

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019

Town Board considers annexation and sewer hook-up policies

Requests to be annexed into the town by individual homeowners and subdivisions or to just hook on to town sewer are increasing.

At the July Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor initiated a discussion regarding current policies and where the town

should go here on out.

"We have had several inquiries from neighborhoods and potential neighborhoods about annexation. We have also had inquiries from people who just want to tap on to the sewer line who are willing to pay a very substantial attachment fee as well as triple rates like people

on water outside the town limits now pay," said Mayor Taylor. "Josh [Town Manager] and I feel the board needs to review our policy as it now stands and possibly formalize it."

According to his research, Mayor Taylor said back in the '60s

• See **ANNEXATION** page 10

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Suddenly they're everywhere!



Trudie Hodgson snapped this shot of "twin" Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies off NC 28, heading toward Wallhalla. "Aren't these beauties spectacular? We absolutely love the work of the Creator's hands, and we are fortunate to live in such a gorgeous area that attracts such noble beauty!"

Playhouse barely loses a beat after fire

Submitted

The Highlands Playhouse was up and running a mere three days after a fire destroyed its scene shop and dressing rooms Sunday, July 21.

"We were able to finish Oklahoma!'s run despite all the setbacks and commotion, and we only lost one show," said Lance Matzke, Managing Director. "We're building the set for Always, Patsy Cline in the parking lot, but we've been blessed with good weather and great attitudes and teamwork from the tech crew. Everyone has pulled together and we'll be ready to open Patsy on August 1st."

Always, Patsy Cline celebrates

• See **PLAYHOUSE** page 12

'You've got this!'



Always an advocate of children, Det. Sgt. Andrea Holland can often be found at Music in the Park Saturday evening events from 6-8p lending a guiding hand or even searching out a Ninja Turtle in the drains in the park with a little "believer!"

— Photo by Brian O'Shea., Plateau Daily News

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

It takes two towns and a county ...



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

On Tuesday the quarterly joint meeting of Macon County, the Town of Franklin and the Town of Highlands was held in Franklin. These meetings provide elected officials an opportunity to gather together and exchange information. The mayors and chair of the county commission provide reports. Let me share the highlights of the report I gave at the meeting.

I reviewed a number of initiatives that we are undertaking in Highlands. The first item was where the town stands on the construction of the fiber optic network. The contractor is on location and will start building from the outlying areas into the central hub at the old restrooms next to the Town Hall parking lot.

I also reviewed the town's effort to become one of the first BearWise Communities in North Carolina. We have the bear-proof street cans in place. Bear-resistant totes for the commercial areas are on order. A plan for the residential areas is now in process.

I informed the group that the 630,000-gallon Satulah water tank is now built. The finishing of the site and testing of the tank will take several months to com-

plete. Satulah will be paved after the tank is operational.

Road paving is a big item in our new budget. I let everyone know we will start letting paving contracts later this summer. Hickory Hill, part of Cullasaja and Oak Lane are all scheduled to be paved. Split Rail will be resurfaced after the new \$875,000 waterline is installed later in the fiscal year.

I invited Macon County to partner with Highlands in solving the trash and recycling problem here on the Highlands Plateau. Together we need to build a convenience center that is centrally located near or in Highlands.

I also invited Macon County to partner with Highlands in fortifying the EMS ambulance system. With the construction of the new fire department, there is an opportunity to locate the EMS operation with the fire station. There might even be a possibility of expanding ambulance service, especially if our local health foundation and HCA are willing to be partners in this effort.

The issue of tractor-trailer trucks on the Gorge Road was also in my report. NC-DOT will be deploying radar activated lights in Highlands and in Franklin that will warn trucks not to use the Gorge Road. The lights will come on only when large vehicles approach the dangerous road.

Partnering with NCDOT, Mayor Bob Scott of Franklin and I will be working with our legislative representatives to pass special, local legislation that would allow cameras to photograph trucks that violate the prohibition of trucks on the Gorge Road. The cameras would not automatically issue tickets, but would document that truckers, after being warned, continued to go on the Gorge Road. The photographs would help law enforcement build a case against violators.

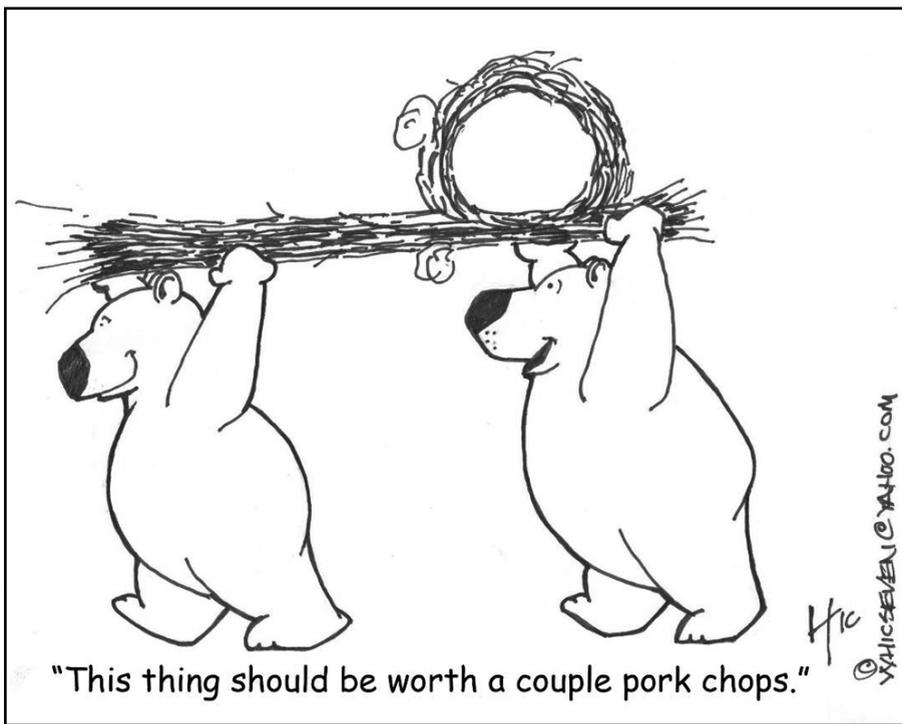
I also provided an update on building a connecting greenway from Cashiers to Highlands. Maybe both Jackson and Macon counties can help in making the concept a reality.

• OBITUARY •

Christine Erin Kelly passed away peacefully at home in Scaly Mountain on July 31 at 5:15 a.m. after a long battle with cancer. Funeral services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Saturday, Aug. 3 at 10 am.

A comprehensive obituary and an interment will follow at a future date.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• LETTERS •

No lights, please

Dear Editor,

This letter is not meant to be personal at all; but I respectfully disagree with the idea of putting up lighted tape around the trees in town. The idea reminds me of a mall, or of Las Vegas or perhaps Dollywood. I don't think we should remind anyone of those places.

Our stores and restaurants, which have lots of attractive lighting, attract plenty of attention as they are now — without added lighting. And if we added any more traffic, we would have to add some new roads (and heaven forbid)

Highlands is not broken in any way, We have a successful town with plenty of interested tourists so what is to change?

So please let this idea go the way of any unfortunate idea — deep six it. No hard feelings.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 8

• WEATHER •

	Friday 8/2		Saturday 8/3		Sunday 8/4	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	74 F	59 F	75 F	59 F	74 F	59 F
RealFeel	80 F	65 F	84 F	66 F	81 F	63 F
Winds	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5
T-Storms	60%	60%	40%	60%	40%	40%
Rainfall	0.29	0.1	0.22	0.04	0.1	0.04
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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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



NEW ON MARKET: Three bedrooms, three and one-half baths, all on one level with wood floors and a dream kitchen for cooks with breakfast nook. Imagine sitting on the spacious deck, relaxing to the sounds of the birds and the vision of the rock face of Whiteside before you. Floor-to-ceiling stacked stone fireplace, large deck, heated floor in master, dry basement system, generator, private and easily accessed. Rental history with split bedroom plan, spacious two-car garage.

MLS# 91522 | Offered for \$950,000



NEW ON MARKET: Located on the 11th fairway overlooking the green in Highlands Falls CC, you can enjoy the mountain views and cool summer evenings from the covered, vaulted screened porch or watch the golfers sink that putt. The great room has vaulted, beamed ceilings with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. The kitchen has been updated with new countertops and stainless steel appliances. The master suite boasts a trayed ceiling and access to the open deck.

MLS# 91526 | Offered for \$550,000

NEW on MARKET & PRICE CHANGES!

PRICE CHANGE: Located at the end of a cul de sac less than 2 miles from town, this great home is in immaculate condition. With beautiful cabinetry and countertops, the kitchen has a pass-through to the living room and opens to the dining room. The dining room is large enough to seat a gathering and has a picture window to enjoy the mountain view. Finished lower level with a large family room, a kitchenette, a third full bath, and access to the lower deck.

MLS# 91293 | Was \$597,000 NOW Offered for \$500,000!



PRICE CHANGE: Check out this great house with six adjoining parcels! This is a beautiful estate property in this development. From the back porch and lower level party house there is an awesome view of the mountains and you can hear the roar of Buck Creek below you. The house affords three levels of living space with attached garage and workshop/shed on the property. Fire pit and garden space. Subdividing possible.

MLS# 90598 | Was \$420,000 NOW Offered for \$350,000!



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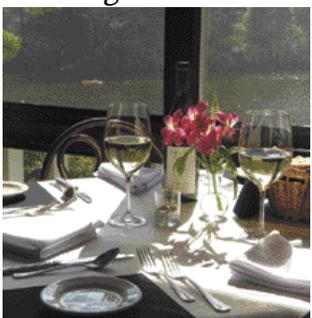
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HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN This amazing historic property features three completely updated homes; the main house boasts five bedrooms, a guest house has 1 bedroom, and a charming cabin holds two bedrooms. The living room has walls of windows on either side and the back opens to a great screened porch and stone patios. The kitchen is oversized and includes a large work island; it has plenty of room for a cozy seating area. Wonderful kennels for dogs, too!

MLS# 89607 | Offered for \$2,395,000

HIGHLANDS The main house is a 5,000 sqft home with three bedrooms, a living room, two dining areas, a playroom, den, and two office spaces. The guest cottage has one bedroom, a bath and a half, an adorable kitchen, bonus room, and rocking chair front porch. The third home was built in the 60's. **OUTRAGEOUS** views from this estate property overlooking the Chattahoochee National Forest, Brushy Face and Little Yellow Mountain.

MLS# 91486 | Offered for \$1,500,000



HIGHLANDS CC At nearly 75 years old, this historic Highlands golf cottage combines a classic mountain experience with all the modern conveniences. It is a delightful gathering place for friends and family to enjoy each other, the golf course view and proximity to town. The home boasts four bedrooms and four full baths, all on one level, and has been lovingly restored. The dining room easily seats ten and features window and doors that open to both sides of the house.

MLS# 91220 | Offered for \$1,925,000

SAGEE MOUNTAIN On the main floor is the designer kitchen with butler's pantry. Above the stone fireplace in the great room are four custom panels that house the TV. This room leads to a large screened porch with fireplace, a great place to relax and be with friends. Also on this level is a large master bedroom with fireplace and its own porch with hot tub. The adjoining master bath is spacious and contains a large closet. Efficiency apartment/studio with full bath.

MLS# 90926 | Offered for \$1,497,000



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• OBITUARY •

Muriel Heden Kolb

Muriel Heden Kolb, a longtime resident of Highlands passed away July 22, 2019 after 95 years of a wonderful life.

She is most remembered for her work as the librarian at Highlands School from 1977 to 1990.

Muriel's lifelong passion was for art and classical music. She created pastel and watercolor paintings and was a member of the local group of artists, Studio Alive.

She enjoyed traveling and volunteered with the eco-travel organization Earthwatch Institute.

Heartfelt gratitude goes out to the excellent and compassionate caregivers from Care-Partners Hospice of Franklin and at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center where she spent her last months.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Highlands Biological Foundation.

Private interment of ashes will be at a later date.

Online condolences may be sent to bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Kolb family.



...LETTERS from page 2

Thank you from the Reeds

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, visits, cards, food, flowers and support during our loss. This has meant so much to us.

The family of Ernestine "Teen" Reed

• See LETTERS page 17

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• BUSINESS / ORG. NEWS •

Jody Lovell is named to 'REAL Trends + Tom Ferry America's Best Real Estate Professionals' in Highlands

Jody Lovell of Highlands Sotheby's International Realty was named one of America's most productive sales associates as a part of REAL Trends + Tom Ferry America's Best Real Estate Professionals, a ranking report produced by REAL Trends and Tom Ferry International.

For the third year in a row, she has been chosen as a member of the "America's Best Real Estate Agents," and ranked Number One for 2016 and 2017 and was ranked Number Two in 2018 for the state of North Carolina.

REAL Trends America's Best Real Estate Professionals ranks over 14,500 residential real estate professionals solely based on their excellence in real estate sales during calendar year 2018.

All production numbers are independently verified by a third party in order to ensure accuracy and report integrity. This group of highly successful real estate sales agents represents the top 1.5 percent of all real estate practitioners in the United States.

"Congratulations to Jody Lovell who made the America's Best list," says Tom Ferry, owner and founder of Tom Ferry International. "I have the pleasure of working with successful real estate professionals day in and day out, and I know all the hard work, late nights and huge amount of effort that goes into achieving such incredible results," says Ferry. "There are multiple ways to become successful in real estate. Yet, despite the differences, the real estate professionals on this list have one thing in common – they are simply the best. Congratulations to each and every recipient of this prestigious recognition."

Steve Murray, president of REAL Trends, said the in-



Jody Lovell
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dividual agents and teams who make up the 2019 America's Best Real Estate Professionals represent less than 1.5 percent of all Realtors® in the country yet account for over 12 percent of the closed transactions and more than 22 percent of all the sales volume closed last year.

"To say that Jody is an exceptional sales professional is an understatement. To attain this level of sales is truly outstanding," he said.

Jody said she is obviously pleased and honored to be ranked as one of the country's top residential real estate agents.

"I am extremely grateful to my clients and to my colleagues at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty," she said. "This award represents the time and effort that we put into each client that we serve and how

much work it takes to build a successful real estate career. The level of sales it takes to qualify makes it a truly special recognition."

To qualify for inclusion, an individual agent must have closed at least 50 transaction sides or \$20 million in sales volume in 2018.



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2019 Upcoming Events



at the

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August Schedule

- **Remembering the Vietnam War: A Reappraisal**
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Presenter: Ira Cooperman
- **Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Moon Landing**
Tuesday, August 6 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Rick Chappell
- **Defending America: The U.S. Security Strategy**
Wednesday, August 7 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Ira Cooperman
- **American Foreign Policy and Presidential Leadership**
Thursday, August 8 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Ira Cooperman
- **Women and Islam**
Friday, August 9 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Michelle Browsers
- **More Peril or Promise? Youth in the Middle East and North Africa**
Monday, August 12 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Michelle Browsers
- **Food, Wine and French National Identity**
Monday, August 12 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Lloyd Kramer
- **American Travelers and the Formation of Our National Identity**
Tuesday, August 13 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Lloyd Kramer
- **Demographic Change and Party Realignment**
Wednesday, August 14 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Alan Abramowitz — **CANCELED**
- **Angry American Voters**
Thursday, August 15 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Alan Abramowitz — **CANCELED**
- **Sherman, Grady and the Making of Atlanta**
Friday, August 16 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Cully Clark

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- **Spain/Portugal: September 15-27**
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THE CURIOUS MIND
KNOWS NO BOUNDS



Jane Chalker was the featured speaker at Rotary Club of Highlands on July 30. She was introduced by her spouse, Selwyn Chalker. Jane discussed volunteer efforts in Haiti which she has been involved in for 18 years. Progress included an orphanage, goat farm, garden, school, church, water filtration and more. Chalker remarked on the commitment from the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands for Haiti along with other partnering organizations.

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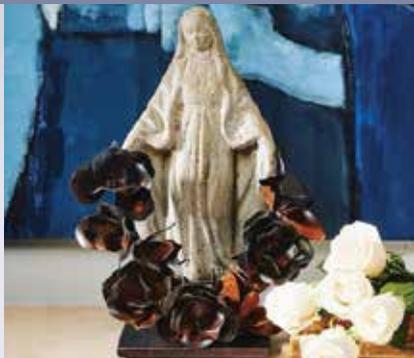
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...ANNEXATION continued from page 1

the town took the stance that only in-town citizens could get town water and sewer. This came after an era of development where several satellite subdivisions outside the town limits were allowed to have town water. The town soon realized this was unsustainable.

“Developers built waterlines in subdivisions and then came to the town to ask for permission to tap into the town’s water system, and to be quite frank when the town said ‘yes’ and took over those lines, the town had to replace them,” he said.

The board quickly agreed that just saying “yes” to an annexation request wasn’t fiscally sound.

“If someone or a group asks to be annexed it needs to be carefully studied because sometimes a request could require that we spend a lot of money without any history of tax income from that area to be annexed. So, there is a balance there,” said the mayor.

Specifically, he said annexation and sewer hook-ups are the kinds of issues the town needs to address. Furthermore, the town needs to be very careful that it doesn’t make policy that isn’t beneficial to the town.

Town Manager Josh Ward said there are several scenarios that have come up.

One, existing subdivisions outside the town limits want to be annexed because of failing or substandard infrastructure.

Two, last year a large contiguous tract of land along US 64 east and the Cullasaja River with access to electric, water and sewer was annexed and three, there are other property owners next to the town’s sewer line that runs from the town to the hospital who want to hook on but don’t want to be annexed.

Years ago, the town agreed to run a sewer line to the hospital based on a public health and safety stance, but no one along the route can tap into it – just the hospital.

“Last year’s annexation of the property between US 64 and the Cullasaja River is a large piece of property that had available utilities – electric, water, sewer – but it isn’t subdivided. It was annexed in but when they subdivide, they will have to follow all our subdivision ordinances – 40 ft. rights-of-way, 18 ft. wide roads, utilities installed according to the town standards,” said Ward. “The difference is that one of the inquiries we had recently is from an existing development that doesn’t meet our standards. So how do we address that? That is what we are looking at – already subdivided with utilities that aren’t up to our standards.”

Commissioner Amy Patterson said there are a lot of issues to consider – properties would have to be contiguous to the town limits for one and what it would cost the town to basically expand.

“People usually ask to be annexed because they need something done that they don’t want to pay for. But the town doesn’t have any money except what it takes from its citizens. So the town isn’t going to take money from citizens who have been paying taxes and user fees for years and years and suddenly use it to upgrade somebody who is outside town and never paid any of those fees – basically giving them the same benefit given to the town folks,” she said. “I understand why they want to come, but it’s not fair to the citizens who have been here, paying the taxes, paying the electrical fees, which funds a lot of our capital improvements, and suddenly annex them. Even if they have their infrastructure up to standards, the next time they need something repaired we pay for it without them having the history of paying the taxes and fees. We can’t say anyone who wants to come can come. The town will go bankrupt eventually trying to fix everything outside of town.”

The mayor likened the scenario of annexing existing contiguous subdivisions to taking over public roads in town.

“This is very similar to a situation a couple of years ago when we had people requesting the town take over private roads in town. The town went back and actually formalized an ordinance saying that before the town can take over a private road it has to be brought up to town standards. I think a similar policy in the form of an ordinance might be appropriate when it comes to annexation or allowing people to tap into our system,” he said.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler suggested simply requiring a similar policy outside of town when it comes to annexing or tapping into sewer lines, but Commissioner Patterson said the difference is the town has ordinances for in-town scenarios, but no ordinances that apply outside of town.

Furthermore, she said when people inside town want to hook on to town water and/or sewer they pay for the job.

“The difference is when we have people in town who want to get on to the sewer who don’t have sewer right in front of their house, they have to pay for the whole thing going from their house to our sewer lines. We don’t pay for that. So, it would be the same thing. If a subdivision contiguous to town limits that doesn’t have adequate sewer or water wants to be annexed, it would still have to pay for the whole thing, too. If we do that to individuals in town who are citizens, why wouldn’t we do that to a community that wants it?”

The mayor agreed saying homeowners in a subdivision who want to be annexed would need to do all that type of work first.

•WORD MATTER•

The bear, the dragon and the eagle

We are often asked to consider what might be the single biggest threat to America's national security. Perhaps we should consider the possibility there might be more than one.

A year 2000 book by Tom Clancy titled The Bear and the Dragon presented a scenario whereby two of the United States' largest and most

dangerous rivals were engaging in armed conflict for regional dominance. The novel centered on if, how, why and when the United States would pick a side between Russia (the bear) and China (the dragon). Neutrality wasn't an option, because that would have made for about 1,000 pages of boredom, and Clancy fans know the man did not do boring.

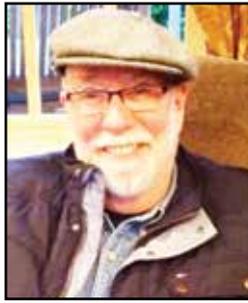
Fast-forward nearly two decades. Russia is actively and unapologetically corrupting our elections and is engaging in digital terrorism with the goal of destabilizing our economy and weakening our sense of security. China is stealing our intellectual property at an alarming rate and is playing a dangerous and costly tariff game with the U.S.

And either we can't, or we choose not to do anything about either of them.

Russia has already re-taken Ukraine and continues to show force along the Baltic Sea in proximity to former Soviet clients Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. These nations are now members of NATO, and therefore Russia's activities could drag us and our allies in Western Europe into an armed conflict. Mr. Putin is also appropriating large swaths of the Arctic, placing bases, ships, medium range missiles and ground troops in proximity to us and other peace-loving nations.

Further east, while we're distracted by these tit-for-tat trade and tariff issues, China is flexing military and economic muscle in the South China Sea, near the Philippines and Taiwan. Through its puppet in North Korea, China keeps two trade rivals, South Korea and Japan, who we are sworn to defend, under constant fear of attack. In addition, China is investing boatloads of cash in traditionally American markets throughout Asia, Africa and South America through infrastructure investment and weapon sales.

Every administration, including President Trump's, has a constitutional right and



Bud Katz

responsibility to execute its own foreign policy. In the aftermath of WWII America was able to set the agenda throughout the world. And, we did. We established important treaties and relationships. Our economy was untouchable. Our military and our nuclear arsenal were overwhelmingly more powerful than that of any other nation, including Russia and China.

It would be calming, around the world and here at home, if America would make its foreign policy intentions known in clear, unambiguous terms. Right now, the only thing that seems clear is, we are isolating ourselves from our neighbors and allies, and ignoring the activities of our rivals.

As 2020 approaches, both the President and his opponents need to articulate a clear vision about America's place in the world. Some degree of sabre rattling

and populism is to be expected but talk of America first must not signify America only. We have global challenges to face, and

in order to deal with climate change, Iran, terrorism and potentially combustible situ-

• See KATZ page 22



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Tuesday at 1, 4 & 7pm
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...ANNEXATION continued from page 10

“We need ordinances in place that explain the steps that have to happen – criteria that has to be met to be annexed. Then when people come to our town planner or Josh and say, we would like to be annexed, we can say here is the town ordinance and here is what you have to do and so forth, so we can work on this in a systematic way and then we can decide whether or not to annex.”

Commissioner Eric Pierson said there would be a lot of requirements before annexation can be considered.

“We can’t just say ‘yeah’ and thereby agree to pay millions of dollars of infrastructure,” he said.

The mayor said there may be some situations where the cost of providing utility services outweighs the benefit of annexing an area.

Even though Highlands is surrounded by a lot of USFS land, which in its nature curtails expansion, Commissioner Patterson brought up the limited nature of Highlands water supply and capability to treat sewage.

...PLAYHOUSE from page 1

the beloved American songstress and will be the final production of the Highlands Playhouse’s 2019 season.

“It’s a great way to end our season and to celebrate the plateau community that’s been so thoughtful and generous in the wake of the fire.” says Matzke.

Always, Patsy Cline runs August 1 – 17. Tickets are available at highlandsplayhouse.org or at the Playhouse box office on Oak Street.

“We are on the top. We have a finite water supply. We also have a finite ability to treat sewage. Look at the shape Cashiers is in because it has a lot of development it can’t do anything with. Cashiers is trying to figure out how to make all that work. We don’t want to overload our system – a system that works well,” she said. “We wouldn’t go outside of town except for contiguous annexation, but still there is a certain economy of scale for the up-end and the low-end. We have enough water now, but there have been dry years that have been difficult.”

Public Works Director/Town Engineer Lamar Nix said there is an equation that dictates and helps foresee what is possible concerning water supply and sewage treatment.

“There is a term Federal and State agencies use called 7Q10. This describes the amount of water in a watershed and determines the amount you may withdraw [water] and the amount you may discharge [wastewater]. The Town has enough capacity to supply the town limits and some of the plateau, but not all. The same can be said of the wastewater.”

He said the daily average flow from the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant shows if the town is headed for problems and by design can calculate any future flows from proposed projects.

Commissioners agreed to go to committee to discuss the feasibility of future annexations and to write and adopt ordinances outlining the necessary steps and stipulations before that can happen.

– Kim Lewicki

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• THE INK PENN •

Doing what comes naturally

You may not be old enough to recall those words as the title of a song in “Annie Get Your Gun,” but as soon as I typed them, the song sprang to mind—not that this column has anything to do with singing. I can assure you that singing doesn’t come naturally to me, but I’ve discovered that writing does.

I write daily, often for hours, but I’d never really thought about where my writing ability came from until my friend Rob Paley asked me to edit his memoir. Yes, I have two degrees in English, wrote and edited throughout my corporate career, and am a columnist and author today; but all of that still doesn’t explain why writing and editing come so naturally to me.

I majored in English because I loved reading, not because I had a yearning to write. And I briefly taught English because that’s what you did with an English degree back in the day. When I went to work for a bank, somehow long before I realized it, others saw that I could write. Because it came easily to me, I didn’t think it was anything special. Instead, I was always amazed by my co-workers who could analyze numbers and produce spreadsheets — skills that in my book amounted to rocket science.

And so when Rob was blown away at how my virtual red pen transformed his work, I was surprised. The more he sang my praises and wondered aloud how I did it, the more I began to look back and wonder myself. After all, not all those who major in English go on to be writers, so why did I?

I explained to him that both my sisters are avid readers and are also well-written though they weren’t English majors. I may be the family grammar geek, but we’re all word nerds, and my youngest sister regularly slaughters me at Words with Friends. Of course, a good vocabulary and good gram-



Kathy Manos Penn

mar do not a good writer make.

Our conversation prompted some introspection and produced an aha moment. I’d forgotten that my father had begun writing a novel before he passed away at age 51. He briefly attended Brooklyn College, long enough to lose his Brooklyn accent, but not nearly long enough to pursue a degree. And yet, in his 40s, he started a novel.

Pondering the nature vs. nurture question was a logical next step. The nature side of the equation would say that we three girls inherited a penchant for words and writing from our father. Perhaps for me, years of writing in corporate America nurtured that penchant until it flourished. While experts debate whether it’s nature or nurture that has the most influence, I’ve never thought that one had to be dominant, and I think both have shaped who I am.

Now back to Rob and his book. “The Last Salute: The True Story of a West Point Cadet’s Dream to Honor His Dying Father” is a must-read. Face it; not all memoirs are intriguing or even interesting. It takes talent to weave a true story into a compelling tale -- one you can’t put down. As he writes in the introduction, it’s “a story of love, sacrifice, honor, and forgiveness.” It’s a story about a father and a son and a mother’s love and devotion.

As compensation for editing the book, I requested two signed copies and two tickets to the movie premiere when Hollywood picks it up. That should tell you how highly I think of it. I see Rob’s writing as masterful, but only he can tell us whether it also “comes naturally.”

• *Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books “The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday” and “Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch” at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. “Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch” is also available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at ink-penn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.*

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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Ongoing

• Summer Movies at the Playhouse Sundays 4 & 7 p.m.; Monday & Tuesday 1, 4, & 7 p.m.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

• At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

Monday - Saturday

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Garden Tour. 10:30am. Enjoy a walk through the Botanical Gardens

with our knowledgeable staff, viewing beautiful native plant life in diverse habitats.

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC 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.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Tuesdays through July 30

• Free Community Yoga and Gentle Movement at The Ball Field with Rachel Kinback, Certified Yoga Teacher, 500hr; 5:30-6:15p. People of all ages and ability levels are invited to meet at the Ball Field for fun, expressive, gentle Yoga and Movement. This 45 min guided practice will be inclusive, so come as you are. Packing a blanket or exercise mat and water bottle is encouraged. The baseball field site is located adjacent to the Highlands Community Building off N. 4th St./ Hwy 106 headed toward Cashiers. Restrooms will be available on site.

Tuesdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Toad Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active -- feeding time!

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-

349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

• Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Lunch with the Docs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital noon to 1 p.m. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345. Limited to 50 attendees.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Mad Science. 2:30pm. Try your hand at scientific inquiry with a brief hands-on program aimed at youth ages 7+ (younger ages OK with supervision).

• At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner - Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays - Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit www.cbchighlands.com.

• Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

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.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alco-

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Last full weekend of HCCMF



Week Five of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival opens with Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit*, widely considered "the most difficult piano piece ever" and a "triathlon for a pianist." You will not want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear one of chamber music's most elusive masterpieces in the capable hands (literally) of pianist, Victor Asuncion, on Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3. He will then be joined by Festival favorite and premier cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio for Rachmaninoff's passionate *Cello Sonata*.

On Sunday, August 4 and Monday, August 5, the innovative program contains works with instrument parts contributed by two composers rather than the traditional single creator. Mr. Asuncion will share the stage with violinist Robyn Bollinger and tenor Bradley Howard for pieces in various combinations by Bach, Rachmaninoff, Shu-



mann, Liszt, Paganini and Busoni. Between these amazing composers and outstanding musicians, these performances promise to be exhilarating.

Concerts are on held in Highlands on Friday (6 p.m.) and Sunday (5 p.m.) evenings at the Performing Arts Center and in Cashiers on Saturday (6 p.m.) and Monday (5 p.m.) evenings at the Albert Carlton Library.

Details about this superb chamber music season and tickets are available by calling 828-526-9060, via email at hccmfnc@gmail.com, or online at www.h-cmusicfestival.org.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

holics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

- Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

- Through July 18, The Church of the Incarnation Grief Support Group Thursdays, from 4 – 5:30, The group will not meet on July 4th. The purpose of the group is to offer support for those suffering from life transitions, such as terminal illness, death of family or close friend, miscarriage, and relationship or job loss.

- At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

- Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am.

Open to the public

- Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30

- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita (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

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 LEGO creations.

Fridays

- At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Snake Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active -- feeding time!

- Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

First Fridays

- The Bascom at Sotheby's series features different artists each month with a reception the first Friday of every month at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty from 4-5:30p at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. The public is invited to come meet the artist, view the

exhibit and have some wine.

- At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in Night - all ages Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. 526-1595.

Fourth Friday

- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a until noon.

Friday - Monday

- At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Saturdays

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

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

- At the Nature Center. Free. Creature Feature. 11:30am & 2:30pm. Experience one or more of our live animal ambassadors up close while learning about their fascinating adaptations.

- Free music in the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8 p.m.

Sundays

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

- Church in the Wildwood, hymn singing each Sunday through Labor Day weekend from 7-8 p.m.

Through July 27

- At the Playhouse, "Oklahoma." For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to highlandisplayhouse.org.

Aug. 1-17

- At the Playhouse, "Always, Patsy Cline." For ticket call 828-526-2695 or go to highlandisplayhouse.org.

Thurs., Aug. 1

- Gospel singing at Shortoff Baptist Church on Sunday, at 5 p.m.

- Zahner Lecture Series "The History of Climate Change on Planet Earth for the Last 65 Million Years" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

Aug. 2-4

- "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Franklin library on Siler Farm Road, Friday through Sunday. 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday,

Fri., Aug. 2

- The Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management, CNIPM, will hold the fourth annual gardening seminar for the public on Friday 9a to noon at the Community Building next to the ballpark in Highlands. Packets of educational materials will be available for those who preregister. For information or preregistration call 828 526-2651 or register online at <http://hicasht.org/cnipm/html>. Cost is \$10 per person payable by cash or by check payable to Highlands Cashiers Land Trust. Walk-ins welcome.

- Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

Mountain Dulcimers

Sat., Aug. 3

- Cowee Textiles will host Betty Maney for a Cherokee Natural River-cane Dyeing Demonstration/Workshop on Saturday. Cost is \$45. Seating is limited. Please contact Teresa Bouchonnet at bouchonnet@coweetextiles.com or 828-349-3878 to register.

- Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. Beggars Clan

Mon., Aug. 5

- At CLE, Remembering the Vietnam War: A Reappraisal Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To register call 828-526-8811.

Tues., Aug. 6

- At CLE Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Moon Landing Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Rick Chappell. To register call 828-526-8811.

- At the Nature Center. Free. Night Flight. 9-10p. Discover the nocturnal animals who take to the skies! Learn about the fascinating world of bats, owls, and even flying squirrels, then join naturalists in the Botanical Garden to seek them out.

Wed., Aug. 7

- At CLE Defending America: The U.S. Security Strategy Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To register call 828-526-8811.

Thurs., Aug. 8

- At CLE American Foreign Policy and Presidential Leadership Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To register call 828-526-8811.

- Zahner Lecture Series "An Alfred Russel Wallace Companion" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

Aug. 9-11

- "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Franklin library on Siler Farm Road, Friday through Sunday. 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday,

Fri. Aug. 9

- At CLE Women and Islam Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Michelle Browers. To register call 828-526-8811.

- Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Johnny Webb Band

Sat. Aug. 10

- Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. STIG

Mon., Aug. 12

- At CLE More Peril or Promise? Youth in the Middle East and North Africa Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Michelle Browers. To register call 828-526-8811.

- At CLE Food, Wine and French National Identity Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Lloyd Kramer. To register call 828-526-8811.

'Land of Sky Chorus' at First Presbyterian Aug. 7



At 2pm on Wednesday, August 7, the Land of the Sky (Men's) Chorus will be featured in an Interlude concert which will take place at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands.

Directed by Andy Reach, the Land of the Sky Chorus is the performance name of the Asheville Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Founded in 1948, the chapter is an educational and fraternal singing organization open to men who like to sing. Members are drawn from surrounding counties, and from diverse walks of life.

Included in the program will be many favorites including "Hello Mary Lou," "Peg O' My Heart," "America the Beautiful," "Amazing Grace," "Moon-glow," "Armed Forces Medley," and more.

There is no 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.



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Invasive Plant workshop is Friday, Aug. 2

On Friday, Aug. 2, it's The Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management, CNIPM, fourth annual gardening seminar for the public on Friday 9a to noon at the Community Building next to the ballpark in Highlands. Packets of educational materials will be available for those who preregister. For information or preregistration call 828 526-2651 or register online at <http://hicasht.org/cnipm/html>. Cost is \$10 per person payable by cash or by check payable to Highlands Cashiers Land Trust. Walk-ins are welcome.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

ok, heretofore deviant expressions of sexuality are good, murder (abortion, suicide, euthanasia) is liberating, ridiculing the police is appropriate, lying about everything in the media is justifiable, visceral hatred and civil violence are good, following fake news and fake gods is where it's at. The devil is a fantastic illusionist.

Thanks be to God we have someone who really loves us enough to tell us the truth about all of this: Jesus. He is the Word, the Way, the Truth and the Life. We don't have to perish in the cloud of the delusion of illusion. His word and his reborn people can shed light on the pathway to life. Read, if you will, John 8:31-47. Is your father the father of lies? Are you free from the evil one's fog. The Son will set free. Then consider John 10:10. Is your life abundant or has satan stolen life, ended life or destroyed it? Jesus says "come unto me." In him is life and that life is the light of the world. Alleluia!

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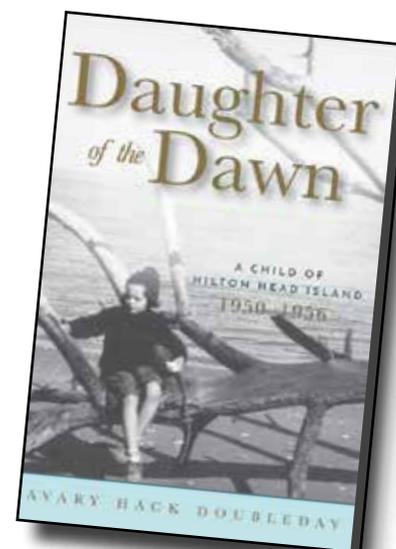
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**Local author Avary Hack
Doubleday's book available at
The Book Nook
in the Toy Store on Main Street
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...LETTERS continued from page 8

About short-term rentals

Dear Editor,

I appreciated the Investing at 4,118 Ft. article "There Goes the Neighborhood" in the July 11 issue by Realtor Jeannie Chambers.

I own a second home in the Highlands area.

My neighborhood here has similar concerns regarding short-term rentals (STR). It has occurred to me that this issue might already be addressed in existing zoning regulations. There are provisions in the Highlands zoning that govern the where and how STR are allowed. These provisions call such use Tourist Homes. It would be interesting to know if the zoning laws are being adhered to.

Joe Nuzzaco
Atlanta, GA and Highlands

Thanks goes to C.Orrico

Dear Editor,

The Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society would like to express its heartfelt thanks to C.Orrico and their customers for their kindness and generosity.

A "Shop-and-Share" was held Tuesday, July 23rd in honor of the Humane Society where a percentage of store sales was donated directly to our shelter.

We are so grateful for Colleen, Dory and all of the employees at C. Orrico for working so hard to make this event happen. Partnerships with local businesses in Highlands are so important to us, and we couldn't continue our lifesaving work without their compassionate support. Thank you!

Kaitlyn Moss, Shelter Manager
Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society

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Master of Illusion



Father Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church
Cashiers

In an online search for the greatest illusionists of all time, a handful of them are widely recognizable individuals, while most of them are artists who labored in anonymity. Harry Houdini, David Copperfield, Doug Henning, among others, have earned some degree of fame throughout the past seven decades. Most of the others did not gain too much notoriety. However, and much to my chagrin, there was one particular name missing from the list of Top Ten that I expected to find. It was a glaring and regrettable omission, in my humble opinion, to leave Satan off of the list. He is, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the greatest master of illusion in the history of mankind.

Consider that satan, a.k.a., the devil or the evil one, is accredited, inside and outside of the realms of faith as the source of lies, deception, illusion. You might say that he is "ground zero" when it comes to illusion because the evil one was the first being to hit the "ground" when he was cast out of heaven as he tried to deceive the hosts of heaven. He has been working as the master illusionist, ever since.

Isaiah once declared, on behalf of God, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." (Isaiah 5:20, ESV) Does that not describe much of what we experience today? The folks that the prophet was describing were devious, peddling illusion, working on the devil's team. Their single focus is to mess with the minds of the sons of Adam, a C. S. Lewis' term, or the children of Abraham, Jesus' term. Satan wants to throw us off of the pursuit of truth, any Truth, that has to do with God, his creation, and his salvation.

Try to think for a moment along these lines: Imagine that a close friend has contracted a disease that will prove to be terminal if it is left untreated. However, as of yet neither you nor he are unaware of the disease. Only your doctor, by way of a blood test, is aware of the perilous situation. Nevertheless, your doctor decides not to tell the two of you about the disease. Instead, she says that your friend is just fine (lies), all the while knowing that there is an effective course of treatment (truth). In other words, she refrains from telling the truth, she lies, casts the illusion of health for you. How would you feel? Would you be angry or outraged upon discovering the truth, when it's too late? I would!

Not telling us the truth, deceiving us, is exactly what satan has done about God, love, grace, sin, sexual immorality and an unending list of human tendencies and desires. He has lied. He has left us in a cloud of illusion concerning life itself and salvation (rescue, deliverance) from the delusion of illusion. The devil has deceived us about God himself and has called that which is good, evil. Drugs are

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 16

Proverbs 3:5

PLACES TO WORSHIP

John 3:16

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Pastor Dan Robinson
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Sun.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening
Worship, 6p. 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.
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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from July 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 13

• At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a call of disorderly conduct at Main Street Inn.

July 17

• At 7:23 a.m., officers responded to a report of destruction/damage/vandalism of property at Fibber Magees on Laurel Street.

• At noon, officers responded to a report of larceny from #1 Nails in Wright Square where a white gold diamond engagement ring and wedding band valued at \$1,500 was taken.

July 18

• At 1:50 p.m., officers responded to a call of burglary/breaking & entering at a home on Spruce Street.

July 23

• At 4:37 p.m., officers responded to a call of simple assault where a subject was assaulted by a worker at the Highlands Rec Park.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 9

July 9

• At 11:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Queen Mountain.

July 11

• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Wagon Road,

July 12

• At 9:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hickory Lane.

• At 12:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Half Mile Dr.

July 13

• At 1:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hutchinson Court.

• At 8:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Half Mile Dr.,

July 16

• At 10:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

• At 11:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to N. 4th. Street.

• At 6:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Wild Pine Way.

July 17

• At 3:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 6:08 p.m., the dept. helped people out of a stuck elevator at Main and 5th streets.

• At 6:39 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

July 18

• At 3:01 a.m. the dept. was first-responders to Dillard to a residence on Dillard Road.

• At 4:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders a residence on Allen Road.

• At 4:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza.

July 20

• At 7:33 a.m., the dept. moved to provide mutual aid to the Cashiers FD but it was cancelled.

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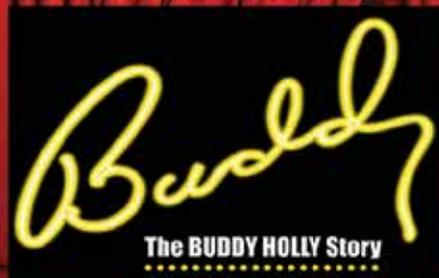
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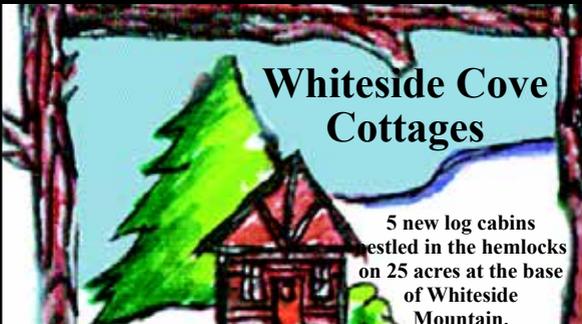


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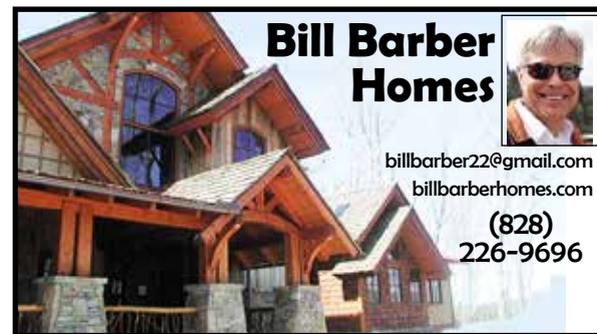
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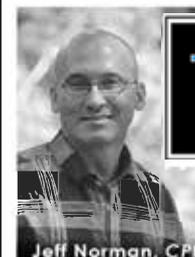
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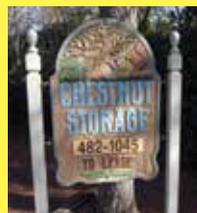
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ORIENTAL RUG Karastan Kirman #759 8x12 excellent condition \$500. 828-342-4115 (st. 6/13)

COMIC BOOKS - Buy / Sell. Call Bob @ 302-530-1109 (9/5)

WANTED

LONG-TERM LEASE: Studio/Garage Apt or other for couple beginning new job in area. 404-643-3336. (st. 8/1)

HELP WANTED

PART TIME CLEANER to work after hours cleaning banks in Highlands and Cashiers. Please call Linda @ 828-691-6350. (8/8)

RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE for hair designer. Apply in person Tues. - Sat. at Mountain Magic, 44 Satulah Road, Highlands. (st. 7/11)

COLONEL MUSTARD'S SPECIALTY FOODS IN HIGHLANDS looking for an awesome person with a passion for food and cooking. Part time position available, includes some holidays and weekends. If you are a quick learner, friendly and hardworking, you'll fit right in with our team. Please stop by the shop to fill out an application or email resume to col.mustardshighlands@yahoo.com. (st. 7/11)

HIGHLANDS CC is looking for a team player to manage the golf operations at our first-class practice facility. This position requires some-

one who enjoys serving others, is outgoing, friendly and has a love for the outdoors. This person must be able to be on their feet all day and be able to lift 50 lbs regularly throughout the day. If you are interested in joining a team with competitive pay, great benefits and a fun job, please call Brian at 787-2778. (st. 7/11)

SKYLINE LODGE - Hiring Servers, Housekeepers and dishwashers. Download, drop by or call 828-526-2121 for an application. Background checks done. (st. 7/3)

BUSINESS SERVICES!! GRAPHIC DESIGN!! CUSTOM PRINTING!! - Fast paced environment! Position open for Full or Part Time employment. Email your questions and a resume to: colleenk959@gmail.com (st. 6/20)

DUTCHMANS CASUAL LIVING STORE Looking for full and part time sales associate to join our team. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Please call Shannon or Gabbi at 828-526-8864. (st. 6/6)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE. Hiring all positions. Commitment to excellence in food quality and guest service. We are proud of the products and service we provide, we create experiences not just sell food. Offering defined, sane schedules and healthy work environment allowing for a balanced life. Very cooperative pay. Food service experience preferred. Tobacco free workplace. Contact us at Smokehouse recruiting@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

FULL-TIME SALES POSITION. Weekends & holidays a must. Great hours with a great salary. Nancy's Fancys. 828-526-5029. (st. 5/2)

THE DRY SINK IN HIGHLANDS is hiring for full or part time sales positions for the 2019 season. If you like to cook, that is a plus! We're looking for team oriented people who can offer great customer service to our many customers. If you are friendly, detail oriented, like helping others, enjoy cooking, gadgets, and lots of interesting merchandise, come by and fill out an application, or submit information to: contact_us@thedry-sink.com. (st. 4/18)

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA are looking for the following employees: Full-time seasonal sales assistant- Acorns; Sous Chef/Cooks; Assistant Pastry Chef; Front Desk Supervisors/Bellmen; Housekeeping Supervisor; Spa Operations Manager; Cosmetologists/Nail Technicians; Hostess/Bartenders/Servers/Bussers

Please apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com or call: Pat Turnbull at 828-787-2697. (st. 3/7)

POTPOURRI BOUTIQUE STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for full time and part time sales persons. Retail sales experience with women's clothing and accessories preferred, eyewear experience a plus. Must be able to work weekends and holidays, except Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day. Fun, lively, fast paced environment. Please stop by the store for application or email resume to potpourri-highlands@yahoo.com (st. 4/4)

SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC. Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

THE UGLY DOG PUB wants you to be a part of our team. We need managers, full-time servers, bartenders, and support staff with a positive attitude, ability to multitask, and a willingness to work as a team. Experience preferred but not required. Working nights and weekends is required. 828-526-8364 theuglydogstaff@gmail.com. (st. 3/21)

WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff, hostesses, line cook, pantry person and bussers. Please call Jacque at 526-3807. (st. 2/14)

SERVICES

GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal. Call 371-1103. (st. 6/27)

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incapacitated clients. Hours are flexible to meet your needs. Dependable and punctual. Please contact me to see if I can accommodate your needs. References upon request. Catherine Robinson, 727 215-4195. Catherine-guardian15@gmail.com. (st. 7/3)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/ KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 4/25)

MURPHY'S PAINTING CO. Interior & Exterior Painting, Sheetrock Repair, Wallpaper Removal, Log Homes, Decks. Insured. Free Estimates. 828-524-1391 or 828-332-0525.

HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (6/27)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843-460-8015. (st. 5/30)

3+ ACRES WITH MULTIPLE ACCESS/ EXIT POINTS, NUMEROUS BUILD SPOTS, 2 car garage finished (insulated, electrical). 2 bed. 2 bath single wide with large deck to enjoy expansive views. New well pump. Good for businesses. Lower Clear Creek 5 miles down HWY 28. Lots of hardwoods and privacy. asking 159,000 (st. 9/21)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm...open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmars15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A COMMERCIAL/MIXED USE PROPERTY strategically and conveniently close to Highlands in Scaly Mountain. Property includes a post office, real estate office, individual home and five apartments. Directly across from new Dollar General store. For information, contact Jody or Wood Lovell with Highlands Sotheby's International Realty at 828-526-4104. (st. 6/20)

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...KATZ continued from page 11

ations throughout the rest of the world we need to be focused and, more importantly, consistent in how we communicate with both our friends and our rivals.

America's military and economy are both strong, but we are no longer the only major player in the world. Both Russia and China are formidable rivals and have demonstrated they are more than willing to both test America's military resolve and compete for traditional American allies and markets throughout the world.

In Mr. Clancy's political and military thriller, (spoiler alert) the U.S. made a strategic decision to back the bear in its challenge from the dragon. In the real world, the one in which we all must live, China and Russia have strategic interests that do not align with ours. In fact, should these two nuclear-armed rivals decide to pool their considerable military, energy and economic resources, we could find ourselves, and our allies, on the outside and looking in at some scary scenarios.

Whoever voters place at the helm following the 2020 election must operate in that real world - the dangerous, real world - and not one of entertaining fiction.

Mix all of this international intrigue with a heated, powerfully competitive presidential election, a bifurcated, do-nothing Congress, and an American population as angry and divided as it has been for decades, and we have all the makings of a most interesting and potentially scary future before us.

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