

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, July 19, 2018

July 2019 tax bills to reflect new reval

By **Brittney Lofthouse**

After going through the extensive revaluation process in 2015, Macon County is on track to complete the 2019 property revaluation as scheduled. Macon County Tax

Assessor Richard Lightner updated commissioners on the process last week.

“At this time, we are about 90% complete with data entry and review. We must finish all sales,

transfers, and new construction as January 1, 2019,” said Lightner.

Based on NC law, a property revaluation must take place at least every eight years but can occur

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Highlands Police Officer Courtney Moore Swanson (center) with her mother Marcia Moore and father Highlands Police Officer Tim Moore at the recent swearing-in ceremony.

First ever father-daughter officers at HPD

By **Brian O'Shea**

The Highlands Police Department recently hired Courtney Moore Swanson who was sworn in July 9. Her father, Officer Tim Moore has been on the department since 2011.

“I had mixed feelings about Courtney becoming a police officer, after all she is one of my little twin girls,” said Moore. “But she is a very kind and caring person, she always sees the good in people and is willing to help in any way. That is

a great trait to have when working for the public.”

Both Swanson and Moore are part-time officers. HPD has 12 full- and 11 part-time officers. However, the father-daughter duo

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Mission Health unveils 'mega' foundation

Foundation said to be significant outcome of HCA Healthcare acquisition

In March, when Mission Health announced its plans to merge with HCA Healthcare, the formation of a mega foundation was touted as being a huge benefit of the acquisition for the Western North Carolina community.

“A key component of the proposed agreement is the establishment of a new foundation that would provide substantial annual investments dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the citizens of Western North Carolina,” reads the initial press release.

“HCA Healthcare is a leading healthcare operator that offers advantages on a scale that would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve otherwise,” said Mission Health Board Chair John R. Ball, MD. “As important, the newly formed foundation will be life-changing for the residents of our region, providing tens of millions of dollars annually in new support

for the most vulnerable.”

In a press release this week, the Board of Directors of Mission Health System, Inc. (MHS) announced the creation of the Dogwood Health Trust (DHT), a North Carolina nonprofit, private non-operating foundation.

As set forth in its articles of incorporation, DHT's sole purpose is “to dramatically improve the health and well-being of all people and communities of Western North Carolina.”

This purpose continues and both builds upon and expands the 133-year mission of MHS.

If and when the contemplated transaction with HCA Healthcare is completed, MHS intends to convey the net proceeds of its sale to DHT following receipt of all necessary approvals and the development of required organizational infrastructure.

This new region-wide re-

• See **FOUNDATION** page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

A snapshot of tonight's Town Board biz

The July meeting of the Highlands Town Board is tonight at 7pm. It will be at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field. The meeting agenda is rather full for this time of the year.

The meeting includes two public hearings. The first hearing is for a petition by Kevin Bradley to annex a small piece of property that is contiguous to the town limits. It is a voluntary annexation.

The second hearing is for the abandonment of a right-of-way on Big Bear Pen. Near the town property on Big Bear Pen there is a drive way of sorts that we have never used. Since there is direct access to the water tank and tower on Big Bear Pen, there is no need for the town to maintain this right-of-way that passes through the lots of some homeowners. The town attorney advises the town can abandon the road, Crest Drive, without any adverse effects to the residents.

The final transfer agreement for the PAC property is also on the agenda. Attorneys for both parties have reviewed the agreement. This final transfer is in conjunction with the commencement of building construction.

The board will also discuss a proposal for paving Arnold Road that was presented



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

at a previous board meeting by the Lake Sequoyah Property Owners' Association. The issue will be determining the specific cost that the town would contribute to the project, since this road is not within the town limits. The waste treatment plant is at the end of the road. Town road crews maintain the road by annually replacing gravel on it and keeping the ditches clear.

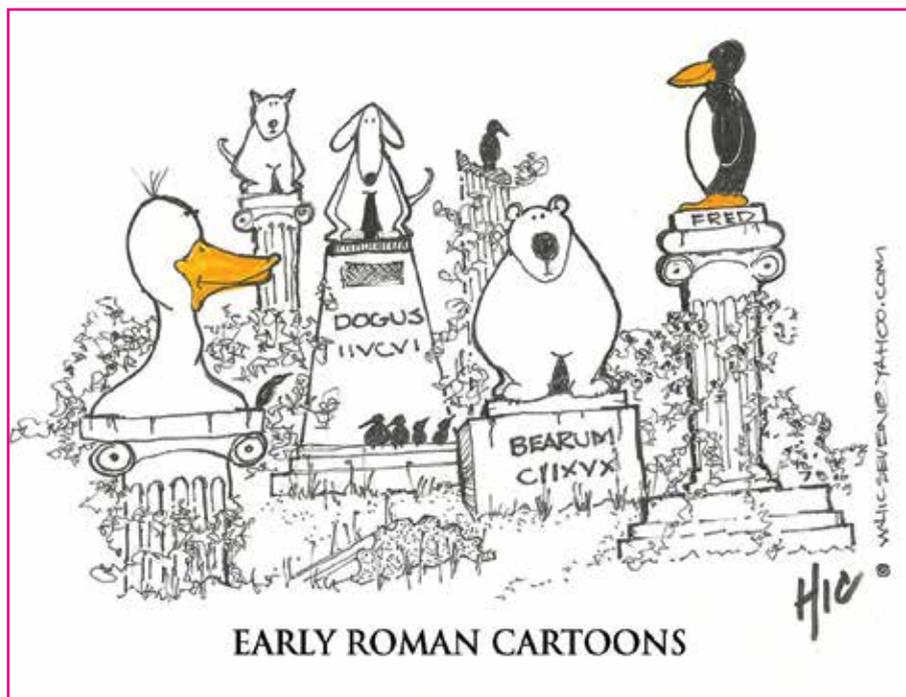
Kevin O'Donnell of Nova Energy will provide and update to the board on several legal issues involving the Duke Energy contract. There are several cases in play concerning past Duke charges and fees to their wholesale customers like Highlands. Potential refunds from these settlements could help the town hold down coal ash fees that have passed on to customers.

There will be additional board reviews of the pole attachment fees that providers are charged to locate on town utility poles. A proposal will be reviewed concerning designating a number of parking spaces in the parking lot next to town hall for town parking during the business day. At the peak of the season town workers, especially those operating town utility vehicles, are having difficulty finding parking spaces.

Finally, a proposal will be presented to close Pine Street at the park during July 4th. This past July 4th the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a band just prior to the fireworks. There was a very big response to the event similar to our Saturday in the Park concert series where the road is closed. It is probably a good plan to do the same for July 4th. Let me give a shout out to the Chamber for once again putting on a successful fireworks show. The addition of the band was great.

See you tonight.

• HIC'S VIEW •



...from the Garland family

The family of Willard H. Garland would like to express its genuine appreciation and thanks to everyone for the flowers, prayers, inquiries and words of compassion shared with our family during his illness.

Our gratitude to the staff of Four Seasons Hospice for the at-home service provided during this time.

A special thank you to the Rev. Roy Lowe and Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory, Franklin VFW Post #7339 and American Legion Post #108 for their participation in his funeral and interment.

• OBITUARIES •

'Little' John Larry Smith

Highlands beloved "Little" John Larry Smith died 7/5/18. A Homecoming is being planned and will be held at a later date in Highlands for him. • See OBITUARIES page 6

• WEATHER •

	Friday 7/20		Saturday 7/21		Sunday 7/22	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	76 F	60 F	74 F	58 F	72 F	56 F
RealFeel®	86 F	65 F	79 F	65 F	82 F	62 F
Winds	5 g 7	3 g 5	4 g 7	4 g 6	4 g 7	4 g 6
T-Storms	24%	24%	91%	90%	60%	60%
Rainfall	0	0	0.2	0.05	0.14	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to • www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

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One level living with two bedrooms and two baths. The large kitchen boasts white cabinetry and has easy access to the one car garage. Move in ready!



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\$290,000
MLS# 82769

Great location in Chestnut Hill. Lovely rocking chair front porch plus a screened porch in the back. Located on a cul de sac with plenty of room to walk the dog or fiddle in the yard. Fenced dog run in back.



\$290,000
MLS# 86975
Nicely situated in Chestnut Hill on a quiet road. The open great room has vaulted ceilings, is bright and airy and opens to the large sun room.



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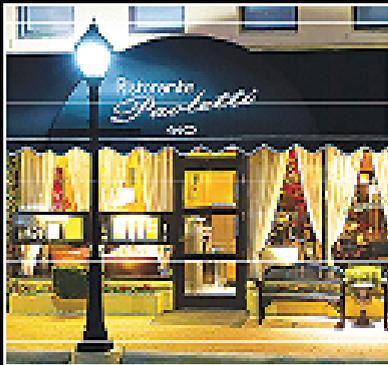
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... OBITUARIES continued from page 2

Melinda Jane Meroney

Melinda Jane Meroney, 77, of Highlands, NC, died Thursday, July 5th.

She was born to the late Valera Schram and Audley H. "Timer" Meroney, December 27, 1940, Rome, GA. Melinda graduated from Pepperell High School in 1958, worked for Bell South, the Atlanta Police Department and raised her family in Roswell and Rome, GA.

In high school, Melinda was a majorette and drum major where began her lifelong love of music and was beloved by her late brothers, Audley H. Meroney, Jr. of Rome, GA and Robert Meroney of Chickamauga, GA.

Though Melinda fought a courageous, lifelong battle with both bipolar disorder and a debilitating skin condition, she never considered herself a victim and always found ways to love and support her family.

She is survived by three children: James T. "Tommy" Fincher, of Loudon, TN; Bart Fincher of Summerville, GA

and Angela-Faye Martin of Franklin, NC. She also is survived by one grandchild, Seth Barton Fincher of Loudon, TN.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made out to International Pemphigus & Pemphigoid Foundation – pemphigus.org

A private wake will be held at her daughter's home.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Hal Arthur Phillips

Hal Arthur Phillips, 79, of Glenville, NC, passed away Thursday, July 5, 2018.

Born in Wichita, KS, he was the son of the late Harold A. Phillips and Pearl E. Bradstreet Phillips. Hal was a U.S. Army veteran; member of the VFW Post 10685, Glenville, NC; graduated from Western Michigan University and Erskine Theological Seminary. Hal taught music; was a classical piano player, he played at High Hampton for eight years; Skyline Lodge for 10 years and all along the coast of Florida. Presently played the piano at the Holy Family Lutheran Church, Highlands, NC.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda Higdon Phillips; three children, Steven Phillips of Michigan, Amy Rauser of Michigan, Joanna Zehnder of Pennsylvania; step children, Dwayne Lovelace of Lincolnton, NC and Tina Piephoff of Davidson, NC; seven granddaughters and three step granddaughters.

• See OBITUARIES page 14

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... OFFICERS continued from page 1

will never work together.

“Unfortunately Courtney and I will never work the same shift due to the conflict it could cause and we are both fine with that,” said Moore. “I will enjoy watching her learn and grow and as a police officer.”

Prior to joining HPD Swanson worked as a CNA at Chatuge Regional Nursing Home in Hiawasee, GA. She chose nursing because she wanted to help people. After several years in nursing she transitioned to law enforcement.

“I chose law enforcement because I believe it’s a calling as much as it is a dream,” said Swanson. “This career will give me countless opportunities to have a positive impact on people’s lives as well as helping people and hopefully pointing people in the right direction.”

Swanson graduated from Franklin High School in 2012. She attended the police academy in 2017 at Tri County Community College and is looking forward to her new career choice but knows it will be a challenge. She will soon begin her training at HPD that includes in-car programs, policies and procedures, and patrol techniques.

“As excited as I am, I am also nervous

about my new career, one that I worked so hard for,” she said. “It’s a career that can be dangerous as much as it is rewarding.”

Swanson said her father was a big influence in her decision to become a police officer.

“Growing up, I always looked up to my father and wanted to be like him, the kind, humble, caring, ‘never met a stranger,’ kind of person,” she said. “Always making people laugh and never missing an opportunity to help somebody, which I believe is a true definition of a police officer.”

In 1991 Moore was part of a law enforcement unit tasked with assisting other departments and then in 1993 he became a full-time police officer in Rainbow Springs, NC and joined HPD in 2011.

“I am honored that Courtney decided to follow me in the field of work that I chose so many years ago,” said Moore. “I am so proud of her.”

Swanson said she is thrilled to be a part of the HPD.

“I’ve gotten to know a lot of the officers over the years attending different events, the whole department is like a fam-

• See OFFICERS page 17

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... FOUNDATION continued from page 1

source would enable significant investments, encourage partnerships and facilitate coordination with others to analyze, understand and address core social determinants of health and well-being for the people and communities of Western North Carolina. The DHT's goal is to partner with local communities to produce a powerful, positive, long-term impact on the people of Western North Carolina.

The Founding Chair of the Dogwood Health Trust Board of Directors is Janice Brumit, a Western North Carolina native. Brumit was born in Boone, NC and graduated from Appalachian State University. Brumit has strong ties to the people and communities of the region and has spent the last 30 years serving on local and state-wide non-profit boards to improve the lives of its citizens.

She has received numerous awards for her community service, including both the Mountain Child

Advocacy Award and the North Carolina Hospital Association Trustee Merit Award in 2017. Her current and prior regional Board service includes chairman of the Mission Health Foundation.

Under Brumit's leadership, the DHT Board will be fully formed over time and embark upon a deliberate, multi-year process to become fully educated about the history and lessons learned from prior healthcare conversion foundations, obtain all necessary approvals for operation, develop appropriate staff and infrastructure for DHT and carefully assess the strengths and the needs of all populations and communities within our region.

DHT will then prioritize these needs, identify collaborative strategies to address them using communities' existing strengths and seek partnerships with others to implement its long-range strategic plan. Grant funding for approved initiatives will most likely not begin earlier than calendar 2020.

Mission Health officials have said HCA's acquisition could be finalized as early as October or the end of 2018 or the beginning of 2019.

Since the first announcement, officials have continually said the new foundation will not be funded with any money currently in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation.

To solidify that stance, in early

June, Mission Health representatives Ron Paulus, CEO and Jackie Medland of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital reiterated that the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation no longer needed to focus on "keeping the doors open" at the hospital. As such, it could "redefine itself and use its money as it sees fit."

As per a statement Wednesday, June 6, Rowena Buffett Timms, SVP, government and community relations with Mission Health said H-C Hospital Foundation will not be required to use funds to satisfy any remaining debt at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital prior to HCA's final acquisition.

"Mission Health will satisfy its debts as a part of the transaction's closing procedure," she said. "As we have said, the Highlands-Cashiers Foundation Board will need to redefine its goals and purpose for the remaining funds since their efforts will no longer be dedicated to giving funds to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. One option the Board is considering is addressing healthcare disparities in the community."

When Mission Health took over Highlands-Cashiers Hospital it was \$6 million in debt. In a little over four years, it reduced that debt to \$1 million.

Timms also said it is important to reiterate that Mission Health is committed to ensuring that donor gifts to the H-C Foundation have been and will always

• See FOUNDATION page 14



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• WORD MATTER •

Let's Hear it for the Postal Service!

I know it's difficult to imagine but the U.S. Constitution, as implemented way back in 1789, in Article 1 Section 8, allows for only two primary functions of our federal government. As perfectly stated by the late, great newspaper columnist, Charlie Reese, those roles are to "guard the coast and tote the mail." I'll opine about guarding the coast another time. For now, and notwithstanding those nattering nabobs of negativity who choose to condemn and berate it, I'm here to speak in praise of the United States Postal Service.

We could spend days discussing its actual status, but depending on point of view, the USPS is a) according to CNN, the most effective and efficiently run organization of its type in the world, b) according to the Wall Street Journal, a bargain for the American people by almost any measure, and c) according to me, unfortunately destined to become an historical artifact before the end of the 21st century.

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Bud Katz

the moment, costs less in the U.S. than in any other western nation. The USPS delivers mail, unconditionally, to every street address and post office box in all 50 states, six days each week. UPS and FedEx, often cited as better models, don't carry those same burdens. The US Postal Service receives no direct taxpayer support and hasn't since the early 1980s.

There are many compelling reasons why the USPS doesn't typically satisfy the fundamental business imperative of at least breaking even or, perish the thought, operating with a surplus. Many have to do with the reasonable expectations of both customers and its nearly half-million employees. Simply put, employees want to earn a living wage and customers would like to pay even less than already rock bottom prices for its services.

Attempts at reforming or reorganizing the USPS meet with opposition from business interests, who demand rates as low as possible, and the American Postal Work-

• See **WORD MATTER** page 17

Benefit for Patricia Barnes

Highlands Community Building

Sat., Aug. 11 • 5-10 p.m.

Live Band, Raffle and Cake Auction



On the night of June 7, 2018, Toby Barnes said to his wife Pat, "I'll be right back" and he never made it home; he went off the road. He died from blunt force trauma to his chest; he passed away very quickly. This sudden and tragic loss of a loving husband, father and papa has left this family heartbroken. Toby was well known in the community and was such a good soul. This loss is also a loss of financial income for this family. They could use support from this loving, close community. Let's come together and show our love and support of this family.

BBQ, Slaw, Beans, Roll, Dessert & Drink \$8 for adults; \$5 for children under 12.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONCEPTS

The health benefits of Yoga

Are you curious about the benefits of yoga but feel that you are too inflexible and inexperienced to show up to a class? Then starting out with one or two Private Yoga Classes will give you the experience and confidence you need to start a regular yoga practice at your fitness facility or private club.

Learning the basics of gentle yoga is a perfect way for couples to spend healthy time together, and it is an excellent activity that will allow both of you to age gracefully and truly enjoy your "golden years!"

While women have gravitated to yoga as part of a healthy lifestyle over the years,

most men have been missing out the benefits.

Women aren't the only ones who burn the candle at both ends. Men need to de-stress too, and yoga is the perfect place to slow down, unwind, and just breathe.

Learning the basics of yoga can greatly help improve your flexibility, coordination, circulation, mental focus, and energy while eliminating toxins and decreasing stress. So while you may think that high-impact cardio exercises and weight training are the only ways to go, here are 4 wonderful benefits of yoga that excellent for Every Body:

1. Better Digestion, Flexibility &

Balance

You already know that eating right is an important component in feeling your best and having the most strength. But did you know that yoga can help improve your digestion, which in turn may give you a boost in energy? Many yoga postures often involve twists that follow the path of your digestive system and helps you detoxify more efficiently. A regular yoga practice also helps to increase core strength, flexibility and balance, which is known to rapidly decreases as we age.

2. Reduced Stress

Pressure to perform at work and at home and can be hard on men, and stress can lead to a number of health problems in males including hypertension, major depression, and even alcoholism. Women are also affected by stress but usually seek out healthy forms of support through close relationships with friends and family. Men's Health reports that you can "twist yourself into a pretzel and laugh, laugh, laugh," as laughing, deep breathing and yoga poses together do wonders to reduce stress!

3. Less Joint & Muscle Pain after Workouts

Due to improved muscle flexibility and joint range of motion, practicing yoga prepares your body for higher-impact exercise



Medea Galligan
MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP
828-989-9144
www.MedeasHealthyLifestyleConcepts.com

sessions such as weight training or a big sports match. Several members of the NFL's Denver Broncos practice yoga and they report better focus and less soreness following a game. If you need more convincing that it's okay to practice yoga as a man, consider that basketball superstar LeBron James is a proud yogi, and of course, he has the impressive numbers to back up his focus and nimble-

ness.

4. Better Endurance

One of the keys to improved endurance is proper breathing, which you will learn when you embrace yoga. This can help increase your lung capacity and deliver more oxygen to the blood, carrying you past obstacles you may not previously have thought were possible.

As a Certified Health Coach and Registered Yoga Teacher, I have taught numerous Yoga & Wellness Workshops over the last 20 years.

• If you are curious about how you and your partner can benefit from a Private Yoga Class, please call Medea Galligan at (828) 989-9144 and leave a message with your name and number. I look forward hearing from you!

Also, if you are ready for a myriad of class choices contact Yoga Highlands at 526-8880.

The Highlands Emergency Council

presents the Fifth Annual

Bluegrass Bash

Johnny Webb & The J.W. Band



July 21, 2018 11:00—2:00 pm

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

Lunch Ticket Price: \$5.00

Lunch Features: Hot Dog, Chips and Cookie!

Come join us for an old-fashioned afternoon of fun filled with music, clogging, freestyle dancing & a raffle, while supporting the Highlands Emergency Council!

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PRINCESS PUDDIN'S PERSPECTIVE**• CAT SPEAK •****Puddin's Story**

Just like my canine brother Banjo, I, too, am a rescue pet. My parents have always had cats and dogs. Mum brought the cats to the marriage and Dad the dogs. In the beginning, Mum had Katrina the calico kitty and Dancer the white one. Katrina was the sweeter of the two and awfully pretty, as calicos usually are. It's possible she was as pretty as I am, but not likely.



Dancer passed away in mid-December one year, and I came along the following spring. There's a joke around our house about who let whom get a new kitty. When Ganma asked my Mum when she was going to get a new kitty, Mum replied, "Well, I'm thinking about it; you know Dad's not as fond of cats as I am." Ganma took that to mean Dad wouldn't "let" Mum get a new cat. You'd think Ganma would have known better.

When Mum was ready, she scoured the internet for rescue kitties. She wanted another calico because we're special and, did I mention, beautiful? She and Miss Beverly, Banjo's Royal Critter Sitter, searched and compared notes for weeks until they found a kitty they wanted to meet. When Mum and Dad picked up Miss Beverly, she'd discovered another kitty to check out, so they

Dad says Dancer was mean as a snake and wasn't happy unless she was angry, whatever that means. Katrina was only nine years old when she went to kitty heaven, but Dancer lived to be an ornery 22. Perhaps there's something about being mean that leads to longevity. Together, Katrina and Dancer trained all the dogs in the home. Those two trained them to stay off the carpet and the furniture, to share their big water bowl with us cats, and to defer to us in all things.

• See CATSPEAK page 14

Our Commitment to Caring for Rural Communities



HCA Healthcare understands the healthcare needs of rural communities, and we're committed to providing them with the same high-quality, patient-centered care as we do patients around the country.

We currently operate seven critical access hospitals and a total of 20 hospitals serving rural communities across nine states.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Let's fill the brick walkway of the Highlands Veterans Memorial Garden by Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Bricks are \$50 for 1, \$40 for the second one. Contract for the purchase form is through Bill Edwards at Edwa7353@bell-south.net 404-915-1344. Forms are also available for pickup and return at Town Hall. Sept. 1 is the deadline for placement by Nov. 11.

• Summer Movies at the Playhouse: Sundays at 5:30 & 8pm, Mondays & Tuesdays at 2, 5 & 8pm

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:15 p.m.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30-6:30 at the Rec Park.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome.

For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon. & Wed.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

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

• The Highlands Writers Group, a collection of professional and talented amateur writers, meets to read, workshop, or to just share information on writing, every Tuesday, 3pm-5pm, in the downstairs board room at The Bascom, 323 Franklin Road, Highlands, NC 28741. For more information, call 828-526-3190.

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 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. Meetings are open to the public of all ages family friendly and educational. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:15. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wed. - Sat.

• At Highlands Inn on Main Street held in the dining room, Afternoon Tea 2-4:30pm. Royal Tea: \$45; Classic Tea: \$35. Call 828-526-9380 for more information.

Wednesdays

• The Glenville Historical Society Museum is open every Wednesday through Saturday 11

AM to 3 PM until October 13th. Church, club, school and family groups are welcome to visit the museum by appointment on any day of the week. The Museum is located at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville next to Signal Ridge Marina. A historic time line, photos, documents, artifacts and antiques tell the story of Old Glenville, building the Lake Glenville Dam and new Glenville development from the 1940s to present day. Go to www.glenvilleareahistoricalociety.com

First Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Wed. & Fri.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thurs. -Sat.

• Highlands Historical Village is open 11a to 3p through October.

Thursdays

Aug 2, 16, 30, Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11 & Nov. 1 and 8.

• Four Seasons Compassion for Life will be leading a grief support group at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands on alternating Thursdays 10:30-11:30am. This will be a closed group due to the nature of the group unless there are special circumstances

Kick off college football at CLE with Tony Barnhart

Many people, men and women alike share a passion for something so deep, it seems to run in their blood; COLLEGE FOOTBALL! The Center for Life Enrichment is offering a golden opportunity to get an inside scoop on what to expect as this season kicks off. To discuss the upcoming 2018 season for those fans, which includes most of the sports nation, nationally renowned football journalist and television commentator, Tony Barnhart, AKA Mr. College Football, will preview the 2018 season (Friday, July 27 Time: 2:00-4:00) with special emphasis on the teams of the SEC and ACC. Where are the big games? Which coaches are on the hot seat? What are we looking forward to most? Who are the Heisman contenders and Playoff shakers? Get these questions answered and get a breakdown on other NCAA contenders when Tony Barnhart comes to Highlands.

A 1976 graduate of the University of Georgia's Grady School of Journalism, Barnhart wrote about college football for 25 years at the Atlanta-Journal Constitution. Starting his 42nd season of covering football for newspapers, radio, television and the internet, Barnhart has hosted The Tony Barnhart Show for CBS and has had extensive experience as a reporter and analyst for CBS and ESPN. He has been a studio ana-



lyst on game days for the SEC Network which began airing in August of 2014.

Barnhart has five books on college football to his credit, including Southern Fried Football, The History, Passion and Glory of the Great Southern Game. So with the college football season fast approaching, fans will not want to miss the opportunity to look ahead and check out the playoff predictions and bowl projections with a well-known commentator, such as Mr. Barnhart.

To register for this event please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 members/\$35 non-members, walk ins are welcome. Students attend all \$25 lectures for free. The lecture will be in the Center for Life Enrichment Lecture Hall located on the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. 5th Street in Highlands.

July 25 Interlude Concert features Trey Clegg Singers



At 2pm on Wednesday, July 25, the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature the Trey Clegg Chamber Singers, Atlanta. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church.

Founded by Trey Clegg, the Chamber Singers is a group of 20 voices from among the 70 voices of the Trey Clegg Singers, Inc., Atlanta's premiere multicultural choral ensemble. With a mission

to inspire the passion for reconciliation, equity, and harmony, this selectively auditioned ensemble performs at the highest level of choral discipline and standards.

There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual- come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

that keep an individual from coming to the first meeting. Music therapy will be used for most sessions. Dates include: Aug. 2, 16, 30, Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11 and Nov. 1 and 8. For additional information, contact Four Seasons at 866-466-9734

Thursdays

- Live music in OEI's The Wine Garden on Main Street. Zorki from 7-9 p.m.
- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.
- Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

1st and 3rd Thursdays

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For info call 770-823-0601

Fourth Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making a wonderful variety of LEGO creations.

Fridays & Saturdays

• Live music at OEI's Art's At The Lodge on Spring Street. 5-8 p.m. Fridays Steve Wohrab.

• See **EVENTS** page 15

Happy Campers – Special retreat offers support for stroke survivors and their caregivers



Marylee Nunley, whose husband survived a stroke, realized her dream of starting a camp for stroke survivors and their families in 2004. What began as a single camp in Illinois has grown into Retreat & Refresh Stroke Camp, a national network of stroke camps with the mission of improving the quality of life for stroke survivors and those who love and care for them.

Keisha Hastings, coordinator for Mission Hospital's Clinical Documentation Improvement Department, participated last year with her friend and stroke survivor Sandra Nutbrown. "Stroke Camp is an amazing opportunity that allows both the caregivers and the stroke patients a chance to relax, be vulnerable, and share feelings, fears and emotions," said Hastings.

Stroke survivors, their caregivers and family members enjoy a weekend full of activities that are accessible for all ability levels including crafts, games, educational sessions, hiking/walking, relaxation and outdoor activities such as

fishing and boating.

Hastings said the nightly shows and games were fun and provided much needed laughter. "But one of the most memorable [moments] was a breakout session with the caregivers," she recalled. "Everyone really shared and cried, and it seemed that there was a lot of relief and healing that truly touched me." "You are not just giving these individuals 'a break,'" Hastings emphasized.

"You are allowing them to heal, become whole again, connect and make friends, let go of guilt and issues because they are around others who have gone through similar situations and emotions. This camp is so amazing!"

Mission Health Stroke program has hosted this camp for the past four years and is partnering again with Retreat & Refresh Stroke Camp to bring this unique experience to western North Carolina. In 2018, camp dates are September 7-9, and registration is now open. For more information, visit strokecamp.org.

Episcopal Summer Speaker Series to feature Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers



The Church of the Incarnation has a tradition of sponsoring a summer lecture series which features speakers on the leading edge of contemporary Christian theology. This year we are pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers as our speaker.

Rev. Dr. Meyers is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and for 32 years has been Senior Minister of Mayflower United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, which is the fastest growing UCC church in the Kansas/Oklahoma conference. He is also Professor of Rhetoric at Oklahoma City University and Distinguished Professor of Social Justice in the Philosophy Department at OCU. He is the author of seven books, a commentator for National Public Radio, and a widely traveled preacher and lecturer, including the Beecher lectures at Yale University.

Dr. Meyers is passionate about the church and its future. His lectures will challenge us to engage with our faith and our community in new ways.

There will be three lectures:

6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 8, "From Galilean Sage to Supernatural Savior: or How I Became a Heretic with help from Jesus.

9 am on Thursday, August 9, "Houston, We Have a God Problem"

10:30 am on Thursday morning, August 9, "The Underground Church"

The lectures are free and open to the public.

Bolivia Mission fundraiser is Aug. 13 at HUMC



an emerald pendant. A 49.7 Ct. green beryl from the Hiddenite mine in NC. This might be the largest cut stone from this mine. Cut by Dr. B. In 1975. Set in 18 Kt gold with fresh water pearls.

The Highlands Bolivian Mission will hold its main fundraiser for the year on Monday, August 13 beginning at 6pm. The event will be held in the new Faith and Fellowship Hall at the Methodist Church on Main Street.

The auction will feature many items brought from Bolivia such as alpaca sweaters and gems. Stones brought from Bolivia are turned into works of art by the goldsmiths of Highlands' T.A. Anderson, The gem Shop on the Hill and Jannie Bean Creations.

Six unique fur handbags have been donated by Lady Turco of Asheville and many other interesting pieces of jewelry will be offered. Al Scudder will return as the auctioneer.

The price of admission is only \$50 per person and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and both the live and silent auctions.

The mission runs a foster home for boys in addition to medical and water projects.

For reservations or answers to questions, call Dr. Baumrucker at 828-200-0902 or the Methodist Church at 828-526-3376.

... CATSPEAK continued from page 11

made their first stop at a local vet. Yes, the tiny thing was a cutie, but Mum had to see

the other choice too, so off they went.

I was the other choice. My foster mom

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On the corner of 3rd & Spring

saw a man throw me from the window of a pickup truck along with a black kitty, and she rescued us from the bushes. Blackie left the nest first, leaving me by myself.

I was shy when the entourage came to meet me, and Dad and Miss Beverly were leaning towards going back to get the first kitty, until Mum, the wise woman she is, made the decision that I was the one for her. And that's how I came to be a Penn pet.

As did Katrina and Dancer before me, I rule the roost. I sleep on the dog beds in the bedroom, the den, and Mum's office. I have blankets and smaller beds on the couches, and I get to sleep with my pet parents whenever I like. I'm known for flopping, as Dad calls it, so I can stretch as folks rub my gold- and white-colored belly.

Even though Mum chose me, I'm partial to Dad's lap and like to lie beside him

when he reads in bed. I put my head on his shoulder and nudge his chin so I can see what he's reading.

I share the love with Mum by reclining on her desk as she writes, demanding treats from the desk drawer, and curling up on her back in the middle of the night. As for the joke about who let whom get another kitty, Mum and Dad are always saying to each other, "Aren't you lucky I 'let' you get a kitty?" I'm sure my readers know the answer to that question.

• Princess Puddin' Penn resides in Georgia with her dad, her mom Kathy Manos Penn, and her canine brother Lord Banjo. Similar stories can be found in "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" available at Books Unlimited in Franklin and Highlands Mountain Paws. Please send comments, compliments, and questions to inkpenn119@gmail.com.

...FOUNDATION continued from page 8

be used for the purpose intended when donors made their gifts.

"To the extent donor funds have already been used, they have already gone to serve Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the community exactly as the donor intended. With respect to gifts that have not yet been used, the donor will have the choice of roll-

ing those funds over to be used for the Highlands-Cashiers Foundation's new purposes or to have those funds returned to them," she said.

An announcement discussing more about the DHT is planned for Sept. 30. In the meantime, DHT is seeking applications from potential Board members. Criteria established for DHT Board Members and a formal application process will be available at: www.DogwoodHealthTrust.org on or before August 1, 2018.

- Kim Lewicki

...OBITUARIES from page 6

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 28th at Glenville Wesleyan Church. Pastor Ralph Campbell and Minister Margaret Howell will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Military Honors will be conducted by the VFW Post 10685, Glenville.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com



Notification of Discharge of Untreated Wastewater

General Statute 143.215.1(C) requires that the owner or operator of any wastewater collection or treatment works to issue a press release when an untreated wastewater discharge of 1,000 gallons or more reaches surface waters.

In accordance with that regulation, the following news release has been prepared and issued to media in the affected county. The Town of Highlands had a discharge of untreated wastewater on July 2, 2018 of an estimated 1,000 gallons from a service line connection at 191 Cullasaja Drive in Highlands, NC. The untreated wastewater was discharged into Mirror Lake (Cullasaja River) within the Little Tennessee River Basin.

The Division of Water Resources was notified of the event on July 2, 2018 and is reviewing the matter. For more information contact Lamar Nix, Public Works Director with the Town of Highlands at (828) 526-2118.

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Residential Interior Design

MOVING SALE

July 20 & 21

9a-3p

974 Horse Cove Rd
Highlands, NC

See estatesale.com for pictures

... EVENTS continued from page 13

Saturdays Zorki.

Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge. Maestro from 6-8 p.m. and Cy Timmons 8 p.m. to close. **Fridays**

• Live FREE music in Town Square on Main Street from 6-8 p.m.

Saturdays

• Live FREE music in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 6-8 p.m.

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

4th Saturdays

• Scaly Mountain Women's Club Pancake Breakfast 8-10:30a at the old Scaly Mtn. School at Buck Knob and NC 106.

Sundays

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

Through Sat., July 14

• At Highlands Playhouse, Guys and Dolls. Call 828-526-2695 for tickets.

Thurs., July 19

• Join Thomas Duncan, MD, as he leads a panel discussion on the topic of Advanced Care Planning. The program will be held on Thursday at 5:30 pm in the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 103. Time will be available for questions. The option to complete advanced directive forms will be provided and a notary will be present (state-issued photo ID required). This free event is part of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Evening with the Docs series. Reserve your space today. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Brittany Dryman at 828-526-1345.

• Free Zahner Lecture Series "Planting in a Post-Wild World." At Nature Center on Horse Cove Road at 6pm.

Fri. & Sat., July 20-21

• At Jannine Bean Custom Jewelry, Open House and Gem Show 10a to 4:30p. For more info call 828-526-5858.

July 20-22

• At Acorn's on Main Street from 10a to 5p, Mark Garland Studio Clothing.

Friday, July 20

• At The Bascom, Mountains in Bloom Garden Tour - Friday, July 20. This year the tour will feature amazing gardens in and around the Highlands Country Club, many never before seen. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased on-line at www.thebascom.org

Sunday, July 22

• The Bascom Gala: Sunday is sure to be the event of the season! Don't miss it. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866.

Wed., July 25

• Free Summer Interlude at Presbyterian Church 2 p.m. Trey Clegg Chamber Singers. Conducted by Trey Clegg. Sponsored by Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival.

Thurs., July 26

• Free Zahner Lecture Series "Timber Rattlesnakes on the Highlands Plateau." At Nature Center on Horse Cove Road at 6pm

Sat., July 28

• Come enjoy breakfast at the Historic Scaly Mountain School House while supporting the work of the Scaly Mountain Women's Club. Their primary cause is scholarships for local area college students. On the menu is pancakes - plain and blueberry - sausage, orange juice and coffee. The Scaly Mountain School House is at 41 Buck Knob Road. \$6 for 13 and up, \$4 for 5-12 and under 5 is free. No family pays more than \$25.

Wed, Aug. 1

• Free Summer Interlude at Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Pianist. Sponsored by H-C Chamber Music Festival.

• BUSINESS/ORG NEWS •

Old Edwards consolidating Acorns Shops to 4th Street

July 14, 2018 (Highlands, NC) Acorns Boutique on Main Street will move to a new 4th Street location in October and November 2018. The new location will adjoin the Acorns on Church home décor and design center and will feature ladies fashion and accessories as well as designer jewelry.

• The new Acorns Boutique will open on 4th Street on October 1, 2018

• The gifts and home accessories portion of the boutique will remain open on the first floor of the Main Street location until November 1, when it will be incorporated into the Acorns on Church location.

Old Edwards President Richard Dela-

ny says, "With its proximity to other high-end boutiques on what is known locally as 'The Hill,' relocating Acorns Boutique to this area will continue to shape the perception of the district as a destination for style and design and potentially increase walk-in business to all of the shops along that section of 4th Street."

Plans for the current Acorns Boutique building on Main Street include a casual restaurant and bar on street level and two luxury suites on the second floor.

Look for further details as plans develop.



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO SUMMER MENU 2018

MON

JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO
LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS'S PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

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TUES

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SERVES TWO

WED

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THURS

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COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD.

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SERVES TWO

FRI

SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
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SAT

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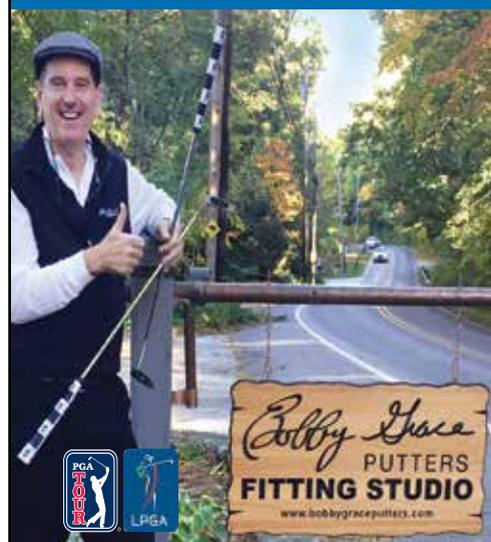
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Room to Negotiate

We need to leave room to negotiate," is a frequently heard refrain when listing a home. But do you really need to leave room and how does that harm a seller?

If you are running a 100-yard dash, do you add an extra 10 yards for room to negotiate? When selling a stock, do you leave room to negotiate? If you are a horse rider jumping a 4-foot fence, do you jump an extra 6 inches?

When sellers leave lots of room to negotiate, the asking price may deter lookers who may pay the "room to negotiate" selling price. With few exceptions, everyone over thirty years old has negotiated the purchase of a car. You either love the process or swear you will never buy another car. In today's world, in many cases, there is a change when purchasing cars in that the "room to negotiate" has been removed. No chance of miscommunication. No sweating palms, no churning stomachs and no longer waiting for the salesperson to return with the manager's approval or disapproval. Wouldn't that be great if house purchasing was the same? The asking price would be less than 5% of what the seller would accept with no exceptions. Buyers would not waste time looking at homes that they cannot afford, hoping that the seller is extremely motivated and will take a lowball price. Sellers



Jody Lovell
828-526-4104
Highlands Sotheby's
Realty Group

would not have to speculate with each offer whether another buyer was around the corner.

Let's remove the emotions from home buying and use objective facts to communicate acceptable pricing. Then buyers and sellers will not feel that they are being taken advantage of. Buyers and sellers will not lock themselves into positions which are difficult to retreat. Face-saving will no longer be as important as money. Thus, the challenge for me and my fellow brokers is to try to get the list price very close to what the seller will accept, thus saving everyone time and heartache. Sellers, you have to participate in this plan. Price closely to what you will sell for and leave out "room to negotiate".

• Jody Lovell is the top-producing broker on the Highlands/Cashiers Multiple Listing Service since 2001, having sold over 145 million in the last three and one-half years alone. She and her husband, Wood, own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, the Number One firm in Highlands for the last four years. Their three locations-downtown Highlands at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64, at the gate of Cullasaja Club and in Cashiers on Highway 107 South across from Cornucopia-and their 32 brokers can serve all of your real estate needs. Call them today for an appointment at 828.526.4104 or 828.526-8300 or 828.743.7827.

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FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
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Highlands Community Fund 'Rise and Shine' fundraiser is Sun. August 5

Ah, it's Summertime in Highlands. The season is in full bloom. It is almost time for the most anticipated event of the Summer – the Fourth Annual Highlands Community Fund 'Rise and Shine' Event. This is an evening one will not forget.

The 'Rise and Shine' Event is to be held at The Bascom on August 5th at 6:30 p.m. The party starts with cocktails, followed by a scrumptious supper provided by Lovies Barbeque of Atlanta. Back by popular demand, the Caribbean Cowboys will be providing toe tapping- dancing music.

Highlands Community Fund supports local non-profit organizations. In 2017, HCF awarded over \$54,000.00 in grants. Since 1996, HCF has, in partnership with the Community Fund of Western North

Carolina awarded grants totaling more than \$800,000.

So, buy your tickets and have a wonderful evening. It will be great opportunity to get to meet the HCF Board members and learn more about what HCF does for the Highlands community.

You can make a difference for local non - profits by attending the HCF 'Rise and Shine' Event. Tickets are \$100 per person, dress is mountain casual and the enjoyment of the evening is priceless.

For more information contact Highlands Community Fund, 'Rise and Shine' Chairpersons. Ann Klamon at faek@comcast.com or 1-404-432-6004 or Cindy Trevathan at cindytreathan@gmail.com or 828-526-2336.

...WORD MATTER continued from page 9

ers Union, who don't want to either lose jobs or reduce levels of service. Business would like to limit home delivery by at least one day each week. The Union would like to raise rates to cover potential revenue shortfalls.

Adding to this already difficult situation is a congressional mandate that the USPS maintain retiree pension and health-care benefits funding for 75 years! No other organization on the planet is held to this enormous and pain-inducing standard.

Of course, in the current political climate in our nation, and despite regular bipartisan efforts aimed at achieving some kind of limited reform, any notion of compromise has vacated the U.S. Capitol building. Cutting two or even one day of home delivery, raising bulk mail rates proportionate to raises in first-class rates, and rethinking employee benefit levels and funding on new hires could bring expenses more consistently in line with revenues. That said ...

The long-range outlook for the USPS and its business model doesn't invite optimism. Technology continues to change how we communicate with one another, pay our bills and even observe celebratory occasions. Competition from UPS, FedEx, and other private carriers has heavily impacted USPS's package deliv-

ery business. By the time millennials have their own grandchildren, smart, secure devices will meet most bill paying requirements and most traditional uses for greeting cards. Email, texts, social media and private messaging platforms are in the process of eliminating hand written, even typed letters. Direct mail advertising will, thankfully, give way to product placement and sponsorships, more individually targeted search engine and social media ad delivery systems, and digital platforms as yet unimagined.

We in Highlands are especially blessed with regard to our hometown Post Office. Conveniently located at the intersection of Main Street and the Dillard Road, our modern, state-of-the-art facility has plenty of parking and friendly, hard working people taking care of our every individual need.

As far as those who choose to look upon things from a negative point of view, go on and find something to complain about if you must. I, for one, will continue to support the United States Postal Service by trusting it with my bill-paying, delivery of my greeting cards and gift packages, by buying its often pretty, no-lick postage products (I don't refer to them as stamps because stamps translate to taxes, you know), and applauding its durability and singular uninterrupted record of effectiveness and efficiency since before the American Revolution.

...REVAL continued from page 1

more often if a county sees fit. In the past, Macon County has focused revaluations on a four-year cycle.

In the 2015 property revaluation, on average, Macon County residents saw a 14.8 percent decline in property values. In 2015, at .27 millage rate per \$100 valuation, Macon County had the lowest property tax rate in the state. With the revaluation factored in, the milage rate increased to .33 to bring in \$26 million in revenue for the current level of county services, but Macon County was still the third lowest tax rate in the state. According to Lightner, residents will see a smaller change in property valuations, as the county gets back on the 4-year rotation.

"Last time we saw about a 20% loss of value overall," said Lightner. "This time we will see more random adjustments based on the quality of the property and its market demand. Overall, Macon County will break about even on values, that is not to imply that all properties will see no or little change. Downtown properties are in some demand along with second-home properties. Many lots are seeing improved sales but the prices are not at the level of 2007. Most lots are still depressed and only the best lots still command a premium price."

Since Lightner began in in 1991, his of-

fice has handled the property reassessment in 1991, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015 and now 2019. He has handled the county's property revaluation in-house, which has saved county taxpayers \$4,330,000 since 1999. In 2015, the process of conducting their revaluation in-house saved taxpayers \$1,083,150. The Macon County tax office has been working on the 2019 revaluation since January 2017. The first part of the project is preparing all the data files for field work.

"We must develop and run reports to make certain all properties have all of the basic value items accounted for," said Lightner. "We then have to split our database so we can run two valuation systems concurrently together - one system is based on the 2015 values, the other system is the work being done for 2019."

North Carolina is a 100% market value state so the tax office has to establish values between 95% and 105%.

"The 10% difference is the margin allowed in appraisals to allow for the individual appraiser's interpretation of the market," said Lightner.

The project will be completed mid-January 2019 with values being sent to the property owners. The new taxes will be in the 2019 tax bills July 2019.

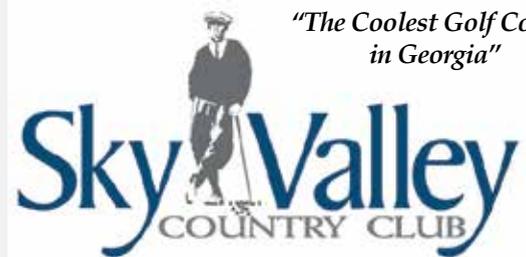
...OFFICERS continued from page 7

ily," she said. "I look forward to working with them."

Moore shares his daughter's enthusiasm for HPD.

"Highlands is one of the few places left

where you can be proud to be a police officer," he said. "It's a place where kids still run up and hug you and the parents say 'thank you for your service,' or 'I've got your back.'"



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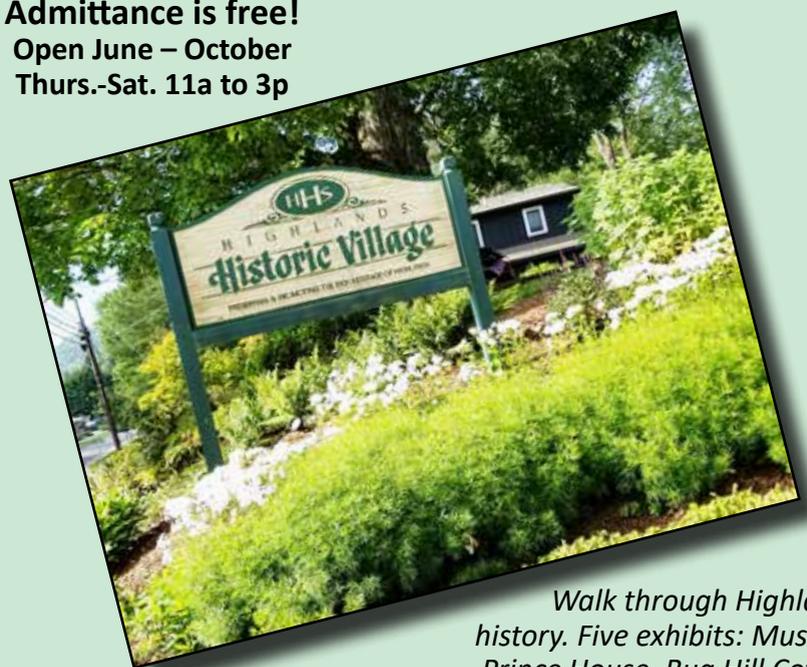
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING. •**The Sunday gathering is not about you**

Pastor Mark Ford
First Baptist Church
Highlands

Worship remains a matter of discussion and even contention in our day. Considering the world's problems of war, destitution, hunger and drought, and big challenges facing the church in the public square and society at large, it seems almost narcissistic to have to even discuss and debate how we worship the Lord God! But it may well be that our obsession with worship styles and music are nothing more than an over emphasis on individualism and self-centeredness. And this hurts the church's witness. So, I really hate submitting another article on this subject, but a recent article in Christianity Today moves me to share once again what might be a realignment in our thinking from "my worship" to "our worship."

Jen Wilkin wrote this article, entitled The Sunday Gathering Is Not About You. In it she notes that evangelicals correctly put an emphasis on our personal relationship with Christ. But ironically, corporate worship came to reflect our individual experience. Yet a post-Christian culture cries out for us to reclaim our once historic emphasis in our worship on us – a reminder that we are not alone in this world. Corporate worship should emphasize the we, pushing back on the me that weakens our shared faith. People are lonely in this turbulent day, and the church should be one area where they can find community and comradeship.

Wilkins gives six emphasis that can get us back into a shared, corporate worship that promotes the we, which in turn will correct the abuses of worship, whether contemporary or traditional.

First, we need to re-evaluate our worship environments. Stage lights and "stages" in general leave the congregation in darkness and "out there" creating anonymity from what is occurring up front. We need to see each other and join together in worship. We would benefit from a sense of shared sight and space that promote the we.

Second, we need a sense of shared hearing. We use sound systems. When the sound is too loud, individuals can feel isolated and anonymous. When the sound is lower, we can hear each other in worship that encourages participation. Also, if the music is too difficult to sing or has complicated melodies, worshippers become silent. Worship music should be conducive to everyone's ability.

Third, we should have shared touch to move us from me to us. This goes back to the historic greeting in the early church – the "holy kiss." While we may not be comfortable with this, it can easily be translated into our greeting with eye contact, grasped hands or hugs. Such remind us that we are with other living, breathing believers.

Fourth, we should have shared taste. This is captured in the shared table of the Lord's Supper, and the fellowship meals. Nothing speaks of "communion" like sharing the Lord's Supper or in fellowship meals.

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 22

Proverbs 3:5**• PLACES TO WORSHIP •****John 3:16****BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High School;

10:45am: Child. Program, 10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

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828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

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526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship & Communion: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 6p

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Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447, Pastor Gary Hewins

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE •

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

July 2

• At 11 a.m., officers received a call about planters valued at \$200 being taken from outside a residence on North Drive.

July 3

• At 5:07 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

July 6

• At midnight, officers received a call about theft from a building on US 64 west where items valued at \$450 were destroyed and taken from the apartment.

July 7

• At 8:04 p.m., officers received a report of a burglary with breaking and entering at a residence on Dog Mountain road where \$100 of household goods were taken.

July 9

• At 10 a.m., officers received a report of a burglary and breaking and entering and first degree trespass at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. The incident ended in an arrest.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street near Oak Street.

July 10

• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Little Bearpen Road.

July 11

• At 2:50 p.m., officers received a call about a burglary and breaking and entering where some entered the residence on Hudson Road without permission and took TVs valued at \$500 each.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 22.

June 22

• At 9:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east. There were no injuries.

June 23

• At 10:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at US 64 west and Mirror Lake Road. There were no injuries.

• At 1:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at US 64 west. There were no injuries.

June 24

• At 10:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 4th Street.

• At 4:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a power line down on NC 28 south.

• At 9:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to VZ Top.

• At 11:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza.

June 25

• 10:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Club-house Trail.

June 26

• At 8:06 p.m., responded to a mutual aid call from Cashiers but it was cancelled en route.

June 27

• At 6:06 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a location on Church Street.

• At 5:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28. There were no injuries.

June 28

• At 11:15 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence Country Club Drive.

June 29

• At 9:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence Fairway Condos.

• At 10:41 a.m., the dept. assisted in traffic control on NC 106.

• At 3:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence Ravenel Ridge Road.

• At 4:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Oak Street.

June 30

• At 3:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

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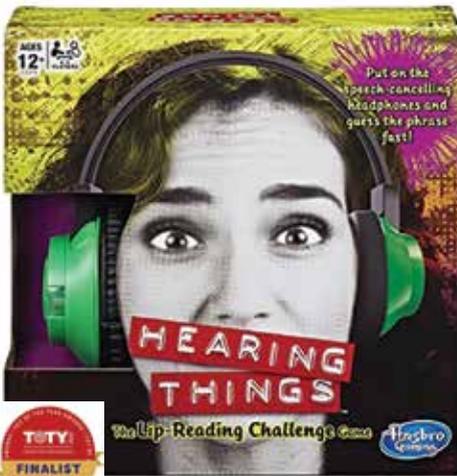
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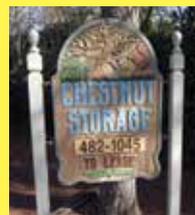
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CHURCH CUSTODIAN NEEDED. First Baptist Church Highlands. Job Description available on request. Bids being accepted. 828-526-4153. (st. 5/24)

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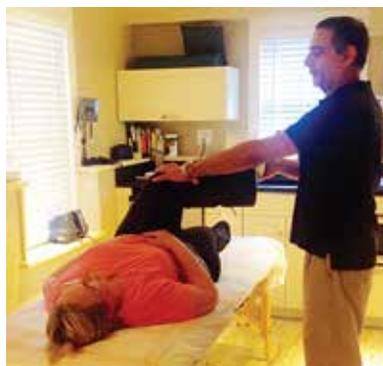
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...SPIRITUALLY from page 18

Fifth - and this is one I have contemplated for we Baptist - and that is shared smell. In the First Test Testament, the Tabernacle and Temple of God had much to say about the use of blended incense that was particular to their worship. Most modern churches don't use incense or scented candles, but might benefit from the shared smell of a fragrant worship through scented candles, especially during special worship times like Advent, Christmas, Easter, etc. This shared memory through fragrance might actually be much like the smells we lovingly remember from our childhood days at home.

Sixth, there is shared words. To help move us from me to we, we should participate in the shared lyrics of songs, but also shared prayers (Like Lord's Prayer), the creeds, and Scripture reading, all said in unison. Some churches do this better than others, but all would benefit from a corporate involvement in the declarations of faith and petitions.

These are Jen Wilkin's ideas for increasing the we in worship. Yes, salvation is a personal experience. But this must never set aside the fact that when I come to the Lord in faith, I also enter the we of the family of God. Only a shared faith can comfort and carry us through these troublesome times. We are not alone!

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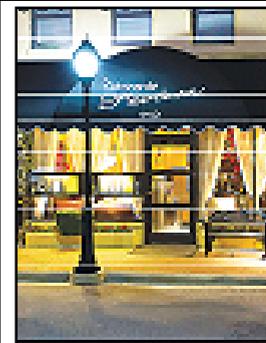


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