County and town leaders talk business over supper

Macon County’s geography is unlike any other in the state and with less than 20 miles separating Franklin from Highlands, on a map it would seem simple enough for leaders of the two towns to get together often. But that 20 miles is a 45-minute drive up a winding mountain road, making the meetings and communication between county and town leaders located in Franklin and the leaders of Highlands a little more difficult.

To foster communication and build relationships with leaders across Macon County, three times a year the Macon County Board of Commissioners, the town of Highlands Board of Commissioners and the town of Franklin Board of Aldermen meet over dinner.

On Tuesday, the three boards, who take turns hosting the meeting, gathered at the Franklin Memorial Park each updated the •See LEADERS page 19

CIS aims to decrease high school drop-outs

Currently, it focuses on Jackson County

By Jane Jerry
Rotary Club of Highlands

In the midst of a national conversation about the state of education and the lack of workforce preparedness among our young people, Rotary Club of Highlands speaker George Johnson provided a ray of hope as he described the successful work of Community in Schools (CIS).

CIS is the nation’s largest and most effective organization dedicated to keeping kids in school and helping them succeed in life. Its unique model positions site coordinators inside schools to assess students’ needs and provide resources to help them succeed. Partners include businesses, social service agencies, health care pro-

•See CIS page 18

Did Will Bartram stand on Satulah?

By Ran Shaffner
Highlands Historical Society

In 1775 the American naturalist William Bartram left Charleston, S.C., on horseback to explore the Cherokee Nation. From his Travels, historians have mapped his route to Cowee Town in North Carolina. None of these maps show Bartram’s approaching the Highlands Plateau any nearer than 20 miles to the south.

For the last eight years Lamar Marshall, Cultural Heritage Director of Wild South, has been following in the footsteps of the Cherokee along their ancient trails across Western N.C. In an article for the Spring, 2016, issue of the NC Bartram Trail Society Newsletter, Marshall researched Bartram’s approaching the Highlands Plateau but actually stood on Satulah Mountain, surveying •See BARTRAM page 19

Highlands Hurricanes swim team finishes regular season 2-3; heads into postseason

By Steve Hott
Coach

The summer Highlands Hurricanes swim team finished its regular season at home last Thursday, July 14 with a loss to the perennial Mountain Swim League (MSL) summer champions FAST (Franklin Amateur Swim Team).

The Hurricanes swam 35 swimmers -- the largest team it has had at a meet -- and scored 283 points -- the most it has scored against Franklin since it restarted in 2014.

The Hurricanes scored 8.1 points/swimmer against FAST at •See HURRICANES page 6

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Last Thursday was a busy day in Highlands. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce had a great after hours event at Town Park Place. Nitro Grass was wonderful part of the festivities. At the Highlands Playhouse it was opening night for “It's a Grand Night for Singing.” The Playhouse has a great season, as well as the Highlands/Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. But, in my opinion the most important event was the swimming meet between the Highlands Hurricanes and the Franklin Panthers, arguably the best community swim team in the state.

The Franklin team was very gracious to travel to the Highlands Recreation Department pool facility for this first ever meet in Highlands. It was an honor for me to give welcoming remarks to a standing room only, enthusiastic crowd. I looked at Lester Norris and jokingly quipped we now needed stadium seating for our new pool facility.

The volunteers that make such an event possible are amazing. Steve Hott and Tay Bronaugh are the lead coaches for the Hurricanes, but the team has a dedicated group assistant coaches and parent volunteers. The Franklin team has a similar great cadre of assistant coaches and parent volunteers. It was gratifying to see two communities share a common concern by working together to put on the meet.

Mighty Franklin showed up with over 89 swimmers, that was sort of the good news for our team. Franklin could have brought 120 swimmers. The Hurricanes had a strong showing of 35 swimmers, but the numbers were against them when it came to the competitive scoring.

Nevertheless, there were a total of 124 swimmers at the meet. Now when there are that many kids at a pool, there is the potential for chaos. When I arrived, swimmers were taking warmup laps, and it looked like a wild water frenzy. After the opening ceremonies, the swimmers settled down, and with the assistance of the volunteers the swimmers got in place for their race heats.

I was delighted to see the young swimmers mount the stainless steel starting platforms and dive into the water. The platforms were recently purchased from funds generated from the Highlands Twilight 5k Race. The team used to have old 2x4 platforms, but these are like the ones used by major swimming programs.

I watched these kids on both teams swim their hearts out. Back in 1959 I played Little League in a brand new state of the art facility, replete with lights, bleachers and fences with commercial advertising. I dreamed I was a step away from pitching in the major leagues. So, I speculated some of these kids were dreaming in this moment of being in the Olympics. Whether they advance to another level or not, they probably had no idea a lifetime memory was being made.

It has cost the town significantly more money to operate this new pool facility. Is it worth it? After seeing these young people swim, compete, exercise and interact with parents and friends, I say yes indeed. The facility serves us all, but as a top community facility it allows us to invest in the future of a valuable asset, our young people.

Did the Hurricanes win? Let me put it this way, every swimmer at the meet was successful. Congratulations to Franklin in out scoring our team, but everyone at the meet was better for the experience. What a winning night in Highlands.
Mary Frances Summer Potts

Mary Frances Summer Potts, age 79 of Highlands, NC, passed away Monday, July 18, 2016. She was born in Macon County, the daughter of the late Otto Francis Summer and Edwina Summer. She was a homemaker, a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and a member of Shortoff Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Louis Eugene “Bud” Potts, who died in 2013.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Norman of Highlands, NC; three grandchildren, Amber Morrow of Asheville, NC, Kevin Chavis and Ashley Chavis both of Hope Mills, NC; two great-grandsons, Jacob and Jayden, great-granddaughter, Chloe Annabelle Chavis, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held Friday, July 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Shortoff Baptist Church, with Rev. Andy Cloer officiating. Burial will be in Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1-2 pm Friday, one hour prior to the service at the Church.

Memorials may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock NC 28731 or to Shortoff Baptist Church, Buck Creek Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

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

Rickie Joe Day

Rickie Joe Day, 60, of Glenville passed away on Monday, July 18, 2016. He was born in Swain County, the son of the late Joe and Ruth Owenby Day. Mr. Day was retired from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and he loved hunting and fishing. He was a member of Briartown Baptist Church in Nantahala.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Kathy Ellison Day; one daughter, Sonya Felecia Day of Glenville; one son, Joey Day of Glenville; a granddaughter, Ella Day and a brother, Jerry Day of Sylva.

•See OBITUARIES page 10
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...HURRICANES continued from page 1

this meet compared with 6.5 earlier in this season and 3.75 last summer. However, the winter Hurricanes beat the winter FAST team in March.

At the meet, the two teams combined to set 67 of the 82 Highlands Rec Park Pool records.

Most of the Hurricanes, 31 of the 35, scored at the meet winning 126 ribbons, 34 of them blue. They had 17 automatic MSL All-star qualifying swims and three MSL All-star consideration swims.

Of Special note were:
Chase Kenter’s 5 of 5 First Place finishes including four team records, five pool records and three MSL All-star qualifying swims;
Finneas Garner’s three First Place finishes including one team record, one pool record and three MSL All-Star qualifying swims;
Anna McKibben’s 4 of 4 First Place finishes including four team records, four pool records, and one MSL All-star qualifying swim;
Elias McKim’s three First Place finishes including two team records, three pool records, and one MSL All-star qualifying swim;
Dianne Dallmann’s two First Place finishes including three team records and two pool records;
Jehlena McKim’s 5 of 5 team records and two pool records;
Conner Hughes’ two First Place finishes including three team records, two pool records, and two MSL All-star qualifying swims;
Vivi Geren’s two team records and two MSL All-star qualifying Swims;
Peyton Kaylor’s two First Place finishes including a MSL All-star qualifying swim;
Aniah McKim’s three First Place finishes including two team records, two pool records and two MSL All-star qualifying swims;
Jack Gagne’s two First Place finishes including two team records and two pool records;
Rylee Kay Watson’s MSL All-star qualifying swim;
Andre Halldin’s one First Place finish and MSL All-star qualifying swim;
Mackenzie Conn’s three team records and one MSL All-star qualifying swim;
Maddy Jolly’s two team records and two pool records;
Vivian Kennedy’s team record;
La-Donna Dallmann’s team record and MSL All-star qualifying swim; and Penelope Hillson’s Team Record.

Also scoring for the Hurricanes were Brady Jolly, Blake Kenter, Dasha Halldin, Jayden Hughes, Madison Conn, Ben Halldin, Barrett Neil, Ariel Taylor, Max Moss, Dale West, and Mia Kaylor.

Also swimming for Highlands were Fenton Hillson, Rowan McQuade, Lydia Hughes and Bria and Kailyn Taylor.

The Highlands Hurricanes go to FAST for the MSL conference championship on Saturday, July 23. Then it goes to the MSL All-star meet in Murphy, NC the following Saturday, July 30. The team will then take the month of August off and start winter practice the Tuesday after Labor Day.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a year-round Highlands Recreation Park swim team that practices at the Highlands Rec Park pool in the evenings during the week and on Saturday mornings. Attendance at all practices is not required. The only requirement to join is that a candidate be able to swim 25 yards (1 pool length) unassisted.

For further information, please call Steve Hott, Head Coach @ 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Recreation Park Pool at 828.526.1595

For information, email: highlandseditor@aol.com
Truth and consequences
In memory of an old friend called Gunnar

The trouble I have in being a satire writer is when I want to tell about a true event, there’s a small segment of my readers who don’t believe me even if I announce the column is true. For satire writers there are consequences in telling the truth. Here’s a short story that is obviously not true.

A man raised a dog from birth, bottle feeding it through the many nights it took until it was fully weaned. It was a golden retriever, one of the most beautiful and friendly dogs of all the breeds. Then it happened.

When his dog was about six years of age, he met a beautiful girl and they fell in love. A year later he proposed marriage and she accepted the proposal but informed him she was keeping a secret from him. She did not like animals, particularly dogs. They reminded her of wolves. He pleaded with her to accept his dog but to no avail. Tension grew and finally she said, “It’s either me or the dog. One of us has to go.”

Panic stricken, he went to his best friend for help and advice. His best friend said, “Put your fiancé and your dog in the trunk of your car. Ride around for about 20 minutes making sure you hit a few pot-holes, then open the trunk and keep the one who’s happy to see you.”

I love that story because it’s so revealing. Dogs are the most friendly and forgiving creatures on our planet. And readers know the story is not true so there’s no consequences. And don’t forget, my columns are my hobby.

Recently, at a dinner party, a fan said, “I loved the story about your son and daughter-in-law leaving Dubai after living there for 10 years. But the part about your daughter-in-law sitting with a severely wounded camel in the desert until it died was way over the top.” As he walked away, he said, “No problem, Fred, I’ll still read you next week.” The story I’m about to tell is true but there will be fans who won’t believe it. Oh well!

Years ago there was a Highlander gentleman who had a federal permit to raise wolves for study purposes. From time to time he would give lectures in our local parks. The lecture I attended turned out to be memorable. He brought his wolf on a leash and it had a name I’ve long forgotten. I’ll just call him “Gunnar, in memory of an old deceased four legged friend.” Our group consisted of about eight or nine persons sitting in a half circle.

Then the lecturer said, “As I continue to speak, I’ll bring Gunnar near each of you. If Gunnar continues to get even closer to you on his own, it’s OK to pet him if you wish. Do not reach out for him unless he approaches you. Gunnar is a wild animal and he’s unpredictable. Does everyone understand?” Silence prevailed.

I was kind of in the middle of the half-moon circle and Gunnar must have been in a friendly mood because he allowed each attendee to pet him. When Gunnar got to me, he passed by me and went to the attendee on my right, allowing her to pet him. I was so disappointed and wondered if I had produced some kind of scent that Gunnar didn’t like. I was the only attendee who didn’t get to pet him.

The lecturer returned to the center of the half circle to end his talk. He draped the dog leash over his arm and stooped to get pamphlets from his backpack. With lightning speed, Gunnar lurched forward, snatching the leash from his lecturer’s arm. Before I could even think about reacting to this sudden action, Gunnar headed straight for me and jumped up, placing his paws on my lap. He started licking me and his tail was wagging. Needless to say, I was startled and surprised. As a normal instinct I began to pet and hug Gunnar. That wolf could have just as easily had me by the throat instead of licking me.

Then the lecturer said, “I have only seen that occur a couple of times and it’s the first time Gunnar has caught me off guard and ran unleashed. When you own wolves you are always learning. Wolves are mysterious creatures and much is still unknown about their behavior.”

PS. Since many of my regular readers never know when I’m pulling their leg, I’ll tell you that the story of Gunnar is a true story that will remain in my heart and in my brain until I’m dead.
February 11, 2016 I broke my back! Black ice, stone stairs ... my feet went up and I had time to think “This is really gonna hurt!” And it did; for months! At first, I was begrudgingly grateful I could walk – the doctors confided it could have been otherwise but for a strong core – and grateful that I had not hit my head. Again the doctors alluded to a possible vegetative state had that been the case. But as time went by, I became grateful for much deeper reasons ... two valuable lessons of faith: First, I learned to ask for help, something a false pride had not allowed usually. Second, I experienced a level of generous love I had not expected. This fantastic community poured its love out to me, embraced me and made me well in a multitude of ways. And that is what I want to expound upon.

The Plateau has always been special place that attracted special people. It still is and still does! From town employees, to fulltime residents, to seasonal residents and visitors, the people of our plateau are a loving sort. A sort who are interesting and interested in all around them. The kind of people who are characterized by loving and generous hearts. The kind of folks who get involved with life and the lives surrounding them and positively impact their part of the world. For example, philanthropy has always been bountiful here, be it in the form of money, time or effort. Without that generosity, things would be far different here.

When I broke my back, I was told the one thing I could do to affect it positively, was to walk. I've become an avid walker. And when walking, I am struck each time by the number of friendly waves and toots of the horn. Invariably people stop to ask if I need a ride, even now that I am without obvious infirmity! It's this special affinity for the plateau by equally special people who have found it, that safeguards who we are and who we will be as a community. From philanthropic gestures, to a kind word or gesture, to sweat-of-the-brow help, our area is what it is because of this special populace.

Like seems to attract like, so that even as we grow, this same sort of person finds their way here. And this season, people looking at the plateau as a getaway, permanent home or investment opportunity are flocking to us in droves. It seems the business of brokerage is busier than ever. The area as a sanctuary is increasingly an obvious choice, in contrast to the turmoil and seeming craziness worldwide. Buyers, both commercial and residential, who are coming out of the proverbial wood work, each add to the facets that make up this gem. Whether it's renovating buildings bought or building anew (contractors are busier than ever) or getting involved in our community in the multifaceted offerings that abound here, new people discovering the plateau are adding positively to who we are. Their investments now are as important as those made at the turn of the century; those that safeguarded our ridgelines and surrounding environs for the enjoyment today.

So if you are attracted to this unique area, thinking about spending additional time here, either in one of our wonderful hotels or Inns, or in a more permeant way as an investor or resident of some sort, "Just do it" as the once famous commercial enticed. Just do it! Adopt the plateau as your own special place. My bet is you'll be embraced by this community as I have. With loving, open, generous and protective arms.

How’s my back? Well, it’s not the back God gave me, but it doesn’t hurt today!

• Mal Phillips is the owner and broker in charge of Twigs Realty Group, the offices of which are located at 66 Highlands Plaza, Highlands NC. Visit the office or the website at twigsrealtygroup.com. Or simply call 828-487-4377. Twigs Realty Group: Integrity, Hard Work, Outrageous Customer Service and Just Plain Fun (After all you came here to have fun didn’t you?)
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...LETTER continued from page 2

...and gerrymandering. Mountain counties from highlands plateaus, the whitest, most rural, conservative, and least diverse in the state, make up that crucial difference. Just look around you at Highlands and Macon County to understand that importance. For Highlands, plus ca change, plus c’est meme chose.

Milton Ready
Seasonal Highlands

• Milton Ready is the author of “The Tar Heel State: A History of North Carolina,” as well as other works on the western mountain counties including “Mystical Madison,” perhaps the most Appalachian of the western tiered counties, as well as works on Asheville, SC, NC, and Georgia.

...OBITUARIES from 3

A memorial service will be held Sunday, July 24, 2016 at 3:00 pm at Hamburg Baptist Church with Rev. Nathan Johnson and Rev. Johnny Norris officiating. The family will receive friends Sunday from 2 - 3 pm, one hour prior to the service, at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Tribute Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38015-1942.
Highlands Friends of Haiti
Concert with Maria Howell – July 31

Los Angeles based vocalist, Maria Howell, returns to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation to benefit Highlands Friends of Haiti. This global outreach mission of Incarnation focuses on nutrition, education and community development in one of the poorest areas in Haiti. The event begins at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, wine and a silent auction preceding Maria's performance. Tickets are $100 and may be purchased at the Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main Street, Highlands, NC or online at the church's website: incarnationwnc.org. For more information call 526-8016.

Maria Howell

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Maria Howell

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Maria Howell
Audubon Presents:
Equatorial Adventures, August 1st

Cindy and Ed Boos

The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society is proud to present noted still photographer Ed Boos and his video photographer wife, Cindy Boos, with their photographs, video and commentary on Monday, August 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hudson Library in Highlands. The title of their presentation is “Adventures on the Equator: Wildlife of Ecuador and Kenya.” Photos from Ecuador will include the exotic Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Blue-footed Boobies, Magnificent Frigate birds and ten species of hummingbirds. From Africa come photos of a Wildebeest migration, Lions, Hyenas, the Lilac-breasted Roller and Secretary-bird.

Sponsored by the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the program is free and open to the public. A social mixer with light refreshments will begin at 7 p.m. followed by the presentation. The Library’s exhibit of the Booses’ photographs will be open to the public after the presentation. The after-hours entrance is in the back of the Library.

Since retirement from Florida’s Polk County Schools in 2004, Ed and Cindy have acquired a passion for wildlife photography. They have traveled to many locations throughout the United States and Canada as well as Ecuador and Kenya in pursuit of their photography interests. With Ed’s primary focus on still photography and Cindy’s on video photography, they have developed wildlife programs for presentation to birding groups in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. As members of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, they have a special focus on capturing avian behaviors. Ed’s photography has been on exhibit at the Hudson Library and the Macon County Library in past years. His work has been displayed at the Western North Carolina Fotofest and the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in St Petersburg, Florida, as well as The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts in Highlands.

The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, focused on enjoying and preserving birds and their habitats, is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society and a 501(c) (3) organization. For information on all activities and membership, please visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

Come observe bats in the wild at the Nature Center Tues., July 26

A quarter of the world’s mammals are bats with 1,100 recorded species of bats worldwide—40 of which are native to the United States. The southern Appalachian Mountains are home to several of these species. These marvelous mammals are very important in our environment and to our health because, for example, they can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour. Sadly, more than half of the bat species in the U.S. are in severe decline or are listed as endangered due to habitat loss and a disease afflicting bats known as white nose syndrome.

Come to the Nature Center of the Highlands Biological Station on Tuesday, July 26th at 8:30pm for a short presentation before we head outside to observe them in their natural habitat. Advanced registration is required as space is limited. Call (828) 526-2623 to register. Tickets are $3 per person. Please bring a flashlight.

Bats aren’t the only important species with a large local impact. Phytoplankton are responsible for a large majority of global primary productivity and are the base of many aquatic food webs. Their evolution is complex and their diversity is staggering. Due to their importance in sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, geoengineers have proposed fertilizing large swaths of our oceans to mitigate global climate change.

On Thursday, July 8th at 6:30pm, in the fourth Zahner Conservation Lecture of the season (sponsored by Sue Sheehan), Dr. Adrian Marchetti, Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina, will share insights on the important role marine algae play in the environment today and how this will effect the future of our planet. For a full schedule of lectures, programs, and more information on the centennial celebration, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org/foundation/ or call the Highlands Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.
**Highlands Area Events**

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

- **Thursdays**
  - Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
  - Zahné 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. First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant’s Funnel Home and across the street from the Lazy Hiker Brewery 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 - Tuesdays**
  - Movies at The Highlands Playhouse, 3 and 7 p.m.
  - 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 Highlands 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 live-4above@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. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

- **Thurs., July 21**
  - At the Highlands Nature Center, Zahné Lecture: Birds of a Feather at 6:30 p.m. Free.
  - Great Discoveries in Astronomy – 10a – Noon, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 825-526-8811.
  - Bascom: Cherokee Culture – 3:30 – 5p, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 825-526-8811.

- **Sun., July 23**
  - At Cliffside Lake, Michael Skinner with Balsam Mountain Trust and live raptors at 11 a.m.
  - Titans of Chamber Music: Mendelssohn – 10a – Noon, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 825-526-8811.

- **Mon., July 25**
  - At the Highlands Botanical Garden at the Bio Station, a Big Carnivores Garden Tour from 10:30-aa:30 a.m. Free.
  - The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers monthly meeting will feature Cynthia Kinard, portrait and landscape artist, with more than eight years of formal training and a lifetime of execution. Ms. Kinard subscribes to the tenets of Classical Realism. Her presentation will begin at 5 p.m. following social time at 4:30 in the atrium of The Bascom Free and open to the public.
  - North and South Jackson County Republican Party monthly meeting 6:30 p.m. at the North Jackson County Republican Headquarters Office at 60 West Sylva Shopping Center between Sylva and Dillsboro. The featured speaker is NC Senator Jim Davis. For more information, call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491 or email ralphants@yahoo.com.

- **Tues., July 26**
  - Village Nature Series on Cashiers Village Green. Free family friendly programs, the final Tuesday of the month from at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome. Go Green with Moss - Explore the Green Advantages of Mosses in Sustainable Landscapes and Traditional Gardens with Annie Martin. *$20 supply fee for your own handmade moss garden.
  - Occupy WNC General Assembly at 7 p.m. at the Sneak E Squirrel Community Outreach Center on West Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.
  - Occupy WNC General Assembly at 7 p.m. at the Sneak E Squirrel Community Outreach Center.

- **World renowned musicians at HCCMF**

  **(Above) Emerson String Quartet and Philippe Quint (right)**

  Summer is in full swing and the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival continues to bring exciting talent to the stage. This is week 4 of their 35th anniversary season and they continue to offer the finest in chamber music.

  Friday, July 22 in Highlands and Saturday, July 23 in Cashiers the Emerson String Quartet bring their years of experience to the works of Franz Schubert, F.J. Hayden and Peter Tchaikovsky. The New York Times says, “The Emerson is one of the most impressive of American String quartets.”

  Formed in 1976 and based in New York City, the Emerson was one of the first quartets formed with two violinists alternating in the first chair position. The Emerson Quartet, which took its name from the American poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, is Quartet-in-Residence at Stony Brook University.

  In January 2015, the Quartet received the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, Chamber Music America’s highest honor, in recognition of its significant and lasting contribution to the chamber music field. The quartet is composed of members Eugene Drucker on violin, Philip Stezer on violin, Lawrence Dutton on viola, and Paul Watkins on cello.

  Sunday, July 24 and Monday, July 25 world renowned violinist Philippe Quint brings his widely applauded talent to the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. Born in Leningrad, Soviet Union (now St. Petersburg, Russia), Philippe Quint studied at Moscow’s Special Music School for the Gifted and made his orchestral debut at the age of nine. After moving to the United States, he earned both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Juilliard. The Chicago Tribune proclaimed, “Here is a fiddle virtuoso whose many awards are fully justified by the brilliance of his playing.” Among his many honors, Quint was the winner of the Juilliard Competition and Career Grant Recipient of Salon de Virtuosi, Bagby and Clarisse Kampel Foundations.

  Concerts Friday and Sunday will be in Highlands at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Saturday and Monday, the festival will be held in Cashiers at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library. For tickets, concert times and further information please call the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival at 828-526-9060 or visit them online at HCMusicFestival.org.
...EVENTS continued from page 13

Room, 1315 W Main St, at the Sneak E Squirrel on the left side of Hwy 107 toward Dillsboro in Sylva.

- At the Nature Center, “Going Batty” 8:30-9:30 p.m. Cost $3.
- Story of Sun Burst Trout Farm & Day Trip – 9:30a – 1pm, Meet at CLE Parking lot to board van @ 9:30a. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.
- Tues. & Thurs., July 26 & July 28
  - Apple Computers Advanced – 10:30a – 3:30p, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.
  - Wed., July 27
    - At Hudson Library, 2:30pm the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences will present an ‘Animal Tracks’ program.
    - Summer Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Amy O’Dell, Piano.
    - Smart Phone Photography Workshop – 10a – 4p, CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.
- Thurs, July 28
  - Art on the Hill at Chestnut Hill. Featuring quilts made by members of Cashiers Quilters Guild from 4 - 5:30 pm. Refreshments served. Questions? Call 787-2114.
  - Calling all P.E.O.s. Luncheon at Highlands Falls Country Club at 12:15 p.m. Registration is 11:30a until noon. $25 per person. Please RSVP by Wed.,July 20. Make checks payable to: P.E.O. Chapter BJ. Mail checks to Mary Ann Ray, 104 Lake Court #130, Highlands, NC 28741. For more information call 828-526-8251.
  - Guided adventures led by experts in their field. Reservations required. $35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to HCLT, $10 for HCLT members. Contact Julie at juli.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111. Heart of Horse Cove- Get a rare chance to explore some of the treasures of Horse Cove, an enchanting community rich in cultural and natural history.
  - Publishing “Our State” Magazine – 2-4p, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton 2 828-526-8811.
  - At the Nature Center, Zahner Lecture: The Ocean’s Invisible Forest: Insights into the Ecology of Phytoplankton at 6:30 p.m. Free.
  - Fri., July 29
    - At Hudson Library, teens are invited to a pizza and a movie for completing the summer reading program at 3pm, registration is required.
    - Mr. College Football, Tony Barnhart – 10a – Noon, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.
    - The Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) is sponsoring a free seminar for property owners and the general public on Friday, July 29, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 at the Community Building next to the ball park in Highlands. Russell Funderburk, Horticulturist at the Highlands Biological Station Botanical Garden, will explain control methods for our “most unwanted” nonnative invasive plants, giving practical advice on control methods and native alternative choices for landscapes. Included in the curriculum will be an open discussion period for questions and dialogue with the faculty and moderator, Dr. Jim Costa. A light lunch at 12:30 will follow the morning session for those who pre-register. Walk-ins are welcome and we encourage you to bring a sandwich and join us. An optional fieldtrip to the Botanical Garden will follow at 1:30 to see examples of eradication and control techniques for the invasive plants at the Botanical Garden. He will also show examples of native alternatives. To preregister for lunch please email swansondollie@gmail.com or call 828-526-2609 by Sat., July 30
    - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7 mile moderate hike, elevation change 400 ft., along the Bartram Trail from Jones Gap to Big Fishhawk Mountain, passing Jones Knob, Whiterock Mts. & Little Fishhawk along the route with view-points westward toward the Nantahala Mountains and view of Albert Mt. and Rabun Bald. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot at 9:00 am, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Charlee Tisdale, 864-784-2124, for reservations. Visitors welcome.
    - At Hudson Library, celebrate the end of summer and all the reading you’ve done by coming to an Ice Cream Party on July 30th at 1 p.m.
    - Titans of Chamber Music: Brahms – 10a – Noon, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.
    - ACNA Archbishop Foley Beach at Christ Anglican Church, 464 US Hwy 64 east in Cashiers at 10:30 a.m. to dedicated Christ Anglican Church’s new facility. All are welcome.

Sun., July 31
- Highlands Friends of Haiti Concert – featuring Maria Howell Los Angeles based vocalist, Maria Howell, returns to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation to benefit Highlands Friends of Haiti. This global outreach mission of Incarnation focuses on nutrition, education and community development in one of the poorest areas in Haiti.
- The event begins at 6 p.m. with hors d’oeuvres, wine and a silent auction preceding Maria’s performance. Tickets are $100 and may be purchased at the Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main Street, Highlands, NC or online at the church’s website: incarnationwnc.org. For more information call 526-8016.

Tues., Aug. 2
- The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library in Cashiers, NC. The speaker will be Ryan Kaufman, head guide at Headwaters Outfitters in Rosman, NC. There is an informal gathering beginning at 6PM with the speaker’s presentation starting at 7PM. After the presentation a raffle will be held with the grand prize being a custom, handmade, fly rod from Raven Fork Rods.
Position Title: Computer Support Specialist
Salary Pay Range: $39,557 - $59,335

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Computer Support Specialist. An employee in this class is responsible for assisting with maintaining the town’s information technology and communications systems including installing and maintaining hardware and software applications, troubleshooting and resolving equipment failures, serving as a local area network specialist, updating computer systems, and maintaining telephone systems with vendor support, as well as wireless networks (SCADA - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) used to monitor and control operational processes of the water and sewer treatment plants.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Town of Highlands provides a competitive benefits package. The successful applicant is subject to a criminal background check, a pre-employment drug screening and passing a physical examination.

Applications are available at Town Hall or may be downloaded from the Town’s website at www.highlandsnc.org under Employment. Resumes may be submitted in addition to applications. All completed and signed employment applications may be submitted in person to Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at the Town Hall, 210 N. Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, by email to sonjia.gibson@highlandsnc.org, by fax to 828-526-2595 or by U.S. Mail to the attention of Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity/Drug-Free Employer. Applications will be reviewed as received, and position will be open until filled. (7/28)
## Problems in the pulpits of America

By Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

As I hear people going about their day, I sense a general resignation to the reality that this world is on some level falling apart and people seem to long for an answer or a leader to make things better again. Considering all of this, it could be worse...we could have porous borders.

Some say nothing will really improve until we name the enemy with specificity. Others call for a Congressional Declaration of War. Some want boots on the ground and others seek to increase air attacks. Certainly, many practical actions need to be addressed but it still remains true that we cannot solely “trust in chariots and horses” (Ps. 20:7). Our enemy isn’t simply ISIS or an ideology or radicalized knuckle-heads. Our constant enemy throughout history isn’t just people. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Eph. 6:12)

If you lean towards the Bible being irrelevant for life today perhaps you need to take another look.

The everyday use of biblical and prophetic words like lawlessness, persecution and evil are definitely on the rise. Perhaps the time has come, and now is the time for the church to stand as tall as ever...on her knees in prayer. The Christian church is often concerned with diluting the doctrine of the church in the name of relevance. I have news for pastors and bishops and denominations that think they have the authority to change the nature of God and the revelation of God in the scripture. You are well out of your authority. You’re far beyond your pay grade. The church that seeks to dilute the scripture is the church that dilutes the potency of the church and dilutes the power of sin. When you dilute the power of sin you dilute the need for a Savior and confession, repentance, redemption, forgiveness and restoration. In part, the condition of any nation is a reflection of the church in that nation. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. (Proverbs 14:34)

The time has come and now is the time for church leaders to preach and teach the word of God as written or get out of the way. Failure to actually read a legislative bill before it is voted upon has caused a colossal mess. Failure to read the New Testament prior to preaching messages is a huge mess as well. People need grace and mercy and the love of God. These precious realities are available to those who know they need a Lord. Some churches have removed sin from their vernacular. People are now wondering why they are walking in shame and pain without realizing its root cause. The lack of biblical preaching and the presence of condoning sin as God defines it is really hurting people and our nation. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (2 Timothy 4:3)

### Places to Worship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address/Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Pastor/Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Hwy 107N. Glenville, NC 743-2729</td>
<td>Pastor Nathan Johnson</td>
<td>Sun: School 9:45a, Worship 11a &amp; 7p, Bible Study 6p Wed: Kidsquest 6p; Worship 7p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD</strong></td>
<td>Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sun: Worship: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)</td>
<td>Pastor Dan Robinson</td>
<td>Sun: Morning Worship 10:45a, Evening Worship 6:30p Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.</td>
<td>Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376</td>
<td>Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, &amp; adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided ); 7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION</strong></td>
<td>Sun: School:10 a.m.; Worship:11 a.m.</td>
<td>706-746-2999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHRIST ANGELIC CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Sun.: School:9:00 a.m.; Worship:10 a.m.</td>
<td>706-746-2999</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS</strong></td>
<td>Sun.: School:9:00 a.m.; Worship:10 a.m.</td>
<td>706-746-2999</td>
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...and many more listed on the document.
The Highlands Police log entries from June 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 20
- At 9 p.m., officers received a call of larceny from a residence on Spring Street where someone crawled into a crawl space and took a dehumidifier without permission.
- At 1:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 near Spruce Street.
- At 1:05 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 near Upper Buttermilk Road.
- At 12:30 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Spruce Street.

July 7
- At 8:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106 near Upper Buttermilk Road.
- At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street near N. 2nd Street.

July 8
- At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 near U.S. 64 east near Spruce Street.
- At 1:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 near Spring Street.

July 13
- At 3:29 p.m., officers received a call about trespassing where someone entering a building, and being asked to leave and never return.
- At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Spruce Street.

July 14
- At 1:20 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street near 3rd Street.
- At noon, officers received a call about vandalism where the back of a building in Highlands Plaza was spray painted blue.

July 15
- At 9 a.m., officers received a call about vandalism to property where a vehicle on Spring Street was scraped end to end with an unknown object.
- At 9 a.m., officers received a call about damage to a vehicle on Spring Street.
- At 3:34 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Wrights Square.
- At 4:44 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Lower Lake Road near Horse Cove Road.
- At 6:50 p.m., Kathryn Georgia Turner, 60, was arrested for DWI at NC 106 and Log Cabin Lane. She was issued an unsecured $2,500 bond. Her trial date is Aug. 22.
- At 2:43 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hickory Hill road near Perquin Road.
- At 2:55 p.m., officers received a report from Farmers Market where someone was trying to use fake ID to purchase a malt beverage.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from June 10.

July 10
- At 6:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street.
- At 11:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.
- At 12:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

July 12
- At 6:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.
- At 12:46 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Paul Walden Way to investigate an odor/smoke.

July 13
- At 12:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.
- At 1:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Poplar Street.
- At 1:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.
- At 8:22 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a resident on Flat Mountain Road.
- At 9:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.
- At 10:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lake vinyl Court.
- At 4:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Magnolia Drive.
- At 6:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.
- At 9:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. 4th Street.

July 15
- At 8:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Lake Road.
- At 8:20 a.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.
- At 11:09 a.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road to investigate an odor/smoke.

July 17
- At 2:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hickory Hill Road.
- At 10:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Church Street.
- At 1:31 p.m., the dept. provided mutual assistance to the Cashiers Fire Department.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 16

How can a people come under conviction when church leaders have removed the need for forgiveness? … if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)

Pray for our church leaders to walk in the calling they once had. The calling to be proclaimers of truth that glorify God rather than the proclaiming a personalized version of a book that has been and is being used to radicalize people into loving, gentle, ambassadors for Christ.
...CIS continued from page 1

To give some perspective to the negative impact of dropping out of school, Johnson quoted the following statistics:

- Over the course of a lifetime, a high school dropout earns, on average, about $260,000 less than a high school graduate.
- Dropouts from the class of 2008 alone will cost the nation more than $319 billion in lost wages over the course of their lifetimes.
- If the country’s likely dropouts from the class of 2006 had graduated, the nation could have saved more than $17 billion in Medicaid and expenditures for uninsured health care over the course of those young people’s lifetimes.
- Increasing the graduation rate and college matriculation of male students in the United States by just 5 percent could lead to combined savings and revenue of almost $8 billion each year by reducing crime-related costs.

Now the good news.

Since its founding in the 1970s, Communities in Schools now serves approximately 1.5 million students annually throughout the country. At the end of the 2014-15 school year, 98% of 12th graders taking part in CIS programs graduated. Of these students, 4% entered the military, 5% enrolled in certification/apprenticeship programs, 13% became part of the workforce and 78% went on to post-secondary education.

In North Carolina, CIS is part of 396 schools in 38 school districts.

Locally, one CIS Student Support Specialist has been embedded at the Blue Ridge School in Cashiers and Smoky Elementary School in Sylva. Both are in Jackson County and both have participated in the program for the past three school years – 2013-2016 -- and signed on for the 2016-'17 school year.

Paying for the program is a collective effort utilizing grants and county and state funding.

CIS implements the ABC plus P model concentrating on Attitude, Behavior, Course Work and Parental involvement. The school team discusses areas of concern and the embedded specialist concentrates on that for the at-risk students.

Director of CIS for the Western NC counties, Nevin Daryani, said his team works directly with administrators and doesn’t interfere with CORE classroom time.

Though the program was initially instigated to lower the high school dropout rate, over the years the model has changed to include elementary schools.

“Of the nearly 400 schools in North Carolina, 225 of them are elementary,” said Daryani. “We are working with students at an earlier age; taking a more proactive approach rather than a reactive one.”

Macon County was involved with the CIS program during the 2013-'14 school year, but when CIS revised its model and scaled back a bit, Jackson County was more ready to implement the new model, said Daryani.

“We are starting up a dialogue with the superintendent of Macon County, but Macon County has very few drop outs. High School graduates have grown from 67% years ago to 82% now.”

Macon County Superintendent Chris Baldwin said he thinks it’s a good program. The two school that were involved in 2013-'14 were Franklin High School and Union Academy.

- CIS was the subject of a presentation made at the Rotary Club of Highlands recently.
...BARTRAM continued from page 1

the native flora.

Previous attempts to map Bartram’s journey from Oconee Mountain in Georgia to Cowee Town show Bartram’s following the Cherokee trail west to Warwoman Creek. But Marshall contends he took a different route that headed north instead of west, crossing the Chattahoochee River at Russell Field. At the time the West Fork of the Chattooga was known as Falling Creek, now familiar as Overflow Creek.

Following the Cherokee trail along Overflow Creek through the corridor of today’s N.C. 28, Bartram took the Clear Creek fork of Overflow. He traced it to its source near the base of the highest peak on the Blue Ridge escarpment, a mountain that impressed him so much that he gave it a name:

“When I began to ascend again, first over swelling turfy ridges, varied with groves of stately forest trees, then ascending again more steep, grassy hill sides, rested on the top of mount Magnolia, which appeared to me to be the highest ridge of the Cherokee mountains….This exalted peak I named Mount Magnolia.”

From his intimate familiarity with the geography of the area, Marshall is persuaded that Mount Magnolia is Satulah Mountain. This is where the waters of the Little Tennessee River separate from the waters of the Savannah River. From the top of Satulah, Bartram described the equivalent of the Highlands Plateau: “I perceived at some distance before me, on my right hand, a level plain supporting a grand high forest and groves.”

Marshall admits that Bartram could have climbed a mountain peak other than Satulah above Overflow Creek, “but none seems to fit his description [of Mount Magnolia] as closely as that of Satulah Mountain.” But he adds, “I, like all historians, reserve the right to change my mind when new material arises form the dusty archives of time.”

Marshall’s contention that Bartram climbed Satulah is supported in the reprint of his article at http://wilsouth.org/bartram-and-the-unparalleled-cascade-of-falling-creek-and-mount-magnolia/

...LEADERS continued from page 1

The group on priorities and projects that have both been completed and are slated to begin before the year’s end.

Franklin Mayor Pat Taylor spoke to his fellow leaders and commended the county for their work as a united community.

“One of the best things that I have seen is how our communities in Franklin and Highlands can come together,” said Taylor. “We had a swim meet recently at our new pool facility and it was our Highlands team against the Franklin team and that place was standing-room only. There were kids warming up in the pool as I was thinking there was no way this was going to work. But after the national anthem, volunteer parents from Highlands and volunteer parents from the Franklin team got into action, had the swimmers get into place and immediately the races began. It was just a great evening. We were outscored by the grab Franklin team, but I just stood back and thought, this is how communities work. We are working together and we have a common goal, and that’s promoting our young people.”

Taylor told the group of the $600,000 project underway to convert the town’s water department from a chlorine-gas department to a bleach system.

“In this year’s budget, we also have had, like all government agencies, some surprises,” said Taylor. “We were informed that a major water tank that we have been operating for several decades was failing, so we have to replace that.”

Touting completed projects that were made possible through a partnership with the county, Taylor noted that the K-H Founder’s Park made for the perfect venue for the annual Fourth of July Celebration in Highlands.

“We appreciate the support that the county commission has provided for that, it has become an important thing,” said Taylor.

Something both Macon County officials and the town of Franklin leaders were interested in was Taylor’s information on how Highlands has established a new department for broadband in the town.

“We are investing in the process by creating Altitude Broadband and we are providing broadband access for all of our citizens in the town,” said Taylor. “We started last year and in this year’s budget we are placing over $700,000 more into it because we see a growing demand there.”

Taylor noted that county residents who live outside of the city limits will also have access to wireless broadband if they can get the signal and he wants to work with MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale to see about legislation that would allow the county to provide similar services in the future.

All three boards touted a growth in sales tax and increase in tourism, showing that as a county, Macon County’s revenues are up so far this year and are expected to exceed last year’s numbers – a positive indicator for the local economy.
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