

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019

The seven Town Board candidates line up for Q&A number 3

Running for re-election Tuesday, Nov. 5 are Commissioners, John Dotson, Eric Pierson and Brian Stiehler. Opposing them are Marc Hehn, Nick McCall, Michael Rogers and Hank Ross.

Each candidate has been asked to answer six questions. This week we will feature answers to Question 3 by the candidates in alphabetical order.

Question 3:

Should the Town of Highlands regulate VRBO, AirBnB and vacation rental accommodation industry?

John Dotson

Short Term Rentals or Vacation Rentals as the State of North Carolina defines them, have been around in Highlands for decades. Years ago, when there were more "corporate/annual" vacations, people came to Highlands and rented for the full duration of

their allotted time — still usually less than the 90 days defined by the State of North Carolina.

These days, "annual leave" is often broken up into smaller time frames due to factors far to numerous to list — including employers not offering defined annual leave as part of their employment package. Times have also changed with regard to "weekend getaways" and

• See Q&A page 9

When will the leaves change this year?



On Tues., Oct. 15 from 1-3 pm, join the Highlands Nature Center for its Fall Foliage all about trees presentation. The event is free and will answer the most common questions about trees in autumn such as "Why do leaves change colors?" and "What conditions make for a spectacular fall color?" Heather Kiser, Horticulturalist at the Highlands Biological Station, will introduce the biology behind these changes.

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New lawsuit challenges state's congressional map

Hoping for ruling prior to 2020 election

By Brittney Lofthouse

Following a ruling by a three-judge panel that found North Carolina's State District Maps were unconstitutionally gerrymandered, a new lawsuit has been filed to challenge the state's Congressional Maps.

The new lawsuit was in Wake County and claims the districts

• See MAP page 18

Paoletti charity event raises \$60,000 for HHFWNC

On Wednesday, Sept. 25, Paoletti Restaurant hosted its 4th "Peaceful Journey" charity dining event for the Hospice House Foundation of WNC.

Rachel Friday and Jeff Schenck, Highlands residents were Honorary Chairs of the event which raised \$60,000 from 50 participating patrons.

Dining patrons indulged on an epicurean 4-course menu with wine pairings especially selected

for the event's passionate plea for support. Local entertainer Cy Timmons led a live auction including five lots of wine and a luxurious 6-night hotel package in France donated by Highlands resident, Mario Leon and MJL Select.

The event also included a cash call to help furnish the patient suites of SECU Hospice House, now under construction in Franklin.

• See HHFWNC page 15

Fun for the whole family!



• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

•MAYOR ON DUTY•

Recycling, bear-resistant toters and more

This week's article is a collection of informational items. I hope they are helpful.

The recycle trailer is still operative at the Highlands Recreation Center. Some folks thought it had been removed when the garbage dumpsters were removed this summer. Anyone can continue to recycle glass, mixed paper, plastics, aluminum cans and cardboard at the Recreation Center. There are times during the week when the trailer is removed from the site to unload the bins at the Rich Gap transfer station. This procedure usually takes place on Monday but is also determined by the amount of material that has accumulated throughout the week.

Rumor is that the Macon County Solid Waste Department takes all recycled material and puts it in the landfill. While some communities across the nation are doing this because other counties now refuse to accept American recycle materials, Macon County continues to ship materials to commercial recycle companies. The current problem is that the price for recy-



**Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor**

clable materials like cardboard has crashed, but the costs of collecting and transporting these materials have remained the same.

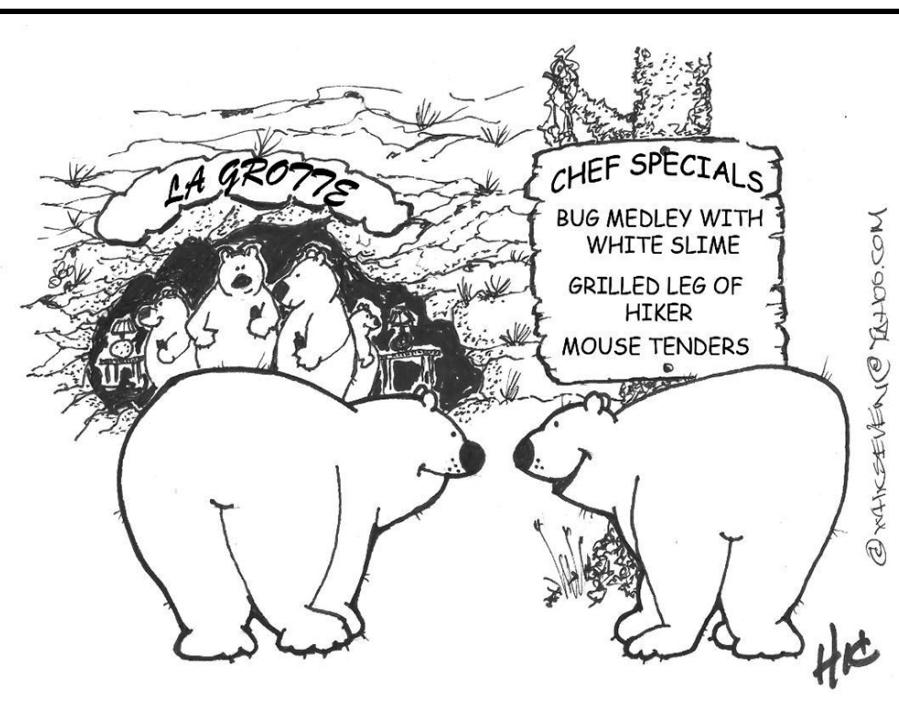
I continue to study recycling issues since Sallie and I are committed recyclers. In some cases, I throw recycle-type materials into our household garbage. This past weekend I threw away a number of plastic containers that were heavily contaminated with food materials. My rationale was that it would require more energy and resources in cleaning the contaminated containers which offsets any benefits. If I had recycled the dirty plastic containers, I would be creating a contamination problem down the line. Also, wax-coated cardboard or paper are also not recyclable, as well as plastic grocery bags.

The town has now received the commercial bear-resistant toters. They are 95-gallon toters. Over the coming weeks town crews will be attaching the wheels to the toters. They will be deployed and will replace the existing toters this fall. Hopefully, the old toters will be sold to communities that do not have bear issues. This phased in process will include the removal of all dumpsters on town rights-of-way. Merchants using the dumpsters will be provided with toters with adjusted fees.

I continue to monitor the healthcare situation here in the region post the Mission/HCA merger. With the new HCA Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the formation of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, many changes are on the horizon. I have been in discussions with Highlands Cashiers Healthcare Foundation and HCA Hospital Board members. As an elected official, I feel I have a responsibility to support the best plans for delivering healthcare to the region.

Here is a new opportunity. Vision Cashiers has entered an agreement with a company that provides access to online and video consultations with certified doctors. For \$100 a year families in the Cashiers/Highlands area can have access to a "Teladoc" for minor medical problems, 24/7. To sign up simply enter Vision Cashiers on a web browser. The sign up information will appear on the screen. Service begins November 1.

•HIC'S VIEW•



"Yum. Highlands now has a four paw restaurant."

•LETTER•

Who cares about you and me?

Dear Editor,

This is an invitation to all of my friends and neighbors on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau to join me in denouncing the rapid degradation of local healthcare services provided by Mission/HCA. Not only have we experienced the loss (without replacement) of family practice doctors and the influx of PA & NP certified (read: "lower cost") medical

• See LETTER page 14

•WEATHER•

Fri, 11-Oct	Sat, 12-Oct	Sun, 13-Oct
72°F 52°F	70°F 42°F	68°F 42°F
Mostly sunny	A passing afternoon shower	Plenty of sunshine
RealFeel® High: 78° Low: 52°	RealFeel® High: 70° Low: 59°	RealFeel® High: 72° Low: 47°

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Letter Policy:

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

Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

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BUCK CREEK Check out this great three bedroom, three full baths home with six adjoining parcels! From the back porch and lower level party house you have an awesome view of the mountains and you can hear the roar of Buck Creek below you! The house affords three levels of living space with attached garage and workshop/shed plus a fire pit and garden space on the property. On 7+/- gentle, rolling acres that adjoin national forest land. Subdividing possible.

MLS# 90598 | Offered for \$350,000

HORSE COVE Follow the path less traveled to this quaint cabin in the woods located approximately 20 minutes from downtown Highlands and only minutes from popular hiking destinations. You will easily enjoy the serene setting and beautiful view of Satulah Mountain while kicking back on the large open deck overlooking the lush forest. The living and dining area are open and very spacious with plenty of natural light. Walk and explore from the property.

MLS# 91675 | Offered for \$299,000



BUCK CREEK Cute ranch-style home only five minutes to downtown Highlands! Features include one level living with a split-bedroom plan, the master suite has a private bathroom with separate vanities and a jetted tub, two additional bedrooms and a shared bathroom on the opposite side of the home. The open concept living area designates half of the space for kitchen/dining and the other half for the living room. Two outbuildings could be used for a workshop, etc. On .53 +/- acres.

MLS# 91232 | Offered for \$299,000

GREENBRIAR ESTATES This is the quintessential "cabin in the woods" close to downtown Highlands! Beautiful three bedroom/three bath home in a quiet neighborhood with no HOA fees. This home has been very well maintained and boasts a screened front porch and large decks on the back and side of the home. The living room holds a wood-burning fireplace. Large covered and open deck on the back side of the home. Two extra lots are included.

MLS# 92071 | Offered for \$299,000



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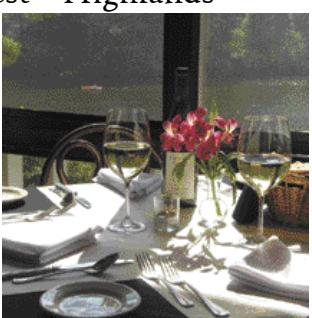
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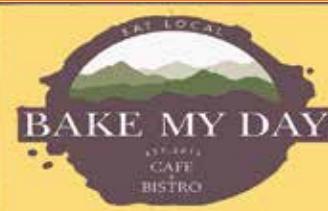


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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC This great property backs up the national forest so when relaxing on the huge covered deck, only nature is in view. With handsome wood floors throughout the common areas, a stone fireplace and vaulted ceilings, the home has a terrific floor plan that makes entertaining a breeze. A new kitchen features an oversized island, granite countertops and SS appliances. The large master suite opens to the covered deck and features lots of windows.

MLS# 89562 | Offered for \$950,000

THE OAKS This warm and welcoming 5 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath home has an inviting sense of light and space throughout. The main level features a cook's kitchen with generous food prep spaces and a casual dining area, a private separate formal dining room, mud room/laundry with sink, half bath, and a living room with floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. The master suite has a walk-in closet and master bath with double vanities, bathtub, and tiled shower. Situated on 8.36 picturesque acres in a forested environment.

MLS# 89545 | Offered for \$869,000



HIGHLANDS CC Make this wonderful vintage Highlands Country Club cottage your next home! This adorable cottage offers three bedrooms and three baths, a one-car garage, two fireplaces, and a wonderful deck. Conveniently located near all the amenities; within a short walk to the clubhouse, golf, and the croquet lawns and only minutes away from hiking, golf, canoeing, and fishing. In-town living with quick access to downtown Highlands shops, restaurants, and festivities.

MLS# 92096 | Offered for \$925,000

HIGHLANDS FALLS CC This great home is in pristine condition and is perfect when it is just the two of you or perfectly comfortable when family and friends come to visit. The living room is spacious with a stone fireplace and wood floors and opens to the expansive screened porch. The open kitchen keeps the conversation flowing with high island seating. The master suite has "his and her" closets, "his and her" vanities, high-end fixtures in the bath, and opens to the deck.

MLS# 91259 | Offered for \$849,000



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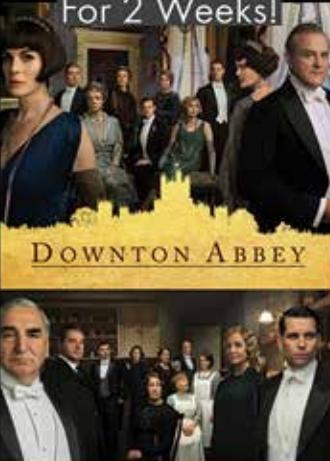
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...Q&A continued from page 1

the close proximity of large population centers only a few hours away. For better or worse, we are a more mobile society.

What we are experiencing with the growth of short term rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, HomeAway, etc) is a direct reflection of a couple of major things, #1, the increased cost in maintaining a home in Highlands, such as higher taxes and higher utilities and #2 the demand for accommodations which has been fueled by organizations and media promoting Highlands. Not to be overlooked is the number of homes and properties that have been converted to employee housing.

The North Carolina Vacation Rental Act (Chapter 42A NC General Statutes) has some very definite requirements that must be followed by EVERYONE who hosts AND their guests, under the definition of a Vacation Rental. The #1 requirement of Landlords is that they "Comply with all current applicable building and housing codes to the extent required by the operation of the codes."

In Highlands, this language seems to apply to certain zoning districts – a number of which would be disallowed from using homes in those districts for short term rentals.

As Town Commissioners, we need take a long, hard look at the verbiage in our UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) to ensure that we are honoring not only the personal property rights of all landowners but also our zoning ordinances.

We can't afford to lose the things that have made Highlands the enjoyable place that people not only want to visit, but also live.

Marc Hehn

It appears the Town needs to at least know where the VRBO and AirBnB units are in order to receive the proper Occupancy Room Taxes. In my neighborhood we have several VRBO's. I have an excellent relationship with the property owners and they have actually asked me to let them know if there is a problem. We have had one problem; and, I was able to solve the issue through polite conversation with the owner.

Nick McCall

This question has risen to the forefront out of nowhere it seems. It is a controversial issue for good reason as it calls for telling property owners what they can and cannot do with their own property. Since I have never been one for disguising my words or being vague, let me say that I do not in any way desire for government at any level to enact laws that aim to dictate

what should or should not be done.

When it comes to personal property rights, as this is one of the founding principles of our nation more less this town, for me in any way to tell someone else what they should be allowed to do inside their own home which they spent their own hard earned money on would be hypocritical, as I personally don't want that done to me, and honestly neither do any of you.

I believe that the town already has in place ordinances such as the noise ordinance that can be used to control any problems that arise. I also believe that the rental sector does a good job of policing within itself. The state of North Carolina has also passed laws regarding this issue and going against any of these laws potentially sets up legal issues for the town down the road.

The existence of HOA's can help to regulate what happens inside neighborhoods and communities, but I do not believe the town government should get involved.

Eric Pierson

Regulation of VRBO, AirBnB, etc., is a hot topic all across the country right now. As such, this is already being discussed here in town. It was an item at our last Town Board meeting, and we garnered some information from local agents that manage such types of properties and from other citizens that were in the audience.

As such, the Land Use Committee was tasked to starting discussions about what, if anything, the town might do. I think around here, local agents and responsible owners do a fairly good job of maintaining such properties in a professional way. Of course, as with most things, there have been a couple instances that have arisen that brought concern to neighbors of such properties. This is partly why the town is getting involved in this issue.

As I said, the Land Use Committee is looking at this and will be sitting down with local agents, homeowners and concerned residents in order to get a better understanding on how things are operated, find out what problems neighbors are having, and such to see if there is anything that the Town might need to regulate for the betterment of the whole community.

Michael Rogers

No. Highlands has been a vacation rental area for years. It is not up to the town to regulate who can and can't rent their house. I understand the concern some people have as our neighborhoods are changing but regulations are not the answer.

Hank Ross

The short-term rental market in High-

lands is sizable and growth will likely continue. Because of this trend, it understandably has become a concern to our full-time and seasonal residents. Short-term rental homeowners should be required to get a business license for this type rental much like the requirements for bed and breakfast businesses.

• See Q&A page 13

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Be Kind, for Everyone is Fighting a Hard Battle

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We all have needs. In matters of high-ticket items such as real estate, both buyers and sellers will be better served by a professional Realtor® with knowledge and experience of the local market. The fact is, sellers want to capture as high a price as possible, while buyers want to get as much of a bargain as possible. Weighing both sides and getting advice on crafting an offer is one of the great benefits of working with a professional Realtor®.

A seller's motivation in the Highlands/Cashiers market is usually not because of financial issues, but their desire to sell may be of equal importance. Appreciating THE VALUE OF A BUYER is key to selling. Honor the fact that your property has attracted buyers who have many properties to choose from. The majority of offers on your property are worth consideration and a counteroffer. A seller does not have to reveal their bottom price in a counteroffer



Lynn Kimball, Broker
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices
Meadows Mountain Realty

to a lowball offer, but at least a counteroffer will give you an idea if the buyer has flexibility. I have seen ridiculous offers (that I would prefer not to deal with but do) that eventually are negotiated out to be a good deal for both the buyer and seller. When people are considerate of each other during the negotiating process, it's amazing what can happen.

Buyers may suggest that in making a lowball offer (assuming the property is competitively priced) they have nothing to lose. Not necessarily true if you have found the property you want. A strong offer is not only about money. An offer to purchase a home for sale includes a variety of details, including dates, timelines, inclusions, exclusions and contingencies. Additionally, everything in an offer or counteroffer is up for negotiation.

A substantial amount of earnest money, tighter time frame and financing or cash are all items that lend themselves to a strong offer. For example, many times a cash offer holds great appeal because there is little

chance the sale will fall apart due to buyer's inability to secure a mortgage.

We are all in this together. The desired result is to have our needs and wants met. Let's consider choosing to count our blessings...not only what is good for US...but for the benefit of ALL concerned.

If you are a buyer or seller and find yourself dealing with a difficult personality in a sales transaction, keep your eye on the prize. The truth is each needs the other in order to accomplish their goals. When a person acts mean-spirited or inflexible, it is usually a result of fear that someone is taking advantage of them. Some understanding and compassion go a long way. Everyone will benefit in the end.

• Lynn Kimball has over 45 years of real estate experience, with over 35 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as a Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Visit her user-friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location in Highlands across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@bhsmmr.com

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Located on a quiet lane overlooking the common area and wildwood lake, this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home is all on one level and is in move in condition. Great Kitchen And baths, lovely deck with gentle, useable Yard. Very easy living and personality with this great gem of a cottage. Rental or your personal get away. Offered at \$485,000. mls #91375



How about a house with new floors, walls, ceilings, appliances, new metal roof, new paint, new gutters, new tiled bathrooms, granite countertops and completely furnished and toothbrush ready? 3 bedrooms 3 baths a mile and a half from downtown Highlands. Offered at \$550,000. mls #91742



First time on the market a unique mountain cottage surrounded by beautiful foliage, mature landscaping on a bold stream. Tall ceilings with floor-to-ceiling windows let in plenty of light, stone fireplace gives a true house feel. Excellent construction with T-111 frame, encapsulated crawl space & great deck space. Houston Branch flows to Big Creek so there is water on 2 property lines. Master is on the main level with 2 additional guest bedrooms & bath on upper level. Offered at \$325,000. mls #91195



Located on a long, private drive, this 3 bedroom, 4 bath is in move in condition. Main area living with split master, guest bedroom plan. The kitchen opens into the great room that features a fireplace and panoramic sweeping view of Blue Valley and beyond. Lower level has rec room with sitting/office and guest quarters. Good storage room also. Do not miss this super home with great views. Offered at \$849,000. mls #91262



This walk to town cottage with a view of mirror lake and a short walk to feed the ducks is completely furnished with an outside fire pit. Offered at \$354,000. mls #91810



Located approximately 5 miles from downtown Highlands and over 4,100 feet elevation this home sits on 7 acres flanked by USFS lands. The house has mountain views from most rooms and large deck. The house is move-in condition, with a great floor plan, 10 foot ceilings on the main floor and 9 foot on second, two stone fire places, and heart of pine floors. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, lovely kitchen with concrete countertops and up to date appliances. A usable yard with porte-cochere. Offered at \$1,195,000. mls #91258



Wonderful post and beam is move-in condition and features a spectacular Blue Valley view. House has an open plan. Living room with fireplace, dining and kitchen. Upstairs is a master suite with large bath with soaking tub and shower. Lower level has a guest bedroom, bath, sitting room with laundry, and an additional office or overflow room. Large RV garage that is stubbed for possible studio or guest quarters. Offered at \$650,000. mls #90675



2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin on the lake and ready for your personal taste and updating. Real knotty pine wood paneling with wood burning stone fireplace. Wood floors and updated windows. Great full length covered porch overlooks the water. Great location. Offered at \$495,000. mls #88196



Perched near the top of the Cottswolds on a large 1.74-acre lot backing up to USFS. The master on the main level has heated tile floors in the bath and access to the screened porch. There are two guest bedroom suites upstairs each with a private balcony. Downstairs is the media room with large screen TV, full wet bar with seating and half bath. There is a short, covered breezeway to the double garage with access to a private 4th bedroom suite. MLS #90047 - \$849,900



Stunning and spacious home boasts the finest materials and workmanship. The master suite takes in the view, with a spacious ensuite with tub and walk through shower, his and her offices, laundry, and a 2-car garage. Upper level can be bonus room or guest suite with large bath. Lower level has 3 bedrooms family room with morning kitchen, and an additional 2 car garage. Offered at \$1,425,000. mls #88564



Joe Webb-inspired and built by Tommy Chambers, a well-known cabin builder in Highlands. Main house has 5 bedrooms each with a full bath, and some with their own stone wood burning fireplace. The fifth bedroom adjoins the main house but has a separate entrance, full kitchen, living room, bathroom, loft, and can be used or rented out for income. The saltwater pool with huge hot tub. Pond, too. Rent out the two other cabins or just send the kids or guests over for their own privacy along with their own private ponds and hot tubs. There is a building that can be converted into a guesthouse. Offered at \$2,400,00. MLS #90412



This 3 bedroom 2 bath home located on Buck Creek Road is a great rental house with good rental history or could be a nice year round family home with some updating. Offered at \$159,900. mls #90753



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•WORD MATTER•

Budgets, Debt, and Scoundrels

By definition, budgets are plans. Mostly, a budget contains information regarding revenues (money coming in) and expenses (money going out). Ideally, budgets are neutral, or, reveal a surplus, not a deficit. Deficits happen when expenses exceed revenues. Debt happens when one borrows to close the deficit between revenues and expenses.

Welcome to America. Land of the free. Home of the brave. Nation in debt. BIG TIME!

National budget deficits (annual differences between revenues and expenditures) are in the trillions of dollars. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office we collect over \$3 trillion and spend over \$4 trillion every year. In an ideal world we would ask recipients of all of this government spending (us) to share in covering deficits. That's not going to happen. Presidents, Senators, Representatives all have three things in common, regardless of political affiliation; no spines, no guts, no fundamental honesty.

They're scoundrels. You know ... liars and thieves.

Why do we elect scoundrels? Because when they lie to us, we believe them. Their lies help us feel better, even when we know they're lying.

How do they lie to us? They tell us we shouldn't have to pay taxes in order to receive all that we need, want and expect from government.

Depending on your political affiliation or philosophy, or your age, or your personal circumstances, we shouldn't be spending so much on (pick however many you want) Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the VA, defense, education, the environment, infrastructure, welfare, housing, border security, government administration, etc., blah, etc., blah. Heaven forbid we should ask OURSELVES to pay for all the things WE want, need, and expect. We don't want to pay for things in our own lives, so why should we do it for our government.

It would require approximately \$60,000 from every American to buy down our current \$22 TRILLION national debt. Take out the really young and the really old, and the number balloons to approximately \$113,000 for those between eighteen and sixty-four.

The scoundrels know they'd never get elected if they asked us to pay for everything we collectively get from government. We've been conditioned by decades of hearing that taxes are bad and should be reduced, if not

eliminated.

The sad truth is, we hate having to pay for anything.

Some among us use laws (put in place by scoundrels) to rid themselves of personal or business debts. Some use them more than once. Some use them all the time. They're there. Why not use them? THEY'RE EVEN ADVERTISED ON TELEVISION! "We'll help

you get out of debt! We'll help you get rid of medical debt! We'll help you get rid of student loan debt! We'll help you get out of debt you owe the government for non-payment of taxes!"

What's wrong with us?

The federal government (that's us, by the way) currently pays nearly \$700 BILLION every year in interest, about 3.1%, on \$22 TRILLION in national debt. That's about \$2,060 for every American. That said, none of us should point fingers. Private, consumer debt is hovering around the \$4 trillion mark, or about \$38,000 for every credit-eligible American.

Debt is fine so long as obligations are met. Consumer debt powers our economy. But a nation can only shoulder so much debt before reaching a tipping point, at which time either default or additional revenues become the only answer. When an individual defaults on debt he/she loses credit worthiness. When a nation defaults ... well, we have little experience with that; aside from a minor blip in 1979, we haven't defaulted. We've printed money. We've raised the ceiling on how much of Gross Domestic Product we can borrow. We've sold debt to foreign governments, especially China, in addition to investors, and we've engaged in some "voodoo accounting" within the massive federal bureaucracy. But, we haven't defaulted. Yet.

Asking the scoundrels we've elected to force a balanced budget on every president and every future congress, or to limit foreign ownership of American debt, is almost like asking them to carry buckets of steam. These people may hate taxes, but they LOVE debt much more. They can't get enough of it.

Make no mistake; WE are the problem. WE believe their lies and WE give them our votes. Unless and until WE stop rampant spending and borrowing – both individually and as a nation – we are in jeopardy.

But, there's a silver lining: WE likely won't have to bear the consequences of runaway debt. Our children and grandchildren will.



Bud Katz

...Q&A continued from page 9

containers to alleviate the trash problems that are frequent at rental homes since visitors often do not realize the bear/trash situation.

In addition, a business license will provide a database for Macon County's enforcement of occupancy tax collection and will give town planners information for any needed changes to zoning and land use planning.

By providing a minimum of restrictions, the business license solution still provides a good balance of individual property rights and will provide better protection for our residential neighborhoods. Property Owners Associations (POAs) can provide additional restrictions on short term rentals. In Highlands, POA restrictions on length of stay currently exist and can be an option for neighborhoods.

Brian Stiehler

As technology evolved, it ushered in new ways of renting properties by way of AirBnB and VRBO. While these websites can be attractive for those with rental properties, they do open the door for some very serious unintended consequences.

I am very much in favor of studying this new trend in order to avoid potential problems. I think these rentals do create safety and security concerns in our neighborhoods. Other aspects of it like occupancy levels, needs to be strictly enforced. It simply isn't fair to folks living in neighborhoods who are having to deal with the potential noise, parking issues, irresponsible trash disposal etc., that arise when a home exceeds its occupancy limits.

The safety issues and environmental issues that stem from that are another issue.

Furthermore, I really question what this is doing to our neighborhoods. As a resident of Mirror Lake, it feels like every house that goes on the market is being purchased and turned into a short-term rental. I understand and agree with property rights, but I am not overly enthused about losing real neighbors who have a vested interest in our neighborhoods to having new temporary neighbors each week that don't understand our way of life. It takes something that we all appreciate and value and commercializes it.

In the past year, I have been contacted on a number of occasions by residents who have had serious and justifiable complaints against short-term renters. At the very least, those who rent their homes must be accountable for their renters and available to be on site should an issue arise. There are a

• See Q&A page 14

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...Q&A continued from page 13

number of things that we can do and I fully support pursuing this issue to protect local residents.

- Next week: Should the Town of Highlands regulate or allow Food Trucks other than just for the Highlands Food & Wine Festival Food Truck event?



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Commercial bear-resistant toters have arrived

New Bearicuda bear-resistant toters will be issued within the commercial districts in a few weeks. The toters are 96-gallon, are double-walled and they have a seal around the lid. The cost of the units were approximately \$360 each. The monthly toter rental rate will be the same as the current rate of \$6.35. The toters are not for sale, so if a business owner wants to purchase their own toter, it must be certified bear-resistant, must be no greater than 100 gallons, must have wheels and lift bar, in order to be dumped by the sanitation truck. Also, all trash must be bagged before being placed within a toter.

...LETTER continued from page 2

staff, the clear handprint of the For-Profit HCA accountants is advancing rapidly in patient communications and services.

All patient calls to our local offices are now routed through a centralized "Call Center" in Asheville. We are not allowed by Mission/HCA to contact our local doctors' offices anymore! Last week, I was finally allowed to talk to a live person in my local doctor's office after 18+ minutes waiting on HOLD, speaking to someone in the Asheville who could not answer my question, put back on HOLD, and finally put through to the local office after 25+ minutes. I can literally drive to the office and speak with a real person in less than half the time it took to get a telephone call through. That's just wrong!

During the long period on HOLD, Mission keeps repeating the inane message about "high call volumes". HELLO! – Mission's response time is unacceptable because they have routed all incoming patient telephone calls into an understaffed Call Center in Asheville rather than letting the local offices (must be at least 100 or more in WNC) take direct calls as they always have. No one can answer the same number of telephone calls in a rea-

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• See LETTER page 15

...HHFWNC continued from page 1



From left, Arthur Paoletti, co-owner of Paoletti Restaurant and Rachel Friday and Jeff Schenck, honorary co-chairs of event the charity dining event. Far right, an aerial view of the Hospice House under construction.

All four "Peaceful Journey" dining events, philanthropically hosted by Paoletti Restaurant and supported by the community, have raised a combined net total of \$420,000 in support of HHFWNC.

HHFWNC is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to raise funds for a hospice inpatient facility for the far western region of North Carolina and northeast Georgia. Currently, the closest Hospice Houses are over an hour's drive for most people. SECU Hospice House in Franklin

will become the only free-standing inpatient hospice facility in North Carolina west of Asheville.

To date, HHFWNC has raised \$3,950,000, 88% of its \$4.5 million campaign goal and construction is 30% complete.

To learn how you can support this important regional initiative, contact HHFWNC's President, Michele Alderson, at 828-524-6375 or micheleralderson@gmail.com

...LETTER continued from page 14

sonable period of time with many fewer people answering the incoming calls. That is NOT "High Call Volumes." That is Cheap.

It has become common knowledge throughout Western NC that Mission/HCA's primary objective is to reduce the time healthcare professionals spend with each patient and to maximize the number of patients on any given day.

Reliable sources have told us that Mission/HCA calls at the end of every day to "get the numbers" and to pressure the local offices to push more "cattle" through the gates.

We should have expected this from the merger with HCA, a FOR PROFIT hospital corporation. Bottom-line profit dollars are their top priority. Caring and improving the patients' healthcare and experience is only a necessary evil of doing

business – after all, HCA does need us to get the \$\$ to the bottom line.

Regardless of the numerous community meetings and press releases trying to promote the Mission/HCA healthcare system as putting the patients first, the proof is in our daily experience at the local level.

The experience is not good now and will likely get worse before it disappears in 10 years.

Mission/HCA appears to be unwilling to restore the quality of healthcare providers and services we had only a few years ago ... It doesn't improve shareholder profits. No wonder America's healthcare systems are failing. Corporate greed trumps patient care and related services. Shame on you, Mission and HCA.

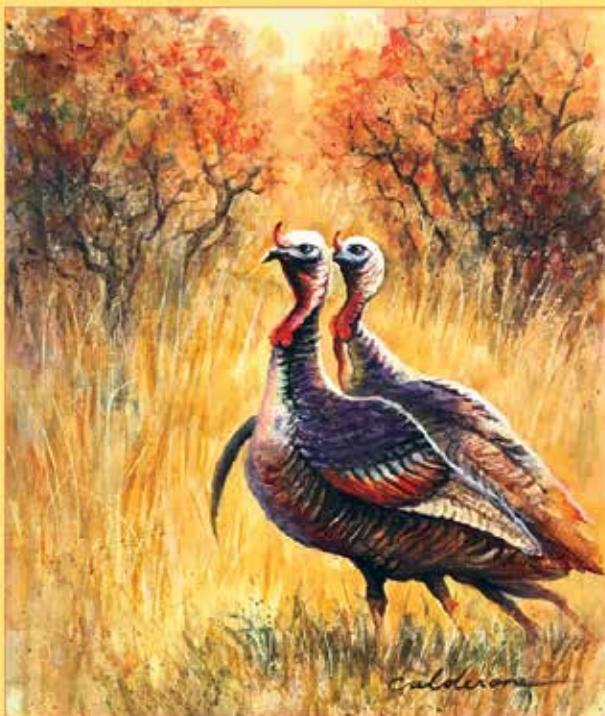
Bob Wright
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A bird's-eye view of the construction in progress.

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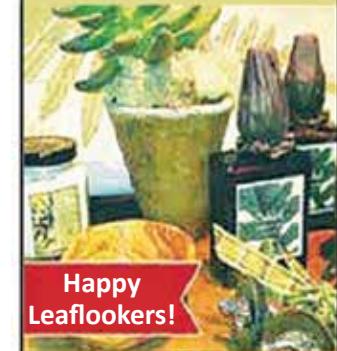


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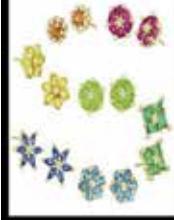
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Middle school soccer and volleyball finished out their seasons this past week. They both participated in the Tri State Conference Tournaments.

Volleyball finished as the champions with a 3-set win over Rabun Gap. They also played Cullowhee and Blue Ridge, defeating them both in 2. After their final three games they finished the season with a conference champ banner and an undefeated title.

Soccer also finished on a high note. While they lost to Rabun Gap in the semi-finals of the tournament, they added a few more wins afterwards. They

...MAP continued from page 1

fringed when the General Assembly... draws district maps with a predominant intent to favor voters aligned with one political party at the expense of other voters," reads the introduction into the lawsuit that challenges Congressional Districts.

In North Carolina's U.S. House delegation, Republicans hold 10 of the state's 13 seats, even though North Carolina as a whole is roughly evenly split between Republican and Democratic voters. For North Carolina District 11, which represents the western portion of the state including Macon County, Republican Representative Mark Meadows holds the seat. However, prior to Meadows' election to Congress, District 11 was a traditionally "blue" seat and had historically been held by Democrats.

The lawsuit specifically describes that when the Congressional Maps were redrawn in 2016, they were done so to intentionally dilute the voting power of Democrats by splitting Asheville between two districts. The current maps go so far as to split the physical campus of UNC Asheville in two, even

placing students living on different sides of the same residential dorm into two different congressional districts. The lawsuit focuses on that lopsided representation — similar to how the last lawsuit focused on the fact that Republicans won a majority of seats in the state legislature in 2018, even though Democrats won a majority of votes for those seats.

The 14 plaintiffs who filed the lawsuit, which includes one representative for each of the 13 seats with an extra representative from District 11, are hoping that latest ruling on the legislative ruling will be enough to negate past rulings on the Congressional Districts.

Just last June the U.S. Supreme Court declined to strike down these 13 districts as unconstitutional, in a 5-4 ruling split along the court's ideological lines with the more conservative justices out-voting the more liberal justices.

The plaintiff's include teachers, real estate agents, military veterans, Digital marketing strategist and other professionals. Unlike the state legislative maps which

had bipartisan support for independent redistricting. The lawsuit filed regarding the Congressional Maps was done so on behalf of 11 Democrats and three unaffiliated voters who have consistently voted for Democratic candidates in Congressional races, according to the lawsuit.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the opinion, criticized partisan gerrymandering as "incompatible with democratic principles" but added that it's up to Congress, or to the individual states, to solve that problem and not the federal courts.

The lawsuit continues to say that because of the 2016 maps, Republicans (Meadows) was able to win his seat with between 58 percent and 63 percent of the vote in 2016 and 2018.

With the 2020 elections looming — candidate filing starts this December and the primaries are in March. The lawsuit specifically requests a ruling and new maps drawn ahead of the 2020 election.

Congressman Mark Meadows did not return request for comment.

• HS SPORTS •

Fall Season Wrap-up



beat Cullowhee 6-0 and Blue Ridge 2-0.

High school volleyball also played Blue Ridge, Tallulah Falls, Hi Dam and Robbinsville.

Varsity pulled out wins over Blue Ridge and Hi Dam while JV pulled it out over those two and Tallulah Falls.

Varsity beat Blue Ridge in 4 sets and Hi Dam in 3 sets. JV beat Blue Ridge in 2, Hi Dam in 2, and Tallulah Falls in 2. Their next home game will be tonight, Thursday, October 10th. Only

Varsity will be playing, and it starts at 5 pm. Senior night will be on Tuesday, October 15th.

High school soccer played Murphy and Blue Ridge. Their Cherokee game was cancelled due to the weather. They lost 2-1 to Murphy

in a hard-fought battle. They beat Blue Ridge 4-3 after an overtime comeback. Their next home game will be on Thursday, October 24th. They will play Blue Ridge starting at 6 pm. They will

with Kedra McCall

be celebrating their senior night on Wednesday, October 30th.

High school cross country also had a meet in Robbinsville this week. While no one had top place finishes, they "had good times just didn't finish very high" according to their coach, Brett Lamb.

High school girls golf also participated in a match this week. The girls began a match at Highlands Country Club but were unable to finish due to lightning.

Congratulations to every team's hard work this week. Come out to support your Highlanders!

DOGSPEAK**• REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO •****Lord Banjo's roller-coaster summer**

No, don't be silly. I didn't ride a roller coaster, but my summer was jampacked with interesting activities — some fun and some not so much. We kicked off in late June with weekly appearances at Camp Flashback, hosted at a Dunwoody farmhouse. There the kids do old-timey things like making butter, sewing, and weaving. They also get to meet goats and — best of all — me.

Mum and I visited for an hour each week. She told them about me and my book, and the kids drew numbers to see who'd get to wear a costume and read a selection from my masterpiece. Mum brought a royal robe, several crowns, and a pawprint scarf, and the kids loved dressing up.

It's funny to me that they all wanted to read aloud, but those who weren't reading never seemed to quiet down to listen. Instead, they sat with me in their midst and chattered and hugged me. As far as I'm concerned, they can chatter to their hearts' content as long as they give me belly rubs.

That enchanting routine was cut short when I needed minor surgery to remove a lump on my back leg. It was no big deal, not life-threatening, but boy, what a pain. I wore the cone of shame for close to four weeks. Yes, you read right, four weeks — one week prior to surgery because I just couldn't quit chewing on my leg, and then three weeks after that.

That cone was so big, I couldn't walk through doorways without hitting the doorframe. I was constantly bumping into furniture and people, and I was miserable. Miserable, you hear?!? It was during this horrific experience that I exhibited a new behavior that Mum and Dad found quite disturbing. I began wandering downstairs to the kitchen in the middle of the night. I'd bark until Mum finally came to get me and take me back upstairs. Then I'd do it



Harper and Lord Banjo

again, sometimes four times in a night.

Mum thinks I have doggie dementia, but I prefer the term sun-downer's syndrome. I'm on new pills in the hopes that I'll get over it. Dad? When he takes his hearing aids out at night, he can't hear a thing, so it doesn't bother him, except that Mum is a bit cranky.

Mum is now locking me in the bedroom at night, and that helps some. I don't bark quite so much, and when I do, she just hollers, "Shush, Banjo," instead of having to go downstairs to get me.

Because of my nighttime barking, my pet parents didn't take me on our annual trip to the North Carolina mountains over Labor Day. That was a big disappointment, but I had a pleasant surprise at the Pet Resort. Normally, I keep to myself at these places while the commoners mill around and play with each other, but not this time.

Harper, a Goldendoodle puppy, wanted to be my friend. I think the little fella was scared so he started snuggling with me. Yup, he'd climb on my hindquarters and lay his cute little head on my back. Sometimes, he'd lie in front of me against my tummy so I could put a protective arm over him. We made an adorable duo.

My Aunt says this means I need a puppy of my own. The Royal Parents? They are hemming and hawing at the thought so I guess I'll have to make do with Puddin' as my only four-legged companion. I'm looking at the bright side, though. I now get to sleep in the bedroom with Mum and the cone of shame has been retired. Things could be much worse.

• *Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find similar stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available at Mountain Paws in Highlands, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at inkpenn119@gmail.com.*



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Dental Day at Highlands School

On Oct. 4, Mary McClean, a registered dental hygienist and professional dental educator from Nashville, TN presented a dental health program to the students in grades K-5 at Highlands School. Her presentation is part of a 3-point dental health program jointly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club. The other two segments of the program are a weekly fluoride swish for younger students and a yearly exam by volunteer dentists. The photo shows Mary, dressed as the Tooth Fairy, with Chompers, one of her demonstration aids. She is with students, several Rotary members, staff and teachers at Highlands School.

Local wins at Senior Games State Finals in Raleigh

Local runner Martha Betz won a Silver Medal in the 5K competition at the 2019 NC Senior Games State Finals, held in Raleigh on September 16-22. With a chip time of



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Runner Martha Betz

27:53, she not only was the oldest in her age category (60-64), but her finish time was her fastest 5K time since 2012. Betz qualified at the annual Macon County Games last spring in Franklin, NC. The NC Senior Games is a statewide non-profit network of 52 local programs dedicated to providing year-round health promotion and education for adults 50 years of age and better.

Betz also qualified for advancement to the Nationals Senior Games in 2021. The Games, a 20-sport, biennial competition for men and women 50 and over, is the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors. Athletes that meet specific criteria while participating in the State Senior Games qualify to participate.

Betz, a Highlands native, has been running competitively since 2005. She has competed in over 90 races, including three marathons, 18 half-marathons, and numerous shorter races throughout the Southeast.

• Biz/ORG News •



Summit high school students, Head of School Kurt Pusch, High School Principal Lauren Bennett, the All-Volunteer Construction Committee (John Lehotsky, Ann Betty, Josh Crawford, Wally Seinsheimer, Amy Corcell-not pictured), Capital Campaign Chairman Linda Quick, Neal Conley of Bobbitt Design Build, Cashiers Area Chamber Executive Director Stephanie Edwards and Chamber Board Members Sarah Jennings, Wendy Lupas, Brandy Letson and Mary Lanning.

Summit celebrates grand opening of new facility additions

Summit Charter School in Cashiers is now a K-10 school that currently serves students from Jackson County, Macon County, Transylvania County, and Haywood County. Summit will continue to add a high school grade each year until it has its first high school graduating class in 2022. On Thursday, September 26th, Summit Charter School in Cashiers, N.C. hosted the grand opening of its new facilities, including a high school building and the Summit Center, which includes the school's first-ever gym and classrooms for music and art education.

The grand opening program included remarks by new Head of School Kurt Pusch, speeches by high school students, and a performance by the middle and high school chorus. Following the program,

CLE welcomes new board members

The Center for Life Enrichment would like to thank retiring board members, Thornton Jordan and Duane Meeter for their service and contribution to CLE in recent years. We appreciate all of the time and hard work each member of the board spends in helping CLE serve our community by providing educational and entertaining programs on a wide range of topics.

We would like to welcome to the board, Joyce Flemming, Hal Lewis and Clif Pannell. We look forward to their participation and welcome the ideas they each will bring to the CLE board.

For information on becoming a member of the Center for Life Enrichment please visit our website www.clehighlands.com or call 828-526-8811.

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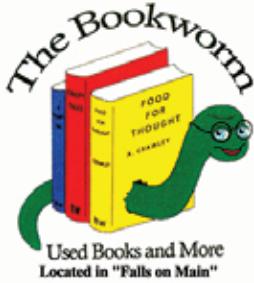
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**Thursday & Friday, October 17-18 @ 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 20 @ 2:30 & 7:30 pm**

****No Show October 19****

**Thursday-Saturday, October 24-26 @ 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 27 @ 2:30 pm**

**Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street
Tickets: 828-526-8084 www.hightlandscashiersplayers.org**

Superintendent urges immunization for students

At the recent meeting of the Macon County School System, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said that for the safety of all Macon County students, keeping immunizations up to date is of utmost importance. He cited a pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak in Buncombe County.

"With what we saw across the southeast last year with the measles outbreak, and what we have seen in other school systems with pertussis, keeping immunizations up to date is important for the safety of other students," said Baldwin. "We need to make parents aware of the importance of immunizations."

An official record of each student's immunizations is required to be on file with the school system by the 30th school day, or 30 days after a new student enrolls. For the 2019-'20 school year, that 39th day of school was September 24, 2019.

According to Kathy McGaha, Macon County Public Health Public Information Officer/Population Health Section Administrator, there are about 100 students county-wide who are either lacking required immu-

nizations or have not yet provided proof of immunization. With the current total enrollment for Macon County Schools at 4,649, this equates to two percent of the student enrollment who do not have immunizations or have not provided proof.

A portion of the total number of students who are not in compliance are new enrollments or transfer students that are having difficulty securing their records. Students are considered out of compliance until an official and complete record is on file with the school they are enrolled at. Regardless of the start date for any student, they have 30 days from their first day to submit proof of completed immunizations. New enrollments are reviewed throughout the year upon enrollment.

The health department will be contacting students who are not in compliance with the immunization law. Students who are out of compliance are referred to their pediatrician, physician or the health department to get the required vaccinations for reentry to school. Students who do not meet immunization requirements will be sent home after the 30th day until they are in compliance.

Macon Middle School (MMS) has the largest number of students out of compliance due to a requirement for students entering the 7th grade to be immunized for Tdap & Meningococcal (MCV). There are

64 students needing both Tdap and MCV vaccine, 8 needing only Tdap and 4 needing only MCV. This is roughly 21 percent of 7th graders who are out of compliance and 11 percent of MMS total enrollment.

The health department and the school system are partnering to provide a vaccination clinic at MMS to help 7th grade students come into compliance.

Starting in 2020, high school seniors will be required to receive a second meningococcal vaccine to be in compliance.

North Carolina law provides for two types of exemptions, medical and religious, from required immunizations.

Students may be granted a medical exemption if a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state certifies that a required immunization is or may be detrimental to a person's health due to the presence of one of the symptoms or conditions adopted by state.

If authentic religious beliefs of an adult or the parent, guardian of a child are contrary to the immunization requirements contained in the state law, the adult or the child shall be exempt from the requirements.

More information on the NC immunization schedule for schools as well as the applicable general statutes can be found at <https://immunize.nc.gov/schools>.

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Turandot
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12:55 pm
Pre-Opera Discussion
12:30pm

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Tickets available online: www.hightlandspac.org, at the door
or by calling 828.526.9047

Early and one-stop voting in Franklin now at Robert C. Carpenter Building

By Brittney Lofthouse

Residents planning to vote in the Highlands Municipal election and planning to utilize the county's Franklin Early Voting location will no longer be casting their ballot at the Macon County Courthouse.

Melaine Thibault, Director of the Macon County Board of Elections said that the courthouse early voting location has been permanently closed. All residents wishing to vote early will now need to go to the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on the Georgia Road.

Highlands residents are permitted to vote in Highlands at the Highlands Civic Center or in Franklin at the community building to have their voice heard in the upcoming municipal election. Franklin residents can also utilize the Highland Civic Center Location.

"Whenever a voter goes to either location to vote, they will be given a ballot that matches their address," said Thibault. "Highlands residents will be given a Highlands ballot and Franklin residents a Franklin ballot, regardless of which early voting location they choose to visit."

Thibault said that the move to the Robert C. Carpenter Community building which is located across from the new Ingles at 1288 Georgia Rd., was done to provide better, easier access for voters.

The Macon County Courthouse is in the process of undergoing significant security upgrades that Thibault said would place an undue burden on voters.

"Eventually there will be security scanners installed that all who enter the Courthouse will be required to clear before entering the Courthouse," said Thibault. "The State Board of Elections has

informed us that this will be placing a requirement on the voter that we cannot do."

Thibault said the move will also help voters who need assistance as there are more handicapped parking spaces at the community building and it is on one level. She also said parking has been an issue in the past since voting was held in the basement of the courthouse, there were often courts occurring at the same time, which limited parking for those wanting to cast their ballots.

Notices have been sent out to residents who live inside the city limits of Franklin or Highlands and countywide notifications will be mailed out by December 1.

The one stop early voting begins Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Election Day is Nov. 5 and the polls will be open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 p.m.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse Fri & Sat 1, 4, 7; Sun. 1 & 4; Tues-Thurs 1, 4, 7. See ad.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am-5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

• At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

Monday - Saturday

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

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.

Mon. & Fri.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:15 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step 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.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the down-stairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of

the Hudson Library.

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.

• Highlands Area Indivisible

Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Lunch with the Docs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital noon to 1 p.m. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345. Limited to 50 attendees.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

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

Wednesdays

• At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner - Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays - Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit www.cbchighlands.com.

• 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.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays Through Oct.

• The Church of the Incarnation next 6-week Grief Support Group

meets in Jones Hall from 4-5:15 p.m.

The Grief Support Group is offered to anyone dealing with grief. Anne Koenig, LPC, RPT-S, a local private practice counselor also affiliated with the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center Highlands will facilitate the group sessions. Anne has been in practice for several decades. She has led a number of groups, including groups to help relieve Post Traumatic Stress. For information and registration, please call the Church office at (828) 526-2968, or Anne Koenig at (404) 357-0728.

Thursdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30

• 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 (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

• At H-C Hospital, Lunch with the Docs noon to 1p. Events are limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345.

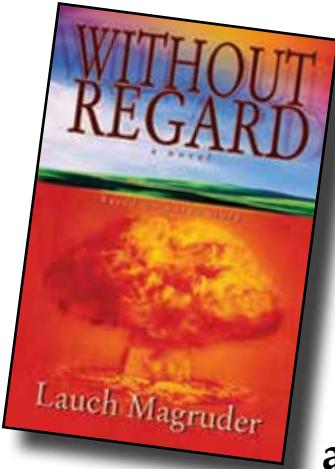
• Kidney Smart Classes in

Opera via Satellite at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center and the MET Opera will present the first live via satellite opera of the 2019-20 season on Saturday, October 12 at 12:55pm. Turandot by Puccini. Franco Zeffirelli's spectacular production returns with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the MET's Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer music director, conducting his first Puccini opera with the met. Powerhouse soprano Christine Goerke takes on the icy title princess, alongside tenor Roberto Aroncilla as the unknown prince vying for her love. Set in Peking outside the imperial palace, a mandarin reads an edict to the crowd: any prince seeking to marry princess Turandot must answer three riddles. If he fails, he will die. There will be a pre-opera discussion beginning at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online or at the door. Check out www.highlandspac.org for the complete schedule and full description of all events.

Meet local author Lauch Magruder BOOK SIGNING 'Without Regard' Saturday, Oct. 12 • 11a to 1p



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• The Church of the Incarnation next 6-week Grief Support Group

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

Fridays

- Live music in Town Square, 6-8 p.m.

First Fridays

- The Bascom at Sotheby's series features different artists each month with a reception the first Friday of every month at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty from 4-5:30p at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. The public is invited to come meet the artist, view the exhibit and have some wine.

- At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in Night - all ages Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. 526-1595.

Last 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.
- Free music in the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8 p.m.

Sundays

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

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 11-12

- At OEL's Laurel Room, St. John's Pop-Up 10a to 6p.

Fri., Oct. 11

- Highlands author Lee Lyons will present an author talk and booksigning of her novel "Southern Shamrock" at The Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.
- In partnership with Highlands Sotheby's, Artist Meet and Greet at the Cashiers location with glass artist Terri Johansson 4:30-6p.m.

Sat. Oct. 12

- At The Book Nook in The Toy Shop on Main Street, a book signing with local author Lauch Magruder. "Without Regard." 11a to 1 p.

- A Day to Celebrate Wood Receptions for winter exhibitions. From 10AM – 12PM, the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will hold their monthly meeting with live demonstrations and a show and tell. Bascom instructors will lead an all-ages outdoor, collaborative community sculpture build on the campus from 1-4PM. October Pop Up Shop artists Bill Selby and Warren Carpenter will be demonstrating their wood art processes. Exhibition curator Anthony Ullinski of Raleigh, NC will lead a gallery walk in the Thompson Gallery from 4PM – 5PM, highlighting work in the TheCraft to Art Series:Wood exhibition. The public is welcome to join us for free drinks and refreshments during our exhibition receptions for The Best of the West and The Craft to Art Series: Wood from 5PM - 6:30PM. Please join us for this exciting day of celebrating wood at The Bascom!

The Highlands Performing Arts Center and the MET Opera will present the first live via satellite opera of the 2019-'20 season at 12:55pm. Turandot by Puccini. There will be a pre-opera discussion beginning at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online or at the door. Check out www.highlandspac.org for the complete schedule and full description of all events.

The prestigious Amerinet String Quartet, in residence at Florida International University, will present a public concert on Saturday evening at 5 PM in Highlands at the Presbyterian Church. Saturday's concert is free and open to the public. Call 828-526-9060.

Summit Charter School SummitFest 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. This fun-filled festival at Summit Charter School includes entertainment for all ages: inflatables, putt-putt, a photo booth, face painting, karaoke, cake walk, safari walk, a pie throw, and much more. Food includes BBQ, hot dogs, tamales, popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, and more. Activity wristbands can be purchased the day of the event and are \$15 per person/\$10 for ages 4 and under. For more information, please call the school at 743-5755.

Sun. Oct. 13

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike in Panthertown Valley on a loop trail to Wilderness Falls, Frolic falls, and back to Salt Rock Overlook, elevation change 400 ft. Meet at the Cashier Recreation Park at 2 p.m., drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader: Robin Lurie, 954-632-7270, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Tues., Oct. 15

From 1 to 3 pm, join the Highlands Nature Center for an autumn afternoon all about trees. The Fall Foliage event is free and will answer the most common questions about trees in autumn such as "Why do leaves change colors?" and "What conditions make for a spectacular fall color?" Heather Kiser, Horticulturalist at the Highlands Biological Station, will introduce the biology behind these changes before leading an exploration of the Botanical Garden to collect leaves and give tree identification tips. All are welcome to participate in this free event. It will be held in the amphitheater behind the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road. For more information, please call the Highlands Nature Center at (828) 526-2623.

Thurs.-Sun., Oct. 17-20 (no show Oct. 19)

HCP presents On Golden Pond at PAC on Chestnut Street at 7:30 Friday and Saturday and 2:30 and 7:30 on Sunday. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Thurs., Oct. 17

The annual Scholarship Golf Classic will be hosted at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The event kicks off at 7:30am with breakfast and practice on the range tee and practice green. A 9am shotgun start is followed by cocktails, lunch and awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 18-20

Trunk show at Peak Experience featuring Jewelry Artist Suzy Landa. 10a-5p. Fri. and Sat. and noon to 4p on Sunday. 2820 Dillard Road. 828-526-0229.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 18-19

Dave Drake Studio Barn Fall Sale 10a to 5p. Enjoy wonderful and beautiful handmade pottery with an added bonus of demonstrations including wheel throwing, sculpture, hand building, carving, and sgraffito.

Fri., Oct. 18

At Summit Charter Schoo, Open House at 8:30 AM.

Summit Charter School is now enrolling K-11 for the 2020-21 school year! Come walk the beautiful public school campus, tour the classrooms, meet the faculty and learn more about becoming a Summit Bear. Summit is a tuition-free public charter school in Cashiers that engages students in learning experiences that stimulate discovery, inspire excellence, and nurture a positive influence in an ever-changing world. Tours will include the school's brand new high school building as well as the Summit Center, which features a gym and classrooms for music and art. Learn more about the school's individualized education and place-based programs on Friday, October 18th at 8:30 a.m. For more information or to RSVP, please call 828-743-5755 or email mhudson@summitschool.org.

Sat. Oct. 19

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike to Rhapsody and Aunt Sally Falls in the northeast corner of Panthertown Valley, crossing several creeks to an 80 ft. waterfall, with a 200 ft. steep descent to the base of falls. Continue another 1.8 miles to Aunt Sally Falls on a spur trail. Total elevation change for hike is 300 ft. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m., drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Sue Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
THROUGH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**

10AM - 6PM

LOCATED IN THE LAUREL ROOM

•SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING•

To the Sea of Forgetfulness

By Senior Pastor Dr. Gary Hewins

Community Bible Church

In Christ, there is a distant sea welcoming all that we ourselves should no longer carry. In fact, God often ships your dead, relational baggage to such a body of water. To the ports along that sea shore, He ships your iniquities and your dead emotional weight. That which could eventually drown you, He ships to the deepest depths of that sea. He has a deep compassion toward you as He sends your dysfunction to the deep. To the deep, He freights your bitterness and your want for controlling. To far off harbors, He sends your resentment for you to never again harbor yourself. This now murky and brackish body of water is known as the 'sea of forgetfulness'.

You too partner in this shipping away of that which can harm you. In Christ, you have been blessed with the power of volition. You can and do choose to send that which you should not carry to the far off deep. Like your Lord, you do not stay angry forever. You are growing toward discovering a delight in showing mercy. There are those in your life that lack a capacity to be who you want and need them to be. Understanding this, you will not collect a record of wrongs. You are against mental and emotional lists of shortcomings and failures. No, you refuse to constantly chronicle your failings and the failings of others. Time cannot be allocated for such a task. You will not find yourself being whisked downward into a relational vortex of trading insult for insult.

In Christ, there is something you experientially understand that others are seeking to intellectually understand. Your truth is simple, effective, and life-directing. Your wisdom allows for you to yield patience. It is to your glory that you overlook an offense. You look to overlook, and you overlook often. Refusing to make yourself the center of the universe, your feelings cannot become lords or gods. Your emotional well-being is defined by written truth, preserved truth, inspired truth, and God-breathed truth. You submit to truth rather than worship heartache and emotional scarring.

In Christ, you are forgetful. You forget to empower others to control you emotionally, even from beyond their graves. Freedom, for you, is a reality because of forgetfulness. Fill the sea ordained to drown your offenses. Allow your confessed iniquities to be hurled into the depths of that sea rather than hurling accusations at others, decade after decade. Learn to forget. Develop a gift of forgetting. Set boundaries that prevent you from being hurt and having to forgive and forget.

Your rebellion is as far from you as the east is from the west. Do like your Lord and deal with the wrongdoings of others. Like your Lord, cast them into the sea. You have been reconciled with your God and you have been blessed with a ministry of reconciliation. Reconcile yourself to the fact that others will harm, but you will release. Others will wrong you and you will release. There is an insurmountable power in meekness and in forgiveness. Yes, there is a speck of sawdust in your neighbor's eye, and there too is a plank in your own eye; both the sawdust and the plank came from the same exact tree.

The question to answer is simple. How much freer can you be today? What volition, when exercised further, validates your ministry of reconciliation? What relationship needs redefining to prevent ongoing damage? Praise your Lord today for His forgetfulness, and request of Him an equal measure toward others. Amen.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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Horsecove Road • 1-828-506-0125

Hymn singing Sundays through Labor Day Weekend
7-8 p.m.

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

8:30a Early Service; 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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays -Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • 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.: Worship 8:30a 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

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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 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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.

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Rev. Jason K. Barone – 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.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Sept. 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 1

- A little after midnight, officers responded to a call about an impaired individual at the High Dive on Carolina Way.

Sept. 23

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Main and 3rd streets.

Sept. 27

- At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 and Cobb Road.

Sept. 28

- At 5 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Memorial Park Drive.

Sept. 29

- At noon, officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Highlands Plaza and NC 106.

Sept. 29

- At 10:50 p.m., Blaize Matthew Barilleaux, 30, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when pulled over for a stoplight violation on Mirror Lake Road. He was issued a \$500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Nov. 18.

Oct. 1

- At 12:53 a.m., officer responded to a report of larceny from a construction site, burglary and breaking and entering and larceny of gas. at 445 N. 4th Street.

Sept. 13

- At 3 p.m., officers received a report of a scam where someone attempted to defraud by telephone.



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The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 27

Sept. 27

- At 9:07 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible gas leak on Main Street.

- At 9:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Clubhouse Trail.

Sept. 28

- At 6:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Falls Drive West.

- At 12:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherokee Dr.

Sept. 29

- At 2:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza.

- The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Turtle Pond Road.

Oct. 2

- At 8:15 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Tudor Hall Lane.

Oct. 3

- At 11:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Lost Trail.

Oct. 4

- At 12:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Brushy Face Road. N.

- At 6:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle fire on Buck Creek Road.

Oct. 5

- At 11:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Kettle Rock Road.

- At 11:43 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road,

- At 9:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm on Cherry Tree Lane.

- At 7:25 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid for a rescue at White Water Falls.

- At 5:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Pierson Drive.

- At 8:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Azalea Lane.

Oct. 6

- At 11:53 a.m., the dept. was called for mutual aid from Cashiers FD but it was

cancelled.

Oct. 7

- At 7:36 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.



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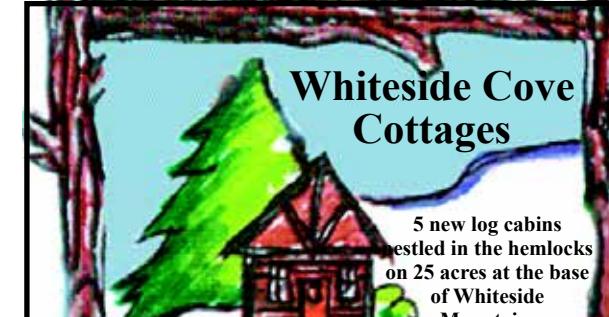
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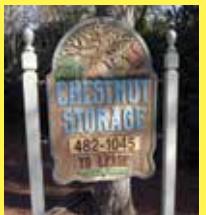
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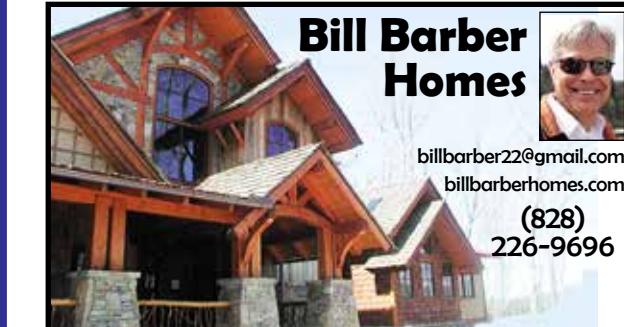
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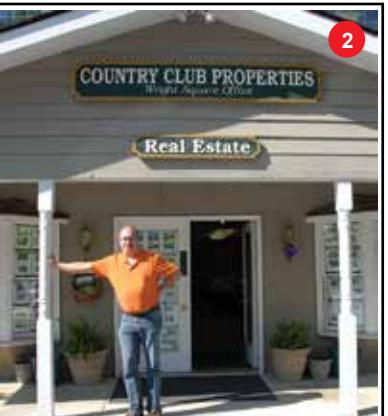
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