

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Quarter cent sales tax hike is on the table

By Brittney Lofthouse
Public Education capital infrastructure projects in Macon County are currently funded through property tax revenues, meaning individuals or businesses who own property in Macon

County, contribute to the funding. Individuals who rent or do not otherwise own property in Macon County, even if they are a resident of the county, do not currently contribute to that fund.
To generate additional needed

monies for Macon County Schools, the Macon County Board of Commissioners is considering a quarter cent sales tax increase.
The Macon County Board of Commissioners held its annual
• See TAX page 10

Highlands celebrates Senior Night

Says goodbye to 14 athletes

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News
Highlands varsity basketball teams hosted Hiwassee Dam on Tuesday and recognized senior cheerleaders, and boys and girls senior basketball players.

Highlands varsity girls beat Hiwassee 64-36 with Hayley Borino scoring her 1,000th point on a free throw. Highlands Coach Brett Lamb presented her with the 1,000-point ball midgame.

Highlands varsity boys didn't fare as well and lost a tough game 70-45.

Highlands senior cheerleaders include Maddie Coen, Karla Diaz, Taylor Rickert, and Brandy Zagal.

Highlands senior girls varsity basketball players include Hayley
• See SENIORS page 22



Finneaus Garner ready to compete in 2022 West NCHSAA Regionals.

HS Freshman Garner scores at NCHSAA meet

Steve Hott, Head Coach
Highlands School Swimming & Diving
On Friday, February 4, 2022, Freshman Finneaus Garner trav-

eled to Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center for the 2022 West NCHSAA Regional Swim Meet. Swimming in the maximum num-
• See GARNER page 7

• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty	2	Obituary.....	15
Weather.....	2	On the Sunny Side.....	17
Letters.....	4	Spiritually Speaking.....	18
Investing at 4,118 Ft	9	Police & Fire Reports	19
Shopping Pullout.....	10-11	Classifieds.....	21
Prelude to Valentine's Day	12	HS Sports.....	22

Macon County looking at a \$3 billion increase to its property tax base

By Brittney Lofthouse
During the Macon County Board of Commissioners budget kick-off meeting last week, Abby Braswell briefed the board on the upcoming 2023 revaluation.

By law, North Carolina counties are required to perform a revaluation on property every four years to establish market values. It's a tedious process that requires many steps and takes many factors into consideration, as Macon County Tax Administrator Abby Braswell explained on Thursday.

The property revaluation appraisal process includes collecting property sales data and reviewing the number of sales, analyzing construction costs, visiting properties, developing a schedule of values to use across the board and finally sending out notices to property owners letting them know the updated value of their

property and how much in taxes they'll pay once the changes take effect.

According to Braswell, with record home sales over the past few years, Macon County's property values have increased significantly. The total tax value in 2015 was just over \$8 billion and 2019 numbers bumped it up to over \$8.1 billion. According to Braswell — Macon County is anticipating that number to be over \$11 billion after the 2023 revaluation.

"The number one thing that is going to effect this number [total tax value] and the main thing we look at when coming up with the estimate is sales," said Braswell. "Many things can affect your sales — supply and demand, the stability of the local economy, building costs and interest rates."
• See INCREASE page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The ins and outs of personnel recruiting

I attended a ZOOM meeting last week concerning racial equity and approaches to policing.

The police chief from Jacksonville, NC gave a comprehensive presentation concerning his department's community policing initiatives.

The chief addressed the challenge of recruiting qualified personnel to fill the ranks. He stated that given recent events fewer people are interested in becoming law enforcement officers.

He stressed that potential candidates had to have the basic education, at least a high school diploma, to apply. Applicants also have to have the correct psychological and emotional temperament to be an officer. In addition, candidates must have at least average intelligence and be able to pass strenuous psychological requirements. Finally, a prospective officer has to have a clean criminal record free of drug or DWI convictions. If all of these criteria are met, recruits will go through a basic law enforcement training program for six



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

months in order to be certified.

The chief said these requirements make it challenging to recruit and maintain force levels. I talked with our Chief Holland who agreed about the recruiting challenges. She emphasized members of our force participate in continuing education and training programs.

After hearing the presentation, I realized the issue of recruiting and maintaining staff levels for any municipal department is now, more than ever, a challenge.

Some of the basic standards for recruiting law enforcement officers apply to hiring all town employees. Employees must have a clean record, and for the most part hold certifications or licensure in their work fields.

All of these factors have rapidly impacted staffing at our sewer plant. Sewer operators must hold operator licenses. We have always met these state requirements. Currently, sewer plant operators are in high demand nationally.

We lost one Level 4 operator who had joined us about three years ago. He recently moved back to an area closer to his family. Another operator went to another municipality and one worker left our employment. The town vigorously advertised and tried to find replacements.

The last licensed worker who has been with the town for 40 years, Howard Brown, recently announced his retirement. His impending retirement leaves Highlands with no personnel to operate the plant.

We will now enter into a 3-year contract with Environmental, Inc. out of Sylva to operate the plant. Their personnel meet all state requirements. Environmental will provide a licensed operator five days a week and have an operator on call after hours. The contract will actually decrease plant operating costs.

Environmental, Inc. provides the same services to several Western Carolina municipalities. Area municipalities have encountered the same issues in recruiting operators.

• HIC'S VIEW •

Let's dance like lovers do!



• WEATHER •

Thu, 10-Feb	Fri, 11-Feb	Sat, 12-Feb	Sun, 13-Feb
			
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Times of clouds and sun	Mostly sunny	Clouds and sun	Cooler; a shower in the p.m.
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Highlands Newspaper

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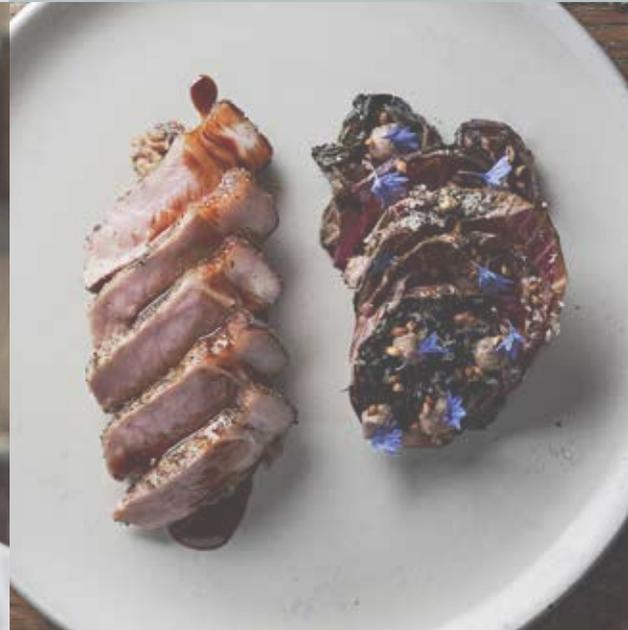
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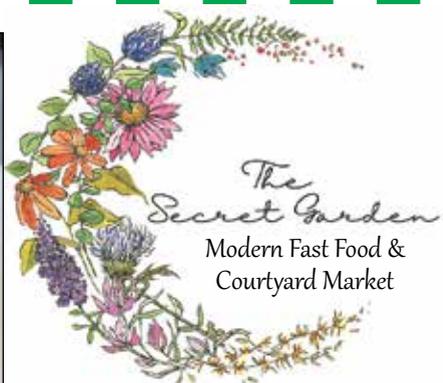


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• LETTERS •

Highlands helps Operation Christmas Child a success

Dear Editor

I am writing to thank Highlands' residents for spreading joy to children around the world this Christmas.

Through the generosity of the Highlands community, 384 shoeboxes were collected, enabling Western North Carolina Area Team to exceed our goal by collecting over 18,500 shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind. We are grateful for each one of these!

Across the U.S., the project collected more than 9.1 million such gifts in 2021. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2021, the ministry is now sending more than 10.5 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes—packed with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items—Highlands volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Although local drop off locations for gifts are closed until Nov. 14 – 21, 2022, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Brenda Hackett, Media Support
Operation Christmas Child
of Western North Carolina

Let's save Helen's Barn

Dear Editor,

There are two views about investing in Helen's Barn.

There is the recent investment by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and then there is the long-term investment by and for the local population of Highlands.

HCLT's investment involves the outlay of money for income or profit: capital outlay. A fiduciary duty to maximize the value of assets which were recently received and to do this in a timely manner. Ongoing expenses associated with ownership that have now become a burden with no wish to continue carrying them.

Then there is the investment by and for the local population of Highlands which involves the interest of the locals in this town – the places in their town that every local loves because of the memories they evoke like Helen's Barn.

So many places in Highlands have come and gone. And now the same could happen to Helen's Barn.

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(See menu on page 4)

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...GARNER from page 1

ber of individual events allowed (2) Garner did well.

Competing against mostly upper classmen, Garner placed 19th in the 50-yard freestyle and 16th in the 100-yard freestyle. He swam his 3rd fastest career swim in the 50 and dropped 1.5 seconds off of his career best time in the 100.

With just one swimmer in the meet, the Highlands School team finished 27th out of 30 teams at the meet.

This finished the 2021-'22 swimming season for the Highlands Varsity Swim Team.

With seven upcoming 8th graders (five of whom would have probably qualified for Regionals with their current times) and no graduating seniors, the Highlands School Varsity Swim Team is looking forward to an even better year in 2022-'23.

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...LETTERS continued from page 4

Those who say progress is inevitable they should go to New England where the past is cherished. There towns' "distinctives" are preserved.

Here, places like Helen's Barn should be cherished, too. It's very special to those who have known that maple floor ringing in their ears. Like Jeslyn Head, a young native of Highlands says, "If we continue changing Highlands and uplifting its roots, things will never be the same."

Although I personally don't have any memories of Helen's Barn myself, I am aware that many do. This "changing for the better" is occurring all too frequently. I'm not sure all these changes are in the locals' best interest.

Once we allow our home to be changed, it cannot be unchanged. We can't allow our young locals to lose a part of their heritage of their forefathers – those who put their heart and their soul into the settlement of Highlands.

We and the town are intertwined in the history, tradition and yarns of those elders – not through money, but thought love and insight.

I wish the town could relive a time when some of the long-established moun-

tain heritage traditions are still practiced – square dancing, old-time music, old-fashioned festival games.

Highlands today enjoys many kinds of entertainment, but its entertainments are more for the observer than the participant.

Concerts, plays, movies, art shows, craft fairs, wine and cheese events are for the spectator, but dancing is for everybody.

Buck dancing, square dancing and mountain clogging to the twang of the banjo and the whine of the fiddle brought all sorts of people out of their spectator chairs and onto the hardwood maple floors of Helen's Barn.

Unlike any other type of entertainment in town, the traditional foot-stomping, banjo picking, fiddling, singing and even round-dancing mingled everyone together into a single community which to this day regrets the loss of the fun, the spectacle and the camaraderie shared at Helen's Barn. That is what local investment entails.

Is there anything we can do to preserve Helen's Barn and return it to its former glory?

Kevin Fitzpatrick
Highlands

Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Visit Highlands, NC

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Henkelman Construction, Secret Garden Market,
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Town of Highlands, Mountain Top Rotary,
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Due diligence and dreaded home inspections

For a seller and the brokers involved in a sale, there is nothing more dreaded than a home inspection! As part of the due diligence or “investigation” process a home inspector is contacted and a date set to put your home under a giant microscope!

Sometimes I do question what I refer to a “nit-picky” items such as a light is not working in the garage and the inspector’s recommendation to contact a licensed electrician and the problem was a burned out light bulb! For everything else they recommend a licensed general contractor.

To find a contractor to even evaluate the situation and then have time to get the repairs done in a time frame before closing is almost impossible. Now with a shortage of labor and supplies being back-ordered or stuck on a ship somewhere this creates impossibility and frustration for all!

A handy man can do many of the repairs such as a doorknob being loose or the door not closing properly. As the seller, the 35-75 page report can be quite intimidating since they have been in the home for many years without an awareness of the issues addressed in the report. With that said, if something in the home isn’t working the way it is intended to work it is the seller’s responsibility to have it repaired – not the buyers.

I do have an issue with the inspector who writes that the appliances are “near the end of their life!” Is he an appliance guy who repairs them? No! He is going by the age of them and the buyer is savvy enough to know the age of the home and that eventually they will need replacement but are working properly at the time of the sale.

However, items not working are the responsibility of the sellers to repair or replace or to save time a credit can be agreed upon and is part of the settlement at closing.

Another pet peeve is when the inspector says that something “might eventually” lead to blah, blah, blah. What is the current condition when the buyers take possession



Pat Allen, BIC
AllenTate/Pat Allen Realty Group

– that is the issue.

On the other hand, if the inspector smells a musty odor, it is not automatically considered mold. That word conjures up fears of breathing in toxins which is rarely the case. We are in a rain-forest and moisture is part of our environment which contributes to our cool summers that attract thousands of tourists and second-home buyers. This hysteria has led to inspectors recommending encapsulation which is a costly process that covers areas underneath the home with heavy plastic sealing the floors and walls and adding a commercial dehumidifier to control the moisture that seeps into the home causing the musty smell.

So, then the question becomes: “Whose responsibility is it to pay for it?” The seller can say the smell has never bothered them and he is not going to pay thousands to do this and does not consider it a “repair.” So as a buyer, don’t automatically expect that to be paid by the seller. Everything is negotiable but don’t make this a deal breaker.

As far as updating, the bathrooms with low sinks covered in cultured marble is not a defect but simply a cosmetic issue that buyers can change if they desire. The same goes for kitchens with Formica we all once loved! It is not a defect. Buyers should not expect sellers to come down thousands of dollars for any cosmetic issues including paint colors.

As brokers, we list a house “as is” in the contract refers so to expect sellers to lower the price by thousands is many times not feasible. But on the other hand, items in the home should be in working order. If you don’t use your home very often, I recommend getting a home inspection prior to listing it so you aren’t blind-sighted and don’t have time to make repairs before closing. As always, the best transactions should be a “win-win” and not winner take all.

• Pat Allen is BIC of AllenTate/Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is certified in Resort and Second Home properties. The firm was selected as a Leading Real Estate Company of the World and Luxury Portfolio

International. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau and she and her daughter, Julie Osborn, were the TOP SALES TEAM in Highlands for the year 2020. Visit her on the web at Pat Allen Realty Group.com, call 828-526-8784,

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...TAX continued from page 1

budget kickoff meeting on Thursday to begin the process of prioritizing needs and services to be funded in the county's nearly \$60 million budget.

At the top of the board's priority list sits infrastructure improvements for schools across Macon County. From the need for a new preschool space at Highlands School to a completely new facility to house Franklin High School, the needs across the district are many... and costly.

As a possibility to generate additional funding for the needed projects now and in the future, Macon County Manager Derek Roland said the board can move forward with consideration of a sales tax increase, with revenues specifically designated for education.

North Carolina offers individual counties the option to increase the 6.75 percent statewide sales tax to an even 7 percent, with all revenues from the extra quarter-cent going back to the county — the base 6.75 percent sales tax

is shared between the county and state.

In Jackson County, nearly two-thirds of Jackson County voters voted in favor of a referendum question allowing the county to increase the county's sales tax by one fourth of a cent in 2016. The measure increased the county's sales tax from 6.75 to 7 percent and is expected to generate an additional \$1.2 million a year for the county.

According to Roland, the increase to sales tax in Macon County would generate an additional \$1.7 million that would be earmarked for schools.

When Jackson approved the measure in 2016, they became the 28th of 100 counties to adopt the extra quarter-cent, joining its neighbor Haywood County. Since 2016, the number of North Carolina counties with the tax has nearly doubled with 46 of the state's 100 counties implementing the tax.

Neighboring counties like Jackson County, and Rabun County GA, have taken a different approach to funding school needs by

approving an education specific sales tax that generates revenue for infrastructure needs.

Rather than raising property tax rates to generate additional revenue from property owners, a sales tax revenue would mean anyone shopping in Macon County and paying a sales tax, would be funding the school improvements, rather than just residents.

Sales tax is often rounded up to 7 percent already, and those dollars get rolled into the redistribution of sales tax across the state. Out of the 6.75 percent sales tax, less than 3 percent is currently returned to the county. An education specific 1/4 of a penny tax would be guaranteed to Macon County each year.

The sales tax would not be across the board and Article 46 comes with significant exemptions such as medications, gasoline, certain agricultural supplies, motor vehicles, and groceries.

For Macon County to consider the quarter cent sales tax in-

• See TAX page 16

Valentine's Day



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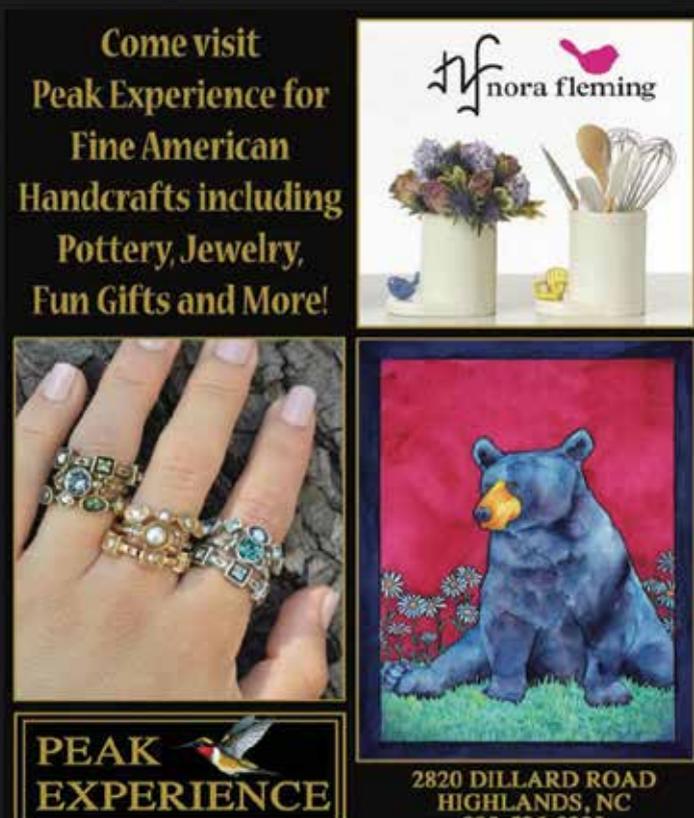
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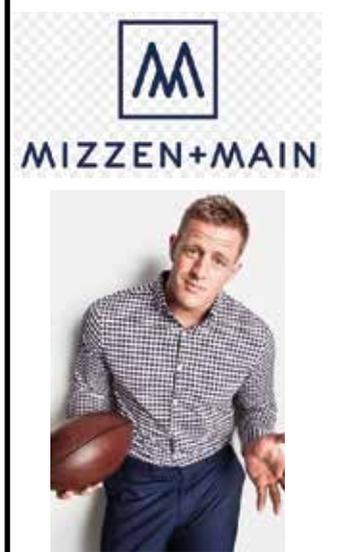
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A romantic prelude to Valentine's Day in Key West, FL

Brittney Lofthouse

We walked to dinner and found ourselves at Fogarty's Restaurant & the Flying Monkeys Saloon. The outdoor patio and old southern architecture were divine — everything about the history and current-day combination that I live for. Fogarty's Restaurant was named for Dr. Joseph Norman Fogarty, who served as the mayor of Key West in 1912. The very courtyard we ate dinner in was the same courtyard used at the turn of the century to host lavish parties, celebrating the completion of the railroad to Key West. The bricks we walked on were the same bricks that hosted the footsteps of William Taft and Grover Cleveland, who were frequent guests of the Fogarty Mansion in the 1900s.

That stuff, those stories, are found on every corner of Key West which Nick and I learned all about through the hop-on and hop-off trolley tours.

My ultimate travel hack is anytime there is a hop-on, hop-off trolley, or bus tour do it. We first discovered this in New York City, and it never disappoints. They are almost always driven by locals or those who should be considered local, and not only provide you with an overview of the history of the area, they are less expensive than taxis, and you get a chance to see a little bit of everything while also getting the inside details about what to do and where to go.

The trolley in Key West had 13 stops and we had the pleasure of having Kenny, a lifelong Key West resident who took up driving the trolley after he retired, Patrick, an 8-year transplant but history nut, and Louie, who missed his true calling as a stand-up comedian and had spent the last 22 years driving the trolley. Their view of Key West was far better than anything we could have searched for online.

We knew we wanted to do some sort of boat excursion -- after all, we were at the beach. Nick and I both detest sand -- we actu-



Brittney and Nick on the dolphin and snorkel cruise.

ally generally hate everything about the beach -- ironic I know. While we hate the beach, we do love the ocean. So, I impulsively booked a dolphin and snorkel cruise through Fury Adventures around the reef.

Once again, like the hotel, I did no research. I actually got an email about it after booking the trolley tour, and just clicked book. Imagine our surprise when we got on the boat ready to see dolphins and snorkel to learn that it was also an open bar -- surprise!

We quickly found dolphins and our boat guides gave us a ton of information about the reef, the area, and the dolphins. Then we anchored in a nice clear water spot somewhere off the coast.

It was chilly. Although it was in the low 70s on land, the boat was significantly colder which meant the water was frigid. We rented wetsuits in an attempt to make it through. Still colder than I would have liked, we got to see some incredible coral and fish, many of which we have as distant cousins in our saltwater tank at home.

Leave it to Nick to never NOT be a law enforcement officer,

just a few minutes into our snorkel adventure while I was underwater searching for treasure, I hear a commotion and come up for air to

find Nick rescuing a man who began to panic in the water. About a football field from the boat and to save the crew from having to brave

the cold waters, Nick rescued the man and dragged him to the boat. Seriously, I just can't take him anywhere.

About the time we lost feeling in our toes we climbed back on the boat and indulged in the surprise open bar. Fury Adventures had their own locally brewed beer, which while cool for a souvenir was a lager -- which is in NO way a "Friday afternoon on a boat drinking" kind of beer. The blush wine they had, however -- that was another story.

We finished our boat ride and were once again surprised to learn that our hotel was just a few blocks from the dock. Had I researched anything I am sure that would have been a selling point rather than a welcomed discovery. Back at the hotel we changed for dinner and headed down Duval Street.

We found ourselves at Caroline's Cafe -- which sits in the shadows of the historic Porter House. The Porter House was built in 1838 by Federal Judge James Webb -- but sold to the Porter family in 1845. Dr. Joseph Porter, who was instrumental in



Making plans for 10-year nuptials at Hemingway's House.

... with a few hiccups along the way (part 2)

eradicating yellow fever died in the home in the same room he was born in 80 years to the day.

The Cafe was named for Caroline Street, on which it is located.

Saturday was chilly — so chilly I had to buy a souvenir sweater. But we spent the day on the trolley soaking up the island's history. We got off at one of their most popular stops — the Hemingway House — or if you ask Nick, a cat lover's paradise. This stop is actually what inspired me to write this article, or blog, or journal entry, whatever you want to call it.

“In order to write about life first you must live it.” – Ernest Hemingway

The Hemingway Home is extraordinary. Per usual, I knew nothing about it before walking through the gates. I really think I prefer life this way. We spent an inordinate amount of time on the property. I also decided that since we never had a wedding, we would do a 10-year vow renewal on this property. That is likely a fantasy that will never come to fruition, but a dream I will hold dear regardless.

Like many, Hemingway's love of Key West began with vacations and for a short, yet inspiring part of his life's story, became his home. Hemingway and his wife Pauline were gifted the home from Pauline's uncle in the 1930s and restored it to the glory it first held when built-in 1851. The home is exquisitely preserved and serves as a museum and event venue. The property, which is credited for providing the inspiration for many of Hemingway's greatest works, does currently serve as a residence with 58 polydactyl cats calling the grounds home. The cats, clearly a highlight of our trip, are descendants of Snow White, a polydactyl cat Hemingway received as a gift once moving to the island.

After soaking up all the Hemingway House had to offer, we headed to brunch followed by stops on the tourist “must-

see” list such as the Southernmost Point, the Truman Estate, and Sloppy Joes Bar before heading back to enjoy a dip in each of Simonton Court's four pools.

Why you ask? Because we are immature adults who didn't want to leave any one pool unattended, despite the chilling winds that pierced our skin as we left water prints on the brick around the Inn.

Before dinner, we stopped at Books & Books @ The Studios of Key West, the bookstore co-owned by the one and only Judy Blume! While browsing her books, we learned that Judy herself would be in on Sunday and would personally sign a book for me! I rushed to the hotel and wrote her a note about the impact she has had on me as a writer, attached a business card, and ran back to leave it for her. Seriously, how is that my life? What a dream.

We wanted to keep our food experiences authentic and local however, we couldn't pass up the Key West Hard Rock for the sole purpose of seeing the building it is housed in.

The Key West Hard Rock Cafe is in the center of downtown located within an historic three-story Victorian-style house that according to legend is still haunted by the ghost of its original owner, Robert Curry.

The house was built by William Curry, Florida's first millionaire, as a wedding gift for his son, Robert. Robert was very sickly throughout his life, stricken with a variety of ailments and illnesses, yet found himself in control of the Curry family fortune. Since he wasn't a very good businessman and likely due to his poor health, the money rapidly faded away. Distraught and depressed, Robert committed suicide in the second-floor bathroom. The building is said to still be haunted today.

We headed back to the Inn for an early night so we would be well-rested for our flight home -- what a joke that turned out to be.

We arrived at the airport an hour early and anxiously awaited our flight home with plans to be back in Franklin by lunch. We hon-



Enjoying the tropical setting and a resident cat.

estly should have known better.

About 20 minutes prior to our flight boarding, we received vouchers from Allegiant and soon after the vouchers, we received the flight's cancellation notice. What we quickly realized was that it was not only Allegiant that was canceling flights it was airlines across the southeast. We found ourselves literally stranded in paradise. And quite honestly, if it wasn't for desperately missing our children and the jobs we needed to get back home to, it probably would have been a welcomed delay.

The no flights quickly turned into no rental cars. No bus seats. Literally, no way to get home. There weren't flights from nearby airports, but even if there were, there weren't cars to take us there.

We called an Uber to take us to a nearby Uhaul location expecting to rent a 25-foot truck just to be able to get off the island in hopes of having better luck in a more populated area.

By the Grace of God, our driver agreed to take us all the way

to Ft. Lauderdale to spare us a ride in the Uhaul. It cost us a pretty penny, but worth it. How quickly that beautiful ride to Key West we enjoyed on Thursday seemed to be salt on the wound of our travels at that point.

While in the back of the uber we searched all possible options and came up with a plan to drive to Ft. Lauderdale, then rent a car to Orlando and catch a 9 p.m. flight back to Asheville. We booked it all and were set -- or so we thought. After the 3.5-hour drive to the car rental place, listening to our uber driver tell us his conspiracies on COVID and government corruption, we learned that the car rental place, which gladly took our money for a car that would be for pick-up at 4:30 had “hoped” a car would show up, however it never did. Without a car rental option to take us to our scheduled flight in Orlando, I made a last-minute search of Ft. Lauderdale flights to see if there were any random options to Charlotte, Greenville, Knoxville, Atlanta -- really any-

where out of Florida.

By some sort of miracle an Allegiant flight that was originally scheduled to leave Ft. Lauderdale at 4:30 had been delayed and had open seats. After frantically calling the airline, we booked our tickets and headed to the airport. There we waited and watched as that same flight was pushed to 5:30, then 6:45, then 7:30. We started to lose hope and began searching for Monday flights and hotel rooms. Then finally, I think around 10 p.m. we walked onto the airplane.

A quick hour and a half flight home and we touched down in Asheville and headed home to Franklin and Macon County and back to all of you wonderful, beautiful people -- because there is absolutely no place like HOME.

• To read Part 1 of “A Romantic Prelude to Valentine's Day in Key West,” go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News. Scroll down to the Feb. 3 PDF edition.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ice Rink Schedule

• Thursdays 1-8pm, Fridays and Saturdays 1-10pm and Sundays 1-5pm. Cost is \$5 per skater.

Rec Pool Schedule:

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 6am-10am, Monday and Thursday 11:15am-7pm and Tuesday and Wednesday 11:15am-3:30pm 6 lanes AND 3:30-7 (shared Pool) and Saturday 10-11am 6 lanes.

Adult Swim Monday-Thursday 11:15am-7pm.

Call ahead for Public Swim Weekend schedule due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

• Tickets for Bear Shadow Music Festival are on sale now. For more information, visit <https://bearshadownc.com/information/>.

Sun. - Sat.

• Open in person meetings are held in Cashiers @ the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sunday at 5:00 pm and on Saturday at 9 am. Cashiers Open ZOOM Meetings are held on Monday @ Noon and 7 pm and on Wednesday @ 7 pm and on Saturday @ 9 am. ZOOM ROOM 921 817 2966 PASSWORD CVG2020. For more information please visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. 24/7 call our HELP Line 828 349-4357.

Spring Sports Registration is on

Macon County Youth Soccer Registration is underway for ages 5-15 year olds.

Registration open now through February 24th. Practice will begin in mid march and games will start April 2nd. Register online at maconsoccer.net

Franklin Little League Baseball registration is underway for ages 4-14 year old. Registration Open Now through March 7, 2022. Register online at www.flbaseball.com.

Franklin Little League Softball registration is underway for ages 4-14 year old. Registration Open Now through March 7, 2022. Register online at www.franklinlittlesoftball.com.

Mondays

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526-0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

• **American Legion** meets Mondays at 9 AM Highlands United Methodist Church. All veterans invited

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11am.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon. & Thurs.

• Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 pm \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call 828.349.2081.

Mon, Wed, Thurs

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 am-1 pm.

Mon, Wed, Fri

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 am.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Highlands/ Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are

for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays @ 12:00 noon.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas

• New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different types of exercise.

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

First Wednesdays

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring "Walk-in Wednesdays" Hiring Event. Interviewing for RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals and Support Services Professionals, 1-3:30 pm. 190 Hospital Drive, front entrance. On the spot offers, Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions, Bring updated resume. Casual wear.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

• Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 am to 5pm at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Location subject to change. please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19> or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

Thurs. & Sat.

• The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. An In Person Meeting with Covid 19 Preventive Measures is held each Thurs Noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member of AL-ANON call 828-342-6866.

2nd Thurs. thru - May

• Story Telling & Listening at Shakespeare & Co. in Village Square from 2-4 p.m.

Fri.-Mon., Feb. 18-21

• Great Backyard Bird Count from 9 to 10 am Participants will meet at the North Campus of the Highlands Biological Station (111 Lower Lake Road) for an introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count before taking a walk around the campus to find our feathered friends. On Saturday, guest leaders from the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will take part in the count as well. These walks are weather dependent and masks are encouraged. Binoculars will be available if you need them. Register for one or both strolls at highlandsbiological.org.

Sun., Feb 27

• Chefs Dinner at the Farm with Hugh Acheson & Christopher Hathcock. Book online at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/AchesonandHathcock



COVID vaccinations & testing updates

Optum will continue Covid-19 testing and vaccination services on the Plateau through the end of February.

Covid-19 testing and vaccination will be offered on the following schedule:

• Covid-19 Testing at Village Green in Cashiers every Tuesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

• Covid-19 Testing at Highlands Community Building every Wednesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

• Covid-19 Vaccination at Highlands Rec Center every Thursday from 9-5. They will limit vaccines offered to adult and pediatric Pfizer. No appointments necessary or accepted.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Allen Tate names Ryan Bears as Highlands/Cashiers Branch Leader



Allen Tate Companies, the Carolinas™ leading real estate company, has named Ryan Bears as branch leader for the company's Highlands-Downtown and Wildcat Cliffs/Cashiers Road offices.

In his new role, Bears will lead the development and coaching of high-performing brokers affiliated with the firm, as well as attract quality new talent to grow the team.

An accomplished real estate professional, Bears has worked as a Realtor® with Pat Allen Realty Group/Allen Tate since 2018. He was promoted to a leadership position as sales manager for the Highlands/Cashiers offices in October 2021.

Prior to his real estate career, Bears worked in finance and as sales manager for a large contracting company. He earned a bachelors degree in communications/public relations from

Newberry College, where he was a member and officer of Kappa Alpha Order.

He is a supporter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and a past member of the Highlands ABC Board.

“Ryan has distinguished himself as a Realtor® and has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as sales manager. We are pleased to announce that he has accepted this leadership role as branch leader of

our offices,” said Pat Allen, president, Pat Allen Realty Group.

A native of Florida, Bears moved to Highlands in 2004 where he attended and graduated high school, and then returned to the community in 2015. Bears makes his home in Highlands with his wife Maci and daughter Ansley. He enjoys family time, college football, golf, and travel.

To contact an Allen Tate agent in the Highlands-Downtown office, call 828-526-8784.

• *Allen Tate Companies is the Carolinas™ largest real estate company with offices in the Charlotte, Triad, Triangle, High Country and Highlands/Cashiers regions of North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina regions. Allen Tate offers the advantage of hometown service with international capabilities and the latest in real estate technology and maximum marketing exposure. Visit www.allentate.com for more information.*

Pursuing higher education is encouraged at HCCDC



Rachel Sprinkle (left), a teacher at the Highlands Community Child Development Center, with Pat Hedden, the Director of the Center. Rachel has worked at the Center for 3 years and, with the support of the HCCDC is pursuing additional certification in early childhood education through Southwest Community College.

• OBITUARY •

Malcom 'Mickey/Mick' Fred Henry



Malcom “Mickey/Mick” Fred Henry went home to be with Jesus on Monday, January 31, 2022.

Born on December 9, 1936, he was the son of the late Edd and Alma Jane Barnes Henry of the Clear Creek Community, Highlands, NC. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Betty Louise Houston Henry; two sisters, Clara Jane Henry Edens (W.T.) of Liberty, SC, and Betty Hunter Butts of Highlands, NC; and one brother, Clem L. Henry of Highlands, NC.

Mickey was the owner/operator of Mickey Henry Concrete for many years and a proud U.S. Army Veteran.

Mickey is survived by a brother, Eddie Henry (Doris) of Easley, SC; and a sister, Helen

Henry Talley (Zane) of Highlands, NC. He is also survived by three sister-in-laws, Donna Houston, Kathy McConnell, Shirley Murphy (Tom); three brother-in-laws, Wiley Houston (Dianne), Jimmy Houston, and Robert Houston (Sharon). He also has many nieces and nephews who loved him and thought he was the “coolest” uncle ever! (Especially when he rode his

Harley!)

A celebration of life was Saturday, February 5, at Macedonia Baptist Church, 341 Jerry Gap Road, Clayton, GA. Rev. Zane Talley will officiate.

Military honors were provided by American Legion Post 108 and VFW Post 7339.

The family thanks his co-worker and friend, James Watson. Also, a special thank you to his caregivers, neighbors, and friends, who were always there when needed. May God bless each of you!

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Clear Creek Community Cemetery fund, PO Box 1321, Attention: J. Hicks, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

During the contract period we will strive to recruit people who could apprentice and become licensed operators. The licensing process where an employee can operate the plant takes about three years complete.

Congratulations to Howard Brown on retirement and his 40-year service to the town. Howard has been making a significant commute to serve Highlands. I know he will enjoy this new chapter in his life.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left, Reverend Randy Lucas, Lee Lyons, and Tom Graham, Rotary president.

The power of storytelling

Rev. Randy Lucas introduced Lee Lyons as the featured speaker for the February 1, meeting.

Lyons delivered a fascinating presentation called, "The Gift of Storytelling." Lyons opened her presentation by explaining that recently, a group of women's storytellers were prompted with, "What seeds do you want to plant in 2022?" Ultimately, Lee Lyons decided she wanted to plant seeds of storytelling and the joy it brings other people.

The first storytellers, Lyons explained, were visual artists. But the means of stories being told have changed drastically since then. Personal stories have become very popular, citing Ted Talks as an example.

The beauty of storytelling is that you don't have to be a professional and drawing on personal stories that you may think aren't important, can have a huge impact on others.

Lyons described speaking at a storytelling group in Asheville about having a bottle of wine that she was told would not have a long shelf life. However, she kept the bottle

for over 27 years, waiting for an important event to open it. When she did finally open the bottle of wine, it had turned to vinegar. She told the story with humor, garnering laughs from her audience.

However, she later received an email from another audience member who said that the story changed her life. She said that upon hearing the story of the wine turning to vinegar over so much time, she realized she had been holding onto many things (both emotional and physical things) for too long and she was going to start letting them all go.

Lee Lyons encourages others to become involved in storytelling. With quite a few storytelling events available at CLE, the Highlands Baptist Church, Shakespeare & Co., and the Highlands United Methodist Church, it's a great time to become involved.

Finally, Lyons leaves us with this quote: "Go and tell your stories to your children, and your children's children, lest you die in vain."

...TAX continued from page 10

crease, the Macon County Board of Commissioners would have to vote to put the referendum on the ballot for voters to either approve or deny. By state statute, the entire quarter cent sales tax would be returned to the county in which it was generated -- the majority of sales tax collected in the county is reimbursed to other counties in the state.

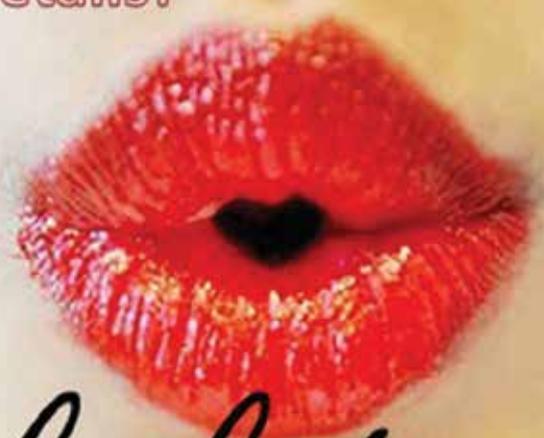
Sales tax varies significantly from property taxes. In Macon County, a one penny increase to property tax would generate about \$850,000 in revenue for the county budget. This increase would only impact property owners in Macon County.

So, property owners would be footing the bill for the increase to fund educational needs — whereas everyone contributes to the sales tax generated in Macon County. A 1/4 cent sales tax increase in Macon County would generate about \$1,700,000 annually for the county and be paid by anyone who spends money in Macon County.

To contact Macon County about the possibility of commissioners considering a referendum on the November ballot to provide a tax specific for education, contact County Manager Derek Roland at droland@maconnc.org or (828) 349-2000

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• ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

Happy Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is celebrated in honor of Saint Valentine. Valentine was a Roman priest who served under the leadership of Emperor Claudius 11 during the 3rd century.

Claudius outlawed marriage for young men, thinking they made better soldiers remaining single. Saint Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered he was jailed for his crimes.

While imprisoned, Valentine cared for his fellow prisoners and also for the jailor's blind daughter. Valentine cured the daughter's blindness and his final act before being executed was to write her a love message signed 'from your Valentine'. Valentine was beheaded on February 14, 270 AD.

Exchanging Valentine cards first became popular in London in the early 1800's. Esther Allen Howland is credited for bringing Valentine cards to America in 1847. Shortly, after graduating from college at age 19, she received a Valentine card from an associate of her fathers. At that time Valentine greeting cards were imported from



Kenny Youmans

Europe and not affordable to most Americans.

Determined that she could make affordable cards, she convinced her father to order her the supplies she needed. She made a dozen samples and advertised through a popular magazine. She immediately received orders for over \$5,000. She hired friends to help her make the cards. She was soon grossing over \$100,000 a year.

Today over 145 million cards will be mailed or exchanged in the U.S. and over one billion worldwide.

Richard Cadbury was an English entrepreneur. His father was founder of Cadbury's cocoa and chocolate company. Richard took over his father's business in 1861.

He was the first to commercialize the connection of chocolates and romance.

In 1868, Richard's company started producing a heart-shaped box of chocolates with Cupids and rosebuds on top of the box for Valentine's Day.

After the chocolates were eaten, people could use the beautiful boxes to save mementos and love letters. Today more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates are sold each year. That's more than

58 million pounds of chocolate.

Last year a total of 152 million roses were sold on the two weeks leading up to Valentine's Day. 87% of the roses sold were red. The 2nd most popular flowers sold were red carnation bouquets. There are more flowers sold leading up to Valentine's

Day than any other holiday.

The most popular Valentine's Day poem was written by Edmund Spenser, an English poet, in 1590. The name of the poem is "Roses are red, violets are blue."

Smart men always remember their wives and girlfriends on Valentine's Day!



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...INCREASE continued from page 1

Based on the values assigned during the 2019 valuation, and the market growth, homes in Macon County are selling at 21 percent higher than their 2019 assessed value.

In addition to properties selling at a higher rate, there are also more taxable properties compared to the 2019 revaluation process. With 42,850 taxable parcels currently, Braswell noted that is a 308 increase since the last valuation. The additional parcels, paired with the higher home sales, equates to more than a \$3 billion increase.

In 2019, Macon County saw a total of 1,397 qualified property sales. The following year the county recorded an increase to 1,794 and then in 2021, the county hit a record high of 1,857 property sales. So far in 2022, Macon County has recorded 88 property sales.

Highlands township reported 241 parcels sold in 2021 with the highest property being valued at \$4,000,000 and the lowest

being \$5,000. Highlands City reported 188 sales with the highest being \$5,500,000 and the lowest being \$20,000.

The number of plats recorded in 2021 increased by more than 100 over the prior year and according to Braswell, serves as an indicator that people are breaking out properties and new construction will follow.

The entire process is just getting started and new property values won't be finalized until the end of 2022. Once the process is complete, notices will be sent to property owners beginning in 2023.

The notices will include the new values as well as information regarding the appeals process for property owners who object to their new assessed value. The Macon County Board of Equalization will then schedule any appeals received by the county in April. According to Braswell, on average Macon County sees around a 10% appeal rate — which is about 4,500 appeals per revaluation process.

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www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Relational Cancer



**Sr. Pastor
Dr. Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

Sometimes, while on the internet, I will notice something that claims to help each of us spot a liar. This acquired skill usually has something to do with observable body language, the use of one's eyes, dramatic pauses, touching one's face or any one of 10 other notable masking behaviors. Do we really need to get good at picking out lies? Is lying that much of an issue?

Anyone can lie at any time. If you can fog up a mirror, you are capable lying. If you are a toddler who can communicate, you can lie. Somewhere between being a toddler and finally dying, lying remains a consistent option to each of us. In this sinful, broken world, lying is actually part of our nature.

Why do we lie? There are plenty of reasons why people lie, some reasons more prevalent than others. People pleasers lie because they are defined by what others think and one's "acceptance" must remain favorable and preserved. Many lie to be "loved." People lie because it beats the horrible consequences, like failing a class, failing a family, losing a job, losing another's confidence. People lie to acquire things like, money, affirmation, validation, attention, value, time, and opportunity. People lie because their self-worth is based on their performance. To fail or lose is a means of ruining oneself, therefore lying seemingly preserves our acceptability. This is pretty twisted. Lying looks like it buys time, but it only delays the inevitable. Eventually the liar and the lie get exposed.

Can lies masquerade as truth? If you are a skilled clinician of deceit, there is a way to spin a lie into an acceptable truth. Simply repeat a lie, become fixated upon it, never hide it, passionately defend it often. Bring a disgusting lie into the light of day often enough and even the liar gets confused. Even the liar becomes a believer. When one's reality isn't acceptable, one creates an alternative reality. For some, it is a survival technique. Spin doctors, repeat a lie, appear righteous and wronged while redefining reality in the process.

Our culture is partly responsible for the prevalence of deceit. There has been a massive, cultural, dilution of lying to such an extent, lying is becoming such a non-issue in everyday life. People no longer really lie, they may have mis-spoken, but certainly there was no lie. We can now mislead but not lie. We can misunderstand but never lie. We can speak out of turn but not lie. We can equivocate or fib, but

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717

www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am Sunday

School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner: 6pm. call for details.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children's Program. Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-8152

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services in the Chapel:

8 am Rite I spoken, 10:30 Rite II with Choir

Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in the Chapel

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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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We wear masks and social distance.

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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

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April

mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

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. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. noon; Sun. 11a

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Jan. 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Jan. 1

• At 3:05 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Carolina Way.

Jan. 24

• At 3:25 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and 3rd streets.

Jan. 28

• At 12:59 p.m., officers responded to a call of someone taking money from the business accounts without permission at Tugs Proper in the

amount of \$104,210.64.

Jan. 29

• At 12:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Arnold Road and NC 106.

Jan. 31

• At 6:46 p.m., Robert Dye, 52, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over for making an unsafe violation. He was issued an unsecured \$2,500 bond. His trial date is March 2.

Feb. 1

• At 8:22 a.m., officers responded to a call of a dog breaking loose from restraints and attacking another animal and person on Upper Lake Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue

log from Feb. 1

Feb. 1

• At 8:09 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Feb. 2

• At 10:05 a.m., the dept. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.

• At 5:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hapoldt Road.

Feb. 3

• At 1:45 p.m., the dept. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 2:10 p.m., the dept. the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 7:20 p.m., the dept. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

Feb. 4

• At 6:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Worley Road.

Feb. 5

• At 12:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

• At 10:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Carriage Lane.

Feb. 7

• At 7:12 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

we draw the line at lying.

Since the total extinction of taking personal responsibility for oneself, lying has become an art form. Watch a sitcom and count the lies shared within just one family. Watch a court case and count the lies. Celebrities lie, journalists lie, spouses lie, politicians lie, our government lies, our children lie, yet at the end of the day, somehow, no one is lying. It isn't happening, all is well, some are merely mistaken, some misunderstand, some are misled, some just

don't have the facts.

How serious is all this? There is a consistent prevalence of lying in culture thus an abundance of deceit and bondage. Lying leads to division. The prevalence of lying creates a house divided. A house divided cannot stand. Lying causes great confusion, shame and embarrassment. God is not the author of confusion and He died to scorn the very shame that is seeking to destroy us. Lying is best likened to a stage-four cancer

that metastasizes itself in our relationships, inflicting a deep piercing pain, an abiding nauseousness, and a paralyzing weariness. We are a people not yet sickened enough with lies. Lying is way too acceptable, fashionable, expected and "cute."

We each need the real freedom rooted and established only in truth. May you know the truth and may the truth set you free. Pursue truth, stand only on truth, speak the truth in love regardless of how it is received

and how it seemingly defines you.

The truth is more than syllables, words, concepts. "Christ put it succinctly: "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). If we are first honest with Christ, we know we need Him, we are loved by Him despite our wrongs, and that walking in Him is walking in truth and that truth cannot do anything but set us free. If I am lying, I am dying.

Bear Shadow announces one-of-a-kind, experiential daytime events on Sat. April 30 to bolster weekend-long April 29-May 1 music festival

For festival-goers looking to enjoy more music and revelry alongside the beauty of the mountains in the resort town of Highlands, N.C., Bear Shadow music festival announces a selection of experiences sure to delight, including an intimate acoustic evening with critically-acclaimed, award-winning singer-songwriters Suzy Bogguss, Gretchen Peters and Matraca Berg. Guided biological hikes that culminate in acoustic performances, musician clinics from headlining acts and soulful fitness sessions in the park are also planned throughout the weekend-long event April 29 – May 1.

• "Wine, Women and Song" – Join critically acclaimed, award-winning singersongwriters Suzy Bogguss, Gretchen Peters and Matraca Berg for an intimate

evening of acoustic song, conversation and fine wines at Skyline Lodge, overlooking the beautiful Appalachian Mountains. Wine, Women & Song will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 24 p.m. Tickets are \$125.

• "Hike & Mic" – Enjoy a guided adventure through Highlands' forests and trails followed by acoustic performances by Bear Shadow performers Wild Rivers and Jamestown Revival at the conclusion of the hike. Hike & Mic events are Friday, April 29 from 1-3 p.m. at Brushy Face Preserve and Saturday, April 30 from 1-3 p.m. at Sunset Rock & Highlands Biological Station. Tickets are \$65.

• Bearfoot in the Park – Join instructors from The Works – Charleston's Sweat Studio for a one-hour soulful fitness combining vinyasa yoga, meditation, breath-



"Wine, Women and Song" – Join critically acclaimed, award-winning singersongwriters Suzy Bogguss, Gretchen Peters and Matraca Berg for an intimate evening of acoustic song, conversation and fine wines at Skyline Lodge,



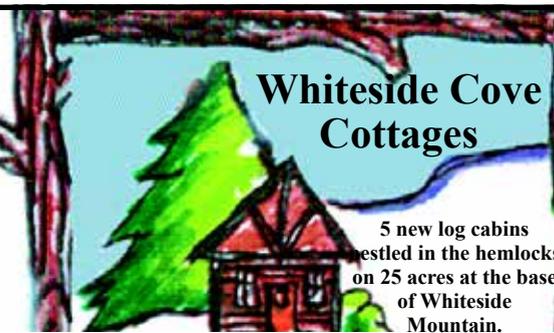
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CASHIERS COLOR CENTER is looking to hire a full-time individual to assist in the paint department. Duties will include mixing paint, assisting customers with color selections and sundry items, stocking shelves and daily cleaning. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. This individual must be dependable, self-motivated, have great customer service skills and be willing to learn. We will offer on-the-job training, so experience is not necessary. For more information, call Derek Taylor @ 828-200-9226, or stop by Cashiers Color Center to fill out an application. (Jan 20-Feb 10)

HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE DINING ROOM SUPERVISOR— HMH is seeking a full time shift supervisor to coordinate reservations and oversee all aspects of service in the front of the house at TRG. This role will act as Maitre' D to the dining room, work service for lunch, dinner and brunch and be responsible for the proper execution of each service period. This position will begin as an hourly position and has the potential to grow into a salaried position based upon performance. This candidate should be positive, reliable, hard working, have a love of people, service and have aspirations to lead and grow with the company. (st. 12/16)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@ya-

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LUXURY LODGE MANAGER NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION— Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 2/11)

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• HS SENIOR NIGHT •



Ava Schmitt



Bella Branham



Mason Taylor



Brandon Moss



Karla Diaz



Reese Schmitt



Hayley Borino



Jeffrey Olvera



Taylor Rickert



Julia May Schmitt



Maddie Coen



Win Dyleski

...SENIORS from page 1

Borino, Bella Branham, Ava Schmitt, Julia May Schmitt, Reese Schmitt, and Team Manager Maddie Webb.

Highlands senior boys varsity basketball players include Win Dyleski, Brandon Moss, Mason Taylor, and Jeffrey Olvera.

Highlands varsity basketball teams host Brevard on Cancer Awareness Night beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday.



Maddie Webb



Brandy Zagal

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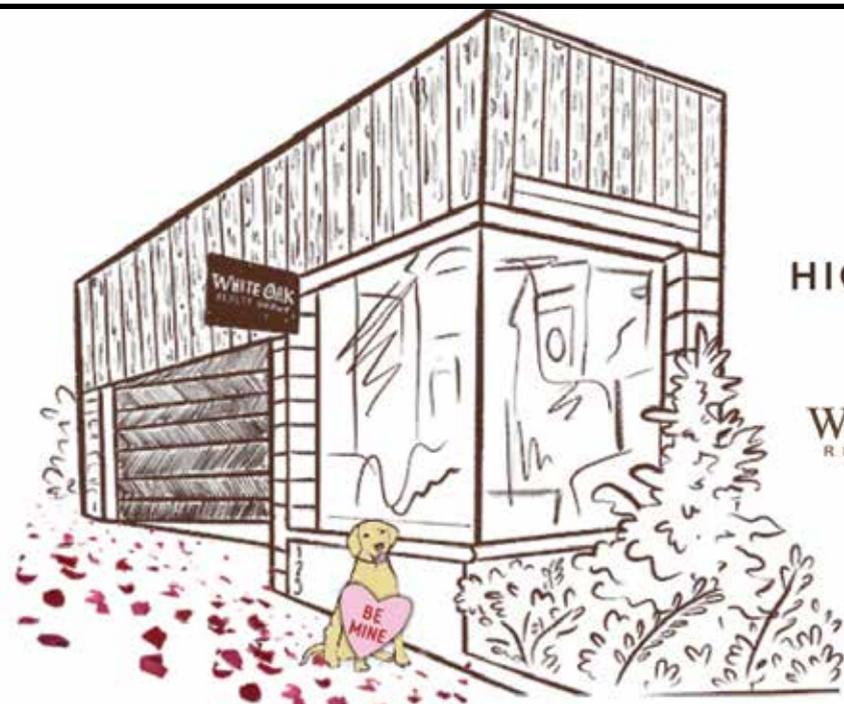
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