Wild things amongst us

Bears abound in yards and on public streets. Bobcats and deer, too, often appear on the periphery of wooded spaces and in back yards. But it’s not too often a deer is seen scampering across a street in town. Around 10 a.m. Monday Morris Williams snapped this youngster bounding across Fifth Street in front of the Catholic Church on his way to better pastures behind the condos next to Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals.

Meadows says taking down ACA for AHCA is first step

After months of negotiations, Congressman Mark Meadows and members of the House of Representatives voted to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) last week. The new plan, known as the American Health Care Act (AHCA), will now head to the Senate and is vastly different from the ACA.

Congressman Meadows, chair of the Freedom Caucus, was instrumental in the final draft of the AHCA, and noted while there is still work to be done, the House passing the legislation is a good first step.

“This process has never been about getting a win for Republicans or a win for the Freedom Caucus — it’s been about getting

Students elect ‘Fan of the Year’

Highlands School math teacher Gina Billingsley was once again named “Fan of the Year” at the annual High School Athletic Banquet Monday evening at the Rec Park. With her is Highlands School Athletic Director Brett Lamb. Each year the student body selects the “Fan” based on his or her participation and enthusiasm for Highlands School and in this case its athletic program.

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What to do ... what to do?

Last Thursday's budget workshop reminded me that a town can spend a million dollars in an instant. And I don’t mean on frivolous things, but on essentials. In this case, one is an essential project that we have known was coming, and another one that popped up within the last 18 months.

The replacement of the Buckhorn water tank on Saturday Mountain was the item that popped up by surprise. This concrete structure was built in the mid-70s. Our water department folks believed it had another decade or so of service. But during a routine service about 20 months ago, and a follow-up analysis, it was revealed that the concrete was failing and the tank had to be replaced as soon as possible. The town has earmarked $596,000 from this coming budget to replace the tank. This essential project could not be kicked down the road for another year.

This year a waterline serving residents in the Old Orchard Subdivision area will also need to be replaced. The existing two-inch galvanized waterline was installed about 50 years ago when the Town Board was permitting water service beyond town limits. The waterline is owned by the town. It has been known for several years that corrosion buildup inside the metal pipe was reducing the flow of water to residents. With high usage last summer, our staff feared some folks would at some time be out of water. Discussion at the workshop helped the board realize this was one of those essential projects that could not be postponed without potential serious consequences. It will cost about $350,000 to replace the waterline.

So, add these two projects together and the figure is just under a million dollars. The bids for the projects could be under, or maybe more.

This afternoon the next budget workshop will begin at 3 pm at the Highlands Community Center. The board and staff will continue discussions about what are essential and not so essential items for the forthcoming budget.

One area I anticipate more review is whether to complete the Recreation Department renovations. For the past several years there have been ongoing capital improvements made in recreation. Three more phases remain, conversion of the gym stage to an aerobics room, renovation of the weight and exercise rooms of the lower level, and a makeover of the halls and front entrance. The big question to be decided is how many of the projects to fund for this coming year. To do all the projects would be around $700,000.

The big “elephant in the room” is how to proceed with developing a broadband fiber network. Impending state legislation has changed our original strategy for funding and developing this system. An RFI (request for information) is being sent to private providers access to the town’s broadband network. That arrangement as per the BRIGHT Act would have been exclusive for the provider in the public/private partnership with the town – guaranteeing a return.

Then House Bill 129 comes along, which says the public/private system promoted by the BRIGHT Act can’t be a “closed” system – one with exclusivity but rather must be a “open” allowing all providers access to the town’s broadband highway.

So rather than requesting a RFP, which tends to be binding in nature, the town has distributed a Request for Information (RFI) which doesn’t commit either

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**Mayor on Duty**

Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

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**Letters**

Stop trashing Trump!

Dear Editor,

What a “darling” newspaper filled with great local ads and events. Who doesn’t love the Highlands area?

I never write or call to complain to TV stations, etc., but the dominant theme (and so negative) was the continual blasting of Trump and anything he is trying to do as President. Maybe I haven’t read enough to know if you blasted Obama for his spending billions on the computer program for health care or the endless trips (i.e., two air force ones taken to Los Angeles on the same day because Michelle didn’t want to wait two hours while Barack made a quick stop in AZ enroute back to Washington that night) that, or the shovel-ready jobs that never happened but spent hundreds of millions. Did you talk about the $18 trillion of debt incurred during the eight years in office? Probably not.

Don’t you see the dilemma? Half the people who read your paper might high-five you next time they see you and the other half are ticked that you have used the local newspaper to air your personal views/slants but yet you wouldn’t expose anything negative that a democrat did for eight years. The bottom line is it drops your readership by 50% as the country is divided.

Last night I watched the local TV newscast and they talked about what Trump was doing or saying. I never write or call to complain to TV stations, etc., but the dominant theme (and so negative) was the continual blasting of Trump and anything he is trying to do as President.

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**Weekend Weather**

For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather
Walter Anthony (Tony) Taylor

Walter Anthony (Tony) Taylor born June 19, 1963 passed away peacefully in the presence of his brother and best friend on Sunday, April 23.

He grew up in Highlands NC and was a resident of Highlands and Boulder, Colorado. He spent much of his life traveling and living in various towns across the US because he loved new places and different cultures. He loved extreme skiing, whitewater kayaking, rock climbing and other sports that took you to the edge of your ability. He was employed over the years as a ski instructor, whitewater river guide, farm hand and chef. All were jobs which he loved and that gave him the flexibility to travel. He was preceded in death by his father Jack Taylor. He leaves behind his mother Erika Taylor, brother Derek Taylor and his beloved niece Nicole. He also leaves behind his love of many years Carrie. Tony was fiercely independent, talented, and intelligent and defended his ideas and values with passion. Tony burned brightly and will be missed by everyone who knew him.

A celebration of Tony’s life will be held Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 2 pm at Highlands Baptist Church, 215 Main Street, Highlands, NC. The family will receive friends Saturday from 1 – 2 pm prior to the service at the church

Donations to the Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Home may be made in lieu of flowers or other gifts.

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

David Williams, Jr.

David Williams, Jr. of Spring Hill, FL, Highlands, NC, and Fairfax, VA went to be with our Lord on April 29, 2017. David was born November 21, 1932 to the late David Williams, Sr. and Catharine Fentress Williams of Fairfax, VA.

David was a hard worker, was a true believer and lived by his faith. Those who knew David loved him. He had a big heart and a kind soul. He is at perfect peace now with his mind and soul at rest with Jesus.

David never met a stranger. The years David spent in Highlands, NC he took a walk almost every day and made great efforts to meet and visit local folks, shop owners and anyone else who may be walking down the street on a given day.

David and wife, Eloise were members of Highlands First Baptist Church, Highlands, NC and Faith Baptist Church, Spring Hill, FL. He and Eloise were fund raisers for the Missionaries Outreach for Asia Nationals. David also taught a large Sunday school class at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Fairfax, VA. David served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

David is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Eloise Bonds Williams. Survivors also include his children, Lynn Williams Kimball, Leah Williams Nichols, Robin Williams Shufelt, Judy Rapp and Michael Bonds. Children who predeceased David were a son, David Williams, III and daughter, Susan Williams McMillion. Included in David’s family are numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family gathered to celebrate David’s life on Tuesday, May 2nd in Spring Hill, FL.

Raymond Oneal Baker

Raymond Oneal Baker, 60, of Otto passed away Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Born in Jackson County, Georgia he was the son of the late James and Icie Rogers Baker.

He was owner of Raymond’s Lawn and Tree Service. He loved music and played guitar and bass bucket in several bands; he enjoyed fishing and loved to watch his grandsons play ball. He was president of Otto Social Club and was known as the mayor of Otto, NC. He attended Prentiss Church of God. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren.

See OBITUARIES page 8
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AHCA continued from page 1

a win for the countless Americans who are being crushed by the broken system of Obamacare. This is a victory for them,” said Congressman Meadows. “From the earliest stages of the discussion, I’ve stated that my goals were to 1) bring down premiums for Americans, and 2) protect those with pre-existing conditions. After weeks of negotiations, conversations, and substantive changes to the bill, I believe we reached the point where both of these criteria will be sufficiently met. I believe the revised AHCA will substantially reduce healthcare premiums and provide a strong net of protection for the most vulnerable Americans.”

The AHCA passed with 217 Republican votes. Every Democrat in the United States House voted against the measure as did 21 Republicans.

One of the most significant changes in the AHCA is the elimination of the requirement that all Americans buy health insurance. Other changes include ending the federal subsidies that reduced health insurance premiums for people purchasing plans through the Obamacare health insurance marketplaces, and it gets rid of the federal cost-sharing payments that low-income Americans used to help pay for healthcare that insurance didn’t cover, such as co-pays.

By separating itself from the Affordable Care Act, the AHCA says people can lower the cost of the health insurance plans they purchase on the open market. The amount of the tax credits depends on age, but ranges between $2,000 and $4,000 per person, with a cap of $14,000 per family. These tax credits begin phasing out at $75,000 in modified adjusted gross income for singles and $150,000 in modified adjusted gross income for households.

A point of concern with the public, is a provision in the AHCA that allows states to apply for a waiver to provide coverage for specific health benefits, such as pre-existing conditions. The bill includes the MacArthur-Meadows amendment, which addresses state waivers concerning pre-existing conditions.

States would be able to waive Affordable Care Act rules on preexisting conditions only for people who do not maintain insurance coverage. If you are someone with one of those conditions who has gotten coverage through the ACA (or otherwise gotten coverage), the ACA regulations will still apply: In no state will it be possible for an insurance company to charge you more than a person without such a condition.

The AHCA does roll back Medicaid expansion, which has been touted as a multi-billion cut to the program. Current Medicaid funding is based on an open-ended matching system whereby the federal government guarantees at least $1 for every $1 spent by the state. The ACHA limited the expansion of Medicaid currently being offered, which means fewer people will qualify for Medicaid assistance. The program will have a cap, rather than open enrollment.

Based on the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis of the AHCA, 24 million more Americans will be uninsured by 2026 based on the proposed bill.

The CBO also estimates that enacting the legislation would reduce federal deficits by $337 billion over the 2017-2026 period. That total consists of $323 billion in on-budget savings and $13 billion in off-budget savings. Outlays would be reduced by $1.2 trillion over the period, and revenues would be reduced by $0.9 trillion.

The largest savings would come from reductions in outlays for Medicaid and from the elimination of the ACA’s subsidies for nongroup health insurance. The largest costs would come from repealing many of the changes the ACA made to the Internal Revenue Code — including an increase in the Hospital Insurance payroll tax rate for high-income taxpayers, a surtax on those taxpayers’ net investment income, and annual fees imposed on health insurers — and from the establishment of a new tax credit for health insurance.

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply because enacting the legislation would affect direct spending and revenues. CBO and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimate that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than $5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

The ACHA will likely change considerably before heading to President Trump’s desk for his signature. The Senate has to review, revise, and debate the current provisions before considering a vote.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>12-OUNCE RIBEYE</td>
<td>23.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 OUNCE NY STRIP</td>
<td>18.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-OUNCE FILET</td>
<td>24.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST LOUIS RACK OF RIBS</td>
<td>21.99</td>
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<td>GRILLED WILD CAUGHT SALMON</td>
<td>18.99</td>
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<td>8 JUMBO BROILED SHRIMP</td>
<td>18.99</td>
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...BROADBAND continued from page 2

game, under the current and proposed legislation, the town would have to build out its infrastructure – in this case fiber – and take its chances on a profitable return.

Now the numbers.

It will take 18 months to build out the town's fiber infrastructure so 83% of the town – homes and businesses – will have access and would cost $2.5 to $3 million. That would mean taking out a 10-year loan likely from BB&T that offered the best terms at 2.75% interest rate. The annual payment would be $286,236. Taxpayers would foot the bill with either a .02 tax hike which would bring in $341,291 a year or a .017 tax hike which would bring in $255,968 a year.

Commissioners agreed that one of the stipulations with the providers would be that service would only be offered to citizens – town of Highlands taxpayers.

MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler said the town had two goals when it got into the broadband business – to have great bandwidth and have better customer service.

“If we build the fiber, providers at least have the opportunity to offer great bandwidth – at our expense – but this would make the system ‘market driven,’” said Shuler. “We do to the access point at the street level and they would own the drops to the homes and businesses. If customers aren’t satisfied with customer service, they could call us and ask us to disconnect that provider and we would hook them up to another.”

Shuler said the town can’t get another provider here, but maybe that’s not what is needed.

“We have providers who have invested in Highlands, why not use those providers and by using us as the conduit make them better providers than they already are,” said Shuler. “And instead of trying to get on congested poles, they could actually start deconstructing – taking wires off the poles.”

But commissioners are wary.

“I don’t want to build it and then no one come because it’s not exclusive anymore,” said Commissioner Amy Patterson. “The rules have changed. We have such a small population and now we have to split that up due to the ‘open’ access stipulation.”

Mayor Pat Taylor said the town would have to figure out how to pay for all this, too. Town Manager Josh Ward said the tax increase would cover the loan payments and doing away with the Altitude Broadband department would save $300,000 in operations.

“Lease money would be used to fund our fiber maintenance crew and there wouldn’t be any capital costs,” he said.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway voiced hesitation.

“This is a hellacious cost with a lot of unknowns and I’m at that point where I don’t know. Do we continue or bail and take our losses and go on? I am at a loss right now,” he said. “I know the future is important but we have to be careful not to overextend ourselves $3 million.”

Commissioner John Dotson agreed.

“I was 100% behind this thing until the most recent information on this and now I’m about 180 degrees. We need this RFI to know where we’re going and if there are any loopholes,” he said. “This isn’t the ‘Field of Dreams’ we don’t want to build this thing and hope they are going to come. If they aren’t going to come we’re done, I’m done. And if there isn’t a 90% possibility they are going to come, I’m done.”

Grandfathering is another issue.

“We were moving forward based on one set of rules, now they changed the rules. At what point are we grandfathered?” he asked. “It seems like we ought to be because we are providing the service now. All we want to do is expand it. We set it up in that timeframe within which we were allowed to set it up. If we had known this was coming, we would never have gone there.”

Commissioner Patterson also wants assurances that the providers do what they promise and that the town can set guidelines.

“For instance, we have a signed contract with Verizon but no timeline,” she said. “It’s could be the same with the other providers. We would be depending on them to put the “last mile” in which is the drop to the home. We need to know it will be done or we are no better off than we are right now, except we subsidized their business. Our goal isn’t to supply providers with a hub; our goal is to upgrade the internet to the home.”

This and other budget issues will be discussed and possibly decided at the second budget workshop meeting this afternoon at the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki

...OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Survivors include his wife of over 42 years, Aletha Baker; daughter, Alecia Baker McConnell (Jason) of Franklin; son, Rex O'Neal Baker (Lynn) of Franklin; grandchildren, Gavin McConnell, Gunner McConnell and Garrett McConnell; two brothers, Vaughn Baker and Mitchell Baker both of Toccoa, GA and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Randy “Hub” Baker.

A funeral service was held Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Prentiss Church of God with Rev. Don Moffitt, Rev. Tim Hayes and Rev. Kevin Chapman officiating. Burial followed at Tessentee Church of God Cemetery.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home served the Baker family, Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.
Breakfast
Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00am
Cage free eggs, waffles, French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

Lunch
Grill – every day of the week starting at 11:00 until close
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli – Serving all day
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Wood Fire Pizza Oven –
Every day from 11:00 to close
Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage, pancetta, and daily specials.

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.
$12.95 (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

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

Dinners To Go
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Monday – Low Country Lobster / Shrimp Boil – Maine lobster tails, wild caught large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer corn, house made sausage, all steeped in our seasoning. Served with drawn butter and cocktail sauce. $36.95 serves two

Tuesday – Oven Off Night
Two natural chicken breasts grilled with our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served on a bed of greens with stuffed brie, spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar on the side with two cups of homemade gazpacho and a baguette from our bakery. $26.95 serves two

Wednesday – Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad – Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. $35.95 serves two

Thursday – Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs
- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made bacon/apple baked beans and potato salad. $27.95 serves two

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

Saturday – In-House Smoked BBQ – Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked over night and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls $25.95 serves two

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Finding Your Home & Hearth

On a recent adventure exploring Scotland, I became absolutely captivated by the design and charm of the stone cottages that dot the lush, rolling landscape and verdant hills. I was attracted to the variety, shapes, and colors of their front doors (works of art in and of themselves), as well as the unique windows, ancient hinges and hardware, gardens, and overall sense of simplicity and minimalism that emanated from each property. But what literally took my breath away were the fireplaces — so many astoundingly beautiful fireplaces! I was connected with an almost primal fascination with what home and hearth connote to each of us and began to dig into some of my anthropological training.

Fire improved the lives of early humans not only by giving them a means by which to cook food, stay warm, as well as stave off enemies and predators, but it also served as a delicious source of light and a magnetizing force. Once we learned how to create fire and control it on our own, this led to the development of campfires and campsites. Anthropologists assert that we, as early humans, began telling stories around the campfire thousands of years ago. Such story telling is believed to have promoted the transference of knowledge and culture among family and tribe members. In addition to serving as key conduits of culture and meaning, these stories shared around fires deepened ties and encouraged a sense of bonding and entertainment.

There is no question that we as modern humans continue to be attracted to the light, warmth, ritual, ambiance, and beauty of fires in our indoor and outdoor fireplaces. We have developed designs and materials for fireplaces, hearths, and mantles that suit every taste and budget. But have we lost something of our ancient connection to our individual and collective hearths? Are we making enough time to gather together as families and friends in fellowship to share stories, enjoy each other’s company, and put aside the rush of modern living?

When was the last time the focal point of a family night or a gathering of friends was the fireplace? A simple element around which all focus while enjoying the art of conversation, joke telling, the lifting of burdens through speaking one’s truth, and/or the transformative power of pure silence shared together.

The chimney pots and fireplaces in Scotland, in all their splendor, conveyed an almost relentless message to me as I wandered through narrow streets and up steep hills: connect to your ancient roots and search for ways to bring the heart-warming culture and life-affirming and bonding essence of the hearth into more of my everyday living.

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.

W. Stell Huie was recently honored by the Emory Law School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. He was selected from among thousands of law alumni as one of 100 graduates for his “extraordinary contributions to the law school and the world at large.”

Huie served as president of four legal organizations: The State Bar of Georgia, the Atlanta Bar Association, the National Conference of Bar Presidents and the Old Warhorse Lawyers Club. He also served in the House of Delegates of the American Bar Associations, was General Counsel to the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority (MARTA), as well as Vice-Chair of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Atlanta Fund Appeals Review Board and Trustee of the Westminster Schools. In Highlands, he served as Chair of the Highlands Community Fund, and currently serves as a Trustee Emeritus of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, Chair of Bel Canto and Chair of the Music Committee at the First Presbyterian Church.

The “Emory 100,” along with former US Senator Sam Nunn who received a Lifetime Achievement Award, were recognized at a Gala Dinner held in Atlanta. The keynote speaker was former US President Bill Clinton. Each honoree was given a Centennial Metal to recognize their selection.
Keep a canoe in your backyard & enjoy the Cullasaja River & Mirror Lake. Three bedrooms on one level with two fully renovated baths, great room with fireplace & open kitchen. Large open back deck with some mountain ridge line views! The lower level offers a large bonus room with a second fireplace and a fully renovated bath. Could be a gameroom, a good place for children to play, or add a sleep sofa for extra family and friends. $325,000 MLS #85381

Great lot in prestigious, gated Ravenel. Long summit views spanning from town to Short off to Whiteside and beyond. This easy laying homesite is the perfect place to build the home of your dreams right in town within a easy walk to everything. $799,000 MLS #85383

Crisp and new, this totally renovated 3bd/2ba sparkles with style and class. Private setting, new deck with views. Lower level features 2 car garage. Only 5 minutes to town! $488,000 MLS #85735

Stunning 4bd/3.5ba in Cullasaja Club with gulf and mtn views. Granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Plenty of indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces with 2 outdoor fireplaces. This is a must see. $1,450,000 MLS 

Large 3bd/3ba in quite neighborhood. 2bd mother-in-law suite above garage plus out building for a workshop or studio. Motivated seller, MUST SEE! $299,000 MLS #85478

Simply the best of the best in Highlands Point. This 4br/7.5ba home has a view of Whiteside Mountain. Enjoy the sounds of 3 private waterfalls overlooking 2 Koi ponds, gazebo and hot tub. Lush native plants are woven into the rock walled setting. On the Atlanta side of Highlands - within a 5 minute drive to downtown Highlands. $3,850,000 MLS #84716

Mountaintop Golf. Brand new 5br/4.5ba wonderful mountain home close to amenities and Lake Club. Incredible kitchen, mountain view, master suite with fireplace and very special bath. $2,295,000 MLS #68782

Bank owned! 2bd/2ba perfect for investors or 1st time home buyers. Open kitchen-living-dining and large deck. $79,000 MLS #85357

2012 remodel with an enlarged master suite, porte cochere and a double carport. Rustic mtn feel with wood walls, floors. 3brr/3ba, great mtn views, and located in town. The partial basement could become a workshop. $697,000 MLS# 84941
Pick up something special for MOM

At Carolina Way

Lighting
Lamp Shades
- Pottery
- Rugs
- Pillows
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Brookings

Full Service Fly Shop
& Guide Service
located just behind REEVES Hardware in Highlands!
273 Spring Street • Highlands NC 28741
(828) 482 - 9444

Happy Mother’s Day!

Oakleaf Flower & Garden
Highland’s Eponymous Flower & Garden Shop
828-526-8000
133 S. 4th St., Highlands

C. ORRICO
In Highlands: On Main St. in Town Square behind Kilwins
828-526-9122 • www.corrico.com

Make Your Statement
Uniquely Your Own...
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Highlands, NC 28741
828.526.2083
ckswan.com
Just down from Old Edwards Inn & Spa
This Mother’s Day we honor and remember Anne Aldridge, a dear customer and friend. We will never forget her zest for life and kind spirit. Sending thoughts and prayers to her many loved ones.
Feb 25, 1950 - May 3, 2017

Lulu Bleu
326 Main St. • 828-482-4375

Going Out of Business
SALE
50% Off All Merchandise Storewide

Peak Experience
2820 Dillard Road
Highlands, North Carolina
828-526-0229

Collegiate Wear
SIDELINES
310 Main Street • 526-4144
(In Oak Sq. behind Sports Page)

Shop for YO’ MAMA at ANNAWEAR

• Michael Stars Tees
• Free People • BB Dakota • Shades • THML Jeans by:
• Joes
• 7 for All Mankind
• Citizens
• Hudson
• AG
• Mother

Shoes:
• Bedstu
• Free People
• Matisse • Diba

355 Main Street
526-4660
(in The Galax Theatre)

Going Out of Business
SALE
50% Off All Merchandise Storewide

Fresh Produce

BAGS on MAIN
Your TRAVEL headquarters!

Bags

Cinda B
Baggallini

TRAVELON
Anti Theft Bags and Accessories

Next to The Toy Store
Main Street • 828-526-9415

We’re all about Mum on Mum’s Day ... Jewelry, Scarves, Cashmere, Dresses, and always Vera Bradley!

A Highlands tradition since 1940
Our 77th season on Main Street
Monday-Saturday • 10-5
828-526-3160

Pick up something special for MOM

Of Business
SALE
50% Off All Merchandise Storewide

Going Out of Business
SALE
50% Off All Merchandise Storewide

Fresh Produce

BAGS on MAIN
Your TRAVEL headquarters!

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Pick up something special for MOM
NOTICE

• Calling all Women Singers. Starting a Women’s Chorus under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster, of the First Presbyterian Church. 12 rehearsals beginning June 21 on Tuesdays 6-7:30 p.m. Cost is $20. Fee covers salaries to director and pianist and cost of music. Auditions may be required. If interested please call Donna Phillips at 404-226-5976.

Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Monday – Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm.
• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

Mon., May 29, July 3, and Aug. 7
• Botanical Garden Tour: 10:30 am – 11:15 am. Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men’s Meeting at 7 pm

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30 am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.
• Aerobics with Tina Rogers @ 8:15 am.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-10 a.m. 6 lanes and Monday –Thursday 5 p.m.-6 p.m. 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.
• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15 am-11:15 am and Monday-Thursday 5:15 pm-6 pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6 p.m.
• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

Wednesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.

Thursdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828-331-1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
• Pickle ball from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym at the Rec Park.
• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 p.m. This will be a combination class with many different styles of exercise.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828-331-1524

Advanced Community

• Highlands Area Events

WOMAN! WHO Do THEY Think YOU Are?

The Performing Arts Center and Diane McPhail are sponsoring a free seminar entitled: Woman! WHO do THEY think YOU are? on Wed., May 24 from 1-4 p.m.

Presenter Carol Anderson, D.Min, MA in Organizational Development, Educational Psychology, and Creative Nonfiction will present the program.

The basics will cover: How we perceive ourselves is crucial to every woman. And who we believe ourselves to be is influenced by multiple factors, some of which we are unaware of and never think to question. In this seminar, Carol Anderson will present a range of images we are exposed to all our lives in mainstream media. 1) to help us understand how our self-perceptions have been unconsciously shaped and undermined and 2) how recognition can help provide a pathway to reclaiming our true power and value as individuals and collectively. This enlightening experience will help women understand the unrecognized influences that keep them from claiming their full power, and to support their colleagues and sisters to do the same. Interactive questions and dialogue will involve presence, listening, inquiry and feedback. Be prepared to leave inspired and empowered to be the change you seek.

On Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., there will be a “Drive 4 UR Community” fundraising event in and for K-H-Founders Park.

Sponsored by Hammond and Bryan Rauers and Mitzi Rauers of Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Reality, for $20 a pop, people can test drive several new Ford Motor Company vehicles that will be featured at the park.

If the goal of $6,000 is reached, Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty and Mitzi Rauers will donate $1,000.
**Highlands Area Events**

- Lakeside Restaurant will donate 20% of their gross proceeds to the Highlands Methodist Church for the completion of its Family & Fellowship Hall.

**Fri., May 12**
- Spring Wildflower Garden Tour, 12:30-3. Cost: $30/$40 Tour the spring garden of Dick and Judy Allison To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
- The Highlands Writers Group has published its very first Anthology. Please join us for a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.

**Sat., May 13**
- The May 2017 meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club, Inc. will be on Saturday at 9 AM at the Bascom in Highlands, N.C. The club typically meets in Sylva the first Tuesday and In Cashiers the second Thursday of every month.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to Long Creek Falls in SC at the confluence of Long Creek and the Chattooga River. Meet at Ingles in Clayton GA at 10 a.m., drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Charlee Tisdale, 864-784-2124, for reservations.
- At PAC, Live via Satellite, Met Opera's production of Rigoletto at 12:55 p.m.
- An American Girl Tea Party to benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. 2-4 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Hot teas, light finger food and sweet treats. Raffle of American Girl Doll of the Year “Gabriela McBride.” Door prizes for both children and adults. Silent auction, too. Tickets are $10 for children and $25 for adults. Table of 8 is $150.
  - Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild’s Evening Group will hold a Cutting Party for a group opportunity quilt project titled “A New Age,” Monday at Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street, Franklin. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. For more information about the guild and future events visit www.smokymtn-quilters.org
  - For a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The Ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.

**Sun., May 14**
- The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 5:30 p.m. It’s free but some front row seating will be reserved for those who contribute to help some of the choir’s needy boys. Call 404-378-0064 or email info@atlantaboychoir.org

**Mon., May 15**
- Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild’s Evening Group will hold a cutting party for a group opportunity quilt project titled “A New Age,” Monday at Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street, Franklin. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. For more information about the guild and future events visit www.smokymtn-quilters.org
  - Relay for Life Fundraiser at Fat Buddies Ribs and BBQ in Franklin. 11a to 9p. Bake Sale, too. 20% of all proceeds will go to Relay for Life of Franklin.
  - The Macon County Poultry club will meet on Tuesday at 7 pm in the Co-operative extension office located on 193 Thomas Heights rd in Franklin. Club president Chad Mcconnell will talk about rare and exotic breeds of Poultry. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 828-369-3916.
  - For a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The Ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.

**Tue., May 16**
- iOS for Beginners: The Basics for the iPad and iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost $75/$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com
  - For a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The Ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.
  - Highlands Cashiers Players will present the fourth play of their 2016-2017 season, “Don’t Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell” directed by Donna Cochran. This hilarious historical comedy about the writing of the screen play for Gone with the Wind will be performed at PAC Thursday-Sunday and. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828 526 8084 or on line at highlands-cashiersplayers.org.

**Fri., May 19**
- At Hudson Library, a book signing and sale of “Small Adventures over Half a Century” by Ellie Harrison at 3 p.m.

**Sat., May 20**
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate loop hike in Panthertown Valley, elevation change 400 ft., from Salt Rock into the valley, returning via Frolictown falls in a search for lady slipper flowers. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m., drive 20 miles round trip. Call leaders, Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.
  - The 5th Annual BLOEMSMA BARN EVENT, sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center (SMPPC), is set for Saturday, 4-8 PM. The event is a fun family experience, open to the public, and features a corn hole tournament, music, bouncy house, face painting, and a great silent auction. Auction items include a week at a house in Costa Rica, tickets to popular attractions in the mountains and to the Charlotte Motor Speedway, gift certificates to area restaurants and services, artwork, household items and much more. Jenkins Family BBQ is providing meals, so come hungry! A BBQ plate is $15, hot dog plate $7, and a discounted family meal ticket is available. Meal tickets may be purchased at the door, and are available in advance at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and SMPCC centers in Franklin and Cullowhee. The beautiful Bloemsma Barn is at 1145 Patton Rd, Franklin. For more information, call 828-349-3200.
  - Topiary Boy Choir will perform under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 5:30 p.m. It’s free but some front row seating will be reserved for those who contribute to help some of the choir’s needy boys. Call 404-378-0064 or email info@atlantaboychoir.org

**Sun., May 21**
- The Highlands Writers Group will hold a Cutting Party for a group opportunity quilt project titled “A New Age,” Monday at Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street, Franklin. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. For more information about the guild and future events visit www.smokymtn-quilters.org
- For a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The Ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.

**Thurs., May 18-21**
- Highlands Cashiers Players will present the fourth play of their 2016-2017 season, “Don’t Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell” directed by Donna Cochran. This hilarious historical comedy about the writing of the screen play for Gone with the Wind will be performed at PAC Thursday-Sunday and. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828 526 8084 or on line at highlands-cashiersplayers.org.

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**Tue., May 23**

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**Met Opera Der Rosenkavalier Live via Satellite at PAC Saturday, May 13**

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will broadcast Live via Satellite the MET OPERA’s production of R. Strauss’s der Rosenkavalier on Saturday, May 13th at 12:55pm, with a pre-opera discussion led by Beverly Wichman beginning at 12:30pm. This is the last MET Opera Live via Satellite of the 2016-17 Season, and is the last MET Opera production for star, Renee Fleming. Ms. Fleming is retiring from the opera stage, but will continue her concert career.

The Met's first new production since 1969 of Strauss's rich romantic masterpiece is conducted by Music Director James Levine and directed by Robert Carsen, whose most recent Met production was the hit 2013 staging of Falstaff. Renée Fleming sings one of her signature roles as the Marschallin, opposite Elena Garanča in her first North American performances as Octavian, the impassive young title character. “Fleming should be proud of the MAGNIFICENT performance she gave… She sang beautifully on this milestone night for her, and for opera… Garanča’s plush, sensual voice is IDEAL… A REVELATION… The sweet-voiced Erin Morley makes an UTTERLY CHARMING Sophie… Günther Grosboß’s muscular sound and declamatory style are perfect… Sebastian Weigle led a DISTINGUISHED performance.” —New York Times

“As BEAUTIFUL as ever, and a subtle, sensitive actress, Fleming gave a performance of deep feeling… Garanča’s mezzo overflowed with the warmth and richness of youth… MAGICAL moments.” Wall Street Journal
Memories of Mom

It’s been several years since my mom passed away, and I think of her often still, but especially around Mother’s Day. We either took her out for her day or had her over for dinner, so there’s always a bit of a hole in Mother’s Day nowadays. When I’m with my sisters, we laugh about the “Momisms” we’ve inherited or what she would have said about any given situation. Re却iscing together always makes us smile, and I’m smiling now as I sit alone in front of my computer.

Mother loved her two-legged family and her grandpets, though she was less than pleased that we three girls never gave her any grandkids. I can just imagine her thinking, “Three daughters—three. You’d think I’d get one grandchild out of ‘em.”

Beyond her love of family, both two-legged and four-legged, three things come to mind when I think of my Mom: music, the color purple, and reading.

Music was a constant. I have vivid memories of Mother playing Elvis and Broadway tunes on her red Victrola when we lived in NYC. When we got a stereo, it was music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s, so we grew up with Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and others. Frank was the all-time favorite, and my sister Lisa and I loved him as much as Mom did.

We all watched Elvis’s Hawaii special the night it premiered, and it must have made quite the impression on my sister Pamela, as she later purchased the video collection of the Elvis concerts. Mom kept up with the latest rock and roll, and the eight-track tapes in the car back then were of her choosing: The Lovin Spoonful, Neil Diamond, Tom Jones and more.

Next is the color purple. Mom had clothes in every shade—lavender, lilac, deep purple—you name it. She had purple jackets, sweaters, nightgowns, and even pocketbooks. We three daughters gave her an amethyst necklace for her 70th birthday, and she was tickled pink—not purple. That love of purple made my assigned role as fashion consultant pretty easy. Mother enjoyed shopping and dressing stylishly, and if you could find the latest fashion in purple, you had it made.

And, finally, Mom was a reader, more so later in life when she had more free time. When I was a child, it was Mom who read the Golden Books to me. In NYC, it was a big treat to pick up a Golden Book at the small local grocer. When I wasn’t bringing books home from the school library, Mom was taking me to the public library to pick out books I could read, or she could read to me. I was recently talking about my childhood book collection—all picked out by Mother: Dr. Seuss, The Bobbsey Twins, Heidi, The Five Little Peppers, and Nancy Drew.

Later in life, Mom and I shared mystery books, that is until Pamela gave Mom a Kindle. After that, Mom turned up her nose at “real” books. I’d offer her a book, and she’d say, “I don’t need it, Kathy Jean; I can get it on my Kindle.”

Ah yes. Memories are good but not as good as the real thing. If you’ve lost your mom, you know what I mean; if not, may you always remember to love and cherish her.

Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, “The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday,” locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy’s website at www.theinkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn19@gmail.com. Join her at the Molly Grace on the corner of Oak and N. 4th St. in Highlands June 17th, 11 am – 2 pm for a book signing.
costing taxpayers for his travels yet they NEVER mentioned when Obama did the same, but cost even more. It’s OK as long as it’s evenly reported but it’s not. A late night talk show had numerous references to politics…..as in it was the theme of the joke stint timeframe. When people go to the movies or watch the funny late night shows they want to be entertained, not be given a personal opinion about someone’s political beliefs. What has happened to our country? There is some kind of poison which has taken over our society and it is being fueled solely by the media (TV, magazines, radio and newspapers). People have never been in such a state of rage, despondency and negativism. For some it’s as if they are possessed with bitterness which is constantly being fed to them depending on which news source they are listening to or reading. Friendships have been dissolved on Facebook and in social circles because of their political differences being aired and so vastly different.

Is it possible to just report the news and not blast the President of the United States with personal opinions? It’s disheartening to read, watch and listen to so much negativity on a daily basis. We are canceling our cable this week as there is so much negativism and worthless, mindless things on TV. I love the saying, “Bitterness is a poison you drink to get back at your enemy, but it ends up killing you.” There’s so much division and negativity now…it’s exhausting. Physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually exhausting to be fed a steady, unrelenting diet of negativity and anger.

Just a thought. If you never hear from your readership you wouldn’t know. Hoping all the best for your newspaper, just wishing it made you feel good to be alive to enjoy another gorgeous day in your idyllic town.

Joy Kloess
Louisville, KY

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Chambers awarded RSPS Certificate

Tucker and Jeannie Chambers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals, in association with NC Association of REALTORS have been awarded the Resort and Second-Home Property Specialist (RSPS) Certification. The RSPS Certification is a nationally-recognized certification awarded by the National Association of REALTORS® to real estate professionals who wish to demonstrate and promote—to consumers and their peers alike—their expertise in the resort and second home specialty.

Tucker and Jeannie join more than 1,600 real estate professionals who have earned the RSPS certification. REALTORS® who receive the RSPS certification have successfully completed the Resort & Second-Home Markets Course along with three webinars in the field of resort and second home real estate. They now join other real estate professionals who specialize in buying, selling, or managing second homes in a resort, recreational, and/or vacation destination and properties for investment, development, or retirement.

“The RSPS certification program offers one of the most powerful networking opportunities,” said David Biechenele, 2013 chair of the NAR’s Resort and Second Home Real Estate Committee and an RSPS. “You will connect with agents across the country and share your local knowledge to attain referrals. In the process you will educate yourself above your competitors by attaining insight of other second home and resort areas in the United States and abroad. You can connect through the many social media sites or in person at the Resort and Second Home Networking Reception.”

REALTORS® or consumers interested in learning more about the program may log on to www.Realtor.org/Resort or contact NAR Resort Specialties at 800/874-6500, Ext. 8268.

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...LETTERS continued from page 2

costing taxpayers for his travels yet they NEVER mentioned when Obama did the same, but cost even more. It’s OK as long as it’s evenly reported but it’s not. A late night talk show had numerous references to politics…..as in it was the theme of the joke stint timeframe.

When people go to the movies or watch the funny late night shows they want to be entertained, not be given a personal opinion about someone’s political beliefs. What has happened to our country? There is some kind of poison which has taken over our society and it is being fueled solely by the media (TV, magazines, radio and newspapers). People have never been in such a state of rage, despondency and negativism. For some it’s as if they are possessed with bitterness which is constantly being fed to them depending on which news source they are listening to or reading. Friendships have been dissolved on Facebook and in social circles because of their political differences being aired and so vastly different.

Is it possible to just report the news and not blast the President of the United States with personal opinions? It’s disheartening to read, watch and listen to so much negativity on a daily basis. We are canceling our cable this week as there is so much negativism and worthless, mindless things on TV. I love the saying, “Bitterness is a poison you drink to get back at your enemy, but it ends up killing you.” There’s so much division and negativity now…it’s exhausting. Physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually exhausting to be fed a steady, unrelenting diet of negativity and anger.

Just a thought. If you never hear from your readership you wouldn’t know. Hoping all the best for your newspaper, just wishing it made you feel good to be alive to enjoy another gorgeous day in your idyllic town.

Joy Kloess
Louisville, KY
The Good Shepherd

By Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church, ELCA

When we moved up here to Highlands, one of the first things we did was hang up a bird feeder. For the first several weeks, we had few visitors. The junkos were the first to stop in, then slowly, the other birds followed suit.

This morning as I sat at the kitchen table with my morning coffee, I saw no less than 12 varieties of birds, including junkos, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches both the large and small varieties, sparrows, cardinals, towhees, Carolina wrens and goldfinches.

As if this weren't enough of a feast for the eyes, we have a little red squirrel who dines at the special corn cob feeder we put out for her, in hopes that she would prefer that over the birdseed.

Chipmunks scamper to and fro from our porch to their lairs, cheeks stuffed full of seed that the birds have scattered on the deck. This week, I put out a hummingbird feeder. The first ruby throated hummingbird appeared yesterday morning. Over time, the birds and little creatures have become used to me and they don't run off like they used to in the beginning. In fact some of them are getting quite bold! Our red squirrel gave me a tongue lashing indignantly, when I came out to fill the feeder. I have been out changing the nectar in the hummingbird feeder and had them buzz around my head like bright green bees.

It used to be that it would take several minutes after I retreated back inside for the birds and critters to return, but now they fly and hover even as I am out on the deck.

They know me. I feed them. Besides feeding, I added a new duty – I protect them. We just had some neighbors move in next door with three cats! It has been necessary to shoo the kittens away from our deck from time to time. Our dog, Greta, has been more than happy to take over that duty!

So it is that we feed and protect our little friends. As they have learned that we are the source of food and protection, they no longer run or fly away, but draw near when we are present.

In an image common to the ancient world, Jesus portrays himself as the good shepherd. A good shepherd feeds his sheep leading them to good pasture. He provides protection and cares for them. It is not an easy job and was generally one of the lowest professions.

Yet, the shepherd is vital. Without his presence, the sheep would go astray and fall victim to predators and thieves.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He calls to us. He protects from death and the devil. 1 Peter, 25 reads; For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

How does He do this? Through his passion and resurrection.

Through the Word. Through Baptism.
...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
continued from page 18

ons and bandits lurking about to kill and devour the flock. Nearly all the apostles suffered martyrdom – they suffered for the sake of their sheep. Today is no different. We read about the persecutions of Christians everywhere from our own towns to places like Egypt, Syria and Nigeria. Does this mean that Christ's teachings are flawed? Does it mean we have failed as a people? No it means that the world is flawed – there are lions and bandits everywhere.

To be a Christian is to be different. We follow different standards of conduct. Our priorities are out of sync with those of the world. By embracing the dictates of love, compassion, kindness and justice we leave ourselves vulnerable to a world where competition, greed and selfishness are the ways to “get ahead.” It is not always easy being a Christian. But when the world seems to condemn us, we know that we are part of the flock of the Good Shepherd, the one who walks with us, guides us and most of all, loves us.

Love.

Love that forgives us;

Love that binds us up when we are brokenhearted;

Love that never abandons us, even when we can’t feel its presence.

Just as the shepherd is willing to give up his life for his sheep, so Christ has done for us.

As our reading from 1 Peter says:

24: He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

25: For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

If the little creatures that come to our deck know that they are protected and fed, how much more do we, as intelligent beings know what Christ has done for us! He has not only redeemed us from the clutches of evil, but has given us life and given it abundantly! In Christ we ourselves become shepherds and leaders. Everything we do in love and for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ is a holy thing! There is nothing done in the love of God that is “too insignificant” to matter. As Mother Teresa says, “do small things with great love.”

We are each precious in Jesus’ sight. We are loved, we are protected and we are encouraged by God himself through the life, teachings, passion and resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ.

In the gospel of John this past Sunday, our reading ends with these words of Jesus.

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”. (John 10:10)

This week, as you go about your daily routine, think about all we have been given, and have an ABUNDANT LIFE!

MAYOR from page 2

providers that may be interested in renting dark fiber from the town, provided the fiber network is built. Honestly, the Town Board is facing some very difficult and challenging decisions about this critical initiative.

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April 27
• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.
April 28
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Skylake Drive.
April 29
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Road.

May 1
• The dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Hemlock Drive.
May 2
• The dept. stood by at Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road for the MAMA helicopter.
May 3
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Owl Gap Road.
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mountain Laurel Drive.
May 4
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Poplar Street.
May 6
• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Falls Lane.
• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Walhalla Road.

The Highlands Police log entries from May 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 2
• At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Wright Square parking lot.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 27.

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Events and Volunteer Coordinator
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• Organizational skills
• Communications skills
• Marketing experience
• Team Player
• Volunteer recruiting skills
• Initiative
• Project management
• Creative / Visionary
• Skilled at mobilizing resources
• Energy and enthusiasm for the community and job
• Service oriented attitude
• Thinks Big

A bachelor’s degree or higher is preferable, along with a minimum of three years of progressively responsible experience in developing and managing the efforts of a successful events and festivals plan / program. Salary and benefits are competitive. Please visit our website at www.highlandschamber.org for information on our organization and beautiful community.

Send a cover letter expressing your interest along with resume, references, work samples, and salary history electronically in a Word document format by Saturday, June 3, 2017 to: president@highlandschamber.org
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**WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED BARTENDERS & WAITSTAFF.** Must be a responsible team player with a positive attitude. Full time and part time positions available. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet 343-D Main Street, Highlands N.C. Please no phone calls. (st. 4/6)

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