

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 19

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, May 9, 2019

National Nurses Week May 6-12

VA Hospital nurse Rawlins awarded \$25,000 for VR therapy research

One of our own, Caitlin Rawlins, Highlands School Salutatorian Class of 2004 and an RN at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant

to continue her research into using Virtual Reality therapy to help al-

• See **RAWLINS** page 11

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Class of 2019 Val & Sal named



The class of 2019 Valedictorian is Jesus Damiano Clemente and the Salutatorian is Grace Crowe. Both started as kindergarteners at Highlands School, though Crowe spent 5th grade in Franklin before returning to Highlands. Jesus will be attending UNC Charlotte to study political science on the road to becoming a lawyer. Crowe will be attending Western Carolina University where she will study accounting. Pictured from left is Crowe, HS Principal Brian Jetter and Clemente. – Photo by Kim Lewicki

Finance Committee considers rate increases

At last Thursday's Special Called Town Board meeting commissioners agreed to the loan terms for financing the fiber network construction.

The \$4.6 million for the project is being financed with a loan through BB&T. Discussion also included hiring Service Electric Company to complete the make-ready work estimated to cost \$133,700. Work mainly entails fixing drip lines which are scattered throughout the existing system.

With the season here, getting to the 200+ poles that need tending will take a while because they are scattered – rather than being in a straight line – and flagmen will have to be positioned so workmen can negotiate traffic. Work is expected to take eight weeks, but a firm start date hadn't been determined.

During the Finance Com-

• See **RATE** page 13

King and Queen for the night!



At the 2019 Junior/Senior Prom held Friday, May 3 at Old Edwards Cove, seniors Hannah Holt and Drew Charlker were named King and Queen.

– Photo by Sunset Staff

First Citizens Bank and Entegra announce merger

First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company (First Citizens Bank) and Entegra Financial Corp. (Entegra) have signed a definitive merger agreement. Entegra provides deposit and loan services through its subsidiary, Entegra Bank.

The agreement provides for the acquisition of Franklin, N.C.-

based Entegra Financial Corp. by First Citizens Bank, which is headquartered in Raleigh, N.C.

The announcement was made jointly by Frank B. Holding Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of First Citizens Bank, and Roger Plemens, president

• See **MERGER** page 8

AHEC secures funding for HS 5th grade IPADS

As part of their initiative to strengthen technology materials at Highlands School, the Advance Highlands Education Committee

(AHEC) announced the full funding and placement of iPads for the entire Fifth Grade class.

• See **IPADS** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Change is inevitable

The times they are a changing, even in Highlands. Some changes will be good, some bad and some have yet to be determined. Let me review several changes.

Some changes are not decided at the local level, but rather by national trends. For instance, the closing of PNC, the closing of Bank of America and the merging of Entegra and First Citizens is not just a local decision. Across the country folks have stopped using branch banks. Phone books and Yellow Pages are history. The post office has changed in order to survive. New businesses have been created to meet new demands in advertising and package delivery. Highlands is not immune from emerging, national trends.

One local change has been in the closure of several restaurants and the opening of others. Is this phenomena an ominous sign concerning the local economy? Not really. I once heard Mike Thompson present a history of the Highlands restaurant business. Mike reviewed an unbelievably long list of restaurants that have opened and closed. These latest closures are simply



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

a part of an ongoing history and business cycle.

There are several new storefront changes on Main Street. Photographs from the 1980s or '90s reveal that changes in the downtown scape have continually taken place.

One Main Street change, the way downtown visitors on our public sidewalks are now being engaged by a few merchants, is problematic. I do not think our Main Street should operate like a

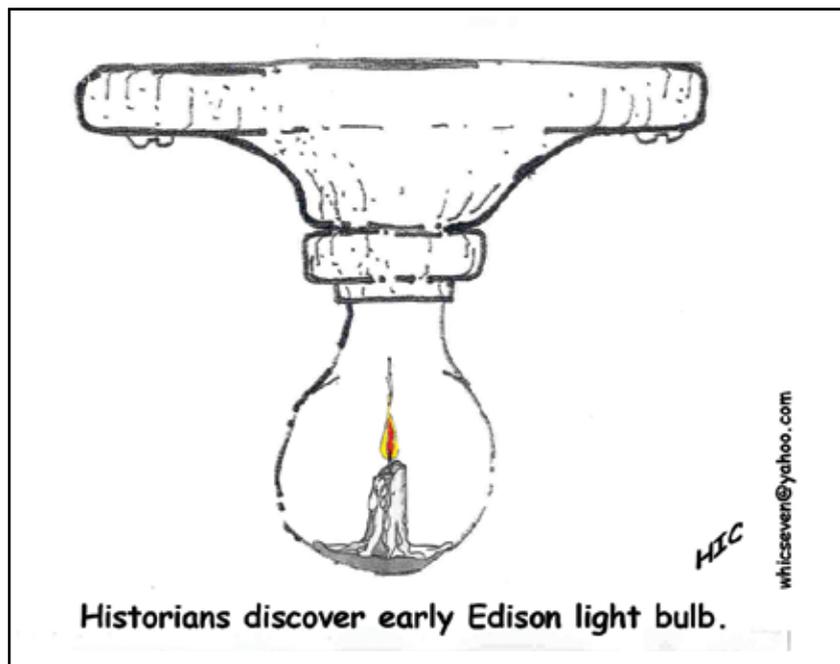
metropolitan shopping mall, nor a midway with carnival barkers hawking merchandise. Our business community and elective officials need to again review such practices to determine what is best for the business district, our residents, and visitors.

Some impending changes will impact our entire community. One major change will be the operation of the sanitation department. The first change is underway. The new bear proof street cans currently being installed. The next change will be the transition to using more bear-resistant toters in the commercial districts. This change, as well as a later transition to bear-resistant toters in residential areas, will require change and cooperation from all residents. The bear problem and the health and safety of our sanitation workers drive these necessary changes.

Outcomes from some recent changes, like the Mission HCA conversion, remain to be determined. The best possible outcome for our hospital will be driven by community support and our use of the facilities and services. The formation of the Highlands Cashiers Foundation is a change that has tremendous potential to impact the health and wellness of this area.

Finally, there are pending changes coming from Raleigh that will not be good. HB 971 would close our ABC store and privatize the sale of spirituous liquor, aka alcohol. The more than 430 state-operated ABC stores would be replaced with 1,500 private stores. This legislation is a bad idea. HB 645 and SB 534 propose changes to billboard laws. Local billboard ordinances would be preempted. I will inform our representatives that I am against these changes.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• LETTER •

Do something about motorcycle noise

Dear Editor:

The broader authority that the Town Board of Commissioners recently gave the Highlands Police Department to deal with "nuisance dogs" is a welcome move. However, many other home owners, as well as businesses and visitors, wish that the Mayor and Town Board would deal with a much more egregious nuisance; that is motorcycle noise pollution.

There is certainly no harm, no foul in folks enjoying the mountain roads on motorcycles. But, the pleasure enjoyed by each individual cyclist should certainly not have to come at the cost of shattering the peace, tranquility, and serenity enjoyed by everyone else --- both humans and other animals. Of course, the deafening noise is bad enough when close by (especially downtown), but in our mountain valleys and on the hillsides, the roar echoes and reverberates for miles. And, this problem is becoming worse and worse.

Again, without intending to intrude upon anyone's right and enjoyment to ride a motorcycle, on behalf of myself and all of those who love Highlands, I implore the Mayor and Town Board to deal with this issue. Certainly, some ordinance could be enacted requiring mufflers within the city limits.

Blake Lisenby
Highlands, Atlanta

• WEATHER •

	Friday 5/10		Saturday 5/11		Sunday 5/12	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	71 F	56 F	65 F	56 F	65 F	48 F
RealFeel [®]	73 F	61 F	71 F	56 F	68 F	55 F
Winds	4 g 6	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5	5 g 9	4 g 6
T-Storms	55%	40%	46%	40%	42%	40%
Rainfall	0.1	0.2	0.47	0.3	1.52	0.04
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to
www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

Highlands Newspaper

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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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.



Elevated Living in Highlands Country Club

No expense was spared in the quality of materials and craftsmanship of this gorgeous home! From the beautiful landscaping to the stone porches and terrace to exquisite finishes, luxury greets you at every turn. The elegant living room with high, coffered ceilings and a stone fireplace with carved custom mantle are reminiscent of a Scottish manor house. The great room boasts a large two-story stone fireplace and cathedral wood ceiling with a custom crafted

antler chandelier. A wall of stone and glass doors leads onto the covered porch that has stone flooring and another floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace; it provides amazing panoramic views

This idyllic retreat was designed with luxurious relaxation in mind. You will never want to leave!

6BR/5.5BA | \$5,000,000

of Satulah, Whiteside, and Shortoff mountains as well as Blue Valley. An custom bar in the corner of the room offers easy access to the kitchen. The kitchen includes a large walk-in pantry and wood island with seating. The spacious dining room is ideal for entertaining and has walls of windows that overlook the beautiful yard and a stone terrace that offers an outdoor kitchen, hidden waterfall, and another stone fireplace. There are two gracious master suites that include stunning spa-styled baths and private sitting rooms. En suite guest rooms, a bunk room for the kiddos and a theatre room complete the picture.



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MLS# 90726 | Offered for \$3,325,000

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB Completely renovated, the home sits at the top of the Brushy Face Ridge at an elevation of over 4,200' with amazing panoramic views of Whiteside Mountain and beyond. No expense was spared when the home was restyled in 2016 with top of the line Thermador appliances, dual fuel HVAC, Rinnai tankless hot water heaters and more. With 12 foot ceilings and large rooms, the home feels extra spacious and perfect for entertaining an intimate group or a large crowd.

MLS# 90776 | Offered for \$2,950,000

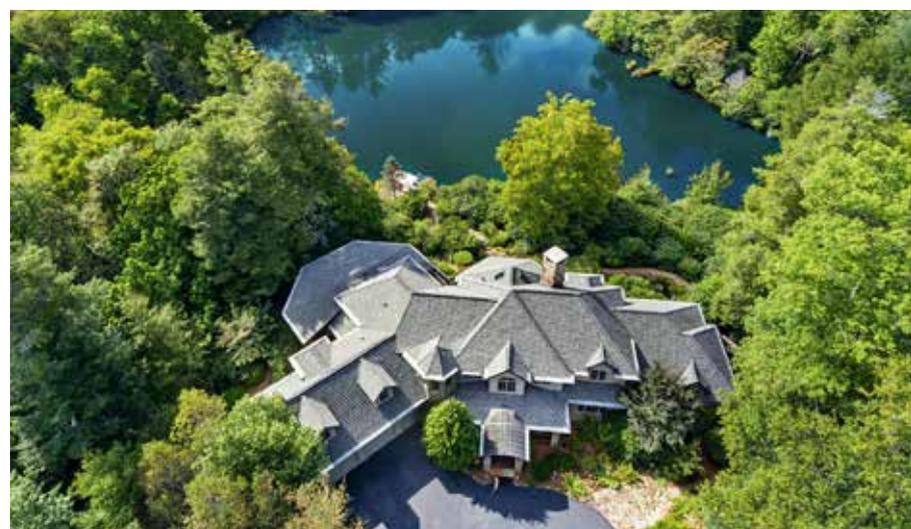


RAVENEL RIDGE You'll love the babbling sound of the water feature that flows through the stone driveway and is visible from the kitchen window. This 4BR/5.5BA bath home has spectacular views of a range of 30 mountains, including Satulah, Little Bear Pen and Shortoff, as well as overlooking downtown Highlands. It's a perfect home for entertaining, with its covered screened outdoor living space with its own stone fireplace for enjoying the cool evenings and spectacular sunsets.

MLS# 90266 | Offered for \$3,057,000

CULLASAJA CLUB This incredible luxury home is sited on Lake Ravenel with 350' of water frontage. The living room ceiling soars two stories with a floor-to-ceiling native stone fireplace, a wall of glass which opens the room to the spacious covered deck, and a built-in bookcase. The polished heart pine floorboards throughout give this home an open, relaxed feel that is easy to maintain. Lake Ravenel offers all types of water sports including canoeing, fishing, paddle boarding, and kayaking.

MLS# 89386 | Offered for \$2,900,000



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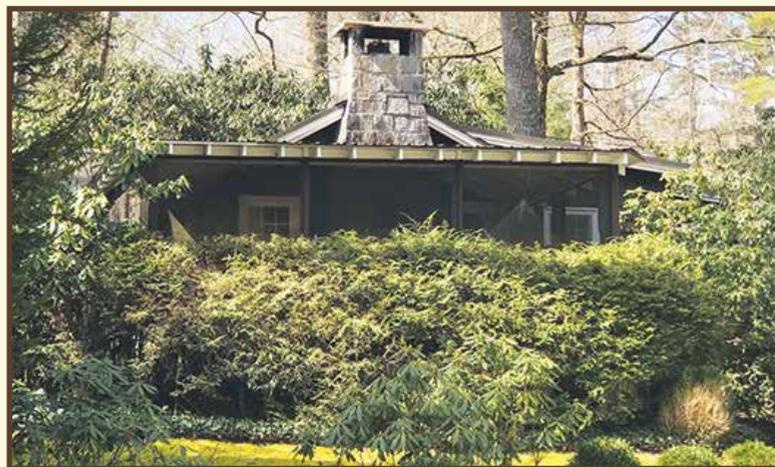
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MAY 1-22, Room 112

Gary Hewins,
Vesta Jones

Many believers today are dealing with addictive issues or want to know how to minister to others struggling with addiction. This workshop is for anyone wanting to know how they can be set free, or help others be set free, from the bonds of addiction.

S.H.A.P.E.

MAY 8-29, Room 308

Russ Johnsen,
Thomas Bates

Discover how your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experience equip you for ministry and service to the body of Christ.

FINANCIAL

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MAY 15 - JULY 24

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4th - 6th GRADE

CLASS, JUNE 5 - JULY

31, Room 308

Julie Hughes

Rising 4th-6th graders meet in the 4th & 5th grade room,

6-7 pm, to discuss and answer some of their biggest questions about their faith through a study of the Word. We'll use

Case for Christ for Kids by Lee Strobel as a tool, along with the Bible, to address the existence, miracles, ministry and resurrection of Jesus.

GRIEFSHARE

JUNE 12 - SEPT 18,

Room 112, Mary

Blackburn, Bill + Sharon
Youngerman

A biblically-based grief support group designed for people who are grieving the death of a family member or friend.

MARRIAGE

JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 10,

Family Room

Thomas + Lisa Bates

Exploring love languages, improved communication, conflict resolution, debunking marital myths & more.

FOUNDATIONS

JULY 17 - AUGUST 14

Media Room

Various Elders

Geared toward the new believer, this class will provide insight and instruction on how to best begin your walk with Christ. This will help you to grow and mature in your faith and to become an effective member of your church family.

...MERGER continued from page 1

and chief executive officer of Entegra.

The agreement has been approved by the boards of directors of both companies. The transaction is anticipated to close during the second half of 2019, subject to the receipt of regulatory approvals, the approval of Entegra's shareholders, and the satisfaction of other customary closing conditions.

Under the terms of the agreement, (1) cash consideration of \$30.18 per share will be paid to the shareholders of Entegra for each share of its common stock and for each restricted stock unit after conversion to common stock, (2) each Entegra option will be canceled and each option holder will receive a cash payment and (3) no consideration will be paid to First Citizens Bank or its affiliates as a result of their ownership of shares of Entegra's common stock.

First Citizens Bank and/or its affiliates own approximately 1.56% of Entegra's outstanding common stock. The total transaction value, including the termination fee, is anticipated to be approximately \$219.8 million.

On January 15, 2019, Entegra announced it had entered into a definitive agreement to combine with SmartFinancial, Inc. (SmartFinancial) in a strategic merger of equals, in which each share of Entegra common stock would be converted into 1.215 shares of SmartFinancial common stock.

Based on the closing price of SmartFinancial's common stock of \$18.40 on January 14, 2019, this implied a transaction value of \$22.36 per share, or approximately \$158.2 million.

Subsequent to that announcement, First Citizens

Bank approached Entegra and its advisors with a significantly higher price to acquire the company.

Under the terms of its definitive agreement with SmartFinancial, the board of directors of Entegra exercised its right to enter into discussions with First Citizens Bank. Ultimately, the board determined that the cash consideration offer of \$30.18 from First Citizens Bank was a superior proposal to the agreement with SmartFinancial, and pursuant to its fiduciary duties and, as permitted under its agreement with SmartFinancial, entered into an agreement with First Citizens Bank.

Under the terms of the First Citizens Bank agreement with Entegra, First Citizens Bank will pay a termination fee of \$6.4 million to SmartFinancial on behalf of Entegra, which Entegra was obligated to pay under its agreement with SmartFinancial upon the termination of that agreement by Entegra.

As of December 31, 2018, Entegra reported \$1.6 billion in consolidated assets, \$1.2 billion in deposits and \$1.1 billion in loans.

What this means for the Town of Highlands

With the closing of the PNC bank, the town solicited information from First Citizens and Entegra concerning its banking needs. Since Entegra offered a better deal interest-wise, etc., the town decided to go with Entegra. Transactions were finalized last week and according to Town Manager Josh Ward everything has been transferred over.

However, now that First Citizens and Entegra are merging, questions are swirling about how this will affect the agreement the town has with Entegra. In addition, since there is an Entegra and a First Citizens in town, which building will house the "bank" and finally what will happen to all the employees.

Since Entegra administrators say customers should bank as they normally do at their existing branches, which will become part of First Citizens upon the completion of the merger, Ward said that's what the town will do.

"It will take a number of months for the transaction between Entegra and First Citizens to take place. Evidently, the transaction will be finalized in October and the name change will be completed March 2020. So, we will stick with what Entegra proposed and see how it all pans out."

Entegra Bank opened in 1922 and is a state-chartered, full-service commercial bank with 18 offices and two loan production offices throughout Western North Carolina, Upstate South Carolina and North Georgia.

Frank B. Holding Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of First Citizens, said: "First Citizens has a long and proud history in nearly all of these communities. We also share many core attributes with Entegra, including a commitment to service excellence and relationship banking. We look forward to building on the solid foundations both banks have established so that, together, we can better serve even more individuals and business."

Roger Plemens, president and chief executive officer of Entegra Bank, said: "We are pleased to announce this combination with First Citizens, which shares our customer focus and community banking approach. Not only does this represent a significantly higher price for our shareholders, we also believe that First Citizens' size and resources will present more opportunities in the future for our customers and communities."

— submitted with updates by Kim Lewicki

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Highlands' Playhouse

• WORD MATTER •

Enough already



Bud Katz

It really doesn't matter which side of the political spectrum one occupies, one thing is certain – don't believe anything anyone says regarding the content of the Mueller report unless they've read it, annotated it, and are carrying it with them. There are many lies being promulgated regarding what it says and doesn't say, about Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election, collusion, attempts at, as well as actual obstruction of justice, and what may or may not have been the role of anyone associated with the Trump and/or Clinton campaigns. It's almost impossible to glean what is or is not fact or truth. And, I'm sorry, but fact and truth are still important.

Every accusation or denial must be viewed in the context of partisan politics. This renders whatever did or did not happen thoroughly obscured by smoke, mirrors, and, pardon me, bovine feces.

There are three Mueller Investigation books already available on Amazon.com ... for a price. There are also free PDF downloads of the report from a variety of news sources. I'd suggest NPR's version. They rely on federal funding regardless of which party is in control of anything, making them one of a few media organizations committed to straight, down-the-middle news coverage.

For those of us who would like to know what the report says and what it means, getting straightforward analysis is a difficult and elusive proposition. Everyone has an agenda, and veracity is in short supply.

Look, if I haven't been clear since we've known one another, let me say this again; I'm not a Democrat, a Republican, a Libertarian, a Green, a Socialist or member of any other recognized political party. I registered No Party Affiliation (NPA) because I don't think any political party speaks for me or adds any value to the American political process. All of them are covered with warts, weeds, moss and mold as far as I'm concerned.

That said, by the time all is said and done, the Mueller investigation will have cost we, the American people upwards of \$30 million. During the time period between January 2017 when the president took office, and the end of March 2019 when the report was issued, precious little if anything got done in Washington. No immigration or healthcare reform. No infrastructure investment. No Social Security or Medicare reform. Nothing.

This follows the pattern set back in the late 1990s, during the second Clinton term, with investigations into Whitewater, Monica Lewinski and Vince Foster. Remember the (Kenneth) Starr investigations? That little

exercise in partisan political waste cost the American people over \$70 million.

We elect people and send them to Washington to do the people's business. While all this investigating is happening, and while all kinds of politically motivated, partisan bickering is going on, the people's business is definitely not getting done.

Maybe I have this wrong, but we all send a sizable chunk of change to Washington and I'm not seeing our children's education improve, our nation's healthcare getting less costly, our veterans getting the care they need and have earned – I could go on, but you get the gist.

I take issue with the Attorney General, a political appointee, deciding, beyond legitimate security and privacy concerns, what we, the American people, can and can't see in this or any other government-funded report.

• OBITUARY •

James 'Skip' Frederick Thornton

James (Skip) Frederick Thornton went to be with his Lord and Savior, May 5, 2019.

Born in Birmingham, AL on December 22, 1936 to Arnold Ray and Ruby Brannon Thornton

Skip grew up in the family textile business, working at Buck Creek Cotton Mill in Siluria, AL. He remained in the textile business his entire life.

As an outstanding athlete, Skip lettered in football and soccer at Darlington School in Rome, GA. He was class President at Darlington all four years he attended. He went on to attend the U of Georgia where he played football before joining the family business.

Skip is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Harry and A.R. Thornton, Jr, daughter Juliette Kerr, son Matthew and niece Virginia Harris. He is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Patce Thornton of Highlands, NC, daughters Heather Satterwhite, Anna Warren (Patrick) and Jillian Thornton, sons Richard Errington, and Alec Thornton, grandchildren, Ivy Nicole Satterwhite, Seth and Cole Satterwhite, Gideon Binge (Annie) Ashleigh Warren, Gavin and Brooklynn Thornton, sister, Lucy Miles of Orange Beach, AL and nieces Glynis Wright (Mitch) and Dana (Jack) Joyner. In addition, his best friend and adopted son, Robby Potts.

Skip will be missed tremendously by all that knew him. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

BREAKFAST * LUNCH * DINNER * GRILL
WOOD-FIRED PIZZA * DELI * BAKERY



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COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

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LUNCH & DINNER

Grill - daily 11:00 until close

Freshly-ground Angus brisket burgers, hand-cut fries, specialty salads and sandwiches, and while-they-last daily features. Daily hot bars include Asian, Mexican, and more!

Wood-fired pizza oven - daily 11:00 until close

Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, Fresh Grande cheese, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage and pancetta.

Gluten-free crust available!

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11:30 - 3:30

Menu may include skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, with soup & salad bar available.

WINE MARKET & CRAFT BEER

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...IPADS continued from page 1



From left: AHEC member Derek Taylor, Janice Raby, Jim Kneisley, Cindy Henderson, BOE board member Stephanie McCall, and Superintendent Chris Baldwin. Granddaughter Savannah is seated in yellow.

AHEC's mission to advance Highlands School education through community involvement is front and center in this exciting development.

The group was approached by an interested donor, Jim Kneisley, to make sure these tablets were available to the children before the end of the school year.

Kneisley and his partner, Third Grade teacher Cindy Henderson, developed an interest in the iPad initiative when their granddaughter Savannah expressed her eagerness to have

them in the classroom like the other elementary grades.

Grades K-4th recently received individual iPads as part of AHEC's mission.

Kneisley reached out to AHEC board member Derek Taylor and offered to cover half the costs if AHEC could provide the other half.

"I was raised by middle class parents in public schools. They instilled the virtues of honesty, knowledge, speaking correctly, hard work, and giving back, in me. It has paid off," says Kneisley. "Our public schools are central in our communities, whether your own children are there or not. I think part of our reason for living, and to be good citizens in our country, is to pass on our knowledge and give youngsters the access to any and all of the tools available to help them in their journey."

Macon County School Board member Stephanie McCall gives credit to the quick turnaround to Superintendent Chris Baldwin, Technology Director Tim Burrell and his staff:

"The IT department did a great job getting the iPads in and formatted for the Fifth Grade class so the kids could have them in hand and in use as they close out the school year," she said.

"We are extremely grateful for the donated iPads," said Superintendent Baldwin.

"Everyone is aware that the proficient utilization of technology is essential to success in our modern educational system and economy. iPads are an important and beneficial educational tool in the hands of a skillful teacher."



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...RAWLINS continued from page 1

alleviate post-operative pain instead of opioids for pain management.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) awarded Charles George VA Medical Center the \$25,000 ANCC Pathway Award® April 25 at the ANCC Pathway to Excellence Conference® in Orlando, FL.

The annual award honors a project proposal in a Pathway to Excellence® designated organization that demonstrates innovation and technology to create a positive nurse practice environment. The monetary award — supported by Cerner, a global leader in health care technology — will be used to further implement and expand the project.

During a VR immersion therapy session, patients spend approximately 30 minutes in one of several three-dimensional, computer generated relaxation environments that offer interactive breathing exercises, muscle relaxation techniques, and a VR painting option.

Envisioned by Caitlin Rawlins, a CGVAMC nurse during her first year of practice, the medical center currently plans to expand the program beyond orthopedics to benefit veterans on other units such as

short-term rehabilitation, hospice and long-term care. CGVAMC is the first VA Medical Center to use VR in this capacity.

“Innovation like this, especially from a first-year RN, is characteristic of the idea generation that real shared governance can engender,” said David Przestrzelski, chief nurse executive, CGVAMC. “From day one, nurses at CGVAMC understand that any idea to improve care for our veterans could be a great one and they will be supported to explore existing evidence and create new evidence. Ms. Rawlins optimized that opportunity.”

As part of CGVAMC’s new, and largely successful, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Protocol (ERAS) initiated in November 2017, the workgroup began considering other modalities to help alleviate post-operative pain and to improve quality of patient experience.

In December 2017, Rawlins, registered nurse on CGVAMC’s surgical ward, began working with Dr. Christopher Nagy, chief of orthopedic surgery, and Wellovate LLC, to bring virtual reality (VR) therapy to the hospital’s surgical patients with the program WayaVR. This is being utilized initially as a

• See RAWLINS page 17

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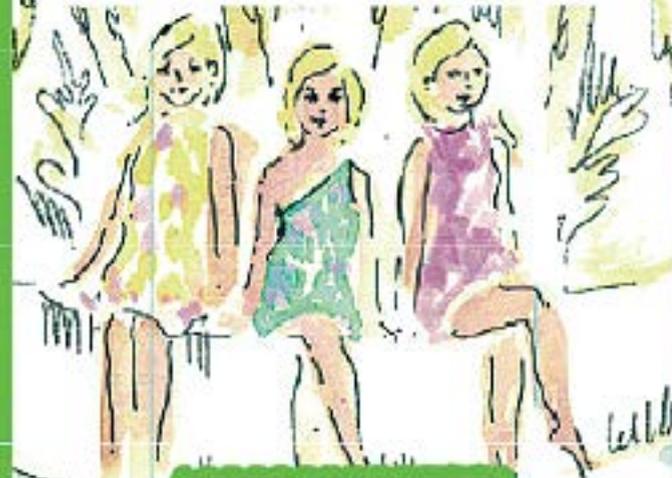
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...RATES from page 1



Bear-proof totter on Main Street. The Town Board meeting, items destined for the 2010-'20 budget were tweaked and will be discussed further at the upcoming budget meeting today at 3 p.m. in the Community Building.

Most of the discussion centered around the Sanitation and Water departments' budgets both of which are in the red. As enterprise funds they are supposed to support themselves and stay in the black.

The Sanitation's budget is in the red due to overtime. In 2019-'19 \$30,000 was budgeted for overtime; \$45,000 was used, so the department is \$15,000 in the red.

The department is over budget because of the overtime it takes for two residential pickups a week and seven pickups in the commercial district with two of those days being Saturday and Sunday – also considered holiday pay.

So, talk revolved around cutting residential pickups to once a week instead of two, especially since the town provides a dumpster for residential garbage, as well as bins for recyclables and cardboard at the Rec Park.

Town crews often help each other out – jumping from department to department as needed – and that's what's been happening in the Sanitation Department for the residential and business district pickups.

•See RATE page 19

johnnie-O



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

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

• 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 StoryWalk 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.

• 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.

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



Should we still worry about nuclear war?

It's been almost 75 years since America dropped nuclear bombs in an effort to end WWII. Since that time -- from the Cuban Missile Crisis, to the face off of U.S. and Soviet troops at the Berlin Wall, to today's actions of North Korea -- governments across the globe monitor the continuing threat of nuclear war in the 21st Century.

What are today's threats and how are the U.S. and other governments monitoring and responding to those threats? How serious is the North Korean threat to launch nuclear weapons? While the rhetoric has softened, what are the chances that a lasting solution can be achieved among the U.S., South Korea and Kim Jong-un? Will terrorists be able to build and deploy nuclear weapons? What role does Russia play in contributing to or solving today's nuclear threats?

Todd Sechser, a Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, will answer those questions and more on Thursday, May 16 Time: 2:00-4:00 when he responds to the question: "Should We Still Worry about Nuclear War?" Given today's climate, this topic could not be more timely and informative. Dr. Sechser was previously a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a John M. Olin National Security Fellow at Harvard University. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University, where he wrote an award-winning doctoral dissertation. Before entering academia, Dr. Sechser worked as a nuclear policy analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. This lecture will be held in the CLE lecture hall located in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. Fifth Street. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!



Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus Concert on May 19 at First Presbyterian

At 4pm on Sunday, May 19, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a free concert entitled "Rejoice in the Lamb" at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Chorus is conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster who also serves as Conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus and Director of Worship/Music at Highlands First Presbyterian Church.

The Chamber Chorus, a 30-voice advanced choral ensemble, was founded by Lancaster in the fall of 2016. The group will also sing during the 11am worship service at First Presbyterian Church on May 19.

The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Box Office opens next week for HCP's 'Calendar Girls'

May time is Show Time for the Highlands Cashiers Players production of *Calendar Girls*, the charming play by Tim Firth, on stage at Highlands Performing Arts Center May 23-26 and May 31-June 2.

Ten lovely ladies and four talented gentlemen of Highlands and nearby areas will perform in the British play that was based on an actual happening in Yorkshire, England. First came a movie about the unusual "alternative calendar" that exceeded all expectation for popularity worldwide, and then the stage play was written and has been produced far and wide in the United Kingdom, the United States, and all over the world.

The story concerns a group of middle-aged women who decide to produce a nude calendar featuring themselves to raise money for a gift to the local hospital in honor of a husband who died of leukemia. Later when sales of the calendar produced more money than was ever dreamed of, the ladies were able to provide significant funds for leukemia research. There's much humor plus a few sad and touching moments in the play as the *calendar girls* fight to make their impossible dream come true.

"It's the final play of the Players' 24th season," says Director Ricky Siegel, "and I believe it is a play that will appeal to almost everyone and touch many hearts."

The HCP box office, 507 Chestnut Street, 828-526-8084, opens for season subscriber reservations on Thursday and Friday, May 16 and 17, and for others, on Saturday, May 18, throughout the run of the play. Individual tickets are \$23.50. Box office hours are 10 to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and at on the Sunday at 1:30 to the start of the matinees at 2:30. Tickets also available on line: highlandscashiersplayers.org

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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, 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.

- 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 appreciated activity.

Wed. - Sat., May 8-11

- At the Rec Park, the Mother's Day Bridge Tournament.

Thurs.-Sat., May 9-11

- At OEI's Spa Boutique, Le Grande Jewelry Trunk Show. 10a to 5p Thurs. & Sat., and 9a to noon, Friday. Classical, versatile and lasting jewelry plus beautiful leather goods. Each piece handmade by Kristie and Duncan MacGregor.

Thurs., May 9

- Join the Highlands Biological Foundation on an outing to see some of Highlands' most beautiful wildflowers! Sonya Carpenter and Canty Worley will lead a private tour of Pond Hollow Garden, a Buck Creek retreat owned by Greg and Amanda Gregory. The walking tour will combine native woodland and meadow species with a cultivated garden. Spring ephemerals will be in full bloom with possible viewings ranging from trillium to lady slippers and showy orchids. Birding opportunities are available, so bring your binoculars if interested! The trip will meet at 9:30a at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park to carpool to Pond Hollow Garden. Please bring water and rain

gear and wear comfortable walking shoes. A buffet lunch will be served with a lovely view of the pond. \$30 members, \$35 non-members

Sat., May 11

- Rabies Vaccination clinics are at the Highlands Community Center from 9-10:30a and at the Scaly Mountain Post Office from 11a to noon. State law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets over the age of 4 months be vaccinated. Please keep pets in vehicles or on a leash until it is their turn.

- Theatre at the Library announces auditions for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to be performed on the weekends of August 9-11 and 16-18th! Auditions will be held on Saturday at 2pm and 5:30pm at the MC Public Library! For more information, call Roberta Pipitone at 828-332-2837 or Savannah DeHart at the Macon County Public Library at 828-524-3600.

- At PAC, Poulenc's Dialogues Des Carmelites, at 12 noon. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Tues., May 14

- Theatre at the Library announces auditions for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to be performed on the weekends of August 9-11 and 16-18th! Auditions will be held on May 14 at 5:30pm at the Macon County Public Library! Please come to audition with an understood monologue. For more information, contact Roberta Pipitone at 828-332-2837 or Savannah DeHart at the Macon County Public Library at 828-524-3600.

Sat., May 18

- A Live Auction benefit will be hosted for Gage Sherrod and his parents, Jennifer and Ronnie Sherrod on Saturday, at Mountain View Intermediate at 161 Clark's Chapel Road in Franklin from 4-8p. Gage is 2 years old and is currently suffering from complete kidney failure. He is on the list and well on his way to receiving a transplant, but needs help! The benefit's proceeds will go towards medical bills, travel and lodging, and time off work for his parents during this difficult time. Along with a live auction from over 700 Franklin, Highlands, and Sylva businesses, there will be a hot dog dinner, raffle prizes for gas cards and a rifle, a cake walk, live music, and plenty of activities for the kids.



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Happy Mother's Day!

It may sound implausible today, but growing up in Atlanta in the 1950s had a small-town feel; each neighborhood had a uniqueness and identity and seemed separate and apart from all the others. I had the good fortune to grow up in the Emory area near the university and hospitals where my father had his medical practice. My fondest memory of those formative years was the discovery of the Highlands Public Library off Ponce de Leon Avenue, where I learned that, with a personal library card, I had access to all the knowledge of the world in one building. I eventually gravitated to biographies of our founding fathers and books on the adventures of the Hardy Boys.

Until I was able to master bike riding, however, I was dependent on my mother to drive me there. And despite having five children pulling her in all directions, she never hesitated to get me to our library so that I could spend a summer day there. So the fond memories I have of childhood wouldn't exist without her nurturing and assistance, and, on the eve of Mother's Day, I want to celebrate and acknowledge my soon-to-be 96 year old mom, a beautiful lady who has never had a negative or selfish thought in her life and continues to be a true inspiration to all.

As I reflect on Mother's Day, it occurs to me the maternal institution that feels like a mother - protective, nurturing, safe and encouraging - is a library. Think of all the times we were taken to a library for learning, quiet and safe time. The truth is that those feelings are still evoked when



Wood Lovell
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you step foot in our Highlands library today. One has the immediate sensation of going back in time when visiting the Hudson Library, the oldest public library in North Carolina and founded in 1884. It is a branch of the Macon County Public Library and a member of the Fontana Regional Library. These associations give patrons access to a wide variety of resources including almost unlimited books for children

and adults, videos for a wide audience and books on tape. Additionally, there is internet access and other computer resources such as word-processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.

As a member of the board of the Hudson Library, I am extremely impressed with the devotion and dedication of the volunteers and employees over the years that continue to energize and support our local library. Whether a visitor or a Highlands year-rounder, I encourage you to make the Hudson Library part of your life; you will find that it has a unique personality and complements everything that we all love about this special place on earth

• *Wood Lovell and his wife, Jody Lovell, own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty with three offices on the Plateau. They are supporters of the local library and encourage you to be one, too!! Call them and their 36 brokers for all of your real estate needs at 828.526.4104. Highlands Sotheby's International Realty has been the top producing firm in Highlands for the last five years with sales over 100 million dollars in 2019..*

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Meet HUMC's Duke Intern

Hannah Wilkinson is a first-year student at Duke Divinity School. She is from Durham, England and moved to America last August for school.

As a member of the British Methodist Church, she is enjoying getting to know more about the similarities and differences between the UMC and the British Methodist system as the Duke Intern at HUMC.

She majored in history at the University of Cambridge. Between undergraduate and graduate school she worked as a baker for a year, which fueled her love for all things sweet! In the absence of cake, she can normally be found with a cup of coffee in hand.

She is very excited to be in Highlands this summer and to be a part of the Highlands community.



...RAWLINS continued from page 11



Caitlin Rawlins, RN at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville instructs a Veteran on the use of the Virtual Reality goggles to relieve pain during an inpatient stay.

pilot program specifically with post-operative patients with plans to grow the therapy program in the future.

Virtual Reality (VR) is a three-dimensional, computer generated environment with which an individual interacts in a seemingly real or physical way. This technology is part of the future of healthcare and will play a significant role in research and care delivery while providing an avenue for alternative and adjunct therapies.

CGVAMC is the first of the VHA medical centers to utilize VR for post-operative patients as a distraction therapy with the intention of decreasing discomfort, anxiety and stress while improving quality of overall patient experience.

In July 2018, the first veteran trialed this innovative therapy at CGVAMC, two days after he'd undergone a total knee arthroplasty.

Throughout the experience the veteran exclaimed how realistic the graphics were saying "it's like high-quality photographs, very realistic."

After the standard 30-minute session, the veteran completed a short survey embedded in the program, which allows for data collection during the pilot study. After this inaugural session, the patient told staff and doctors present that he "barely felt any pain" in his post-operative knee during the experience and found the therapy very capable of distracting from discomfort and stress.

Another veteran to use VR said, "I didn't think about my pain as much and, as a result, needed less [pain] meds or at least less frequently."

Thus far, 100% of participants agree or strongly agree that VR reduced their stress and discomfort, was a positive distraction, and would recommend the therapy to fellow veterans.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**Have you
the time
to read this?**



Dr. Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

I make a living articulating words. I share words in a specific order at a specific pace in a specific tone with a specific timbre to communicate truth. Words to me are tools that convey, life-changing thoughts, thought-provoking principles and transformative truth. Sure, I share my own words but more importantly I share God's words. Many people use a brief case or a tool box. I use conjoined syllables found in one solitary book, used now for thousands of years. No deviations, just that one book.

To me, understanding the nuances of a word is vitally important. Take the word "time" for example. The Greeks gave us multiple definitions of the word "time." There is "chronos" time and there also is a "kairos" time.

Chronos is an accounting of time. The Greeks came up with "chronos." Chronos highlights a number of years, a number of days, minutes or seconds. When someone says we just celebrated our 70th anniversary, they are saying a very "chrono-centric" time statement. "Our little girl is seven years old today (chronos). "I worked for IBM for over 40 years" (very chronos). Chronos calculates an amount of time that has elapsed. OK, you get it.

If you are pretty much a chronos-minded time person I have a challenge for you. Think "kairos" for a moment. The Greeks came up with "kairos" as well.

Kairos is a different way of evaluating time. In kairos thinking, you may have been alive for 70 years but more importantly; Did you really live? A kairos mindset sees 25 years of marriage and asks how deep is their sacrificial love? You may have attended a church for the past 20 years, but did you build the kingdom of God? You may die next year but will you have left a spiritual legacy? You may have an abundance of financial wealth for the past 30 years but did your possessions possess you?

Kairos doesn't evaluate quantity. Kairos evaluates the quality of the opportunity seized within time. In my context of ministry, I get to see 60 plus-year-old people come alive for the first time. I get to see grown men seized with a personal revelation of Christ that shatters the decades-old, worn out boredom of dead, stale, religion. I get to watch young children seized with a passion for Christ that I know will not dissipate over time (chronos).

Kudos to those married for decades. We should definitely celebrate the duration of that union. But cheers also to those who didn't just endure one another for a half a century but totally grasped the reality of loving another until it hurts and then some more after that.

I don't know how long you have been following Christ no more than I know how long you may have been denying Him. I do know that a moment truly in His love

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

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.

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Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

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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.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands

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

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

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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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

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LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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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.

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Rev. Father Casimir - 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.

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

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Thompson joins Country Club Properties

Country Club Properties would like to introduce Linda Thompson as the newest agent to our top-ranked company.

After 21 years of frequently visiting Highlands with her husband and two boys, they purchased a home here and she's expanded her real estate practice to include the premier destinations of Lake Lanier (Georgia) and the Highlands Plateau.

Having been a repeat client of Country Club Properties and finding their market knowledge, customer service and family atmosphere to be second to none, it was a natural for her to affiliate with CCP.

Linda's clients repeatedly say that



she is the most client-centric and helpful agent they have ever encountered. Her professionalism, winning personality and personalized service are just what buyer's need to find the home of their dreams. Linda has earned a reputation as a driven agent who gives her clients a smooth and stress-free home buying and selling experience.

There is "no one size fits all" method for representing her clients. She understands that every client is different and will work tirelessly to help them achieve their real estate goals.

Linda will be in our Wright Square office located at 183 W. Main St.

Highlands, NC 28741, and can be reached on her cell phone (770) 313 5446, or at the office (828) 526 2520.

Gabbard joins Highlands Sotheby's

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is thrilled to announce that Andrea Gabbard has joined their winning team! A top 25 Real Estate Broker in 2018* this native of Saratoga, NY, has delighted in the warm personalities and warm weather of the South. She has often remarked, "I moved here as quickly as I could".



influence and the marketing reach of the Sotheby's International Realty brand. Don't let her effervescent personality fool you; she has a reputation for being a tough negotiator.

She was chosen as one of only a handful of people to work on the \$12 million-dollar Sage Manor marketing team - a property that sold in 2014. Outside of work Andrea can be seen in her garden, hiking in the National Forest, or behind her camera.

Andrea is one a few Brokers in the area with the designation: Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist. Highlands Sotheby's International Realty has been the top selling Highlands firm since 2013*.

*As per NAVICA. The Sotheby's International Realty network has 22,000 of the best sales associates located in over 970 offices in 72 countries. With this support, Andrea has you covered all over the world.

After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, Andrea headed for the Sunshine State where she honed her skills as a master chef. From cooking in the Florida Governor's Mansion to owning her own upscale restaurant in Tallahassee,

Andrea's days as a chef have provided her with true insight into kitchen layout & design, as well as how to work with people. In 1999, Andrea and her family moved to Highlands. Andrea is keenly aware of the

...RATES continued from page 13

Town Manager Josh Ward said whenever steps in, gets their hourly wage in overtime and many of the town's employees are at their highest pay grade which means they get top dollar for overtime. Ward said he and staff will discuss the number of pickups as well as who will be eligible for overtime.

Finance Committee members Commissioners Amy Patterson and John Dotson said they don't want to raise sanitation rates to pay for overtime until they look real hard at a possible solution.

Bear-proof cans are being planted on Main Street sidewalks so the next thing on the "to do" list is bear-resistant toters in the downtown area for the businesses.

The town wants to get rid of shared dumpsters on the right-of-way - particularly on Oak Street which is an eyesore as well as an open table for bears.

The town is going to buy the bear-re-

sistant toters and offer them to businesses for about \$6 a month for five years. If businesses currently have bear-resistant toters they can use them but have five years to switch to town toters.

The Water Department's operating budget is also in the red by \$38,000 because those employees are at the top of the pay scale so current fees don't cover expenses.

The committee discussed either going up \$1-\$2 for the base rate for the first 2,500 gallons of water used or go up on the rate for the next 1,000 gallons used.

Staff is going to see if increasing the coverage rate will balance the bottom line or if increasing the base rate will have to do it.

The committee will report its findings to the Town Board for the final decision on ways to get the Sanitation and Water Departments in the black.

- Kim Lewicki

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

beats a year of scrambling for some sort of satisfaction in things never intended to provide it. He is sufficient and available 24/7. Don't waste any "chronos-time" missing Him but do talk with Him and enjoy the depths of His attentiveness, the vastness of His love and the tenderness of His nearness for He is now available to you through His death, burial and resurrection in this very kairos moment.

Today is your opportunistic kairos moment. Seize the fullness of Christ,

storm the throne of God with authentic petitions that He reveal Himself to you so no more time gets wasted trying to fill a God-sized hole in your heart. He is magnificent, splendid, wonderful, loving, majestic, noble and gracious. Eternity is coming. Time will soon end. Will He know you? Will you know Him? Have you the time to dismiss Him now at the expense of an eternity void of His love? May you come as alive as you can for as long as you can but never apart from His inexplicable grace and joy. Amen.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from April 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 25

• At 11 a.m., officers were called about someone taking firewood from a residence on Hickory Hill Road.

• At 2:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 6 p.m., officers were called about wiring for outside lights was being cut at a residence on Brock Court.

April 26

• At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle

accident on Main Street.

• At 12:26 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident Main Street.

April 27

• At 7:30 p.m., officers were called to a location on US 64 west to assist a woman.

• See POLICE & FIRE page 22

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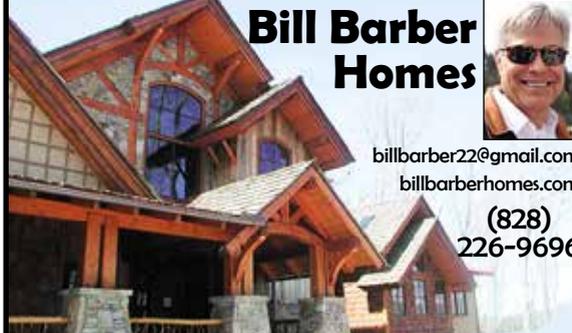
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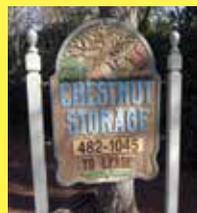
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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THE DRY SINK IN HIGHLANDS

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

DOG BATHERS NEEDED

AT POSH PAWS PET SPA IN HIGHLANDS Seasonal positions May through December. Hours are Tues.-Sat. 9-5. Job includes bathing & blow drying dogs, assisting groomers, & cleaning. \$10/hr. w/ paid lunch break. Please call 828-526-9581 to inquire about position. (st. 4/11)

WHOLE LIFE MARKET

is now accepting applications for the season. Full and Part Time positions now available. Stop by to pick up an application located at 680 N. 4th St. or send resume to wholelife@frontier.com

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA

are looking for the following employees: Head chef, pastry cook, baker, assistant inn manager, bellmen, housekeeping supervisors, spa attendant and housekeepers, servers/bussers Assistant Sommelier and Reservationist, Human Resources Manager, Executive/HR Assistant sales assistant - Acorns -- F/T, P/T Warehouse Associate - Please apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com or call: Pat Turnbull at 828-787-2697. (3/7)

POTPOURRI BOUTIQUE

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

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

SKYLINE LODGE - Hiring Property Maintenance workers, bartender. Download, drop by or call 828-526-2121 for an application. Background checks done. (st. 3/28)

ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING - looking for a parttime sales associate. Call 828-526-5404 or come by Bryson's Corner at Main and 4th streets. (st. 3/21)

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

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

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY has full- and part-time positions available. Competitive wages for all positions, 18+ only. Apply in person at 521 East Main Street in Highlands or call 828-526-2400.

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GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal. Call 371-1103. (st. 4/26)

AL HANDIMAN SERVICES - Plumbing, electrical, painting, carpentry. Local references. Call 828-332-7271 or 828-369-6245. (st. 4/11)

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

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 11/22)

HIGHLANDS HANDIMAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (9/20)

WNC PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LLC. 828-347-1822 - Year-round property maintenance and monitoring for vacation homes/rentals/residential; pressure washing-deck repairs-carpentry-small plumbing & electrical repairs/painting/etc.; lawn care & mowing; by the job or yearly contract; call for FREE estimate; Insured. (st. 5/2)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE ROOMY ONE LEVEL 3 BR/2 1/2 BA - light and bright Mirror Lake Highlands-In-Town Ranch style with basement storage; Double .6 Acre lot for privacy and stunning Mountain views; Renovated and updated; Oversized 2 Car Garage with paved access Large screened-

in Porch with grilling deck; Gas Fireplace in LR; Bamboo hardwood floors and pine wood vaulted ceilings throughout; Cambria countertops; lots of storage; Cullasaja Gorge waterfall sounds; Photos and Flyer available; call/text 904 868-2486. View by appointment only \$495,000 (4/25)

SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN VIEWS. Ranch 2 bed/2bath and workshop. 1.3 acres. Tessentee Road, Otto. \$229,000. 828-349-6145. (4/11)

FLAT MOUNTAIN/ BRUSH CREEK ACREAGE FOR SALE BY OWNER. 13.2 total acres, old mountain homestead. Beautiful views, several great building sites, old livable farm house, small studio size cabin, rental income possible, some pasture and some woods, partial fenced, well water, three different roads to enter property, sub-dividable, amazing potential on this tract of land. Please call 706-400-2596 or email vchambers60@yahoo.com for more info. \$800,000 OBO (12/20)

3.20 ACRES UNRESTRICTED. Power underground, borders National forest, 190 degree view. 10 min to Main Street. 3 septic fields, 1 well 7 g p.m. 2 house foundations established and approved by county inspectors. 2Bed/2Bath Clayton home livable while building. Spring rights and more land available. For beautiful sunsets contact gracefamilia@yahoo.com. (st. 9/21)

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

COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

LOCATION IS EVERYTHING! Prime retail space available on Main Street in Highlands: 3,000 prime retail space available for rent. Contact Jody or Wood Lovell. Highlands Sotheby's International Realty. 828.526.4104. (st. 1/10)

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS CONDO IN HIGHLANDS, 2 bed 2 bath \$2500/mth. May-October. 828-421-5172. (st. 5/9)

ST. LUXURY APARTMENT IN TOWN. Walk to Main Street. 1BR 1BA. \$3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)

BRAND NEW CABIN THE WOODS available for short or long term rental. 1BR (King) plus sofa bed. Located off Hwy 64 between Highlands and Franklin. Call 828-369-7754 or go to evolvevacationrental.com and search #427961 (st. 4/11)

LARGE MAIN STREET APARTMENT - 3BR / 2BA, furnished or unfurnished, washer/dryer, 1-year lease, available April 1, no smoking, \$1,600/mo, email glenn@atlantel.net (st. 3/14)

...POLICE & FIRE from 20

April 29

• At 9:47 a.m., officers were called by Bryson Grading about someone stealing motor fuel from construction equipment.

April 30

• At 6:05 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 30.

April 30

• At 12:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

• At 3:24 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 west.

May 1

• At 7:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 12:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Church Street.

May 2

• At 3:20 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke. It was caused by a USFS brush fire.

May 3

• At 12:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 west.

May 4

• At 5:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Klein Road.

May 6

• At 11:54 a.m., the dept. worked a structure fire at a residence on Paul Walden Road.

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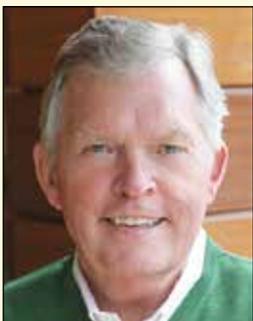
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