‘19–20 budget and fiber network finalized

After much research and deliberation, the town’s fiber optic network is a go.

At the May Town Board meeting, commissioners OK’d the construction contract and financing of the project with a $4.6 million loan with BB&T.

Once the make-ready work fixing drip lines throughout the system is completed, JBL Communications, LLC can begin construction which will take 300 days.

The fiber optic cable will be installed in the power space, on utility pole lines owned by the Town of Highlands to facilitate an

• See FINALIZED page 24

Town hires Assistant Planning Director

After about a year on the job, Highlands Town Planner Andrew Bowen resigned August 2018 and ever since the search has been on to find a replacement.

The position entails planning and code enforcement – enforcement of town ordinances – the part of the job no “planner” particularly likes.

Consequently, with no takers for the job as outlined, the Town Board agreed to split the job – there would be a planner and a code enforcement officer who would work as part of the police department.

This past February, John Cherry was hired to be the town’s code enforcement officer. Years ago, he worked as Highlands’ canine officer and after a stint overseas has returned with expanded duties.

Finally, at the May Town Board meeting, commissioners OK’d the construction contract and financing of the project with a $4.6 million loan with BB&T.

Highlands School Class of 2019


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www.highlandssothebysrealty.com
I was on the road last week. My travel was connected to current town issues.

On Monday night Sallie and I drove to Brevard to hear a talk by Tony Buettner about the creation of a BlueZones community. Tony will be in Highlands on Monday, June 10, at 5 pm at the Performing Arts Center to do a presentation concerning creating a BlueZones that encompasses Macon and Jackson counties, including Franklin, Sylva, Cashiers and Highlands. If you want more information about this BlueZones event, please call Sallie at 828-506-7025. She has been leading the effort to develop this important community program.

On May 14 Josh Ward, Rebecca Shuler, Matt Shuler and I traveled to Franklin to make a presentation to the Macon County Board of Commissioners concerning the Highlands broadband network. I stressed to the commissioners that the network will eventually extend beyond the town and into the county. In fact, we already serve some county residents, and anyone in the county already on our utility grid will also be on the network. I also reminded everyone that Highlands residents are also county taxpayers. When the county develops a broadband network, much of the Highlands Plateau will already have broadband.

I invited the county to partner with the town, like the town and county already does with recreation. The county provides support for the Highlands Recreation Department so everyone in the county has full access to the facilities. I proposed that the county allocate $250,000 a year for the next four years as a capital contribution to the development and expansion of the broadband network.

On May 15, I drove to Hickory to attend the North Carolina League of Municipalities annual conference. I spent Wednesday and Thursday morning attending various workshops and presentations. A recurring topic was how small communities can develop community broadband networks. Frankly, Highlands is way ahead of most small towns. All small, rural communities now realize providing broadband is an essential utility for their future economic vitality. I told one workshop group on Thursday morning that Highlands is on the verge of building a fiber network. I failed to tell them I was leaving after lunch for a Town Board meeting Thursday night where the network construction contract would be reviewed.

As I presided over that approval of the fiber network contract on Thursday night, I reflected on what I heard at the conference. I am convinced that the fiber network will be a critical investment in the future of Highlands. Yes, it will cost a lot of money and there are associated calculated risks. On the other hand, to sit back and do nothing is a greater risk to the future vitality of this community.

One of the reasons for a fiber network is that it allows the town to operate a smart utility grid. At the conference I learned that some cities are already operate smart grids where usage and bills are monitored by customers. Highlands is close to offering these options. Stay connected.

Doris Moore Long

Doris Long, a resident of Highlands since 1977, passed away peacefully May 9, 2019, in the superb care of the cardiac staff at Mission Hospital, Asheville, NC.

Born in Orange, New Jersey, to parents Bertha S. and Otis R. Moore, Doris attended Beaver College and Parsons School of Design. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and in Highlands, was an active member of the Highlands Ca-
SAGEE MOUNTAIN  This outstanding home is in a coveted neighborhood and is a combination of both modern and rustic chic. Renovated with creative touches throughout, this 3 bedroom/4.5 bath home shines with artistry and style. You will enjoy all the custom features and how the walls of glass bring the outside in. Efficiency apartment/studio with full bath is connected to the main house. Beautifully landscaped flat grounds - a rarity in Highlands.

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

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN  “Picture perfect” is a perfect description for this well-maintained home within an easy walk to everything Highlands has to offer. Located on a quiet cul de sac, the home boasts a lovely water feature and stone patio with fire pit. The living room has soaring wood ceilings, accented by a stone fireplace and beautiful wood flooring. Partially finished lower level has a private entrance and kitchenette and would make a great mother-in-law suite.

MLS# 90910  |  Offered for $797,000

NEW on MARKET!

HIGHLANDS FALLS CC  Imagine how easy and carefree your life can be in this pristine villa! Located close to everything yet very private, you can walk to all of the great amenities that are offered by Highlands Falls Country Club whether it is getting in some practice for your golf game, taking on a challenge on the croquet courts, working out in the best fitness center on the mountain, or meeting friends at the clubhouse. Amenities available with membership approval.

MLS# 90948  |  Offered for $487,000

HIGHLANDS  Enhance the great bones of this home with your own artistic touches. Relax on the back porch that overlooks the yard, suitable for gardens. Downstairs guests could relax on the patio there. Two bedrooms, one bath on the main level, with the same arrangement downstairs, only there’s much more space. Rolling Acres is an established neighborhood and this home offers end of the road privacy. Just five minutes from downtown Highlands.

MLS# 90936  |  Offered for $295,000
• Highland Area Dining •

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Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round. Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
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AND
Serving Dinner
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Sunday Brunch begins at 11 a.m.
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FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
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HIGHLANDS CC  If quality is what you seek, look no further. The sellers assisted in the design and let nothing to chance during the construction to ensure that only the finest materials and craftsmanship were incorporated into it. From the moment you approach the front, you can tell that this home is not only beautifully built but beautifully maintained as well. The back yard is a great space for families to play or dogs to run. There is plenty of room for a garden as well.

MLS# 90522  |  Offered for $2,000,000

LAKE TOXAWAY  Located in the luxury community of Lake Toxaway Estates, this stream front home is a convenient drive by car or golf cart to the clubhouse, marina, golf course and other amenities. Using authentic post & beam construction and a Scottish mountain home design, the 7,000+ square foot home lives large, yet each area of the home has been designated with comfort and coziness in mind. Fire pit and footbridge over the creek plus deeded lake access!

MLS# 90638  |  Offered for $1,750,000

SKY VALLEY, GA  Sitting on just over four acres, this mini estate surrounds you with exquisite finishes including hand-carved wood trim throughout. The great room of this stunning residence is graced by soaring ceilings and windows to take in the sweeping mountain and golf course views. A floor-to-ceiling stacked stone fireplace opens to both the great room and the kitchen. The beautifully designed kitchen boasts custom cabinetry and woodwork inspired by the Biltmore Estate.

MLS# 88318  |  Offered for $1,699,000

HIGHLANDS FALLS CC  The magnificent views of Whiteside Mountain greet you as you open the front door to this meticulously maintained home. The main floor includes a beautiful living room with cathedral ceiling and gas stone fireplace, dining area with built in bar and wine storage, up-to-date kitchen with gas stove and electric oven, laundry room with storage and additional full size refrigerator as well as a lovely large screened porch.

MLS# 89271  |  Offered for $1,695,000
**Highlands Area Dining**

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  - Craft Ice Cream & Hand-Crafted Sandwiches
  - Summer Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00PM Mon - Sat, 11:00AM - 5:00PM Sun

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  - In Wright Square
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  - Dine In or Take Out
  - 828-820-8686
  - Open Mon.-Sat. 7a to 4p • Sun. 8a to 3p
  - All Day Craft Breakfast, Lunch and Pastries Galore
  - Vegan & Vegetarian Options
  - Eggs Your Way • Omelets
  - Corn Beef Hash • Eggs Benedict
  - 3 Chef-Crafted Soups Daily
  - Salads
  - Hot Sandwiches Daily
  - Hand-made In-House Burgers
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  - Seared pork medallions with fresh apples, sweet bleu cheese and our homemade Apple Jack sauced.
  - Grilled Filet Mignon
  - Lightly seasoned and char-grilled to your desired temperature, topped with bearnaise.
  - Roasted Garlic Portobello
  - Marinated then grilled. Stuffed with sun-dried tomatoes and spinach and topped with feta.
  - Altitudes Presents:
  - Friday and Saturday ONLY
  - Slow-roasted Prime Rib

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  - May 24-25 Special
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  - Coleslaw
  - Baked Beans
  - Apple Pie
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  - 3 Chef-Crafted Soups Daily
  - Salads
  - Hot Sandwiches Daily
  - Hand-made in-House Burgers
  - Panni Sandwiches • Cubans • Ruebens
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Another great community from Old Edwards Hospitality! Located in-town, an easy walk to all that Highlands has to offer, this property is just over three acres; six homes will be constructed, each on a half acre lot. The community will be gated and heavily landscaped and include a common area with a pavilion and small pond. John Lupoli, the renowned Highlands builder, will build them so the quality will be second to none! There are two floor plans — a one level and a two-story, both with three bedrooms and three-and-a-half baths. The beautiful finishes will include:

• 14 foot ceilings in the great room with wood beams and high baseboards
• Kohler fixtures, granite in all baths and in the kitchen
• Carrera or travertine tile in the baths and heated master bath floors
• Stainless steel KitchenAid appliance package
• Maytag appliances in the laundry room
• Wonderful outdoor spaces with a wood-burning fireplace

Pricing includes a full membership to Old Edwards Club valued at $80,000. This membership includes all of the new family-friendly amenities at GlenCove by Old Edwards.

Offered for $1,695,000 | Contact Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty for more information
Pat Allen, owner and broker-in-charge of Pat Allen Realty Group, is delighted to welcome Darlene Conley to her firm. “We are thrilled to have Darlene join our team of professional brokers. She is smart and saavy in real estate and clients love working with her,” says Pat.

Darlene is a graduate of Western Carolina University with a degree in Finance and Economics. Prior to raising a family, she worked in the financial industry; IPO’s, leverages buyouts, mergers, institutional trading and finally working on special projects within International Trading. She transitioned from the financial world to working for various groups doing charity fundraising.

A few years ago, she began doing renovation/remodeling work for a private investor’s rental properties. That naturally led to moving into the real estate sales profession. Darlene currently holds a license in Georgia and North Carolina. She is also a published author of children’s books. Darlene and her husband, Paul, are residents of Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club.

“My family’s roots are embedded in the mountains of Western North Carolina. My mother was born and raised in Asheville where her family names of the Morgans and Smathers are part of the history of Buncombe County. While attending Western Carolina University, I met my husband Paul. Our love of the mountains brought us back here years ago, where we built our retirement home. I feel that my greatest strength is the love of the area and knowledge of what this area has to offer to those who wish to move here. I am delighted to be a part of Pat Allen Realty Group, with their stellar reputation and having recently been chosen as one of the Leading Real Estate Companies of the World. Stop by my office at 295 Dillard Road or email me at Darlene@patallenrealtogroup.com”

Pat Allen Realty Group has now grown to 11 brokers who are committed to real estate after having careers in many varied and professional fields. “We are proud to be local and privately owned,” says Pat.” We appreciate and are grateful for our community who contributed to our success. We give back so others can move forward.”
Highlands In-Town
This is the epitome of townhome living in DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS! Elegant & mountain chic with rich wood elements & natural light. Quality-built with the architect's open great room with soaring ceiling and large wood-burning fireplace for chilly mountain mornings that opens to the lovely dining room and gourmet kitchen flanked by a large marble island for extra seating. This unit is so beautiful you'll want to stay home!

Offered for $1,450,000. MLS 90299

Sky Valley
Beautifully maintained & spacious southwestern facing newer construction home offering three levels of living. Sits at +/-3100 feet, showcasing evening sunsets & cool mountain breezes. Open floor plan with hardwood floors, granite, master on main, wood burning fireplace, mud room, screened porch & wrap around deck. 2BRs up & 2 flex rooms down w/full baths.

Offered for $315,000. MLS 89938

Highlands In-Town
Historical renovated Joe Webb log cabin! New tile and luxurious baths, designer kitchen with new upgraded appliances, custom cabinets, gorgeous granite, gleaming hardwood floors, beautiful screened porch, courtyard dining area with fireplace. Sited on a level lot with lush rhododendron and a small stream with gazebo. Just 5 minutes from Main Street!

Offered for $729,000. MLS 88148

Highlands In-Town
Walk to town from this well-maintained, low maintenance rustic chic cottage. Old Highlands charm with one of the prettiest yards in town with green space galore! Linger at the huge stone fire pit or rock your cares away on the covered porch! A stunning architecturally designed window is framed by wooden walls and glass in the den with a stone fireplace and built-in bookcases and hardwood floors.

Scaly Mountain
This upscale home has a dramatic kitchen opening to the dining and great room, boasting vaulted ceilings with handpicked beams and lovely hardwood floors. A large stone wood-burning fireplace is sure to take the chill off and an outdoor firepit is waiting! A light and bright master bedroom on the main is complete with luxury bath. A 2nd den and 2 BR on the lower level allow privacy. Numerous decks allow majestic mountain views.

Offered for $689,999. MLS 88315

Sky Valley Country Club
This 6BR/7BA grand home is perfect for a large family to make mountain memories or a vacation rental that would allow several couples to share. Located in a private and serene area in Sky Valley Country Club. Don't miss the “steal of the century,” priced at only $899,900! Bargain priced for superb quality and construction and over 6,000 heated square feet!

Offered for $800,000. MLS 90955

Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP
295 Dillard Road, Highlands
pat@patallenrealtygroup.com | julie@patallenrealtygroup.com
PatAllenRealtyGroup.com

Julie Osborn,
SFR, SRES, MBA
Broker

Pat Allen,
SFR, CLHMS
Broker-in-Charge
I was reminded recently of something we all learned as children; NEVER take anything for granted. We Americans have expectations. We have been conditioned to believe certain things are always going to be there. Water, for example.

We all know on some level that water is the fundamental essence of life. Things would be very bad if, all of a sudden, the water we expect to appear when we turn a faucet, or flush a toilet, wasn’t there. I could refer you to sub-Saharan Africa but many of us don’t really relate to how bad things are over there.

We were on vacation in Puerto Rico about twenty years ago. We enjoyed staying in Fajardo where the Caribbean meets the Atlantic. Lots of water there. In fact, much of Puerto Rico is a rain forest, not unlike the Nantahala where we live. Theirs is tropical, while ours is temperate. We had no idea that while we were enjoying ourselves the people living on the island were struggling through a hard drought. It became uncomfortably clear when those operating the hotel had to make a choice; keep the potable water running or keep the air-conditioning running.

They chose air-conditioning.

For two days we were without water for drinking, or bathing, or flushing. The hotel provided plenty of bottled water for drinking. We were on our own with regard to bathing; many of us used the fresh water pools to rinse off salt water from the sea. We coped but were both happy and enlightened when we came home. Neither of us could recall a time when we were without potable water for more than a few hours. It was a sobering experience and it left us concerned for those unfortunate residents of the island.

A couple of weeks ago we awoke to the scenario of having no water and not knowing why. We enjoy a typically safe, secure, reliable community-based water system. In rare circumstances, maintenance, for example, we’ve experienced a few hours of inconvenience. In this instance, the folks who monitor our system let us know that consumption for this time of year was uncharacteristically high; four times normal usage in fact! The storage tank, from which dozens of property owners dependably receive via gravity flow clean, fresh water from wells connected to underground springs, was nearly empty.

The pumping system, working at capacity, was still unable to keep up with outflow.

We had a leak somewhere in the system. A big one. And for a while the source of the leak could not be determined. Ultimately it was discovered, repaired, and all is now well.

Over eight years of living in Highlands I’ve learned that residents on the plateau obtain potable water from many origins. Remarkably, a small number still carry water directly from nearby creeks and streams to their homes. Some capture rainwater in cisterns or drill their own wells. Others connect to municipal sources, while many obtain water from community-based systems tapping into wells fed by underground springs.

Ever since Summer 2004 in Florida, when we lost water and power for nearly two weeks in the wake of Hurricane Charlie, I’ve been sensitive to everything involving water.

As a force of nature, water is virtually unparalleled. Pretty much every day national news reports on someplace in America where, following record rainfall, dams failed and rivers ignored dykes, levees and retaining walls, causing devastating flooding to nearby homes and neighborhoods.

I believe everyone, here and around the world, deserves access to safe, clean drinking water. In the grand scheme of things, clean water ranks above all else in our national and global hierarchy of needs. In the future, conflicts will occur over access to potable water. Water supplies are under constant threat from drought, decaying infrastructure, salt water intrusion in coastal regions, pollution due to land development, industrial neglect and bad acts, and even, dare I say it, terrorism.

When everything works as expected we let other things occupy the front spaces in our consciousness. In other words, we tend to take it for granted. But make no mistake. On those rare occasions when we find ourselves without water, for whatever reason, we all come face to face with what should be one of our darkest fears. It pays to remember what’s really important in life.

The day is coming, not tomorrow but perhaps sooner than we’d like to think, when we will no longer be able to take access to clean water for granted.
COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES
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Wonderful post and beam move-in condition with spectacular Blue Valley view. Open plan living room with fireplace, dining and kitchen. Upstairs is a master suite with large bath with soaking tub and shower. Lower level has a guest bedroom, bath, sitting room with laundry, and an additional office or overflow room. Large RV garage that is stubbed for possible studio or guest quarters. Offered at $650,000. mls #90675

Five/bed, five/bath home. The master bedroom balcony overlooks the diamond shaped pool and the lake. The basement has been converted into the ultimate play room, complete with a movie theater and a sauna. The fifth bedroom is in the adjacent apartment. The house sits on 28.48 acres and includes two houses on the other side of the lake – a 3-bedroom, 2 bath cottage with a hot tub and stocked fishing pond, and a one bed, one bath cottage with separate office and full kitchen and a half bath. Offered at $2,500,000. mls #90412

Spacious family home atop a small knoll on 2.5 acres with ridge line view with low maintenance yard. 4 bed, 3 and 1/2 baths, large office and 2-car garage. Emergency generator. In excellent condition. all paved access and in a great small subdivision. Offered at $760,000. mls #90687

Highlands Country Club on golf course. 3 bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths on main level and 2/1 on lower level. Detached garage and golf cart storage. Renovated kitchen. Beautiful lake views from two large patios. Living room, dining room, den and office on main level. New heat and air. Whole house generator and dehumidifier. On town water and sewer. Offered at $799,900. mls #90370

Great House at Highlands Falls Country Club. Recently renovated and in move-in condition, 3 bed 2 baths, 2-car garage, great decks that take advantage of the wooded and ridgeline views. Open plan with vaulted ceilings and a custom kitchen. Offered at $575,000. mls #90925

In Highlands Falls Country Club near the clubhouse, this 3 bed/3 bath home is in the Cotswolds. Vaulted ceilings, two-story glass, custom kitchen, large master suite, motion light switches. Large outdoor areas to enjoy the mountain vistas. 2-car garage. Offered at $1,375,000. mls #90157 Furnishings are available for purchase.

Located on a quiet street and sitting on a private lot, this 3 bedroom 3 bath has been lovingly and thoughtfully renovated and is move in ready. Bright open spaces in the main living area which opens onto a lovely Carolina Room with fireplace, screened to take in the fresh clean air that Highlands is noted for. 2 main floor bedrooms and an upper suite. A 2 car garage rounds out this wonderful package that will not be around long. Offered at $675,000. mls #90924

Located on a private dead end lane, this 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home is in the Cotswolds. Vaulted ceilings, two-story glass, custom kitchen, large master suite, motion light switches. Large outdoor areas to enjoy the mountain vistas. 2-car garage. Offered at $1,375,000. mls #90157 Furnishings are available for purchase.

Brand new and walk to town from Wilson Road this 3 bedrooms (with 2 master suites) 3.5 bath home with garage, outdoor porch and lovely stream. Lots of storage over garage and inside climatized storage off upstairs master suite. Separate upstairs and downstairs HVAC. Foam insulation. Fully enclosed crawl space with concrete floor, creek in back yard. Offered at $995,000. mls #90425

Completely remodeled home close to town in coveted Mirror Lake area! 2 bedroom 2 bath, beautiful kitchen, living area with stone fireplace. Outdoor living area with fireplace. Garage. Just bring your personal touches. Offered at $459,000. mls #90682

Located on a quiet street and sitting on a private lot, this 3 bedroom 3 bath has been lovingly and thoughtfully renovated and is move in ready. Bright open spaces in the main living area which opens onto a lovely Carolina Room with fireplace, screened to take in the fresh clean air that Highlands is noted for. 2 main floor bedrooms and an upper suite. A 2 car garage rounds out this wonderful package that will not be around long. Offered at $675,000. mls #90924

Walkingstick Road. Looking for a small cabin with great view, this cabin lives large with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, and is pleasant with a porch and a wall of glass in the living room to enjoy the view of Sagee and Blackrock mountains. This house is in good condition and is at a price that won't break the bank. Offered at $339,900. mls #90192

With 1.22+/- acres this beautiful property includes over 200 feet of frontage on boldly rushing Buck Creek. Tastefully finished 2 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment (over a 2-car garage). Offered at $360,000. mls #90408. The 1.22 +/- acre lot next door is also available for $150,000. mls #90409

Wilson Road. Wonderful flat lot and walk to town with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a 2 car garage, wood floors, heated tile master bath, generator. Lush rhododendron in back and sides for privacy. Oil furnace with wood stove backup to keep you warm. Offered at $699,000. mls #90636

3BR/2BA in Highlands Falls Country Club with open floor plan. Updated with hickory hardwood flooring throughout, matching Jenn-Air stainless kitchen package, new paint inside and out, new roof, decking and railing. Has ample parking and a great view of the 12th green! Encapsulated crawl space completed in 2019. All on one level, vaulted ceilings in living room with a stone wood-burning fireplace with insert and heatlatch. Sold completely furnished including golf cart and new outdoor furniture. Double attached garage. Private screened porch off the dining area. $499,000. mls #90513
A high school and college student during most of the Vietnam War, I was consumed by the drill team, dating, and studying—not the nightly news. It’s only since I’ve known my Vietnam veteran husband that I’ve learned more about the war and the toll it took on our troops and the fabric of our country.

I was blissfully ignorant of the military and political battles waged back then, though I’ve since learned lots about both via movies, documentaries, and books. “Pac 0: A General’s Decision” is a documentary about Linebacker II, the Christmas 1972 mission, credited with bringing the North Vietnamese back to the negotiating table after talks had stalled earlier that year.

Linebacker I was the U.S. response to the Vietnamese Army’s 1972 Easter Offensive. That response brought the enemy to the negotiating table, but by December, President Nixon, frustrated and determined to get them to negotiate in good faith, ordered his Joint Chiefs of Staff to initiate three days of B-52/Tacair strikes on December 18, 1972, with the objective: “maximum destruction of selected targets.” They were told to be prepared to go longer.

The mission was ultimately successful in restarting the peace talks which led to the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and the release of our POWs—some of whom had been held in inhumane and torturous conditions for more than seven years—but it started out disastrously for our B-52s and our airmen. Fifteen B-52s were shot down by over 1,000 Surface-to-Air missiles (SAMs). Of the 92 B-52 crew members who went down, 33 died, 34 were captured, and 26 were rescued. For details on the tactics that led to those losses, you can view the film at https://vimeo.com/195186849 and read the story on https://www.historynet.com/the-11-day-war.htm and http://www.linebacker2.com/-.php.

This film, though, is about much more than military tactics and bravery in battle. It’s the story of one man’s integrity—one man making a difference, one man standing up to do the right thing. It’s the story of Brigadier Glenn R. Sullivan’s fateful decision to jump the chain of command, a decision that saved the lives of untold crew members and enabled the mission to be successful and to accomplish its overarching objective—get the talks going in earnest.

That decision cost General Sullivan his career, an outcome he would have been well aware of even as he took action to alter the dismal trajectory of the original tactics. Despite his leadership and his role in turning things around, he was denied a second star and retired two years later.

Like me, the General’s son was a typical self-absorbed college student during the war, with little understanding of his father’s involvement. This film, then, is also the story of that son and his search for an understanding of his father’s role. The General died in 1998, and now 20 years later, this film honors not only those who gave their all but also one man who sacrificed the career he loved to do the right thing.

When Barry Dycus approached G. Ray Sullivan, the General’s son, about making this film, Ray was reluctant because he knew his father wouldn’t want his story to be the focus. Though it speaks to the respect the men had for General Sullivan, It’s a well-balanced piece that allows those who fought and survived to express their perspectives on what B-52 aircrews came to call the “11-Day War.”

The film was produced by Barry and Ray with the help of donations from veterans and civic groups. Their goal is to have it shown on a broadcast channel like the American Heroes Channel. Ray, who lives in LaGrange, has presented to civic and veterans groups around the country and would be happy to visit your group to do the same. Contact him at zenphoto@mindspring.com.

Stories like this serve to remind me of the true meaning of Memorial Day—a day to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Wherever you may be on May 27, pausing at 3 PM local time for a National Moment of Remembrance is one small way to remember their sacrifice.

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, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.
Doris was predeceased by husbands, George Victor Kearse, Jr., Harry E Long and Louis Hixon Smith, Jr. She is survived by a sister, Shirley M Shipston of Worthington, OH; son, Mark R. Kearse (Lynda) of Casa Grande, AZ; daughter, Cheryl K. Combs (Floyd) of Clemson, SC; stepdaughter, Elizabeth Anne Smith Conte (Chet); granddaughter, Jo-Elle K. Wade of Holly Hill, FL; niece, Judith S. Keener (Joe) of Worthington, OH; and nephew, Richard Shipston of Belleview, FL. Per her request, no funeral or memorial services will be held. Bryant Grant Funeral Home, of Franklin, NC, is handling her interment. Condolences may be registered with them at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Join American Legion Post 370 of Highlands this Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 for a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Highlands Veterans Plaza in front of the Police Station on Oak Street honoring the nation’s veterans. Mayor Pat Taylor will raise the flag and Post Commander Ed McCloskey will make a few brief remarks. Forty-two veterans whose bricks have been added to the Walk of Honor will be acknowledged. The Walk of Honor is a brick path through the Veterans Plaza. The names of veterans are inscribed on the individual’s brick. There are currently 252 inscribed bricks installed with a landscape designed for hundreds more. If anyone would like to purchase a brick in honor or in memory of a veteran, forms are available in the new “Silent Salesman” at the Veterans Plaza, Memorial Day is a day to remember those, past and present, who have given of themselves to help secure and maintain the freedoms Americans enjoy as a nation. Ceremony held rain or shine.

...OBITUARY continued from page 2

shiers Hospital Auxiliary, the Sapphire Chapter of the American Needlepoint Council, and the United Methodist Church.

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Highlands Events

Ongoing
- Movies at the Playhouse – NEW SCHEDULE – Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 and 4 p.m; NO MOVIES MONDAY; Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 1, 4, 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 / $2 off on Tuesdays.
- 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
- Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.
- Fibber Magee’s Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays
- Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men’s Mtg at 7p.

Monads
- At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.
- Mon. & Thurs.
- The Joy Program at HUMC 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.
- Mon.-Wed.
- Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.
- Mon., Wed., Fri.
- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.
- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:30 a.m. All levels welcome.
- Mon., Wed., Thurs.
- Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm
- Tuesdays
- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg at 6p.
- The Highlands Writers Group meets every Tuesday, 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at the Bascom Center for the Visual Arts. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.
- The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.
- 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 Indvsisible 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
- At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner – Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays – Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit www.cbchighlands.com for class schedule.
- 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
- Beginning June 6 through July 18, The Church of the Incarnation announces that a Grief Support Group will be offered on Thursdays, from 4 – 5:30, beginning June 6 through July 18. The group will not meet on July 4th. The purpose of the group is to offer support for those suffering from life transitions, such as terminal illness, death of family or close friend, miscarriage, and relationship or job loss.
- 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.
- 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

See EVENTS page 15
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-Sun, May 23-26
- HCP presents “Calendar Girls” at Highlands Performing Arts Center Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Tickets will be available Thursday, May 23. Box office is 828-526-8084, website highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Thurs., May 22
- Please join us at Highlands Cemetery as we place USA flags on veteran’s graves in observance of Memorial Day. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please contact Phil Potts 828-200-9753 or ppotts63@frontier.com for more information.

See EVENTS page 18
Come kick off summer with us! Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

At Carolina Way
Lighting
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Memorial Weekend SALE
May 24 - 28
20% Off Storewide
(does not include Brighton)

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...EVENTS continued from page 15

more information.

Fri., May 24
- Operation Medicine Drop at the Crawford Senior Center Friday, from 8am – noon at 108 Wayah Street. Drop off outdated or unused prescription/over-the-counter medicine for proper disposal.

Sat., May 25
- Scaly Mountain Women’s Club Pancake Breakfast 8-10:30a in the Old Scaly School House on the corner of Buck Knob and NC 106. $4 for 5 and up. Free for under 5. No household pays more than $25.
- The Mountain Garden Club PLANT SALE at the town ballpark 9a to noon. Rain Date: Sun., May 26
- Highlands School graduation is Saturday, at 5 p.m. in Highlands School new gym.

Sun., May 26
- Season hymn-singing begins at Church in the Wildwood from 7-8 p.m. for more information, call 828-506-0125.
- Join American Legion Post 370 of Highlands this Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 for a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Highlands Veterans Plaza in front of the Police Station on Oak Street honoring our nation’s veterans. Mayor Pat Taylor will raise the flag and Post Commander Ed McCloskey will make a few brief remarks. Forty-two veterans whose bricks have been added to the Walk of Honor will be acknowledged. Rain or Shine.

Tues., May 28

Wed., May 29
- At CLE, If at First (and again and again) You Don’t Succeed: Miguel de Cervantes and the World of Don Quixote. Time: 10-12 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Santiago Garcia-Castanon. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is $25 for members/$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

Thurs., May 30
- At CLE, Southern Appalachia and the Atomic Bomb Time: 10-12 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Kelley Dinkelmeier. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is $25 for members/$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!
- At CLE, From Curing Cancer to Covert Espionage: How Nanotechnology is Changing the World Time: 10-12 Cost $25/$35 Presenter: Channa DeSilva. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is $25 for members/$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

Fri., May 31
- Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library from 11a to noon.

Thurs.-Sun., May 30-June 2
- HCP presents “Calendar Girls” at Highlands Performing Arts Center. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Box office is 828-526-8084, website highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Thurs.-Sun., June 6-9
- From Thursday, through Sunday, it’s the 12th annual Highlands Motoring Festival. Thursday, is the opening event – Monte Carlo Night at HFCC. From 6pm to 10pm. Food, beverage, and gaming. At the end of the evening, items donated by local merchants will be auctioned off. On Friday, the Festival’s “One Lap of the Mountains” driving tour leaves Highlands in the morning for a day of driving a curated route on special roads of WNC. It’s sold out. On Friday evening it’s a Parade of Main Street beginning at Kelsey Hutchinson Park at 5:30pm. A procession of classic and modern exotic cars will leave the Park at 6pm. Upon returning to the Park, there is a Welcome Party at the High Dive until 8 p.m. The Festival’s main event, “Cars in the Park” opens to the public at 10am on Saturday, with more than 100 classic cars on display. On Sunday, in Wright Square from 8am to 12pm there is an unjudged event. It is open to the public and free of charge.
Your attitude and your health are intertwined.

The biggest impediment most people encounter in starting or maintaining a regular exercise program, is in their mind.

For many of you exercise is not fun, and you avoid it. For others a regular exercise program just takes up too much time.

Why is that? If you ask almost anyone if exercise is good for them the response is usually a resounding yes.

It is now common knowledge that something as simple as walking 30 minutes can have a significantly positive effect on blood pressure, circulation, joint pain, stress and even aid us in obtaining better sleep patterns.

The same effect can be obtained by riding a bicycle, swimming, playing tennis or pickle ball and walking the golf course instead of spending most of the time in a cart.

Taking the time two to three times per week to moderately fatigue the major muscle groups in your hips, legs, arms and shoulders can help keep your muscles from atrophying.

Some of the things I mentioned are enjoyable to most people and some of them are not. The benefits of all of them however are immense.

I personally have never actually enjoyed the act of weight-lifting or strength training but have enjoyed the benefits this process has given me for over 40 years. I continue to push my muscles to fatigue several times a week because I believe that I have in many ways found the Fountain of Youth.

Many of my clients are on the same page. I have been told repeatedly that the reason they hired a trainer is that they will not keep a regular program up on their own.

Recently a client who works full-time, strength trains under my guidance, plays pickle ball, hikes, and is now also attending an adult ballet exercise class told me how she motivates herself.

She told me that in the hour before she comes for her workout that she mentally tells herself, “I am about to do something very good for myself. After I exercise, I will feel great and be healthier and happier.” She explained to me that since she began doing this, her ability to push a little harder has improved and also that she actually looks forward to not only the benefits of working out but also the process!

If you are finding it difficult to either start or maintain a regular fitness program, then maybe you can try a similar approach. Take a moment and mentally tell yourself how good you will feel after you work out and how much better life can be when you are physically fit. You know the benefits; you know that exercise is medicine. You know exercise is probably the most powerful medicine available. Exercising can keep you younger and may even increase your life span. Think about it. Think about it. Think about it!

• 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.
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HCP’s ‘Calendar Girls’ opens May 23

Six of the 10 women who perform in The Highlands Cashiers Players production of Calendar Girls by Tim Firth have bravely set aside any reservations they might have about seeming to be partially nude to bring to our area the charming, humorous, and hugely popular British comedy.

Calendar Girls was originally a 2003 British film, adapted as a play by Tim Firth in 2008. It is based on a true story of a group of middle-aged Yorkshire women who posed semi-nude to produce a calendar to raise money for Leukemia research, winning permission from the usually staid and proper Women’s Institute (the WI) in 1999 after the death from cancer of a member’s husband. While not a laugh-out-loud comedy, the wonderfully dry British humor provides plenty of amusement for the audience interspersed with occasional tears.

Directed by Ricky Siegel, the HCP cast includes experienced actors Jamie Thomas, Lynleigh McLean, Robin Phillips, Barbara Werder, Sue Feldkamp, Vangie Rich, Donna Cochran, and Rachel Fiesel as well as newcomers to the HCP stage Kaye McHan and Pam Sharpe. The men are David Spivey, Ron Leslie, Ken Knight, and newcomer Pastor Randy Lucas.

Calendar Girls opens at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, on Thursday, May 23. There will be eight performances over two weeks: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and two Sunday matinees on May 26 and June 2 beginning at 2:30. Tickets are $23.50. For season subscribers, it’s the final play of HCP’s 24th season. For tickets leave a message at the box office number for a call back, 828-526-8084, or go on-line to HCP’s website, highlands cashiersplayers.org.

EXPERIENCE

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Community groups honored for upgrading student experience at Highlands School

“No school or school system can be successful without the support of its community,” said MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Baldwin at Monday night’s Board of Education meeting in Highlands. “Highlands and Macon County are very fortunate to have the support of two groups: The Literacy Council and Advance Highlands Education (AHEC).”

Thanks to those two groups and other donors, each student K-5th grade got the latest iPad with a cover. The Williams Foundation started the ball rolling with a $33,600 donation to The Literacy Council for 117 iPads for grades K-3. The Swift Foundation donated money for the covers as well as iPads for 4th grade students and Jim Kneisley and his partner Highlands 3rd grade teacher Cindy Henderson, donated money to buy iPads for the 5th grade.

Media Director Ms. Stamey said now students in K-8th grades no longer have to share 30 old iPads.

“AHEC’s mission is to enhance Highlands School to give students the best chance to succeed when they leave here,” said AHEC member Derek Taylor who has committed $50,000.

With $100,000 in commitments, AHEC’s goal is to also provide funds for teachers in their classrooms.
The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation seeks to address social determinants of health that uniquely challenge our surrounding communities. We believe in investing in programs that offer constructive solutions and measurable improvements for healthy living. We want to partner with your organization to keep our communities strong and vibrant for years to come.

Building Healthy Communities

Apply Today!

Grant applications available through June 15
Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is now accepting grant applications online www.hchealthfnd.org

Grant applications available through June 15
Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is now accepting grant applications online www.hchealthfnd.org

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING THESE FOCUS AREAS

Access to Healthcare
Education Initiatives
Community Vitality
Economic Stability

Given our mountainous terrain and population demographics, access to care plays a vital role in supporting healthy and strong communities. We welcome proposals that involve emergency and public transportation, indigent care, behavioral health, physician recruitment and retention.

The attainment of education is one of the highest factors in predicting good health. We welcome proposals to advance technologies for academic enrichment, reduce k-12 absenteeism, improve student access to health and counselor professionals, teacher development and retention, early childhood learning and literacy improvement for all ages.

There are numerous opportunities for manifesting healthful mountain living. We welcome proposals for community initiatives to promote healthy, active lifestyles, community health screenings, broadband access and substance abuse prevention programs.

Affordable housing initiatives and food insecurity are among the most critical needs to be addressed for a sustainable economy.

For more information please visit our website: www.hchealthfnd.org Email: info@hchealthfnd.org
...PLANNING continued from page 1

Board meeting, Town Manager Josh Ward announced that the town had hired Michael Mathis of Franklin to be the Assistant Planning Director-In Training.”

Town Manager Ward has been Acting Town Planner since Bowen left. Ward started his Highlands career in that department more than a decade ago, working his way up to Town Planner, then went to Bryson City to be Town Manager. In December 2016 he returned as Highlands Town Manager. Since he was Town Planner he can groom Mathis for the job.

Last Thursday, Ward said he believes Mathis is a good fit for the planner job. “We were looking for someone who was young and would stick around,” he said.

Which is exactly what Mathis, 23, has in mind. “If you get a good job like this, you also enable him to be close to home and family,” said Mathis. “While I was going through school I was laid off and the citizens of North Carolina put me through school. So, I figured this is my chance to give back.”

Mathis said the job in Highlands will also enable him to be close to home and family.

“Plus, this is a great team to work with,” he said.

For the first few days of his first week he has been accompanying Ward around Highlands getting a feel for the day-to-day operations of the department.

His salary is $40,000 with benefits.

– Kim Lewicki & Brian O'Shea

Advanced Fiber to the Premise Broadband Network to serve 100% of residential, business and other service points within the town limits. Once constructed, Wide Open Networks will be the single firm to accomplish all services.

This is a major part of the FY 2019-'20 budget which will be adopted following a public hearing scheduled for the June Town Board meeting.

FY 2019-20 budget

The overall FY 2019-'20 budget has revenues and expenditures totaling $28,640,484. The ad valorem tax rate remains at 1.64 cents per $100 valuation. The tax rate still include .015 earmarked for recreation capital projects, which is scheduled to sunset June 30 of 2020. The valuations are determined by the Macon and Jackson counties Tax Departments. The rate is based on an approximate in-town property valuation of $1,816,000,000.

All other revenues are projected to be stable with a continued strong Local Option Sales Tax distribution.

The Fire Tax rate will increase from 1 cent to 3 cents per $100 valuation to construct a new fire department main station.

The charges for electrical and sanitation services remain unchanged.

The water/sewer rates will increase effective July 1, 2019 by $2 – from $35 for up to 2,500 gallons used to $37 – to balance the operational budget for those departments. Outside town limits services will remain double the in-town rate.

To present a balanced budget, $660,692 was appropriated from the undesignated General Fund Balance and $1,495,670 was appropriated from the electric reserve fund for a combined total of $2,156,362.

Currently, the current General Fund Balance is approximately $4,000,000; the current General Fund Reserve Balance is approximately $3,800,000; the current Electric Reserve Fund Balance is approximately $4,000,000.

“The Town’s undesignated General Fund Balance remains strong, and with the exception of the Sanitation Department, all Enterprise Funds are stable and covering their operating costs,” said Ward.

Ward said sanitation fees may increase next fiscal year after staff determines how to offset department overtime.

Hickory Hill Road speed limit

Commissioner Brian Steihler brought the speed limit on Hickory Hill Road to the board because the posted 25 mph is actually too fast for the road which is also hard to navigate due to its condition.

• See FINALIZED page 30
I am mesmerized by maps. As a kid, I used to open the centerfold (not that one) of National Geographic Magazine every month. It was a map, suitable for hanging on my wall next to the Mickey Mantle poster.

Highlands wouldn’t even be on the map if it weren’t for its geographical significance. If you draw a line between Savannah, GA and Chicago, IL and another between New Orleans, LA and New York City, NY; where the lines intersect, that’s us. Highlands, NC, USA, planned as the major trade route and population center in the eastern United States. Wrong!

It’s sad that only 10 states require a geography course in order to graduate from high school. But have no fear, Generation Z is studying culinary arts, cosmetology, and yes, even basket-weaving at some far-out high schools. God help us!

But the Big 3, Geography, Topography, and Cartography certainly factor into Real Estate decisions here on the Plateau.

The geographical choices are endless as you consider moving here. From Scaly-to-Sapphire and Glenville-to-Horse Cove you have the world to choose from. We hear it all the time. “Close to town,” “I want a view,” “Give me water,” and “On a golf course” readily become Buyer priorities.

The key is to find the property that best suits your lifestyle and choices. Perhaps you long for that mountain cottage. In that case Highlands Country Club, Mirror Lake, and Lancewood fill the bill. If big views are your style, areas like Ravenel, Whiteside Cove, and Big Sheepcliff, could offer a mountain range and a price range within your budget range.

Attention all Golfers, Tom Fazio’s fingerprints are all over these hills having designed Wade Hampton, Mountaintop Golf, and now the newly created High Hampton. You’ll soon have that Golfer’s Farmer’s tan around your ankles.

Part of the thought process is choosing a “style” of home that truly befits the property you’re considering. Over the years, architects from the southern region have served their clients in Highlands well, designing residences that really match the topography and geography. Guys like Jim Fox and Joe Webb. Google Keith Summerour sometime and see what he’s accomplished here, beginning with the Wendy’s in Cashiers and progressing to the Old Edwards Inn in Highlands.

Modern day “locals” like Jeffrey Owens continue to design amazing spaces in Highlands and beyond. And who can forget the late, great, Tommy Chambers, an artisan restoration genius who contributed so much to preserving Joe Webb cabins and who chose to use local stone and reclaimed materials to create some timeless environments.

Be sure to factor in Topography as you search. With the winter snowfalls and ice events you’ll want to make sure you can drive to your chosen geography (hint: all-wheel drive and then some). Don’t forget the wind. You “Type A’s” out there will not be able to control it. If you looked at that cliff-side retreat on a calm idyllic spring morning, the gales of November may have you feeling like Mary Poppins.

Think Geography, Topography, and Cartography as you dream of being here. Next, go buy a map and get lost for awhile!

Pat and Deborah (aka Bee) Gleeson and their dog Gemma can be found at White Oak Realty Group, located in downtown Highlands on 4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn. White Oak Realty Group, founded in 2009 by Susie deVille, a leading boutique brokerage firm on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach Pat, Bee, or Susie at 828.526.8118.

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First I want to thank the Highlands Newspaper for including “Spiritually Speaking” in its lineup. Because the truth is, we tend to forget all we do that originates from our spirit. To go to work, you need to think about it and make the decision to go to work. Your decision to go to work or not is a spiritual exercise. So, I think that the column is praise-worthy and commendable.

To understand my line of thought I would refer to Hebrews 4: 12-13: “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

This is what I mean when I quote from the Scriptures.

Also, I believe that the Bible is more scientific than science. God creates and science studies. Science does not create. Science discovers some ways and means nature work.

Amazing Grace of Easter

There is this story of two friends who graduated from the same university with the same degrees and were hired to teach in the local school of their hometown. They teach the same grade with two classes. Let us call one Teacher A and the other Teacher B. Teacher A continued to teach the students the same lessons he prepared the first year. Students passed from their grade to the next for 10 years the students the same lessons he prepared the first year.

For Teacher B, every year he reviewed his lessons and added and removed a little bit, year after year for 10 years. He created. Science discovers some ways and means nature work.

The book of Revelation 21:1-4 calls it a “new heaven and new earth.”

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For Teacher B, every year he reviewed his lessons and added and removed a little bit, year after year for 10 years. By the end of 10 years he discovered that what he taught in the first year was different than what he taught the students in the tenth year. This means that he had 10 years experience as a teacher. While his friend Teacher A had one year experience 10 times. Mark the difference.

If you read “Transfiguration” account of Mathew’s (Mt. 17:13) Jesus warned his disciples, Peter, James and John not to tell anybody about the Transfiguration experience until he has risen from the dead - the extra-ordinary Easter event.

It was after the resurrection, that the EASTER experience of the disciples Peter, James and John began to sink in with the meaning of Transfiguration. Then, they began to understand more fully the powerful event of resurrection. Their faith in the mystery of resurrection began to grow. The amazing grace of Easter.

The book of Revelation 21:1-4 calls it a “new heav-
en and a new earth…” and that the first earth has passed away, and the sea was no more. Easter is the sign of the new heaven and the new earth of the kingdom of God in our modern times. It cannot be over emphasized. We are living in the world bought and redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:24 tells us, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,[c] that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. “

Challenge

Just as Jesus challenged Peter and his friends James and John to wait after his resurrection to understand the meaning of transfiguration, so we are challenged to spread the kingdom of God on earth.

Do not forget the Peter said that such a thing like death on the cross will never happen to Jesus when Christ first predicted his death on the cross. The Scriptures says then Jesus turned to Peter and rebuked him and said, “Get behind me Satan. You are a hindrance to me: for you are not on the side of God, but of men.” (Mt. 16:23). So, if you think the challenge is easy or unreal you are mistaken. It is very difficult, but with God NO-THING is impossible. Some body once said, “Do not tell God how big your problem is, RATHER tell you problems how big your God is.” By this he means, the Jesus of the Cross, the Jesus of Resurrection, and the Jesus of Easter mystery.

The question is: if you are a Christian, what type of Christian are you? Are you a type A Christian who just get enrolled in the Church, and stayed like Teacher A in your Christian life Or like Teacher B type of Christian who keeps renewing and improving his life according to the kingdom of God. This is what our world needs today for survival. We can no longer allow the forces of darkness to overwhelm us.

Prayer of Christ

It is now left for us to work to realize the fervent prayer and wish of Christ, “I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (RSVCE), (Jn. 17:20-21).

This will not only bring Christian unity but also the amazing gift of Easter – heaven on earth. The reign of the kingdom of God. Where there is no darkness and Jesus Christ is the Light, the Way, the Truth and the Life. All rolled in One.

Mountain Garden Club annual Plant Sale is Sat., May 25 at the ballpark

Please plan to attend the 37th annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale. Always the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. The focus of this three-hour sale from 9a to noon at the ballpark on Hickory and US 64 east is “Save the Bees” so there will be plenty of native pollinator plants that will beautify your landscape while helping the bees at the same time. Proceeds from the sale benefit youth gardener activities at Highlands School, college scholarships, garden therapy at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center and more. Some of the recipients of the club’s generosity are always on hand to volunteer at the sale as well as all club members, partners, spouses and friends of Mountain Garden Club. Each of these plants were dug from private residences in Highlands and have been potted and nurtured by club members. Look for hostas, ferns, show-stopping dahlias and much more.

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