

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thurs., June 15, 2017

The Room Tax explained; not everything is equal

- Part One -

Room Tax, also called Occupancy Tax, is a tax all lodging establishments — campgrounds, hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts and vacation rentals must add to their fees. It is collected across the

state and even in some municipalities, like Franklin.

In Macon County by law, the 3% its establishments collect is given back to the areas that collected it; in this case Highlands, Franklin

and Nantahala.

During the 2015-'16 fiscal year, Macon County collected \$714,286.95 in room occupancy tax. Through April of this year, the county has collected \$657,439.99.

The majority of the room occupancy tax collected in Macon County is generated in Highlands. In 2015-'16, \$503,627.25 came from the tax levied by lodging facil-

•See ROOM TAX page 12

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Three cubs in a tree....



The Kreutzer family on Perquin Road enjoyed some free evening entertainment last Friday. Three cubs were chased up the tree by their barking dog. Once up in the tree, they shortly fell asleep. Note the cub lying over a branch with its back paws hanging down while it sleeps. Mom was in control at the base of the tree, sleeping as well. Once the cubs came down, they played, bothered Mom then off they went. The whole show lasted a good 45 minutes. The Kreutzer family kept their distance taking photos from their deck, with their pooch safe inside the cabin.

With HB 900, NC towns could get room tax money

North Carolina session law allows room occupancy taxes collected across the state to be spent to promote travel and tourism in the towns and counties in which it is collected.

Currently chambers of commerce and visitor centers are the main recipients of the funds. However, House Bill 900, which is currently making its way through the legislature, may soon change that.

The boards responsible for distributing the occupancy tax are directed to use their discretion in determining what meets the requirement of promoting travel and tourism, but House Bill 900 may give towns additional flexibility in spending occupancy tax dollars.

NC House Bill 900 — filed as the “Safe Infrastructure and Low Property Tax Act” — would allow towns to choose from one of three revenue-raising options. Each would be subject to voter referendum, and a town would be restricted to using one option, and only if its citizens approved it.

“I support HB 900 which is under legislative review this session,” said Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor. “HB 900 would allow towns like Highlands to choose one of three revenue options for a sales tax to improve infrastructure, especially in those areas that support tourism. The bill would permit the Highlands Town Board to vote which of the three options (1/4 cent city tax, prepared meals tax, occupancy tax) the town would or would not prefer. The voters would then decide whether to adopt the board’s decision. I support this bill, and think it is a good way for the board and voters to decide the best path for Highlands.”

The three options authorized by the bill include a municipal-only quarter-cent sales tax, a 1.5 percent prepared-meals tax, and a capped occupancy tax. The occupancy tax would supplement the existing ratio but would not allow a town to exceed the current cap

•See HB 900 page 3

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Eyes on our natural and man-made environment

HB 581-Revisions to Outdoor Advertising Laws will be voted by legislators some time this week, may be as this piece goes to press. I have voiced my opposition to our representatives. Let me share a blurb from the League of Municipalities that captures the concerns of towns across the state.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

“Among its many troubling provisions, the bill gives billboard owners carte blanche permission -- with no input or discretion by local officials -- to relocate existing billboards to any place in a city or town with a commercial or industrial zoning component. Areas with no current billboards or those with mixed-use residential and commercial zoning would have to accept relocated billboards. And, even more problematically, when relocating signs, HB 581 would allow billboard owners to make the signs taller, larger, and digital, even if local ordinances would otherwise prohibit those upgrades.”

I will be bold and declare to our state legislators that the people of Highlands

do not want large digitized billboards in town. Folks retreat to Highlands from cities to get away from such screaming advertising contraptions. Representative Corbin says he will vote against the bill.

Last week Josh Ward, Lamar Nix and I met with NC DOT Division 14 engineers concerning road issues in Highlands. We met in town hall and also took a tour of state roads needing attention. I am especially concerned

about the need to repave US 64 from Main Street out north to the town limits, and NC 28 south. Both have major asphalt erosion problems, especially on the sides. We also examined the erosion and sediment issue on the lower end of Big Bear Pen below Upper Lake Road, and the intersection on NC 28 at Spring and Satulah Road.

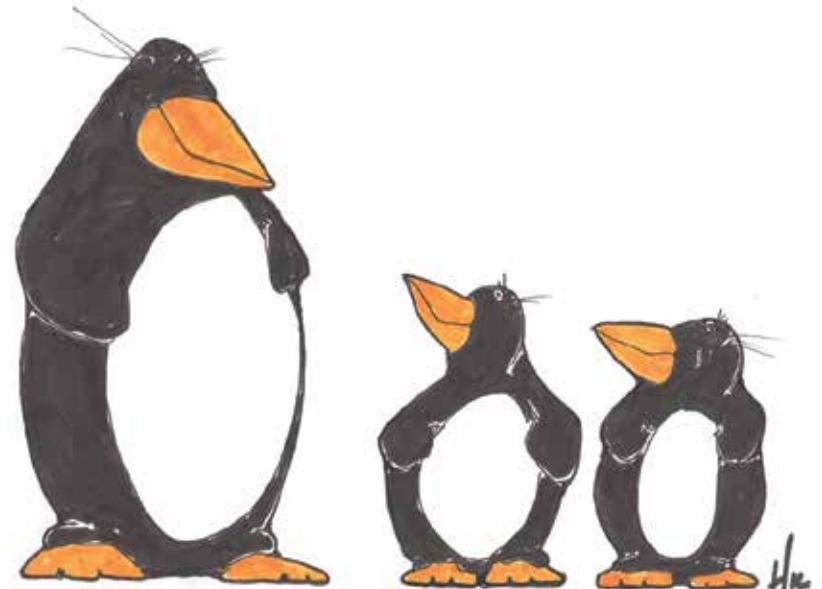
I also discussed road improvements on NC 106 that could include a sidewalk and slight widening of the lanes. Some people fear that improving NC 106 would be like the severe construction that is now underway on US 64 about 12 miles north of Cashiers. The DOT engineers stated US 64 is rated for higher speeds and has a different highway classification. As a state road NC 106 would not be significantly redesigned to become rated like US 64.

Our meeting was very helpful. We will continue our dialogue so hopefully possible improvements can be made.

I also had a good meeting with a neighborhood group concerning plans to replace outdated galvanized water lines. The town is facing the problem of replacing in the coming years these 50-year-old lines in a number of areas. It is an expensive but necessary process.

I also signed on as a Climate Mayor this past week. In light of the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, a ground swell of hundreds of mayors across the nation have signed on to supporting and advocating policies that will help lower the nation's carbon footprint. As a Climate Mayor, I will advocate for green solutions that are economically sustainable. Maybe in the long run local grassroots initiatives could be more effective than a large scale national effort.

• HIC'S VIEW



Have a fishy father's day

• LETTERS •

Did Trump's election really change driving habits?

After reading the letter to the editor in June 1st edition concerning The Trump Doctrine and the way people drive, I had never considered the fact that Trump's election has changed people's driving habits.

I understand that some of us want to blame the President for everything that is wrong in the world, but I think that this is obviously a stretch by any standard.

After reading his letter if you drive a large SUV or a truck it is “an armored symbol of their status and power” and they are deliberately trying to run you off the road because they are obviously Trump supporters. WOW!

E J Maddocks
Augusta and Highlands

• See LETTERS page 6

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY JUN 9	SATURDAY JUN 10	SUNDAY JUN 11
71°/48°	73°/49°	77°/55°

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

• OBITUARIES •

Juan Perez

There will be a visitation and memorial service at First Baptist Church Highlands, for Juan Perez, who died May 6, 2017 on Saturday, June 24. The family will be accepting visitors at the church from 10-11 a.m. The memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. The family asks that donations be made to First Baptist Church Highlands.

James 'Jimbo' Potts

James "Jimbo" Potts passed away peacefully on June 6, 2017.

Jimbo Potts was born in Highlands, NC on July 3, 1929. He was the oldest of Pearl and Arthur "Shine" Potts' five children. He married Geneva Allie Bradly on December 31, 1953. They had five children: Clarence "Dabs", Keith "Cowboy", Timothy, Diana, and Lisa.



Church, a volunteer Highlands firefighter of 17 years, an Army veteran who served in the Korean War, and an active member of the American Legion. He began work at his father's gas station, The Sinclair Station, which was located across from what is currently the Methodist Church, and then started Potts Block Company, which he continued until his retirement.

Funeral services were held Thursday, June 8, at Highlands First Baptist Church. Rev. Oliver Rice and Rev. Jeremy M. Dooley officiated. Burial followed at the Highlands Memorial Park.

Pallbearers were Dennis Wilson, Donnie Calloway, John Shaheen, Lonnie Barnes, Alan Bryson and Neil Chastain.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com.

...HB 900 continued from page 1

that is set at six percent.

North Carolina House of Representative Kevin Corbin supports the bill and believes it will help municipalities across the state, specifically in his district.

"House Bill 900 will provide crucial financial flexibility to municipalities, helping to relieve pressure on local property tax rates and allow for more infrastructure investment that brings economic and job growth to local communities," said Rep. Corbin. This legislation would allow municipalities new revenue-raising options, and it's important to note that it can only be used with the approval of the voters. I believe in local control anytime you can have it."

According to Mayor Taylor, the possibility of additional revenue in Highlands would allow the town to address pressing needs without having to raise property taxes to do it.

"The town has a long list of infrastructure needs such as road paving, sidewalks, water and sewer lines, recreation maintenance, parking, broadband, etc.," said Mayor Taylor. "Right now, the major source of

revenue for these projects is property tax. A new revenue stream that is not carried solely by local residents would be welcomed. I am not sure how the revenue could be spent as proscribed by the legislation, but whatever the result it would give the town more flexibility in addressing infrastructure needs."

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott has also championed for the legislation, saying that additional funds and flexibility in room occupancy dollars would allow for infrastructure improvements to do things such as sidewalks, which are utilized by tourists. He said, room occupancy dollars shouldn't just be spent to get people to town, but should also go to help maintain and improve the things that keep people here and returning to town once they arrive.

Mayor Scott has also asked the Franklin Tourism Development Authority (TDA), which oversees the disbursement of room tax money, to consider a 3 percent room occupancy tax increase for Franklin, which would double the town's current tax on lodging which is 3% on top of the county's 3%.

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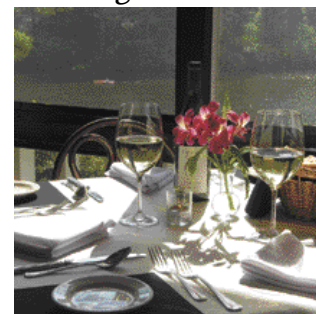


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THE CURIOUS MIND
KNOWS NO BOUNDS

...LETTERS continued from page 3

When adversaries are the enemy, totalitarianism follows

In response to Mr. Capron's letter June 8, I am troubled that he throws around language like "Leftist operatives" (with a capital L), but doesn't seem to be at all wary of Rightist operatives. I'm troubled that he and his great leader, Mr. Trump, call their opponents enemies. Vigorous debate against adversaries is essential to the survival of democracy. As a Times editorial puts it, "An adversary someone you want to defeat. An enemy is someone you

is must destroy." When your adversaries are labeled the enemy, that is the path to totalitarianism.

Kim Bonsteel
Highlands, NC

• MILESTONES •

UNC Asheville's spring Chancellor's / Dean's List

Samuel Battle Claiborne Craig -- Dean's List
Carolyn Augusta Schweitz -- Chancellor's List

• The Chancellor's List is made up of full-time students who have achieved a 4.0 grade point average. The Dean's List is made up of full-time students who have achieved between 3.5 and 3.99 grade point average.

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Some common Real Estate misconceptions/myths that work against buyers & sellers

By Wanda Klodosky
Landmark Realty Group

Most consumers purchase or sell a home about once a decade. While that is a relatively low amount of experi-

ence, with so much information available online and on TV about home buying, selling, and flipping, many think they know a lot about real estate. Here are some common myths and misconceptions that can

end up being costly misconceptions.

1. Inaccurate information online. One site that notoriously provides consumers with inaccurate information is the popular - Zil-

low. Consumers should not believe a Zestimate. The person/computer making this analysis has never entered the home and probably never been to the area. Don't believe everything you read.

2. Setting your home price higher than what you expect to receive. When a savvy buyer sees a home that is overpriced their reaction varies between not looking at the home to looking and offering an even lower price than they normally would. Another pitfall of the overpriced home is the invariable price reductions that will often make the consumer suspicious of the home. Remember home selling is a numbers game - the more real buyers you can get through the door, the more likely you are to sell your home. A true market value pricing will increase your traffic and give you a solid basis for holding firm to your price point.

3. Listing agent vs. buyer's

agent to save money. This idea doesn't take into consideration that

•See INVESTING page 18

• RE SNAPSHOTS •



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2bd/2ba Highlands Falls CC condo. Vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace, open kitchen. Master suite with deck access. \$249,000 MLS



Newly renovated 3bd/3ba home. Granite breakfast bar and stainless steel appliances. On more than an acre with long range mountain views. \$280,000 MLS #85787



This timeless home is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Enjoy the 3+ acres of lush native plantings combined with colorful annuals and perennials in several gardens. 5/3 & sleeping porch. \$1,070,000 MLS #82122



3bd, 3.5ba in Holly Forest. NO NEIGHBORS, buffer/adjoining lot for FREE as part of this amazing deal! Perfect for family entertaining. \$395,000 MLS #85604



One story Cullasaja Club home on level wooded lot. Oversized screen porch and adjoining open deck are perfect for gatherings. 2 master suites and 2 guest rooms, 2 car garage with golf storage. \$789,000 MLS #86218



Beautiful log cabin located between Highlands and Franklin. This meticulously kept 2bd, 2ba would make a great vacation or rental property. \$347,000 MLS #85731



Old Highlands feel in this 3bd/ba home. Comes with attached 800 sq ft of retail/office space plus 1bd apartment over 2 car garage. Zoned B-4. \$647,000 MLS #86107



Wonderful home in prestigious Wildcat Cliffs CC. Just a two-minute golf cart ride to the club house. Fantastic views from the back porch of Whiteside Mountain and Cullasaja Club golf course. \$350,000 MLS#82872



Private location and mountain view in prestigious Cullasaja Club. This 4 br/4.5 ba Lupoli built home is decked out in beautiful stone and exudes quality. Spacious screened porch with a second fireplace and a lavish master suite. MLS #83822. \$1,695,000



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Highlands Country Club with. Expanded and architecturally redesigned by acclaimed Atlanta architect, Norman Askins. This 4br/4ba home features wrap around decks and mountain views! \$895,000. MLS #84686



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• THE INK PEN •

Lord Banjo and the Royal Dad

I was born in New Orleans and don't recall my doggie parents, but I know that one of them passed their Great Pyrenees genes on to me. Since Louis XIV named the Great Pyrenees the Royal Dogs of France, it seems only fitting that I hail from New Orleans which was founded by the French.

I have my canine parents to thank for my royal lineage, but I'm thankful every day for my people parents. So when I say I have the best-ever dad, I mean my two-legged Royal Dad; and the Royal Mum's not too shabby either. After all, she's the one who found me on Craigslist and enrolled me in Doggie School so I could learn to be as well-behaved as Dad's wonder dog, Tinker.

Yes, Tinker was Dad's favorite, so for the first few years after I joined the family, I mostly hung out with Mum. Dad was busy playing ball with Tinker and laughing as she wrestled with sticks and dug up rocks in the yard. In fact, Dad tended to diss' me because I didn't have any interest in balls or sticks



Kathy Manos Penn

or rocks. I've always been content to lie around and have my belly rubbed. And, when Mum or Dad petted me, Tinker was jealous. I took the hint and spent my days reclining beneath Mum's desk while she worked. Mum says I make a fabulous footrest.

Back in the day, Dad occasionally walked Tinker and me together, though our competition to see who would be in the lead could make for some tense moments. Tinker was a sweet girl, but she was used to being top dog and awfully competitive.

When Tinker went to Doggie Heaven, we all missed her, but Dad took it especially hard. And, even though I didn't start chasing balls, Dad began to spend more time with me. He soon discovered I was pretty lovable and that in addition to being a fantastic footrest, I was a wonderful walker. It wasn't long before we two formed a bond and developed a morning routine. I may come downstairs with Mum first thing to go outside, but the action starts when Dad gets up.

Dad gives me my morning meds, feeds me, and then we go for a walk. The signals that a walk is imminent are the sunglasses coming out of the cabinet, the ballcap going on his head, and the leash coming off the hook. It tickles him that I pay attention and perk up, and then we're off. Some days, I even get a second walk in the afternoon.

Dad's awesome at lots of things, but he has one amazing talent that tops the rest: At 6 feet

•See PENN page 21



**LOW COUNTRY
SHRIMP BOIL**

to benefit
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

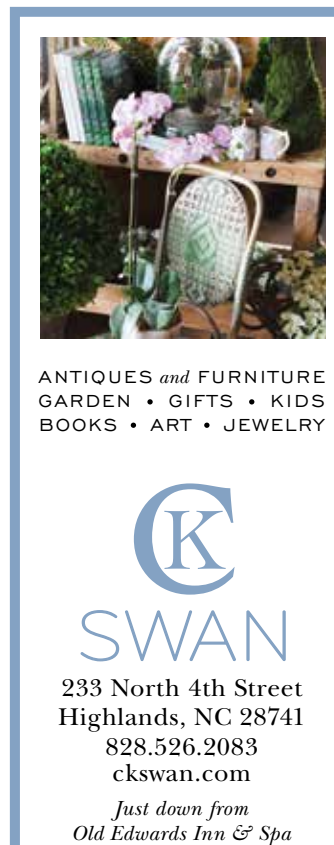
*Help us maintain our beautiful park!
Don't miss this inclusive community event. Tickets
sold out early last year so reserve your spots today!*

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH

Drink sales begin at 5 O'CLOCK
\$5 Wine & Beer Tickets Available at the Plaza

Dinner & Drinks 6 - 8 O'CLOCK
\$55 Ticket includes tasty Low Country Boil
Dinner, Dessert and Two Drink
Tickets Available at The Dry Sink, Highlands-
Cashiers Land Trust office, Highlands Chamber
of Commerce or
www.foundersparkhighlands.org

On the Plaza, Oak & Pine Streets, Highlands, NC
Enjoy live music from Goldie & The Screamers
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a 501c3 organization



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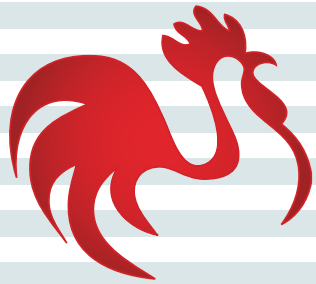
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WITH SIDES SUCH AS:

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...ROOM TAX continued from page 1

ities in Highlands compared to \$165,890.22 in Franklin and \$44,769.70 in Nantahala.

So far in 2017, Highlands has collected \$465,929.37 compared to Franklin's \$152,992.53 and Nantahala's \$38,518.09.

North Carolina allows the room occupancy tax to return to the town from which it is collected with the oversight of a Tourism Development Commission (TDC) or Tourism Development Authority (TDA), as long as the funds are used for the promotion of travel and tourism for that area.

There are several entities responsible for the disbursement of funds for travel and tourism in Macon County, but their connection to room occupancy tax dollars varies greatly.

In Franklin, there is the Franklin TDA. In Highlands, there is the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center and a Tourism Development Commission (TDC).

Then, for all of Macon County, there is the Macon County TDC which technically oversees both the Highlands TDC and the Franklin TDA.

Franklin's Chamber of Commerce, executive director Linda Harbuck and Highlands' chamber president Bob Kieltyka, sit on the Macon County TDC and their areas' TDA and TDC.

Each organization varies on appointments and responsibilities but all are expected to promote travel and tourism in Macon County.

The amount of room occupancy taxes collected in the county varies just as much as how the tax is redistributed and used and what agency distributes it.

In Franklin, it's the TDA. In High-

lands, it's the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and a TDC.

In Franklin, at least 2/3 of the proceeds must be used to promote travel and tourism and the remainder can be used for tourism-related expenditures. It is distributed by its TDA.

The law is murky when it comes to what exactly constitutes "travel and tourism" and/or "tourism-related expenditures." Franklin and Highlands clearly read the law differently.

Highlands

In Highlands, there is no clear "separation of powers" as originally laid out (more on that in Part 2).

According to Kieltyka, the Highlands Chamber & Visitor Center administers the occupancy taxes raised in the Highlands area that is collected by Macon County and distributed back to Highlands. The TDC is only responsible for oversight and reports to the county. The account is independently audited annually and the report is submitted to the County Manager.

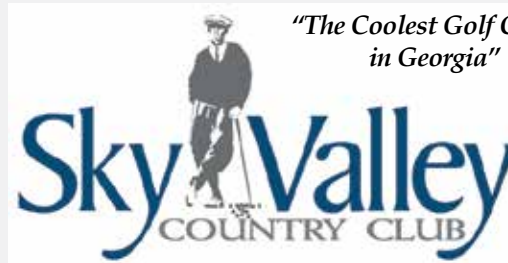
Members of the Highlands TDC, who are appointed by the county, are Macon County Commissioner Jim Tate who represents the Highlands district, Rick Siegel, Tucker Chambers, Chris Alley, Wolfgang Green, Jack Austin, Bill Futral and the chamber's Bob Kieltyka who is a non-voting member.

Members represent lodging, restaurants and real estate enterprises which all benefit from tourism. They serve for three-year terms. It meets quarterly.

Franklin

The Franklin TDA is appointed by the

•See ROOM TAX page 18



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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Fri-
day - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm. Sundays 2 & 5 only.
• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is
open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Con-
tact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

• The Nature Center will be open Tues-
day-Saturdays from 10am-5pm and from 12pm-
5pm on Sundays. The Nature Center is closed
on Mondays.

• The Glenville Area Historical Society
Museum is open every Thursday, Friday and Sat-
urday 11 AM to 3 PM until October 14. The Mu-
seum that traces the history of Glenville from
it's founding to present day though wall displays
and items of historical value, is located at 4735
Highway 107 in Glenville. For information call
828 743-1658, email historicalsocietyglenville
area or go to www.glenvillecommunity.com

Mondays, July 3, and Aug. 7

• Botanical Garden Tour. 10:30 am - 11:30
am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical
Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-na-
tive invasive species from your garden and the
surrounding forest.

Mon., June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)

• Thinking Bridge: Play of the Hand (inter-
mediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$90 Instructor:
Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or
www.clehighlands.com

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denomina-
tional Men's Meeting at 7 pm

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba
Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Aus-
tin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the
Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more informa-
tion, call 828.342.2498.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from
11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a
variety of programs and games. All seniors are
welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at
828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday,
Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact
Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more infor-
mation. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6
lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1
or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @
5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday
10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday
5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swim-
mers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-
noon.

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the
Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets

HCCMF 2017 Feasts/Salons of the Festival

HCCMF Feast in Atlanta

Saturday, April 29 - 7 pm

\$125 person - 8 Places

Hosts: John & Linda Cooke

Sold Out

"Enchanted Gardens" Cocktail Buffet

Thursday, June 29 - 6 pm

\$100 Person - 20 Places

Hosts: Pam & Chuck Carver

Margo & Julian Franklin

Wander the lovely gardens & ponds

Special Musical Guests: The Eroica Trio

"A Jazzy Evening in Highlands"

Sunday, July 2 - 7:15 pm

\$125 Person - 12 Places

Hosts: Lynne & Jim Browne

Chef Marty Rosenfield will prepare

New Orleans Specialties featuring Seafood

Special Musical Guest: Gary Motley

"A Taste of France"

Monday, July 10 - 7:30 pm

\$125 Person - 18 Places

Hosts: Martha & Al Pearson

Chef Bobby Lee Carey

will please your tastebuds!

Special Guests: Lois Reitzes,

Julie Coucheron, Roman Kim

"European Cuisine" Buffet

Catered by Rosewood's Tim Lundy

in the last designed home by Robert Green

in the Frank Lloyd Wright style

Sunday, July 16 - 7:15 pm • \$125 Person - 20 Places

Hosts: Kurt Schulzman & Richard Neri

Special Musical Guests: Philippe Quint,

Fei-Fei Dong and Ani Aznavoorian

HCCMF Salon: "Songs of Love"

Wednesday, July 19 - 5pm • \$75 Person - 25 Places

Hosts: Jack Sapolsky & Richard Bordeaux

Special Performance by tenor, Bradley Howard

& pianist, William Ransom

"Buffet Supper with Lexi & Andrew!"

Saturday, July 22 - 7:15 pm • \$125 Person - 16 Places

Hosts: Marilyn & Ethan Staats

Special Musical Guests:

Alexandra Preucil and Andrew Yee

"A Birthday Celebration" with The Ariel Quartet

Saturday, July 29 - 7:15 pm • \$125 Person - 12 Places

Hosts: Kendra (birthday girl) & Roger Haines

Special Musical Guests: Ariel Quartet

"Cena Italiana a Casa Parlato"

Sunday, July 30 - 7:15 pm • \$125 Person - 10 Places

Hosts: Cheryl & Carl Parlato

Chef Carl will create his famous Italian repast

Special Musical Guests: Ariel Quartet



HCCMF Salon: "Sun Salon"

Saturday, August 19 - 5 pm

\$75 Person - 40 Places

Hosts: Greg & Mary Thompson

Jazz Master pianist, Gary Motley

celebrates the full eclipse of the sun performing
with classical pianist, William Ransom

"Autumn's Bounty"

Saturday, October 14 - 7:15 pm

\$125 Person - 10 Places

Hosts: Olivia & Bob Holt

Join the Vega Quartet for a fall feast
overlooking Whiteside Mountain

Join us at this season's events by calling the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival office at 828-526-9060 or email us at hccmfnc@gmail.com. These annual
FEASTS/SALONS provide important and vital financial support for the Festival which allows us to bring world-class chamber music to the mountains each year.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Outreach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m.. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

Saturdays

* Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

• Music in K-H Founders Park 6-8 p.m. Bring a picnic!

Thur. & Fri., June 15-16

• Build Your Own Garden Trough (2 Day Class: Thur. 10a-4p, Fri. 2:00-4:00) Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Mary Guy Gunn. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thur., June 15

• Apple Music, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Fri., June 16

• Decision Making Through Instinctive Thinking, 10a-noon. Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Hunter R. Hughes. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., June 17

• Annual Reese Family Reunion at the Rec Park from 10 to 2p.

• Meet Highlands Newspaper columnist Kathy Penn at her book signing of Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday at The Molly Grace at Oak and N. 4th streets in Highlands from 11am – 2 pm..

• Birding with Brock Hutchins to Jones Gap and Turtle Pond Rd. Meet at Founders Park in Highlands at 7:30 AM. Moderate amount of easy hiking; loaner binoculars available.

• Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit K-H Founders Park. Drink sales begin at 5p.m. \$5 wine and beer tickets available at the plaza. Dinner & Drinks 6-8 p.m. \$55 ticket includes Low Country Boil Dinner, dessert and two drink tickets. Dinner tickets are available at The Dry Sink, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust office and the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway monthly work day on the Greenway Trail from 9a – noon, Saturday at 9 a.m. If you are interested in participating, please email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-2385.

• The Greenway will hold its Annual Meeting from 12:30 – 2:00 at the Rec Park's picnic area to which the public is invited. R.S.V.P. for the Annual Meeting to reserve your free lunch.

• At PAC, GALA Concert featuring The Hit Men 2.0 at 5 p.m. and the GALA Dinner at Highlands Country Club at 7 p.m. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous hike to Water Rock Knob from the Blue Ridge parkway. Meet in

• See EVENTS page 16

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...EVENTS continued from page 15

the Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 9 am ,drive 78 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• Glenville Historical Society Ice Cream Social, Saturday 2 to 4 PM at the Museum at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville. For more information call 828 743-1658, email historicalsocietyglenvillearea@yahoo.com or go to www.glenvillecommunity.com

Mon. & Wed. June 19, 21, 26, 28

• At The Bascom, Beginning Drawing Workshop, 1-4 Cost \$95/\$110 Instructor: Freddie Flynt. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Mon., June 19

• Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture. Free Health Lecture Series from 6-7 p.m. Upstairs – 2655 Dil-

Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show



June 24 & 25 10 to 5

Kelsey-Hutchinson "Founders" Park
at Pine and N. 5th St.

Fine Art ~ Crafts
Rustic Furniture
Mountain Artisans
Music ~ Food

**Call (828) 787-2021 for info
Next show Aug. 26 & 27**

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**Saturday
June 17
GALA Concert
5pm
GALA Dinner
7pm**
**The Hit Men
2.0**
 Highlands Falls Country Club


**Seldom Scene
Saturday
June 24 8pm**
 Comedy
Keith Alberstadt
 Sarurday, July 1 8pm
 Introduction: Chris Wilkes
 Opening: Andy Forrester
Fun for the Whole Family

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

lard Road. This week: Anna Russ, Ayurvedic Medicine. **Tue.-Fri., Jun 20-23**

• At The Bascom, Summer Camp: Session 2 – Drawing. 9a-noon and 1-4p. Start your summer by practicing an important skill for all creative exploration. Students will explore the many methods and materials for drawing. To register call 526-4949.

• Eco-Trekkers: Round 1 Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 11 - 14 • 9 am - 4 pm daily • Cost \$150 per child. Campers will travel off-campus to explore the wonder and beauty of the Blue Ridge through all-day hikes.

Tue., June 20

• Birds & Beer (or wine or tea) at the Ugly Dog in Highlands. Spirited discussion of birds and birding starting at 5:30 PM and continuing with sandwiches and other pub grub.

• SIRI, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Wed., June 21

• The Inimitable Winston Churchill, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Dr. Elliott Engel. To Register call 526-8811.

Thur., June 22

• iPad PRO, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• The Carter Presidency, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Joseph Crespino. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• At the Nature Center, Fee-lin' Froggy! 6 - Adult, 8:30-9:30 pm. \$3. Registration is required. Bring a flashlight. For info, call 526-2221

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COFFEE • BAKERY • ESPRESSO • WINE • CRAFT BEER
BUTCHER • ARTISAN CHEESE • OIL AND VINEGAR



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COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

BREAKFAST

Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00am
Cage free eggs, waffles, French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

LUNCH

Grill - every day of the week starting at 11:00 until close
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli - Serving all day
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

Wood Fire Pizza Oven - Every day from 11:00 to close
Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage, pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
\$12.95 (dine in) or
\$9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items fully prepared and ready to take home. Grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken, made in house bbq, chicken salad, deli salads & much more.

DINNERS TO GO

A different full dinner for two every night, Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out. Call ahead to reserve...

Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp Boil - Maine lobster tails, wild caught large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer corn, house made sausage, all steeped in our seasoning. Served with drawn butter and cocktail sauce. \$36.95 serves two

Tuesday - Oven Off Night
Two natural chicken breasts grilled with our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served on a bed of greens with stuffed brie, spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar on the side with two cups of homemade gazpacho and a baguette from our bakery.
\$26.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. \$35.95 serves two

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs - cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made bacon/apple baked beans and potato salad.
\$27.95 serves two

Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or steamed. Wild caught North Carolina shrimp either lightly breaded in our seasoned corn flour mixture, and then properly fried in peanut oil & served w/ hush puppies; or steamed to order in our low country seasoning. Both come with coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.
\$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ - Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked over night and hand pulled to order. Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls
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...INVESTING continued from page 8

the listing price includes a commission structure for both the listing and a buyer's agents. Often the result is that the listing broker will still receive the entire commission factored into the price, saving no money for the buyer. A listing agent has to disclose in a multiple listing service if they have an agreement with the seller to lower their commission should they become a 'dual' agent, i.e. representing both parties. In a dual agency situation, the agent is also prohibited from giving either party advice. As the listing agent and seller usually have a long-term relationship, this leaves the buyer without representation, thus at a disadvantage most costly to the buyer.

4. Selling yourself to save money. There are exceptions here as to every rule, but unless you have the ability to get professional photography, advertise widely online and be available for calls, emails and showings at all hours, you are already behind the curve when compared to a property listed by a professional in a multiple listing service. Negotiating the contract is another issue. Without extensive experience by owner sellers find that they end up at a disadvantage in the situation. There is also substantial proof that a buyer will automatically think they can make a bet-



ter deal on a home offered for sale by the owner.

5. Recouping after renovating. There are certain situations when renovating is a good idea, but bear in mind the taste factor. If a prospective buyer does not like the renovations, they will likely not pursue the home as they will feel they are paying for something they will have to redo. A better course of action is to consider renovating or refurbishing only items that are in bad repair and then pricing the home to reflect its current level of finishes. According to studies done and published in Realtor Magazine, the return on investment for renovations varies yearly but averages around a 60% return.

In conclusion, it is always a good idea to work with a professional Realtor when buying or selling real estate. There are many factors that change constantly in real estate law as well in local markets. Realtors spend many hours in class and in the field to learn the true facts about property buying and selling. Use their knowledge to your advantage to avoid potential pitfalls.

• *Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark also has offices in Cashiers and Burlington.*

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Friday, June 16th 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

...ROOM TAX continued from page 12

Town of Franklin Council members and are comprised of businesses owners who represent the tourism industry. The TDA serves as an authority and operates separate from the town of Franklin government. As an authority, the TDA is bound by session law as to its responsibility and function as a board – technically, the same goes for Highlands.

Franklin's TDA was established in March of 2008. The board's rules of procedure states that the TDA is permitted to use room tax dollars to approve projects and make grants that, in its discretion promote travel and tourism. The Franklin TDA's rules of procedure specifically state that the TDA will not fund requests for operating expenses such as salaries, rent, purchases of insurance, and payment of utility expenses such as electricity, water, and sewer services.

Franklin's TDA operates with an annual budget of \$113,000. Room occupancy tax collected above that amount is placed in the board's reserve fund. Businesses or organizations wanting to request grant funds from the Franklin TDA must do so two months before the event's dates. In the past, the Franklin TDA has funded grant requests for

5k fundraisers, festivals such as this weekend's Scottish Tartan's Festival, and an annual request from the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts for marketing. In addition to the grant requests approved throughout the year, the Franklin TDA also funds a marketing budget established by Premiere Marketing that promotes various events in the town on social media, in state publications, and through the TDA's website. It meets weekly.

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization that receives no revenues from the Franklin TDA and unlike Highlands has nothing to do with the distribution of Franklin's room occupancy tax. Franklin's chamber is considered a 501c3 non-profit and recently just moved into a new location. Even with the move and its rebranding as a welcome center, the facility hasn't received any room occupancy tax dollars. The new building is being funded through a capital campaign and donations.

• *See Part 2 in the June 22 edition. How Highlands room tax money is disbursed, by whom and why it matters.*

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Spirituality of Time



Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier Arockiasamy B.Th., M.Ed., Ph.D.(Physics) Administrator, Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, Highlands.

Time plays a vital role in our life. The day and night of our lives and all our activities are done and only recognized on the basis of time. All organizations, whether government, business, industry, religious or purely private, are run by the time factor. All living beings are bound in their life spans by time. Even non-living, less mutable things are subject to change and deterioration over time. Recognition of the time factor varies from one entity to another, but none is exempt from it. We teach our young to make good use of time, not to waste it! When we think of time it is usually in the related terms of how long something will take or when a thing will occur. Let us reflect on Time in physics and spirituality, especially in the Bible.

In physics, time is defined by its measurement. Time is what we read on a clock. The measurement of time was based on the mean solar day until 1960. The mean solar day is the time interval between successive passages of the Sun at its highest point across the meridian. It is averaged over a year. In 1967, an atomic standard was adopted for the second, the System International unit of time.

Some sort of clock is needed to measure any time interval. Atomic clocks provide a better standard for time and these make use of periodic vibration taking place within the atom. One standard second is the time taken for 9 192 631 770 periods of the radiation corresponding to unperturbed transition between hyperfine levels of the ground state of a Cesium-133 atom. In atomic clocks, an error of one second occurs only once in 5000 years. So Physics gives us a measurement of time, and indirectly allows us to identify points in time. While it helps us to regulate all our activities as individuals and in common, it cannot advise us how best to use time.

When we reflect on the time factor as we see it in the Bible, we find so many verses which speak about the factor of time in relation to mankind. A well-known example is found in the Old Testament, from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep,

• See SPIRITUALLY page 21

Proverbs 3:5

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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John 3:16

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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...INK PENN continued from page 10

2 inches tall, he can rest in his recliner and hang his arm down to rub my royal belly as I lie beside him. That touch is all I require to be a happy boy. When he gets distracted and falls down on the job, I signal him with my royal paw, and the touch resumes.

I may have missed out on growing up with a Doggie Dad, but I'm sure I have the best-ever two-legged dad. And, to be sure he knows how much I love and appreciate him, this Father's Day, I plan to wake him up with a big fat slobbery kiss—and then take him for a walk. Best-ever gift for the best-ever dad-- wouldn't you agree?

• Look for this story and others in Lord Banjo's first book, due out in September. Find his Mum's collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin, and www.theinkpenn.com. Join Mum for a book signing at the Molly Grace on the corner of Oak and N. 4th St. in Highlands June 17, 11

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 19

and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.” It is interesting that words penned several thousand years by Solomon are completely applicable to today.

We know that we are creatures of time by the way we set our clocks and watches in our daily lives to know the hour, and use calendars to know the day, month, or year. We have a good times, bad times, funny times, etc. What do we mean when we speak of such times? These are often happenings in our relationships, or in remembered or imagined relations with others. It is our duty as Christians, to build up good community with good relationships with others so that our time may be best used for the purposes Christ has for us.

We know seasons and measured time, but we have to make conscious use of them. In the New Testament, from the Gospel according to John 2:1-11, at the wedding at Cana Jesus says, “My hour has not yet come.” He speaks about the divine plan of a time to suffer and to die on the cross, and to rise again on the third day. Jesus speaks about the fulfillment of God’s plan at the right and appointed time. Even though God is timeless, Jesus Christ who is the Son of God was living as a human

being on this earth; His plans had to take time into account.

For us, time should be a measurement of our limitation in knowing our Savior better and in doing good for others. We have to reflect on how well we spend the time factor. Do I take time to commune with my Lord to know Him and to know His will for me? Am I available for the service to others that He wants of me? This is the Spirituality of Time: 1) know it is a gift but not an unlimited gift, 2) know it is given to be used for God’s purposes, and 3) only He knows its span and we must be always alert to Him. In the Gospel according to Mark 13:32-33, Jesus speaks about the need for watchfulness: “But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” We only have until then. Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the final time will come. Be ready to meet your Lord!

In the book of Hebrews 13:8, we read, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever”. Everything changes in this world except God. Only the Trinity God is timeless, time does not apply to him. But we are limited beings, we must make use of time in our physical and spiritual lives for him and for the benefit of others.

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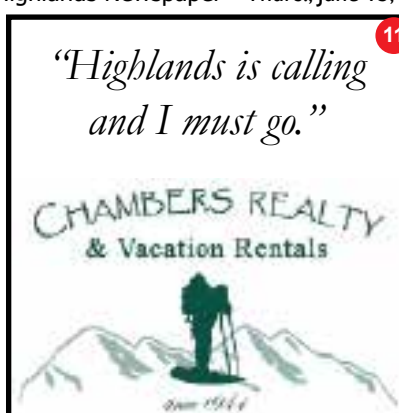
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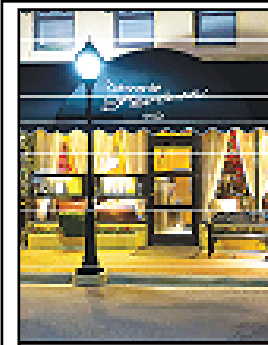
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