

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, March 21, 2019

Pilot found dead in plane wreckage near Whiteside Mountain

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Rescue crews made their way through rugged terrain on Friday

and located the wreckage of a single-engine private plane at approx. 12:45 p.m. in southern Jackson County near Whiteside Mountain.

The aircraft's sole occupant was the pilot, Gary Huttleston of Aiken, S.C., who was flying from Knoxville. **•See PLANE page 8**

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Upgrades coming to K-H Founders Park

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Those looking to take a load off at the chess tables while catching a live concert at Saturdays on Pine or just relaxing having a family picnic will find the stoned patio at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park expanded to accommodate the popular lounging area.

“Founders of Founders Park (FoFP) is expanding the chess table/picnic area for these reasons; area gets considerable picnic use and foot traffic, area is heavily shaded making it difficult to maintain grass turf, and it requires improved drainage,” said FoFP President Hank Ross. “After construction, park patrons will have a clean, dry, and expanded space for picnicking.”

• See UPGRADES page 10



Portion of the Greenway leading from town to Mirror Lake.

– Photo by Brian O'Shea

Lack of sidewalk; pedestrian safety reason for Greenway extension

By Brian O'Shea

Last week, the Highlands Recreation Committee approved a request at its regular monthly meeting to extend the Highlands

Plateau Greenway trail system from Oak Street across from the First Baptist Church, down the embankment to the Greenway switchback on the Sled Run Trail.

“The proposed trail extension goes over town property (Rec Park), that’s why it needs town approval,” said Recreation

•See GREENWAY page 10

Funding needed for NC schools' capital upgrades

Legislators suggest a \$2 billion K12 Bond referendum

By Brittney Lofthouse

Each year schools across Macon County submit funding requests to the Board of Education to address capital outlay needs within the district. Requests range in severity as well as financial need but are all made with the best interest of students in mind.

This year’s complete capital outlay request submitted to the board exceeded three million dollars – and even the prioritized list topped \$2 million.

While the needs remain to be great year after year, the funding to address the infrastructure needs in the district just don’t exist.

Macon County Commissioners regularly allocate a half a million dollars for capital expenses,

•See FUNDING page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Saying 'no' to unfunded state mandates

The March Highlands Town Board meeting is tonight at 7pm at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field. The agenda has four major items.

First on the agenda are two letters that I have written to our legislative delegation. There are two joint senate and house bills under consideration in Raleigh that are not good for communities like Highlands.

The first letter requests Senator Davis and Representative Corbin to vote against, or at least modify, SB 87 and HB 91. Both bills call for the merger of municipal ABC boards into single county ABC boards. I, along with our local ABC Board, think this is not a good idea for Highlands. Currently, all ABC profits are distributed through the Highlands ABC board to town departments like recreation, the general fund and law enforcement. Funds also go to nonprofit organizations, especially those dealing with addiction and recovery initiatives. Highlands plateau folks should oversee our ABC operation and can determine best how funds are managed. The counter argument is that some large counties have



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

too many ABC boards. With just two, Franklin and Highlands, that is not Macon County's situation. I would have no problem with the legislation if it were modified to make merger into a single county board a local option initiative rather than a state mandate.

Speaking of mandates, the second letter expresses opposition to HB287 and SB179. This legislation is an unfunded mandate for a special separation payout upon retirement for firefighters and EMC workers.

The separation allowance would go beyond the current employee retirement benefits. Law enforcement retirees already receive this compensation and the new legislation extends it to first-responders. Volunteer firefighters are excluded. The issue is that the legislation is another unfunded state mandate that towns and cities will have to fund. Over the last few years municipalities have increased their contributions to the municipal employees' retirement fund to insure future solvency. This mandate will add additional pressure on towns like Highlands. On the other hand, I support the state improving the retirement for volunteer firefighters and shoring up the teachers and state employees' retirement system.

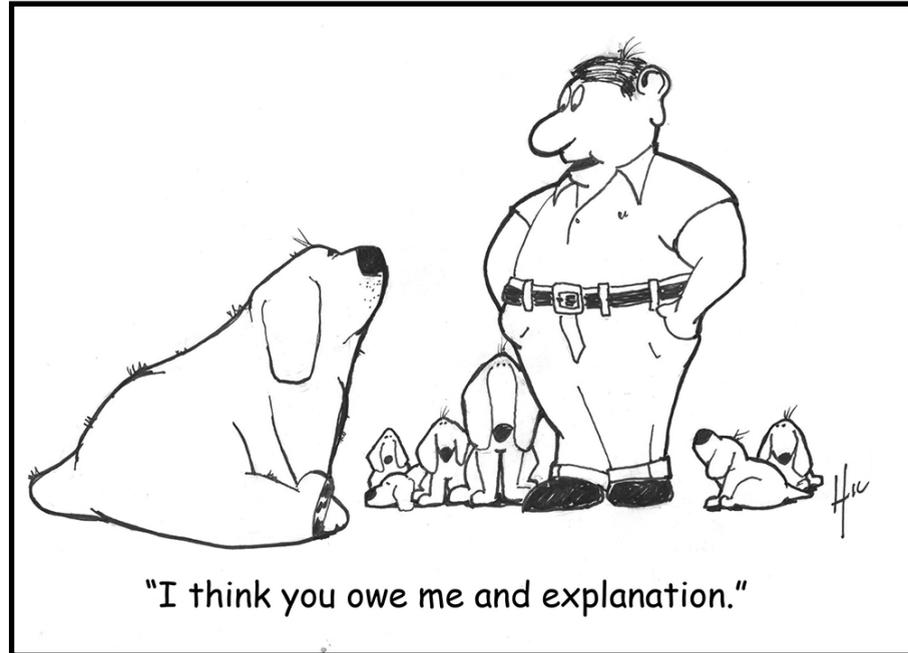
I will be asking the Town Board to endorse these letters addressing these matters. As I have said before, what happens in Raleigh doesn't stay in Raleigh, it impacts us here in Highlands.

The board will also be reviewing a proposal drafted by me to extend the lease law to residential neighborhoods. Last year a pit bull running loose attacked a man at this home. The man had to go to the hospital. The proposal allows folks to keep their dogs in their yards off leash as long as the dog is under control. The owner can even walk their dog in residential areas off leash so long as the owner maintains visual site of their dog and has voice control over the animal. What the proposal does do is prohibit dogs from running loose in town. It will protect both people and dogs.

Also, tonight the board will do a final review of the contract to build the fiber optic network. Last week the loan was closed with BB & T, so construction can begin in the coming months.

See you tonight.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"I think you owe me and explanation."

• LETTERS •

...on taxing, spending and borrowing

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the Word Matter column in the March 7 edition, "Tax and borrow or tax and spend. Pick one."

Mr. Katz presents a false choice between taxing and borrowing, and taxing and spending. Conspicuously absent is the alternative of government living within its means.

Both of his choices are "taxing and spending," which discourages efficiency and does not correlate with better government. If it did, Venezuela would be in great shape financially. So would California, New York an Illinois.

What increased taxing and spending lead to is even more taxing and spending.

Rick Fenton
Highlands Cove

• See LETTERS page 6

• WEATHER •

	Friday 3/22		Saturday 3/23		Sunday 3/24	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	53 F	28 F	58 F	32 F	58 F	39 F
RealFeel	52 F	28 F	65 F	25 F	63 F	37 F
Winds	10 g 16	7 g 11	4 g 8	4 g 6	5 g 9	3 g 6
T-Storms	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	20%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0	0.02
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

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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.



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC With handsome wood floors throughout the common areas, a stone fireplace and vaulted ceilings, the home has a terrific floor-plan that makes entertaining a breeze. A new kitchen features an oversized island, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. The large master suite opens to the covered deck and features lots of windows. The lower level boasts three bedrooms plus a family room with wet bar. Level fenced back yard - perfect for pets!

MLS# 89562 | Offered for \$995,000



COLD SPRINGS This contemporary 4BR/5.5BA lake retreat was designed to take advantage of the lake front property. Upon entering, to your right is the dining area and kitchen with vaulted ceilings with large semi-circular and picture windows over the sink. Separating the kitchen from the living room is a fabulous floor-to-ceiling native stone fireplace. The master bedroom opens onto the deck and boasts a free-standing bed wall which separates the master bath and closet from the bedroom.

MLS# 89307 | Offered for \$898,000

SCALY MOUNTAIN Amazing views from this contemporary home in King Mountain located on the Atlanta side of Highlands about six miles from Main Street. The home was designed by Jim Fox; the focal point in a sunken fireplace niche with comfortable seating to enjoy a relaxing evening with friends in front of a blazing fire. The master level is upstairs and includes an office with lots of windows. The lower level boasts a family room with glass all around plus two sweet sleeping areas.

MLS# 89729 | Offered for \$895,000

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN This one level living home is only steps away from the Performing Art Center/Play House. Offers a large back deck for entertain-ing, detached-oversized two car garage, which could be turned into a guest cottage. Incredible private flat back yard with its own art studio. Landscaped yard is beautiful and perfect for pets and kids. This would also make a great vacation rental. Conveniently located in town; walk to Main Street restaurants, shops & venues!

MLS# 88180 | Offered for \$799,900



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• OBITUARIES •

Joyce Arlene Rice Speed

Joyce Arlene Rice Speed, age 50, of Clarkesville, Ga., went home to be with her Lord and Savior with her loving family by her side on March 11, 2019 and now has sweet wonderful peace. She was born June 1, 1968 the daughter of Rev. Oliver Rice and the late Mary Green Rice.

Along with her father and step mother, Barbara Reed Rice she is survived by her loving husband Jerry Speed of Clarkesville, Ga., one son Phillip Speed of Clarkesville, Ga., one daughter Arizona Speed of Clarkesville, Ga., two sisters Lynn Lovell (Doug) of Clarkesville, Ga., Peggy Brewer (Kenneth) of Franklin, NC., one step sister Vickie Owens (Clay) of Clayton, Ga. one step brother James Reed of Clayton, Ga. also a number of nieces and nephews also survive.

She was a devoted member of New Birth Baptist Church where she loved singing and serving her Lord. She was a loving wife, mother daughter and sister; she enjoyed taking pictures, making crafts, jewelry, going hunting and fishing.

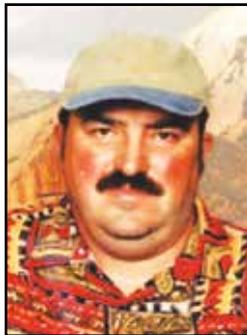
Funeral services were at the New Birth Baptist Church 200 Hollywood Hills Rd, Clarkesville, Ga.30523. with Rev. Johnny Truelove and Rev. Mike Wilson officiating. Grave-side services followed at Blue Valley Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Johnny Loudermilk officiating.

In lieu of flower's donations may be made to Beck Funeral Home 898 Hwy 441 South Clayton Ga., 30525 to help with funeral expenses.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, wa in charge of the arrangements. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

William 'Bill' Claude Houston

William "Bill" Claude Houston, 65, of Highlands passed away Thursday, March 14, 2019.



Born in Macon County, Bill was the son of the late Frank and Lois Houston of Highlands. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Houston and brother, Jim Houston. Bill was a rock mason and loved to fish, hunt, and travel.

Bill is survived by two sons, Chris Houston (Mandy) of Highlands and Charlie Houston (Kristen) of Douglasville, GA; four grandchildren, Sarah, Grace, Charlotte, and Christian; two brothers, Tommy Houston and Larry Houston (Faith) both of Highlands; and sister, Sandy McCormick (David) of GA.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1 pm, Saturday, March 23 at Buck Creek Baptist Church. Rev. Jamie Passmore will officiate. Burial will be in Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Buck Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Geneva Vaughn, 133 Embers Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements

Condolences can be made to the family at www.macon-funeralhome.com

Roberta 'Bobbe' Wolfe

More than 100 people attended the remembrance memorial service for Roberta (Mrs. Fletcher Wolfe) on Saturday March 16 at St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Toccoa, GA.

Mrs. Wolfe, born in 1931, passed away Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA. She had resided recently at the Chestnut Hill Assisted Living Center in Highlands.

The service, conducted by Rev. Doris Graf-Smith, was assisted by several past Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation staff members who served when Mr. Wolfe was Music Director there for many years.

Assisting Rev. Smith was Father Brian Sullivan, Verger, Helen Moore and organist Robert Henry. Molly McKim Sang "O Divine Redeemer."

Also participating in the remembrances was, Chaplain, Rev. Neil Cardwell and Atlanta Attorney, Russell Waldon. Both of these remembered Mrs. Wolfe with a loving recollection of their youth spent in the Atlanta Boy Choir where she mentored them with such affection and care.

Many of those attending the ceremony traveled from other states to honor this lady who touched so many lives. Highlanders attending were, Angie Jenkins, Stell Huie, Mary Bean, the McKim family, Joanna Rainey, Harriet Lawrence, E.J. Tarbox and Jodie Zhaner.

A graduate of Georgetown College as an art major, Mrs. Wolfe attended Southern Baptist Seminary with a major in Theology and Religious Education. Further graduate studies in art took her to Cortona, Italy, where she was recognized by the University of Georgia for her outstanding bronze sculptures. Postgraduate studies in art were also pursued at Georgia State University and Oglethorpe University.

As a high school art teacher for over 40 years, her career included teaching in Manhattan, NY, Montclair, NJ, Louisville, KY, Athens, GA and the Fulton County School System. She was on the faculty of the High Museum of Art School and was costume and set designer for Atlanta's opera and ballet companies.

Mrs. Wolfe was awarded the prestigious Jeanne d'Arc Gold Medal by the city of Orleans for her promotion of the arts in France. She helped found The Georgia Festival of the Arts in Italy and received several honors for this accomplishment.

She counts as one of her most important achievements



as being one of the founding artists of Atlanta's Piedmont Arts Festival. She has served the Atlanta Boy Choir for many years as its artistic designer and tour coordinator.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Fletcher Wolfe of Sky Valley, GA.

•See OBITUARIES page 9



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Highlands
Playhouse

...FUNDING continued from page 1

above and beyond their \$6 million contribution to general operating costs of the school system, but with aging buildings and a growing student population, it rarely even puts a dent in the district's needs.

The top request from Highlands school followed a national trend of addressing school security by requesting fencing to enclose the campus which sits just off the roadside. The Highlands fencing request was paired with a request from South Macon Elementary for the same, with early estimates of the joint project falling just under \$60,000. Members of the board found fencing to be a priority, but whether or not the project will make the final cut remains to be seen.

Like Franklin High School, Highlands School also requested funding to cover walkways throughout the school's campus so students aren't walking from building to building in the rain. The total request for both Franklin High School and Highlands School was estimated to cost \$145,000 with board members prioritizing \$100,000 to begin the project in phases.

For the last several years Highlands School has requested funds to install stage lighting on the stage in the gym. The project is estimated to cost \$30,000 and is needed for both functionality to properly utilize the space for students as well as safety for when the stage is being used. However, as in years past, the project was not deemed a priority and has already been nixed from this year's consideration list.

Macon County's struggle to balance the needs of school infrastructure against available funding options isn't unique. In fact, the North Carolina General Assembly has been grappling with the issue for years, most recently proposing a \$2 billion K12 Bond referendum to address capital outlay needs across the state.

House Speaker Tim Moore originally proposed the \$1.9 billion bond, which immediately garnered support from Macon County House Rep. Kevin Corbin. Moore's idea is backed by Governor Roy Cooper, who readdressed the idea during his State of the State address at the end of last month.

"Right now, four in 10 public schools

in our state are at least 50 years old," Cooper said. "That means they're still using the schools you and I went to."

Other Republicans in the General Assembly have countered Moore's bond proposal to address school construction needs without increasing the state's debt load.

The legislation proposed by Republicans is a starting point to address the crisis unfolding across the state. House Bill 241 (which would issue bonds to fund school capital needs) and Senate Bill 5 (which earmarks General Fund revenue to public school capital) – differ in how they would pay for increased school construction but share two common features:

Both plans would reduce funding for state needs other than school construction. Neither plan raises additional revenue, so paying for school construction necessarily means reductions in other areas of the budget, including funding for K-12 education.

While potentially making an important contribution, neither option will meet all of the needs facing the state's public schools nor address school building needs beyond the next decade.

The bonds proposed by Moore's H.B. 241 would likely provide public schools with

the greatest benefit, but neither of the current proposals would raise additional revenue to pay for school construction needs and therefore ensure an ongoing solution to the challenge of financing capital needs.

Without raising additional revenues, servicing the debt on a school bond or increasing General Fund earmarks for school building appropriations will force more cuts in other areas, including education.

"If I didn't believe that this was a fiscally responsible approach; that this was a way that actually is a fiscally conservative approach for taxpayers, you wouldn't see me standing before you advocating for this," Moore said.

In the past, school districts have mostly relied on money raised locally in the county. It's been 20 years since the state has stepped in with major funding for capital outlay needs.

If Moore's bill passes, it will be placed in the primary ballot for 2020 for state voters to address the need. In the meantime, Macon County will have to continue to lean on county commissioners to provide funding to place temporary Band-aids on a growing problem.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Here is to public shaming of the uninformed

Dear Editor:

I write to respond to Brian L. Buckley's letter published in your March 7 edition entitled "Last week was very busy for me." What he expresses is seriously misinformed and gratuitously disrespectful.

The Mayor and Town Board spend many hours on town business and, IMHO, are worth at least 10 times what they are paid. I will address their hard work, but first want to point out that the Mayor is not a voting member of the Town Board. I also want to point out that the town owns and maintains the electric distribution system, and that is why it is impossible for the town to just "pass through" Duke's wholesale rate charges. As for "no value added," there are of course the costs of maintaining and, when necessary, replacing that system. Who does Brian Buckley think does that work? Furthermore, if the town charged rates reflecting the replacement cost of the system assets, our electric rates would be much higher.

The Mayor and the members of the Town Board spent many hours last year studying the terms of the Mission sale of our hospital, and courageously passed a resolution imploring the Attorney General of the State to improve those terms. These improvements were achieved and were widely

reported in the local papers. I spent many hours (pro bono) with the Mayor working on strategy, and he developed other citizen group contacts across Western North Carolina in order to form a coalition broad enough to influence the Attorney General. We made many trips together to Asheville to meet with other coalition members. We made a trip to Raleigh, starting at 7 a.m. and returning at 1 a.m., to meet with the Attorney General. All of these were at our own expense.

The Mayor got contributions from civic-minded residents to help pay the former Attorney General and Governor of Missouri to assist our efforts, based on his successful prior experience with similar sales of local hospitals to profit entities in Missouri and Kansas. None of this involved any expense to the town. I also know that the Mayor has worked hard to bring broadband to Highlands. All of these things — and more — are what the Mayor, Town Board and town employees do. All are necessary to the continued vibrance of the town.

In conclusion, we can only hope there could be public shaming of uninformed and disrespectful comments about our public life.

Barrett K. Hawks
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• WORD MATTER •

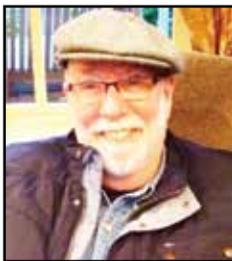
Watch out, our town is changing ... again

I had a brief conversation recently with someone I've known since the missus and I moved to Highlands full-time eight years ago. He was lamenting some coming changes on our local landscape. Life in the face of change, even relatively minor change, even what might appear to be change for the better, is often a daunting proposition. I believe that in some way, the manner in which people view and react to change is one of the things that indicates how we see the world, and our lives, and whether we do so in positive or negative terms.

One of the changes underway here in Highlands involves the clearing of a relatively small parcel of land across from the Highlands Community Center building. My understanding of this project is that the property is to become home to several residences, which will be few in number and upscale in nature. Still, at least one person I know views this project on 4th Street, which is happening under the auspices of the people at Old Edwards Inn, with concern. Trepidation seems mostly to focus on the fate of some possibly historic buildings adjacent to the construction site. Since OEI itself is housed in an historic building I have to believe they'll be sensitive to the surrounding property.

Another sizable project, already underway on Chestnut Street, involves significant renovation and addition to the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. The PAC is home base for the Highlands-Cashiers Players and will, upon completion, house the lineup currently presenting at the Highlands Playhouse, including its schedule of feature films. When this happens the fate of the current Highlands Playhouse building on Oak Street will come into question. There has been rampant speculation regarding the future of the historic building, which sits between the Highlands Police Department and the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department facilities.

There is justifiable concern regarding the fate of the nearly 90-year-old, town-owned structure, which once housed the auditorium for the Highlands School. I believe it's fair to say there will be passionate opposition to even any mention of tearing down the Highlands Playhouse building. Based on more than a few brief



Bud Katz

conversations about this I believe the building is going to survive.

Some people are comfortable with change. Others can be profoundly disturbed by it. I'm sure there are psychological matters at play with regard to how people view change, and perhaps these matters are magnified when the change under discussion is either taking place right in front of us or has the potential for directly affecting us.

If we think about it, and I do, a lot, change is something most of us have to deal with all the time whether we like it or not. And the longer we live, and the more comfortable we wish we could feel, even what may appear as insignificant change can be both upsetting and unsettling.

A walk down Main Street or up the hill on 4th Street with someone who has a specific picture in her or his mind from a year, or two years, or five years ago can result in some surreal, head-shaking confusion.

"Wait! Where's Scudder's? It used to be right there." Sorry, but they're gone, after maybe 43 years. Next year at this time the Stone Lantern near the corner of Main and 4th streets will have closed.

"Well, let's go to Jolie's." Sorry, gone, after 29 years.

As is, I suspect, the case with many friends and neighbors, when we happened upon Highlands back in 2006, and then when we decided to buy property here later that same year, and then again, when we cut any other cords and made it our full-time home, I wished on some level I could snap my fingers and preserve it exactly as I had first experienced it. Unfortunately, that's not the way things work.

Like it or not, places you and I have cherished have gone out of business or the operators retired and closed up shop. I can't begin to recall all the goings and comings and moves that have happened in town since we located here.

It's the nature of existence. Things change. Stuff happens. Life intervenes.

Some friends who used to visit Highlands regularly recently lamented to me that they don't know if or when they'll be coming back because, "It's just not the same as it used to be."

Indeed, it's not. Please tell me, what is?

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...PLANE continued from page 1

ville, Tenn., to Aiken, but crashed approx. 40 minutes into the flight and did not survive.

At approx. 6:30 p.m. on March 14, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) contacted the Jackson County 911 Communication Center reporting a plane was in distress in southern Jackson County.

Further information from the AFRCC and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) indicated that the plane was last seen on radar at 6:14 p.m., said Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad (GCRS) Public Information Officer Nat Turner.

The missing aircraft was located after a private plane flew overhead and called Macon County 911 to report it, said Jackson County Emergency Management Director Todd Dillard. By using a drone from N.C. Emergency Management, search teams were able to locate the wreckage.

Once the plane was found, crews made their way through difficult terrain to reach the crash site. GCRS Chief Jeff Stewart said it was slow going reaching the objective area.

"It wasn't that far in, but it was really awful terrain," said Stewart. "You're down on your knees crawling, you aren't walking, and everything was steep and slick. The weather clearing up is what really helped us."

The initial search for the aircraft began on Thursday evening in both Macon and Jackson counties and rescue crews had to deal with heavy rains and dense fog. Highlands Fire & Rescue (HFR) Chief Ryan Gearhart said he had about a dozen people following up on leads searching along Horse Cove Road in the Rich Gap and Walking Stick areas.

"It was very limited, obviously," said Gearhart regarding Thursday's operation. "I told Robbie (HFR Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester) if it's on the side or just off the road we might see it, but if it's in the woods, you couldn't see at all. The terrain was challenging enough, then the weather, the time of day, it all compounds things and makes it difficult."

The search had to be called

off because of dangerous weather conditions, which Gearhart said is a tough call to make but safety is the top priority.

"I've got to look out for about a dozen guys out there," he said. "We had to weigh our options. It was unknown terrain, you could just be walking in the dark and walk off a cliff. It's really a hard call to make not knowing if the person in trouble is still alive, but you hope and pray for the best."

As information was coming in throughout Thursday evening, HFR and GCRS crews were following all leads and searching possible coordinates the plane may have went down. The call to postpone the search was made after all the leads had been exhausted.

"We went to every lead we had, it was all we could do," said Gearhart. "Once you do that, it's just a needle in a haystack. Safety is of the utmost importance and you have to look out for your team."

Gearhart said his team went out again on Friday to assist GCRS. By that point it was confirmed the plane had gone down in Jackson County and GCRS was leading the operation. Gearhart said he has been involved in dozens of search and rescue operations in the past and was impressed with GCRS' management of the operation.

"HFR is fire rescue, we do some search, some swift water rescue, some rock rescue, but that's all these guys (GCRS) do," said Gearhart. "I'll say one thing, that was one of the most coordinated and top-notch operations I've ever been a part of."

Recovery operations are underway, and Dillard said National Transportation Safety Board and FAA investigators are assessing the cause of the incident.

"The investigators at NTSB and FAA are very good at what they do and they're going out to the crash site to conduct a thorough investigation to determine what happened," he said.

He added there is no firm timeline set for the investigation. Gearhart said reaching the wreckage is challenging, crews must take an ATV, then ride in a canoe

across a lake, and then hike up to the crash site.

Multiple local, state, and federal agencies assisted with the search and rescue operations including the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, Jackson County Rescue Squad, US Forest Service NC Wildlife Resources, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Emergency Management, Swain County Emergency Management, N.C. Forest Service, N.C. Emergency Management, and the Civil Air Patrol.

Stewart said it's common for multiple agencies in the area to respond to incidents like a downed aircraft.

"You divide and conquer, you share information and get information from these guys and you go check out a lead," said Stewart. "Then hopefully something there points you in the right direction. Then you can build on that and end up with a positive result. It's a hunt."

Dillard said Emergency Management is there to support incident commanders with the logistics of coordinating resources from multiple agencies.

"We're facilitators and enablers," said Dillard. "We take a load off of the commanders and get them what they need and bring a lot of resources to bear."



The wreckage was found down the cove in Jackson County

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Furnished or not furnished

Living in a small town has many advantages and a few disadvantages. Being a real estate broker allows me to experience many things others don't. One has to do with furnished versus non-furnished home sales. And I have experienced it all!

One recent controversy had to do with café curtains in the kitchen with roosters on them. The sellers refused to leave them and our buyers said: "no deal!" I was able to work through it but with a lot of time and effort!

When I list someone's home in our area, typically it is a second or third home. It has therefore been furnished, either with new furniture, or pieces from former homes, with care given to create a mountain look. So upon listing, most sellers are willing to include the furniture or negotiate it into the sale. Sound easy enough? That usually is



Pat Allen, BIC
Pat Allen Realty Group
Cell: 828-200-9179
pat@patallenrealtygroup.com
828-526-8784

not the case!

Sellers will tell me, "I will leave the furniture with a few exclusions." This is where the complications begin.

Upon listing I ask for the exclusion list and am told they will send it. Meanwhile, potential buyers look at the home and want to know exclusions. I contact the seller, still waiting on the list. The potential buyer has seen the home and wants all the furniture. I get the list and it is long, excluding many more items than a "few personal things!"

The buyer feels we have not been forthcoming and gets miffed. This should

not happen.

To avoid this, the best advice is to remove any items that you want to keep before listing. You are selling the home and property it sits upon but furniture can create havoc. I have experienced this over a bowl, a picture, or a coffee table. It be-

comes a struggle for all – including brokers. We don't want to get in the middle of furniture inclusions or exclusions. Several times we have the exclusion list and the seller realizes at the last minute they forgot something that was in the family. This can cause a deal to fall through.

So, my advice for an easy sale and closing... please be thorough when making your list. Staged homes sell quicker than empty homes. It is worth the time to walk room by room and make a thorough list of exclusions. But even better, remove what will not stay.

I'm so delighted Spring is just around the corner!

TIP: Remember even though we have more sunlight now with longer days DON'T plant flowers until Mother's Day. They will freeze... I know from experience!

• Pat Allen is BIC/owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and a Certified Second Home and Resort specialist. The office is located at 295 Dillard Road in Highlands. Contact Pat at 828-526-8784 or 828 -200- 9179. Email her at pat@patallenrealtygroup.com and check out her website at Pat.AllenRealtyGroup.com

...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

Archibald 'Archie' Lyman Picklesimer

Archibald "Archie" Lyman Picklesimer, 95, passed away Friday, March 15, 2019 in Keystone Heights, FL. Mr. Picklesimer was born February 22, 1924 in Macon County to the late Lyman E. Picklesimer and Pearl Maybelle Talley Picklesimer. He was married 64 years to the late Lena Mae Davis Picklesimer who preceded him. Mr. Archie retired as a supervisor at a plastic manufacturing company; was a former member of the VFW; a WWII Navy veteran; and a member of the Blue Valley Baptist Church.

Archie was born and raised in Highlands, NC. After serving in the Navy he made his home in Sanford, ME for 44 years before retiring to the mountains of NC which he loved.

Survivors include his son, Glenn R. Picklesimer (Cindy) of Keystone Heights, FL; three grandchildren, Aaron Picklesimer (Sarah), Kelly Hubbard (Michael), and 2nd



Lt. US Army Adam Picklesimer; two brothers, Radford Picklesimer and Brandon Picklesimer both of Highlands, NC.

Mr. Picklesimer was preceded in death by brothers Warren, Thornton, and Clark Picklesimer, and sisters Angile Picklesimer and Dorylas Early.

A funeral service will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the Blue Valley Baptist Church with the Rev.

Oliver Rice officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made at the International Mission Board (IMB) online at give.imb.org

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral home and Crematory is serving the Picklesimer family.

507 477

MACON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Saturday, March 23 • 10AM

Robert C. Carpenter Community Building
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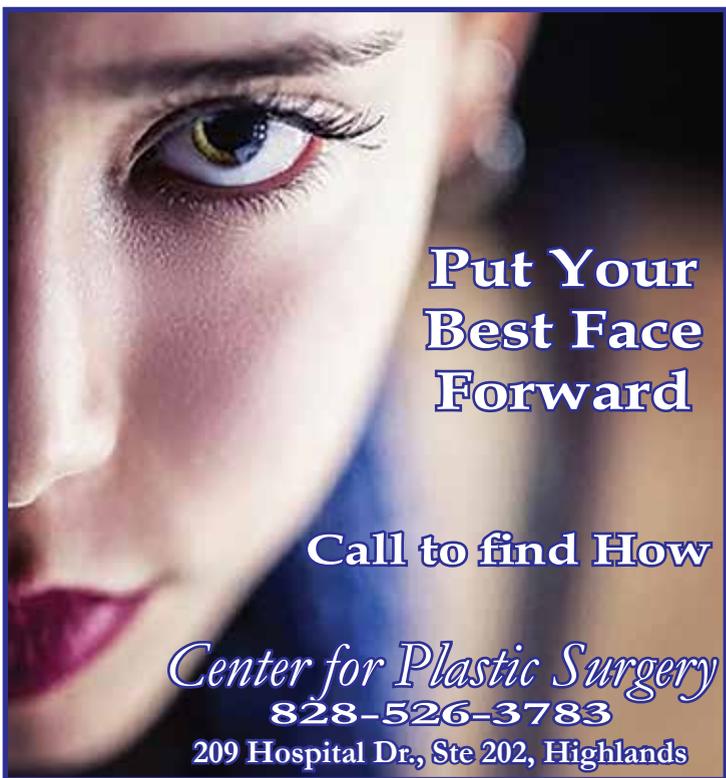
Guest Speaker:
State Senator Terry Van Duyn

Candidate for Lt. Governor in 2020

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Macon County Democratic Party



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...UPGRADES continued from page 1

In the last two years, Ross said FoFP has redirected its efforts from major park construction to projects geared to enhance and maintain the park.

In addition to the patio expansion, which is expected to be completed by next week, at last week's Recreation Committee meeting, FoFP asked to use the town's bucket truck to trim some Arborvitae and other trees throughout the park growing in tight locations which makes handsaws difficult to operate. Highlands Recreation Director Lester Norris said it's not certain if the truck will be needed, but is always an option if deemed necessary.

"This is still in the planning stages, so when the time is right, and it is decided who is going to do the trimming, then the plans for the truck if needed will be decided," said Norris.

He said it always helps streamline the process to get the issue before a committee before it is presented to the Board of Commissioners.

"The Town Manager can approve this because it is town property," said Norris. "If we know in advance, we try to get it before at least a committee of the commissioners and if they (Rec Committee) don't have a problem, we move forward with it."

The Rec Committee approved the use of the town's bucket truck if necessary.

This is not the first time the town has collaborated with FoFP.



The picnic/patio area in the park is being expanded.

The town has made several improvements in the past like those made last fall for the upcoming season including three new street lights, three new street trees, removable bollards that mount in the street to replace temporary police barricades, the new Christmas tree, etc., said Ross.

"We work hand-in-hand in partnership with the Town of Highlands and its park maintenance efforts," said Ross. "All efforts are discussed and approved by the town."

Norris said the relationship between the town and FoFP is beneficial to the community and appreciates all that they do.

"We work closely with the Friends of Founders Park to keep the park up and make improvements as we can," said Norris. "This park property was bought,

and the park was developed by funds raised by the Friends of Founders Park Coalition and they continue to raise funds to put into the park."

Ross said there are other aesthetic improvements in the works at Founders.

"This year we will be restoring the shrub and screening landscape near the corner of Pine Street and Pine Alley, installing a new sign structure for the sign on the corner of Pine Street and Pine Alley; and will provide annual and perennial color with new plantings for the plaza and other border areas," he said.

FoFP improvement projects are paid for by donors, and proceeds from tickets and sponsors from the Low Country Shrimp Boil fundraiser.

...GREENWAY continued from page 1

Director Lester Norris.

The proposed trail extension does not need Board of Commissioner approval, but Hillrie Quinn and John Akridge from the Greenway made their presentation to the committee as to why this should be done; in case it did have to get Town Board approval.

Akridge said the trailhead near near enough to Maple Street will have high visibility to attract walkers. By connecting to the existing Oak Street Trail, it will provide a direct route to the Mirror Lake area. It will also provide an alternative to walking along high traf-

fic Oak Street with a walk-through nature and the landscaped trailhead that will be an improvement over the overgrown unkempt area.

The Oak Street embankment is typically strewn with litter and has numerous downed trees.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Steward Kyle Pursel said the non-sidewalk parts of the Greenway are also pathways that do not contribute to impervious surfaces, which means better drainage during heavy rains and less baking from the sun when it's sunny.

"The new proposed connector will get people off the sidewalk

sooner, while still being close to the main roads, which could make the Rec Park part of the Greenway more accessible," said Pursel.

Norris said the proposed trail extension also gives pedestrians a safer option to travel by getting them off the side of Oak Street that doesn't have a sidewalk.

"There is a sidewalk that runs along Oak Street but it ends before it gets to the Greenway gazebo at the start of Sled Run Trail at First Street. When the sidewalk ends, people have to walk either on the road or through the grass."

Oak Street has become a way

•See GREENWAY page 11



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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

There's a new face at Mountain Fresh Grocery

On March 1 Vince Malcer officially became the Director of Operations at Mountain Fresh Grocery.

Owners Steve and Jennifer Snead-Smith expect Malcer to take Mountain Fresh to new heights.

"Don and JT knew it all from their own experience. For us it was new. Yes, we learned a lot and we didn't let it go haywire, but getting someone with this kind of experience who can help us take Mountain Fresh to another level is helpful," said Steve. "We didn't want to come here and keep everything the same, but the first year we didn't want to stray too far. But now that we have moved through the season, we see what needs improving and want to make some changes."

Most recently Malcer comes from the Bradenton Country Club in Bradenton, FL where he was the executive chef, but he in regards to food he has seen and done it all along the way. He spent a decade with Whole Foods, almost a decade with the Cheesecake Factory as well as restaurants ranging from fine dining to sports clubs.

"I experienced each of those places through trials and errors and I understand the structure and systems that are necessary to make it all work. So now, when I go into a place that doesn't have the structures and systems that can make it all it can be, I want to bring all my best practices and really put them into place," said Malcer.

Jennifer said with all that background, Malcer is a perfect fit for Mountain Fresh.

Structures and steps to making all the systems under the Mountain Fresh roof work involve the financials of staffing, structural changes like opening up the line

of sight throughout the store; making it easier for customers to know where to go to get what they want and ways to alleviate the wait time and lines at the grill and pizza area.

"We now have a third wheel to collaborate with," said Steve. "He has actually taken some of our own visions and executed them and he has ideas he's adding. He knows how to make it all happen which is good because we don't have time for mistakes."

Changes coming down the pike include new fresh items in the deli section including more vegetable options, more options on the Dinners to Go menu including more fish and desserts, on-line pizza ordering so people can pick up the pizza they have ordered and paid for online without waiting, artisanal breads and more.

Malcer's wife grew up in Highlands and has been bringing her family to back for vacation for years.

"My wife has been 'taking me home' on vacations for last eight years. I have been a patron and consumer here at Mountain Fresh and have seen its evolution. We always said eventually we wanted to make Highlands home," he said.

His family moved to Highlands the first of the year, he followed a month later. Their children 11 and 16 started at Highlands School and everything fell into place.

"It wasn't forced ... we were looking for the right person and we came together easily; the timing was right," said Jennifer. "The same with us when we got Mountain Fresh a year ago. It all just fell into place. And we feel like Vince can now take us to another level."

Malcer said he is excited about the potential.



Owners of Mountain Fresh Grocery, Steve and Jennifer Snead-Smiths with Director of Operations Vince Malcer.

"I'm excited about enhancing everything from a foodie's standpoint. Bringing in an elevated look and feel and enhancing the

foods we have here that will embrace the culture that is here with more of a mezzano americano feel to certain offerings."

...GREENWAY continued from page 10

to bypass Main Street and is heavily used by motorists.

Norris added that the Greenway currently conducts a monthly work-day the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. Most of the labor for this project will be done by Greenway volunteers – a crew dedicated to preserving and improving the Greenway in town.

"The Greenway is always working on the trail system and looking for ways to enhance and improve the trails, and especially accessibility to different locations by way of trails," said Norris. "We have such a natural landscape that is not always seen from the road. The Greenway gives people the opportunity to get out and enjoy the natural beauty of Highlands."



Bridge spanning Mill Creek leading to the Rec Park trail.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE

• Sign up now for summer camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Call 828-526-2602 or go online at highlandsbiological.org. Scholarships available.

• Sign up for the Highlands Historical Society's free Kelsey Kids summer day camp for children ages 8-11 set for Mon. - Fri., June 24-28. www.highlandshistory.com.

• Now taking teams for Spring League Softball through Friday, April 19th. If you are interested contact Lester Norris at 828-526-3556 or email at lester.norris@highlandsnc.org. 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.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). The Bascom galleries and shops will be closed Tuesdays - Thursdays. Admin offices and The Dave Drake Studio Barn are open normal business hours. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

Monday - Saturday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 5pm: Open Studio in The Dave Drake

Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

• At the Bascom, Art By Appointment private ceramic classes in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Monday - Friday

• At the Bascom, You Too Can Raku by appointment class in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Bascom, 10am - 1pm: Studio Alive drawing group, For more information call 828-526-4949.

• 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.

• 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

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

• At the Bascom, 3pm - 5pm: Writers group. For more information call 828-526-4949.

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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7pm in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva). Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. 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.

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

• 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.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30- 5 pm. A different STEAM Program each week, with LEGO Club on the 4th Thursday.

• 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

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

tact 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.

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 Night - all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. For any other information call 828-526-1595.

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.

Sundays

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

Thurs., Fri., Sat., March 21-23

• Highlands Community Players present its dinner theatre with four one-act plays. Doors open at 6:30p, the first play starts at 7p. Tickets are \$37.50. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Sat., March 23

• MC Democratic Party Convention at 10 a.m. in the Carpenter Building on Hwy, 441. • The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike with elevation change of 100 ft. to view Lower Whitewater Falls on the Whitewater River, 2 miles down from the upper Whitewater Falls. The hike has great views of Lake Jocassee in South Carolina. Meet at Cashiers Rec. Park at 10 am, drive: 22 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Sue Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike, elevation change 1300 ft., on the Bradley Fork/Smoke-mont Loop in the Smoky Mtns. Nat'l. Park. Hike along the pretty creek, then up Chasteen Creek to a beautiful cascade, and down and around Smokemont Loop. Wildflowers should be coming out. Meet at Oconaluftee Visitor Center in Cherokee NC at 9 am, drive:

Nature Center opens Sat., March 30



The Highlands Nature Center is opening its doors for the spring season! Stop by on opening day, Saturday, March 30th, to celebrate. Meet the resident animals in the Creature Features programs at 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM and take a stroll to see what may be blooming in the Botanical Garden. The Highlands Nature Center will be open every Friday and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM until late May when summer hours begin. For more information regarding our summer camps and programs at the Nature Center, visit www.highlandsbiological.org or give us a call at (828) 526-2623.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

8 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations. Hike limited to 15 people.

- OEI's Chefs in the House, a dinner series at half-mile farm. Call 828-787-2620 or 828-787-2635 for reservations.

- At 7 p.m., Macon County youth will take the stage in the annual Student Talent Showcase, a non-competitive talent show for third to twelfth graders. Held in the Franklin High School Fine Arts Building, admission is \$5 adult, \$2 youth age 16 and under, and \$15 family (two adults and their children). Proceeds support the Arts Council's Artists-in-the-Schools Program, an Arts Council/Macon County Board of Education partnership that brings diverse interactive, instructive arts programs to our public schools. Franklin High School is on Panther Drive, off Business 441 in Franklin.

Sun., March 24

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2-mile hike on Lakeside Dr. Trail, starting at the Health Dept. in Franklin for a nice winter hike with mild ups and downs, passing through the Environmental Resource Center. Meet at the Sheriffs Dept. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations and directions if needed.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., March 28-30

- Highlands Community Players present its dinner theatre with four one-act plays. Doors open at 6:30p, the first play starts at 7p. Tickets are \$37.50. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Fri. March 29

- Community Coffee at the Hudson Library with Mayor Pat Taylor 11a-noon. Topic: the Highlands Town Retreat. Refreshments provided by the International Friendship Center.

- Jackson County Republican Convention and Precinct Meetings All Jackson County voters registered as Republicans by January 31st 2019 are invited to attend the Jackson County Republican Convention on Friday at the Jackson County Senior Center in Sylva. Registration for the Convention will be open at 5 PM. The Precinct Meetings begin at 5:30; the Convention at 6:30 PM. A buffet dinner will be served. For dinner reservations (requested) and for additional information call Jackson County Republican Chair Ralph Slaughter at 828 743-6491.

Sat., March 30

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike, elevation change 1050 ft., up Scaly Mountain on the Bartram Trail, starting at Osage Overlook on Hwy. 106, up a steep trail to an old road bed that levels out, then gradually ascends to the rocky top of Scaly Mountain with good views into the Tesseentee Valley and south to Rabun Bald. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 9 am. Drive 35 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

- At PAC, Wagner's Die Walküre at 12 noon. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

Sun., March 31

- At Blue Valley Baptist Church, 5th Sunday Singing at 10 a.m. A Love Offering will be taken that day to benefit the family of Arlene (Rice) Speed. 11 Mack Wilson Road. Highlands.

Fri., April 5

- At the Rec Park, Float in Movie Night at 7 p.m.

Sun., April 7

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to Tellico Valley via a trail on land acquired by the Mainspring Conservation Trust. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 38 miles round trip. Call leader Jean Hunnicutt, 534-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., April 13

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5.5-mile hike, elevation change 600 ft., Rock Gap to Glassmine Gap on the Appalachian Trail, hiking south to Glassmine and down Long Branch to the Back Country parking area, perhaps seeing wildflowers along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298 for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun., April 14

- The Nantahala Hiking Club take an easy 2-mile walk on the mostly level trails in the Highlands Botanical Gardens where the rare Oconee Belles may be in bloom and as well as other interesting plants on a walk around the lake. Meet at Bi-Lo in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 35 miles round trip, or call leader if coming from the Highlands or Cashiers area for meeting place. Leader is Mary Stone, 369-7352. Visitors are welcome.

Fri., April 19

- At the Rec Park, the last Senior Lunch of the season at noon.

Sat., April 20

- Nantahala Hiking Club members and others celebrate Easter on the trail by bringing hard boiled eggs, fruit and goodies to hand out to the hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Meet at the Nantahala Clubhouse to pack the items before taking them out on the trail. Call Elena March, 369-8915, if you'd like to participate in this enjoyable (and appreciated) activity.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5-mile hike to High Falls and Rough Run Falls, elevation change 600 ft. This hike is about 3 miles north of Glenville and takes you into a box canyon with vertical walls 200' high and with an awesome view of the magnificent falls directly in front of you. This fall is on the West Fork of the Tuckaseegee River. Rough Run falls is on a side creek coming into the Tuckaseegee. Meet at Cashiers Rec Park at 10 am, drive 22 miles round trip. Call leaders: Mike and Sue Kettles, 743-1079, Visitors welcome.

Fri.-Tues., April 26-30

- The Rec Park gym will be closed for gym floor screening and refinishing.

Fri.-Sun., April 26-28

- PAC Youth Theatre Spring play "Great Scenes from Shakespeare's Plays (with Combat) at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut street at 7 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday. For information about the play and the PAC Youth Theater Program, call Ms. Greenlee-Potts at (828) 526-9047 or email PACYouth.highlands@gmail.com.

Sat., April 27

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 8-mile hike, elevation change 1300 ft., on a new section of the NC Bartram Trail, starting from Hickory Knoll

Road. Great views of Albert Mountain and the Little Tennessee River Valley can be seen hiking and returning from to the old bus on Double Top. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 15 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Able visitors welcome.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7.5 mile hike on the Sweat Heifer/Kephart Prong in Smoky Mtns. Nat'l. Park, starting at Newfound Gap on the Appalachian Trail and descending on Sweat Heifer trail to return. Meet at Oconaluftee Visitor Center at 9 am, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader: Keith Patton, 456-8895. Hike is limited to 15 people.

HCP dinner theatre opens Thursday



Carol Lucas Dining Room Manager and Ken Knight, Food Consultant for the Highlands Cashiers Dinner Theater: Four humorous one-act plays and a four-course dinner March 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30 at Highlands Performing Arts Center. HCP Box Office: 828-526-8084, highlandscashiersplayers.org

Lots of laughs...four course dinner...four new one-act plays...new venue...new actors...new directors, plus favorite actors and directors HPC's past productions.

All this at takes place at the Highlands Cashiers Players popular Dinner Theater at Highlands Performing Arts Center Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 21-23 and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 28-30. Doors will open at 6:30, show starts at 7p. No Sunday matinees.

The event will be held in a much more spacious area than in the past—upstairs in the PAC auditorium—with plays presented on the main stage between the four courses of a delicious catered dinner. Audience will be seated at round tables with places for eight. Be sure to mention if you would like to be seated with friends or family when you arrange for tickets.

The HCP box office at PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, will be open through the run of the production, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays. Stop by or call 828-526-8084, for tickets. Tickets may also be available on line.

Tickets for dinner and show are \$37.50. For HCP season subscribers, there is no charge, it's part of the subscription package. Check our website for more information: highlandscashiersplayers.org.

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Rotary bingo benefits Highlands School



On Thursday, March 14, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands School PTO to sponsor Bingo. All net proceeds will benefit our local PTO. Pictured is Rotary member and Bingo caller Brian McClellan, Rotary member Cynthia Dendy and Nancy Gooch on the back row and Cynthia's son Blaine and Nancy's grandson Francisco in the front row. Blaine and Francisco were joint winners of the final Super Bingo game and took home cash.

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ALL ABOUT BOOKS**• THE INK PENN •****An evening with Louise Penny**

Whenever I write about my favorite mystery authors, I mention Louise Penny so when I heard she was going to speak in Hickory, NC in March, I immediately got tickets to see her. This was a chance to see a best-selling author whose books I treasure. It was well worth the drive and overnight stay, and I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

**Kathy Manos Penn**

The auditorium at Lenoir Rhyne University was packed, and Penny was onstage for 90 minutes, presenting and fielding questions. I was struck by how funny she is, given that her novels are serious character-driven mysteries. Her comedic timing and openness made for an engaging evening. An example? She and her husband took the advance for her first book and went to lunch—at McDonald's.

She described herself as a fearful child who liked to be in her room, alone, reading. As you might expect, she was afraid of spiders, but what you wouldn't expect is that it was while reading Charlotte's Web that she realized she wanted to be a writer. She was enjoying the story so much, she didn't immediately realize that Charlotte was a spider, and was inspired by the power of writing, the power of words, to lift her fear.

Still, she had a fear of writing and for twenty years was a journalist with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation before she made the leap to writing fulltime. She laughingly said she endured five years of writer's block before completing her first novel, "Still Life," book one in the Inspector Gamache series. That was in 2008, and she'll publish book fifteen, "A Better Man," this August.

She credits her move from Montreal to a small village, much like the fictional village of Three Pines in her books, to helping her overcome her writer's block. We all laughed when she told us she'd joined a ladies' group called Les Girls who met weekly in the town's bistro over café au lait and croissants. To anyone who has read her books, that scene will be familiar.

In that group of creative ladies—painters, writers, sculptors—she learned that the creative process can involve start-

ing, going back, going forward again, honing and shaping. It was during that time that she had the aha to "write a book I would read." As a writer and an avid reader, I was happy to hear her say, "Reading is as creative as writing; you must be a reader to be a good writer."

Again, we all chuckled when she said that the first three places she put on the map of Three Pines were the book store, the bistro, and the bakery. She fielded questions about who inspired her various characters and shared the poignant fact that her husband whom she lost in 2016 was the inspiration for Inspector Gamache.

I found it both astounding and inspirational that she didn't publish her first book until she was in her 40s. Her process? Once she sits down to write a book, she doesn't stop until it's done—no days off. She sets herself a daily word count goal and writes until she reaches it. The next day, she polishes what's she's written and moves forward. Before she starts typing on day one, she's already spent about a year jotting down ideas and has some sense of who did it and why—who committed the crime and why they did it.

The two of us who made the trip especially enjoyed meeting other fans in the auditorium and at our hotel. One gentleman said he'd read the books four times. Four times is a bridge too far for me, as I'm always thinking, "So many books, so little time," but still, I'm considering reading them all one more time. If you haven't yet read Louise Penny, be sure to start with book one and be prepared to be hooked.

PS. I bought "Still Life" at Books Unlimited in Franklin, and I'm sure Suzanne will order you a copy if she doesn't have one in stock.

• *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 Pans. Contact her at ink-penn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.*



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TSST Bacon Smoked Sea Salt to taste

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Optional Garnishes: Red onion, grape tomatoes, black beans, whole kernel corn, and cilantro.

Greek Avocado Toast:

TSST Greek Seasoning, to taste

TSST Olive Sea Salt, to taste

2 slices of multi-grain bread

1 avocado

Optional Garnishes: Red onion, grape tomatoes, cucumber, feta cheese, and Kalamata olives.

Everything Bagel Avocado Toast:

TSST Everything Bagel Spice Blend, to taste

TSST Roasted Black Garlic Sea Salt, to taste

2 slices of multi-grain bread

1 avocado

Optional Garnishes: Cream cheese, smoked salmon, radish, and microgreens.

New iPads at Highlands School; teacher tested, student approved

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Teachers at Highlands School said elementary students are making the most out of the new iPads purchased by The Literacy Council for grades Kindergarten through 4th. Students and teachers have had a week with the new technology at their fingers tips and said there are many practical benefits to having an individual iPad programmed for each student.

Fourth-grade Teacher Kristin Huneycutt said she appreciates having a 1:1 iPad to student ratio and one of the biggest advantages is during groupwork.

"What I really like is when they're discussing things with the class during group work and they're able to go back to their iPad for reference," said Huneycutt. "But when I write it and ask them to explain it at the board, they can't go back, so it's much easier for them to discuss a topic having their own iPad."

She added that using iPads streamlines the assignment process and makes it more efficient.

"I used to have to print the assignments out for everyone," said Huneycutt. "Now I just send it to them, and they can complete them and send it right back. It saves paper and time."

TLC Executive Director Bonnie Potts orchestrated the purchase of 106 iPads for elementary students for Highlands School and over 30 more iPads for students who attend TLC's afterschool programs. This allows tutors at the TLC to use the same applications stu-

Teachers say the 1:1 iPad-to-student ratio is one of the biggest advantages during groupwork. Plus, subject applications make learning engaging and interactive.



dents are familiar with in school enabling them to communicate with teachers about any issues a student may have. Purchasing the iPads was made possible by a gift from Art and Angela Williams, owners of Old Edwards Inn and Spa.

3rd-grade Teacher Cindy Henderson said they have so many applications that make learning subjects such as science, reading, social studies, technology, engineering, and math more engaging and interactive for the students.

"They're more excited about an iPad than written work," said Henderson. "When I told them they were a gift, they were so happy they asked me who they should thank, so they are absolutely appreciative. I'm looking forward to some staff development so we can fully embrace the capabilities of this technology."

Macon County Schools LAN Tech Colby Anderson said training sessions for teachers are in the works.

Third-grader Rowen Carnes said before the arrival of the new iPads, the old ones were wheeled into classrooms on a cart with limited charging stations. The new iPads came with Tech Hubs, charging stations for multiple iPads at once located in each classroom.

He added that having iPads programmed for individual students resolves other issues, including forgetting to log out before passing on an iPad to the next user.

"Other people would forget to log out and we would accidentally take a test or an assignment on their account," said Carnes.

Third-grader Cane Smolarsky fell victim to another student who forgot to log out when he scored 100 percent on a test so had to retake it because the iPad was signed into the previous user's account.

"The part that's really awesome is you can just get your own iPad to take a test and everyone else has their own and won't ask you for yours while you're taking a it," said Smolarsky. "After I took the test, I saw her name (another student) and thought 'why didn't it show me where to log in?' So, I took the test on her ac-

count by accident. They made me retake it, but I still got 100."

Several programs available on the iPad do not let the student proceed until they have answered the given question. Carnes said he enjoys this challenge because it's like a game and makes him want to learn the material even more.

"If you get something wrong in the program, it returns you to the beginning and won't let you go on without learning it," he said. "So, if you want to finish the game, you got to learn it. I like that."

Fourth-grader Alejandra Valerio said an iPad is a valuable learning tool and enjoys the responsibility of taking care of her own.

"It's fun because you get your own," said Valerio. "Before, if they (iPads) had too many things open or too much written in it, it would get slower. I like taking care of my own and never letting that happen."

She added that having an iPad at your desk during group work or while watching videos is a huge plus.

"I think it's good that we have our own," she said. "If the person in front of you is tall, you can't see anything. Now that I have my own, I can see what I need to."

Fourth-grader Sadie Green said the new iPads run much smoother than what was previously available to students.

"The computers here are really old and they glitch," said Green. "It's amazing now because people used to only take the iPads that work, but now, they all work."

Members of the Advanced Highlands Education Committee (AHEC) heard about TLC's project to purchase iPads for the elementary students and secured a \$5,000 donation from the Swift Family Foundation to buy protective covers.

AHEC is made up of members of the community who have come together with the goal of raising private capital to improve the infrastructure at Highlands School.

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Highlands High School track team has several top finishers in Hayesville

Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands High School track team travelled to Hayesville on Wednesday and despite a limited amount of practice time, managed to walk away with several top scores.

The final team results have not been released (tabulated) and Plateau Daily News will keep you posted when that information is available.

Highlands top finishers:
Jesus Damian - shot put
Bailey Schmitt - triple jump and 300 hurdles

Julia Schmitt- 300 hurdles
Lawson Shuler- 300 hurdles
Madi Drummonds- High jump and triple jump.

"It has been tough with weather and winter sports going longer in the playoffs to get quality practices in," said Highlands Head Coach Brett Lamb. "Some of our kids are trying events to find what they are good at. Some returning players know already."

The day was not without its sacrifice, Abby Olvera strained her hamstring and Patrick Woods chipped a tooth and was bruised up.

"It happened so quickly," said Olvera. "One second I was fine, and then I felt something in my leg and went down. It hurts just sitting here."

Olvera added that Athletic Trainer Will Mathiowdis said he believed it was a strain and nothing is torn and she's hoping to be running the 800 M in a week or two. She took her fall while running the 400 M.

Jeslyn Head plays both soccer and track and said the commitment can be a challenge.

"It's just a lot with soccer, track, and school," said Head. "I'm pretty much mentally and physically dead all of the time."

However, exhaustion didn't stop Head from competing in the 400 M, discus, and shot put.

"Overall, I think I did better than I thought," said Head. "We haven't had much time to practice on technique. It feels good to get it over with."

Hannah Holt ran in the 4x100 M relay and had was a little anxious before the starting gun.

"When I was up there waiting, I thought, 'Don't mess up, don't get DQ'd,'" said Holt. "Then it was just running. But I felt pretty good. We practiced a little before the race and once or twice yesterday."

Lane Tingen cleared over 5 feet in the high jump and said he thought the day went well, but they could use some work.

"It went alright, but a little more practice will do me some good," said Tingen.

Baily Schmitt and Julia Schmitt took first and second places respectively in 300 M hurdles.



Highlands Julia May Schmitt (on right) passes the baton to Hannah Holt in the 4x100 M relay in Hayesville on Wednesday.

"It wasn't the best, but it was alright," said Bailey. "I've been doing them (hurdles) since I was a freshman. Coach put me in and I got stuck with them."

Highlands Jeffrey Olvera ran the 200 M, 400 M, and 4x100 M relay testing the waters trying different events.

"I had some first times today," said Jeffrey. "It was a trial run for me, and I didn't think I'd do that well."

Highlands Connor Briggs participated in several events and joined the track team to help strengthen his wrist after it was recently broken. Two of the events he competed in are discus and shot put.

"I did decent today," said Briggs. "The hardest thing about discus is the release. It's really difficult to keep it level."

Lamb said the team did well and he's

optimistic about the season.

"I thought we did well and have a lot of promising athletes that will just get better as we go," he said.

Highlands High School track next competes at 3:30 p.m. in Cherokee.

Editor's Note: In conference track meets, the top 8 teams are scored, so the 1st place finisher would get 8 points. Scoring depends on the number of teams that compete in the meet, and the number of athletes competing in each event, and there are several events. It's not as cut and dry as winning or losing a basketball or soccer game. While this system does not favor smaller schools, track is a sport where players can still make Regionals based on individual merit.



Highlands High School track team traveled to Hayesville to compete on March 14 earning several top scores in the track and field competition. Pictured above are Highlands Bailey Schmitt running the 300 M hurdles followed closely behind by Julia May Schmitt.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Whatever happened to kindness?



First Baptist Church
Highlands
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

I see a problem today in our world – or should I say I’m experiencing a problem. Kindness appears to be a rare commodity. Pragmatism and power usurp kindness and compassion in terms of the geopolitical in our world and among nations. In our nation the political divide is driven by angry words, tit-for-tat, and unyielding ideologies that make no room for compromise and benevolent, considerate, and gentle behavior.

This same spirit of contrariness appears to be at work in various ways in our communities and even what should be the bastions of kindness – our churches and the pews. You can feel it and witness it on our roads, our schools and places of business from people who claim the title “Christian.”

But don’t get me wrong. I understand that as Christians we are to be a people of principles and values. We are to be unyielding in our stands for righteousness, truth and equity. We must balance our kindness with firmness – to make clear our stand on the inerrancy of the Word of God and what it teaches. We need to be uncompromising in our convictions given to us from that Word as it regards issues like protecting the unborn and advocating for purity and opposition to sexual immorality. Reams of paper could be inked on what true Christians rightly stand for and stand against. But my subject matter is kindness. How does kindness fit into our agenda to be “Christ-like?”

We are taught in the Scriptures that kindness in an attribute of God. It is a quality desirable but not consistently found in humans. It is found in some listings of Christian virtues (I Cor. 13:4; Col. 3:12).

We find kindness linked with goodness, mercy, love, grace, compassion, gentleness, tenderness and so forth. For some reason, kindness along with gentleness, and tenderness is not often distinguished in our vocabulary or behavior. It is submerged under those other virtues because it requires us to lay aside our own pride and sense of indignation. Scriptures command us to be kind, gentle, compassionate and tender toward others in particular ways that we can’t generalize like love, grace or mercy. You hear people say, “I love everybody!” but find it hard to be kind and gentle toward even co-workers, their own family or church family!

God’s kindness is extended to all – even the ungrateful and wicked (Lk. 6:35). We call this “common

Proverbs 3:5

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

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

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Recovery education course offered for adults with mental illness

NAMI Appalachian South, the local affiliate of National Alliance on Mental Illness, is offering the nationally recognized and applauded Peer-to-Peer education course on recovery and wellness for adults challenged with a mental illness. This is a 8-week series offering a holistic approach to recovery through a combination of lecture, discussion, interactive exercises and stress-management techniques in a safe, confidential environment of sincere, uncritical acceptance so that each individual can explore their own experiences and make choices concerning their own options.

Living with a mental illness, such as Bipolar Disorder, PTSD, Depression, Substance Use Disorder, OCD and others, is a traumatic, challenging experience that can affect all aspects of life, including work, relationships, family and self-care.

This course is an opportunity to share experiences with others, who are also working toward recovery, and to gain insight, knowledge, learn coping techniques, and how to identify signs of possible relapse.

While recovery is a unique experience for each individual, sharing experiences can provide support, offer hope, and the reassurance that you are not alone.

Participants will create a personalized wellness plan, learn how to interact with health care providers and how to access practical resources on maintaining the journey toward recovery.

The course is taught by trained NAMI peer mentors who themselves are in recovery from mental illness and can share their

unique coping strategies with others.

The class will meet in Franklin on Saturday's beginning in April 2019. Don't Delay! Class size is limited. To register or for more information, contact Perry (828) 200-3000 or Donita (828) 507-8789 or hap-pydonita3@gmail.com .

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

grace." But this same kindness is intended to lead to repentance, not rejection of Him (Rom. 2:4). Think about this the next time your kindness is rejected. As Christians, we celebrate God's kindness for not only His daily grace extended to all, but His deliverance of His people in terms of our salvation. Beyond this we continue to praise Him for His kindness in our daily lives in delivering us from afflictions, fear and troubles. We even praise Him for His kindness in showing us grace in the midst of afflictions and troubles. We should know all about kindness, for we experience it daily by our great example!

The Scriptures make it clear that divine kindness is to be reflected in human experience and our very salvation is derived from God's kindness (Eph. 2:7-8;

Rom. 11:22). I would say that kindness is more important than any ritual practices of our faith (Hosea 6:6; Mt. 9:13; 12:7). We are even told to "love kindness" (Micah 6:8). Maybe this is because God is kind! But to be explicit, we are commanded to be kind (Eph. 4:32). It should be said that the imitation of God's kindness does not come naturally. It only comes as a fruit of the Spirit at work in us.

But I still want to know. Where is kindness given the number of people who claim to be the people of God and possess His Spirit in their lives? Kindness allows for truth to be unwaveringly declared and defended. But kindness forbids being rude, ugly, indignant and self-righteous. If you are not kind, are you truly one of His kind?

April 27th is Safe Kids Macon County's Safety Town Day

Safe Kids Macon County and Franklin Daybreak Rotary will be teaming up for the third annual Safety Town on April 27 from 10- 2 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community building. The event will feature all things kids and all things safety! Car seat checking station, K9 demonstration, bike rodeo, emergency vehicle car show, and much more!

Operation Medicine Drop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building in Franklin.

FREE Buckle Up, Baby car seat check scheduled for 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building.

Free bicycle rodeo scheduled from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building

HS SPORTS •

This week high school girls soccer played East Henderson and Franklin. They lost both but fought hard without giving up. They lost to East 8-1 and Franklin 4-0. Their first home game of the season will be tonight, Thursday March 21st.

High school boys golf also had their first two matches. They finished 2nd at Hayesville and at Cherokee.

High school tracker start their season at Hayesville in their first meet. Several competitors had high place finishes.



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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from March 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 9

• At 11:39 a.m., officers responded to a two vehicle accident on NC 28 near Brooks Road.

March 13

• At 7:39 a.m., officers were called to Bake My Day in Wright Square about a simple assault where a male was slapped on the back of the head.

March 14

• At 4 p.m., officers were called about theft from a building on Horse Cove Road where musical instruments valued at \$1,000 were taken.

March 15

• At 3:42 p.m., officers responded to a call for service at a residence on Wilson Road concerning a verbal argument between a father and son.

• At 11 p.m., William Jonathan Carpenter, 36, of Dillard, GA, was arrested on an Extradition/fugitive from other state FTA Release Order. He was Issued a \$15,000 secured bond. His trial date is April 4.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 11

March 11
• At 7:29 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Blue Valley Road.

March 12
• At 4:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

March 14-15
• At 7:10 p.m., the dept. began searching and assisting in locating a downed plane in Whiteside Cove.

March 14
• At 4:23 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire & Rescue Dept.

• At 6:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Zermatt Circle.

• At 8:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 5th Street.

March 17
• At 1:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 5th Street.

• At 3:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road.

March 18
• At 12:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road.

• At 4:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at Old Edwards Inn.

• At 7:39 p.m. the dept. investigated smoke on US 64 east. It was from a controlled burn.

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