Re-purposing interior of Rec Park on ‘to do’ list

During the Rec Park portion of Thursday’s retreat, renovations to the stage area upstairs and the lower level workout rooms was discussed and will hopefully make it to the “to do” list for budget year 2016’-17.

The projects have been put on the back burner for a number of years but scheduling classes and having the space to accommodate the many classes now available at the park is becoming increasingly difficult.

Since the stage in the gymnasium is rarely used, the idea is to make it into an aerobics/exercise classroom with men’s and women’s locker rooms.

There is room for a 600 sq. ft. exercise room and 425 ft. for locker rooms which would include two sinks, two toilets and one shower.

Architect Paul Schmitt was on hand to discuss preliminary plans. There will be a 48-inch con-

Skateboard park on Rec Park wish list

Skateboarding is making a comeback and Highlands might be ready to add it to its recreation options.

At Thursday’s retreat – where the board heard from department heads concerning their wish list for the 2016’-17 budget year -- the construction of a skateboard park on the Rec Park’s outdoor basketball court was suggested.

Back in August of 2015, Mayor Pat Taylor brought the idea to the forefront.

“I and the police have had to ask skateboarders to leave Kelsey-Hutchinson Park where they were potentially dam-

County leaders conference in Washington D.C.

The National Association of County officials’ (NACo) annual conference is when county leadership from across the country gather to develop goals and strategies that can help strengthen government on the county level.

County leaders travelled to Washington D.C. last month to participate in the NACo conference and meet with federal representatives on behalf of Macon County.

“In my opinion, the trip to Washington DC to the NACo conference is one of the most important items that we do as a commissioner,” said MC Commissioner Jim Tate. “Part of the art of being successful in politics for Macon County is having the ability to establish relationships

Dotson wins fourth ‘Television News’ emmy

Highlands native Miranda Dotson won her fourth Emmy Award at the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences 30th annual awards gala in Nashville, TN on February 27.

Dotson’s Emmy win was in the Breaking News category – coverage of a catastrophic me-

The daughter of John “Buz” Dotson and Mary Dotson of Highlands, Dotson graduated from Highlands High School in North Carolina in 2015. Since 2011, Dotson has worked as a news producer for WRAL-TV, Raleigh’s NBC af-

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Let me provide an update on last Thursday’s Highlands Town Retreat. I want to thank First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to again meet in Coleman Hall. The presentations by the town staff were, as always, very professional.

The first item was a mid-year financial update by Town Manager, Bob Frye. Annual revenue projections are on track and department lines are within budget. As the fiscal year nears, minor adjustments will be made to balance a few budget lines.

The Town Manager stressed that substantial reserve funds have been spent in the last two years for needed capital projects, although Highlands still has a strong 33% reserve balance. Bob recommends we slow down spending on capital projects and allow the reserves to replenish.

The good news is that no increase in electrical rates is anticipated this year. After the dust of coal ash litigation settles, some form of Duke cleanup surcharges may impact rates the following year. Highlands has not had a water/sewer increase for a number of years. Reserve funds used to maintain our plants and distribution systems are declining. A small adjustment in the rates will be needed this coming or the following year.

The Public Works Department head, Lamar Nix, identified several important projects. A top priority is the conversion of the water plant from treating water with chlorine gas to a less hazardous bleach system. A consultant from W.K. Dixon identified several system options. He stressed postponing a decision, which has occurred for a decade, is no longer an option. The project will cost over $500,000.

Lester Norris of Parks and Recreation gave an update on new recreation programs, such as the year-round swimming pool and ice skating. The financials and pool use are on track to be somewhat better than initial projections. Ice skating this first year has been very popular and revenues to operate the rink are good. He also presented a draft of park policies and rules that will be reviewed and developed further over the next two months.

Architect Paul Schmitt presented drawings and designs for conversion of the stage on the first floor of the Rec Park to an acrobatics room, and the renovation of the lower level area. If both projects are done this coming year, the cost could be between $400,000 to $500,000. The board will make the decision of what recreation projects to fund this new fiscal year while considering all needs on the town priority list.

Finally, Matt Shuler of our new broadband department introduced a consultant from Magellan Broadband. The consultant identified a number of options for moving to the next stages of developing our fiber network. He also emphasized that Highlands is one of about 200 small communities in the country working to provide broadband as an essential utility similar to electricity and water. He will attend an upcoming Town Board meeting to provide an analysis of design options and financial implications. As we move forward in this effort, careful study and judicious decisions must be made.

Satalah Summit should be accessible to all generations

Dear Editor,

Satalah Mountain is my earliest memory in Highlands. Two generations pilled in a car and drove to the end of Worley Road and then walked comfortably through the woods. We came out on the summit where, to our right, the wise old man of Whiteside smiled at us. After hopping down a ledge to our left on to a large outcropping we spread our arms wide and, with the wind in our faces, stood on top of the world looking down on creation.

In the late ‘80s, our two generations grew into three and added a sprightly cocker spaniel. It took a van now to get us all up there. Parents would carry babies in backpacks and grandparents would gently hold small toddler hands as we enjoyed our favorite family outing, with the spaniel as our
Michael F. Little


Mr. Little was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Highlands, NC. He earned his Juris Doctor in 1968 from Tulane University. He was Past President of both the World Trade Center of New Orleans and Cancer Association of Greater New Orleans (CAGNO). Mr. Little was a member of The Pickwick Club and The Tally-Ho Club.

There was a memorial gathering at Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd., New Orleans, LA on Friday, March 4.

Interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in honor of Mr. Little to either CAGNO, 824 Elmwood Blvd., Suite 154, New Orleans, LA 70123 or Milne Developmental Services, 1065 Milne Circle, Covington, LA 70435.

To view and sign the family guestbook, please visit www.lakelawnmetairie.com

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...DOTSON continued from page 1

2004. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Communication at Wake Forest University and a minor in Political Science.

In December 2015, Dotson successfully defended her master's thesis to complete her Master of Arts in Technology and Communication from UNC Chapel Hill's School of Media and Journalism.

Judges considered over 800 entries before announcing the winners at the 30th Annual Midsouth Emmy Awards ceremony at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, TN. In all, WRAL-TV accepted 7 Emmys. WRAL is owned by Capitol Broadcasting Company.

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The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

**Holy Week Schedule**

- **Palm Sunday, March 20**
  - 10:30am in the Nave
- **Monday, March 21**
  - 5:30pm in the Chapel
- **Tuesday, March 22**
  - 5:30pm in the Chapel
- **Wednesday, March 23**
  - 5:30pm in the Chapel
- **Thursday, March 24**
  - 7pm Maundy Thursday
- **Good Friday, March 25**
  - 12 noon Community Stations of the Cross
  - 1:30 Good Friday Liturgy in the Chapel
- **Easter Sunday, March 27**
  - Holy Eucharist Rite II
    - 9am & 11am
    - In the Nave
    - *No Sunday School*
  - Easter Egg Hunt on the Playground after the 11 a.m. service
- **Centering Prayer Monday-Friday at 9am in the Chapel**
...on the Verandah Restaurant on Lake Sequoyah
www.ontheverandah.com
US 64 west • Highlands
Open for Dinner Tuesday thru Saturday
828-526-2338

Cyprus International Cuisine
Open Daily for Lunch 11am - 4pm
Fri. & Sat. for dinner 'til 9pm
Dinner: 7 nights a week 5-10p
For reservations call: 526-4429
Main Street • Highlands
828-526-0020

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DINNER TUE.- SAT. 5 p.m.
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Japanese • Asian • Thai • Hibachi Cuisine
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Fri., & Sat., 11a to 11p
Sun., noon to 10p
CLOSED WEDNESDAY
828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900
We Cater!
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Wild Thyme Gourmet
Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round.
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands

Coffee • Espresso Drinks
Smoothies • Hot Soup
Paninis • Baked Goods
On Main Street • Highlands
7 days a week • 7a to 6p • 526-0020

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Open DAILY for Lunch
11am - 4pm
Fri. & Sat. for dinner ‘til 9p
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595 Franklin Road • Highlands, NC

...REC PARK from page 1
crete ramp to connect the stage with the gym floor with the
mechanicals adapted to the space.
Cost for the project including consultants, drawings, engineering and con-structing monitoring would be
$206,150 and would take about six months to complete.
The lower level, where the weight room, exercise ma-chines and aerobic area is now would be renovated to ac-
commodate and expand the weight and exercise machine
areas. The aerobic area would be eliminated and would
move upstairs to the stage areas.
Rec Park Director Lester Norris said with the extra
space, three machines would be added to the mix – a nau-
tilus and an elliptical machine which are currently in stor-
age and a recumbent machine would be purchased.
The cost to completely upgrade and renovate the
area including the men’s and women’s locker rooms and
bathrooms would be $201,250 and would take about five
months to complete.
Norris said the benefits include making use of wasted
space, giving the 14 exercise classes their own space, sepa-
rating the classes from the cable equipment which sits in
the mechanical room across the exercise room. The stage
Due to town regulations, skateboarders aren't allowed to skate on town streets or sidewalks nor are they allowed to skateboard in K-H Founders Park.

"There has been a resurgence in skateboarding with skateboard parks being built across the country," said Rec Park Director Lester Norris. "And I have found it isn't as big a liability as people think. Participating in cycling, football, baseball and soccer causes more injuries than skateboarding."

Furthermore, Norris said the stigma of skateboarders' cult status has gone away and statistics show "a skateboard park is a place where skaters get together and enjoy the space, the camaraderie and the physical thrill of riding."

Norris said more than 10.5 million people skateboard nationwide now, making it one of the fastest growing sports in North America and Highlands would join the hundreds of municipalities open to the idea.

He said statistics show "when you give your community a safe place to skate, you will realize that skate parks bring more life and attraction to your park, and that the investment was one of the best things you could have done for your community."

Commissioners were open to the idea but said it might have to wait until the 2017-18 budget year since Rec Park building renovations that have been put on the back burner for a few years are at the forefront this budget cycle. Norris is pursuing grants to fund the construction and said that would fall in line with his time-line.

The estimated cost is $100,000 to $125,000 with possible grants from the Tony Hawk Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

Turns out skateboard professional Tommy Hawk may be able to help guide the town in its endeavor – his Foundation favors projects that have strong community involvement, grassroots fundraising, and a base of support from the skaters, parents, law enforcement, and local leaders.

Of course insurance is a big question when it comes to inviting people to participate in an extreme sport on town property.

The range of costs for insuring a skateboard park varies widely depending upon the policies of a town's insurance company and on whether the town chooses to directly operate the skate park.

Mayor Taylor said it's likely all activities on the Rec Park grounds would be covered under the town's broad insurance policy, but these are aspects still under consideration.

– Kim Lewicki
B R E A K F A S T
Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00 am
Cage-free eggs, waffles, french toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

L U N C H & D I N N E R
Grill
Every day from 11:00am - close
Fresh angus burgers, fresh
Natural chicken breasts, fish or chicken tenders, cooked to order, hand-cut fries, salads, homemade soups, daily specials.
See our website for more info.

Pizza
Every day from 11:00am - close
Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta bowls, daily specials and weekend dinner specials.
See our website for more info.

Soup & Salad Bar
Mon-Sat 11:00am - close
Fresh salads, homemade dressings, soups, chili and more.
$9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

Weekday Lunch Special
Monday – Friday 11am to 2pm
Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar
Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our bakery, plus the entire soup and salad bar...
$9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR
Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
$11.99 (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS
A large selection of take-away items fully prepared, ready to take home including grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb-rubbed chicken, made-in-house bbq, chicken salad deli salads & much more!

DINNER TO GO
A different full dinner every night.
Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out – Call ahead to reserve.

Monday: choose either:
Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.
Or...
24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
$20.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
$20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
$20.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
$20.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw.
$23.95 serves four

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls.
$20.95 serves four

Weeknight Pizza Special:
Monday through Thursday 4:30 to close
16 inch New York style pizza with up to 5 toppings or baked pasta with either italian sausage or chicken. Both come with garlic bread and salad.
Serves four for $20.95

W I N E  M A R K E T
Browse our Wine Spectator award-winning selection of wines w/ the best pricing in town. Run by a friendly & knowledgeable staff. Beer & wine available by the glass while you dine & shop.

B U T C H E R
We sell only 100% premium angus beef, hand-cut in house. Stock up for the weekend on Angus Thursday with deep discounts on all of our steaks and ground beef every Thursday. Then stop by the take-out case to complete your dinner with twice baked potatoes, fresh salads and more!

S P E C I A L T Y  C H E E S E S
Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items to choose from including our made in-house crackers.

B A K E R Y
Fresh loaves, baguettes, pastries, pies, layer and specialty cakes. Everything made from scratch.

Corner of Fifth & Main, Highlands NC • (828) 526-2400 • Visit us online at www.mfgro.com
...REC PARK continued from page 4

room will add another multi-use space when needed, minimize sound disruptions from music which is often played during the exercise classes and frees up much needed room in the Nautilus and free weight room.

No decisions were made concerning funding. Town Manager Bob Frye said that across the board not everything can be funded this year.

“During 2014-’15 we used our fund balance for capital projects, but that’s what it is for. Our fund balance is at 38% but it enabled us to do the things we did. It has been as high as 48%. But we can’t continue to rely on the fund balance to fund everything because we will eventually run out of money.”

Ice Skating Rink

Even though Art and Angela Williams of Old Edwards Hospitality Group are footing the bill for the ice rink operations for five years, figures show that including one-time expenses and consumables, the ice rink netted $10,000 the short time it was open.

“We had anywhere from 80 people a day to one day when we had 240 people,” said Rec Park Director Norris.

The rink is closed now and will be dismantled once the ice completely melts.

Town Manager Frye said areas of the plaza under the rink have to be repaired and when the temperature is over 45 degrees it’s hard to keep the ice frozen.

He said the plan is to have the rink open Thanksgiving weekend through Feb. 14 next year.

“All and all, the ice rink did really well,” said Norris.

Pool

Likewise business at the Rec Park pool has been better than expected considering it opened later than planned.

“We were concerned about heating in the winter and budgeted $50,000 but it turns out the pool is like a big green house so it’s only cost $22,000 to heat it,” said Frye.

“It has been used more than we thought it would be, not as much as we would like, but still good,” said Norris.

Besides Rec Park improvements, commissioners must consider capital outlay expenses requested in the Public Works Department which includes wall repair projects, paving, water system projects, sewer system projects and the water plant gas treatment replacement project.

General Fund revenues are down but so are expenditures. Expenditures in 2014-’15 were $7.1 million and so far for 2015-’16 they are only $3,745,762.

“All and all, the ice rink did really well,” said Norris.

Happily the electric rates are holding steady and a rate hike isn’t planned for the upcoming budget year.

— Kim Lewicki
**Highlands Area Events**

**Upcoming Choral Workshop and Concert**

On Saturday, May 7, Highlands First Presbyterian Church’s Chancel Choir will host a Choral Workshop which will be open to all interested singers in the area. Participants will perform in a concert for the public at 7pm that evening in the church’s sanctuary. The event will be facilitated by Master British Composer/Conductor Philip WJ. Stopford, a close friend of First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir member Nan Hunter. Through her generosity, Nan is making this event possible.

In addition to being a highly acclaimed composer of choral music, Mr. Stopford is also an accomplished organist, conductor, and choral trainer. He has recently accepted a position as Director of Music at Christ Church in Bronxville, NY, and just relocated there from his home in Chester, England.

The Choral Workshop will take place in First Presbyterian Church’s sanctuary as follows:

- 10:30-11:30am - **1st Rehearsal Session**
- 2:45-3:15pm - Break/brown bag snack brought by singer
- 3:15-5:30pm - **2nd Rehearsal Session**
- 5:30pm - **Light Dinner** served in Coleman Hall at a cost of $5
- 7pm - **Concert**

Attire for the concert will be all black for ladies: long black dresses, long skirts/tops, or dress slacks/tops; Men: black trousers, long white dress shirts, long dark neck ties, preferably black.

If you plan to participate in this event or if you would like more details, please call Nan Hunter at 828-526-1881 or 828-200-3101. Rehearsal time will be limited, so to the extent they can, participants should become as familiar as possible with the music before our big day.

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

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**Winter Pool Schedule**

Through May 26, 2016

LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY

- Monday thru Friday 7 – 10 am, 6 lanes
- AND Monday thru Thursday 5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water aerobics @ 5:15 on

- Mondays, Tuesdays, and
- Thursdays

**PUBLIC SWIM**

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4 pm – 5 pm
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6 – 8 pm
- Saturday 11 am – 6 pm
- Sunday 1 – 5 pm

**WATER AEROBICS**

- Monday-Friday 10:15 am
- Monday - Thursday 5:15 am

(Sharing pool for public swim)

- Saturday 11:15 am

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Fee: $4 per class or $30 for 12 classes

**POOL PARTIES**

Pool available on

- Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays 6 – 8 pm

Fee: $75 / $50 deposit required

$50 non-refundable deposit if party is cancelled or a no show less than 2 days before

1st Wednesday of the month—

KAYAK CLINIC

2nd Wednesday of the month—

YOUTH NIGHT

3rd Wednesday of the month—

WATER VOLLEYBALL

4th Wednesday of the month—

SENIOR NIGHT

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

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**Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team** is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

- Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department.

**Last Sundays**

- At the Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at 3pm. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

Highlands Area Events

9am Yoga For Dummies at 9 a.m. Fun, Judgement Free Zone, All Levels and All Ages! 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

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

Thur., March 10
- The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. Sherrie Peeler, Family and Consumer Science Agent with the Jackson County Extension Center will speak on Radon and its connection with Lung Cancer in our area. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

- The March meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club, Inc. will be on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School in Glenville, NC. The School is located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers NC. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Glenville the second Thursday of every month March through November.

Fri.-Sun., March 11-13
- At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents a Dinner Theatre, with four one-act plays, Fridays and Saturdays at 6:15 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Sat., March 12
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7-mile moderate hike, elevation change 950 ft., on the Ridge Trail to Dyke Gap in the Cowee-ta Hydrological Lab area, returning to Shope Creek Rd. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:00 am, drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Mon., March 14
- The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on March 14, 2016, in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please contact 828-524-2673.

Tues., March 15
- Highlands School kindergarten registration at 10 a.m.
- Yoga Highlands offers Nourishing Our Children: Food and Behavior and the Connection to True Health. We welcome parents, teachers, and anyone wanting to know more. Tuesday, at 5:30 pm, 464 Carolina Way, 828-526-8880 for more info. FREE

Sat., March 16
- At PAC, The Met Live in HD at 12:45 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Thurs., March 17
- The Walking of a Labyrinth at 5:30p at the Incarnation Episcopal Church. This is an ancient form meditating and /or praying in the church. The Cathedral in Chartes, France has a labyrinth in mosaic as the floor of the sanctuary. We are very lucky to have a visiting labyrinth available to us. Please come join us for a time of soft music, special lighting and peace. This is a practice for all seeking a time of introspection and meditation. All welcome.

HCP’s March Medley 4 one-act plays and dinner opens Friday!

David Spivey and Virginia Talbot play a couple receiving strange fortune cookies in a Chinese restaurant; the scene occurs in the Highlands Cashiers Players’ dinner theater, “March Medley,” featuring four short plays and a four course meal March 11-13 and 18-20 at Highlands Performing Arts Center. For tickets and more information, call 526-8084. Leave your name and number for a call back if phone is untended or busy at the time you call.
**Obituary**

By Pastor Dan Robinson  
Highlands Central Baptist Church

I’ve written my obituary. The answer is no, no, I don’t have any premonition of nor wish for death. But as someone has said: The statistics for death are impressive. One out of every one persons dies.

My obituary doesn’t contain any of the information found in most obituaries. Conspicuous by their absence are any references to where I’ve been, what I’ve done, schools attended, degrees earned, awards received, etc. Those things are already known to those to whom they matter.

My obituary includes only three or four typed lines. Those lines will be sufficient to communicate what my life’s been about.

Lest you think I’m trafficking in morbidity, the truth is that you also have been and are writing your own obituary as well. However, there’s a critical difference in all obituaries – a dividing line, if you will. It is this: On the one hand an obituary deals solely with the life that’s been lived. This typifies most obituaries. On the other hand an obituary deals with the life that has been lived in preparation for the continuing life.

The Bible never speaks of death in terms of cessation, only separation. A person who dies doesn’t cease. They’re only separated from this life. The Bible goes on to teach that our ongoing lives are either in the presence of Jesus Christ in Heaven or separated from it in the presence of hell. Both a wonderful and terrible truth – all in one sentence.

Easter is a little more than two weeks away. For Jesus – a torturous cross and a miraculous resurrection.

The Savior of the world came and lived, died and then resurrected for you! He wants you in heaven with Him forever. To be sure, unless Jesus returns soon we will all die a physical death. But it’s not the end. It’s only the doorway to resurrection.

I hope you will turn to Him in this Easter season. I hope you will come to know Him increasingly and passionately. He has forever conquered death, hell and the grave.

Every obituary CAN read differently because of Jesus Christ. For eternity’s sake, I hope yours will.

...LETTER continued from page 2

line leader.

We added handfuls of photographs as we shared Satulah with friends who came to visit. Satulah became the traditional Thanksgiving hike we shared with extended family and a quiet New Year’s stroll. Our cocker spaniel felt like a mastiff up there.

Our three generations will soon turn into four but things have changed up on Worley Road. We are no longer welcome to park at the end of Worley Road and load babies in backpacks. My parents, physically hampered, will not hold their great grandson’s hand as we walk comfortably to see the wise old man of Whiteside, nor teach about the unique flora there, nor will they be with us when we spread the ashes of our beloved cocker spaniel. For what reason are the youngest and the oldest of us being restricted from The Sea of Views?

The first home we purchased in Highlands was bordered on two sides by Land Trust land. We understood
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...with all levels of government. Our Federal government is a tremendous portion of that due to the quantity of land that it owns in Macon County and the massive Federal funds that flow through our local government to benefit our citizens. It is difficult to describe the importance of having and maintaining a first name relationship with our senators and congressmen, especially when we need something for Macon County that our Federal government controls.”

Tate, along with Commission Chair Kevin Corbin, Commissioner Ronnie Beale, and County Manager Derek Roland spent the week in Washington D.C. in late February, joining more than 1,600 county leaders from across the United States.

A contingent of almost 150 county officials from North Carolina attended the conference and worked with their counterparts from across the nation to emphasize to Congress and the White House that federal policies matter to county government and county government matters to America.

In meetings with lawmakers and Administration officials, county leaders outlined several key federal policy priorities including:
- Protecting municipal bonds
- Supporting marketplace fairness
- Supporting the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs
- Achieving mental health and criminal justice reform, and
- Preserving county interests in the “Waters of the U.S.” rule and other federal regulations that impact counties.

Many congressional and Administration leaders spoke at the conference, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Sen. John McCain, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Acting Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr., Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Jerry Abramson, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Michael Botticelli and Director of the National Science Foundation Dr. France Córdova.

There were more than two dozen educational workshops focused on topics like workforce and economic development; transportation and infrastructure; public health and safety; mental health and jails; and cybersecurity and technology.

While at the conference, Corbin, Tate, Beale and Roland attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) annual Congressional Breakfast. Both of the state’s senators and seven of the 13 members of the House of Representatives participated in the breakfast. Many delegates pledged to work with counties on many of the 11 federal priorities adopted by the NCACC Board of Directors for 2015-16.

“It was very nice to have an opportunity to sit down and have breakfast with our national representatives and senators.” said Roland. “It gave us an opportunity...”

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Feb. 24

Feb. 24
- At 1:10 a.m., Edward Madison Minus, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI, driving without a license and driving with an open container. He was issued at $1,000 unsecured bond. His court date was March 9. His vehicle was impounded at the Highlands Police Dept.

Feb. 25
- At 5 p.m., officers received a call for service regarding the welfare of a 4-year-old.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Feb. 20

Feb. 20
- At 10:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.
- At 5:49 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke at Edwards Creek Road.
- At 11:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falling Water Drive.

Feb. 23
- At 12:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Cullasaja Club Drive.

\*See COUNTY page 13\*
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“Everyone has to invent his/her own thing.”
~ Karl Lagerfeld

As I write this, we are coming to the end of the series of Fashion Weeks in New York, London, Milan, and Paris. Designers have brought their best, wowing “A-List” crowds, fashion editors, and street style fans across the world.

As is the case every season, there are a number of new trends and fashion-forward styles captivating the imaginations of those who live and breathe fashion. Some runway designs will be modified for everyday wear, while some bold souls will don the outlandish and will confidently strut their stuff.

Regardless of where one falls on the fashion continuum, each of us expresses ourselves via our clothes, whether one is in a track suit, a Dior dress, or pair of jeans and a tee shirt. One makes dozens of fashion choices each week; those choices comprise our expression of style to the world.

Similarly, our homes offer an array of style and design choices and reflect our tastes – our deepest reflections of whom we are and what we value. I thought it would be fun to have a look at what is trending now in real estate style and share some of the top interior design trends for 2016.

1. Geometric Patterns.
   While we have been heading in this direction for some time now, there seems to be an even stronger push toward very bold pattern choices. We are seeing bold, geometric patterns in everything from back-splashes, wallpaper designs, and flooring. These patterns feel very modern, contemporary, funky, and fun.

   This was a surprise! Gold and metallic finishes are very popular once more (didn’t we just renovate our fixtures and remove all things brass?). This Midcentury Modern trend is bringing the ’50s and ’70s back to interiors this season.

3. Blurring the Line between Inside and Outside.
   This is one trend I can solidly support – especially here in the mountains. The idea is to beautify your interiors with lots of greenery, update your landscaping for maximum outdoor living, and transform porches and decks into highly-designed spaces with luxurious furnishings and decorative accessories.

   From baskets to pillows and from rugs to lamps, the trend now is to source local, handmade items to jazz up what might have been a more “mass-produced” feel inside the home. Designers are suggesting that homeowners seek out the unusual – the unique – for interiors, as well as make strong pairing choices with different textiles, materials, and patterns.

5. Blue.
   Blue is the new black! According to experts, blue will be the most popular accent color this year, and we will begin seeing indigo blue and navy pops of color in throws, pillows, draperies, and decorative accessories.

As I did my research, all I could think of was the prevailing attitude among real estate agents when it comes to interior palette choices (when one is putting a house on the market to sell).

The common refrain is to go neutral, neutral, neutral for interiors. And I totally understand the advice: you want the Seller’s home to appeal to the masses, and you don’t want design choices to distract a potential Buyer from falling in love with the house. Agreed!

However, another part of me says, “Go WILD!” Make your home a complete reflection of your style and tastes. Let us see your fun and funky self! Follow trends or not, but live out loud and fully be YOU. Follow Lagerfeld’s advice and invent your own thing.

• 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.

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to hear about issues not only facing Western North Carolina, but across the state as well. While issues such as PILT funding are mainly focused toward Western North Carolina, issues such as mental health and criminal justice reform are statewide. It was reassuring county representatives on both sides of the aisle as well as each of our senators stress the importance of working together to find effective solutions to these issues.”

Macon leaders were able to meet with Senator Thom Tillis, Senator Richard Burr and Congressman Mark Meadows on issues that directly impact Macon County.

“Without a doubt, Macon County Commissioners are some of the most active commissioners in the nation,” said Congressman Meadows. “In terms of working on the federal level for issues directly facing their county, Macon commissioners work harder and do more than most county leaders in the country.”

Rep. Meadows noted that just as it is important for him to have a presence in District 11 to best understand his constituents, opportunities like the NACo conference is important for county leaders to better understand how the federal government operates.

“Once you sit down and talk with someone face to face, it takes the politics out of it and it’s no longer Democratic or Republican, it becomes about the person or issue,” said Congressman Meadows. “Being able to do that puts people first, not politics or party, and that’s when we are able to get things done.”
HELP WANTED

POTPOURRI STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for part to full time sales people. Must be able to work weekends, retail experience with women’s clothing and accessories preferred. Eyewear sales experience a plus. Stop by Potpourri 2 to apply or email your resume to potpournighlands@yahoo.com. (st. 3/10)

OPTICIAN WANTED. Part or full time position open for a NC licensed dispensing optician at Potpourri Eyewear of Highlands. Send resume to potpournighlands@yahoo.com. (st. 3/10)

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Mountain Fresh Grocery, Grill, Deli, Bakery and Pizza departments. 828-526-2400 or email jobs828@gmail.com

GOLF DRIVING RANGE MANAGER. I am looking for someone with energy, who loves people and the game of golf, meticulous attention to detail, love for the outdoors and the creativity and desire to make this the best job! Sound like you? Call Brian (828) 787-2778. (3/17)

WHOLE LIFE MARKET AND NECTAR JUICE BAR now accepting applications for the 2016 season. Stop by Whole Life Market to apply. 828-526-5999

FINE DINING RESTAURANT IN HIGHLANDS looking for experienced line cook, March through November. Please email resume to lakesiderestaurant@frontiernet.com. (st. 2/4)

POSITIONS OPEN AT CHESTNUT HILL RETIREMENT CENTER for C.N.A., MedAide, LPN, Transportation and waitstaff. Apply at 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251. (st. 1/28)

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff and bartender. Please call Jacques at 828 526 3807. (st. 1/21)

THE HIGHLANDS BBQ CO. Is seeking Servers, Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, please call 828-200-1500 or send a Resume to HighlandsBBQCompany@gmail.com. (st. 7/2)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC full time “with benefits, part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928. (st. 4/30)

HOUSING NEEDED

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRAINER needs housing Feb.-May. Has dogs. Please call Athletic Director Brett Lamb at 828-526-2147 ext. 306.

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

LOT 10 MINUTES FROM DOWN-TOWN HIGHLANDS. 2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and MeadowViews between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is $89,410., Quick Sale at $49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)

WOODED LOT/STREAM FOR SALE – MIRRORMONT AREA. Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town, Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

ACRE LOT HIGHLANDS, NC Corner Lot Highlands Glen, level with some gentle slopes excavation and foundation expenses would be reasonable, underground power installed. Stream runs year round could be configured to make a small pond, good water sources for well. Space for outbuildings or RV, boat storage. 6 Miles to downtown. $27,000 possible owner financing 828-507-2066 (st. 7/2)

COMMERCIAL FOR LEASE

LAST ONE LEFT! – 1,200 sq. ft. on corner of 4th and Main, Great location. For information contact Jim Bryson at 828-226-2911. (st. 3/10)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

GREAT, 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT on Main Street, Highlands. Central Heat/AC, W/D, full kitchen, unfurnished. No smoking/no pets. Call John Dotson (828) 526-5587 (st. 2/18)

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

28/R. 2 BA CHALET WITH LOFT AND LARGE SCENIC DECK. Neat, clean and ready to move in. Elderly, long-time owner must sell before Spring season. Selling as is and fully furnished. Priced below appraisal. March price $139K but price will be reduced $3,000/month through the end of April. Call owner at 770-393-4597 (Atlanta) (st. 3/10)

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HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 10/29)

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...LETTER continued from page 10

when we signed the contracts that we would likely see walkers and cars from time to time. We never saw our property or the Land Trust property treated disrespectfully. Hearing small voices interacting with deeper voices meant there was a family bonding in nature. People that come to Highlands are most appreciative and respectful of God’s creation.

Access to Satulah Mountain is mired in legalities at the moment because of a debate over public vs. private roads, old deeds and questions of intent. When the 32 acres on the summit was purchased in 1909 the land was dedicated as a public park for public use in perpetuity. John Muir once said “When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

Satulah Mountain is not only attached to the people of Highlands and its visitors, but also to common goodness and the common good. Muir said, “Society speaks and all men listen, mountains speak and wise men listen.” So let’s be wise and listen to the mountain – let’s set aside our personal agendas and find a way for people of ALL ages to continue enjoying comfortable access to spectacular Satulah Mountain.

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