

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 20, 2024

Williamses sell OEI Hospitality Group

Whitley family from Athens, now at the helm of its companies and properties

The South's award-winning collection of hotels and clubs has found new ownership in James and Jessica Whitley of Athens, Georgia. On Friday, June 14, 2024, the sale of Old Edwards Hospitality Group's assets was completed between long-time owners Art and Angela Williams and the Whitleys.

Art and Angela Williams purchased Old Edwards Inn more than 20 years ago after visiting and falling in love with the town of Highlands in their younger years. Over the last two decades, they renovated the original inn and spa, added rooms, restaurants, shops, wedding and event venues, and two golf clubs. A full hospitality

group began to grow and Old Edwards Inn and Spa, as well as the Old Edwards Club, has become a beloved destination for families across America.

"As Angela and I entered our eighties (we both turned 82 in April), we began to realize we didn't have the energy or stamina

• See **OLD EDWARDS** page 13

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MC Commissioners pass 2024-'25 \$63.7M budget with minor changes

Commissioners Higdon and Shearl voted 'no'

After a detailed discussion and minor amendments, at the June meeting the Macon County Board of Commissioners approved the 2024-'25 FY budget.

The budget, which now stands at \$63,704,651, saw a blend of consensus and contention among the commissioners.

County Manager Derek Roland opened the discussion by inviting board members to address any concerns about the proposed budget. Commissioner Paul Hig-

don, as a senior member of the board, noted his extensive experience with the county budgets and expressed overall satisfaction but sought input on several specific items.

One significant point of debate was the Community Funding Pool, which provides taxpayer funds to local non-profits to the tune of \$75,000 a year. Commissioner John Shearl argued for its removal, noting that both the

• See **MC BUDGET** page 14

HS Class of 2004 20-year reunion



In 2004, the Class of 2004 was the largest graduating class from Highlands School at 35 students. This past weekend most of them gathered from as far away as Germany to celebrate their past and their connection to Highlands. At the first event held the evening of Friday, June 14 at The Secret Garden, 26 gathered. Saturday was a daytime affair at the Wilson Barn on Rich Gap Road. Members of the class were (maiden names) Cole Alexander, Rosalind Ashburn, Cole Berg, Katy Betz, Kay Billingsley, Lauren Carnes, Heather Dalton, Miranda Dotson, Pablo Escandon, Eric Fielding, Paul Fredrick, Maegan Gallira, Nathan Heffington, Rachel Lewicki, Amber Manley, Chelsea Moses, Steven Owens, Jessica Potts, Brittany Potts, Margie Potts, Christopher Raby, Travis Raby, Caitlin Rawlins, Trent Reese, Brittany Shook, Anna Claire Sims, Danny Thomas, Raymond Varn, James View, Melissa Warren, Steven Warren, Alana Wilson, Zack Wilcox and exchange student from Germany, Keno Menneback.

Verbiage to amortize STRs on June TB agenda

By Kim Lewicki

At tonight's Town Board meeting, Commissioner Brian Stiehler will introduce an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance regarding the amortization of Short-term Rentals in the R1 and R2 districts of Highlands.

The promise to do away with STRs was a campaign promise made by Commissioners Stiehler and John Dotson this last election cycle.

This move is in preparation of NC Senate Bill 667 – a bill that

• See **STR** page 11



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

OEI changes hands and Town Board is set to amortize STRs

Change is inevitable, so I was not shocked when I got the call this weekend stating that Old Edwards Hospitality Group and all its properties had been sold. The surprise came when I learned that OEI had not been sold to a large hotel and resort corporation like Marriott, Wyndham, or Hilton but rather to a couple with the real estate knowledge and business commitment to operating facilities like OEI.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

I want to congratulate Art and Angela Williams on the successful sale of their properties to folks who will maintain the OEI tradition of being outstanding community partners. Highlands has been fortunate to have the Williams invest in our community for over twenty years. I am sure they will continue to remain engaged in Highlands' life as they take on new endeavors in the coming years.

I want to welcome James and Jessica Whitely as the new owners of OEI. While I know they will maintain the OEI and Highlands tradition as innovative businesspeople, I

suspect they will, in time, bring their creative vision to OEI. As mayor, I look forward to meeting with them and discussing Highlands and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Thursday, June 20, is the monthly town board meeting. It will be held at the Highlands Recreation Center and will begin at 7 pm. There is no 6 pm workshop meeting scheduled for this Thursday.

I anticipate the July board meeting to resume at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field. The contractor is in the final stages of completing the renovations to the Highlands Community Center.

There are two major items on the agenda tonight. First, there will be a public hearing concerning the proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 budget. Following the hearing, the board will review the final budget and hopefully approve the budget. Let me emphasize that after the budget public hearing, the proposed budget can be amended to reflect concerns or needed modifications. A budget has to be approved by July 1 or there would be a continuation of the current budget minus critical items like pay raises and capital projects. I anticipate the board approving the proposed budget.

Another major item will be a review of a proposed STR ordinance amendment that would amortize the grandfathered status of STRs currently in operation. In short, grandfathered STRs in R1 or R2 would get a designated period of continued operation before STR use would have to stop.

I have recently expressed my opinion that amortization is not the best course of action. I believe over time, the number of STRs in residential neighborhoods will diminish, and therefore, I advocate for improved enforcement actions of currently grandfathered STRs. I share with a number of commissioners the view that we do not want to see our residential zones overwhelmed with short-term rentals. Nevertheless, a number of commissioners do not embrace my position and believe amortization is the best course of action. I will say that if the board does embrace amortization, it will resolve the issue of STRs, maybe throughout the state, by possible state preemption legislation and/or legal actions.

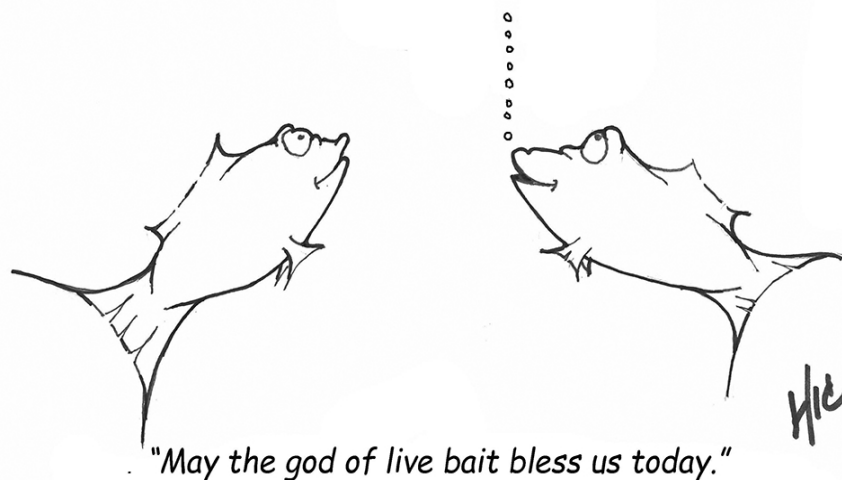
The language for amortization was drafted by the town attorney as requested by the board. The amendment is very brief and

straightforward. If the amortization action is adopted, a review process will ensure that it includes a planning board review and a public

hearing.





The meeting on Thursday can be accessed by a link on the town website.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"May the god of live bait bless us today."

• WEATHER •

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There is a 500-word limit. 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.

Obituary Policy:

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Orchard Session

Brandon Crocker

Thursday, July 11



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view details

• INK PENN •

Selecting books to fit your mood

What are you in the mood to read? Genteel mysteries set in 1920s England or a fast-paced modern-day mystery set in small-town Maine? These three books are equally entertaining, but the third is quite different from the first two.

Murder at Millar's Hotel by Kelly Mason

I'm hooked. This cozy mystery set in 1920s England has an inspirational main character. Lady Ellen of Ashcombe Hall is staying at Millar's Hotel in a seaside town while her family home is being refurbished.

A war widow, she turned her home into a convalescent home for WWI vets, and now in 1924, is ready to move forward. This is a cozy mystery, so of course, her plans are disrupted when she runs into an unpleasant character from her past.

But she also runs into a charming man who spent time convalescing at Ashcombe Hall, and the game is soon afoot. Lady Ellen is a caring main character who looks out for others. Some might label her a rescuer, but that's part of her charm. I

can't wait to dive into book II to see what develops next for her.

"Murder at Archly Manor" by Sara Rosett

I enjoy the author's contemporary Murder on Location series set in a Cotswolds village, so I wanted to try this historical cozy series set in 1920s England. What a delight. Olive Belgrave is just my kind of heroine--down-to-earth, able to fend for herself and not terribly impressed by the moneyed upper class.

She holds her own no matter the surroundings, and the witty dialogue grabs your attention. It's the first in the 8-book High Society Lady Detective series, and I highly recommend you pick it up.

Now, hold on to your hats, fast forward one hundred years, and skip across the pond to the US.

The Busy Body by Kemper Donovan

What fun! Two smart women are on the trail of a killer. One is a ghostwriter



Kathy Manos Penn

who pens memoirs and autobiographies for celebrities and politicians, and the other is a losing candidate in a recent presidential election. One is accustomed to being front and center. The other is a woman who makes a living being invisible.

You're bound to note the similarities to Hilary Clinton in former Senator Dorothy Gibson, who has sequestered herself in her Maine home to lick her wounds.

It occurred to me only as I sat down to write this review that I couldn't recall the ghostwriter's name. I'm betting it was never mentioned, which is in keeping with her occupation. How clever!

When a neighbor dies, the two "involve" themselves in the investigation, and as befits a mystery with amateur sleuths, solve the case. Other than the cursing, this is very much a cozy mystery. Plenty of clever clues, red herrings, and twists and turns abound. The phrase "Musk adjacent" to describe an entrepreneur is an example of

the author's way with words. A few times, I had to stop and think before I got the meaning.

The ghostwriter's life story is never fully revealed, though there are hints. That means there's more to come. Plus the subtitle is "A Ghostwriter Mystery," which is a clue that this will be a series.

The witty dialogue, complete with plenty of snark, will keep you entertained, and you'll be tempted to read nonstop, much as you would with an Agatha Christie story. It's no surprise to learn that the author hosts an Agatha Christie podcast. I await the announcement that book 2 is on the way.

I enjoy having a variety of books on my nightstand so that I'm sure of finding one that fits my mood. After the calm ones set in England, "The Busybody" was a nice change.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.

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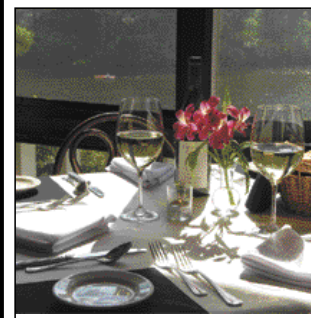


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• LETTERS •



Thanks to all for a great Motoring Festival

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Highlands Motoring Festival 2024 organizing committee, we want to express our extreme thanks to the Town of Highlands and all the town departments that helped the event committee fulfil its quest to bring the best possible car festival to the Town of Highlands and to the many sponsors who supported us and all the local business owners for their support.

A huge thanks to all the many volunteers who sat at the gates and directed visitors.

To all car people who thought enough of our show to drive or trailer their very special cars and buses up the mountain to join us which is no easy task.

To all the folks who came from all over to share in this experience with us. Also, we must thank the weather gods who blessed us with the best weather ever.

It was a great show in every respect. I hope I have not forgotten anyone who helped us in this effort, but I will bet I have! Thank you all.

Ricky Siegel

Highlands Motoring Festival Chairman 2024

• See LETTERS page 13

• OBITUARIES •

Dr. James Vernon Barrett Jr



Dr. James Vernon Barrett, Jr., 73, of Highlands, NC passed away Friday, June 7, 2024. He was born on February 9, 1951, in Dothan, AL, to the late James Vernon Barrett, Sr. and Annie Louise Bruner Barrett.

James was a member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, AL and the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC. He practiced dentistry in Fayette, AL, and was later employed with Protective Life in Birmingham. Dr. Barrett was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. He graduated Birmingham-Southern College in 1973. He received a master's degree from Samford University in 1975 and then graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1980.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 44 years, Marilyn Barrett, a sister, Cynthia Wingard (Charles) of Birmingham, AL, and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service will be held June 26, 2024, in the chapel at Church of the Incarnation in Highlands.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory of Franklin, NC is honored to serve the Barrett family.

Isabel Hall Chambers



Isabel Hall Chambers, 93, of Highlands, NC, passed away at her home June 10, 2024. Isabel was a true Highlands native, born April 14, 1931, to the late Tudor Norton Hall and Margaret Gilbert Hall and was a lifelong member of the Church of the Incarnation.

In her lifetime, Isabel was a homemaker, a music teacher, gift shop owner and Realtor. She was involved in many organizations in Highlands and in Atlanta, where her fam-

• See OBITUARIES page 11

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Highlands ... I can't imagine living anywhere else

How is the real estate market doing in Highlands? That is the question I get asked more often than anything else at this point in my career. As someone born and raised here, I have seen a lot of comings and goings in my 60+ years, so my answer to that aforementioned question is usually going to be positive.

I believe that Highlands is a location and a community that is insulated from many different market trends.

Highlands is a unique place, almost totally surrounded by National Forest, which is why we'll always have tourists and people desiring to live here.

While Kelsey and Hutchinson had an unreasonable vision for Highlands when it was founded, the people (like my ancestors) that did come settle here realized that Highlands was a respite from the heat of the rest of the South.

A plateau that is "air conditioned by nature" and therefore a place that will always be attractive to people who are looking to escape the thick humid summers of the Southeast.

Prices keep climbing, even with the higher interest rates, and it's because Highlands is so special.

Even after hundreds of trips off the plateau visiting the rest of our great nation



W Terry Potts
Country Club Properties of
Highlands
828-421-3417

(or sometimes other nations) one thing has never changed for me. When I begin to see our beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance, I can immediately feel myself relax.

Highlands is unique place in regards to real estate, but it is even more special due to the people who live here and call it home. We take care of each other, and we look out for each other in the way a small community should.

Just recently, we lost three real estate agents who contributed a lot to our community. The celebrations of their lives and the empathy shown to their families are a perfect example of the spirit of this community ... the people here look out for everyone. Check out Facebook or the newspaper when a dog is missing or when someone is sick, everyone steps up to help.

Anytime I am feeling a little disconnected, a trip to town brings literally dozens of smiling faces and conversations with both old childhood friends and new acquaintances alike. I can't imagine living anywhere else, so it makes a lot of sense to think that Highlands will remain a place where everyone wants to be.

• *W Terry Potts, Country Club Properties of Highlands, more than five generations in Highlands. 828-421-3417*

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Greenway names 'worker of the year' and new officers

At the Annual Meeting of the Highlands Plateau Greenway on Saturday, after a morning of trailblazing, outgoing President Jim Ward presented Kathy Smith with the 2024 Trail Worker of the Year Award.

Newly elected officers are Sonya Carpenter, President; Jim Chance, Vice President; Kathy Smith, Secretary; Phyllis Davis, Treasurer; and Trail Supervisor: Bill Grubb.



Kathy Smith and Jim Ward

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HC Hospital offers important swing bed and rehabilitation services here at home

When we think of what goes on in a hospital, our ideas often center around hospital stays that may involve planned surgery, having a baby, or an unanticipated visit to the Emergency Department. However, there is another critical type of care that Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) provides that many may not even be aware of at all — a service we call our Swing Bed program, which is essentially a rehab hospital stay.

It is common for patients to require rehabilitation care after a surgical procedure or when they are recovering from an accident or a catastrophic health emergency, such as a stroke. They may need multiple clinical specialists to support their recovery and restore their quality of life. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (the federal agency responsible for the administration of the nation's major health-care programs) recognizes this need in small communities like the Plateau and allows rural hospitals to “swing” their hospital beds from traditional hospital services to function as a rehab hospital stay.

There are multiple team members needed to support a patient in our swing bed program such as therapists, nurses, dietitians, wound care specialists, respiratory therapists, and of course the medical staff. The benefits of getting care close to home are significant. One of the most important is the ability to have family and friends nearby for encouragement and support.

Last month, I referred to a heartwarming patient story, where a patient who had been in a serious accident was discouraged because they thought they would never walk again. Thanks to their determination and commitment to working with our caring team, they regained mobility. The patient is doing better than ever and let me know they will be able to start driving this month. This is a great example of the power of rehabilitative care and how empowering it is for the patient.

The therapy team is comprehensive, including physical therapy (PT), speech therapy, and occupational therapy (OT), who work in concert with our other providers to offer the care that every patient needs, when they need it. Each member of the therapy team plays an important role in helping our



Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital

patients rehabilitate.

The OT focuses on helping a patient perform everyday self-care and other tasks, including brushing their teeth, bathing, and cooking. They help patients relearn daily living skills, and these can look different too. For example, a patient may have a compromised ability to bend over, in which case they may be taught to use a special tool to help them put their socks on, so they are not required to bend over. With OT, it's all about creative solutions to help people with their

recovery and future wellbeing.

Our physical therapists help patients regain their mobility, which may look different than before the medical event they experienced. They customize their treatment to a patient's physical capabilities, which are often dependent on what type of injury they have sustained, their age, and other factors, while helping them learn how to sit and stand again, move around their homes safely and comfortably, and even get back to driving.

Speech therapy is another important service we offer at HCH, and many people are surprised to learn what this therapists' work entails. Not only do they help patients regain their ability to speak, they help them with cognitive issues and processing challenges so they can better understand and process what is said to them, assist with strengthening patients' muscles that are needed for speech, and work with patients who have difficulties swallowing.

June also happens to be National Aphasia Awareness Month, a condition that often affects stroke patients and causes problems with speech, comprehension about what's being said to them, and challenges with reading and writing. Speech therapists work regularly with patients who are living with aphasia.

I am happy to announce that we have expanded our speech therapy program and now offer speech therapy in an outpatient setting, meaning the service is available to patients who are not admitted to the hospital. We are also adding a new service for our speech pathologists to use called FEES, which stands for fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing. This test helps providers evaluate a patient's ability to swal-

• See HOSPITAL page 13

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 7

ily lived about 15 years, accumulating many friends along the way. Isabel's heart was in Highlands, and she and her husband, Tony, shared a bit of Highlands everywhere they went.

Isabel's talent and enthusiasm for playing music brought joy to many. Her melodies resonated through the hearts of her family, friends, and community members, creating bonds that will never be forgotten.

Isabel was a devoted mother and was a source of unwavering love, guidance, and support, leaving behind a legacy of cherished memories and life lessons that will endure through her family and extended family.

Mrs. Chambers is survived by her sons, Tucker Chambers (Jeannie) and Timothy Chambers (Karen); grandchildren, Royce Chambers, Adam Chambers, Erin Britt,

Susan Williams, Spencer Chambers, Sam Chambers, Amanda Forrest, Bessie Shaw and Kasey Chambers; great-grandchildren, Magnolia Chambers, Grant Chambers, Leia Shaw, Walker Shaw, Eli Chambers, Darby Chambers, Delany Chambers, Katie Grace Britt, Lydia Britt, Becca Britt, Jon-Ira Britt, Melissa Britt, Asa Britt, Josiah Britt, Janie Britt, Levi Britt, Mason Williams and Madison Williams.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Overton Chambers, II and a son, Thomas Tudor Chambers.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Friday in the Nave, the sanctuary of the Church of the Incarnation, with Rev. Bentley Manning officiating. A reception followed the service in Jones Hall.

In lieu of flowers, her family sug-

...STR continued from page 1

allows STRs with zoning and other regulations - sponsored by Senators Moffitt; Hanig and McInnis. It passed on the first reading but is now in the Rules and Operations Committee. Stiehler wants the town to be ready if the legislation that he called "heavy-handed legislation that seems like it was written by short-term rental companies" fails.

"Let's look at this in the coming months so all the options are on the table; to at least have the verbiage in front of us," he said.

Commissioner Patterson agreed with Stiehler.

"I say we go ahead and do what we think is best for our community," she said. "We are spending money enforcing things and are getting this new software. We haven't lost anything, but if they don't pass the bill, we can continue on our schedule. We actually have the verbiage in the ordinance already in case the bill doesn't pass. And if the legislature decides to do something then we just stop."

The current verbiage section 6.5.18 in the UDO states:

B. Notwithstanding anything in this UDO, short-term rentals in operation as of September 15, 2022 are nonconforming uses in the R-1 and R-2 zoning districts.

The proposed verbiage which will likely be voted on tonight is:

B. Notwithstanding anything in this UDO, short-term rentals in operation as of September 15, 2022 are nonconforming uses in the R-1 and R-2 zoning districts until September 15, 2027. After September 15, 2027, short-term rentals are not permitted in the R-1 or R-2 zoning districts, and all short-term rentals in those districts must be discontinued.

Attorney Bob Hagemann said, even if the legislation passes, it will be several years before STRs completely stop.

"We have stopped the bleeding, it's not expanding, it's diminishing. And if you amortize there is a 99.9% chance there will be not one but many lawsuits even though it's not considered a constitutional taking of property. But you need to be ready to lose because it's not a slam dunk by any means."

Hagemann went on to say that no local government in North Carolina has amortized STRs yet.

"Do what you think is best for your community, and I am not telling you not to do what you feel you must do, but if the lobbying group for STRs see amortization as a possibility, the bill in committee could come alive very quickly. It's something you should think about," he said. "No other governing body in North Carolina has attempted to amortize and you may create some impetus to pass legislation - you could trigger a mechanism to revive the bill."

It's likely the vote against STRs will go as it has in the past with Commissioners Stiehler, Patterson, Pierson and Dotson voting to amend the ordinance and to start the amortization ball rolling.

Last month, Commissioner Jeff Weller said he wouldn't support a move to amortize STRs.

If the Town Board votes to amend the ordinance, the verbiage will be sent to the Planning Board whose recommendation will go back to the Town Board. A public hearing will be set with a vote from the Town Board to follow.

Town Manager Josh Ward said the process will likely take a couple of months.

gests giving a donation to the charity of your choice, or the Highlands Historical Society or The Bell Endowment of The Church of the Incarnation. She would also want you to call your mother, learn a musical instrument and play bridge.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

The Bascom names Niki Kinkade as its new executive director

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts is pleased to welcome Niki Kinkade as its new Executive Director starting mid-July. Kinkade comes to The Bascom with more than 15 years of experience in the arts nonprofit sector, bringing with her extensive experience as a leader in the arts. Since 2017, Kinkade has served as Executive Director of the Art Center of the Bluegrass (Danville, KY), where she led the rebranding, growth, and reimagining of the organization, doubling its physical space, programming, and staff. Kinkade led a \$5 million capital campaign to support the expansion of the center, and established the GLASS National Art Museum featuring the collection of Stephen Rolfe Powell.

Board Chair Ann Wroblewski said, "After an extensive national search, I'm excited to announce that Niki Kinkade will join The Bascom as our new Executive Director. The Search Committee was impressed by Niki's experience, energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to the arts. The Board looks forward to working with her to deepen the connections between



the Plateau and the visual arts."

When asked about her new role, Kinkade said, "I'm delighted to join the Bascom team to continue and expand the great work being done with the visual arts in the Plateau community. The Bascom is a treasure for residents and visitors — a place to find inspiration through seeing, thinking, and doing. I am honored to be a part of it."

Kinkade replaces Dr. Karin Peterson, who announced her retirement from The Bascom last year. The Board extends its gratitude to Dr. Peterson for her leader-

ship over the past three years and her assistance during the search and transition. Under Peterson's tenure, the organization successfully navigated the challenges of COVID-19, expanded and re-engaged its philanthropic base, initiated a master planning process, and revitalized its storytelling and communication efforts. The Bascom is now in an ideal position to continue its important work on the Plateau.

Board Chair Wroblewski states, "I know you'll join me in welcoming Niki to our community and in supporting her — and our staff— in a successful next chapter for The Bascom."

About The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts

The Bascom creates visual art experiences that inspire and empower individuals and communities through seeing, thinking, and doing. For more than 30 years, we've served as a vital cultural resource for Western North Carolina, and we continue to build on that legacy through our work and advocacy for the arts.



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...OLD EDWARDS continued from pg 1

to continue owning and overseeing this amazing company. But we weren't willing to hand it off to anyone we didn't think we could trust to treat it like we did," says Art Williams, "Only when the Whitleys came to us did we believe we could hand it off with full confidence our friends and guests and members would continue to experience Old Edwards hospitality at the same level of excellence."

The list of assets in the transaction includes Old Edwards Inn and Spa, 200 Main, Half-Mile Farm, Four65, Highlands Burrito, Old Edwards Club, Glen-Cove, and Norton Ridge. Art and Angela Williams have always been heavily active in Highlands, helping to develop and grow it from an intimate mountain vacation town into one of the most sought-after areas in the south for full-time residents and those looking for an elevated, serene escape from busy lives. The couple still plans on spending time at the various Old Edwards properties with a team and membership base that has become like family over the years.

...HOSPITAL continued from page 10

low food and liquid. The results of the FEES test then informs the treatment plan that a speech therapist creates for a patient so the patient can get to the point of swallowing properly, comfortably, and safely — so they're not at risk

...LETTERS continued from page 7

Changing one's mind

Dear Editor,

In this day and age the concept of changing one's mind has come to be regarded as being "wishy-washy" or even weak but the Founding Fathers were flexible thinkers and often changed their minds based on evidence or reasoning. For example Ben Franklin said "For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information or further consideration to change my opinion, even on important subjects

"Art and Angela have created something truly special. Anyone that has ever stepped foot in one of their properties has surely felt this," says James Whitley. "They've spent the last 20 years pouring themselves into this incredible place — ensuring that every guest and member feels truly taken care of — and setting a bar for hospitality that is studied by hotels, restaurants, and private clubs all over the country."

James is the Co-Founder and COO of Athens-based Landmark Properties, and he has been involved in the orchestration, design, development, construction, and management of over \$4 billion worth of student housing projects across the United States. Jessica is the Creative Director of Jessica Whitley Studio and leads the design across all the family's projects, including their recently opened boutique hotel in Athens, Rivet House. The couple also owns The Reserve at Lake Keowee, a private, mountain and lake club in Sunset, South Carolina.

"We had an immediate connection with Art and Angela," says Jessica Whitley. "The conversation

for choking or aspirating (when food or liquid enters the airway and then the lungs).

I want to remind everyone in our community that you can get the best care — including in a rehabilitation swing bed setting —

which I once thought right but found to be otherwise".

Most voters probably feel that they know the presidential candidates quite well at this point but listening and watching them during the upcoming debates will provide an opportunity for a reality check. Hopefully voters will see what is true and what is untrue about what they have been believing. The challenge for all of us is to be able to watch the debates with an open mind and not with the intent to merely confirm our personal be-

With the cut of a ribbon, Angela and Art Williams officially opened the Old Edwards Inn & Spa, July 7, 2004. Also pictured is mayor at the time, Buck Trott.

- Photo by Jim Lewicki



of us taking over their properties has been a long and thoughtful one on both sides. Our intention is to let this unbelievable team keep doing the same great work they've always done and honor the Williams family by being great stewards of the legacy they've spent decades building."

Old Edwards' President and Managing Director Richard Delany adds, "Old Edwards Hospitality Group has simply changed

close to home, right here at HCH. To learn more about our rehab services, call 828-526-1489. As always, we are honored that our community looks to HCH for advanced, compassionately rendered care.

liefs.

I believe that for one to be a truly informed voter one should always be prepared and willing to change one's mind when presented with new information. Let's all do our best to use these debates to learn who is the most fit to govern the United States regardless of party affiliation. Here is another quote from Ben Franklin: "When you're finished changing you're finished."

Vivian Brewer
Highlands
• See LETTERS page 15

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Town Ball Field

12 p.m.

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Town Ball Field

1 p.m.

Ladder Truck Spraydown

Town Ball Field

2 p.m.

Duck Derby

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The Business

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HIGHLANDS

NORTH CAROLINA

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...MC BUDGET continued from page 1

Town of Franklin and the Town of Highlands had withdrawn similar funding. Commission Chairman Gary Shields, however, highlighted the invaluable work of organizations like KIDs Place and advocated for continued support. Although both Higdon and Shearl wanted to see changes made to the community funding pool, Commissioner Higdon said he wanted the funding to remain, but making it the commissioners responsibility to decide which organizations receive the funding rather than the board appointed by the commissioners.

Shearl argued that taxpayer funding, regardless of the public benefit they provide, shouldn't be spent to fund non-profits. Ul-

timately, the motion to remove the funding pool failed in a 3-2 vote, with Shields, Commissioner Danny Antoine, and Commissioner Josh Young opposing the cut.

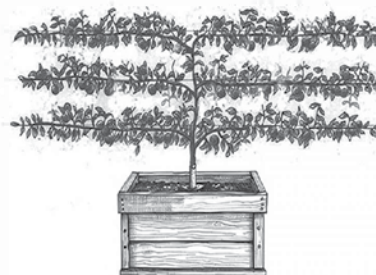
The future of Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center also prompted discussion. Commissioner Higdon mentioned the school's ongoing financial requests, despite initial plans to fund it for only three years. Commissioner Young proposed offering the building to the school, potentially for a nominal fee, to alleviate continued expenses. The board agreed unanimously to keep the funding in the budget while exploring disposal options.

The commissioners addressed the pressing needs at the Senior Services Center, which included safety and ADA compliance issues. Commissioner Higdon opposed spending \$200,000 for just one department, citing other non-compliant county agencies also in need. The board voted 3-2 to reallocate \$200,000 from the Senior Services assessment to a contingency fund, aiming to address immediate ADA needs that were undisputed, rather than fund a study to plan for future needs. Shearl and Higdon voted "no."

Another hot topic was the allocation of funds for Environmental Health (EH) positions. With the department's backlog in inspections, Commissioner Young proposed redirecting funds from vacant EH positions to hire an additional Code Enforcement officer. Macon County Planner Joe Allen explained the need for the positions saying his current employees are working overtime to meet demand, with the existing employees completing 55 inspections that day alone.

• See MC BUDGET page 22

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Dogwood Trust hires monitor to see if HCA is adhering to conditions set by NC AG

By Kim Lewicki

Affiliated Monitors Inc., the new group monitoring Hospital Corporation of America's actions since it bought Mission Hospital, held a community meeting at Hudson Library, Tuesday evening.

Only about 20 people turned out, with about eight of them affiliated either with the HC Hospital Board, or Dogwood Trust, which was tasked with HCA oversight.

Mayor Pat Taylor attributed the lack of turnout to the response citizens got from the previous monitoring group which according to him shut citizens down when they complained about HCA.

Contrarily, Denise Moran, deputy team leader with Affiliated Monitors (AMI) said they "would listen, as will others and they will continue to listen" throughout the monitoring process.

Gerald Coyne, team leader said as an independent monitor hired by Dogwood Trust, they will be overseeing HCA to make sure conditions set during the Asset Purchase Agreement with the NC Attorney

General are met, but they want a balanced approach.

"We want to hear the good and the bad experiences," he said. "Bad news travels faster than good news and though all complaints matter and will be heard, we want to take a balanced approach."

AMI will audit, analyze, verify and test by reviewing documents on which HCA has based its annual report; visit hospital sites; interview key staff and personnel; get community feedback; and finally balance findings and develop recommendations for presentation to Dogwood Trust.

Mayor Taylor said citizens in communities serviced by HCA's outlying hospitals give their hospitals high marks. In Highlands' and Cashiers' case, he said that was largely due to Tom Neal, CEO, CNO, who is engaged on every level and accessible basically 24/7 at HC Hospital.

But comments about Mission Hospital in Asheville revolve around what people claim are hidden costs, understaffing, increased pricing, long wait times, the loss of

• See **MONITOR** page 22

...LETTERS continued from page 13

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Friends of Founders Park, Inc. board of directors, we sincerely want to thank our community for the amazing support for Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. On June 15 we held our seventh annual Low County Shrimp Boil to thank our park patrons and contributors. This year the proceeds are going toward color in the plaza, landscape renovation of planted areas and needed repairs to the concert stage. We help keep our park a beautiful and safe place.

A great time was had by the sellout crowd of 230 patrons. The event was a huge success and made possible by our event's committee and volunteers. Also, the event's success was made possible by our sponsors and donors as follows: Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Highlands Festivals, Inc., Suncoast Equity Management, Meadows Mountain Reality, Marleen Salo, Dry Sink, Ugly Dog Pub, Inc., The Business Spot, A & O Landscaping Services, Inc., Tate Landscaping Services, Inc., Highlands Newspaper, Laurel Magazine, WHLC, Town of Highlands, Friends of Founders Park - Board of Directors, and our Shrimp Boil Volunteers.

It is hard to imagine Highlands without our beautiful downtown park. Its continuing success is made possible by all that

use and support it. Friends of Founders Park is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit dedicated to the success of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park (www.foundersparkhighlands.org).

Hank Ross,
President Friends of Founders
Park, Inc.

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The HC Oaks Band



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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Lap Swim Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-1pm 6 lanes. **Water Aerobics** 18 years plus Mon.-Fri. 10am-1am with Karen Chambers. **Public Swim** Mon. thru

Thurs. 11am-7pm, Fri. and Sat. 11am-6pm and Sun. 1pm-6pm. For info, call 828-526-1595.

PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed), everyone is welcome meetings

ALL WEEK

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

ON-GOING

• At Hudson Library, Readers from 0 to 99 will have adventures this summer as Hudson Library presents "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer learning program. The 2024 Summer Learning Program is free to all participants and starts June 1. No registration is needed for any of these programs. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031, or stop by the library during open hours.

Mountain Findings Hours: May:

• Fri. and Sat. 10a to 1p. **June:** Thurs.-Sat. 10a to 1p.

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.

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

Second Mondays

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

• Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings for more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range

of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings. For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email info@maconnc literacy.org

3rd Tuesdays

• Free Community Stretch & Yoga in the Park Summer Series, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce-Visit Highlands NC, will be offered by Certified Instructors/ Yoga Highlands on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 6pm beginning May 21. Please bring a mat and water; dress comfortably, and let's celebrate health and relaxation. No experience necessary! (next dates: 6/18, 7/16 and 8/20)

2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appointments are required - all are welcome.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside at the Rec Park. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

2nd & 4th Thursdays

• Dementia Caregivers Support Group, Moderators Chris and Fred ensure that the group is a safe place for judgement-free discussion. The next meeting of the Dementia

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Caregivers Support Group is February 22 at 10:15 AM at Hudson Library. For more information about the group, contact Chris at 772-473-1088.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. No martial arts background necessary Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues during the summer, every Thursday morning at 10:40 AM. We'll read books, sing fun songs, and move with the music.

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs. June 6 features Aquatic Insects, an EcoSplash program presented by Mainspring Conservation Trust. Kids will have the chance to learn all about the macro invertebrates in our local rivers, getting hands-on with them and also viewing them through a digital microscope.

Fridays

• At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and crafternoons. The June 7 STEM program will feature a variety of building sets, including some that are brand-new to our library collection. Kids will love seeing what they can create!

Saturdays

• Story Ballet - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm. 828-421-6720

• Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. thru Nov.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email npost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood, Horse Cove RD, Highlands. Sunday 7-8 p.m. traditional hymn-sing. Call or text Gwyn Hardin for information or directions. 919-523-7067. All are welcome.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visi-

tation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

Thurs., June 20

• Join the Cashiers Historical Society for their 2024 Jan Wyatt Symposium, "Work and Leisure: Tourism and the Making of Modern Cashiers" Thursday at the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library. Morning lectures will start at 9 am followed by a roundtable discussion. At 12 pm, guests will enjoy a box lunch picnic then a driving tour of historic Whiteside Cove. Discussions will be about the history of tourism in Cashiers and Western North Carolina, Modern Impacts of Tourism, and about Working in Tourism in the 1950s & 1960s. Tickets are \$35 and available to purchase at: <https://www.cashiershistoricalsociety.org/2024-jan-wyatt-symposium>

• The Hudson Library welcomes back Big Bang Boom at 3:30 PM. There will be dancing, singing, and lots of fun! Big Bang Boom is a band made up of three dads playing parent-friendly kid music. This is a high-energy show, and both parents and children will find it hard to stay in their seats!

• OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Andrew Wooten. Ear-catching vocals and genuine lyrics. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. www.oldwardshospitality.com/orchardsessions.

• Join HCLT and Mark Ellison of Pinnacle Forest Therapy for a special shinrin-yoku practice on top of Satulah Mountain Preserve at sunset! The walk will take place from 6:30 - 9pm. This free event is limited to 15 participants. Email hope@hcltnc.org to sign up!

Fri. - Sun., June 21-23

• The movie Summer Camp at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center 2p and 5:30p.

Fri., June 21

• Friday Night Live s on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Curtis Blackwell Band

Sat., June 22

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. - The HC Oakes Band.

Tues., June 25

• Hudson Library is hosting a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on Tuesday from 10 AM to 2:30 PM. The summer months can be a challenging time to find enough people to donate blood and platelets. That's why donors like you are needed. Make an appointment now and you'll receive a great gift in return: Get a \$15 e-gift card when you come to give blood (some restrictions apply). For more information about donating blood, or to schedule a donation, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online at redcross-blood.org.

• Join Highlands Land Trust and Lizza Bixby as she weaves a terrific journey around all things fungi! In this one-hour presentation, Lizza will break the veil of mystery and briefly

explain mushroom foraging in our area and at-home mushroom growing.

Wed., June 26

• At Hudson Library, New Mexico author Jacinta Hart Kehoe will give a talk about her memoir Mountain Lion Rises: A Memoir of Healing on Wednesday June 26 at 11 AM. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

Mon., June 27

• At The Bascom, Artist Talk with Kelly Oden. 4-5 pm | Free

• Hudson Library continues Summer Learning Programs with special events for children. Thursday at 3:30 PM, the library welcomes Friends of Panthertown for a program introducing Leave No Trace. Friends of Panthertown will get kids acquainted with the Leave No Trace ideas for being in nature wisely

- to protect both people and nature! There'll be games to play and fun for all.

• Bingo for The Gordon Center 6:30-8:30 pm at the Rec Park. \$1 per card. 15 games in all. Cash only.

Fri., June 28

• Please join us on Friday, June 28 at 11 AM in the Hudson Library Meeting Room for Community Coffee with the Mayor. The topic will be: "State of the Town Update"

• A Bourbon & Bluegrass Concert Fundraiser for REACH. Buffet and bar at 6p and concert at 7p. Tickets are \$250 per person available at highlandsp Performingarts.com/special-events.

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Johnny Webb Band

• See EVENTS page 22

Join Resources Education Assistance Counseling Housing of Macon County Inc.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28
6 PM BUFFET + BAR
7 PM CONCERT

with BOURBON REVIVAL
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Bourbon & Bluegrass

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Horsing around in life

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

For the first time in my life, I am a horse owner, two times over. I am learning about horses while they are learning a thing or two about me. It's a process. I have learned that horses are much bigger up close than from afar. Our horses make me feel unusually small. Feeling small is an odd feeling for me. There is something good about feeling small, it keeps me on my toes, so they do not step on me. I think in life, feeling small at times is a necessity. The bigger my God is, the smaller I am. The bigger He is, the smaller my challenges. If I magnify Him, I in turn dwarf anxiety.

Our horses like me most when I have food in my hands. Their love language is food for sure. If I have food, I cannot get to them fast enough and I cannot stay around long enough. Being big and constantly eating seem to go hand in hand for horses. The Lord is different in this area. He loves whether you bring Him something or not. He is always glad when we visit and visiting for a long while is certainly best. Yet, I have found that it is best to bring the Lord something consistently, He loves gratitude, morning, noon or night.

Rango and Chancho have gotten past our fencing twice. Their first experience as fugitives appeared to make them a little bit tentative. The second prison break was quite different. They got into a full gallop, Rango threw a shoe, and they looked ecstatic as they ran and played together. Of course, getting them back inside the pasture wasn't too hard. You guessed it, they only needed enticing with the sight of food. I explore new boundaries from time to time. I put myself out there by running into situations that exceed my willingness or ability to manage. I have discovered that the Lord will join me in such adventures, slowly I am less tentative and more willing to run and make life an adventure. Even if I get ahead of the Lord, I would not be the least surprised if He threw a shoe just to stay with me.

Our horses see me as a stable boy. They make a mess and I am the guy who shows up to clean it up. I first feed and water them and while they dine, I clean up. The only thing our horses clean up are the stray pellets of feed that somehow made their way to the barn floor. They clean up what they want cleaned up and not any more. They are better at making messes than removing them. I can make a mess as well. In fact, making messes for me is far easier than cleaning them up. First, the Lord cleans me up. Secondly, He wrote a lot about cleaning up messes in the Bible. He offers a two-fer deal. He cleans me up and He also partners with me at times to get me out of messes. He is actually quite good at both.

I enjoy watching our horses be themselves and express their own unique personalities. Sometimes they

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 22

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315
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

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
9:30am 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
www.cashiers.church
Sun. 10:45am. S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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.

CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD,
Horsecove Rd, Highlands - 919-523-7067
Traditional Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8p, thru Sept 21.
Everyone welcome.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays
4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays & Thurs-
days 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

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 • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morn-
ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in 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; Women's 10:30 am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Emily Wilmarth, pastor
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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
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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
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA
2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Rev. Ken Langsdorf
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.
Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.
and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Marty Kirby
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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
1448 Highway 107 S. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist: 8a. 9:30 & 11a
Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for
schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar Barn is open Thurs. - Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • ufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

May 30

• At 1 p.m., officers received a report of a prowler on the childcare playground at the Episcopal Church of Incarnation.

June 10

• At 10:06 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road) at Holt Knob Road.

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

June 14

• At 1:10 p.m., officers responded to a call of an oral argument at the post office on Main Street.

• At 2:28 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west (Main Street).

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 11.

June 11

• At 8:39 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 1:03 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid for Scaly Fire & Rescue for a medical call on the Bartram Trail.

• At 2:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

June 12

• At 12:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Center Drive.

• At 6:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

June 13

• At 6:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Potter Lane.

June 14

• At 7:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on N. Cobb Road.

• At 2:51 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 10:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

• At 11:37 p.m. the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

June 15

• At 9:30 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Farm Road.

• At 4:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

June 16

• At 2:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 8:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 8:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road) but nothing was found.

June 17

• At 12:08 p.m., the dept. was first responded to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 6:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.



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Saturday
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June
21, 22, 23
2pm
5:30pm

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HIGHLANDS/SCAUMOUNTAIN/CASHIERS

LOST DOG!



"**TEMBA**" was last seen on Hwy 64 // Little Bear Pen Rd // Cullasaja Dr on Monday, June 11th around 6pm. He is a 15 yr old golden/terrier mix (medium size ~30 lbs). Temba has a thin build from age and has poor hearing. He is dearly loved. Please call Chelsea at 678. 689.3084 if you have any information! Reward if found!

FOR SALE

GOLDEN DOODLES for sale \$2,700 available for pick up July 15th 828-200-4312 (7/4)

ROCKY KNOB. 9.9 +- acre lot. 3,800 ft. elevation. Private quiet. Clean lake. Ready to build. 3-bed septic. Water. Power. Completely developed and established site and access. \$595,000. Leave message at 828-526-5981 (st. 5/23)

SEASONED FIREWOOD - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

LAND FOR SALE - 3 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring



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FOR RENT

DREAM SUMMER GETAWAY IN KEY LARGO, FLORIDA. Newly remodeled 2 bed 3 bath condo on the bay. Amazing sunset views, great amenities and more. CasaPalmaKeyLargo.com. (st. 5/23)

2 BDRM/2 BATH FURNISHED APT - living room with fireplace, dining area, full kitchen-huge covered porch - W/D - 1.5 miles from Main St. \$2,500 month utilities included - available now. 561-310-5085. (st. 5/9)

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH free standing furnished cottage for rent. Single level house has new
• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 21

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SEASONAL NEW LOG CABIN ON SAGEE DRIVE. 2 bedroom & 2 bath suites on Creek. 1 1/2 mile to downtown. Monthly or seasonally \$8,700 (1) month \$7,200 (3) Months. email: renee7726@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

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HELP WANTED

ORGANIST/PIANIST NEEDED to play for 11am Sunday worship services and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (5:30-7pm) at First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC. \$20K annual salary. No administrative duties involved. Our organ is a circa 2004 16-rank 2 manual Wicks pipe organ. For more information, contact Angie Jenkins, Director of Music Ministry @ 828-200-0183 (6/27)

ESTABLISHED CUSTOM HOMEBUILDER IN HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS area looking for project superintendent to manage multiple sites and subcontractors. Please send resume to: JW Underwood Construction LLC P.O. Box 147, Highlands NC 2974. Or email: john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com (st. 5/2)

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

nip at one another and bicker. Sometimes they stand at the fence looking endlessly for more hay or feed so they can make more of a mess. There is a strange relationship between liking our horses and enjoying them and also respecting them. I have found that Christ isn't all that different. Some people need to enjoy Him more and others need to respect Him more. It is likely a combination of the two that works best.

The Book of Proverbs in the Bible makes an interesting statement. "A right-

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ANYTHING GOES CLEAN-UP SERVICE Complete property cleanup - house, garage, property, etc. Call at 828-200-2855. (st. 9/28)

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.

eous man cares for the needs of his animals" (Proverbs 12:10). I think a righteous man that cares for the needs of his animals is also a humbled cleaner, feeder and caregiver. We need big things in our life that command respect and we also need playfulness in life. I am grateful that a personal understanding of Christ provides both. May no task be below you and may the Lord always be above you and may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever through faith in He who was born in a stable, in a humble feeding trough.

...EVENTS continued from page 17

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. Chef to be announced. Book Online at OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners

Sat. & Sun., June 29-30
• Art and Craft Show in KH Founders Park on Pine Street. 10a to 5p Saturday and 10a to 4p on Sunday. Rain or shine.

Tues. July 2
• Highlands Wreaths across America and American Legion Post 370 will be placing flags on veterans' graves in observance of July 4th. This will take place on Tuesday July 2nd, 4:30PM at Highlands Cemetery. Please gather at the flagpole on top of the hill. All are invited to participate.

Thurs., July 4
• 4th of July celebration: Water Rockets at the town ball field 9-11am. Field games at the town ball field 11a to noon. MAMA helicopter visit at the town ball field at noon, weather permitting. Ladder Truck Spraydown at the town ball field at 1 pm. Duck Derby at Bridge at Mill Creek at 2 pm. Outdoor Concert at KH Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8:30 pm. Fireworks at 9 pm. Free Hotdog Lunch at the ballfield during games.

...MONITOR continued from page 15

physicians and emergency services, he said.

However, Mike Purdy, a recent patient at HC Hospital and subsequently Mission said the care and attention he got at Mission was the complete opposite from what he had heard.

"I didn't want to be transferred to Mission, but I had to go and what I experienced was excellent care from very caring and very professional people."

Moran said citizens can relay experiences at either their local hospital or Mission by calling 828-659-5713, HC Hospital at 828-526-1243, Angel at 828-349-6647, Mission's

...MC BUDGET continued from page 14

Commissioner Shearl requested that funding for both positions as well as funding for a vehicle for the positions be completely eliminated from the budget. By consensus, the board agreed to fund one of the requested positions immediately and hold off on hiring the second position until January - all commissioners with the exception of Shearl agreed to the compromise.

At the request of Commissioner Young, the school system's coaching stipend was suggested to increase by 10%, noting the disparity between local stipends and those in other districts. The board agreed to reduce the current budget contingency fund by \$31,720 to accommodate this increase, with plans to finalize the budget adjustment in July.

The only tax increase in the budget was

Fri., July 5
• Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for a mushroom log inoculation workshop and hike at the Edward Baker Preserve. Through this educational and hand-on workshop, participants will inoculate a log with choice mycelium and take it home! During this workshop we will go over the type of mushroom spawn to use, different inoculation methods, and different inoculation tools, 10a to 2p. Cost is based on a sliding scale of \$20-\$75. Please RSVP. The workshop limit is 18 people. Contact americorps@hcltnc.org or call 828-525-1111.

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Nitrograss

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. LAURENT-PERRIER CHAMPAGNE DINNER. Book Online at OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners

Sat., July 6
• At The Bascom, Will Henry Stevens Bridge Rededication. 10 am. Free

• At The Bascom, Community Day. 11am - 2 pm. Free

Quality Team at 828-213-1210 or by emailing mission@affiliatedmonitors.com.

Coyne said citizens are encouraged to also contact NC DHHS Division of Service regulation, the NC AG office, the Joint Commission or Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, with their experiences and when they do that experience is heard by all of the organizations.

"All these agencies talk to each other," said Coyne.

Community outreach is an early step in AMI's monitoring process which will take a few months.

the approval to increase Franklin fire district tax rate to 7 cents, which returns the town to the rate it had in place two years ago. Commissioner Shields and Commissioner Antoine both fully supported Franklin Fire Chief Ben Ormand's request for the rate increase to fund new equipment for the fire department. Although Commissioner Shearl and Commissioner Higdon were in favor of denying the town's request, ultimately the rate increase was approved by county commissioners.

After Finance Director Lori Hall, summarized the changes she requested approval of the adjusted budget. Commissioners Young and Antoine moved and seconded the motion, respectively. The budget passed with a 3-2 vote, with Higdon and Shearl dissenting.

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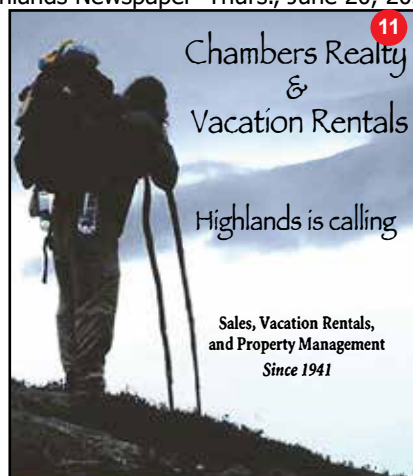
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