

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 19

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: [HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com)

Thurs., May 11, 2017

## RFI to determine future of town's broadband utility

The town has been moving like gangbusters setting homes and businesses up with wi-fi shot from various towers in town as well as running hard fiber to business and homeowners.

All this in an effort to answer the call for fast, reliable and af-

fordable internet connectivity in the town of Highlands to maintain a strategic advantage in the resort tourist position while taking care of its citizens' needs.

But budgeting for the future while adhering to legislative rulings has been like trying to hit a moving

target.

Broadband infrastructure was a big topic at the first 2017-'18 budget workshop meeting last Thursday.

The issues?

First a window opened up in Feb. 2015 when the FCC over-

ruled state laws that were prohibiting cities to build out municipal broadband; then in August 2016 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit ruled that the FCC overstepped its authority in 2015 when it voted to overturn state re-

•See **BROADBAND** page 2

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## Wild things amongst us



Bears abound in yards and on public streets. Bobcats and deer, too, often appear on the periphery of wooded spaces and in back yards. But it's not too often a deer is seen scampering across a street in town. Around 10 a.m. Monday Morris Williams snapped this youngster bounding across Fifth Street in front of the Catholic Church on his way to better pastures behind the condos next to Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals.

## Meadows says taking down ACA for AHCA is first step

After months of negotiations, Congressman Mark Meadows and members of the House of Representatives voted to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) last week. The new plan, known as the American Health Care Act (AHCA), will now head to the Senate and is vastly different from the ACA.

Congressman Meadows, chair of the Freedom Caucus, was instrumental in the final draft of the AHCA, and noted while there is still work to be done, the House passing the legislation is a good first step.

"This process has never been about getting a win for Republicans or a win for the Freedom Caucus — it's been about getting

•See **AHCA** page 6

## Students elect 'Fan of the Year'



Highlands School math teacher Gina Billingsley was once again named "Fan of the Year" at the annual High School Athletic Banquet Monday evening at the Rec Park. With her is Highlands School Athletic Director Brett Lamb. Each year the student body selects the "Fan" based on his or her participation and enthusiasm for Highlands School and in this case its athletic program.

— Photo by Stephanie McCall

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### What to do ... what to do?

Last Thursday's budget workshop reminded me that a town can spend a million dollars in an instant. And I don't mean on frivolous things, but on essentials. In this case, one is an essential project that we have known was coming, and another one that popped up within the last 18 months.

The replacement of the Buckhorn water tank on Satulah Mountain was the item that popped up by surprise. This concrete structure was built in the mid-70s. Our water department folks believed it had another decade or so of service. But during a routine service about 20 months ago, and a follow-up analysis, it was revealed that the concrete was failing and the tank had to be replaced as soon as possible. The town has earmarked \$596,000 from this coming budget to replace the tank. This essential project could not be kicked down the road for another year.

This year a waterline serving residents in the Old Orchard Subdivision area will also need to be replaced. The existing two-inch galvanized waterline was installed about 50 years ago when the Town Board



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

was permitting water service beyond town limits. The waterline is owned by the town. It has been known for several years that corrosion buildup inside the metal pipe was reducing the flow of water to residents. With high usage last summer, our staff feared some folks would at some time be out of water. Discussion at the workshop helped the board realize this was one of those essential projects that could not be postponed without potential serious consequences. It will cost about \$350,000 to replace the waterline.

So, add these two projects together and the figure is just under a million dollars. The bids for the projects could be under, or maybe more.

This afternoon the next budget workshop will begin at 3 pm at the Highlands Community Center. The board and staff will continue discussions about what are essential and not so essential items for the forthcoming budget.

One area I anticipate more review is whether to complete the Recreation Department renovations. For the past several years there have been ongoing capital improvements made in recreation. Three more phases remain, conversion of the gym stage to an aerobics room, renovation of the weight and exercise rooms of the lower level, and a makeover of the halls and front entrance. The big question to be decided is how many of the projects to fund for this coming year. To do all the projects would be around \$700,000.

The big "elephant in the room" is how to proceed with developing a broadband fiber network. Impending state legislation has changed our original strategy for funding and developing this system. An RFI (request for information) is being sent to private

• See MAYOR page 19

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at Highlands School for  
end-of grade testing grades  
3-8. Please call 828-526-2147  
or email: Nicole Lui at ni-  
cole.lui@macon.k12.nc.us or  
Frances Beck frances.beck@  
macon.k12.nc.us**

## • LETTERS •

### Stop trashing Trump!

Dear Editor,

What a "darling" newspaper filled with great local ads and events. Who doesn't love the Highlands area?

I never write or call to complain to TV stations, etc., but the dominant theme (and so negative) was the continual blasting of Trump and anything he is trying to do as President. Maybe I haven't read enough to know if you blasted Obama for his spending billions on the computer program for health care or the endless trips (i.e., two air force ones taken to Los Angeles on the same day because Michelle didn't want to wait two hours while Barack made a quick stop in AZ enroute back to Washington that night) that, or the shovel-ready jobs that never happened but spent hundreds of millions. Did you talk about the \$18 trillion of debt incurred during the eight years in office? Probably not.

Don't you see the dilemma? Half the people who read your paper might high-five you next time they see you and the other half are ticked that you have used the local newspaper to air your personal views/slants but yet you wouldn't expose anything negative that a democrat did for eight years. The bottom line is it drops your readership by 50% as the country is divided.

Last night I watched the local TV newscast and they talked about what Trump was

• See LETTERS page 17

### ...BROADBAND continued from page 1

strictions on municipal broadband providers. This was considered a win for private-sector providers of broadband internet, who complained about having to compete with government-owned utilities coming into their service territories.

But with a low return on their investment due to the numbers, large providers have been slow to provide good, reliable, fast service within rural communities like those in Western North Carolina.

Enter the BRIGHT Act which stands for Broadband enabled services; Retail online services; Internet of things; GridPower; Health care, and; Training and education February of this year.

The act clarifies rules governing the ability of municipalities and counties to enter into public/private partnerships for communications services such as broadband internet and wireless internet.

With the BRIGHT Act in hand, the

town was going to send out a Request for a Proposal (RFP) in search of a provider who would commit to partnering with Highlands using in part the "highway" it has already installed.

That arrangement as per the BRIGHT Act would have been exclusive for the provider in the public/private partnership with the town – guaranteeing a return.

Then House Bill 129 comes along, which says the public/private system promoted by the BRIGHT Act can't be a "closed" system – one with exclusivity – but rather must be a "open" allowing all providers access to the town's broadband highway.

So rather than requesting a RFP, which tends to be binding in nature, the town has distributed a Request for Information (RFI) which doesn't commit either

• See BROADBAND page 8

## • WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to  
[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

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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 •

## Walter Anthony (Tony) Taylor

Walter Anthony (Tony) Taylor born June 19, 1963 passed away peacefully in the presence of his brother and best friend on Sunday, April 23.

He grew up in Highlands NC and was a resident of Highlands and Boulder, Colorado. He spent much of his life traveling and living in various towns across the US because he loved new places and different cultures. He loved extreme skiing, whitewater kayaking, rock climbing and other sports that took you to the edge of your ability. He was employed over the years as a ski instructor, whitewater river guide, farm hand and chef. All were jobs which he loved and that gave him the flexibility to travel. He was preceded in death by his father Jack Taylor. He leaves behind his mother Erika Taylor, brother Derek Taylor



and his beloved niece Nicole. He also leaves behind his love of many years Carrie. Tony was fiercely independent, talented, and intelligent and defended his ideas and values with passion. Tony burned brightly and will be missed by everyone who knew him.

A celebration of Tony's life will be held Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 2 pm at Highlands Baptist Church, 215 Main Street, Highlands, NC. The family will receive friends Saturday from 1 – 2 pm prior to the service at the church.

Donations to the Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Home may be made in lieu of flowers or other gifts.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Taylor family. Online condolences may be made at [bryantgrant-funeralhome.com](http://bryantgrant-funeralhome.com).

## David Williams, Jr.

David Williams, Jr., of Spring Hill, FL, Highlands, NC, and Fairfax, VA went to be with our Lord on April 29, 2017. David was born November 21, 1932 to the late David Williams, Sr. and Catharine Fentress Williams of Fairfax, VA.

David was a hard worker, was a true believer and lived by his faith. Those who knew David loved him. He had a big heart and a kind soul. He is at perfect peace now with his mind and soul at rest with Jesus.

David never met a stranger. The years David spent in Highlands, NC he took a walk almost every day and made great efforts to meet and visit local folks, shop owners and anyone else who may be walking down the street on a given day.

David and wife, Eloise were members of Highlands First Baptist Church, Highlands, NC and Faith Baptist Church,



Spring Hill, FL. He and Eloise were fund raisers for the Missionaries Outreach for Asia Nationals. David also taught a large Sunday school class at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Fairfax, VA. David served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

David is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Eloise Bonds Williams. Survivors also include his children, Lynn Williams Kimball, Leah Williams Nichols,

Robin Williams Shufelt, Judy Rapp and Michael Bonds. Children who predeceased David were a son, David Williams, III and daughter, Susan Williams McMillion. Included in David's family are numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family gathered to celebrate David's life on Tuesday, May 2nd in Spring Hill, FL.

## Raymond Oneal Baker

Raymond Oneal Baker, 60, of Otto passed away Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Born in Jackson County, Georgia he was the son of the late James and Icie Rogers Baker.

He was owner of Raymond's Lawn and Tree Service. He loved music and played guitar and bass bucket in several

bands; he enjoyed fishing and loved to watch his grandsons play ball. He was president of Otto Social Club and was known as the mayor of Otto, NC. He attended Prentiss Church of God. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren.

• See OBITUARIES page 8

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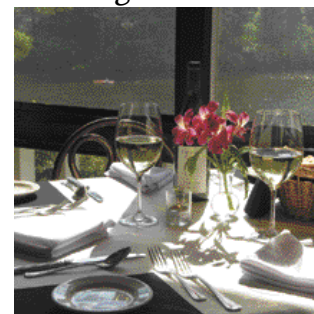


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- **VLADIMIR PUTIN: NEW CZAR OR LAST OF A DYING BREED?**  
Tue., May 23 Time: 10:00-12:00 Cost: \$25/\$35  
Presenter Niall Michelson of WCU's Political Science Department will address the rise of Putin and the challenges Russia poses to the current international order under his leadership. We will look at some of the major decisions made by Putin during his reign.
- **iOS FOR INTERMEDIATE USERS: LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE iPad AND iPhone**  
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Building on the beginner's class, this class will cover reminders, calendar, photos, music, updates, notes, security and more about Siri.
- **iOS DELVING DEEPER: MORE ABOUT THE iPad AND iPhone**  
Thur., May 25 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85  
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Wed., May 31 Time: 10:00-12:00 Cost: \$25/\$35  
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THE CURIOUS MIND  
KNOWS NO BOUNDS



## ...AHCA continued from page 1

a win for the countless Americans who are being crushed by the broken system of Obamacare. This is a victory for them,” said Congressman Meadows. “From the earliest stages of the discussion, I’ve stated that my goals were to 1) bring down premiums for Americans, and 2) protect those with pre-existing conditions. After weeks of negotiations, conversations, and substantive changes to the bill, I believe we reached the point where both of these criteria will be sufficiently met. I believe the revised AHCA will substantially reduce healthcare premiums and provide a strong net of protection for the most vulnerable Americans.”

The AHCA passed with 217 Republican votes. Every Democrat in the United States House voted against the measure as did 21 Republicans.

One of the most significant changes in the AHCA is the elimination of the requirement that all Americans buy health insurance. Other changes include ending the federal

subsidies that reduced health insurance premiums for people purchasing plans through the Obamacare health insurance marketplaces, and it gets rid of the federal cost-sharing payments that low-income Americans used to help pay for healthcare that insurance didn’t cover, such as co-pays.

By separating itself from the Affordable Care Act, the AHCA says people can lower the cost of the health insurance plans they purchase on the open market. The amount of the tax credits depends on age, but ranges between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per person, with a cap of \$14,000 per family. These tax credits begin phasing out at \$75,000 in modified adjusted gross income for singles and \$150,000 in modified adjusted gross income for households.

A point of concern with the public, is a provision in the AHCA that allows states to apply for a waiver to provide coverage for specific health benefits, such as pre-existing conditions. The bill includes the MacArthur-Meadows amendment, which addresses state waivers concerning pre-existing conditions.

States would be able to waive Affordable Care Act rules on preexisting conditions only for people who do not maintain insurance coverage. If you are someone with one of those conditions who has gotten coverage through the ACA (or otherwise gotten coverage), the ACA regulations will still apply: In no state will it be possible for an insurance company to charge you more than a person without such a condition.

The AHCA does roll back Medicaid expansion, which has been touted as a multi-billion cut to the program. Current Medicaid funding is based on an open-ended match-

ing system whereby the federal government guarantees at least \$1 for every \$1 spent by the state. The ACHA limited the expansion of Medicaid currently being offered, which means fewer people will qualify for Medicaid assistance. The program will have a cap, rather than open enrollment.

Based on the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis of the AHCA, 24 million more Americans will be uninsured by 2026 based on the proposed bill.

The CBO also estimates that enacting the legislation would reduce federal deficits by \$337 billion over the 2017-2026 period. That total consists of \$323 billion in on-budget savings and \$13 billion in off-budget savings. Outlays would be reduced by \$1.2 trillion over the period, and revenues would be reduced by \$0.9 trillion.

The largest savings would come from reductions in outlays for Medicaid and from the elimination of the ACA’s subsidies for nongroup health insurance. The largest costs would come from repealing many of the changes the ACA made to the Internal Revenue Code — including an increase in the Hospital Insurance payroll tax rate for high-income taxpayers, a surtax on those taxpayers’ net investment income, and annual fees imposed on health insurers — and from the establishment of a new tax credit for health insurance.

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply because enacting the legislation would affect direct spending and revenues. CBO and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimate that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

The ACHA will likely change considerably before heading to President Trump’s desk for his signature. The Senate has to review, revise, and debate the current provisions before considering a vote.

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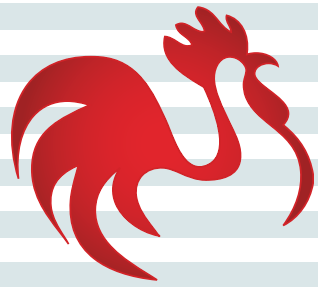


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## ...BROADBAND continued from page 2

side to anything but "information gathering" concerning what both sides can offer.

At last Thursday's budget worksession, commissioners heard from MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler concerning potential costs and the future of the town's Altitude utility which will cease to exist in its current form due to at least the BRIGHT Act and possibly HB 129, if it passes.

"Initially, we were looking for an active partner who would hopefully be interested due to exclusivity and we were poised to invest and build our system. But now we aren't allowed to have a closed system and if it's not exclusive then the question is 'will there be enough interest for several providers to get involved?'" asked Shuler.

He said if the town wants to stay in the

game, under the current and proposed legislation, the town would have to build out its infrastructure – in this case fiber -- and take its chances on a profitable return.

Now the numbers.

It will take 18 months to build out the town's fiber infrastructure so 83% of the town – homes and businesses – will have access and would cost \$2.5 to \$3 million. That would mean taking out a 10-year loan likely from BB&T that offered the best terms at 2.75% interest rate. The annual payment would be \$286,236. Taxpayers would foot the bill with either a .02 tax hike which would bring in \$341,291 a year or a .017 tax hike which would bring in \$255,968 a year.

Commissioners agreed that one of the stipulations with the providers would be

that service would only be offered to citizens – town of Highlands taxpayers.

MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler said the town had two goals when it got into the broadband business – to have great bandwidth and have better customer service.

"If we build the fiber, providers at least have the opportunity to offer great bandwidth – at our expense – but this would make the system 'market driven,'" said Shuler. "We do to the access point at the street level and they would own the drops to the homes and businesses. If customers aren't satisfied with customer service, they could call us and ask us to disconnect that provider and we would hook them up to another."

Shuler said the town can't get another provider here, but maybe that's not what is needed.

"We have providers who have invested in Highlands, why not use those providers and by using us as the conduit make them better providers than they already are," said Shuler. "And instead of trying to get on congested poles, they could actually start deconstructing – taking wires off the poles."

But commissioners are wary.

"I don't want to build it and then no one come because it's not exclusive anymore," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "The rules have changed. We have such a small population and now we have to split that up due to the 'open' access stipulation."

Mayor Pat Taylor said the town would have to figure out how to pay for all this, too. Town Manager Josh Ward said the tax increase would cover the loan payments and doing away with the Altitude Broadband department would save \$300,000 in operations.

"Lease money would be used to fund our fiber maintenance crew and there wouldn't be any capital costs," he said.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway voiced hesitation.

"This is a hellacious cost with a lot of unknowns and I'm at that point where I

don't know. Do we continue or bail and take our losses and go on? I am at a loss right now," he said. "I know the future is important but we have to be careful not to overextend ourselves \$3 million."

Commissioner John Dotson agreed.

"I was 100% behind this thing until the most recent information on this and now I'm about 180 degrees. We need this RFI to know where we're going and if there are any loopholes," he said. "This isn't the 'Field of Dreams' we don't want to build this thing and hope they are going to come. If they aren't going to come we're done, I'm done. And if there isn't a 90% possibility they are going to come, I'm done."

Grandfathering is another issue.

"We were moving forward based on one set of rules, now they changed the rules. At what point are we grandfathered?" he asked. "It seems like we ought to be because we are providing the service now. All we want to do is expand it. We set it up in that timeframe within which we were allowed to set it up. If we had known this was coming, we would never have gone there."

Commissioner Patterson also wants assurances that the providers do what they promise and that the town can set guidelines.

"For instance, we have a signed contract with Verizon but no timeline," she said. "It's could be the same with the other providers. We would be depending on them to put the 'last mile' in which is the drop to the home. We need to know it will be done or we are no better off than we are right now, except we subsidized their business. Our goal isn't to supply providers with a hub; our goal is to upgrade the internet to the home."

This and other budget issues will be discussed and possibly decided at the second budget workshop meeting this afternoon at the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki

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## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Survivors include his wife of over 42 years, Aleta Baker; daughter, Alecia Baker McConnell (Jason) of Franklin; son, Rex Oneal Baker (Lynn) of Franklin; grandchildren, Gavin McConnell, Gunner McConnell and Garrett McConnell; two brothers, Vaughn Baker and Mitchell Baker both of Toccoa, GA and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in



Raymond Oneal Baker

death by a brother, Randy "Hub" Baker.

A funeral service was held Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Prentiss Church of God with Rev. Don Moffitt, Rev. Tim Hayes and Rev. Kevin Chapman officiating. Burial followed at Tessentee Church of God Cemetery.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home served the Baker family. Online condolences may be made at [bryant-grantfuneralhome.com](http://bryant-grantfuneralhome.com).



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#### 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  
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#### 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  
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#### Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or

*steamed.* Wild caught North Carolina  
shrimp either lightly breaded in our  
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low country seasoning. Both come with  
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#### Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ -

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## Finding Your Home & Hearth

*"The light is what guides you home, the warmth is what keeps you there."*

~ Ellie Rodriguez

On a recent adventure exploring Scotland, I became absolutely captivated by the design and charm of the stone cottages that dot the lush, rolling landscape and verdant hills. I was attracted to the variety, shapes, and colors

of their front doors (works of art in and of themselves), as well as the unique windows, ancient hinges and hardware, gardens, and overall sense of simplicity and minimalism that emanated from each property. But what literally took my breath away were the fireplaces – so many astoundingly beautiful fireplaces! I was connected with an almost primal fascination with what home and

hearth connote to each of us and began to dig into some of my anthropological training.

Fire improved the lives of early humans not only by giving them a means by which to cook food, stay warm, as well as stave off enemies and predators, but it also served as a delicious source of light and a magnetizing force.

Once we learned how to create fire and control it on our own, this led to the development of campfires and campsites. Anthropologists assert that we, as early humans, began telling stories around the campfire thousands of years ago. Such story telling is believed to have promoted the transference of knowledge and culture among family and tribe members. In addition to serving as key conduits of culture and meaning, these stories shared around fires deepened ties and encouraged a sense of bonding and entertainment.

There is no question that we as modern humans continue to be attracted to the light, warmth, ritual, ambiance, and beauty of fires in our indoor and outdoor fireplaces. We have developed designs and materials for fireplaces, hearths, and mantles that suit every taste and budget. But have we lost something of our ancient connection to our individual and collective hearths? Are we making enough time to gather together as families and friends in fellowship to share



Susie deVille, Owner/BIC  
White Oak Realty Group

stories, enjoy each other's company, and put aside the rush of modern living?

When was the last time the focal point of a family night or a gathering of friends was the fireplace? A simple element around which all focus while enjoying the art of conversation, joke telling, the lifting of burdens through speaking one's truth, and/or the transformative power of pure silence shared together.

The chimney pots and fireplaces in Scotland, in all their splendor, conveyed an almost relentless message to me as I wandered through narrow streets and up steep hills: connect to your ancient roots and search for ways to bring the heart-warming culture and life-affirming and bonding essence of the hearth into more of my everyday living.

• *Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.*

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Huie honored by the Emory Law School

W. Stell Huie was recently honored by the Emory Law School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. He was selected from among thousands of law alumni as one of 100 graduates for his "extraordinary contributions to the law school and the world at large."

Huie served as president of four legal organizations: The State Bar of Georgia, the Atlanta Bar Association, the National Conference of Bar Presidents and the Old Warhorse Lawyers Club. He also served in the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, was General Counsel to the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority (MARTA), as well as Vice-Chair of the Atlanta Chamber



of Commerce, Chair of the Atlanta Fund Appeals Review Board and Trustee of the Westminster Schools. In Highlands, he served as Chair of the Highlands Community Fund, and currently serves as a Trustee Emeritus of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, Chair of Bel Canto and Chair of the Music Committee at the First Presbyterian Church.

The "Emory 100," along with former US Senator Sam Nunn who received a Lifetime Achievement Award, were recognized at a Gala Dinner held in Atlanta. The keynote speaker was former US President Bill Clinton. Each honoree was given a Centennial Metal to recognize their selection.



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Broadview Acres 3bd/2ba with great rental history. Vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace and new carpet. Relax in the bright sun room or bbq on the open deck. \$399,900 MLS #85526



On the 7th hole at HFCC. This 4br/4.5ba home has vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace. Wrap around covered & open decks, lower level family room & guest suite. Attached 2 car garage. \$545,000 MLS# 84474



2012 remodel with an enlarged master suite, porte cochere and a double carport. Rustic mtn feel with wood walls, floors. 3br/3ba, great mtn views, and located in town. The partial basement could become a workshop. \$697,000 MLS# 84941



Great lot in prestigious, gated Ravenel. Long summit views spanning from town to Short-off to Whiteside and beyond. This easy laying homesite is the perfect place to build the home of your dreams right in town within a easy walk to everything. \$799,000 MLS #85383



2bd/2ba very private condo, offered fully furnished. Vaulted ceilings, screened porch and open back deck with views. \$243,000 MLS #85769



BANK OWNED! 2bd/2ba perfect for investors or 1st time home buyers. Open kitchen-living-dining and large deck. \$79,000 MLS #85357



Crisp and new, this totally renovated 3bd/2ba sparkles with style and class. Private setting, new deck with views. Lower level features 2 car garage. Only 5 minutes to town! \$488,000 MLS #85735



Stunning 4bd/3.5ba in Cullasaja Club with gulf and mtn views. Granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Plenty of indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces with 2 outdoor fireplaces. This is a must see. \$1,450,000 MLS



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Great building lot with Over 400 feet of Lake Sequoyah frontage in upscale neighborhood with gated access near Highlands Country Club. \$1,220,000 MLS #85285



Large 3bd/3ba in quite neighborhood. 2bd mother-in-law suite above garage plus out-building for a workshop or studio. Motivated seller, MUST SEE! \$299,000 MLS #85478



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*We will never forget her  
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kind spirit.*

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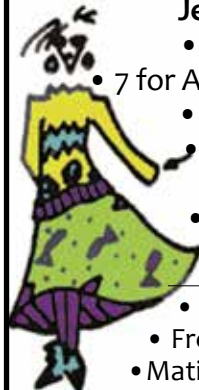
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# •HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

## NOTICE

• Calling all Women Singers. Starting a Women's Chorus under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster, of the First Presbyterian Church. 12 rehearsals beginning June 8 on Tuesdays 5-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$120. Fee covers salaries to director and pianist and cost of music. Auditions may be required. If interested please call Donna Philips at 404-226-5976.

## Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm.  
• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

## Mondays, May 29, 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-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

## First Mondays

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

## Mondays

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

## Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, 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 information, 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 information. • 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 swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

## Tuesdays

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

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets 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 Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit [www.occupywnc.org](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

## Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information 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. This will be a combination class with many different styles of exercise.

## Wednesdays

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.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: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach 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

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

## Fridays

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

## Third Fridays

• Senior Dinners are held on the third Friday of each month from November through April at noon in the Rec Park.

## 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

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

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

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

## Thurs., May 11

• "Blue Valley Overflow Trek" Join us as we partner with Chattooga River Conservancy on this easy walk through the Overflow Creek Wilderness Area. Co-hosted by H-C Land Trust and The Village Green. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, \$10 for HCLT members. To reserve: [info.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:info.hitrust@earthlink.net).

## WOMAN! WHO Do THEY Think YOU Are?



The Performing Arts Center and Diane McPhail are sponsoring a free seminar entitled: Woman! WHO do THEY think YOU are? on Wed., May 24 from 1-4 p.m.

Presenter Carol Anderson, D.Min, MA in Organizational Development, Educational Psychology, and Creative Nonfiction will present the program.

The basics will cover: How we perceive ourselves is crucial to every woman. And who we believe ourselves to be is

influenced by multiple factors, some of which we are unaware of and never think to question. In this seminar, Carol Anderson will present a range of images we are exposed to all our lives in mainstream media. 1) to help us understand how our self-perceptions have been unconsciously shaped and undermined and 2) how recognition can help provide a pathway to reclaiming our true power and value as individuals and collectively. This enlightening experience will help women understand the unrecognized influences that keep them from claiming their full power, and to support their colleagues and sisters to do the same. Interactive questions and dialogue will involve presence, listening, inquiry and feedback. Be prepared to leave inspired and empowered to be the change you seek.



On Saturday, May 20 from 9a to 12:30p, there will be a "Drive 4 UR Community" fundraising event in and for K-H-Founders Park.

Sponsored by Hammond and Bryan Rauers and Mitzi Rauers of Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty, for \$20 a pop, people can test drive several new Ford Motor Company vehicles that will be featured at the park.

If the goal of \$6,000 is reached, Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty and Mitzi Rauers will donate \$1,000.



# HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS.

• Lakeside Restaurant will donate 20% of their gross proceeds to the Highlands Methodist Church for the completion of its Family & Fellowship Hall.

## Fri., May 12

• Spring Wildflower Garden Tour, 12:30-3. Cost \$30/\$40 Tour the spring garden of Dick and Judy Allison To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

• The Highlands Writers Group has published it's very first Anthology. Please join us for a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.

## Sat., May 13

• The May 2017 meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club, Inc. will be on Saturday at 9 AM at the Bascom in Highlands, N.C. The club typically meets in Sylva the first Tuesday and In Cashiers the second Thursday of every month.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to Long Creek Falls in SC at the confluence of Long Creek and the Chattooga River. Meet at Ingles in Clayton GA at 10 a.m., drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Charlee Tisdale, 864-784-2124, for reservations.

• At PAC, Live via Satellite, Met Opera's production of Rosenkavalier at 12:55 p.m.

• An American Girl Tea Party to benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. 2-4 p.m. at the Cowee Baptist Church. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Hot teas, light finger food and sweet treats. Raffle of American Girl Doll of the Year

"Gabriela McBride." Door prizes for both children and adults. Silent auction, too. Tickets are \$10 for children and \$25 for adults. Table of 8 is \$150.

## Mon., May 15

• Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild's Evening Group will hold a Cutting Party for a group opportunity quilt project titled "A New Age," Monday at Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street, Franklin. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. For more information about the guild and future events visit [www.smokymtn-quilters.org](http://www.smokymtn-quilters.org)

## Tue., May 16

• iOS for Beginners: The Basics for the iPad and iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com).

• Relay for Life Fundraiser at Fat Buddies Ribs and BBQ in Franklin. 11a to 9p. Bake Sale, too. 20% of all proceeds will go to Relay for Life of Franklin.

• The Macon County Poultry club will meet on Tuesday at 7 pm in the Co-operative extension office located on 193 Thomas Heights rd in Franklin. Club president Chad McConnell will talk about rare and exotic breeds of Poultry. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 828-369-3916.

## Wed., May 17

• Kilwins in Town Square will donate 50% of its proceeds to support the HUMC Family & Fellowship Hall.

• A monthly peer-led meeting open to anyone who has an iPhone or iPad and wants

to learn more about applications and resources. All levels are welcome, no registration required. **Thurs.**

## Sun., May 18-21

• Highlands Cashiers Players will present the fourth play of their 2016-2017 season, "Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell" directed by Donna Cochran. This hilarious historical comedy about the writing of the screen play for Gone with the Wind will be performed at PAC Thursday-Sunday and. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828 526 8084 or on line at [highlands-cashiersplayers.org](http://highlands-cashiersplayers.org).

## Fri., May 19

• At Hudson Library, a book signing and sale of "Small Adventures over Half a Century" by Ellie Harrison at 3 p.m.

## Sat., May 20

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate loop hike in Panthertown Valley, elevation change 400 ft., from Salt Rock into the valley, returning via Frolictown falls in a search for lady slipper flowers. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m., drive 20 miles round trip. Call leaders, Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

• The 5th Annual BLOEMSMA BARN EVENT, sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center (SMPCC), is set for Saturday, 4-8 PM. The event is a fun family ex-

perience, open to the public, and features a corn hole tournament, music, bouncy house, face painting, and a great silent auction. Auction items include a week at a house in Costa Rica, tickets to popular attractions in the mountains and to the Charlotte Motor Speedway, gift certificates to area restaurants and services, artwork, household items and much more. Jenkins Family BBQ is providing meals, so come hungry! A BBQ plate is \$15, hot dog plate \$7, and a discounted family meal ticket is available. Meal tickets may be purchased at the door, and are available in advance at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and SMPCC centers in Franklin and Cullowhee. The beautiful Bloemsma Barn is at 1145 Patton Rd, Franklin. For more information, call 828-349-3200.

## Sun., May 21

• The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 5:30 p.m. It's free but some front row seating will be reserved for those who contribute to help some of the choir's needy boys. Call 404-378-0064 or email [info@atlantaboychoir.org](mailto:info@atlantaboychoir.org)

## Tue., May 23

• Vladimir Putin: New Czar or Last of a Dying Breed? 10a-noon. Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

## Box office open for HCPs 'Don't Cry...'



Actors in HCP's upcoming play, "Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell," rehearse on the set at the Performing Arts Center. Pictured left to right are: David Spivey, Ricky Siegel, Marsha Shmalo, and Lance Trudel. The show opens Thursday, May 18 and plays through Sunday May 21, and Thursday May 25 through May 28. Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Call 828-526-8084 to reserve tickets.

## Met Opera Der Rosenkavalier Live via Satellite at PAC Saturday, May 13

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will broadcast Live via Satellite the MET OPERA's production of R. Strauss's der Rosenkavalier on Saturday, May 13th at 12:55pm, with a pre-opera discussion led by Beverly Wichman beginning at 12:30pm. This is the last MET Opera Live via Satellite of the 2016-17 Season, and is the last MET Opera production for star, Renee Fleming. Ms. Fleming is retiring from the opera stage, but will continue her concert career.

The Met's first new production since 1969 of Strauss's rich romantic masterpiece is conducted by Music Director James Levine and directed by Robert Carsen, whose most recent Met production was the hit 2013 staging of Falstaff. Renée Fleming sings one of her signature roles as the Marschallin, opposite Elena Garanča in her first North American performances as Octavian, the impulsive young title character. "Fleming should be proud of the MAGNIFICENT performance she gave... She sang beautifully on this milestone night for her, and for opera... Garanča's plush, sensual voice is IDEAL... A REVELATION... The sweet-voiced Erin Morley makes an UTTERLY CHARMING Sophie... Günther Groissböck's muscular sound and declamatory style are perfect... Sebastian Weigle led a DISTINGUISHED performance."—New York Times

"As BEAUTIFUL as ever, and a subtle, sensitive actress, Fleming gave a performance of deep feeling... Garanča's mezzo overflowed with the warmth and richness of youth... MAGICAL moments." Wall Street Journal



**Renee Fleming on the der Rosenkavalier set.**

# • THE INK PEN •

## Memories of Mom

It's been several years since my mom passed away, and I think of her often still, but especially around Mother's Day. We either took her out for her day or had her over for dinner, so there's always a bit of a hole in Mother's Day weekend nowadays. When I'm with my sisters, we laugh about the "Momisms" we've inherited or what she would have said about any given situation. Reminiscing together always makes us smile, and I'm smiling now as I sit alone in front of my computer.

Mother loved her two-legged family and her grandpets, though she was less than pleased that we three girls never gave her any grandkids. I can just imagine her thinking, "Three daughters—three. You'd think I'd get one grandchild out of 'em."

Beyond her love of family,



Kathy Manos Penn

both two-legged and four-legged, three things come to mind when I think of my Mom: music, the color purple, and reading.

Music was a constant. I have vivid memories of Mother playing Elvis and Broadway tunes on her red Victrola when we lived in NYC. When we got a stereo, it was music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s, so we grew up with Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and others. Frank was the all-time favorite, and my sister Lisa and I loved him as much as Mom did.

We all watched Elvis's Hawaii special the night it premiered, and it must have made quite the impression on my sister Pamela, as she later purchased the video collection of the Elvis concerts. Mom kept up with the latest rock and roll, and the eight-track tapes in the car back then were of her

choosing: The Lovin Spoonful, Neil Diamond, Tom Jones and more.

Next is the color purple. Mom had clothes in every shade—lavender, lilac, deep purple—you name it. She had purple jackets, sweaters, nightgowns, and even pocketbooks. We three daughters gave her an amethyst necklace for her 70th birthday, and she was tickled pink—not purple. That love of purple made my assigned role as fashion consultant pretty easy. Mother enjoyed shopping and dressing stylishly, and if you could find the latest fashion in purple, you had it made.

And, finally, Mom was a reader, more so later in life when she had more free time. When I was a child, it was Mom who read the Golden Books to me. In NYC, it was a big treat to pick up a Golden Book at the small local grocer. When I wasn't bringing books home from the school library, Mom was taking me to the public library to pick out books I could read, or she could read to me. I was recently talking about my childhood book collection—all picked out by Mother: Dr. Seuss, The Bobbsey Twins, Heidi, The Five Little Peppers, and Nancy Drew.

Later in life, Mom and I shared mystery books, that is until Pamela gave Mom a Kindle. After that, Mom turned up her nose at "real" books. I'd offer her a book, and she'd say, "I don't need it, Kathy Jean; I can get it on my Kindle."

Ah yes. Memories are good but not as good as the real thing. If you've lost your mom, you know what I mean; if not, may you always remember to love and cherish her.

Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy's website at [www.theinkpenn.com](http://www.theinkpenn.com). Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com). Join her at the Molly Grace on the corner of Oak and N. 4th St. in Highlands June 17th, 11 am – 2 pm for a book signing.

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# •BIZ/ORG NEWS•

## Chambers awarded RSPS Certificate

Tucker and Jeannie Chambers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals, in association with NC Association of REALTORS have been awarded the Resort and Second-Home Property Specialist (RSPS) Certification. The RSPS Certification is a nationally-recognized certification



Tucker and Jeannie Chambers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

awarded by the National Association of REALTORS® to real estate professionals who wish to demonstrate and promote – to consumers and their peers alike – their expertise in the resort and second home specialty.

Tucker and Jeannie join more than 1,600 real estate professionals who have earned the RSPS certification. REALTORS® who receive the RSPS certification have successfully completed the Resort & Second-Home Markets Course along with three webinars in the field of resort and second home real estate. They now join other real estate professionals who specialize in buying, selling, or managing second homes

in a resort, recreational, and/or vacation destination and properties for investment, development, or retirement.

“The RSPS certification program offers one of the most powerful networking opportunities,” said David Biechle, 2013 chair of the NAR’s Resort and Second Home

Real Estate Committee and an RSPS. “You will connect with agents across the country and share your local knowledge to attain referrals. In the process you will educate yourself above your competitors by attaining insight of other second home and resort areas in the United States and abroad. You can connect through the many social media sites or in person at the Resort and Second Home Networking Reception.”

REALTORS® or consumers interested in learning more about the program may log on to [www.Realtor.org/Resort](http://www.Realtor.org/Resort) or contact NAR Resort Specialties at 800/874-6500, Ext. 8268.

## ...LETTERS continued from page 2

costing taxpayers for his travels yet they NEVER mentioned when Obama did the same, but cost even more. It's OK as long as it's evenly reported but it's not. A late night talk show had numerous references to politics.....as in it was the theme of the joke stint timeframe.

When people go to the movies or watch the funny late night shows they want to be entertained, not be given a personal opinion about someone's political beliefs. What has happened to our country? There is some kind of poison which has taken over our society and it is being fueled solely by the media (TV, magazines, radio and newspapers). People have never been in such a state of rage, despondency and negativism. For some it's as if they are possessed with bitterness which is constantly being fed to them depending on which news source they are listening to or reading. Friendships have been dissolved on Facebook and in social circles because of their political differences being aired and so vastly different.

Is it possible to just report the news and not blast the President of the United States with personal opinions? It's disheartening to read, watch and listen to so much negativity on a daily basis. We are canceling our cable this week as there is so much negativity and worthless, mindless things on TV. I love the saying, “Bitterness is a poison you drink to get back at your enemy, but it ends up killing you.” There's so much division and negativity now....it's exhausting. Physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually exhausting to be fed a steady, unrelenting diet of negativity and anger.

Just a thought. If you never hear from your readership you wouldn't know. Hoping all the best for your newspaper, just wishing it made you feel good to be alive to enjoy another gorgeous day in your idyllic town.

Joy Kloess  
Louisville, KY



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## The Good Shepherd

**By Chaplain Margaret Howell  
Holy Family Lutheran  
Church, ELCA**

**W**hen we moved up here to Highlands, one of the first things we did was hang up a bird feeder. For the first several weeks, we had few visitors. The junkos were the first to stop in, then slowly, the other birds followed suit.

This morning as I sat at the kitchen table with my morning coffee, I saw no less than 12 varieties of birds, including junkos, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches both the large and small varieties, sparrows, cardinals, towhees, Carolina wrens and goldfinches.

As if this weren't enough of a feast for the eyes, we have a little red squirrel who dines at the special corn cob feeder we put out for her, in hopes that she would prefer that over the birdseed.

Chipmunks scamper to and fro from our porch to their

lair, cheeks stuffed full of seed that the birds have scattered on the deck. This week, I put out a hummingbird feeder. The first ruby throated hummer appeared yesterday morning. Over time, the birds and little creatures have become used to me and they don't run off like they used to in the beginning. In fact some of them are getting quite bold! Our red squirrel gave me a tongue lashing the other day as I came out onto the deck and disturbed her feast. A chipmunk ran off, squeaking indignantly, when I came out to fill the feeder. I have been out changing the nectar in the hummingbird feeder and had them buzz around my head like bright green bees.

It used to be that it would take several minutes after I retreated back inside for the birds and critters to return, but now they fly and hover even as I am out on the deck.

They know me. I feed them. Besides feeding, I added a

new duty – I protect them. We just had some neighbors move in next door with three cats! It has been necessary to shoo the kitties away from our deck from time to time. Our dog, Greta, has been more than happy to take over that duty! So it is that we feed and protect our little friends. As they have learned that we are the source of food and protection, they no longer run or fly away, but draw near when we are present.

In an image common to the ancient world, Jesus portrays himself as the good shepherd. A good shepherd feeds his sheep leading them to good pasture. He provides protection and cares for them. It is not an easy job and was generally one of the lowliest professions.

Yet, the shepherd is vital. Without his presence, the sheep would go astray and fall victim to predators and thieves.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He calls to us. He protects from death and the devil. 1 Peter; 25 reads; For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

How does He do this?

Through his passion and resurrection.

Through the Word.

Through Baptism.

Through the Sacraments.

Through other believers.

Here's where we as individuals come into the picture.

By following our shepherd, by walking in his footsteps, we find that even in the midst of hardships, we are sustained and cherished by the promises Christ has fulfilled for our sakes.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he commissioned his followers to take over his work on earth. He turned them from sheep into shepherds! Look at Peter, for example.

Poor Peter goofed up in just about every way possible, constantly saying the wrong things at the wrong time. Yet, after Pentecost, Peter transformed by the Spirit, became a vibrant leader and teacher. He, along with Paul, became two of the founders of the Christian church. Many more followed their example. Armed with the rod and staff of God – Word, Baptism and Sacraments – these men and women helped Jesus change the world! The love of God is still spreading out over the entire world, with people coming to Christ in every nation.

However, there are always li-

• See

**SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING  
page 19**

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# ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

continued from page 18

ons and bandits lurking about to kill and devour the flock. Nearly all the apostles suffered martyrdom – they suffered for the sake of their sheep. Today is no different. We read about the persecutions of Christians everywhere from our own towns to places like Egypt, Syria and Nigeria. Does this mean that Christ's teachings are flawed? Does it mean we have failed as a people? No it means that the world is flawed – there are lions and bandits everywhere.

To be a Christian is to be different. We follow different standards of conduct. Our priorities are out of sync with those of the world. By embracing the dictates of love, compassion, kindness and justice we leave ourselves vulnerable to a world where competition, greed and selfishness are the ways to “get ahead.” It is not always easy being a Christian. But when the world seems to condemn us, we know that we are part of the flock of the Good Shepherd, the one who walks with us, guides us and most of all, loves us.

Love.

Love that forgives us;

Love that binds us up when we are brokenhearted;  
Love that never abandons us, even when we can't feel its presence.

Just as the shepherd is willing to give up his life for his sheep, so Christ has done for us.

As our reading from 1 Peter says:

24: He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

25: For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

If the little creatures that come to our deck know that they are protected and fed, how much more do we, as intelligent beings know what Christ has done for us! He has not only redeemed us from the clutches of evil, but has given us life and given it abundantly! In Christ we ourselves become shepherds and leaders. Everything we do in love and for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ is a holy thing! There is nothing done in the love of God that is “too insignificant” to matter. As Mother Teresa says, “do small things with great love.”

We are each precious in Jesus' sight. We are loved, we are protected and we are encouraged by God himself through the life, teachings, passion and resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ.

In the gospel of John this past Sunday, our reading ends with these words of Jesus.

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

This week, as you go about your daily routine, think about all we have been given, and have an ABUNDANT LIFE!

## ...MAYOR from page 2

providers that may be interested in renting dark fiber from the town, provided the fiber network is built. Honestly, the Town Board is facing some very difficult and challenging decisions about this critical initiative.

Is it essential now, or can it wait five or 10 years?

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10: 45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: 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

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided ) 7pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 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.

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Rob Wood

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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

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Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from May 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

**May 2**

• At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Wright Square parking lot.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 27.

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**April 27**

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**April 28**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky-lake Drive.

**April 29**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Road.

**May 1**

• The dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Hemlock Drive.

**May 2**

• The dept. stood by at Zachary Field on Buck Creek Road for the MAMA helicopter.

**May 3**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Owl Gap Road.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mountain Laurel Drive.

**May 4**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Poplar Street.

**May 6**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Falls Lane.

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Walhalla Road.



**HIGHLANDS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

*Events and Volunteer Coordinator*

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce, located in North Carolina, is seeking a creative, self-starter to serve as the Coordinator of Events & Festivals for our progressive 300 member business organization. The successful candidate must demonstrate the following skills and qualities:

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- Communications skills
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- Team Player
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- Skilled at mobilizing resources
- Energy and enthusiasm for the community and job
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A bachelor's degree or higher is preferable, along with a minimum of three years of progressively responsible experience in developing and managing the efforts of a successful events and festivals plan / program. Salary and benefits are competitive. Please visit our website at [www.highlandschamber.org](http://www.highlandschamber.org) for information on our organization and beautiful community.

Send a cover letter expressing your interest along with resume, references, work samples, and salary history electronically in a Word document format by

*Saturday, June 3, 2017*

to: [president@highlandschamber.org](mailto:president@highlandschamber.org)

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### Highlands References...

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tact Mountain Fresh Grocery at 526-2400 and speak with Missy or stop by in person at the corner of 5th and Main.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED BARTENDERS & WAIT STAFF.** Must be a responsible team player with a positive attitude. Full time and part time positions available. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet 343-D Main Street, Highlands N.C. Please no phone calls. (st. 4/6)

**MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY** is hiring a full-time, experienced line cook. Also hiring a breakfast cook, prep and deli positions. Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400

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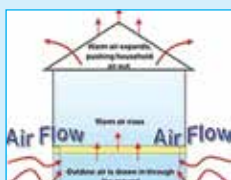
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