

Highlands Newspaper

Remember those who died for our freedom.

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 15, Number 21 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., May 24, 2018

The financing of health benefits

How Highlands, Franklin, Macon and Jackson counties are handling it

By Brittney Lofthouse

It's budget time and the three governing boards in Macon County, the towns of Highlands, and Franklin, and Macon and Jackson

counties are making business decisions for their respective agencies to make the numbers add up.

As always, something all the boards have had to closely evaluate

is the insurance they offer to their employees.

This year, as a cost saving measure, and to better serve town

• See HEALTH page 8

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Duke's 'due' is subject at budget workshop

By Brian O'Shea

Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners held its second budget workshop meeting last Thursday to wrap up details regarding the town's budget before it is presented at tonight's Town Board meeting. The topic that got most of the discussion was Duke's coal ash costs and collections.

To determine the fees it was required to charge its utility customers on Duke's behalf, the town has been working with numbers provided by its Duke liaison Kevin O'Donnell with NOVA Energy Consultants. Unfortunately, O'Donnell admitted he made a mistake and the figures he provided only included the 2018 calendar year and not the 2015-'17 catch up costs awarded Duke by the NC Utilities Commission.

Consequently, the town has

• See DUKE page 7

Congratulations Highlands School Class of 2018



Alexandria Preda, Alexis Healey, Ana Damian, Analyse Crook, Antonio Contreras, Briana Jenkins, Brittany Chastain, Brooke Rehmeier, Chandler Stoltzfus, Cole Satterwhite, David Rogers, Demetrius Schmitt, Deysi Diaz, Emma Barrette, Genevieve Isham, Jackson Dunagan, John Paul Grace, Jose Jimenez, Jose Machuca, Juan Garcia, Kimberly Feria, Kyle Dorsey, Madison Dalton, Madison, Manuel Contreras, Maxwell Renfro, Trinity Dendy, Zoran Nastasic and Mascots Ryne Dooley and Cecelia Torres. The graduation ceremony is Saturday, May 26 at 5 p.m. in the Highlands School gym. See more photos on page 24 and 25.

MC Schools joins 'Stop the Bleed' campaign

Since it looks like effective gun control laws aren't coming anytime soon; nor is money to make public school campuses safer, the Macon County Board of Education voted unanimously to do the next best thing – become part of the "Stop the Bleed" campaign.

At Monday night's school board meeting held in Highlands, board members voted unanimously to join forces with the Macon County Health Dept. which is allocating \$11,000 – half the cost of 325 combat-grade first-aid kits for each classroom in Macon County public schools. The school system is allocating the remaining \$11,000 from its undesignated fund balance so a kit will be in each classroom the start of the 2018-'19 school year.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said the school system's

• See STOP page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Lots of business at tonight's Town Board meeting



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The May meeting of the Highlands Town Board will be at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field beginning at 7 pm. The May meetings are always important town business proceedings.

The Town Manager will once again present a proposed balanced budget for FY 2018-2019.

The big item impacting the budget is the new water tank on Satulah. The cost for the project has been spread from this fiscal year into the upcoming one. The total cost for the project is about 1.3 million dollars.

The bids were opened for construction for the water tank last week. The lowest bid was about \$400,000 over the projected cost. Lamar Nix, our Town Engineer, is working with the contractor to value engineer the overage as much as possible. The unforeseen problem was with the soil and rock conditions where the tank will be located. Simply put, there was not enough rock and too much soft soil. Additional steps will be required to make sure there is adequate compaction and strength to support the tank's foundation. The foundation

for such a heavy structure must go beyond adequate. Lamar wants to make sure the site and foundation will support the tank for decades to come. Additional reserve funds will be needed to resolve this critical problem.

The board will review the proposed budget at tonight's meeting and call for a public hearing for adopting a final budget at the June meeting. After the public hearing, the board may make adjustments to the proposed budget prior to approval

of the final budget that goes into effect on July 1st.

At tonight's meeting there are two public hearings. The first will be for public response to a proposed ordinance allowing construction of new boat docks on Lake Sequoyah. The ordinance would permit limited size docks built with environmentally safe materials.

Another hearing will be held in conjunction with proposed modifications to the current ordinance regulating dam impoundments and lake draining. These changes are intended to clarify and to improve enforcement procedures.

The two proposed changes are a part of an ongoing effort to clarify and improved zoning and building regulations wherever possible. Our planning and zoning director, Andrew Bowen, continues to work with the planning board and Town Manager in improving our unified development ordinances.

There are several other items on tonight's agenda. One will be a review of a

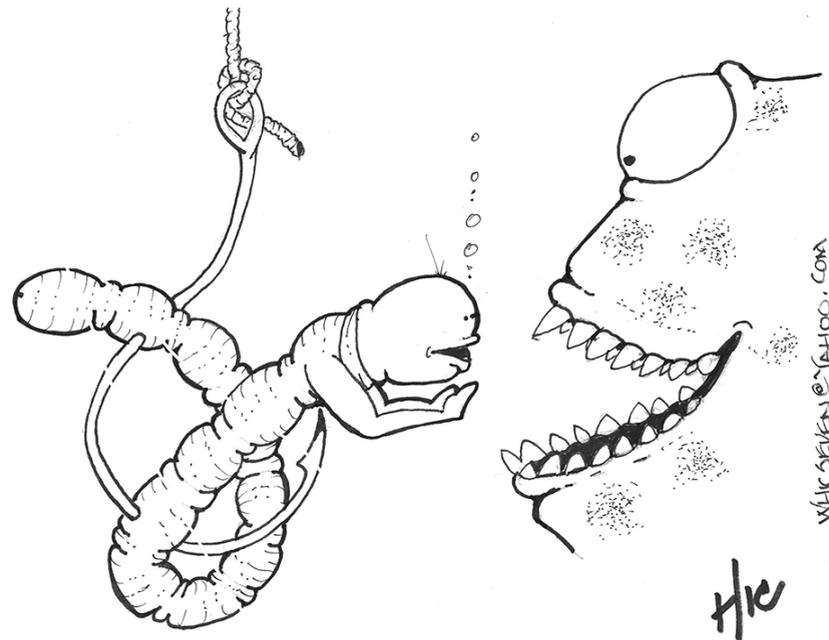
preliminary and final subdivision plat on Hardscrabble. A follow-up discussion will be held concerning the abandonment of a road right-of-way on Big Bear Pen.

At a previous meeting, neighborhood residents requested the town consider abandoning a right-of-way that appears on subdivision plats and maps. The town at-

torney has been conducting legal research on the issue and will give a report. On face value, items like this appear to be rather easy to do, but the legal implications for the town, as well as for property owners, may not be so simple.

Hope everyone can join us for tonight's meeting.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"yo big guy! You are about to make a culinary decision that will be existential for both of us."

• WEATHER •

	Friday 5/25		Saturday 5/26		Sunday 5/27	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	70 F	57 F	70 F	57 F	73 F	57 F
RealFeel®	73 F	61 F	73 F	61 F	75 F	62 F
Winds	4 g 6	3 g 5	4 g 6	2 g 5	4 g 6	3 g 5
T-Storms	40%	31%	54%	29%	40%	20%
Rainfall	0.06	0.02	0.13	0.15	0.3	1.42
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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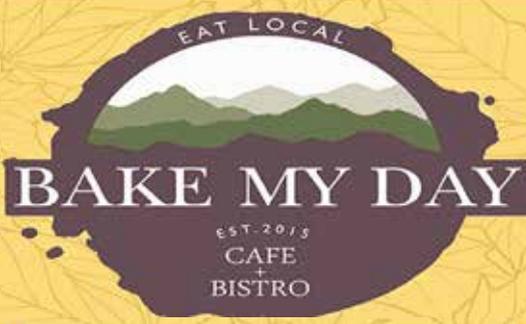


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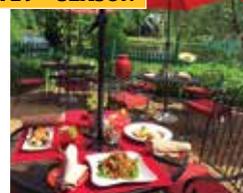
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... STOP continued from page 1

fund balance is pretty low, but felt it was important to fund this one-time event.

"A victim of any type of shooting risks the possibility of bleeding out so any way we can keep that from happening we will do it; and this is one way to cross that bridge," said Todd Gibbs, auxiliary service director.

The "Stop the Bleed" campaign's mission is to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

The contents of the combat first-aid kits – combat gauze, tourniquets and more – have been used in Afghani-

stan, Iraq and elsewhere, said Gibbs. The tourniquets can be used over and over; obviously the gauze patches can't. They are used to stop and coagulate blood within three minutes.

Concern over more recent violence including the shooting deaths of 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL and last Friday's killing of 10 students and staff in Sante Fe, TX has hammered home the need to do something.

During the first two weeks of workdays of the 2018-'19 school year, every teacher in the system will be trained on applying a tourniquet and how to use the "blood-stopping" gauze so that when students arrive Mon., Aug. 27, teachers, staff and administrators will be ready for the unthinkable.

Southwestern Community College's EMS instructor Todd Sumner will conduct the training classes.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin stressed that the combat first-aid kits are not meant to be used in instances when the traditional first-aid kit would be sufficient, but rather for a catastrophe of some kind.

The East Franklin Elementary School PTO already purchased kits for each of their classrooms but by August every public school classroom in Macon County will be outfitted with one.

– Kim Lewicki



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... DUKE continued from page 1

been under collecting for several months.

The initial plan was to collect a certain amount from residences and businesses and then decrease that collection amount over three years.

To remedy the situation, the town will continue to collect the same amount over the next three years, instead of decreasing the amount per month over the years as originally planned.

For approximately a year and a half, the town will continue to under collect, but after that it will be over collecting for another year and a half, which will balance out the numbers, said Town Manager Josh Ward.

"The costs to residents and businesses would have had go up tremendously from \$4.12 per month extra for residents and \$15 per month for commercial accounts," said Ward.

Mayor Pat Taylor said the original plan was to minimize Duke's impact on citizens.

"The idea is to pay off our debt obligations as quickly as possible. Unfortunately it's a moving target," he said.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway noted that O'Donnell has missed the target a

few times over the last several years.

Two unexpected bonuses for the town include a federal tax code change that will save the town \$44,000 this fiscal year, and \$88,000 each following year. Secondly, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has deemed that Duke Energy has been over collecting since 2014 due to an incorrect regulatory asset rate formula resulted in a \$175,000 savings to the town, which was received in March.

Due to that savings, Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested the town somehow credit that back to citizens.

"It's not our money; it's theirs. Maybe we should use that savings to offset the increases we may have to make later," she said.

However, since the numbers provided by Duke Energy are projections and subject to change, basically a moving target, commissioners felt it imperative to review the numbers annually to properly plan ahead. In fact, Town Clerk Rebecca Shuler suspects the town has been undercharging.

"We'll have to look at it annually, there will be some kind of true-up at the end of the year and we have to make sure we have that money," said Ward after the meeting.

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... HEALTH continued from page 1

employees, Highlands has elected to switch from offering employees Blue Cross and Blue Shield to offering MedCost. The transition will save the town, \$67,000 annually while still providing a good, solid insurance plan for its employees and their families.

MedCost has been the health and dental claims administrator

and health provider network for the N.C. League of Municipalities since 2011.

MedCost provides a large health care provider network including access to every hospital in the state of North Carolina and dozens of primary care and specialty care physicians. It also provides a claims platform that allows

the Health Benefits Trust to offer several new plans, even to the smallest member groups. MedCost also provides online enrollment, billing allocated by departments, and enhanced reporting for members.

When shopping for insurance options this year, Highlands Town Manager Josh Ward called the League of Municipalities and found out that they, as well as Franklin, Sylva, Shelby, and Mt. Holly all use MedCost.

According to Ward, the MedCost quote was a decrease of 8.5 percent from what Highlands is currently paying BCBS and MedCost has coverage in NC, SC and GA.

In past years, the Town of Highlands' only insurance provider option was BCBS, so with a monopoly in the market, Highlands had little negotiating powers when it came to revisiting the contract with BCBS. However, with MedCost at the table this year, BCBS lowered its first quote

• See HEALTH page 10

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• WORD MATTER •

'Season' 101



Bud Katz

Since we're approaching calendar summer, I thought it appropriate to follow in the tradition of previous Highlands Newspaper columnists and pass along some hopefully helpful reminders for folks visiting our precious plateau, either for the summer or for a shorter visit.

There are basically four types of people you will encounter during your time on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau. These important distinctions matter because you will be interacting with all of them.

Natives are, by definition, people who were born, and continue to reside here. They operate businesses, work in and around our towns, know EVERYTHING about the area and can be valuable as a resource for business referrals, and locations of cool places and things to do. They are, generally speaking, very protective of the community and its surrounding environment. They may speak a bit more quietly than those from larger, busier cities. More "seasoned" natives also may drive faster than might appear safe to you. They know our roads and switchbacks very well. Some of these roads were Cherokee trails way back when. They, or some of the younger natives, might blow by you regardless of where you are or how many lanes of traffic may be permitted. In a manner of speaking, they 'own' the plateau, and should be treated with a degree of deference.

Here's a hopefully helpful hint: when you're driving slowly and someone comes up fast behind you, look for a place to pull off the road and let them pass. There are plenty of such pull-offs. We learned this early on. It will make your drive safer and much more pleasant.

Locals, such as my wife and myself, are people who relocated from other places and who now live here all year long. We may not be quite as knowledgeable as natives but we're pretty well informed and can be helpful. As with natives, we often work in and around town. We also volunteer. We choose to live here, and we care deeply about the community. We're glad you're here, but will grimace if, for any reason, you honk your car horn, or yap on your mobile device in a checkout line at Bryson's, Ingles,

or Mountain Fresh, ignoring the people working there as if they're robots.

Our summer people are, in many ways, the reason both Highlands and Cashiers are so vibrant and full of energy for the better part of half the year. Our seasonal residents fortify our community's tax base, pump important revenue into our businesses, most of which rely on a busy summer to sustain them through

the quieter, slower winter months. Until they re-acclimate, even long-term summer residents show fear while driving our curvy roads. We smile, note the license plates, and give them the time and wide berth they need.

We locals, and many natives, love our summer people. We love it when they arrive and we appreciate it when Highlands eventually returns to the peaceful little town we've come to cherish.

Finally, we have our visitors. These are folks who vacation here, weekend here, day trip here, get married here, and pass through on their way to or from someplace else. We were visitors before moving here full-time. We appreciate visitors spending time and money enjoying our lovely shops, our outstanding restaurants, our hospitality businesses and our arts, cultural and natural resources. We enjoy having you and our summer people in our houses of worship and at our town festivals and events. We appreciate it when we catch you treating our community well. We're delighted when you acknowledge and respect our service workers, who bend over backwards to be helpful and polite.

We hope you come back again and again, and we love it when you tell your friends what a beautiful place Highlands is and encourage them to visit. Except for the natives and their ancestors, we were all visitors before either buying a vacation home or moving here full-time.

Everyone thinks he or she lives in the best place in the world. Every day, most of us who are blessed to call Highlands or Cashiers home know and are grateful we live in a very special place. We view these mountains as healing and refreshing.

We hope you enjoy every minute of your time while you're here, and we thank you for leaving our home as clean and as beautiful as you found it.

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... HEALTH continued from page 8

to Highlands by 12 percent, but even that was still more than MedCost.

Mayor Patrick Taylor said the town was expecting an increase from BCBS, which is why it began to shop around for insurance options for its 64 full-time employees.

Highlands will continue to pay 50% of dependent coverage.

Last year, when BCBS initially dropped out of its Mission Health contract, Franklin dropped BCBS and switched to MedCost for its 63 employees. At that time, the switch saved the town of Franklin \$4,000 a year without jeopardizing the standard of insurance offered to employees.

Macon County, which provides insurance coverage options for 360 employees hasn't been so lucky in terms of contract negotiations.

Last year, when Franklin switched from BCBS to MedCost, MC Manager Derek Roland said discontinuing their contract with

BCBS wouldn't be financially feasible for the county; it would cost the county at least \$600,000 to replace the BCBS so it stayed with BCBS. This year, the county began to shop for new coverage, and found that BCBS was still the most affordable, although their rates dramatically increased.

Macon County's Human Resource Director Mike Decker sent an email to all employees announcing that the insurance cost to the county would be increasing 24 percent in the coming fiscal year. Due to another high claims year and the proposed increase from BCBS, Roland said that Macon County would have to spend \$750,000 more on insurance in the coming year. He said \$500,000 of that will be absorbed in the county budget to cover the cost of insurance for county employees, which is 100 percent, but the remaining \$250,000 will be passed on to employees and their families

• See HEALTH page 19



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• THE INK PENN. •

Memorial Day and More

Memorial Day is set aside to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, but it's also a day when I'm reminded to think about those service members who are still with us. The Quilts of Valor Foundation is an organization that does just that. I learned about Quilts of Valor at a World War II Roundtable meeting last year. That day, Cecilia McVicker of Covington, Georgia joined the group to introduce us to the Quilts of Valor Foundation.



Kathy Manos Penn

In 2003, Catherine Roberts had a dream while her son was deployed to Iraq, and she describes it on the Foundation's website, <http://www.qovf.org>:

"I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing."

Her dream led her to found Quilts of Valor. Catherine envisioned a team of volunteers who would craft quilts to award to returning service men and women touched by war, quilts that would be reminders that their service was appreciated. Through the years, the recipients have grown to include service members and veterans of any conflict, not only declared wars.

Cecilia told the story of the quilts and explained that volunteers across the country donate time and materials to create the quilts, each one meant to comfort and heal its recipient. Since its inception, The QOVF has awarded 182,533 quilts.

That afternoon, she was there to award a quilt to the oldest WWII veteran present. One gentleman in his 90's proclaimed he'd be 97 in September, and another raised his hand to say he would

too. Cecilia had come prepared with two quilts, so she invited both veterans to make their way to the front of the room. Each was draped with a beautiful quilt to take home and cherish.

Cecilia left behind an informative and touching brochure that included the story of a WWII veteran. Al Lind was a POW for two years during WWII. When he discovered the Quilts of Valor Foundation, he was inspired to get involved.

From 2007 until his death in 2010, he pieced together 450 Quilts of Valor.

Whether or not you're a quilter, you can join the QOVF, and you can also make a tax-free donation. One quilt can cost as much as \$250 to complete; donations help fund fabric, batting, and shipping. If you're interested in joining a quilting group, visit this website, <http://www.qovf.org/whos-in-my-area> to find existing groups. I found Mountain Valor Quilters, Highlands, cutnpatch@yahoo.com and Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild, Franklin, mcan712@yahoo.com. You can start a new group too. Just check out the how-to information online.

These quotes from returning service members say it all:

"As silly as it might sound for a soldier with over three years in Iraq and Afghanistan to say, that blanket became a true item of comfort and peace for the road ahead."

"My quilt isn't another military medal to be placed in a box and sit on my shelf. I was moved to tears."

All thumbs at sewing? You can always support our veterans with a donation to the Quilts of Valor Foundation, USO, VFW, or other veterans organizations this Memorial Day and throughout the year.

• *Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident. Her latest book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," and her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," are available locally at the Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and are also available on Amazon. Contact Kathy at ink-penn119@gmail.com.*



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Ready in: 20 minutes for salmon, 50 minutes for chicken

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons Dijon or spicy brown mustard
- 1 tablespoon raw honey
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon dried thyme, rosemary, tarragon, or other herbs of your choice
- 2 pounds bone-in, skin-on, free-

range chicken thighs

OR 1 1/2 pounds skin-on, wild-caught salmon fillets

Directions:

Step 1: Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Step 2: Combine the olive oil, salt, pepper, mustard, and herbs in a small bowl.

Step 3: Rub the mustard mixture over the chicken and under the chicken skin or on both sides of the

salmon until completely covered. Cover and set aside in the refrigerator to marinate for at least 1 hour; salmon should marinate for no longer than 3 hours.

Step 4: Place the chicken or salmon skin-side up in a 9-inch square baking dish or medium baking sheet, be sure to cover to keep the moisture in. Bake the chicken for 45 minutes or the salmon for 15 minutes, or until cooked through. For chicken, if there are juices in the pan, use them to occasionally baste while cooking by spooning the juice in the baking dish over the chicken.

Step 5: If desired, broil for 1 to 2 minutes at the end of the cooking time for crispier skin.

Step 6: Remove from the oven, serve on a bed of greens and with some bright grilled or steamed veggies, and enjoy!



2018 Concert Season at the Highlands Performing Arts Center

The Highlands Performing Arts Center has lined up a very COOL Concert Season for 2018. The season opener...The Official Blues Brothers Revue presented by Dan Aykroyd, Judith Belushi and Musical Director, Paul Shaffer on Sunday, June 17. It's been nearly 40 years since the Blues Brothers were first introduced to "Saturday Night Live" viewers as a musical skit that quickly took on a life of its own, culminating in concerts, records and a movie.

The Highlands PAC and the Highlands Playhouse have joined together to present An Evening with Danny Kaye starring Brian Childers. Performances will take place at the Highlands Playhouse on Thursday-Sunday, June 21-24. With tenderness and great affection, Brian pays tribute to one of Broadway and Hollywood's greatest showmen. Brian Childers becomes Danny Kaye in a way that lets a new generation discover-and an older generation re-visit-a unique performer.

Saturday, June 30 brings Jeannie Austin with Tapestry: A Tribute to Carole King. Tapestry faithfully recreates the glorious sound of a Carole King concert, leaving you with memories of the great music she wrote and recorded, including "You've Got a Friend," "Take Good Care of My Baby," "The Loco-Motion," "Natural Woman," "One Fine Day," "Beautiful," "I Feel the Earth Move," and many more.

Saturday, September 15 at 8pm Broadway returns to Highlands with O Sole Trio: Bravissimo Broadway combining classic show tunes from the most beloved Broad-

way musicals. The performance includes highlights from shows such as Les Misérables, West Side Story, and Phantom of the Opera, The Sound of Music, Ghost: the Musical's. The show will take you on a thrilling 70+ year adventure of the best songs and behind-the-scene stories Broadway musicals have to offer.

Saturday, September 22: Get ready for a night of rockabilly, country, gospel and pure 1950's rock and roll with One Night in Memphis - a high energy concert that takes you back to December 4, 1956, the night when four of the biggest names in early rock and roll -- Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash -- gathered together for an impromptu jam session at the legendary Sun Studios in Memphis.

Friday after Thanksgiving: Christmas with the Nelsons, starring Matthew & Gunnar Nelson. This heart-warming multi-media live concert stars the third generation of #1 Nelson Family hitmakers, Ricky Nelson's twin sons, multi-platinum recording artists. They have been thrilling sellout audiences world-wide for the past decade with their high-integrity Ricky Nelson Remembered show... and they've got a new gift for you to open, Christmas with the Nelsons.

October to May the MET Opera and the National Theater of London are presented Live via Satellite.

Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Inquire about becoming a PAC Member and the benefits offered to members.

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'I am America'

By Dick Funsch
Highlands Writers Group

Every Tuesday morning for the past six months or so I've been sharing breakfast with a bunch of pretty amazing men ... U.S. military veterans. The group has been on-going for 15 years, starting with three or four veterans getting together for breakfast on an every-now-and-then basis in 2003.

Today membership numbers about 30-30 with weekly attendance varying from 15-20 as the somewhat elderly group (one of whom is looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday later this year) gathers at 8 am at the 34th Street South Bob Evans restaurant in St. Petersburg, FL.

The group, comprised of Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Security Agency veterans, is known as Bob's Vets. Their sole purpose is to share their love of country and enjoy the companionship of like-minded men.

Bob's Vets is somewhat unique in that there is no application for membership, no initiation fee, no dues, no officers,

no roster of members, no formal agenda and no reading of minutes. The only on-going tradition is standing before breaking bread, hands over hearts, and reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag."

That said, Tuesday, May 1, 2018, was an exception to the rule. No, the veterans didn't go dancing around the May Pole in a rite of spring ... they experienced an event of far greater significance.

Two eighth-grade International Baccalaureate students at St. John Vianney Catholic Middle School in St. Pete Beach, FL, Brooke Brenneman and Codi Westbrook, presented their IB project: "I Am America."

The title the girls selected was inspired by the title of a Memorial Day feature Bob's Vets member John Stoeffler wrote for the St. Louis Post Dispatch in 2012.

His feature began: "I lost my first child on the day I was born, April 19, 1775 ... I am America. He fell on the green at Lexington, his heart pierced by a British musket ball. Many more of my sons and daughters would fall on that day and in the years to come until the guns grew still and



Codi Westbrook and Brooke Brenneman presenting American flags and candy mints to veterans)

peace came to me on that glorious day at Yorktown, VA."

Stoeffler's feature continued as "America" grieved over the losses of additional sons and daughters as they sought peace, freedom and equality in wars and acts of terrorism labeled 1812, Spanish-American, Civil, World Wars I and II, Korea, Viet Nam, the Twin Towers, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It's little wonder the two students were gripped by and adopted the title: "I Am America" for their school project. In essence, their project focused on people's awareness, or lack thereof, of the contributions and sacrifices made by military veterans through the years, from the Revolutionary War in the 1770s to the present day conflict in Afghanistan.

With money out of their own pockets, funds acquired through the sale of small American flags they had purchased and resold to friends, neighbors and fellow students, the two girls surprised one and all by buying the assemblage of veterans breakfast.

They came up with the idea on their own; it was their thoughtful and meaningful way of saying "Thank you" to all veterans and their families for the sacrifices they had made on behalf of their country. Needless to say there was hardly a dry eye in the house, correction, in the restaurant.

The girls circulated among the group of veterans, handing out small American flags and candy mints, greeting each per-

son individually, asking about their time in uniform, and once again expressing their thanks and appreciation for each veteran's years of service.

I was in awe. Saying: "Thank you for breakfast" seemed wholly inadequate under the circumstances. Overwhelmed by the girls displays of maturity far beyond their years, their motivation, commitment and respect, what more could one say? The girls, by their deeds and actions, had said it all.

With the next generation including the likes of these two young ladies, barely in their teens, there's little doubt in my mind that the future of the country rests in the very best of hands.

In addition to satisfying school requirements, the girls realized additional and unexpected benefits from their project. "We now have so much more respect for the people that served America and we will carry this experience with us for the rest of our lives," they said. "We also learned that one person can make a difference, not only to our community but also to our own generation."

God bless the girls, their parents, their teachers...and, lest we forget... God Bless America.

At a recent breakfast meeting of the veterans group, Codi and Brooke were unanimously elected honorary lifetime members of Bob's Vets/St. Petersburg, FL.

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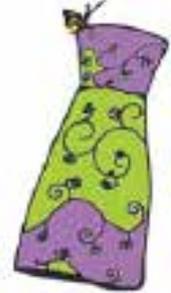


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •**A Pilgrim's Journey**

**Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
Methodist Church**

One of the unique treasures of a delightful community like Highlands, is the rich beauty of her people. Whether members of multi-generational families, year-round or seasonal residents, tourists, frequent or first-time visitors, the streets, shops, restaurants, walking-trails, mountains and water-falls are alive with all kinds of interesting folk.

Take just the other day for example. While walking along main street, I happened upon a couple who caught my attention. Maybe it was their clothing, which was different from the usual sidewalk attire I'm accustomed to seeing here on the plateau. It could have been the large stick the man used to tap the ground as he walked, more like a shepherd's staff. It could have been the age of the couple, well advanced in years, their appearance a mixture of strength and weariness. But I think what really grabbed my attention was the unavoidable fact that the elderly woman was pregnant.

I invited them to join me for a cup of coffee at Buck's, and for a couple of hours we sat and talked, laughed and cried, remembering the past and imagining the future together. I learned that the man's name was Abraham. He was just weeks away from his 100th birthday, and Sarah, his wife, was not far behind in age. They were expecting their first child. They spoke of hard and dangerous travels in far away places, of fears, frustrations and failures.

But mostly they spoke of promise.

They spoke of a promise received many years ago. The promise of a land of plenty, safety, refuge and hope, and of a people too numerous to count, beginning with the unborn child growing in Sarah's belly in Buck's Coffee Shop that day. And they spoke of purpose.

They spoke of a purpose that had come to them in the form of a calling. It was a calling with an unmistakable divine origin. It had been stirring in Abraham's soul and ringing in his ears since he was 75 years old. It was a calling that had driven them both away from everything that was familiar and comfortable, a calling requiring them to let go of their long-held illusions of security and control, and to begin the hard work of daily trusting God.

I was struck by their candor as they recounted missteps and mistakes they had made along their arduous journey. They spoke of seasons of strong faith and

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

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

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Parish office (Rev. Dr. Francis): 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

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.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd Sun.;

Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day

Horse Cove - Kay Ward 828-506-8148

Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

... HEALTH continued from page 10

with an increase for dependent coverage.

This marks the second year that Macon County employees have seen an increase in their insurance rates.

Last year, Roland did a complete overhaul of the county's health insurance budget due to the reserve fund being depleted by prior administrations. To help offset the financial burden the increase would have had on county employees last year, the annual budget included a 2 percent cost of living increase for employees, which in total, cost the county \$387,507.

This year however, despite an increase in ad-valorem tax collection as well as an increase in sales tax revenues for Macon County, Roland said that a cost of living increase is not being recommended for county employees and neither is utilizing the county's more than \$21 million fund balance to avoid passing the financial burden of an insurance hike to county employees.

In Jackson County, a similar rate increase is expected, but rather than pass the rate increase on to county employees, Jackson County Commissioners elected to contribute more to the insurance fund.

Macon County employees either have

to pay the difference or as Decker recommended, look at applying for Medicaid.

"Those of you with children ages 0-19 might want to inquire about the availability of Medicaid or Health Choice coverage."

For a county employee receiving county insurance for an employee and a spouse, no children, the rate increase will mean paying \$121 more a month for a total cost of \$394. An employee with more than one child will now have to pay \$493, an increase of \$147 a month. The largest increase comes for employees who insure their families, a spouse with at least one child. Those employees will now be paying \$693 a month for insurance, an increase of \$205 a month.

To put that into perspective, a sheriff deputy in Macon County earns \$15.80 an hour, or roughly \$2,528 a month. To provide insurance for a deputy's family next fiscal year, the deputy will be paying \$693 out of their \$2,528 (before taxes) pay check.

Since the enrollment period was before the county's final budget workshop, county employees insurance increases will be deducted beginning with the first two payrolls in June for coverage beginning July 1.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

times of crippling doubt, times when they trusted God and times when they laughed at the foolishness of what they had been asked to believe.

With the afternoon sun waning they took their leave and continued their journey, in sure and certain confidence toward the fulfillment of the promise they'd received many years ago, the promise that still carried and sustained them.

And as I waved goodbye and watched them head toward Horse Cove Road, I found myself offering a silent prayer. It was a prayer of gratitude for all the pilgrims whose honest and authentic faith journeys have crossed my path across the years, whose stories continue to encourage and inspire me, helping me to somehow make sense of my own journey of faith.



For Rent!
Daily or Weekly Rates!

Pak n Plays • Stollers • High Chairs • Baby Gates

at **The Toy Store**

Daily 10a to 5p • 365 Main Street • 8328-526-9415

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.

\$37.95
SERVES
TWO

TUES

OVEN OFF NIGHT
2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL. SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS, WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS, MOUNTAIN FRESH OIL AND VINEGAR ON THE SIDE AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A MOUNTAIN FRESH BAKERY FRENCH BAGUETTE

\$26.95
SERVES
TWO

WED

PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES & SALAD
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD.

\$36.95
SERVES
TWO

THURS

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

\$28.95
SERVES
TWO

FRI

SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

\$29.95
SERVES
TWO

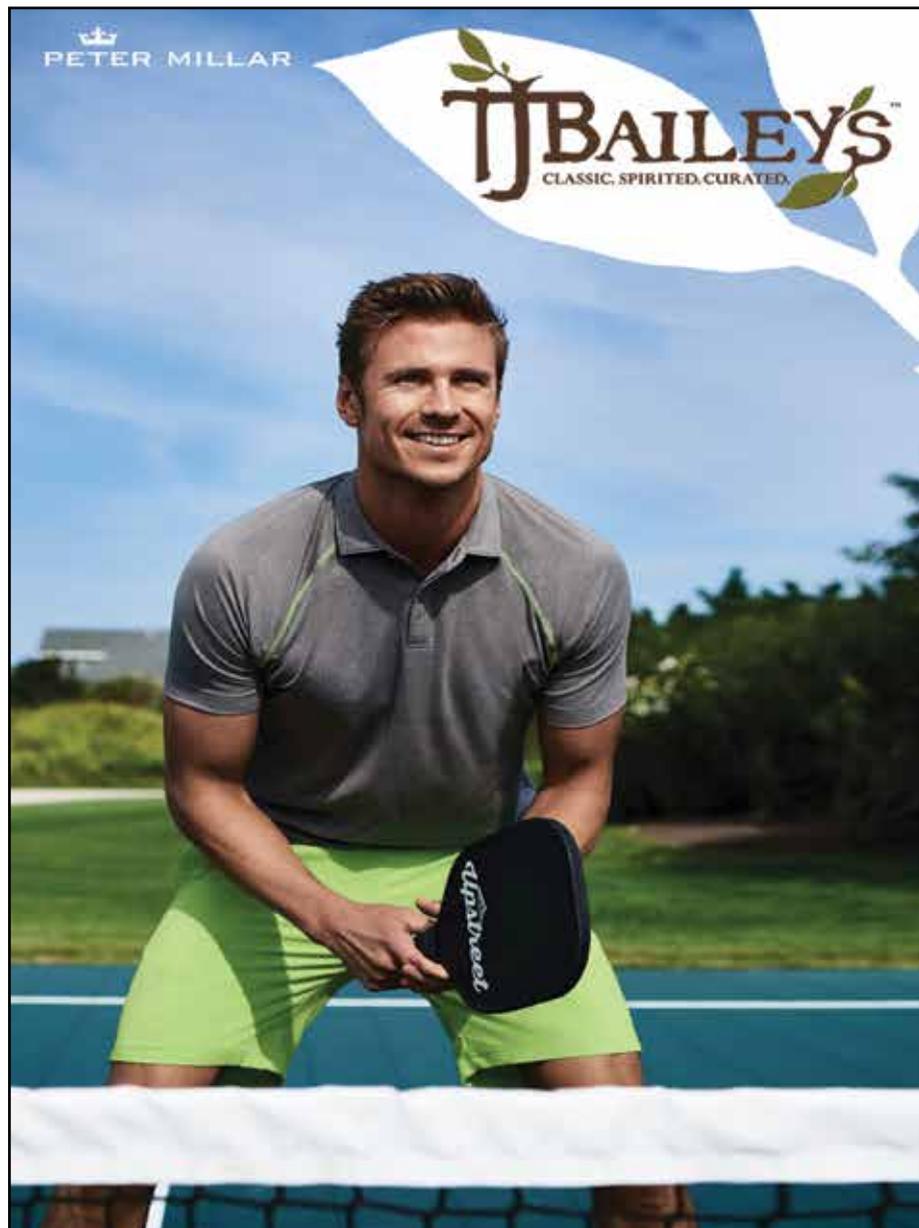
SAT

IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS.

\$26.95
SERVES
TWO

COME BY OR CALL IN YOUR DINNER ORDER!
AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP FROM 4:30-8, OR UNTIL WE SELL OUT
STORE HOURS: 7AM-9PM MON - SAT, 8AM-6PM SUNDAY
VISIT MFGRO.COM FOR DAILY SPECIALS
CORNER OF FIFTH & MAIN, HIGHLANDS NC • 828.526.2400

• AREA EVENTS •



PETER MILLAR
TRUNK SHOW
 FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

A DESTINATION BOUTIQUE.

HIGHLANDS TOWN SQUARE 828.526.2262	CASHIERS 104 HWY 107 S. 828.743.8855	TJBAILEYS.COM TJBAILEYS@f
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Ongoing
 • Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Mov-ies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.
First Mondays
 • Shortoff Baptist Church non-denomina-tional Men's Meeting at 7 pm
Mondays
 • At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fit-ness 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. and 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 Depart-ment 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,
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 Method-ist 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
• See EVENTS page 21

Highlight/Blow-Out SPECIAL
w/Kassie • \$95
 Through June
 (regularly \$120)
Shear Elevations
Eyebrow Wax Special with Kassie \$15

Owner/Stylist: Lisa L. Shearon
 Stylist: Jane B. Earp
 Stylist/Nail Tech: Kristi Stockton
 Nail Tech: Katie Baker Passmore
 Stylist: Kassie Vinson
 828-526-9477 • 225 Spring Street, Highlands

Susan Elizabeth INTERIORS
 Color Consultations
 828-342-5029

Residential Interior Design

Creative Concepts Salon Inc.

Upstairs and Across the Walkway at "Falls on Main" Highlands (828) 526-3939
 OPENING AT 9A • TUESDAY - SATURDAY

Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilardo
 Stylists: Heather D. Escandon, Maggie Barden, Bri Field
 Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt

Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning
 Eyelash Extensions • Walk-ins Welcome!

1/2 Price SALE!
The Book Worm

Except New Releases
 Located in the "Falls on Main"

All proceeds support the Hudson Library

• AREA EVENTS •

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

Thursdays

• See EVENTS page 26

OPENING THE DOOR TO YOUR FUTURE

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Gem Show

Fri, July 20 - Sat, July 21
10AM - 4:30PM

JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING EVENT!

Meet Evan & Margit, two experts in the field of gem stones.

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE:

Evan will be speaking.

Don't miss it! All are welcome!



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Custom Jeweler

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Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals



MLS #84327 \$297,000
3BR/3 bath - FURNISHED
On two private lots near the top of Moon Mtn. Hiking/ waterfalls



MLS #86176 \$1,495,000
5BR/5 baths
Historic Satulah Mtn.
Askins designed home with lots of privacy



MLS #82660 \$1,195,000.
6 BR/ 2 baths
Old Highlands charm on over 6.5 acres
Mountain views & EASY WALK to town



MLS #83342 \$785,000
4 BR/ 3 full and 2 half baths
Two levels, 3 fireplaces, garage
perennial gardens,
sold furnished.

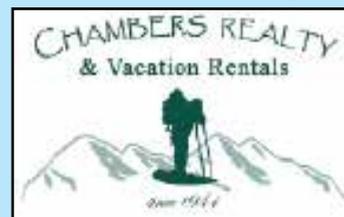


MLS #86858 \$950,000
3BR/3 baths
Walk to town with mountain views
Contemporary design with log siding



*Remember
our fallen
Veterans....
Fly the flag*

"Highlands is calling and I must go."



Jeannie Chambers
828-526-3717
www.highlandscalling.com
401 N 5th St., Highlands



• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Take blinders off when buying Real Estate

It can be easy to fall in love, but it is always important to be objective, especially with an investment.

Buying a home is one of the largest investments most of us ever make. Looking for a home is an exciting but it can be a tough endeavor.

If you have been looking and looking and then discover the perfect home, you should not get sidetracked by falling in love. Your Highlands' Realtor® can help you keep grounded and ensure you learn more about a home prior to closing on it.

Why is it important to look at a home objectively? You need to ensure the price is reasonable, the home is in good condition,

and that there are no surprises. Your Realtor® can help you with a Home Inspection, Radon Inspection, Termite Inspection, as well as Septic System Evaluation and Water Quality Test if the home is not on public water or sewer. Some homes will need to have Generator and/or Smart Home Inspections. Other inspections may arise from the outcome of the above.



Lynn Kimball
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices
Meadows Mountain Realty
828-421-8193
Lynn@BHHSMMR.com

a huge project will take commit-

In addition, it is important to always make sure that your home meets your needs. Don't be so wowed by the kitchen that you don't notice the missing bedroom, or limited number of bathrooms.

Also, it is best to make sure the house is what you're are looking for in terms of condition. Do you have to remodel? A little might be OK but

ment. Your Realtor® will help you evaluate the home for sale, but you need to provide a list of wants and needs. More importantly you need to make sure these items on the list are checked off by the home in question.

There is a lot that goes into purchasing a home, this is where it helps to hire a Realtor®.

Number one is to hire someone of good character, reputation and integrity, along with a working knowledge of the area and market conditions, plus experience with NC Real Estate Law, purchase/sale documents and up-to-date tools of the trade.

• Lynn Kimball has over 44 years of real estate experience, with 33 years

servicing the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user-friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations, at 488 Main Street in Downtown Highlands and in Cashiers at 132 HWY 107 S. or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@BHHSMMR.com



198 KLEIN ROAD

\$695,000 | MLS# 88360

One level living in desirable close in neighborhood. New wood floors, stone gas fireplace, kitchen, baths with heated floors, paint, heat and air. Large lot borders 27-acre estate, room for garden or kid's activities. Add in the large bonus room, two-car garage and two porches to enjoy summer, year-round, or excellent rental. Lovely furnishings available.



602 VZTOP

\$449,000 | MLS# 87951

No detail left undone in this three-bedroom mid-level flat condominium with astounding views. Beamed ceiling in living room, newly designed kitchen and baths, wood floors, all new windows and doors, stone fireplace, tray ceiling, heated floors in master bath, many artistic touches. 4,400' elevation paradise on Little Yellow Mountain. Some furnishings available.



701 VZTOP

\$379,000 | MLS# 88347

Unbelievable sunsets from this renovated three-bedroom lower level flat. Privacy from street, tray ceiling in kitchen with new layout. New cabinets and granite, large jetted tub in master bath. Real hardwood floors throughout. Great gated community on top of the mountain with full-time caretakers on the property. Owner would offer some furniture if desired.



121 HOLT KNOB ROAD

\$825,000 | MLS# 87888

This stately mountain home is walk to downtown Highlands. Wood floors throughout, large sun room windows bring the outside in. Sit by the fire pit in the evening or watch the lightning bugs flicker on and off from the large deck or stone porch. Three bedrooms plus an office upstairs; workshop/hobby room on the first floor. Den/family room off the kitchen.



76 OVERLOOK ROAD

\$335,000 | MLS# 87965

This cutie, only 6 minutes from town, is everything you need for summer, year-round, or a popular rental. With 3BR/2BA and a split plan, the home features a brick fireplace in living room, a separate laundry room and two-car garage. Move-in ready. Spend the summers away from the heat, breathe in the fresh mountain air from the deck or courtyard.



BETTY HOLT

p | 828.526.4218 (direct)

o | 828.526.1717 (office)

e | betty@bhhsmmr.com

Berkshire Hathaway 2017 Honor Society Recipient



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

Meadows Mountain Realty

MeadowsMountainRealty.com

828.526.1717

Downtown Highlands: 488 MAIN STREET

Main Street COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES Mtn. Fresh

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccp4highlandsnc.com | ccp4info@frontier.com



Fully renovated home in a quiet neighborhood within 12 minutes of Main Street, Highlands. This home has been totally rebuilt and enlarged. Has a large open kitchen, dining, living room with gas log fireplace, 3 BR/2 baths, double garage, large deck (partially covered), and beautiful landscaping. New flooring throughout. Almost one acre fully fenced for dog/children security. The large yard has been planted with perennials, shrubs, and trees in areas. Offered at \$319,000. mls #88377



Great rental potential with some fixing up. There are 4 rental cabins. 2 have 2 bedrooms 1 bath upstairs and 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment downstairs. The other two have 2 bedrooms one bath upstairs only. There is also a shed on the property. Offered at \$380,000. mls #88027



Under Construction! Custom cabinets with granite counter tops and farm sink. Open living room/dining room/kitchen with tongue and groove ceilings and hardwood floors, solid masonry fireplace with Tennessee stone. Tile shower and floors in master bath. Electric heat pump, dual fuel range, metal roof. Basement with garage door. Offered at \$595,000. mls #87628



Living large on Lake Sequoyah! Extremely well maintained 4/4 log home on Arnold Road, behind security gate. House boasts cathedral ceilings, gorgeous wood floors, plenty of light, 3 wood burning stone fireplaces and a 3 car log garage with 1/1 kitchen equipped apartment above. Home built is 2001, garage and apartment constructed more recently. Entire exterior and decks have been freshly stained. Gentle terraced path to lake with private dock. Large community dock available for those bigger 'boat on over' gatherings. Privacy is all yours on this native landscaped 4+ acre parcel just outside City Limits. Perfect for Highlands Country Club members who want to live off campus yet cart to club. Mossy yard is perennial planted and Koi Pond is occupied. This is a solid log home that wraps you in welcome and comfort! Offered for \$1,795,000. mls #88211



You'll love this cute 2 bedroom 2 bath one level living Mirror Lake Cottage that sits on a .26 acre lot. Great summer home, year round living or great rental potential. Old Highlands Charm, wood burning fireplace, nice front deck looks over easy to maintain yard. Ready for your personal touches. 1 car garage with lots of storage. A quiet, friendly neighborhood just minutes from downtown Highlands. Offered at \$269,000. mls #88067



Lovely estate on Horse Cove Road. This wonderful property has over 6 acres of grounds with a stream and a view of Blackrock mountain. easy access off a paved, state maintained road with no HOA fees. Private well and driveway. The house is large and spacious, with a large screened porch that brings the outdoors in. The house is in move in condition, with updated kitchen and baths. 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, plus a study and carport. Do not miss viewing this charming family home. Offered at \$1,350,000. mls #88115.



This arts and craft style home is located on the popular Big Bear Pen Mountain, within a 1.5 mile walk/drive to downtown Highlands Main Street. Completely remodeled and designed by Darren Whatley, with beautiful views, a rocking chair front porch, Heart of Pine wood floors, granite counters in kitchen & baths., The great room features a cathedral ceiling with wood beams and a native stone wood burning fireplace. The kitchen is spacious with a large granite island/breakfast bar, gas stove and a sub zero refrigerator. There are two guest bedrooms on the main floor. The master suite upstairs has a private balcony and bath w/ a double sink granite vanity, walk in shower and relaxing soaking tub. Views are available from almost every room. Manicured front lawn with fire pit. Come and see what this home is all about, it is sure to please! \$875,000. mls #87982



Buckberry Falls Subdivision. This light and bright, 3BR, 3BA home is a must see. One level living, newly updated dream kitchen, vaulted ceilings, wood burning fp and 18'30" deck facing Shortoff Mountain. Separate family room w/ fireplace, full house generator, paved circular drive, beautiful landscaping and more! An inviting and comfortable home that brings the outdoors inside. Buckberry Falls is a friendly neighborhood that enjoys social events and community pond. Near Highlands-Cashiers hospital. Offered at \$570,000. mls #87474



New custom built home on 23.04 acres with over 1000' of beautiful Clear Creek flowing through the property, pastoral grounds and a pond. The home was designed with low maintenance and an easy flow in mind. The main level living room has vaulted ceilings, a floor to ceiling stone fireplace, beautiful hardwood floors throughout, neutral color shiplap interior with rustic touches. 3BR/2BA on main level. Upstairs, there is a large bunk room, spacious bath and cozy tv spot. The kitchen has custom cabinets, granite countertops, large island and stainless appliances. Outdoor patio with stone fireplace overlooks the acreage and creek. Also included is a detached garage with a canning kitchen and storage loft and a 1BR/1BA guest house with single garage. One visit to the remarkable property and you will want to stay forever! Offered for \$1,795,000. mls #88068



This home is a must see sitting on over 10 acres of land with great panoramic views to the west. This all glass contemporary home has 3 fireplaces, 2 levels of decks, walls of glass and lots of land for privacy or development. This home is convenient to the hospital, country clubs, Highlands and Cashiers. Offered at \$1,600,000. mls #87715



This beautiful home has it all. Main level is complete with open floor plan and stunning custom built kitchen. Dining area opens up to large screened in porch to enjoy some outdoor living. One bedroom, full bath, half bath and bonus room all on the main level. Upstairs is a private master suite with large bathroom. Partially finished basement with two car garage, bonus room and full bath. Beautiful 6 acre lot with gorgeous landscaping complete with a basketball court. Offered at \$599,000. mls #87025



This beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath log cabin on the Atlanta side of Highlands on Buck Knob Road in Scaly Mountain has almost 10 acres of land and a great view to the west. With covered porch across the entire back of the log cabin. Long range mountain views. The log cabin is furnished with a few exceptions. Offered at \$585,000. mls #87736

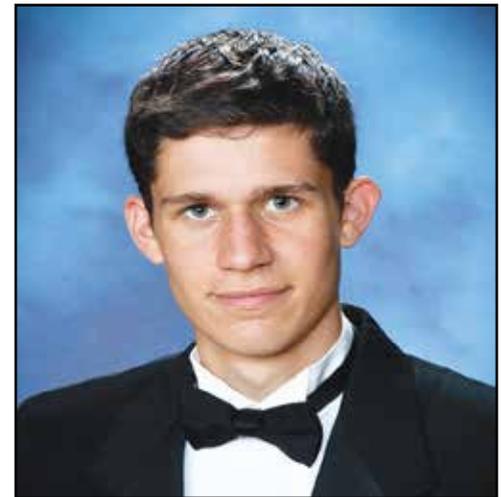
Highlands School Class of 2018



Emma Barrette
Valedictorian
Gap Year



Madison Lloyd
Co-Salutatorian
Air Force Academy



Maxwell Renfro
Co-Salutatorian
Appalachian State University



Alexandria Preda
Florida International U.



Alexis Healey
University of Tampa



Ana Damian
Southwestern CC



Analyse Crook
Appalachian State U.



Antonio Contreras
Southwestern CC



Briana Jenkins
Lanier Technical
College



Brittany Chastain
Southwestern CC



Brooke Rehmeier
UNC Charlotte



Chandler Stoltzfus
Southwestern CC



Cole Satterwhite
UNC Asheville

Highlands School Class of 2018



David Rogers
AB Technical CC



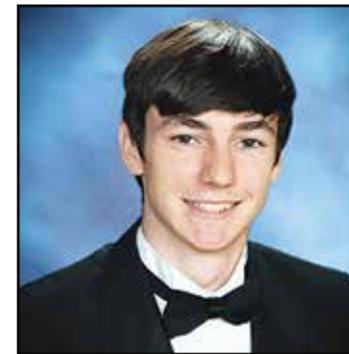
Demetrius Schmitt
Gap Year



Deysi Diaz Ovando
Southwestern CC



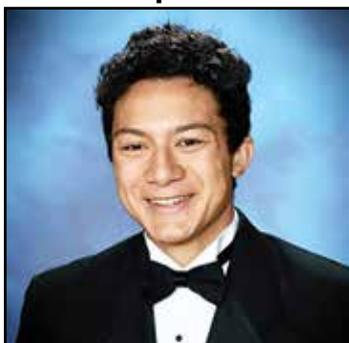
Genevieve Isham
AB Technical CC



Jackson Dunagan
Gap Year



John Paul Grace
UNC Chapel Hill



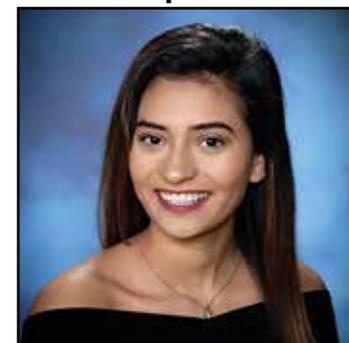
Jose Jimenez
Western Carolina U.



Jose Machuca
Southwestern CC



Juan Garcia Montano
Southwestern CC



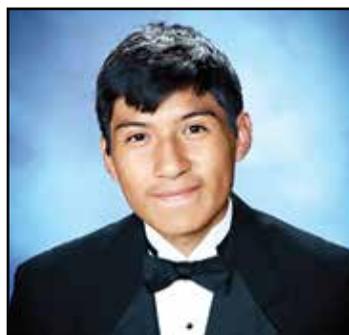
Kimberly Feria
Southwestern CC



Kyle Dorsey
US Marine Corps



Madison Dalton
Southwestern CC



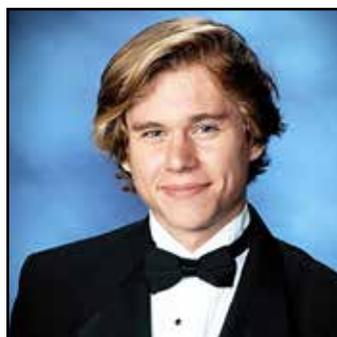
Manuel Contreras
Southwestern CC



Mascots: 1st Graders
Cecelia Torres and Ryne Dooley



Trinity Dendy
University of West Georgia



Zoran Nastasic
UNC Asheville



2018 Concert Season

Dan Aykroyd, Judith Belushi & Musical Director, Paul Shaffer Present:
The Official Blue Brothers Revue
Sunday, June 17 8pm



An Evening with Danny Kaye
June 21-24 @ Highlands Playhouse
Thursday, Friday & Saturday 8pm
Saturday & Sunday 2pm



Tapestry: Tribute to Carole King
Saturday, June 30
8pm



O Sole Trio
Bravissimo Broadway
Saturday, September 15 8pm

One Night in Memphis
December 4, 1956: Sun Studios
Elvis, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis & Johnny Cash
Saturday, September 22 8pm



Christmas with the Nelsons
Starring Matthew & Gunnar Nelson
Friday after Thanksgiving
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October - May

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... EVENTS continued from page 21

- 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
- 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.

Through June 3

• At The Bascom, Joel Gallery. Mne-monic Palace...Grant Benoit exhibit. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

• At The Bascom, PaPer View exhibit. Sarah Morgan Wingfield, an artist of many disciplines including paper making, is the guest curator of this exhibition. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Through June 10

• At The Bascom in the Loft Gallery. Noon-Day Land...Anna Norton exhibit. Video Installation of the movement of light within the Nantahala National Forest. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Thurs., May 24

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, A History of the War on Drugs. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Angela Dills. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

• Public is invited to honor Highlands veterans by placing flags on graves at 5:30 p.m. at the Highlands Cemetery. Please contact Phil Potts at 828-200-9753 or philjpot@frontier.com for more information.

Fri., May 25

• Community Coffee at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11-Noon w/ Mayor Patrick Taylor in a Question & Answer Session with the Mayor.

• 15th Annual "Salamander Meander" at the Highlands Nature Center. 9-10 pm. Be sure to bring your flashlight! Cost is \$5 person, and advance registration is required due to limited

• See EVENTS page 27



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SAVE THE DATE

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Enjoy live music from Fletcher's Grove-Appalachian Jam Rock from Morgantown, WV
Hosted by Friends of Founders Park, a 501 (c) 3 organization, www.foundersparkhighlands.org

... EVENTS continued from page 26

space. Please call 526-4123 to enroll.

Sat., May 26

- Booksigning at Dutchmans on Main Street 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Golfing Across the Ponds."

- Mountain Garden Club 36th Annual Plant Sale at the Highlands Baseball Field. Rain date is Sun. May 27.

Mon., May 28

- Memorial Day Ceremony to dedicate the bricks installed into the Veteran's Walkway at 10 a.m. at the Veteran's Plaza in Highlands in front of the Police Department Building.

- At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Ever-Changing State of American Politics. Time: 10a-12p Cost \$25/\$35, Presenter: Al Tuchfarber. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Tues., May 29

- Community forum about HCA and Mission future at Jane Woodruff Buliding on the first floor. at noon.

Wed., May 30

- At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, An Epicurean Evening in Morocco. Time: 4-6p. Cost: \$90/\$100. Chef: Melissa Pelky Hass. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

- Community forum about H-C Hospital at Cashiers Rec Center at 5 p.m.

- At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on

5th Street, iOS Delving Deeper: More about the iPad and iPhone. Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost: \$75/\$85. Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Thurs., May 31

- At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Basic Photoediting for iOS. Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost \$75/\$85. Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Tues., June 5

- At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, The Battle Over the Southern Past. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Fitzhugh Brundage. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Wed.-Fri., June 6 - 8

- At the Bascom, Painting -- Gone Wild! Smokey Mountain Wildflowers in Watercolors with Hillary Parker from 10 am - 4 pm Levels I, II, III. Tuition: \$450/\$500. For more information on these events visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866.

Thurs. - Sun., June 7-10

- Highlands Motoring Festival all over town. In K-H Hutchinson Park on Saturday.

Fri., June 8

- At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Women in Latin American Literature. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter Angélica Lozano-Alonso. For reservations call 828-526-8811.



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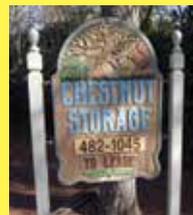
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 30

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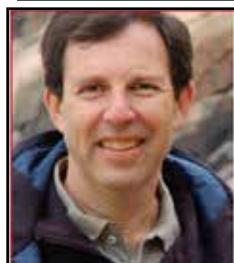
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