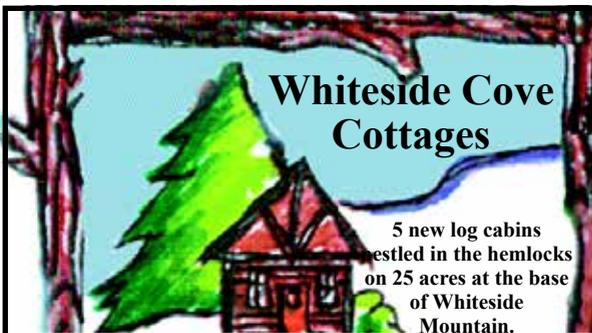
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