Christmas in the park is a go for this year

At last Thursday’s Town Board meeting, commissioners continued the conversation about moving the town’s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony to K-H Founders Park.

Town Manager Bob Frye said funds were in this year’s budget for the purchase of a tree and for new decorations, but when Jim Tate, of Tate Landscaping, went to purchase the tree, Brian Cabe of Wildwood Natives decided in the spirit of Christmas to donate a live spruce tree.

Also an anonymous donation of $10,000 for decorations was also received.

Commissioners also discussed the idea of keeping the tree at the Methodist Church and giving the donated decorations to the church so it could host the deco-

More on Highlands’ trash issue

The regularly scheduled Highlands Town Board meeting Thursday night opened with talk about the town stopping trash pickup on Sundays due to exceeding the budget due to overtime pay.

Bob Kieltyka, the Executive Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce who attended the meeting asked commissioners to reconsider the decision to stop collection on Sundays -- at least until there was a better solution to the excessive overtime problem.

He referenced page 178 of the town budget and directed everyone to look at the line item expenditure of overtime.

The amount requested for overtime for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year was $19,000 despite rumors that Town Manager Frye had told people the amount was $50,000.

“The numbers in the budget worksheet, show overtime in years past at just a little over

Highlands Hurricanes score big at meet

Again led by Chase Kenter, Conner Hughes, and Vivi Geren, the Highlands Hurricanes brought home two trophies and 12 medals -- six of them gold -- and 21 ribbons from the Mountain Swim League 2016 Allstar meet in Murphy Saturday, July 30.

In 2015, the Hurricanes qualified three swimmers and scored 13 points. This year the team swam 11 swimmers and scored 90 points.

Chase (28 points), Conner (24), and Vivi (16) each scored more points than the whole 2015 team. Chase won four gold medals; Conner two golds, and two silvers; and Vivi one gold, one bronze, and two 4th place ribbons.

Chase brought home a trophy for most outstanding male swimmer in his age group; Conner a trophy for the 2nd most outstanding.

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828-526-5577
There has been a lot of trash talking around town, especially concerning Sunday trash pickup.

One newspaper had a photo of a dumpster that was full and trash bags on the ground. Someone told me before the Town Board meeting last Thursday night that the picture was worth a thousand words. Maybe, but does a picture always reveal the actual situation?

At the Town Board meeting we had an open and frank discussion about commercial trash pickup on weekends. In the end, I volunteered to hold a stakeholder trash summit meeting.

This weekend was a family celebration of my 68th birthday, replete with children, grandchildren and relatives. Nevertheless, I intermittently went on duty and toured the downtown area monitoring the trash situation on Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning. I wanted to get an accurate picture of the situation.

Every tourist season the town is committed to trash pickup on Saturday and will continue to do so. A few weeks ago a decision was made to suspend Sunday pickup as a means of curtailing growing overtime costs. Could this decision been handled better through communication? The answer is absolutely. Many folks were caught off guard at a busy period. But, the critical question is whether routine Sunday trash pickup is essential, or are there other options.

The direct feedback the town received for suspending Sunday pickup came from four businesses. They were all in the food service arena.

The Town Manager and staff assessed the problem and realized these merchants actually had more of a trash capacity problem than a Sunday pickup problem. Several of these merchants have now rented additional 95-gallon toters that allow them to hold more trash on Sunday. Our crew picks up early Monday mornings. I appreciate their willingness to work with the town.

One merchant was unwilling to rent additional toters from the town. Renting a toter provided by the town costs $5 a month. During the board meeting discussion it was pointed out that an alternative to renting is for a business to purchase 95-gallon toters that can be lifted and loaded by our trucks. These toters cost around $65 to $100 each.

If an additional trash dumpster is needed, a business has to rent the dumpster for the year. Commissioner Patterson stressed that a dumpster costs the town over $1,000 to purchase and the town has to recoup the cost through annual rent. The town also covers replacement and/or repair costs of damaged dumpsters, a frequent occurrence when our bear friends get into the mix.

Highlands is having a boom season so some merchants may need to expand their capacity. The town needs to reduce overtime pay in the sanitation department. The NC Local Government Commission who monitors our enterprise departments, like sanitation, will not allow us to continuously run deficits due to overtime. We already incur substantial overtime that is built into the budget when we run fully staffed trash routes on holidays, like July 4th and Labor Day.

**See MAYOR page 6**
**Obituaries**

**Joseph ‘J’ Brooks**

J passed from life on July 23, 2016 after a brave 4-year triumph following a double lung transplant in 2012. He was 66 years old. J moved to Highlands in 2010 after 30 years as owner/operator of Gainesville Kitchens Inc. in Gainesville, FL. He enjoyed working out at the Highlands Recreation Center and was a member of the Holy Family Lutheran Church.

J is survived by his wife of 42 years, Julie Brooks. Daughters - Stacy Joseph 'J' Brooks MacMichael (husband Chris) and Lindsey Leschrinier (husband Andre). Granddaughter - Molly MacMichael.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Brooks family.

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**Harold Hendry, Jr.**

Harold Hendry, Jr., 72, passed away on July 26 at his home in Elkton, FL. He was born in Orlando, Florida, and grew up in City Point near Cocoa. He attended Cocoa High School and Brevard Junior College before enlisting in the Air Force in 1967. He later served as vice president of the Independent Life Insurance Company in Jacksonville. He built Fish Island Marina in St. Augustine during the ’70s which he operated until his retirement in 2016.

Harold loved hunting, fishing, scuba diving, flying and surfing. An adventurer, he once flew his Stearman bi-plane from California to Florida. He was an experienced sailor and often sailed to the Bahamas including a trip taking a team of scientists from the Smithsonian to study animal fossils. He also built a home in Eleuthera, Bahamas where he enjoyed frequent visits.

In more recent years Harold and his wife have spent summers and falls at their cabin in Highlands, NC and winters in Elkton, FL.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold Hendry, Sr. and Virginia Young Hendry, and his sister Virginia Hendry. He is survived by his wife, Maura Barrett Hendry, two sons, Shad (Kristen) and Jake Hendry, three grandsons, Wyatt, George and Jack Hendry and cousin, Alan Hendry.

A memorial service at Fish Island Marina will be held on a later date.

Flowers are gratefully declined and donations in Harold’s memory can be made to HAWKE Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, PO Box 188, Elkton, FL 32033 (904) 692-1777.

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**Wedding**

**Lewicki-Axelrod**

Megan Hyatt Lewicki, daughter of Jim and Kim Lewicki of Highlands and Joel Axelrod, son of Gwen Axelrod of Hillsborough, NC, wed on Saturday, July 30 during a ceremony at The Bascom. The couple wrote their vows and the exchange also involved a Gaelic Marriage of Equals declaration, a Polish Wedding Blessing and ended with Mazel Tov – each aspect representing a part of the couple’s heritage. They plan to honeymoon in Cuba at a later date. The couple resides in Los Angeles, CA.
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Sun., noon to 10p

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Norma Jean on the guitar on the terrace Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

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**Wild Thyme Gourmet Restaurant**

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round.

Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar

Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands

Open 7 days a week.

Serving Lunch 11a to 4p

Serving Dinner from 5:30p

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A unique fine dining experience on Harris Lake in Highlands featuring fresh seafood, an extensive wine list and excellent service.

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Anti-pasta platter with prosciutto, ham, Salami, Swiss cheese, Gruyere, and Obazda cheese spread. Served with crostinis and assorted olives • $15

Entrees
Steak Auppoivre 8 ounce filet mignon with seared peppercorns and a brandy cream sauce • $45
Lamb chops with the blueberry and cognac demi-glaze • $45

Breakfast Special
Norwegian eggs Benedict with smoked salmon poached eggs and hollandaise sauce • $13

Drink Special
Rumrunner • $10
Full Bar, wine & beer
Prepared to order by Chef Kirtis
Reservations appreciated but not required
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Duncan de Puech Parham, age 78, of Highlands, NC died Friday, July 29, 2016 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in New York City, NY, the son of the late Dr. Duncan Parham and Althea Penn Puech Parham. He attended St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire and graduated from Isadore Newman School in New Orleans; University of Florida and was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was Manager of Davenport Sand Company, Charles Rex Construction Company and President of Rex-McGill Investment Company. He was a long time home builder and developer of numerous subdivisions. He was a Past President of the Central Florida Home Builders Association, also a Director of Orlando Savings and Loan Association.

As Chairman of the Florida Turnpike Authority, he was responsible for the development of the Florida Turnpike. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Turnpike Authority and the Florida Turnpike Commission. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Turnpike Authority and the Florida Turnpike Commission. He was a Past President of the Highlands Historical Society, Nature Center, Christmas Community Chorale and Franklin Gem and Mineral Society.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Harriet “Button” McCall Davis Parham; a son, Duncan Parham II and his wife Coco of Asheville, NC; two grandchildren, Ellsworth Davis Parham and Emma Friend Parham.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church. Burial followed at Highlands Memorial Park.

Online condolences may be left at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Parham family.

Charles Walton Rex, Jr.

Charles Walton Rex, Jr., 87, peacefully passed away at his summer residence in Scaly Mountain, NC on July 31, 2016. He was born in Orlando, FL on October 15, 1928. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sammie S. Rex and resides in Winter Park, FL.

He was the son of C. Walton and Lottie Mae Autrey Rex and the grandson of Orlando Mayor L.M. Autrey. Charlie graduated from Sewanee Military Academy. He attended the University of Florida and was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was Manager of Davenport Sand Company, Charles Rex Construction Company and President of Rex-McGill Investment Company. He was a long time home builder and developer of numerous subdivisions. He was a Past President of the Central Florida Home Builders Association, also a Director of Orlando Savings and Loan Association.

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Back in the so called good old days, the lil’ missus and I would rise from our bed each morning and get ready for work. There was no time for pillow talk. Then came our three kids and there was even less time for pillow talk. Who had time for such foolishness?

Then the kids grew up and moved out and I eventually retired. Pillow talk was, for the first time in our lives, now available for both of us.

But I’m an early riser and my lil’ missus likes to sleep in. Still no pillow talk. If we were ever to have a time for serious pillow talk, a system was needed. Here’s what we did.

Since I am an early riser, I read the national news and other interesting events of the day and so when Maddy wakes later each morning, she calls me to our bed for pillow talk. In my opinion it’s the best part of my day. Here’s a few examples of how our pillow talk works.

She asks, “What’s new in the world?”

I respond, “You have green stuff between your teeth.”

She says, “I’m not buying that. I brushed really good last night. What else ya got?”

I pause for a short while and then announce, “You have green stuff between your teeth?”

She sits up in bed, fluffs up her pillow before hitting me with it. “Nah, I’m not offended by that and you shouldn’t be either. Hey, consider the source. Besides, you’re an equal opportunity offender. You’re not a bigot, bigots pick and choose. You piss off everyone. I’m going on line to read about Wade. It’s your turn to make the bed.”

“I made the bed yesterday. It’s your turn. And be honest with me. Is this really national headache week?” I ask.

“Yes,” she responses, “And that’s followed by national abstinence month and it’s your turn to make the bed.”

She says, “Not – it’s yours.”

She says, “Wrong again, turkey breath.”

Then she jumps out of bed, walks to our dresser mirror and stares at her front teeth, making sure I was teasing her about the green stuff.

End of pillow talk and guess what? I made some of this up.

PS: Have you read my book “I’m Moving Back to Mars?” See me and I’ll sign a copy for you.
“A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers.” ~ Plato

More and more, we are attracting intensely passionate, curious, and studious real estate investors into our market. I may be biased, but I’ve always felt Highlands attracted investors who were a cut above the average bear; the reason being – these folks do their homework well in advance of their visit. They know what is selling, what is not, and what the market stats are in great detail.

All good!

This season, though, I’ve been thrilled to see this intellectual curiosity ramp up to a new level. Well beyond gathering mere facts and data, these folks are digging into underlying trends, sophisticated forecasting, and getting real market intel, as well as weaving same into all of their decision making. They remind me of the best combination of an analyst, an anthropologist, and an expert spreadsheet maker! My tribe!

So, of course, it is incredibly fun when folks arrange appointments with me to sit down together and learn the market through my eyes. We talk history, cycles, market influences, resort market vagaries (generally), Highlands market vagaries (specifically), sales, opportunities, demographic silos and preferences, and just about everything else that could impact our market.

It occurred to me the other day that I could be having this conversation on a much larger scale! Therefore, I’d like to encourage you to email me (susie@WhiteOakRG.com) your questions about the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market, and I will select one to answer in depth in an upcoming column. Fire away!

For today, let’s review a wonderful question an investor just asked me a few days ago. It points to how our market can, at times, be very confusing to the uninitiated who are just asked me a few days ago. It points to how our market

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For today, let’s review a wonderful question an investor just asked me a few days ago. It points to how our market can, at times, be very confusing to the uninitiated who are looking at data points and trying to make sense of conflicting information. His question was this: “It appears that everything is for sale here – signs are everywhere and the real estate guide is packed with listings – yet, when I look at the sales numbers, the figures look strong. What is going on here?”

Excellent question, no?

To arrive at the answer, we need to go back in time to the depths of the downturn in the market (2008-2012). Of course, during this time, we had Sellers of all stripes trying to sell their properties. Some Sellers were in major financial duress and were selling short or were in foreclosure. Others looked around and decided to pass on trying to sell in such a challenging environment (and pulled their properties off the market). And still other Sellers were happy to “go fish” in whatever climate at prices that the market could not sustain as they were in the enviable position to not have to sell.

As the market improved, folks became more courageous in listing. With each year since 2012, as conditions strengthened for Sellers, more and more Sellers jumped in and listed their homes. Inventory continued to climb; while the market had improved, we simply did not have the sales volume to make a dent in the inventory levels.

Fast forward to August of 2016. Sales are strong! The market is healthy (and is continuing to get stronger with each passing week). Yet, inventory levels (e.g., competition for Sellers) remain high. As of yet, we have not cycled through the backlog of properties for sale that was built over the course of many years. Remember that Seller who was happy to “go fish” because he didn’t have to sell? He is still very much a part of this market (and will continue to be). As a resort market, we will always in some regard have that Seller. As a result, our inventory, even in the most active of seasons, will tend to run higher than primary home markets.

So, yes, there are real estate signs everywhere, and the real estate guide is packed to the gills with listings. It is also true that we are enjoying a resounding recovery in our market and are seeing terrific sales activity. Investing wisely re-
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A large selection of take-away items fully prepared and ready to take home. Grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken, made in house bbq, chicken salad, deli salads & much more.

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Tuesday – Oven Off Night 
Two natural chicken breasts grilled with our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served on a bed of greens with stuffed brie, spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar on the side with two cups of homemade gazpacho and a baguette from our bakery. 
$24.95 serves two

Wednesday – Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad – Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. $34.95 serves two

$27.95 serves two

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

Saturday – In-House Smoked BBQ – Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked over night and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls $23.95 serves two

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...HURRICANES continued from page 1

ing male swimmer in his age group, and Vivi finished in a 3-way tie for 3rd.

Ten of 11 Hurricane swimmers scored.

Also medaling for the Hurricanes were Penelope Hilson (Bronze), and Finneaus Garner (Bronze).

Additional scoring was done by Mackenzie Conn, Anni Geren, Diane Dallman, Peyton Kaylor, and Vivian Kennedy.

Also swimming for the Hurricanes was Landon Green.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Swim Team that practices at the Highlands Rec Park Pool in the evening during the week and on Saturday mornings. Attending all practices is not required, and the only requirement to join is that you be able to swim 25 yards (one pool length) unassisted. For further information please call Steve Hott, Head Coach @ 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Rec Park Pool at 828.526.1595.

Chase Kenter and Conner Hughes

...OBITUARIES continued from page 6

authority, he extended the Florida Turnpike from Miami to Homestead and was instrumental in the legislation to build the Beachline and the East-West Expressway.

He was Vice Chairman of the Florida Board of Business Regulation and Chairman of the Orange County Civic Authority during one of the early Citrus Bowl expansions.

Charlie was a founder of Lake Highland Preparatory School along with Charles Bradshaw (deceased) and Joseph Guernsey. He was on the Executive Committee for decades and a Life Member of the board. Additionally he was a Board Member of the Orlando YMCA, and Board Member of the Salvation Army. Charlie was on the Chapter (Vestry) of the St. Luke's Cathedral.

His greatest pride and joy was the marriage to Sammie. He is survived by his children Charles “Sandy” Rex (Susan) and children Charles “Chip,” Cameron, Elizabeth, and Nicholas. Walter Autrey “Donney” Rex (Peggy) and children Molly, Amanda, and
...CHRISTMAS continued from page 1

rating and lighting event there; this way the town could stop funding the event.

Mayor Pat Taylor said the tree at the Methodist Church is so big that it is a challenge to decorate even with the equipment the town has.

At one point there was even talk about cutting down the tree in front of the church and replacing it with two smaller trees.

Commissioner John Dotson said representatives of the Methodist church feel the tree blocks the view of the church – some want it gone, but others don’t.

Even though there was no council action required on this item, Mayor Taylor said he wanted a decision.

“This is similar to when I was first elected Mayor and we had to make some critical decisions on new Christmas decorations for the street. I would like to have some closure on this tonight to move the lighting to the park,” he said.

So where to plant the tree and what infrastructure was needed to support it was discussed.

“If you put a 25-foot tree in the park, it’s going to look like a Charlie Brown tree. I’m afraid of the health of the tree. As far as the location of the tree, we should never get away from the architect’s intent of the trees. Why would we pay to have those two white pines near the rink that are dark green and healthy cut down? It may be shallow soil, but there are ways around that,” said Commissioner Brian Stiehler.

But Commissioner Amy Patterson felt a 25-ft. tree would be OK.

“The tree is for the community. I don’t have a problem with it being small and growing with the community. People are going to look at it when it is bigger and say, “Man, I remember when this thing was small,” she said.

In the end, commissioners agreed to move the town lighting to the park as part of winter festivities which now include the ice skating rink.

Meetings with interested parties will determine where the tree should go. The goal is to have the tree in place by the end of October.
The Highlands Emergency Council will present its 3rd Annual Bluegrass Bash featuring the Wild Hog Band on Saturday, August 13 from 1-4:30 p.m. at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. The day will include hotdogs, clogging, freestyle dancing, and a raffle. Ticket prices are $5. Come join us for an old-fashioned afternoon of fun, while supporting the Highlands Emergency Council.

Luke Fleming

Another exciting season of the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival draws to a close August 5, 6, and 7. This 35th Anniversary Celebration has seen remarkable talent on the stages where audiences have met new faces and welcomed back returning favorites.

Friday, August 5 and Saturday, August 6 Lea Kibler on flute will be joined by John Dee on oboe; Laura Ardan on clarinet; Julia Harguindey on bassoon; and Brice Andrus on horn as they perform Summer Music, Op. 31 for Woodwind Quintet by Samuel Barber. The Viola Quintet in A Major, Op. 87 by Felix Mendelssohn will be performed by Andrés Cárdenes and Jessica Wu on violins; Luke Fleming and Yinzi Kong on violas; and Charae Krueger on cello.

As an acclaimed chamber music player, Andrés Cárdenes has performed with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Pinchas Zukerman, Christof Eschenbach, Jon Kimura Parker, Andre Previn, Jaime Laredo, Elliot Fisk, Leonard Slatkin, and Joseph Silverstein. He has served on the faculties of Indiana University, the University of Utah, and University of Michigan, and currently holds the title of Distinguished Professor of Violin Studies and the Dorothy Richard Starling/Alexander Speyer Jr. Endowed Chair at Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Music.

Cárdenes will return after intermission, to play the Piano Quintet #1 in C Minor, Op. 1 by Hungarian composer, Ernő Dohnányi. He will be joined by Jessica Wu on violin; Yinzi Kong, viola; Charae Krueger, cello; and Elizabeth Prigden, piano.

These concerts will be held at 6 PM Friday at the Highlands Performing Arts Center and at 5 PM at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library.

The final concert will be held at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Sunday, August 7 at 5 PM. The Festival Chamber Orchestra, composed of nearly thirty musicians, will perform works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Tomaso Albinoni and Ludwig van Beethoven, bringing an electrifying close to an already stellar season. This concert will be followed by dinner at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.

For more information on the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival please call them at (828) 526-9060 or visit HCCMF’s week 6 line-up

**Andrés Cárdenes**

**Luke Fleming**

- **Tuesdays, 2, 5, and 8 pm:**
  - Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.
  - **Daily**
    - At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, wine flights.
  - **Mondays**
    - Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men’s Meeting at 7 pm first Mondays.
    - At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.
    - **Mon. & Wed.**
      - Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.
    - **Mon. & Thurs.**
      - The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.
    - **Mon., Wed., Fri.**
      - Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.
      - Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
    - **First Tuesdays**
      - The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 828 369-7385.
    - **Tuesdays**
      - The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library, 9:30am at the Rec Park.
      - Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park.
      - Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
    - **Wednesdays**
      - 499ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.
      - Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.
    - **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.
    - **Thursdays**
      - Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.
      - OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524
      - **Tuesday and Thursdays**
        - Zumba with Carrie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
        - Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

- **FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.**
- **The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.**
- **2nd and 4th Tuesdays**
  - OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524
- **Tuesday and Thursdays**
  - Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park
  - Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
  - Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.
  - Zumba with Carrie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
  - Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
  - Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.
  - Zumba with Carrie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
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  - Zumba with Carrie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
  - Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
  - Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.
Steel Magnolias’ next at Highlands Playhouse

The Highlands Playhouse will present the heartwarming comedy, Steel Magnolias, August 4-20. The play, written by award winning author Robert Harling and made famous by the 1989 movie starring Julia Roberts and Sally Field, features talented actresses from around the country.

Steel Magnolias will be the Playhouse’s first non-musical theatre presentation since 2011. “Traditionally we haven’t done very well, as far as recouping our investment, in non-musicals. Of course, as artists, we have been dying to put something dramatic on the stage.”

The theatre has experienced huge growth in their audiences recently and hopes to see that growth continue.

Featuring a cast of professional actors from around the nation, audiences are sure to be wowed by the talents they see on stage. Playing the role of M'Lynn, the Sally Field role, is Playhouse veteran and Broadway actor Heidi Spoon.

Shelby, the Julia Roberts role, will be played by Atlanta native Madison Minnich. The show also features college theatre professors Holly Ruth Gale and Ardith Morris as Truvy (the Dolly Parton role) and Ousier (Shirley McClain), Cleveland based professional Kelly Strand as Annelle and Playhouse veteran Ginny King as Clairee.

Tickets are $38 for adults and $15 for children 12 and under. Show times are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 pm with Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 pm. To order tickets, call the Box Office at 828-526-2695 or email highlandsplayhouse@gmail.com.

Theatre: 212A N Main Street, Downtown Highlands.
Box Office: 828-526-2695.
Tickets: $38 adults, $15 kids 12 and under.

Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
• Zahner Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Nature Center. Free
• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryan’s Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays
• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays
• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center; Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor; 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474
• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays
• 199ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.
• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.
• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

Every 2nd Saturday
• A group meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at Highl ands Hudson Library at 10am. There are speakers, videos, recipes, health tips, and more to educate people about any health issues. Group is a non-profit. Contact Kelly Woods 828-421-3520 or live4above@aol.com

Saturdays
• At Mountain Top Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.
• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.
• Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.
• All knitters, crocheters and other needle craft artists are invited to join The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. Event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., Aug. 4
• Chestnut Hill Wellness Fair, 10a - noon. Free blood pressure check, hand massage and healthy snack. Stay for free lunch and hear Larry Reeves, Ombudsman, speak on “Under Construction: Building a More Positive Attitude While Aging.” Call 526-1851 to reserve your luncheon spot.
• At the Hudson Library is hosting “Yoga at the Library” at 11 am in the Community Room of the library. The program is presented by Yoga Highlands and it’s FREE.
• Arab Uprisings in Retrospect – 10a – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center: 828-526-8811.
• Internet Security and Applepay – 10:30 a – 3:30p, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center: 828-526-8811.

Fri., Aug. 5
• Relay for Life at the Rec Park 6p until midnight. If rain, it will be inside the gym.
• The Bascom and Land Trust present, 2-4 pm on the Kelsey Trail “Faces of the Past. Using spray chalk, learn how to mark trails with imagery. You may choose from stencils that depict people of historical significance to the region, indigenous animals, and mountain heritage symbols. For more information, see www.hicashlt.org or contact Will Barclift, Director of Community Outreach, 828-787-2897, wbarclift@hibascom.org.

Sat., Aug. 6
• Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House from 1lam-3pm. Free hotdogs and fire truck rides with demonstrations, too.

Sun., Aug. 7
• Sundays at Sotheby’s Artist, Tom Bluemlein, painter from 1-4 pm @ Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty, 114 N 4th Street, Downtown Highlands.
• The Bascom and Land Trust present, 2-4 pm on the Tupelo Tree Trail “Floral Chimes.” Using natural resources from around the country, see www.hicashlt.org or contact Will Barclift, Director of Community Outreach, 828-787-2897, wbarclift@hibascom.org.

Mon., Aug. 8:
• Napoleon’s Influence on European Culture – 10a – NOON, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center: 828-526-8811.

Tues., Aug., 9
• At the Nature Center, Night Sky Mysteries. 8:30-9:30 p.m.
• Basic Photediting for iPad – 10 – 3:30p, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center: 828-526-8811.
• South American Wines Tasting – 3:30- 5:30p Peggy Crosby Center Porch. 828-526-8811.

Wed., Aug. 10
• Summer Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Steven McCluskey, Baritone and Robert Henry, Piano

Thurs., Aug. 11
• The Bascom and Land Trust present, 2-4 pm ‘Floral Chimes.” Using natural resources from around the country, see www.hicashlt.org or contact Will Barclift, Director of Community Outreach, 828-787-2897, wbarclift@hibascom.org.

Fri., Aug. 12
• The Bascom and Land Trust present, 2-4 pm McKinney Meadow “Floral Chimes.” Using natural resources from around the country, see www.hicashlt.org or contact Will Barclift, Director of Community Outreach, 828-787-2897, wbarclift@hibascom.org.

Sat., Aug. 13
• Best Applications for iPad & iPhone – 10:30a – 3:30p, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Mon., Aug. 15
• At the Nature Center, Night Sky Mysteries. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Tues., Aug., 16
• At the Nature Center, Night Sky Mysteries. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Wed., Aug. 17
• At the Nature Center, Night Sky Mysteries. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Thurs., Aug. 18
• At the Nature Center, Night Sky Mysteries. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 19
• The Bascom and Land Trust present, 2-4 pm McKinney Meadow “Floral Chimes.” Using natural resources from around the country, see www.hicashlt.org or contact Will Barclift, Director of Community Outreach, 828-787-2897, wbarclift@hibascom.org.

Sat., Aug. 20
• Best Applications for iPad & iPhone – 10:30a – 3:30p, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.

Sun., Aug. 21
• Best Applications for iPad & iPhone – 10:30a – 3:30p, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. 828-526-8811.
$29,000 a year,” he said. It was also pointed out that part of the overtime cost was due to the sanitation department working on holidays – which amounts to eight hours of overtime.

Frye said the town has been looking at this issue for several years and decided to act this year. “We had a lengthy discussion with our auditors last week, trying to look at how we can contain overtime,” he said. “What we have determined is it’s not a shortfall in town trash pick up, but a capacity issue that can be easily solved. We decided to run a test. So we discontinued service on Sunday for one week to see what we got. I received a total of three complaints,” he said.

Frye spoke with each business who complained and in the case of OEI’s capacity issue, some of the “toters,” (a 96-gallon trash can on wheels) were damaged so they were not being used.

“It was a simple case of replacing the toters. OEI doesn’t need the service every weekend, it needs it certain times when there is a wedding or something like that. Problem solved for OEI,” said Frye.

As to Paoletti’s, an additional toter was all that was needed and it was delivered the same day, he said.

According to Frye, Wolfgang Green said he felt he should not have to purchase additional toters and the town should service his business on Sundays. Wolfgang’s only using toters and not a dumpster.

“Toters cost $5 month; two toters would be an additional $10 a month or $120 a year. That should solve his capacity issue,” said Frye.

Concerning the cost of Sunday service, Frye said running four hours on Sunday at $80 an hour is $320 a weekend, which comes out to $1,280 a month.

“If you run those four hours for the four entities that need it for 12 months, that’s $15,360. If we run it for six months, that’s $7,680. There is definitely a need, but we thought if we could do trash pick up on Saturday and skip Sunday that it would be fine until Monday’s pick up and the workers said there wasn’t an inordinate amount of trash on Mondays,” said Frye.

Frye also said the overtime numbers in the budget are straight overtime and don’t include the cost of gas or running the truck. He said it doesn’t seem to be a system-wide issue; just a small number of people and said that is why he didn’t think there would be an issue with stopping the trash pickup on Sunday.

If the town goes back to running trash pickup on Sundays, the Sanitation enterprise fund shortfall would have to be addressed somehow, said Frye. He suggested possibly opening a subscription on Sunday, for those who want it, and have them pay for it. However, with the small number of merchants who need it, the cost could be significant. Not running on some holidays was another suggestion by Frye as a way to cut overtime.

“If we had received an avalanche of calls, we would have reinstated the service, but we haven’t. We did not receive any calls this week. In the case of the Mountain Fresh picture in The Highlander newspaper, it was a capacity issue. It is not a case of us not picking up the trash, they simply need an additional dumpster.”

Mayor Patrick Taylor said a picture in The Highlander newspaper of the overflowing dumpster at Mountain Fresh suggested the town emptied the trash on Saturday and it was filled to that capacity on Sunday.

“I rode by there today [Thursday] and there is a place where they could put an additional dumpster,” he said.

Frye said that one of the comments he heard was that businesses only need an extra dumpster for a few months out of the year and they don’t want to pay for it all year.

When Commissioner John Dotson suggested possibly switching Saturday for Sunday, Public Works Director Lamar Nix said that the Saturday pickup was primarily for the trash cans on the street and any overflow problems so there would not be a bear issue.

Dotson said he owns the three toters that he has behind his business and that he bought those for $65 at Lowes. “I’m not trying to do us out of the toter business, but it seems to me it would behoove a business to buy a toter instead of renting $5 dollars a month.”

Businesses can buy their own toters as long they comply with the apparatus on town trucks.

The conversation turned to the trash cans on Main Street. The sanitation department currently empties the street trash cans on Saturdays. Nix said there have not been complaints of overflow on those cans, but Kieltyka said he had seen some overflow at times.

Commissioner Brian Stehler felt if the cans are overflowing the town has an obligation to empty them.

However, Amy Patterson feels the businesses have an obligation, too, to put out a trash can of their own if they have a large amount of trash instead of the town bearing the brunt of it all especially if they are putting their store trash in the street cans which are meant for general public use.

Frye suggested installing a couple more street cans to solve any overflow problems. He also suggested rolling the charge of a two-hour run on Sundays, (for the street can pick up service) into the commercial rate, next year, since all the businesses benefit from it.

“There is nothing we can’t do. Just keep in mind that everything has a cost associated with it,” said Frye.

Patterson agreed, “This is a joint problem which requires a joint solution. I think that’s part of the problem, they want it one way, we want it another way. And we never come to the middle and talk about what the issues are and what you can and can’t do. We need to come together to come up with a solution,” she said.

However, she said the town should not be paying anymore overtime because that just increases fees for everyone when only a few people benefit.

“So if we can solve it with more capacity and if we can solve the street can issue by telling the businesses that the street cans are for the general public use only, and we can get away with emptying them once on the weekends, then I think that is what we should do because salaries eat us up.”

Frye reminded the board that after talking to three of the four businesses that complained, the issue was resolved with those three.

Based on that, he recommended continued street can pick up and dumpster overflow pick up on Saturdays and to discontinue Sunday trash service.

The board agreed to have a brainstorming session with interested parties in the next few weeks to discuss the issues, the options and possible solutions.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Cassie. Sami “Honey” (Jim Glionna). Cynthia “Noel” Campora and children Kristen, Russell, and Travis. Randall “Randy” Rex (Wendy) and children Sam, Lucie, Claire, Lawrence, John and Will. Charlie had 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held at 10 am, Monday, August 8 at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in College Park. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Rex family. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

INVESTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

quires more than a sharp eye and dedicated focus on precisely where to place your bets – it relies upon a holistic and comprehensive understanding of what created today’s market and where it is heading.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group’s sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.
Spirituality of Light: Scientific and Biblical Aspects

By Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier Arockiasamy, Ph.D. (physics), B.Th., Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Light plays a vital role in our daily lives. We could not survive without light. It is essential for living things to get energy. In Physics, light is a form of energy and it is a part of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum. It also can be defined as all portions of electromagnetic waves. The electromagnetic waves can be explained by their wavelength, energy and frequency. The main source of light on Earth is the Sun. Sunlight provides the energy that plants use to create sugars in the form of starches which release energy into living things. There are many sources of light.

In the theory of light, according to Newton, light was composed of Corpuscles (particles of matter) which were emitted in all directions from a source. According to Plank, light energy is known as “quanta.” Albert Einstein used the idea of light, quanta, to explain the photo electric effect.

In the Bible, we know the creation event in the Book of Genesis. In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:1-4) From this passage, God knows the importance of light for living things. God knows that light is essential for living beings to get energy.

God also knows about the sources of light. He also created the sun, moon and stars. In the passages of the Book of Genesis 1:14-16, God said, “Let there be light in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the nights and the years and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years.

In the New Testament, we learn that Jesus himself becomes the light of the world. The Gospel according to John 8:12, Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Since Jesus is the Son of God, He compares himself with the creator, who is the author of light and life.

The spiritual nature of light is leading the people from the darkness to light.

The role of God is creating the source of light for the benefit of human beings, plants, and animals and also leading the people towards the light of life which symbolizes doing good. God is the source of energy and power. He says in the Book of Revelation 1:6, “Who has made us a kingdom, Priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.”

Spirituality gives meaning to our lives. God is the creator of life. So the spirituality of light is showing God’s glory, who is the almighty power. We see from the Gospel according to John 1:3-5, “All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” So it is our obligation to imitate God who is the source of the light of life, and regulate our life on earth towards doing good which is the spirituality of light.
The Highlands Police log entries from July 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

**July 1**
- At 6:11 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Wilson Road.

**July 8**
- At 1:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

**July 20**
- At 10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on West Church Street.

**July 25**
- At 1:31 p.m., officers responded to a report of a verbal argument at a convenience store on N. 4th Street.
  - At 2:30 p.m., William G. Ramos, 24, of Highlands, was arrested for DVPO violation. His trial date is Aug. 23, 2016.

**July 26**
- At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
  - At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 and NC 106.
  - At 5:13 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County.

**July 31**
- A little after midnight, Zachary Schiele, 24, of Elk Grove, CA, was arrested for trespassing and escaping custody and resisting arrest. He was issued at $1,500 bond. His trial date is Aug. 30, 2016.
  - At 10:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N. 5th Street.

**August 1**
- At 7:42 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Clubhouse Trail.
  - At 12:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Joe Pye Trail.
  - At 11:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Brushy Face Road.

**Police & Fire Reports**

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from July 21**
- At 3:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road.
  - At 3:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

**July 22**
- At 4:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Road.
  - At 7:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Ridge.

**July 24**
- At 3:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bobby Jones Road.
  - At 9:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Raoul Road.
  - At 1:25 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive West.

**July 25**
- At 7:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.
  - At 11:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.
  - At 7:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Forest Trail.
  - At 8:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Ridge.

**July 30**
- At 7:13 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.
  - At 11:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.

**July 31**
- At 10:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

**August 1**
- At 12:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Joe Pye Trail.
  - At 11:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Brushy Face Road.

**Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.**
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Job requirements are: thorough knowledge of North Carolina’s General Statutes and Planning Law; graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor’s Degree in Planning or closely related field with a Master’s Degree being a plus; currently certified or has the ability to obtain certification by the NC Association of Zoning Officials; 3 to 5 years of experience in planning, zoning, and code enforcement in North Carolina; must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel software; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with Town employees, elected and appointed officials, other agencies, and the general public.

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