

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019

## Town Board to give final word on trees

With any luck the issue of adding trees to the Main Street corridor will be put to rest at tonight's Town Board meeting, with the possibility of another option being considered.

At the December Town Board meeting, a new plan was suggested – that of adding four trees to the 3rd to 4th street block and three to the 4th to 5th street block, rather than going with the

two and two compromise agreed upon at the Land Use Committee meeting November 26.

"At the meeting I attended two trees on each block was decided.

•See TREES page 6

## Rep. Corbin is ready for 2nd term

By Brittney Lofthouse

Surrounded by friends and family, Kevin Corbin was sworn into his second term in the North Carolina House of Representatives by Honorable Judge Bill Coward at the Macon County Courthouse last week. Rep. Corbin elected to be sworn in locally so those who have supported him and help him get re-elected could be there for the special event.

"It was very special to do the swearing in here," said Rep. Corbin. We had close to 100 family and friends and there is no way all those folks could have made the trip to Raleigh. I did not know two years ago that we had the choice to do my swearing in here in the district. This is home...not Raleigh. I serve there because it is the State Capitol, but these are the folks I work for and being sworn in here made it very special to me."

Rep. Corbin was a loud voice in the General Assembly during his first term and worked his way

• See CORBIN page 5



Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart with Fireman of the Year Travis Brooks at Saturday night's award/appreciation banquet held at OEL's Spring House.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Highlands Fire & Rescue acknowledges its own

Saturday night, Jan. 12, members of the 30-member Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. gathered for their annual award/appreciation banquet held once again at Old Edwards' Spring House.

Chief Ryan Gearhart thanked the members of the mostly volunteer force for their dedication and for braving the elements in all kinds of weather as first-responders, fire-

• See HF&R page 16

## • INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2	DogSpeak.....	15
MileStone.....	2	H-C Hospital News.....	17
Word Matter.....	7	Spiritually Speaking.....	18
Investing at 4,118 Ft. ....	11	Police & Fire.....	20
Events .....	12	Classifieds .....	22

## North Campus Project at Highlands Biological Station gets town approval

By Brian O'Shea

North Campus Project at Highlands Biological Station gets town approval

By Brian O'Shea

The multi-phase North Campus improvement project at the Highlands Biological Station was already underway but received final approval from the Town of Highlands Zoning Board on Jan. 9. The project entails building a teaching pavilion next to Lindenwood Lake (called Ravenel Lake on Google), improving the entrance to HBS from Lower Lake Road, creating a pollinator garden on the slope adjacent to the lake, and making some upgrades to the nature trail that loops around the lake.

The project had already been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and North Carolina Wildlife and Environmental Resources because of the wetlands located on HBS campus.

"The NC Wildlife approval

was required as part of the Army Corps permit because it's considered wetland environment," said Highlands Biological Foundation Project Coordinator Sonya Carpenter. "Everybody is concerned about maintaining the good wetland ecosystems so we're all working towards the same goal."

Town approval was necessary for building the teaching pavilion. It was approved unanimously as presented.

"The trail will wend its way around the lake to the new John 'Sto' Stowers teaching pavilion," said Carpenter. "This beautifully designed pavilion cantilevered over the lake will provide additional classroom space for students and visiting groups as well as a peaceful location for contemplative respite. Funds for this pavilion were raised by the friends and family of Stowers, an avid outdoorsman whose love of the natural world impacted the lives

• See PROJECT page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## •MAYOR ON DUTY•

### Decision about trees on Main Street to be decided tonight at Town Board meeting

The January meeting of the Highlands Town Board of is tonight at Community Center next to the ball field. The meeting begins at 7 pm with public comment. The agenda is short, but the item on planting trees on Main Street will be a primary item.



**Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor**

Last August a special board meeting was held to discuss the planting of trees and curbing down the center parking area on Main Street. The hospital sale and conversion was also discussed.

The curbing and tree plan was dropped at this meeting. There had been a sense of immediacy in deciding about Main Street improvements because the town had been informed that DOT would repave Main Street this coming spring.

Staff members had a follow-up meeting with NCDOT to determine what would be permitted in regard to trees and the streetscape. At that meeting DOT officials suggested creating parallel parking in the center of the streets and adding a straight line of trees. This parking configuration

would have added about a dozen more parking spaces to downtown. When this plan was presented to the board and the public, there was substantial pushback to the parking design. The board rejected this plan and requested a new DOT meeting.

DOT officials attended another Land Use committee meeting where they approved a configuration where trees could be planted at the end of the center parking spaces. It included street level grates and tree guards. The trees were required to be located five feet away from travel lanes. Parking spaces where trees would be located would be reduced from 33 feet to around 25 feet, a length that is about equal to a parallel parking space. With this design no parking spaces would be lost. The Land Use Committee, working with Highlands Chamber of Commerce representatives, developed a plan where four trees would be located on Main between 3rd and 5th Streets.

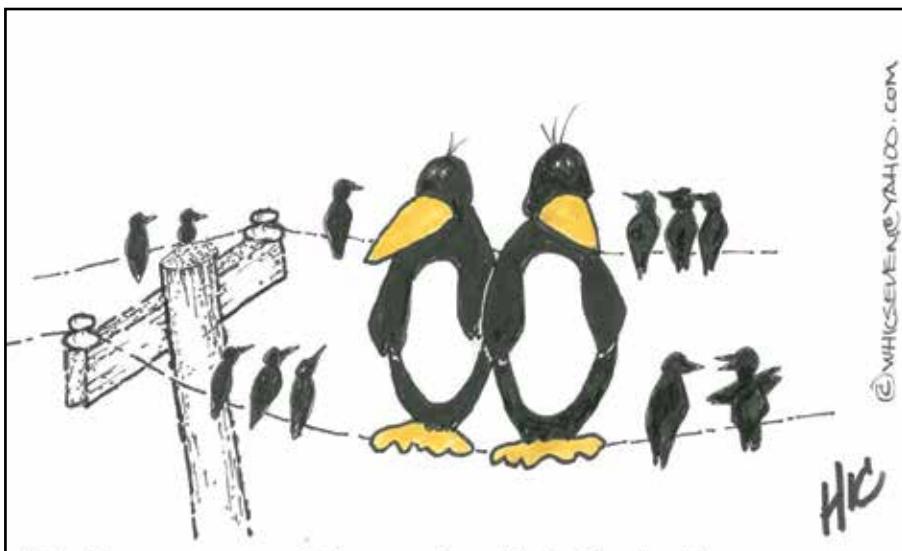
At the last Town Board meeting, Commissioner Pierson introduced a proposal to add three more trees to the plan to where seven trees would be planted. This proposal generated controversy and the board sent the issue back to the Land Use Committee for a second review.

Tonight the board will hear from the committee and consider three possible plans. First, the board could approve the plan for planting four trees. Second, they may consider the plan calling for seven trees, or they may decide to put no additional trees on Main Street. In any case, I see this issue being decided tonight.

At that special meeting in August the board also discussed the sale of the hospital by Mission to HCA. The board passed a resolution of concerns that I forwarded to the North Carolina Attorney General. It has been a contentious issue, but one that needed careful review.

I suspect the Attorney General will approve the sale and conversion very soon. I hope he will have improved certain parts of the agreement that helps assure continued healthcare access for folks in Highlands and Cashiers.

## •HIC'S VIEW•



**"I told you a year ago. We are under attack, Check out our new neighbors who just moved in. Gentrification has arrived."**

## •MILESTONE•

### Highlands School senior wins VOD contest

John Brooks, a Highlands School senior, wrote an essay about voter apathy for a contest through Voice of Democracy. He won the local and regional levels. He will be receiving an award on Saturday, January 19, in Brevard.

Voice of Democracy (VOD) is an annual nationwide scholarship program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars(VFW). It is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12. The program annually provides more



**John Brooks**

• See CONTEST page 10

## •WEATHER•

		Friday 1/18		Saturday 1/19		Sunday 1/20	
		Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	51 F	35 F	49 F	36 F	45 F	13 F	
RealFeel®	54 F	36 F	46 F	39 F	39 F	8 F	
Winds	4 g 6	3 g 5	4 g 6	5 g 8	15 g 25	14 g 25	
T-Storms	1%	2%	3%	9%	2%	1%	
Rainfall	0	0	0.39	1.15	0	0	
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0.3	0	

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**HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN** Wonderful 3BR/3BA cottage overlooking Mill Creek. Tucked in at the end of a cul de sac, it is hard to believe you are just two blocks from Main Street and an easy walk to dining, shopping, and more. This two story cottage features the master bedroom with a great bath plus a second suite on the main level. The large kitchen is open to the great room and features granite counters. Upstairs is a second master suite making this perfect for two couples to share.

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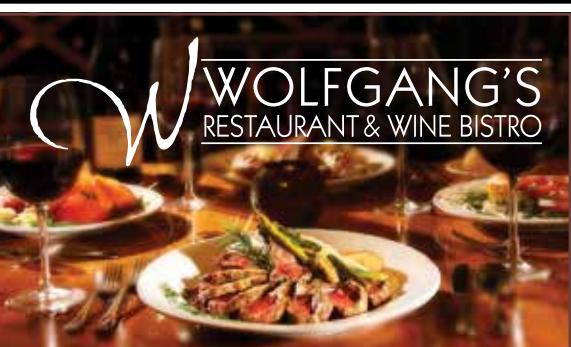
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## ...CORBIN continued from page 1

to lead several House leadership roles and to both sponsor and co-sponsor bills that benefited the state as a whole, as well as several locally targeted legislation. Rep. Corbin said the fact that he was able to do so much in his first term was something he was the most proud of.

"I think just finding out that I could get things done as a Freshman is something I am most proud of," said Corbin. "House Speaker Tim Moore became a great friend and helped me immeasurably in getting legislation through and getting a large amount of funding back here in my district. We were able to get special allocations/funding and grants in the budget for Far Western NC. The Speaker and the Majority Whip Jon Hardister actually came here to my district a total of 6 times and saw first hand the needs we have here. We were able to get additional funding for all 4 of my county schools systems. Education is a huge priority for me. And even though money is not the answer for everything, it is necessary here as it is in any part of the State. I was just happy to get our fair share. We were able to get, along with the help of Senator Jim Davis, \$1 million in recurring dollars for Highlands and Nantahala School based on small K-12 schools."

As a former member of the Macon County Board of Education, public education remained a focus for Corbin on the state level. In addition to successfully get funding for Macon County Schools, he was also able to secure funding for other counties within the 120th District of the House of Representatives.

"We received \$15 million in lottery funds for Cherokee County Schools," said Corbin. "We were awarded \$10.2 million for Clay County Schools in a one time grant for new school construction. The Speaker granted us additional funds for each and every teacher in Graham County for classroom supplies."

Corbin was also instrumental in securing state funds for specific projects and needs within his district in WNC.

"We received a grant to fully fund the planning phase of the Graham County Historic Building on Main Street," said Rep. Corbin. "The Macon County Sheriffs office received \$68,000 for cameras for deputies. I was able to change the State law defining "small schools" moving the magic number for funding from 3,200 students to 3,300 students which netted Cherokee County an additional \$1.5 million. I was one of the primary authors of HB13 which gave flexibility to local superintendents in regard to classroom size. This saved over \$1.1 million in local funding to schools in our district. Myself, Representative Clampitt and Senator Davis were able

to get a \$32 million allocation in the budget for WCU for a new steam plant. It was the largest single capital allocation in the budget."

Looking forward to his second term in office, Corbin has already outlined his top three priorities over the next two years.

"First, The Speaker is allowing me to be one of the primary sponsors and authors of a \$1.9 Billion School Bond issue that will benefit all 100 counties," said Corbin. "It will need to be approved by the voters and signed by the Governor, but hopefully we can accomplish the task.

"Second, I plan to author a Distracted Driver Bill that I believe will save lives, reduce accidents, and in the long run save North Carolinians on car insurance premiums. It just passed this past year in Georgia and those results are being realized as we speak. The primary sponsor of that legislation in Georgia, Representative John Carson, flew at his own expense to Raleigh last week to meet with me and get the ball rolling. I am working as we speak to get the endorsement of the Highway Patrol, Sheriffs Association, Independent Insurance Agents of NC, and others.

"And lastly I plan to continue to work with providers as well as counties and towns to bring reliable high speed internet to all rural areas of North Carolina. This is a heavy lift but one we can do if we work together."

While Corbin has been successful in securing bi-partisan support for several of the legislation he has already worked on during his tenure, he said working across party lines remains one of the biggest challenges he faces.

"We need the help of House Democrats in order to pass legislation and make it stick with the Governor," said Corbin. "My colleagues in the House selected me a Deputy Majority Whip for the House. My job will be to get help the Whip get the votes necessary to pass legislation. I was voted into this position last week during opening week of the NC General Assembly. I don't take myself too seriously, but the job will be convincing legislators to vote for needed legislation. I look forward to the challenge."

Corbin believes he has gained the experience needed to continue to be a voice for WNC in Raleigh.

"This term should be easier to get things done since I have my "freshman term" over with," said Rep. Corbin. "Being selected Deputy Majority Whip puts me in the leadership and a seat at the table when the Leadership Team meets. Hopefully I will have more of a voice in my second term. The pay is the same and the work is more intense, but I hope to be in the position to help my district even more."

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## ...TREES continued from page 1

Then the meeting I missed [December Town Board] more were snuck in, so it feels really underhanded and it feels like the people who are directly affected are not being heard at all and our opinion is not valid," said Sean Mularky of Bear Mountain Outfitters at the second Land Use meeting Jan. 9. "So, if you are going to do this ... and my guess is you are going to do whatever the heck you want to do ... please do it slowly."

This was in response to the new suggestion that came out of the December Town Board meeting to add a few more trees so the arrangement wouldn't look straggly.

"Business owners came to me and asked if we could put in a few more trees so it's more aesthetically pleasing so that's where the four and three idea came from. If we do this, I want it to look decent rather than plop, plop, plop through there," said Commissioner Eric Pierson. "I want it to look nice from the get go. We will get an arborist to see exactly what we need to do, and we will put the right tree in the right way, and it will be the right height. And we aren't going to put a tree in that's in the pathway of vehicles."

At last week's Land Use meeting, the number of people in attendance were split concerning the trees. Some didn't want any but were OK with the compromise of two and two per block from 3rd to 5th and others liked the idea of at least four on the 3rd to 4th street block and three on the 4th to 5th street block; some wanted more.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway, who has been against adding trees from the start came around at the first Land Use meeting and agreed to the two and two scenario.

"I thought we had a good compromise from the last meeting. Even those who were angry left OK with the compromise so I don't understand why we can't take this slowly. Do two and two, start with that. Why push to do all at once?" he asked.

Public Works Director Lamar Nix said he could cut into the new Main Street asphalt NC DOT will begin work on April 1 to add trees later, but Commissioner Pierson said coming in later to add trees wouldn't look good.

"When you cut into asphalt and patch, the edges can't be smoothed over. You can't just trench over and cover and have the edges be smooth. Plus, adding trees later means they won't be staggered or positioned correctly," he said.

The idea is to stagger the trees down the block with two on the south side of two center parking spaces and two on

the north edge of two center parking spaces for 3rd to 4th, with a similar scenario on the 4th to 5th block.

Commissioner John Dotson, also on the Land Use Committee with Commissioners Eric Pierson and Donnie Calloway, said he is for the four and three scenario and for planting them all at once.

"Personally, I originally thought the two trees per block was acceptable, but I have come to embrace the additional tree option," he said. "Logistically, doing it now rather than later is better, too. Put electricity in conduit under the pavement so we have a good clean product when DOT is done. Do it now and call that it. Let's not consider going for more trees [more than four and three]. Let's not fight this battle again."

Jerry Moore of Kilwins who represented the Chamber of Commerce and other merchants echoed concerns heard from the start saying it's not that more trees wouldn't be pretty; the question is, are more trees practical? Will people hit the tree guards? How challenging will it be to back up?

"When I look down Main Street and look at the trees in the planters, the branches come out a good six feet from their trunk. And if we are going to put these on the edge of the parking spot, the branches are going to come out. You got an 18-wheeler truck coming down Main Street and those branches will go out unless we trim them for many, many years. Also, we will have branches coming down in weather like we've had. I am concerned with the practicality. I don't disagree ... it's pretty but is it practical? It's not like we are a treeless town. I just think we have to be careful from the practical side of it."

Commissioner Pierson and Commissioner Amy Patterson, who wants more like 11 trees and who spoke at length about the positive effect trees have subconsciously on visitors and potential customers, said urban trees have been cloned to address all the problems people worry about concerning trees in traffic areas.

"There are trees specifically grown for this reason. Laratic Oaks, they drop their leaves well – they don't brown and stay on the tree, they shore up nicely to 12-14 feet, which is what we want. There is also a Sangria Oak that blooms out burgundy in the spring then greens up. They produce trees specifically for this and we will get as big as we can get," she said. "Urban trees are cloned to have good

•See TREES page 14

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# •WORD MATTER•

## The Walls Between Us

**A**s we prepare to enter the third year of Donald Trump's presidency, at this writing, our nation remains mired in a partial government shutdown over an oft-repeated campaign promise candidate Trump made to build a wall along the entire southern border of the United States, which would be paid for by our independent neighbor nation, Mexico.

This is a promise candidate Trump never should have made, and one about which voters should have been skeptical. We don't get to dictate policy for other sovereign nations any more than they do for us. But a lot of voters wanted to hear something like this and candidate Trump made the most of that.

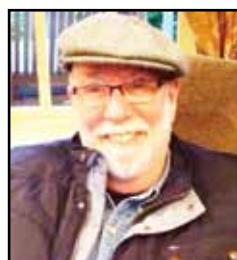
I'm not going to argue the relative merits of building an expensive 1,600-mile wall, or fence, or moat, along our border with Mexico, but I do think we can all agree that our nation needs to do something to fix the many broken parts of its highly flawed immigration process. I don't understand why the President didn't push for fulfillment of his cornerstone campaign promise while his party controlled both houses of Congress. But he didn't, so here we are.

That said, I'm actually more interested in the idea of a wall as a metaphor for our own dangerously divided nation, something that helps nothing or no one.

I've written previously that I've not seen America so divided since perhaps 1968. We were at the height of the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement and the quest for equality for women. The major divisions now appear to be over immigration and gun violence. And, the front lines are the same as they were fifty years ago: Liberals and Democrats on one side, Conservatives and Republicans on the other.

Both parties exploit our differences for politically selfish motives, often distorting the other's point of view. There's no longer even a smidgen of common ground on which to negotiate something resembling a sensible immigration policy or sensible gun regulation. And, both as candidate and as President, Donald Trump seems comfortable fanning the flames of discord between those on both sides of these volatile issues.

As an observer, I'm sure I'm not



Bud Katz

alone in expressing concern regarding how damaging these coarse divisions are to our precious democratic republic.

Since everything today is, to one degree or another, political, how are our elected leaders to address the real day-to-day needs of the American people if we can't or won't talk respectfully to one another?

How are we to rebuild our nation's blighted infrastructure? How are we to ensure every American child gets the best possible education? How are we to address the needs of our nation's and our planet's environment in order to ensure we and future generations have clean air, clean water and a healthy, nutritious food supply?

How are we to care for our sick, our poor, our elderly, our veterans -- ourselves, for that matter -- when we can't even seem to talk to one another without what should be meaningful and respectful conversations deteriorating into shouting matches, which often result in irreparable damage to friendships and even family relationships?

Perhaps we should all attempt, individually first, and then as aligned interests, to at least try to understand each other's opinions and feelings about the issues that concern and affect all of us. Perhaps we should demand that our elected officials on all levels demonstrate civility and respect for one another and for the people they represent.

The argument over immigration, specifically regarding whether or not to build a wall on our nation's southern border is, in reality, an argument about how to continue separating people. Wouldn't we and they be better served if the discussion were instead about how our great nation can employ its resources to help create an environment for our neighbors to the south where their people don't have to seek asylum from abject poverty, rampant corruption or danger from drug gangs? I believe it's fair to say the current situation is no longer sustainable.

Instead of building walls and fences, which, if we're honest, are largely 13th century symbols of division, shouldn't we build bigger tables at which everyone can sit and discuss how to overcome the things that separate us? Is that perhaps something on which we can agree?

We should all be mindful of what Abraham Lincoln famously said, and we inherently know to be the truth: a house divided against itself simply cannot stand.

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**Happy New Year!!!**

As we gladly welcome 2019 and New Year Resolutions are made, we must not forget all the treats and goodies had by ourselves and our furry family members. As fantastic as the holiday times are, they can put a ding on our oral health. So let's start off the New Year by making doggy dental health a top priority.

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through January:**

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Mini-Groom, or Haircut.**

**Pizza fundraiser for Bolivia is this Sunday, Jan. 20**

which to live.

Education is stressed as this is the pathway to a better future and a corridor out of poverty. The mission supports water projects and provides clean water to thousands of people living in rural areas where the infant mortality rates used to be in the 10% range and now are lower than 1%.

The mission has been involved, with help from local Rotary Clubs, in distributing over one thousand wheelchairs, and will have a wheelchair distribution this summer. Thousands of Bibles have been given away over the 22 years of the mission and hospitals and medical clinics have also benefited from the mission.

You can preorder your pizza by calling the Methodist Church at 526-3376 or call on Sunday the 20th at 828-200-0902 and order the pizza. Delivery is an option, or you can come by the church and pick up your pizza and even enjoy the food right there at the church with free soft drinks.

This is the 22nd year of the Bolivian Mission and the main focus has become the foster home, where the 23 boys receive a quality education, good and healthy food, and a loving, safe environment in



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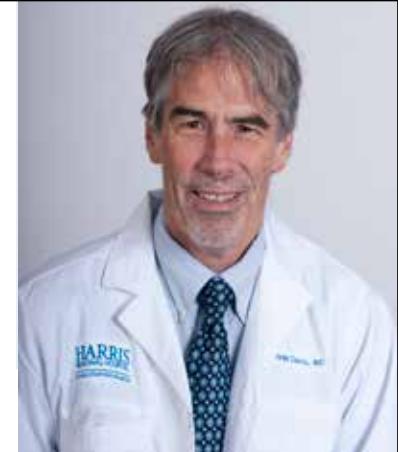
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**WCU, SCC  
hosting lunar  
eclipse viewing at  
Jackson County  
Airport  
Sunday, Jan 20**

Members of the astronomy faculties at Western Carolina University and Southwestern Community College are joining together to host a viewing of a total lunar eclipse during the late evening hours of Sunday, Jan. 20, and early morning hours of Monday, Jan. 21.

The faculty members will be on hand with telescopes to give attendees a good view of the eclipse and will talk about the science of eclipses during the event at the Jackson County Airport.

The partial eclipse will begin at 10:33 p.m. on Jan. 20, and totality will start at 11:41 p.m. and last for a little over an hour, said Enrique Gomez, WCU associate professor of physics and astronomy. Those attending should plan on arriving no later than 10 p.m. All are encouraged to prepare for cold conditions by dressing in layers and to bring lawn chairs, Gomez said.

Lunar eclipses occur when the moon enters the shadow of the Earth, and that happens when the moon is located at the intersection of the Earth's orbital plane and the moon's orbit. This will be the last lunar eclipse visible from North America until July 5, 2020, Gomez said. Lunar eclipses can be viewed safely with the naked eye.

In case of overcast skies, extremely cold conditions or generally bad weather, the viewing will be canceled. For more information, contact Gomez at 828-227-2718.

**Movies at the Playhouse  
NEW SCHEDULE**  
Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.;  
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NO MOVIES MONDAY;  
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## ...CONTEST continued from page 2

than \$2.3 million in scholarships. The first-place winner, who competes with all the first-place VFW

Department (state) winners, receives a \$30,000 scholarship that is paid directly to the recipient's

American university, college or vocational/technical school.

Besides competing for the top scholarship prize, as well as other national scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000, each Department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in March (annually).

"I decided to enter this contest for two reasons: because I have a passion for our nation and to follow my dreams," said Brooks. "The topic is why voting is important, and since it's vital to our government functioning, I decided to enter. Plus, the reward money would allow me to pursue my dream job by going to Full Sail University."

The Voice of Democracy Program began in 1946 and was originally sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasters. Initially, there were four winners selected, representing the North, South, East and West regions of the country. Each winner received a \$500 savings bond and a wristwatch. The second year

of the program, a student by the name of Charles Kuralt, the late television news broadcaster and author, was one of the winners.

It is endorsed by the contest criteria of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three- to five-minute essay based on an annual theme. Historically, the Voice of Democracy theme (chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief annually) is purposely kept broad in scope to allow the participant flexibility in interpretation, and thus, encourage originality. The new theme is posted on the website by May of each year.

"As far as I know he took this upon himself without being asked by anyone to write it," said Highlands School Civics teacher Chris Green. "As his Civics teacher I would like to take credit but I didn't tell him about the contest. He is a great kid."

- Kim Lewicki

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## ...PROJECT continued from page 1

of many."

Plans to drain the lake to pour concrete footers for the pavilion are no longer necessary, but the Lake will be lowered for what Carpenter said was to "determine what's underneath."

The dam is located between the Lower Lake Road entrance and Mill Creek on HBS' north campus. The side of the dam that slopes away from the lake is where the new pollinator garden will be developed. Carpenter said the garden will provide educational opportunities and new habitat for valuable pollinator species that are currently facing numerous challenges to their health. As with all plantings at HBS, they will only use native species of plants for the pollinator garden to attract and nurture native pollinators.

"Pollinators have suffered over recent years so not only do we want to create a new habitat for them, but also to help show our community how beautiful pollinator gardens can be," said Carpenter. "Plus, we can show them some steps they can take in their own garden to support pollinators across Highlands."

The Lower Lake Road entrance to HBS leads directly to Lindenwood Lake, one of the most alluring features of the HBS campus and Carpenter said not many people know it's located a few blocks off of Main Street.

"By incorporating an inviting new entrance with adequate parking on Lower Lake Road, HBS hopes to encourage new visitors to discover this resource and invite them to learn more about native plants, pollinator species and the ecology of a mountain wetland and bog," she said.

Once on campus, visitors can take the boardwalk and loop-nature trail that will connect with existing trails in the Botanical Garden around the Lake.

"This trail will create excellent opportunities for individuals, friends or families to share an ad-

The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

• See PROJECT page 19

# •INVESTING AT 4,118 FT•

## Hey Millennials...Welcome to Highlands!

*"Give Millennials a break. They don't want our jobs, or avocado toast"*

- Jason Gay (WSJ)

**A**t this moment, I'm about to pick up a couple of 30-somethings to show property all over Cashiers and Highlands. It strikes me that a great wave of younger buyers steadily enter our market.

Truly, the median age of buyers and sellers here is skewing younger. The 288 Licensed Realtors/Brokers on the Plateau hereby roll out the red carpet to assist this Millennial audience.

Exactly who are these Millennials (sometimes called Gen Y'ers)?

By definition, they were born between 1980 and 2000. Odds are very good they're not reading this article, because they don't read newspapers. Their news is consumed 100% online, via blog or daily updates. Many areas of their life are conducted the same way, on screens (please keep reading).

Millennials generally don't make phone calls, they text. They wear nice shoes. When you order a Single Malt Scotch at the bar, they order a Winter Solstice Pomegranate Pale Ale.

If you've ever interviewed a Millennial for a job, they probably asked about pet insurance. At Starbucks, you order a Grande Black Coffee, they order the "Emperors Green Tea Mist" extra hot, with soy milk and light foam (which costs \$6.25). You will find many of them in the gluten-free section of the grocery store.

The Millennial pathway into our Real Estate Market is multi-faceted. They've stayed at Mom & Dad's or Grandma & Grampas's place for years, and tend to run up the bill at the Country Club playing golf, ordering food by the pool, or getting spa treatments.

They arrive for weddings at Old Edwards Inn, Bridal dinners, bachelor parties, and a variety of cooking, wine, and music events.

You may see them enjoying Cliff Bars and drinking Monster with kayaks, fly rods, and bikes adorning their SUVs and they're proud you noticed.

To book Highlands/Cashiers lodging, restaurants, (and soon) transportation, Millennials rarely call for reservations. They use well-known apps via smartphone like Uber, VRBO, Airbnb, Evolve, & OpenTable.

The same holds true for their Real Estate intelligence behavior. Realtor.com, Home Advisor, Zillow, and Trulia rule the day and they arrive in town knowing exactly what they want to see, which is often disproven or found unacceptable once a Broker shows the home. The point here is that Millennials are extremely well-educated, successful, spend money, are respectful of the good old days, and at a point in time fall hopelessly in love with these mountains just like we Gen X'ers and Baby Boomers did. The Millennial's are qualified and ready to do business, invest in Real Estate, or in many cases have taken over or inherited the family cottages or mountain homes from Mom & Dad and need a great degree of help and advice about what to do next. Millennial's Real Estate needs are very real

ly what they want to see, which is often disproven or found unacceptable once a Broker shows the home. The point here is that Millennials are extremely well-educated, successful, spend money, are respectful of the good old days, and at a point in time fall hopelessly in love with these mountains just like we Gen X'ers and Baby Boomers did. The Millennial's are qualified and ready to do business, invest in Real Estate,



Pat Gleeson, Owner, BIC  
828-782-0472

and require the professional expertise of an experienced Licensed Broker.

The next time you see a Millennial in town, give them a big hug. And, if all of this makes you nervous, anxious, or concerned please don't worry; Generation Z comes along next year! Be well in 2019.

• Pat Gleeson, his wife Deborah (aka Bee), and their dog Gemma are Owners and Brokers of White Oak Realty Group, in downtown

Highlands on 4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn. White Oak Realty Group, founded in 2009 by Susie deVille, is one of the leading boutique brokerage firms on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach Pat, Bee, or Susie at 828.526.8118.



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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

**Ongoing**

- Movies at the Playhouse – NEW SCHEDULE – Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 and 4 p.m; NO MOVIES MONDAY; Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 1, 4, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 / \$2 off on Tuesdays.

**First Mondays**

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

**Mondays**

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

**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.**

- Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.
- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

**Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.****Mon., Wed., Thurs.**

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

**Tuesdays**

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

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets to read, workshop, or to just share information on writing, every Tuesday, 3pm-5pm, in the downstairs board room at The Bascom, 323 Franklin Road, Highlands. For more information, call 828-526-3190.

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays**

- OccupyWNC meets at the 7pm in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit [www.occupy-wnc.org](http://www.occupy-wnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

**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.

**Tuesday and Thursdays**

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

**Wed. - Sat.**

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

**First Wednesdays**

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

**3rd Wednesdays**

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

**Wed. & Fri.**

- Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

**Thursdays**

- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

**Live via Satellite**  
**Saturday, January 19**  
**1pm**

**National Theatre Live of London**

**Performing Arts Center**



**Antony & Cleopatra**  
by Shakespeare

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street  
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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

- 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 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**

- Highlands Area Indivisible group meets at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Hudson Library.

- 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 at the Hudson Library at 5p. For info call 770-823-0601

## **Fourth Thursday**

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

## **Saturdays**

- 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.

## **Sundays**

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

## **Sat., Jan. 19**

- At PAC, Antony & Cleopatra by Shakespeare, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

## **Sun., Jan 20**

- The Highlands Bolivian Mission will hold its annual Pizza Fundraiser from noon to 8pm. The event is held on the

day of the NFL Conference Championships and the mission will deliver your pizza, so you don't have to miss any of the football action or come by the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street and pick up your pizza or enjoy the meal at the church. The price is \$25 for two toppings in addition to the cheese, or \$35 for three or more toppings. The toppings include extra cheese, mushrooms, peppers, onions, pepperoni, beef, sausage and new this year, bratwurst pizza. All the pizzas are made fresh by the members of the mission and the funds are used to support the mission. You can preorder your pizza by calling the Methodist Church at 526-3376 or call on Sunday the 20th at 828-200-0902 and order the pizza.

## **Mon., Jan. 21**

- The first 2019 Jackson County Republican Party meeting is Monday at 6:30 pm at the Dillsboro Masonic Lodge, 223 Wikes Crescent Dr. Sylva, NC. 28779. The meeting agenda includes the 2018 election report, candidates, new memberships and plans for the County Convention in March. For more information call Chair Ralph Slaughter at 828-743-6491.

- High Mountain Squares is sponsoring Modern Western Square Dance Classes beginning Monday. Classes will be held at the Environmental Resource Center, 1624 Lakeside Drive, Franklin from 6:30-8:30 P.M. The first two classes are FREE! Come and experience the fun and fellowship of square dancing. Call 828-787-2324, 706-746-5426, or 828-332-0001 for info.

## **Sat., Jan. 26**

- At PAC, The Tragedy of King Richard II by Shakespeare, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

## **Sat., Feb. 2**

- At PAC, Bizet's Carmen, Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street,

## **Wed., Feb. 13**

- Project SEARCH will hold an information session night at Mission Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, Room 5205, in Asheville,

on at 6 pm. Project SEARCH is a partnership between Mission Health, The Arc of North Carolina, A-B Tech, NC Vocational Rehabilitation, Vaya Health and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. The program offers a one-year internship for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Its goal is to help the students, who range in age from 18 to 30, achieve their goal of securing meaningful, competitive employment. This session is a one-hour introduction and determination of candidacy appropriateness. Speakers will include Tim Blekicki, Mission Health Project SEARCH instructor, and the job coach, as well as current and past interns, and representatives of program partners. There's a Q&A at the end for parents and students. For questions, please contact Tim Blekicki at [tblekicki@arcnc.org](mailto:tblekicki@arcnc.org) or

828-254-4771 or visit <https://arcnc.org/project-search-asheville>.

## **Sat., Feb. 29**

- At PAC, I'm Not Running by David Hare, at 1 p.m. Live via Satellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

## **Sat., March 2**

- At PAC, Donizetti's La Fille Du Régiment. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

## **Anthony and Cleopatra Live via Satellite at PAC Jan. 19**



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Live via Satellite the National Theatre of London's production of Shakespeare's Antony & Cleopatra on Saturday, January 19 at 1pm. Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo play Shakespeare's famous fated couple in his great tragedy of politics, passion and power. The National Theatre's blockbuster, received multiple 5-star reviews, this production is slick, stylish and modern with a huge revolving set (including a swimming pool on stage), a big supporting cast and gorgeous costumes, and real snakes on stage (!) In the aftermath of Julius Caesar's assassination, General Mark Antony now rules alongside his fellow defenders of Rome. But the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra and Mark Antony have fallen fiercely in love. Having neglected his political duties whilst in Egypt, Antony returns to Rome, to attempt to restore his political position. Torn between his duty to Rome and his devotion to Cleopatra, Antony's actions spark a war which threatens to destroy their love. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or at the door. Students are admitted free of charge. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC 28741 828.526.9047

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## ...TREES continued from page 6

shape, good color; to do all the nice things.”

She said she wants Highlands’ central business district to look good and doesn’t want to do anything to impede, impair or diminish the district and the retail options available there.

“If you are a retailer you have all thought about the atmosphere inside your facility. Once you get them in the door, what it looks like inside is an important part of the retail environment. What we are talking about here is the outside atmosphere that will enhance the street, so people say ‘Wow, this looks interesting; this looks nice; let’s stop and walk up and down the street.’”

She cited a handbook on research about retail consumer relationship development from 2014.

“Besides the environmental reasons to add trees – aesthetically, stormwater and pollution control, fixing CO<sub>2</sub> levels and the letting off of oxygen, all the things that vegetation and trees do – it is also very beneficial to a central business district to have trees,” she said. “It creates this sense of place and an atmosphere that says, ‘Wow, this is pretty, high end.’ Well-tended beautiful trees will have more people wanting to come here. We are competing with online retail. We need to give them a shopping experience and the

best way to do that is to give them an experience not just inside the store but outside the store.”

But Moore, Mularky and David Young all said Highlands already has trees.

“We have trees,” said Mularky. “We flipping have trees in our town. We have a lot of trees.”

Moore agreed.

“We have trees on Main Street already so we aren’t a treeless downtown business district. If you look at anything west of Asheville, Highlands blows everyone away as far as doing business, generating sales. People love to come to Highlands. If you look at the busiest times of year between May and October, you can’t find a parking space. We don’t have a weak downtown. Yes, we can always improve which is why we are looking at a couple of trees to break up that line of sight. But just be careful. If when people come, they can’t get in and out of parking spaces easily, if you make it more difficult, if you put more obstacles for them to maneuver around, that creates a negative experience.”

Retailer and landlord David Young said he didn’t believe trees would make business better.

• See TREES page 17

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## DOGSPEAK

### •REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO•

#### Black Dog means what?

It's known far and wide that the Royal Mum is a huge reader, a word nerd, and a grammar geek. I think I've covered all the bases. One of her word nerd pleasures is receiving emails from Wordsmith.org – A Word a Day – and I get to learn at her feet, so to speak.

One week's theme was words derived from animals, so I was expecting some fun. Here's how Anu Garg, who manages this informative website, introduced the week:

Earthworms, dogs, monkeys, and humans. We are all cousins in the great journey of evolution ... Our language shows our close relationship with our evolutionary mates, the non-human animals, in a vocabulary that's filled with words derived from animals. Some of these words are obvious, others not. A constable is, literally speaking, a count of the stable ... This week we'll see five terms that have animals peeking from them. We'll meet dog, fly, calf, pig, and bird.

Imagine how excited I was when Mum read the first word — black dog. Guess that's more than one word, but no matter. I couldn't wait to hear what wonderful meaning those two words had taken on. Mais non, I did not find the meaning to be wonderful. Black dog means—wait for it—depression. Depression? Whoever determined that was the meaning?

Originally, black dog meant exactly what it says, a black dog. Why couldn't the word nerd powers that be leave well enough alone? Next, the phrase was used to refer to a counterfeit coin, but it was Samuel Johnson in the 1700s who used it to mean depression. Did this guy ask any dogs what they thought? I don't think so. Here's what he had to say: "When I rise my breakfast is solitary, the black dog waits to share it, from breakfast to dinner he continues barking."

Mum tells me he wrote "A Diction-



The Royal Pooch Lord Banjo

ary of the English Language," which I guess makes him some kind of authority. Worse yet, Winston Churchill, whom Mum and Dad both revere, also used black dog to describe his depression. I wonder whether this characterization has anything to do with black dogs being less likely to be adopted? Do people think we're less lovable? Horrors.

In this age where we hear so much about diversity and inclusion among humans, who's looking out for us dogs? Isn't this a heinous affront to black dogs everywhere? I believe all black dogs should rise up in protest of this slander.

I can see it now, a march on the American Kennel Club or, better yet, the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (World Canine Organization for those of you who don't speak French like moi). This organization is the largest international federation of kennel clubs. I have a vision of leading a congregation of New Foundlands, Giant Schnauzers, Bouviers des Flandres, Flat-Coated Retrievers and more to the Federation's headquarters in Belgium. With the largest breeds out front, we should get plenty of attention and soon garner the respect we are due.

To ensure all interested dogs get to participate, we welcome any black or mostly black dogs to join our protest group. I may be a Royal Dog, but I am not a purebred, so I'm all about inclusion. Are you with me? Please have your pet parent contact the Royal Mum to sign up. To paraphrase Arlo Guthrie, with enough of us involved, "... friends, they may think it's a movement."

*Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find similar stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available at Mountain Paws in Highlands, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at ink-penn119@gmail.com.*

#### Do you need help with staying warm?

The Highlands Emergency Council (H.E.C.) will be accepting applications from those requesting financial help for the cost of propane gas, fuel oil, and wood.

Applications will be accepted on:

- Monday, January 28, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please come by H.E.C. located on Poplar Street (next to Wilson Gas). Proof of income is required. No applications will be accepted after these dates. Applications must be filled out in person; no applications will be taken over the phone.

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**WED** CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE and A LARGE SALAD

**THURS** IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS

**FRI** WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND COLESLAW

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## ...HF&R continued from page 1

fighters and public servants.

He also thanked the wives and significant others of each member for living that life with their partners where many a dinner and peaceful night has been interrupted since a lot of the calls come in after hours, from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Mayor Pat Taylor also thanked the members and said he is continuing to work with state legislators to address issues with the firefighters' retirement system. With the number of calls increasing by the year, Mayor Taylor said the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. building on Oak Street will have to be addressed in the near future as well as the make-up of the force.

Chief Gearhart said this year members responded to 640 calls ... "more than ever before with no sign of stopping."

The majority of calls - 266 - were res-

cue and emergency calls; false alarms were 114; good intent calls (where someone calls about something they see, smell or hear which may not amount to anything): 77; service calls: 54; hazardous condition calls: 37; fires: 10; special incident calls: 3; severe weather and natural disaster: 1; and over-pressure rupture/explosion: 1.

Rescue & Emergency accounted for 47.25% and false alarms accounted for 20.25%. Good Intent calls were next in line at 13.68%.

Total manhours spent on the job and in training, which is an ongoing requirement, were 3,022.48.

Each year members of the department pick the Fireman of the Year ... this year the title went to Travis Brooks.

Jason Tardo was acknowledged on two counts - one for getting his Fireman 1 and

Fireman 2 certification and for perfect attendance at the department's weekly drill meetings on Tuesday nights.

Roger Lee Wilson was also acknowledged for perfect attendance - something he is noted for each year.

Chief Gearhart said he has a basement full of plaques for perfect attendance.

Pins and certificates were given for years of service. Five firefighters were given 5-year certificates: Eric Fielding, Seth Schmitt, Austin Reese, Kelly Dendy and Robby Reed.

Ryan Perkins got a certificate for 10-years of service; Aaron "Buddy" Miller for 15 years and Jimmy Petrone and Jim Tate for 20-years of service.

Each year new officers are appointed. Chief Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester retained their positions. Wilson is Captain; Hunter Leffler is 1st Lt., Lenny Metrick is 2nd Lt. as well as secretary/treasurer; Eric Pierson is Rescue Captain, David Leffler is Rescue Lt.; and Member @ Large/Training Officer is Eric Fielding.

- Kim Lewicki



Officers from left: 2nd Lt. and Sec/Treas, Lenny Metrick, Captain Roger Lee Wilson, 1st Lt. Hunter Leffler, Rescue Lt. David Leffler, Rescue Capt. Eric Pierson, Training Officer Eric Fielding, and Chief Ryan Gearhart. Not pictured is Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester.



Years of Service from left: Jimmy Petrone (20 yrs.), Austin Reese (5 yrs.), Kelly Dendy (5 yrs.), Eric Fielding (5 yrs.), Seth Schmitt (5 yrs.), Ryan Perkins (10 yrs.), and Buddy Miller (15 yrs.). Not pictured are Robby Reed (5 yrs.) and Jim Tate (20 yrs.).



From left: Jason Tardo, Chief Gearhart and Roger Lee Wilson both noted for perfect attendance at Tuesday night Drill Meetings.

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# • H-C HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Community participants wanted for new Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council

January finds many of us thinking about the old habits we need to shed and what we might do differently as we usher in the New Year. Lots of us think about health resolutions, but I am going to ask you to think about a different kind of New Year's resolution for 2019 – one that centers on being a force for positive change.

An important part of providing the best care to this community is gaining feedback from our patients – and acting upon it. A perfect example of this was our recent series of focus groups in which



Jacqueline Medland, PhD, RN, is the President/Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)

over 30 community members gave their valuable time and thoughts about how we can make our facilities and services even more age-friendly. I appreciate your involvement, and we intend to use your feedback to create a strategic plan for our future – one that will align closely with what you define as our community's needs.

To that end, a new opportunity exists for our patients and families: We're calling for volunteers to form our new Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), which will be comprised of

community members who have been treated

at HCH, patients' family support members, caregivers, and hospital leadership. PFAC members will bring fresh perspectives and practical ideas that will improve the experience for patients in our care, educate community members about our services, and powerfully shape the care we offer in the future. After all, who has a better insider's view of the care we provide than those who have received it?

This model was initially piloted at Mission Hospital and has been very successful. Karen Hendricks, HCH's Quality and Safety Manager, will oversee the creation of the PFAC, and help coordinate its work. "I'm passionate about this project because I too have been a patient; that experience

stirs me to do all I can to encourage patients to speak out, which leads to improved care and positive change." PFAC is a powerful tool in a model of care that is based on patient-caregiver partnerships. "I am fortunate to hear many patient stories, and each reminds me, and everyone at HCH, why we the caring profession in the first place," adds Hendricks.

Please consider engaging with HCH to improve community care in this new and exciting way. If you're interested in participating in the HCH Patient and Family Advisory Council, contact Karen Hendricks by February 15, at 828-526-1243. Your valued insights will help make our community stronger and healthier.

## ...TREES continued from page 14

"We have trees, we've added trashcans, we've added benches, we have done all we can to accommodate the consumer, but you keep on gilding the lily and you are going to make a mistake," he said. "My opinion is we had a compromise before and now you are trying to slide more in there. I'm sitting here listening to someone who has no experience in everyday retail saying the more trees you have the better it's going to get. No, it's not."

Amanda Sullivan, Marketing Director for OEI who sits on the Chamber board said the marketing aspect of trees is why she is involved.

"I am not a retailer, but I did research and what Amy presented is the same everywhere; no one is making this stuff up. In other towns, the merchants were also concerned when they first started doing this in the downtown areas – changing things up when what they have is working," she said. "Yes, we have a nice downtown, but we are talking about shaping the future perception of our town to continue to create the high-end experience that people come here for. I think that's important to everyone to maintain that perception. It's about shaping so we continue to attract the type of people who will frequent the types of businesses and the lifestyle we have created up here all year. The tree scape information really speaks to that," she said.

Moore said the discussion is about arriving at the magic number of trees and

where trees should go to keep the functionality of Main Street.

"I completely agree with the aesthetics, and I am not disagreeing with the studies. But we know this town better than any researcher from Harvard, Yale or wherever they may be from. We have to figure out what works best in our town. Maybe it is four trees or three trees I don't know. I just say proceed cautiously. We have an amazing booming town that's not easy to get to; people travel up a mountain road to get here. They do this already."

In the end, Moore said taking into consideration all that was said, he would agree to expanding the number of trees to three between 3rd and 4th with spacing to add more later and three on 4th to 5th.

"If you can guarantee it won't affect parking and not affect view from one side of the street to the other, I would agree, but I don't see how it won't do both," said Mularky.

The commissioners present agreed to look into the cost of the project – estimated at \$3,000 per tree which will include the tree, the planting of the tree, the grate and the guard – though Commissioner Patterson suggested permeable pavers around the base of the tree rather than the expensive metal grates proposed.

They will also consider the financial logistics of adding more trees after NCDOT is finished renovating the street.

– Kim Lewicki



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**Curtis Fussell, Co-Pastor  
First Presbyterian Church in Highlands**

**H**ere in the middle of January the winter days can be dreary. In the middle of January, the sun still shines low on the horizon, the shadows are long. It's frosty in the morning and cold during the day. January can have the feeling of being a rather empty month. No major holidays come in January. The colors of Christmas have faded, and the flowers of Easter are far from blooming.

I heard a story about a man who was living a kind of January month. He had reached a sense of personal emptiness. He felt cold and lifeless. Overworked. Overpressed by demands. Exhausted. He described himself as feeling like an empty well. Too many demands had drained him dry.

Seeking to replenish the well, he went to a spiritual director for advice, a nun. He expected she would offer soothing words. He expected her to boost his ego, saying, "You've lived a life of generosity as an unselfish person." When you feel low it helps to hear words that describe you in a positive light. Such words can lift you up. He also thought she might suggest he take some time off: "Indulge yourself on a cruise to a warm and sunny location."

But she said none of that. She didn't say anything positive about his character. Nor did she recommend a cruise. What she said was this, "There's only one thing to do when your reservoir runs dry. You have to go deeper."

The prophet Jeremiah gives this same advice. He says those who truly live are like a tree sending roots down deep into the soil where the water lies. Then, with those deep roots, even when the drought comes its leaves are green, and it still bears fruit. Without deep roots, the tree would wither and die. Going deeper, trusting your God given gifts to take you deeper into living.

Here's a reality check: God does not promise to let us live only in springtime. There are grey and empty winter days in every life. There are also scorching summer days and days of droughts. To endure such days, it is important to live a life that goes deep. A life that taps into the living God. Such a life is tenacious. It never gives up. It just goes deeper. As the Apostle Paul says, "it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

**Proverbs 3:5****• PLACES TO WORSHIP •****John 3:16****HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

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**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
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.  
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell  
rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm  
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Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;  
Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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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**

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.

**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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

**CHAPEL OF THE SKY**

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

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**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS**

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays — Supper at 6 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

www.cbhighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

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

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

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**

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Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS**

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands

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

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

Choir 5p

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 a.m.

**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

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**HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Pr. Nathan

Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

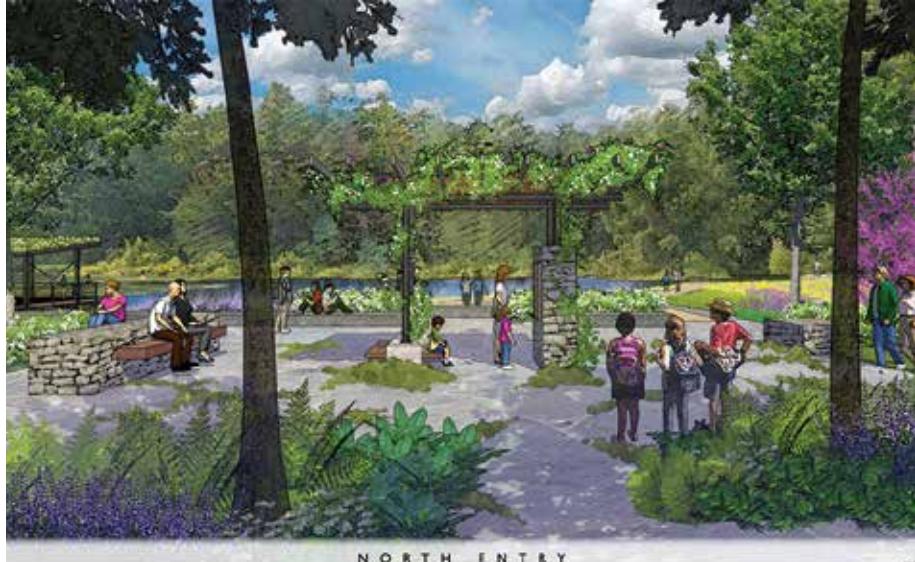
## ...PROJECT continued from page 10

venture of discovery together," said Carpenter. "Educational displays focused on bog ecology, wetlands and the wildlife they foster will enhance this nature walk. We plan to create a trail that can be enjoyed and appreciated by all."

She added that HBF partnered with Kerns Land Planning, Bryson's Construction, and Tate Landscaping and the project is entirely donor funded. Carpenter said the North Campus will be a new destination for members, students, and visitors to Highlands.

"We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the donors who have given to the North Campus Improvement Campaign," she said. "With this project, we hope to create a space that honors all aspects of the Highlands Biological Station; the deep tradition of education, appreciation for the beauty and diversity of our native species, conservation and presence of habitat for flora and fauna, and a welcoming space for world-weary humans."

The project is expected to be finished over the summer, ideally in July.



The Lower Lake Road entrance (North Entrance) to HBS leads directly to Lindenwood Lake. By incorporating an inviting new entrance with adequate parking on Lower Lake Road, HBS hopes to encourage new visitors to discover this resource.



The trail will wend its way around the lake to the new John 'Sto' Stowers teaching pavilion cantilevered over the lake which will provide additional classroom space for students and visiting groups.



The boardwalk and loop-nature trail will connect with existing trails in the Botanical Garden around the lake. Educational displays focused on bog ecology, wetlands and the wildlife they foster will enhance this nature walk.



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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Dec. 30, 2018. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

**Dec. 30**

- At 9:30 p.m., officers received a report of someone trespassing at a residence on Paul Walden Road.
- At 11 p.m., officers received a report of sexual battery

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on Sunset Rock park in Highlands. Jan. 1

• At 4:45 a.m., Christopher Scott Flowers, 33, of Highlands, was arrested for resisting arrest, simple assault and damage to personal property. He wasn't issued a bond. His court date has not been determined.

**Jan. 2**

• At 1:20 p.m., officers received a report of destruction and



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damage to property when a man's car door was hit in a parking lot on South Street.

**Jan. 3**

• At 3:28 a.m., officers were called about an employee drinking after hours at the High Dive on Carolina Way and refusing to comply with officers.

• At 3:40 a.m., Dillion Scott Gilmus, 26, of Riverview, FL, was arrested for obstructing and resisting arrest, and liquor law violations. He was issued a \$1,000 bond. His court date is Jan. 23.

**Jan. 4**

• At 7:30 p.m., officers received a report of someone trespassing at a residence on Paul Walden Road.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 8, 2019.**

**Jan. 8**

• At 8:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about an electrical smell at a residence on NC 106.

• At 10:11 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Satolah Fire & Rescue Dept.

**Jan. 9**

• At 9:13 a.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

**Jan. 10**

• At 9:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

• At 1:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherokee Drive.

• At 11:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lost Trail.

**Jan. 11**

• At 8:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mel Keener Road.

• At 11:32 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on US 64 west.

**Jan. 13**

• At 10:02 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.

  
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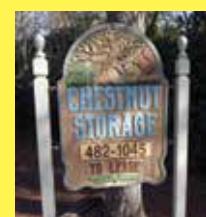
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This the 21st day of December, 2018.

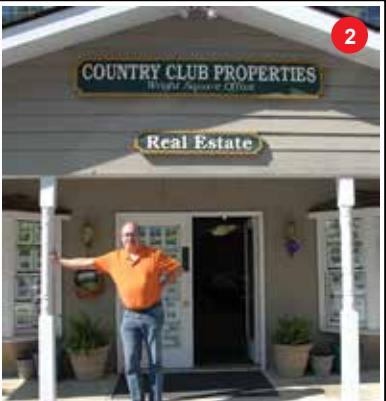
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