

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 13

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Thursday, March 28, 2019

## Residential leash law being considered

Though not the typical “everyday” residential neighborhood dog, the vicious attack of a dog and his owner by a pit bull last summer has the town looking to include residential neighborhoods in its leash law ordinance.

“The days of dogs running loose in neighborhoods needs to end,” said Mayor Pat Taylor at the March Town Board meeting.

Last year the town expanded the “Animals” section in its Code of Ordinances to include section

3-3: Responsibility to control dogs.

Basically, that section says two things – one regarding defecation and the other the use of leashes.

Dogs may not defecate on public property, streets, sidewalks,

•See LEASH page 6

### • INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2	Investing at 4,118 Ft. ....	10
Weather.....	2	Events.....	12
Obituaries.....	5	All About Books.....	15
Word Matter.....	7	Police & Fire Report.....	20
Younger through Fitness ....	8	Classifieds.....	22

## Highlands School Girl Soccer team is playing hard



Highlands Betty Garcia drives the ball up the field against Swain on Thursday at home. Highlands lost 3-6. Highlands next scheduled game is against Blue Ridge Early College at 4:30 p.m. in Cashiers on March 28. Their next home game will be on Monday, April 8 against Blue Ridge at 6 pm. For more sports see page 19.

– Photo by Brian O’Shea, Plateau Daily News

## Highlands School needs more teachers for 2019-’20

At last week’s special called meeting/budget worksession of the Macon County School Board, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin discussed the expected need for additional teachers throughout the district including Highlands School in the 2019-2020 school year.

Baldwin has been working with district principals including a workshop at which they requested

12 additional positions in the upcoming budget.

These positions include eight teaching positions, three teacher assistant positions and one guidance counselor position.

Based on early enrollment projections, Highlands School will need three additional teachers and one teacher assistant for next fall. The new positions include a

•See TEACHERS page 16

## Town Board snapshot

At the March Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor asked for consensus to send a letter to legislators outlining concerns about proposed changes to the ABC System contained in SB87/HB 91. It involves the merger of separate municipal ABC System boards into a single county board, eliminating multiple ABC Boards.

“This might make sense for a large county with several ABC Boards, but there are only two in Macon County, one in Franklin and one in Highlands and we

want to keep it that way,” he said. “We want our ABC Board to operate our system and allocate the money to support our nonprofits and our town.”

According to ABC Board member Andrew Schmar, the profits from Highlands alcohol sales – \$3 million over the last 25+ years – are distributed to various departments in town government and to nonprofit organizations that address social issues related to alcohol treatment and

•See TOWN BOARD page 5

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### To recycle or not to recycle ...

We have a growing problem in this country with recycling. The Chinese have stopped taking American recycle materials, aka garbage. I have recently read articles in the New York Times, VOX, The Asheville Citizens Times and the National League of Municipalities Newsletter about the problem.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

Several hundred municipalities have stopped, or suspended, recycling programs. Some communities like Philadelphia now burn recycle materials as means of generating electricity. But that option is a trade-off of one problem for another with incarnation increasing CO2 and dioxin levels in the atmosphere.

In the past, China had taken recycle materials like plastic and used them in small factories to create inexpensive, exportable products. Now the Chinese government is concerned about resulting pollution and environmental hazards. China also wants to move toward high-tech production and jobs instead of low-end, "dirty jobs."

China discovered that much of the American recycle shipments had contaminants that made the materials unusable garbage. A recent article in the Asheville Citizens Times pointed out the city's recycle

initiatives were being undercut by folks throwing in non-recyclable materials in their recycle bins.

The new move to single-stream recycle system really aggravates the contamination problem. The single-stream system may encourage more people to recycle, but a person or system has to be in place to sort the materials. That system, whether human or automated increase costs of recycling.

The energy and materials used to recycle, for instance fuel and water, add to recycling costs, and in many cases increases the carbon footprint of recycling more than the production of new products from raw materials.

Some materials like cardboard and aluminum cans still provide benefits for a recycling program. Plastics and glass are very questionable.

Last year, in cooperation with the county, the town created a small recycling center at the Highlands Recreation Department. It has been very popular and successful.

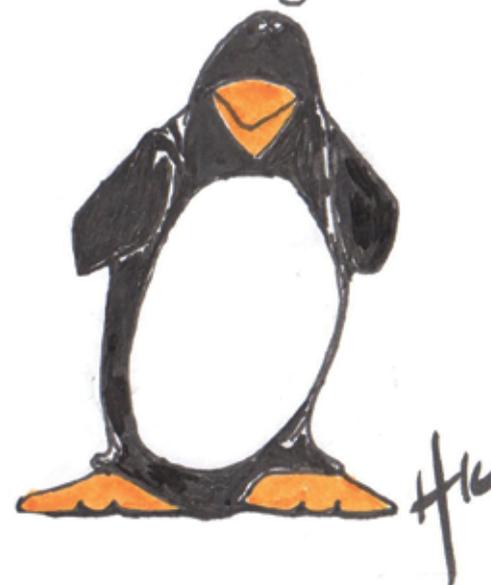
The county continues to recycle primarily because it keeps these materials out of the landfill. But it costs the county to recycle, it is does not miraculously pay for itself. I believe these recycling efforts will continue as long as the county can find companies that will take recycle materials.

Recycling some materials can be sustainable, especially if fees are charged. For instance, asphalt roof shingles can be recycled. Putting tons of old shingles in landfills is not good. Charging a fee to recycle them is viable. Old nylon carpet that can be recycled the same way. Fees for recycling other materials like glass bottles might be forthcoming.

The best solution to this growing recycle problem is to reduce the amount of recycled materials, especially plastic which has an indefinite lifecycle. Cellulose and metal-based products can be degraded in a rather short time. Ironically, recycling programs may have lulled many folks into thinking our "throw away," disposable system is really not a problem. Should we continue on the delusional path of voracious consumption so long as we recycle? Or, should everyone examine their personal habits and embrace ways to reduce the need to recycle?

## • HIC'S VIEW •

Fish Sticks?



Penguins ponder what climate change might mean.

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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.

## • WEATHER •

	Friday 3/29		Saturday 3/30		Sunday 3/31	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
						
Temp	61 F	42 F	63 F	43 F	53 F	27 F
RealFeel	68 F	39 F	65 F	46 F	59 F	40 F
Winds	5 g 8	4 g 6	6 g 9	6 g 9	5 g 9	4 g 6
T-Storms	3%	3%	6%	20%	20%	1%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0.22	0.04	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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**HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN** This 4BR/4.5BA home is well maintained and in move-in condition. The main level has a large MBR with bath and sauna on one end of the home and second bedroom on the other with a full bathroom. Separate dining area, great living area, cozy sitting area with a stone fireplace, and screened-in deck with another wood-burning fireplace. A second living space and two more bedrooms are upstairs. Great Mt. Lori neighborhood!

**MLS# 89937 | Offered for \$799,900**



**HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN** This lovely home has been remodeled and expanded. The great room has a corner stone fireplace and leads out to the covered and open back deck and level yard. The kitchen is large with beautiful cabinetry, granite countertops, glass backsplash, a farm-styled sink, and an oversized island. Two guest bedrooms have ensuite baths. The newly constructed master wing is a great space to relax with vaulted ceilings, a stone fireplace and a spacious bath

**MLS# 90380 | Offered for \$765,000**

**HIGHLANDS** The main house on this meticulously maintained 4.49 acre estate property is a true mountain cabin with lots of windows. The great room has a vaulted ceiling and a masonry stone fireplace. Two bedrooms, a loft bedroom, lower level family room, three full baths, updated kitchen with granite and SS appliances complete the picture. Wonderful front porch overlooking the mountain view, spring fed pond and beautiful perennial gardens. Guest cabin with two more bedrooms.

**MLS# 86600 | Offered for \$725,000**



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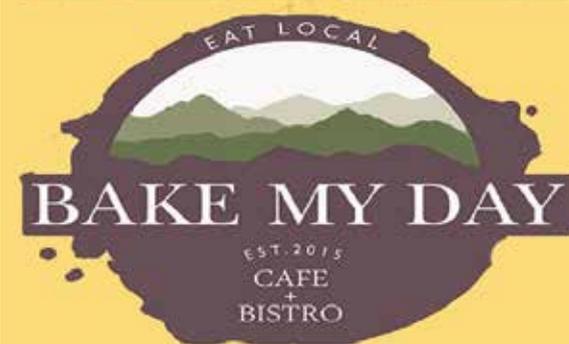
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## ...TOWN BOARD continued from page 1

rehabilitation initiatives.

The proposed statutes include the option for multiple systems within a county to voluntarily merge into one board.

"We have no objections to a voluntary option being a part of the ABC statute, with option and voluntary being the key words," said the mayor. "One size doesn't fit all."

The board unanimously agreed to send a letter outlining their concerns to legislators.

### Unfunded state mandate

The mayor also initiated a discussion concerning a resolution the League of Municipalities distributed against an unfunded state mandate that orders municipalities and counties to fund retirement benefits for full-time fire fighters. The money would come from municipalities' taxpayers even though as in Highlands case, the fire district extends

far into the county. In addition, the fire tax which is collected district-wide, can't be used to fund retirement benefits.

"This isn't equitable especially since the fire tax can't be used to fund the retirement system," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "It's not fair to expect the local government to carry the burden."

Instead of signing the League's resolution, commissioners agreed to send a letter outlining their concerns.

"We agree, [about firefighters deserving retirement] we just need to look at the resolution more carefully," said Commissioner Eric Pierson.

### Main Street Webcam

The theft of a chainsaw from the back of a pickup truck parked on Main Street and again from a truck parked in Highlands Plaza initiated discussion about the video capability of the Main Street Webcam.

Police Chief Bill Harrel said by going through the low-resolution, stop-action pictures taken every 10 minutes coupled with high resolution surveillance video from Highlands Plaza, his department was able to make a case against the thief.

However, he asked if the town was able to video the street, as in the plaza and at some retail establishments, which would help in criminal investigations.

●See TOWN BOARD page 15

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Bob Trevathan and Obie Oakley, board members of the Highlands Historical Society, stand at the site where native trees and shrubs will be planted to help screen the Historic Village property from the skate park.

## Laurel Garden Club awards seven grants

The Laurel Garden Club recently awarded seven grants totaling \$15,538 to non-profit organizations in Highlands. These grants are given to promote community beautification and to protect and conserve Highlands' natural resources and scenic mountain landscapes. The club has offered these grants every year since 2002 and has given a total of \$172, 865 to community organizations.

This year's grant recipients are the CNIPM (Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management), Highlands Biological Foundation, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Historical Society, Highlands Plateau Greenway, Peggy Crosby Center and The Bascom.

Organizations wishing to receive a grant from the Laurel Garden Club must have reached agreement as to the specific project for which the grant would be given. Once the purpose of the grant is determined, plans for the project must be made with sufficient specificity to obtain bids or quotes from providers, including but not limited to landscape architects and plant nurseries. The next grant deadline is January 31, 2020. For more information on the grant process, please visit the Laurel Garden Club website at [www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com](http://www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com).

## • OBITUARY •

### Henry "Jake" Richard Beck, Sr



Henry "Jake" Richard Beck, Sr., 81, passed away Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Mr. Jake was born in Macon County September 21, 1937 to the late Jim and Beulah Henry Beck. He worked for the Town of Highlands in the water department. He loved to make "Flower Pot Men" and sell them to all the people that came through Highlands and he loved to fish. He was well known and liked in the Town of Highlands. Mr. Beck was a hard worker, a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Jake was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include his daughters, Roberta Ann Perkins of Highlands, NC and Diane Beck Crawford of Walhalla, SC; two grandchildren Katrina Crawford and Matt Perkins; three brothers, Johnnie Beck, Sammie Beck, and Butch Beck.

Jake was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Beck; a son, Henry Richard Beck, Jr; a grandchild, Henrietta Crawford; and two brothers, Gilbert Beck and Jimmy Beck.

A graveside service was held Friday, March 22, 2019 at the Highlands Memorial Park with the Rev. Clyde Webb officiating.

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com)

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Beck family.



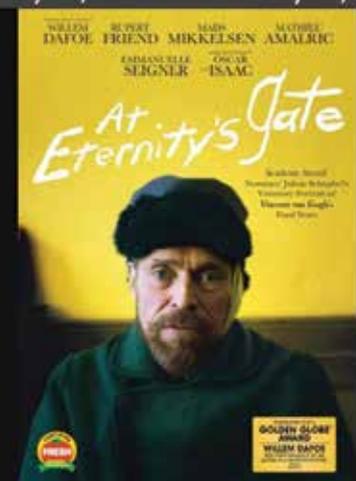
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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Landon and Ashley Clark, owners of the Kilwin's in Greenville, SC, came up the mountain to take over the Kilwin's in Highlands. Patrons will see a more open layout, changes in merchandising and extended hours.

## ...LEASH continued from page 1

or play areas in the commercial district or on town property unless the owner immediately removes and disposes of it.

The next part says that no dogs whether leashed or not can be in the enclosed Highlands Ball Park. In addition, all dogs must be on a leash in the commercial district and on town property including sidewalks, the cemetery, the Greenway, K-H Founders Park, the Rec Park, etc.

Last summer, when a resident of Big Bearpen let his dog out in the evening, a pit bull that had been roaming the neighborhood attacked the dog and then the owner when he tried to disentangle the dogs. The dog was killed and the owner's wounds required hospital care.

While the attack was taking place, there was some snafu between calling 9-1-1, the county's Animal Control Department and the Highlands Police Department.

The Animal Control Department is not part of the Sheriff Department anymore and the Highlands Police Department doesn't have a mutual aid agreement with the Animal Control Department like it does with the Sheriff Department.

Police Chief Bill Harrell said if the town's ordinance had some "teeth" in it, and included the residential areas, his officers could do whatever is necessary and wouldn't need a mutual aid agreement with the Animal Control Department.

That includes the ability to kill a vicious dog if less drastic methods such as tranquilizing aren't available or effective or if no one can restrain the animal as well as including the "leash" requirement in residential areas.

The mayor suggested amending the chief's suggestions by saying that dogs don't have to be leashed in residential areas, if the owner has voice control over the animal and has a leash in hand.

The mayor's suggestion follows:

Dogs in R1, R2 and R3 residential zones must be on a leash with the following exceptions:

1. On the dog owners' property or domicile where the animal is controlled by a physical or electronic fence, or
2. Where the dog owner is in immediate visual presence and in direct control with voice commands. Owners (owner, dog walker, dog sitter) who have their dogs under voice control must have a collar on their dog and a leash in hand. If the dog owner cannot control their animal off leash, or if the dog has no collar, or the owner possesses no leash, the owner can be cited for a violation of the ordinance. Also, there can be only one dog per owner at a time under voice command. Owners walking multiple dogs must have all dogs on leashes.

Chief Harrell said he could easily incorporate the mayor's suggestions by making

the ordinance town-wide with no stipulation as to commercial or residential zone and to include the "voice command" portion.

However, the suggestion to amend the ordinance to include the residential areas of town was not immediately accepted last week.

But, Mayor Taylor is adamant about the issue.

"I think I'm right on this issue. Do we have to have another dog attack to take action? Although an ordinance can't prevent every incident, a comprehensive ordinance at least demonstrates our concern and good faith effort," he said.

The town's new Code Enforcement Officer John Cherry now has the truck, cage and training so "dog-catcher" can be added to his list of duties.

"My proposal would enable the police to handle situations without undue restrictions on dog owners," said the mayor. "We should have a town-wide ordinance. If a pit bull was running loose anywhere without the owner having control, then Officer Cherry could immediately pick it up and take it to Animal Control [in Franklin]," he said.

Chief Harrell said the town has an agreement with the county's Animal Control Department whereby it takes Highlands' strays upon delivery.

Though the town's fines concerning the control of dogs is hefty (\$250) the chief said his department's goal is to always gain compliance but to allow the officer's discretion as in any other enforcement action on a case-by-case basis.

Still, Commissioner Eric Pierson spoke against the amendment regarding residential restrictions. He said he and his family often walk with their dog without a leash.

"I don't want to limit what people can do with "everyday" dogs," he said. I don't want to hinder citizens' ability to have dogs be dogs."

Commissioner John Dotson said he has gone back and forth on the issue – first with his opinion siding with Pierson, then with Chief Harrell who convinced him otherwise but was now back to his original opinion.

"We need the ability to act but we need to come up with some verbiage that is broader. We are hitting a little ball with a huge bat," he said.

Veterinarian Commissioner Amy Patterson, said people will never be able to always control dogs.

"We have to figure out a way to allow good dogs to be dogs," she said.

The issue was sent to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

– Kim Lewicki

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# • WORD MATTER •

## The best education money can buy

I've watched, as I trust you have, the mind-numbing news story involving how some children from very wealthy and high-profile, celebrity families have gained access to some of America's top colleges and universities through means other than, let's just say, the traditional competitive application and qualification process.

The story, in case you missed it, has wealthy and celebrity parents bribing coaches in exchange for scholarships, paying surrogates to take SAT exams, and making substantial donations to certain institutions of higher learning so their children can skip the hurdles other applicants must go through to get accepted in a highly competitive environment.

Just for fun, let's take the issue of wealthy parents essentially buying admission to so called elite universities for their otherwise unqualified children to its possibly illogical conclusion.

I understand how it might be easy for super rich people to decide that their children somehow deserve to get into these so-called elite schools, even though they have neither the grades nor test scores to compete with other applicants.

Who thinks of doing this kind of thing? What kind of person sets this kind of example for their child by buying his or her way into a place he or she couldn't otherwise qualify for? What's the message here?

Is this really about getting a child a better education than he or she might actually want or need? Or is this more about parents full of money but low on self-esteem wanting to brag to friends that their son or daughter is attending one of those elite schools?

Here's the problem with this entire way of thinking and behaving. Perhaps you pay some smart but greedy kid \$10,000 to take the SAT for your not-so-smart kid. Perhaps you bribe someone in the academic office to phony-up your kid's grades. Perhaps you convince an underpaid coach in a non-revenue sport to offer your son or daughter a scholarship? And by convince, I mean bribe.

Or, perhaps you make a big-dollar donation to the school and simply slide in the



**Bud Katz**

idea that your kid might be applying, and wouldn't it be great if he/she got in!

What happens when he or she actually does get in and then can't keep up? Does the charade just continue? Do the rich parents bribe the professors? Do they make another donation so their son or daughter can magically get decent or higher

grades? Where does it end?

The bigger issue, it seems, comes after the young person actually graduates, if he or she makes it that far. Keeping in mind that it's only wealthy people who are able to engage in this awful behavior, are they then going to expect their young adult offspring to get a job commensurate with their illegitimately obtained degree from an allegedly prestigious university? Are they so insulated from real life they actually believe the competitive, capitalist, American free marketplace is not going to see through the phony piece of paper?

Or, is it more likely they will present their son or daughter with some kind of endowment or trust fund so he or she can stumble through life, un- or under-qualified for whatever he or she really wants to do with a worthless but highly prized diploma?

Sure, some kids of these kinds of parents might actually grow up while in college. They might work hard, get an actual education, and despite their parents' head-shake-inducing behavior, make something out of him or herself. Kudos to them, but for those who don't, what was this whole sorry exercise in entitled behavior really all about?

I'm sorry, but I believe it was way more about the parents' self-image and underlying insecurities than it ever was about the hopes, dreams and aspirations of the children. It's entirely possible many of these kids might have been just as happy with community college, a state school or some lesser known but just as capable small, private liberal arts college, or even cutting hair, driving a bus, learning a trade, fixing cars, or entering military service.

And if that's actually the case, why in heaven's name did these wrong-thinking parents engage in the whole sorry charade in the first place?

Kids often go to college hoping for nothing more than to grow up. It's a shame some of their parents missed that part.

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**Taking control of your weight on your own terms**

**– Part 1 –**

Many of you will remember a television commercial from 1979 which showed an old man doing physical farm work dressed in traditional eastern clothing. There was a voice-over on the commercial in which the announcer said, “In Soviet Georgia there are two curious things about the people. A large part of their diet is yogurt and a large number of them live past 100.”

Later in the commercial the man was eating yogurt and the announcer said, “By the way, 89-year-old Bagrat Zaparo likes yogurt so much that it pleases his mother.”

The old gentleman then ate yogurt while an older lady (his mother) patted him on the head. The announcer also stated that they were not claiming their yogurt made you live longer only that it is good wholesome food.

The implication though was that there is a correlation between eating yogurt and long life. There are so many variables present when you make an assumption and then make life choices based on that correlation.

For instance, there can be multitudes of variables which play into the fact that people in this region of the world are healthy and live so long. It could be their genetics along with the quality of the air and water. It could even be these things combined with a low-stress life and significant physical activity. It could be one of these things or all of them in combination.

So how does this relate to us living longer and healthier? It relates because in today’s world so many people have become de-conditioned and obese while sincerely attempting to lower their weight and eat right. Although there are multitudes of diet plans available, most people who try them lose weight and then gain it back again.



**Hank Miller**  
828-305-9713

There are also numerous multi-level marketing companies pushing their own miracle shake, bar and other concoctions all claiming to be the best way to a healthy weight. Most of these “Wonder Products” include testimonials in their promotions. The successful users of these products or diet programs make claims that “so and so” lost a big amount of weight. Usually the weight loss is in a short amount of time.

If they really worked, these products and diets would be showing testimonials of people five years later or longer who not only achieved a healthy weight for their frame size but also have maintained the achievement.

The correlation they want you to believe is that if you follow their program or use their miracle product you will look good, be healthy and maybe even live longer. Guess what? A rapid weight loss does not guarantee any of these things. These programs mostly fail because they are not likely to last for the long haul.

What works is eating a balanced amount of energy from wholesome food which incorporate all of the macronutrients. Macronutrients consist of protein, carbohydrates and fat. They all provide energy and in addition each contribute other pertinent

physiological needs.

The science community seems to agree that a diet rich in servings of vegetables and fruits with a more moderate level of meat or other protein and fat to be the best food choices for a healthier and longer life.

I do not know of any study recommending lab-added chemicals and trans fats as being a healthy food choice. There seems also to be a consensus to strongly lower the level of saturated fat from most medical sources and The American Heart Association.

So how do you balance the energy (Hint: calories are a measurement of energy).

1. Successful weight management can only be achieved with a program that lasts for a lifetime.

2. If you do not eat food you enjoy, you will not consume it for the long haul.

3. We tend to favor the food we were raised on and food that we have acquired and enjoyed in our lives through experience.

4. If the food choices are ones we make ourselves we accept them.

5. We rarely accept what others choose for us.

In the almost 20 years I have been a fitness professional, I have coached several people who have achieved real long-term weight loss. A couple of them were excessively obese and had failed over many attempts and years to balance their weight.

The first thing I have instilled in them is that the real success is five years from now! If we talk five years later, I say the same thing regarding the next five years.

The other axiom is to develop a life-course of eating where you bring in the right amount of energy to support the healthy weight you wish to achieve and maintain.

There are numerous online

•See FITNESS page 19

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# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Community gets first look at The Literacy Council's future home

By Brian O'Shea  
Plateau Daily News

The Literacy Council hosted the Highlands Chamber of Commerce's first monthly Business After Hours of the season on Wednesday, opening its doors to the community and giving the public a first-hand look at TLC's soon-to-be facility. The new location is next to Bryson's Food Store in Highlands Plaza and will undergo renovations before TLC officially moves in this spring.

Once construction is complete, TLC will be able to increase their capacity of students by 150% and eliminate the lengthy waiting list students face today, said TLC Executive Director Bonnie Potts.

"We wanted to thank the community for all they have done over the years and show that we are being good stewards of their support by increasing our capacity to help more students," said Potts.

TLC not only helps children through a variety of programs, but there are several adult programs, including English as a Second Language and GED classes; that are free, provide child care, and are designed to be as convenient as possible for those who have tight schedules. The new

location will do just that as people can grab lunch at Bryson's Food Store and eat while on their break at the TLC gathering materials or studying, said TLC Chair Jane Jerry.

"For people who have to work, we have a lunchtime program because we feel that's a time when people can stop and think about their future," she said.

Jerry added that many of TLC's tutors are retired volunteers who are available throughout the afternoon during traditional business hours to give students as many options as possible to utilize the programs that are available.

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor

spoke to those in attendance and said TLC is an invaluable resource to the area and its efforts in the adult community can be life changing.

"What they (TLC) do for young people is immeasurable, but there're other programs aimed at adults that are invaluable to breaking the cycle of not being able to communicate," said Taylor. "And this new facility is indicative of the progress this organization has made." "The pre-renovation, public invite was the prequel to the actual opening in spring after construction is expected to be completed, said Potts. When TLC is fully

moved in to the new location they will host another Business After Hours in October to give the public the "after" look post-renovations.

"We are very excited to move in and get things up and running," said Potts. "While planning, we tried to be creative and do it as cost efficiently as possible." "The new location includes the capacity for a 150% increase in students, space to run multiple programs simultaneously, advanced security system, reading room with amphitheater seating for lectures and storytelling, individual tutoring rooms, media center, and individual learning spaces for both children and adults.



Photos by Brian O'Shea and Rachel Lewicki



The Highlands Chamber of Commerce's monthly Business After Hours was the first of the season and was hosted by The Literacy Council on Wednesday. Business After Hours is a networking and social event for Chamber members, area merchants, guests, friends, and family. TLC's night was for both adults and children and included food, games, and dancing.



# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Real Estate on the plateau: A beat all its own

This special place on earth, the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau, tends to have a beat all its own. While we are fortunate to have relative stability in pricing and sales numbers, we do not necessarily

correlate with any specific-ity to the national trends. In other words, we seem to outperform in “bear” market conditions and underperform a bit in a “bull” market.

Recently, the National Association for Business Economics released its 2019 Economic Policy Survey. The survey revealed that a majority of the panel believe an economic slowdown could occur in the near future. Only 10% of the panelists expect a recession in 2019, 42% say a recession will happen in 2020, and 25% expect one in 2021.

This survey raises the question: Will our real estate market be impacted like it was during the last recession?

A recession does not equal a housing crisis. During the last recession, prices fell dramatically because the housing collapse caused the recession. However, in the four previous recessions, home values were not negatively impacted. Hopefully, a future recession will be over before we realize it began.

The market on the Plateau per activity on the Highlands/Cashiers MLS is down 22% in unit sales over the same time last year, and 20% in volume. However, traffic during the winter seems to be stronger than it was last winter despite the weather. Thus, it is too early in the year to forecast whether 2019 will outperform or underperform 2018. We at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty are optimistic that Highlands' and Cashiers'

on the Plateau.

As Sotheby's International Realty exceeded all records last year with over \$112 Billion in global sales, and Highlands Sotheby's International Realty surpassed any past years with over \$100 million in sales, we are going to keep the momentum forceful with innovative products, tools and research to provide best in class service.

Thank you, loyal client and friend, for your support and business. Let us know how we can help you achieve your real estate objective in 2019!

• Jody and her husband, Wood, Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty with thirty six brokers in three offices across the Plateau and a network of 22,500 agents in 990 offices in 72 countries across the globe. Call them to see how they can help with all of your real estate needs at (828) 526-4104 Cullasaja, (828) 526-8300 Highlands and (828) 743-7827 (Cashiers).



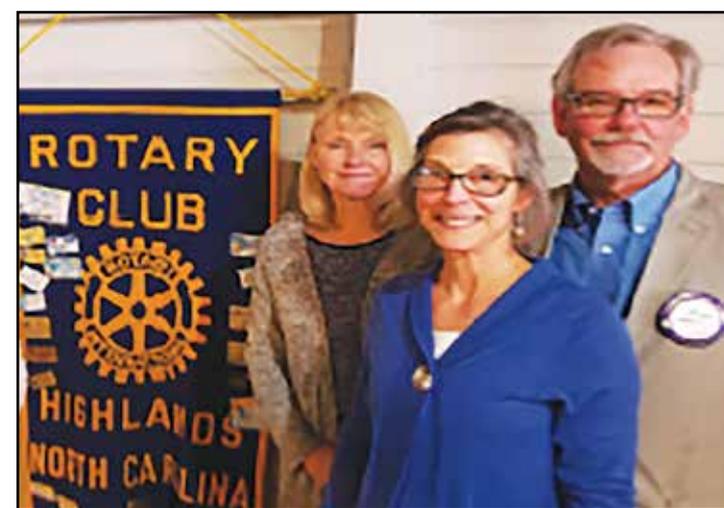
Jody Lovell  
828-526-4104  
highlandssothebysrealty.com

homes will be in demand this year!

The local market still offers an opportunity for buyers to find a broad range of high quality homes at reasonable prices. Homes close to downtown Highlands are being snatched off the market as soon as they are listed. The “walk to town” appeal is strengthening each year. However, there are still many golf enthusiasts headed to the mountains to populate our country clubs

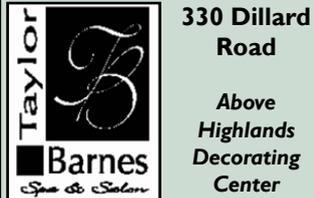
## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Taylor talks up 'Blue Zones' at Rotary Club of Highlands



Pictured from left are Robin Tindall, Sallie Taylor and Mayor Pat Taylor.

Sallie Taylor was the featured speaker for the March 12 Highlands Rotary meeting. Sallie shared information about Blue Zones, an initiative she is spearheading to bring to Macon and Jackson counties. The Blue Zones program helps reduce healthcare costs, employee absenteeism, as well as other positive outcomes by showing people how to live more fulfilling and healthy lifestyles.



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# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Longtime staple of Hudson Library bids farewell

By Brian O'Shea  
Plateau Daily News

Karen Hawk is described by some who know her as the “heart and soul” of the Hudson Library in Highlands, and after 10 years behind the counter she’s moving on to retirement.

“What I will miss most is the people,” said Hawk. “A diverse group of the community, including the visitors who frequent the library with most being regulars, whether it’s all year long or only the summers, or even just a few weeks.”

Hudson Librarian Carlyn Morenus has known Hawk for the past decade and said her quirky sense of humor, her knowledge of the community, and her steady flow of suggestions for patrons looking for a great read will be missed.

“I’m really going to miss Karen’s far-reaching local knowledge and connections; she’s been part of the Highlands community since the 1990s, she knows everyone and everyone knows her,” said Morenus. “She’s really been the heart and soul of the library, especially since she’s the only staff member who has bridged the gap of four Librarian changes! I will also miss her quirky sense of humor. I’m glad she’ll still be around town (or so she promises!)”

The Hudson Library Board is throwing a party from 5:30-7 p.m. on April 1 to celebrate Hawk’s dedication over the years at the Library, which happens to be Hawk’s 10th anniversary be-

hind the counter. Her official last day on the job is April 12.

“The public is definitely welcome, we want as many people as possible to have the chance to wish Karen well and celebrate her retirement with her,” said Morenus. “The Hudson Library Board is throwing the party, which is another indication of just how valued Karen is here.”

Hawk doesn’t plan on kicking up her heels and relaxing on the porch anytime soon, she is excited for this next step and plans on focusing on other interests.

“I am looking forward to retirement,” said Hawk. “I’m of the age and ready to collect the Social Security I’ve paid in these last 50-plus years. I have a pretty full schedule outside of work and plan on expanding many of these things I already do.”

Hawk’s regular routine includes exercise (spin, TRX, yoga) four mornings a week, run with the Road Runners on Saturday mornings, part of the Humanist discussion Group, active in Indivisible Highlands and sec./treas. for the Highlands Precinct Democratic Party.

“My political life along with my reading, hiking, and yard work will greatly expand,” said Hawk.

Morenus said her involvement in the community was one of the things that made her a great part of the Hudson team.

“She’s so thoroughly woven into the fabric of the library community,” said Morenus. “Karen’s really been instrumental in the

continued success of our library,”

Kasey Klodosky has worked with Hawk for three years and said her positive attitude always brightened up patrons’ days and kept things interesting behind the counter.

“She’s always entertaining,”

said Klodosky. “She always has these great stories or would shoot you a funny look at the counter. She kept the work atmosphere light, which is always nice.”

In addition to Hawk’s regular duties as Library Assistant II, she also plans and executes the Com-

munity Coffee with the Mayor series, does the displays in the library, coordinates volunteers, organizes the movies shown each month, and more. Klodosky will assume Hawk’s full-time position and Morenus said they will fill the part-time position soon.



The Metropolitan Opera  
HD LIVE



Highlands Performing Arts Center  
Live via Satellite



**Die Walküre**  
by Wagner  
Saturday, March 30

**12 noon RT: 5.5hours**  
Pre-Opera Discussion @ **11:30pm**

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street  
Tickets available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047  
Adults: \$26 PAC or MET Members: \$22

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Karen in her element at the Hudson Library..

# • 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

## Fourth Thursday

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

## First Fridays

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

• At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in Night - all ages 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 28-30

• Highlands Community Players presents 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.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Spring Fling Dance," Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Mr Ace McGee from Anderson SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is

## Wagner's Die Walküre Live via Satellite at PAC Saturday



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen, Live via Satellite the MET Opera's production of Wagner's Die Walküre on Saturday, March 30 at 12 NOON. In what is expected to be a Wagnerian event for the ages, soprano Christine Goerke plays Brünnhilde, the willful title warrior maiden, who loses her immortality in opera's most famous act of filial defiance. Tenor Stuart Skelton and soprano Eva-Maria Westbroek are the twins Siegmund and Sieglinde, and bass-baritone Greer Grimsley sings the god Wotan. Philippe Jordan conducts. Run time is 5.5 hours, there will be sandwiches, snacks and beverages available for purchase. A pre-opera discussion begins at 11:30am. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org) or at the door. Highlands PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

welcome.

For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426 or check us out on Facebook.

• 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 Tessentee 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](http://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.

• Fiber Sunday will take place at Cowee Textiles on Sunday, from 2:00 to 5 p.m. in room 104 at The Cowee School Art & Heritage Center located at 51 Cowee School Dr. Franklin N.C. 28734. Bring a textile project you are working on from spinning, knitting, weaving, rug hooking, baskets etc. Call or e-mail Teresa Bouchonnet at 828 349-3878 or [bouchonnet@coweetextiles.com](mailto:bouchonnet@coweetextiles.com) if you have any questions.

## 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 April 2019 meeting of the West-

ern North Carolina Woodturners Club Inc. will be on Saturday starting at 10 a.m. at the Bascom in Highlands, NC. The Bascom is located at 323 Franklin Rd, Highlands, NC, just north of Downtown Highlands, NC (heading toward Franklin). Drive across the covered bridge into the parking lot, and come into the main entrance near the covered patio. There will be directions on how to get to the wood turning studio. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Highlands the second Saturday of every month between March and November. This month's presenter will be John Van Camp from the Brass-town Woodturners Guild.

• 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

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Plateau Pickup on Saturday. Volunteers are needed to help clean litter on the highways and roads leading to and around Highlands. Cleanup supplies and a "thank-you" tee-shirt will be provided for all volunteers. The event will start and end at Kelsey Hutchinson Park. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. and the pickup will begin at 9 a.m. Following the pickup, volunteers will be treated to a cook-out provided by Fresser's Courtyard Café. If you're interested in helping, please contact the Highlands Chamber at 828-526-2112 or [visitor@highlandschamber.org](mailto:visitor@highlandschamber.org)

• 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](mailto:PACYouth.highlands@gmail.com).

## HCP Dinner Theater continues



Rachel Fiesel in her spectacular Christmas tree costume appears with Ricky Siegel in the one-act play "Oh, Tannenbaum" by Mark Harvry Levine in HCP's Dinner Theater at Highlands Cashiers Performing Arts Center. Tickets at the HCP box office, 526-8084 or on line: [highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://highlandscashiersplayers.org).

Opening night on Thursday, March 21, was sold out. Friday and Saturday nights had only a few seats vacant. The event continues this week Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 28 through 30th. There are no Sunday matinees. Tickets for dinner and show are \$37.50. For HCP season subscribers, there is no charge, it's part of the subscription package.

Highlands Cashiers Players annual event this year features four humorous one-act plays and a four course dinner at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, with doors opening at 6:30 and show beginning at 7 p.m..

Many new actors, directed by several new directors brighten the stage along with veteran actors Virginia Talbot, Ricky Siegel and director Donna Cochran. Ken Knight, Food Manager, and Carol Lucas, Dining Room Supervisor, have the many volunteers promptly serving all ten tables in PAC's upstairs auditorium. Courtney Scarborough is Production Manager.

The HCP box office at PAC will be open through the run of the production, 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays. Stop by or call 828-526-8084, for tickets. Be sure to mention if you wish to be seated at a table with friends and family. Tickets may also be available on line. Check the Players' website for more information: [highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://highlandscashiersplayers.org).

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## Students rewarded for reading



Every nine weeks at Highlands School there is a reading celebration for all students who met their reading goals for the duration of those nine weeks. This “accelerated reader” party was hosted by Melanie Miller, Highlands School Academic Gifted Teacher, and Terry Stamey, HS Media Coordinator on Friday, March 8. Different activities were planned that included crafts, games, videos, party favors, and always a snack. Teachers believe rewarding students for reading will improve literacy and create life-long readers of students.

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# • THE INK PENN •

## Highlights of a trip to England: The coast



**Kathy Manos Penn**

As an Anglophile through and through, I've long dreamed of visiting England. I knew that when I finally made my trip of a lifetime, I wanted to see more than London, but identifying additional destinations and working out travel details seemed a daunting task. Fortunately, I found Danielle Garrett of PlanIt Itineraries, who not only planned an amazing three-week itinerary but also attended to every little detail. I describe her as my travel planner extraordinaire.

After some time in London, our first stop was Dartmouth, a coastal town rich in history. From our several ferry trips on the Dart River, we gleaned fascinating facts from all eras. As we watched cadets from the Royal Britannia Naval College practice man overboard rescues, we learned Queen Elizabeth met Prince Phillip at the college in 1939 when she visited with her parents. On the way to tour Agatha Christie's Greenway Estate, we saw a boathouse that once belonged to Sir Walter Raleigh -- its original foundation still intact.

We glimpsed the shipyard where 240 warships were built during WWII and a much smaller shipyard where the Mayflower and the Speedwell stopped for repairs in 1620 before proceeding to Plymouth to set sail for America. The Speedwell was deemed unfit for the trip leaving the Mayflower to make the trip solo.

One ferry captain alleged that Eisenhower had planned the D-Day invasion in the ferryman's house across from our hotel, but I've been unable to confirm that particular "fact." From a Kate Ellis mystery I was reading while there, I learned the story of Slapton Sands, a nearby town whose townfolks were forced to abandon their town and their livelihoods so rehearsals for D-Day could take place. As heartwrenching as that was, more tragic was the loss of 1,000 American soldiers in Exercise Tiger, a nighttime practice for a beach landing. By chance, German E boats came across the American convoy, killing 700 men before another 300 died

from friendly fire as they landed on the beach.

We wandered the streets of Dartmouth and visited St. Saviour's Church which has a timber from a Spanish Armada ship as one of its beams. We ordered pints of cider in The Cherub Pub, the oldest building in town, circa 1380. I found it interesting that this small town boasts two bookshops, and that Christopher Milne, the real Christopher Robin from "Winnie the Pooh, once owned a bookshop on the street that fronts the harbor.

On a scenic round-robin excursion -- ferry, bus, steam train, and one last ferry back to our hotel -- we heard the tale of the entrepreneur who planned in the 1850s to build a railroad bridge across the River Dart and built the Dartmouth station before obtaining permission for the bridge. Today, the station stands by itself unconnected to a railroad because he never got that permission; thus you depart the train across the river and ferry back to Dartmouth.

Our most memorable excursion was a day trip to Tintagel, the castle in Cornwall where legend says King Arthur was conceived. Our route across windswept misty Dartmoor, populated only with sheep and ponies, brought to mind gothic novels. With a guide to explain the history, we made the arduous climb to the cliffside castle where we found unbelievable views and a team of archaeologists excavating medieval pottery brought by Mediterranean traders.

The trip was already everything I could have wanted, and we were only halfway through. Next up was the Cotswolds. Stay tuned for another installment of highlights.

• *Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).*

## ...TOWN BOARD continued from page 5



Not new digs but a new look for Town Board meetings at the Community Building.

"There have been numerous occasions when a playback feature would have been helpful concerning a crime being committed," he said.

Initially, commissioners didn't want people to feel like they were under surveillance while they walked down the sidewalks, which is why they went with the picture every 10 minutes. But in the end, they decided the possible good outweighed their concerns. Now a 14-day video with the playback feature will be available to the police and town before it is written over. However, unlike the stop-action snapshots of the street, the public won't be able to view the video.

Mayor Taylor said no one will be monitoring the video. "This will just enable the police to retrieve footage for criminal investigative purposes."

### Water Plant Filter

At the Finance Committee meeting and then at the Town Board meeting, financing the initial fix for a broken plastic component in the filter system at the water plant was discussed and money allocated.

The system is only six years old and Highlands wasn't the only municipality to buy the system which has the state concerned.

The town is paying W.K. Dixon Engineers to find out what went wrong.

Media is getting into the filter, but the backwash process has kept it from moving through the system and into the town water. Town engineer Lamar Nix said there is a short-term, intermediate and long-term plan.

"Right now, we are in the discovery

stage; finding out what caused it so we can fix it immediately. Beyond that we want to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said. "Right now, we have two of everything so if one goes down, we have the another, but I want three instead of two. A triplicate system is the long-range view."

Town Manager Josh Ward said since only one side of the system is being used at a time right now, the water flow could be less which is OK now but it won't be OK come season, so it needs to get it fixed.

Nix said the problem is an underdrain system within the filter that needs to be repaired. The block underdrain system is made up plastic structures with a stainless-steel cap system. A small opening happened on one end allowing filter media to get into the underdrain.

"We are replacing that underdrain immediately. Looking forward, we are monitoring the other filter closely with the idea that it may need to be replaced next fiscal year. It lasted six years and there is no evidence of why it is compromised. The long-range plan is to use a different underdrain system on the next two."

### Tidbits

• This year's Ecumenical Sunrise Easter Service will be at Memorial Park instead of the Nature Center or K-H Founders Park.

• Lawn maintenance companies and residents will face a citation if they fill roadside ditches with debris.

• The bearproof street cans have been ordered. They are expected to be in within six weeks

— Kim Lewicki



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## ...TEACHERS continued from page 1

kindergarten teacher, a teacher assistant, a middle school and high school teacher.

Based on the recent kindergarten registration held in early March, Highlands School will need an additional kindergarten teacher to accommodate the 24 kindergartens registered for the upcoming school year. Due to the higher enrollment for kindergarten, as per state law Highlands School has to add one additional teacher assistant next year.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said the request for additional teachers is due to a few different reasons.

“First, the state reduced class sizes for K-3. Next year’s kindergarten registration that was held on March 12th, showed we will be over the 22 maximum students in kindergarten for next year,” said Jetter. “Next year’s first-grade is already at the maximum of 22 students because we have 22 kindergartners moving to first-grade next year. Next year’s second-grade is over the max of 22 students because we have 25 first-graders moving to next year’s 2nd grade.”

And there’s more.

“Second, we have over 30 students moving to 6th grade next year. That is simply a lot of students for one sixth grade teacher,” he said. “Third, we have one high school teacher resigning that teaches both Social Studies and Spanish. The state has increased Social Studies requirements for

graduation. So now we need two teachers – one to teach Spanish and one to teach Social Studies because of the additional Social Studies courses that need to be taught.”

Highlands School is one of four schools in the district expected to need additional K-3 teachers; East Franklin and South Macon Elementary schools are also projected to need a first-grade teacher and the required teacher assistant for each classroom. Cartoogechaye Elementary will also need an additional second-grade teacher.

The four additional teacher positions at the elementary level are due to increased class sizes. These positions will require a teacher assistant because they are needed in K-2 classrooms. Total cost in the proposed budget to add the new K-3 positions is \$156,638 dollars for the four K-3 teachers and \$108,000 for the three teacher assistants.

“These K-3 positions should be covered by the state,” said Baldwin. “It’s legislated that individual classroom sizes cannot be above 22 students and the LEA (Local Education Agencies) average class size cannot be above 19 students. If we add two additional positions, it will put us at 19.3 LEA class size average. This gets us to the correct individual class size maximum but puts us very close to the LEA average class size requirement.”

Baldwin said the individual classes projected to be in violation of state law next year include Highlands School and Cartoogechaye kindergarten and second-grade; East Franklin kindergarten and first-grade and South Macon first-grade. He is hoping, but cannot be certain, that the state will cover most of the funding to accommodate for these class sizes.

“Based on allocated projections from the state at this time, we do anticipate that we will have an additional .9 – almost one position based on ADM (average daily membership of students in public education), almost one position from the state based on ADM projection,” said Baldwin. “That is a projection; at this point we won’t know if we will get that position until July if the state budget is passed by then. We will have 10 days after the first day of school to adhere to the state law for enrollment.”

In addition to the kindergarten and teacher assistant positions, Highlands School will also need a sixth-grade teacher and a social studies or foreign language teacher for the high school at a projected cost of \$65,600.

The other position requested for next year is a guidance counselor for Union Academy at a cost of \$52,000 based on five years’ experience and language arts teachers at Franklin High School at \$35,000.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Bascom to get ‘strategic’ help from DeVos Institute

The Bascom is pleased to announce its selection, through a nationwide competitive application process, to work with the DeVos Institute in its Strategic Planning and Research Initiative.

The DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland, a global leader in training and consultation for cultural organizations, has chosen five arts organizations in rural communities across the United States to receive strategic planning services free of charge.

The DeVos Institute has served more than 1,000 organizations from over 80 countries since its founding by Michael M. Kaiser during his tenure as President of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

The DeVos Institute created this initiative recognizing that the conditions experienced by arts organizations in rural communities differ substantially from those faced by their counterparts in urban centers.

Each of the five selected arts orga-

nizations, including The Bascom, will participate in a rigorous planning process over the next eight months. The goal of the process, led by the DeVos Institute, is to produce a practical five-year roadmap focusing on long-term artistic and educational programming; marketing and communication; community and volunteer engagement; cross-sector collaboration; fundraising; and board engagement.

“We are grateful that The Bascom was chosen to participate in this initiative and thank the DeVos Institute,” said Mike Campbell, Chairman of The Bascom Board of Directors and Teresa Osborn, Executive Director of The Bascom. “Our pick reflects well on the staff, our patrons and supporters, and most importantly, the communities we serve. We are now at an inflection point where we can focus on long-term strategy development and look forward to the important work that will take place over the next eight months. We view this opportunity as a game changer for The Bascom.”



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# Timber frame raised for new Commons building at The Village Green in Cashiers

By Brian O'Shea  
Plateau Daily News

Hundreds of thousands of pounds of timber beams were hoisted into place on Thursday at The Village Green to form the core framework of the Commons, the new activity and community building being built behind the stage. Executive Director of The Village Green, Ann Self, said they will finish the initial exterior of the framework this week and then place the cupola (small dome placed on roof) by crane.

Massive beams of hand-cut Douglas fir were fitted together by expert timber framers Moresun Timber Frames out of Mountain Rest, S.C. The beams were then disassembled and marked using symbols, transported to Cashiers, reassembled, and put into place to form the main timber frame, said Project Manager Mark Fortenberry.

"What we're seeing today is these guys are erecting the outside walls of the main timber frame," he said. "I would describe it as adult Lincoln Logs."

Iron pins in the ground align in holes on the bottom of each beam, and then a framer guides the crane operator with hand signals to raise and tweak the beam to insert the oak pins together.

"These guys are very skilled at the traditional methods," said Fortenberry. "All jointery is hand cut in their shop, dried, fitted, assembled, everything, then they take it apart and bring it up here. There's over 350 pieces of timber here."

After the cupola has been installed, Fortenberry said Moresun's crew will head

out, but there is still much to be done.

"Once these guys get the frame up, other carpenters are going to come in and build off of that," he said.

Throughout the weeks the timber framers are on site, the community is honoring an old tradition of "feeding the framers" where members of the community pitch in to help provide meals to the timber crew.

"Feeding the Framers" is an opportunity not only to offer Cashiers' hospitality and express gratitude for the work of their hands, but also to come together as a community and help bring this facility to life," said Self. "Tradition says that feeding the framers affords prosperity and good fortune to the community. But, we also think it would be a nice gesture and reflection of the goodness of Cashiers!"

So far, those feeding the framers are Slabtown Pizza, Whiteside Brewing Company, Cream and Flutter, Cashiers Baptist Church, Blue Ridge School Interact Club, and Church of the Good Shepherd.

The timber frame is expected to be complete by mid-April and Self said

a celebration is the works to mark the event. The project has been delayed a couple of weeks due to weather, but Self said that's how it goes in the mountains.

"The weather has been a bummer for

everybody, but you do the best you can when you can," said Self.

Fortenberry added that since Jan. 1, they have only had seven days of dry weather in a row.



The framer on the lift gives the crane operator hand signals to tweak the beam's position to fit the oak pin into the beam. Crews from Moresun Timber Frames used two cranes to manipulate the beams into position. All the beams and jointery were hand cut.

— Photos by Brian O'Shea



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## Divine Fellowship

**Pastor Sam Forrester**  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

“And I said, You shall call me, My Father; and shall not turn away from me.” Jeremiah 3:19

The most powerful and wonderful thing we can feel in this life is divine fellowship, fellowship with our heavenly Father. There is no sweeter mercy than being in connection with our Lord. This is the very joy of heaven. It is not the absence of struggle, the freedom from pain, the rest from work, or the release from fighting. No! It is being in the very presence of our heavenly Father. It is to be with Christ Jesus—to see his glory, to look upon his face, to hear his voice, to feel the beating of his heart, to rest in his arms, this is heaven, to live in eternal joy.

Can we know this while living on this earth? Yes, we can. We are not alone. Each and every sin laden soul can call out through Jesus Christ, “Father, come unto me!” In Jesus Christ, he is your Father. Through Jesus and through him alone you can be reconciled to your heavenly Father. He will come into your heart and will bring his peace, rest, forgiveness, and mercy. He will come and fellowship with you and will call you his child. He will fill you with his peace and show you all of his ways that will overwhelm you with his love. He will be your Father, his presence, his voice, his smile will make you feel precious and will sooth your soul. When darkness comes and tries to separate you from him, you will hear his voice and through the darkness see his smile and know he is your heavenly Father.

Earthly parents can fail in their love. They can do harm when their hearts are hard and unregenerate. They can leave scars and cause fear and pain to hang on. But this one we call our heavenly Father is not like them, he is a loving and caring Father that provides for your most important needs and that is the salvation of your soul from the sin and pain of this world. He cared so much about your struggle that he sent his only begotten Son into the sin filled world to take on the sins of his children and to suffer the pain and agony they all felt because of its sin. Do not allow the sins of others to keep you from your heavenly Father's embrace. Open your heart to his love and let him come into your heart and fill you with all the glories of heaven. Let him show you what the true love of a parent is to be. Know that in him you are never alone, you are never lost in darkness nor despair, you will always have the light of heaven in your heart. This can all begin when you acknowledge your sin and ask Jesus Christ into your heart and through him come to know his Father as your Father.

## Proverbs 3:5

### BLUEVALLEY 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

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service.

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

### 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.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

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

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

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### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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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

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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.

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: 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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Father Casmir – 526-2418

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

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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

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

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

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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

# • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

## Weather-snarled week that was

This week high school girls soccer played Rabun Gap and Swain. They lost both games but they fought hard coming out strong both second halves. Their next home game will be on Monday, April 8th. They will play Blue Ridge starting at 6 pm.

High School boys golf also had a match at Sequoia Nationals, placing first. Their



Kedra McCall

next match is on Thursday, March 28th, at Sapphire Nationals.

Middle school golf is made up of one girl- Anna Stiehler. In her last match, she placed first, lower than every other boy and girl by 12 strokes with a 43.

Middle school and high school track are both waiting for their next meets.

Come out and support your Highlanders!

## Annual 'Litter Pick-up' is Sat. April 20

On Saturday, April 20, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Plateau Pickup on Saturday. Volunteers are needed to help clean litter on the highways and roads leading to and around Highlands. Cleanup supplies and a "thank-you" tee-shirt will be provided for all volunteers. The event will start and end at Kelsey Hutchinson Park. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. and the pickup will begin at 9 a.m. Following the pickup, volunteers will be treated to a cook-out provided by Fresser's Courtyard Café. If you're interested in helping, please contact the Highlands Chamber at 828-526-2112 or [visitor@highlandschamber.org](mailto:visitor@highlandschamber.org)

## ...FITNESS continued from page 8

calculators available in which you can input your height, activity level, age, sex, etc. and get a good estimate of the caloric intake needed to maintain a specific weight.

I suggest you find the caloric level which you would eat to maintain the weight you desire to obtain and begin a process of eating and incorporating exercise to maintain that body weight. Notice I never say go on a diet to lose a certain amount of pounds. I say eat at a level that will support your healthy weight. Support that weight and you can morph into and maintain that weight.

A lady I worked with, followed this plan and has for over a decade maintained a weight of over 70 lbs. less than she started at. There were others with similar results,

even one man who through daily walking combined with balancing his caloric intake to his energy usage brought his weight to a healthy level and has been asymptomatic from his type 2 diabetes for over 7 years.

In part two of this column I will show you how to create your own eating plan for the long haul with your own food choices. Stay tuned.

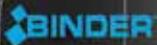
• *Hank is a local fitness trainer specializing in the age 50 and over population. He is certified by The American College of Sports Medicine as an Exercise Physiologist and is a licensed NC Massage Therapist specializing in Therapeutic Stretching. Send comments to: [hank@thebestexercisesforseniors.com](mailto:hank@thebestexercisesforseniors.com)*

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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from March 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

## March 18

- At 10 a.m., officers investigated theft from a vehicle parked on Main Street.
- At 1 p.m., officers investigated the breaking and entering of a motor vehicle parked at Highlands Plaza where a chainsaw

was taken from the vehicle.

## March 23

- At 4:30 p.m., officers investigated the breaking and entering and burglary of a residence on Chowan Drive.
- The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 19**
- ## March 19
- At 2:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Hill-side Dr.

- At 5:29 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scalp FD.

## March 20

- At 5:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurel Street.
- At 8:04 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.
- At 2:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.
- At 11:47 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road.

## March 22

- At 5:49 p.m. ,the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.
- At 6:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas alarm at a residence on Old Edwards Lane.
- At 6:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mount Lori Drive.

## March 23

- At 20:07 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible brush fire /construction burn on Walkingstick Road.

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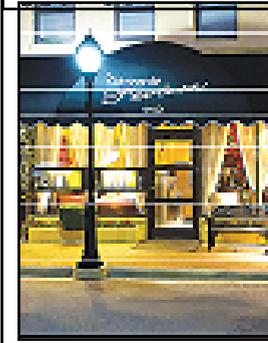
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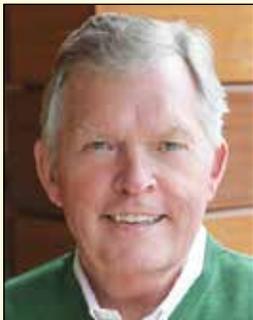
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