

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Jan. 18, 2018

'Night to Shine' prom is set for Feb. 9

Cartoogechaye Baptist Church in Franklin is teaming up with the Tim Tebow Foundation to host and co-sponsor the county's first Night to Shine event on Feb. 9 at the Bloemsma Barn located in Patton Valley from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

It will be one of more than 500 churches around the world that will host the event simultaneously.

Night to Shine is a prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. This worldwide movement is already set to take place in all 50 states and 15 countries around the world. The event is a night of lights, music, limos, and dancing, and best of all, each honored guest being crowned a king or queen of the prom.

Erik Dellenback, executive director of the Tim Tebow Foundation, said, "We continue to be amazed by how God has grown this event into a worldwide movement, celebrating people with special needs. Though the statistics are incredible, this is not about the numbers. Above everything else, our goal is to share God's love with people with special needs."

• See PROM page 5



Illegal dumping plaguing convenience centers

Chris Stahl, director of Macon County Solid Waste Department, said his employees have been pricked by improperly disposed needles on three different occasions.

Two out of those three times were the result of not only needles being improperly disposed of in the garbage, but the trash that the needles were in was improperly disposed of at convenience centers in Macon County.

Last week he asked the Macon County Commission for help particularly concerning dealing with trash thrown out in front of convenience centers after hours when the gates are closed.

"Employees were stuck with

needles when cleaning up that improperly disposed of trash," said Stahl.

Illegal dumping outside of the county's trash centers isn't a new problem. It is something that has plagued convenience centers in Macon County, and all over, since their inception.

A new, greater concern, is the dangers of the contents of that trash, such as needles, which are becoming increasingly more dangerous with the increase use of drugs in the county.

Trash centers in the county are closed about four days a year for holidays and sometimes due to inclement weather.

• See DUMPING page 6

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More after-school options now available

A new after-school program has joined the offerings available in town.

Though only a one-day program, the After-School Kids Zone at Hudson Library promises something a little different for children in grades K-5th.

On Thursday afternoons, beginning at 3:30 p.m., After-School Kids Zone features a variety of creative, STEM, and makerspace activities.

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach.

At Kids Zone, on the second Thursday of each month, Joy-Lynn Rhoton from Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust will lead programs with environmental themes, which will include book readings and related fun activities.

In addition, the Kids Zone Lego Club is the fourth Thursday of each month.

For more information call 828) 526-3031.

There are two, week-long programs offered in town -- one at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands and one at the Highlands Rec Park.

The Highlands First Presbyterian Church at Main and 5th streets offers the Sunshine School after school for students grades K-4th Monday through Friday from 3-5 p.m. for a nominal fee per day.

According to its website, "The Sunshine School providing a safe, Christian, caring environment for children after school. We strive to create a clean, nurturing atmosphere where a child can grow spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. As a Christian center with affiliation to the First Presbyterian Church, it "provides a moral and spiritual environment where each child is treated with respect."

Homework is done first and then there are daily literacy activities to balance learning. For more information or to enroll your child please contact the church

• See AFTER-SCHOOL page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Considering the affects of the 'Economic Tsunami'

An "Economic Tsunami" is headed our way according to Rose Mary Cooper and Vanessa Timmer, the authors of Local Government and the Sharing Economy. Its impact will be everywhere, even in Highlands.

So, what is the Sharing Economy wave? Uber, Airbnb and VRBO are popular examples of the Sharing Economy. The Sharing Economy involves transactions such as bartering, sharing, renting, trading, borrowing, lending and swapping, especially when it comes to underutilized resources. It is an emerging lifestyle trend, especially among millennials.

These writers contend that the Sharing Economy create profound cultural and economic shifts. Some may question whether these new economic activities will advance or hinder the public good? Others will wonder how, or even should, the government and social entities respond this new economy?

For instance, Highlands already has a growing Airbnb market. I have had discussions with numerous people about Airbnb in Highlands, and what is the appropriate response. One person sent me an article



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

about how Airbnb has hurt affordable housing in some major cities. The scenario goes this way. A landlord may own a bungalow that can be leased for \$1,500 to local working people. On the other hand, the landlord can upgrade the property and do short-term renting through Airbnb. The monthly return may be more than double the long-term leasing option.

In contrast, I talked with a local Realtor who sees Airbnb as very positive for Highlands. Airbnb units have to be maintained at a very high level, since customers can write critical reviews on the Internet that will hurt the owners bottom line. The Realtor views Airbnb as a means of revitalizing and maintaining property at a high level.

So, the questions municipalities face center around whether or not to regulate, fairness in occupancy tax collections, and the impact on the housing market. For example, Asheville Town Board has been dealing with Airbnb in their developing areas such as the River Arts District.

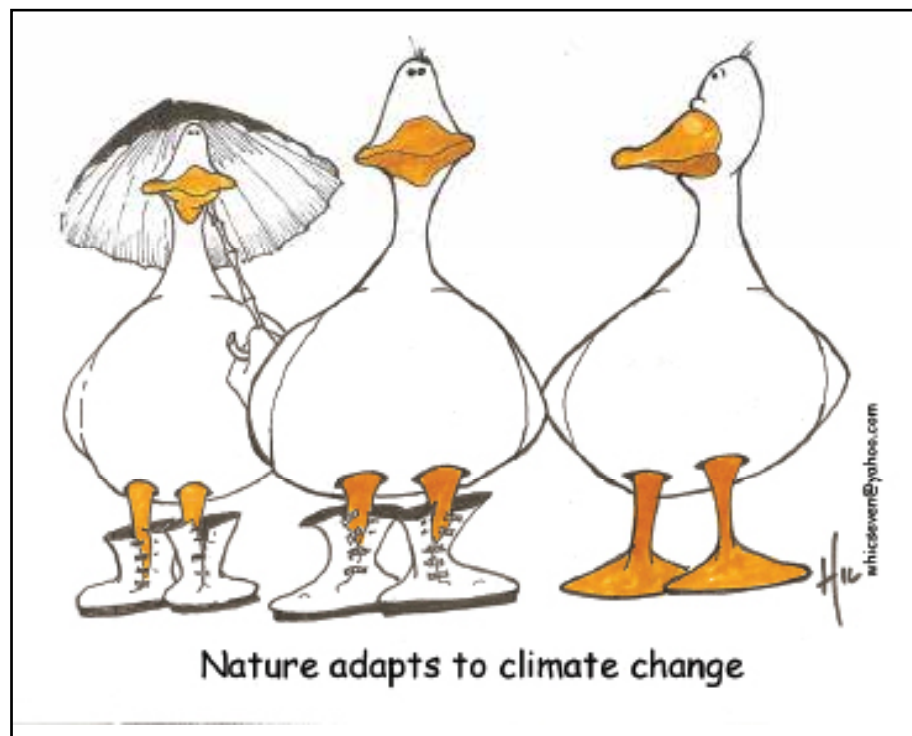
One of my friends, a former bed and breakfast proprietor, has expressed concern about the issue. He has no problem with Airbnb as long as there is an equitable process. Bed and breakfast businesses have to collect room occupancy tax, meet fire code regulations and past food health inspections just like any hotel. This business owner would ask the question where does Airbnb enterprises fall in these requirements? It's an interesting question. Does the town, or the

county for that matter, take a free market, *laissez faire* position, or a regulatory stance at some level? One response would be Airbnb falls under short-term vacation rentals like the community has done for years. Another observation, what can the town and county effectively enforce?

Cooper and Timmer write that there are potentially positives and negatives from this new economic model. One argument is that the Sharing Economy will reduce the ecological footprint of a city, curb waste and save local government money. It could

•See MAYOR page 3

• HIC'S VIEW



• WEATHER •

	Friday 1/19		Saturday 1/20		Sunday 1/21	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	49 F	18 F	51 F	28 F	55 F	32 F
RealFeel	57 F	14 F	56 F	20 F	57 F	30 F
Winds	4 g 7	5 g 7	4 g 6	3 g 5	4 g 7	3 g 6
T-Storms	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	20%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0	0.01
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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.

• LETTERS •

Saying good-bye

Dear Editor,

Ecclesiastes points out that there is a time for everything under heaven. For us it's the time to turn Christ Church of the Valley over to a younger guy. A few years ago I developed an exit strategy for my departure from the church. After a yearlong search we selected Brent Metcalf to take the senior position. We could not be happier! Brent and Amanda are gifted individuals who have already gotten involved in the Cashiers community.

In 1978 two 20-some-things were assigned to the Cashiers United Methodist Church. We were unprepared for the task. The church was gracious and kind to us literally allowing us about a mile of grace when it was apparent we were like fish out of water. We grew up in the church. I learned how to preach, I'm still learning. We made life-long friends and cherish every memory.

After nine incredible years we were sent off the mountain. When we had the chance to come back we took it. The Lord opened the door for us to serve in Highlands for 12 years. We saw God do the most amazing things. Community Bible Church was an adventure of faith that we look back on with gratitude.

Then it happened! A wow thing! One of those events few pastors get to experience. We started a church. Christ Church of the Valley. We began with 17 people meeting for three months and then launched the church in October 10 years ago. God saved the best for last! Seriously, not many have had this kind of ending. I told them recently in a letter that there love for Jesus, passion for His Word, their encouragement and generosity, has made serving them such a sweet blessing. And get this, over the last 10 years, we have not had one major crisis. And it is because of the people. Spirit-filled people who care about the important things and not the things that don't matter.

"You are why Christ Church of the Valley is what it is and why under the oversight of Brent and Amanda Metcalf it's going to be even better!"

Leaving the area is not easy. Our hearts will always be in the mountains of Western NC. What's next? In a few weeks we will be heading to Freeport, Maine where I will be serving as an interim pastor. So until we meet again my prayer for all of you is that you will have a Christ honoring New Year and grow deep in your love for God and others!

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Keeping an 'eye' on the weather

Dear Editor,

Happy New Year! I visit your website every day, sometimes several times a day to check on the weather in Highlands as we have a second home there. I just wanted you to know how much I have enjoyed the photos you have been posting to the weather page at www.highlandinfo.com.

I especially liked the Dry Falls picture as well as the first snow photos you posted earlier in October. I hope you will continue to do this. Looks like the weather is going to turn cold again after a few days of warmer temps. Stay warm!

Cindy Hawkins

...MAYOR continued from page 2

create jobs and advance social connectivity and reduce overall costs. Through sharing, material resources could be better utilized.

On the flip side, some may contend that the Sharing Economy will increase the ecological carbon footprint in highly used areas like downtown Highlands, i.e. more traffic and parking pressures. These critics would say it will erode the tax base, push

down local wages and limit affordable housing options.

I don't have all the answers or solutions. My reason for writing this piece is for the community and elected officials to become aware of future problems and/or opportunities. I suspect the Planning Board will examine these issues as they develop a comprehensive plan this year.

• THANK YOU •

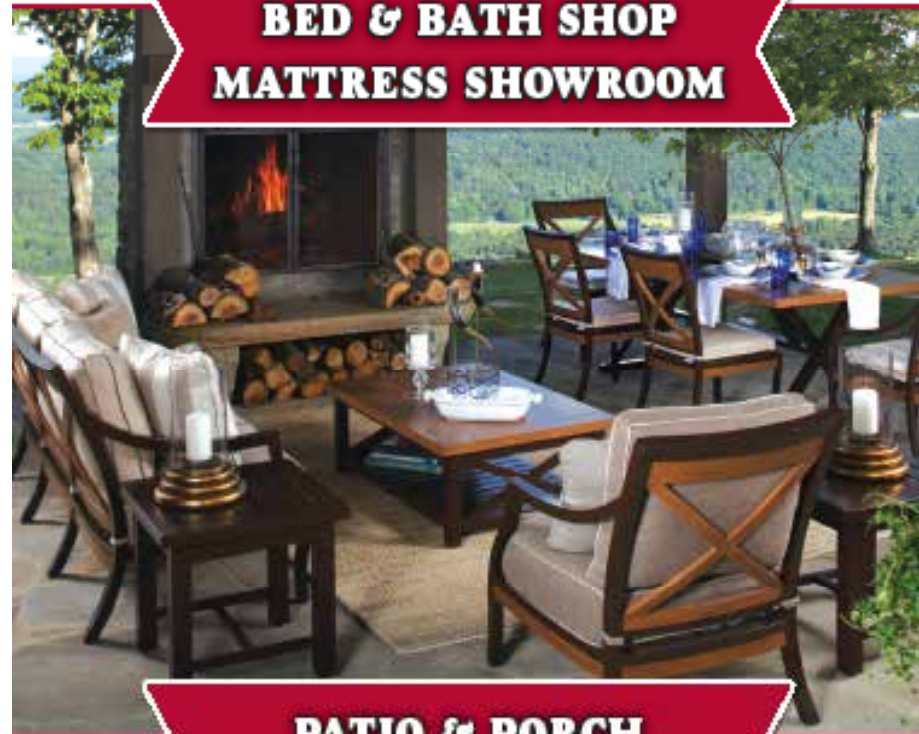
The family of Ed Thomas Talley would like to express their sincere gratitude to their friends and family for the food, flowers, thoughts and prayers. We would also like to thank everyone who visited Dad during his illness. God bless you all.

The Talley family

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Upcoming Political Discussions at Hudson Library in Highlands

January 18:

Indivisible will be meeting on from 5-7 at the Hudson Library. The two guest speakers are Chris Cooper, Department Head, Political Sciences, Western Carolina University and Blake Esselstyn, recognized authority on district mapping. The topic is Gerrymandering in NC, dangerous to our health.

February 1:

The three democratic candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives, District 11 N.C. will be guests at the Indivisible Meeting from 5-7 at the Hudson Library. The 3 candidates are Scott Donaldson, Phillip Price, and Steve Woodsmall. The format will be individual presentations followed by Q&A's.

...PROM continued from 1

cial needs while giving Him all the glory.”

Night to Shine events were first started in 2015, with Cartoogechaye Baptist Church being selected to participate for the first time this year.

“It is a Night for people with special needs are celebrated and shown God’s love for them,” said Carolanne Elliot, event coordinator with Cartoogechaye Baptist Church. “They will get the royal treatment with each guest receiving a crown or tiara and they walk in on a red carpet. It’s going to be awesome!”

The event is extra special for Elliot who in addition to being the youth director at the church, has worked with special needs students in the school system for about 13 years.

“We have a few special needs students in our youth group and we thought it would be a wonderful thing to host this event. I filled out a very lengthy application and then received an email that we had been chosen. We also received a grant from the foundation,” she said.

The event will be countywide — for anyone 14 years or older in Macon County with special needs.

The church has asked for donations of dresses and men attire, which the community has gone above and beyond to deliver on.

Last Thursday, the first round of participants were measured and fitted for their dresses and tuxes.

Prom accessories, dresses and other items are needed To contribute, call Elliot at 828-200-5934 or Becky Dewitt at 828-421-2937. Cartoogechaye Baptist Church also has a Facebook page that people can go to for more information about the event. The next volunteer meeting is Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Cartoogechaye Baptist Church.

...AFTER-SCHOOL from page 1

office at (828) 526-3175

The program at the Highlands Rec Park is also offered Monday-Friday from 3-5 p.m. for students K-5th grade and costs \$3 per student. Homework, enrichment activities and pool time are some of the offerings. Students can ride the school bus from the school to the Rec Park where they are let off at the entrance. For more information, call 828-526-3556

The Highlands Literacy Council at the Peggy Crosby Center up the street from the school offers a 4-day a week program, Monday-Thursday from 3-4:30 p.m. throughout the school year.

Students can take the school bus to the Peggy Crosby Center where program attendants are waiting at the driveway entrance.

This is a free program for children grades K-5 and includes time for homework and engaging educational activities. For more information, call 828-526-0863.

The Highlands United Methodist Church offers a free program at its Gordon Center for children in grades K-5, Monday-Wednesday. Students are transported from Highlands School to the church in the Gordon Center van. Each day there is a time for snack, homework and an enrichment activity.

On Mondays students go to The Bascom for art enrichment. On Tuesday various activities are planned either at the center or in the community – the Land Trust, the Nature Center, or music or cooking at the church

On Wednesdays students have music at the church or they go to the Highlands Playhouse for acting enrichment.

For more information, call or email Asst. Pastor Jennifer Forrester at humcjennifer@gmail.com or 828-526-3376

• OBITUARIES •

Charles Lindberg Bentley, Sr.

Charles Lindberg Bentley, Sr. went to be with our Lord in Heaven and the love of his life Christine Topping Bentley, Tuesday, January 9, 2018. They were married for almost 65 years. A celebration of life was held Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Liberty Baptist Church in McIntyre, GA with Reverend Johnny Jackson officiating.

Mr. Bentley was a devoted husband and family man. His greatest joy was spending time with his five grandsons throughout the years and he was an extremely proud “Ole Grandpa.” He held a deep love for Liberty Baptist Church and his community. Mr. Bentley served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War and retired from BASF(Engelhard) after 47 years as an electrician.

Mr. Bentley was preceded in death by his loving wife, Christine, his parents George Respus Wayne Bentley and Lucille Swann Bentley, his two brothers, George Bentley and Bill (Bubba) Bentley, a sister Luella Bates and his son-in-law, Bill Pugsley.

Survivors include his daughter, Susan Bentley Pugsley of Highlands, N.C.; sons, Charles L. Bentley, Jr. (Linda) of Laurens, S.C., Timothy Bentley of McIntyre and Kevin Bentley (Carla) of McIntyre; grandchildren, Charles Lindberg (Trey) Bentley, III(Elizabeth), Michael Bentley (Jessica), Mitch Bentley (Courtney), Ben Bentley and Nick Bentley; great grandchildren, Abby, Luke, Kylie, & Madi Kate.

The family would like to thank Mr. Bentley’s caregivers at Toombsboro Nursing Home, Toombsboro, GA (Pruitt Health and Hospice) for all its care and kindness. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Liberty Baptist Church, 1210 Liberty Church Road, McIntyre or the Central GA Regional Office of the Alzheimer’s Association in Macon.

• See OBITUARIES page 13

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...DUMPING continued from page 1

To curtail the illegal dumping outside of centers limited hours have been established – even on Sundays. Yet, even though the centers are open seven days a week, when workers arrive at work each the day, they often have to clear bags left overnight when the centers are closed.

The convenience centers in Macon County were constructed in the early 1990s in preparation of Sub-Title D regulations.

The ban on Hazardous (noun and adjective) and recyclable materials lead most counties to move away from the open, side-of-the-road “green boxes” and construct gated centers that could be monitored and controlled. These sites were also enlarged to accommodate recycling.

There are 11 centers in Macon County, half of which are open on Sunday. In addition to holidays, the centers sometimes

close as a result of weather conditions. The unexpected ice storm last month left several centers closed for a day to clear ice to safely enter, maneuver around and exit. This resulted in a mountain of holiday trash being piled up outside the gates.

Not only were bags piled in front of the center gates, whose contents were unknown, the freezing temperatures resulted in the bottom layer of the trash being frozen to the ground, which made clean-up efforts nearly impossible for the workers.

Stahl said a solution to the problem is uncertain.

“The problem isn’t a new one, and solving the problem is difficult. It is already illegal to dump trash outside of the centers. The most used centers are already open seven days a week. There are signs posted warning that it is illegal, but it still happens almost

daily,” he said.

On holidays, law enforcement increase patrol when the centers are closed, and often run individuals off attempting to dump on the sites.

Sheriff Robert Holland said that he spent one Christmas several years ago parked in front of one of the main centers and nearly everyone he prevented from illegally dumping were from out of town and wanted to dump their trash before heading out of town. This makes enforcement even more difficult, he said.

“Even if cameras caught those individuals dumping trash, and if you are able to identify them, they don’t live here and it’s just a misdemeanor so they won’t ever show up in court or pay the fines,” said Sheriff Holland. “Yet, we have more dollars invested in patrolling and enforcing the law than what we would get in return,” said Sheriff Hol-

land.

Stahl said the county has looked into installing cameras at the centers for other safety reasons, but even those would cost more than \$100,000 of taxpayer dollars, and actual enforcement is miniscule.

With the increase threat of dangerous materials such as needles, Stahl and the county want to work together to find a solution. Raising awareness of center hours and accessibility is something the county wants to work toward in hopes it will help people plan when to legally dump their trash.

The Buck Creek Convenience Center is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Macon County Landfill is open seven days a week 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information about the Scaly Mountain Convenience Center was unavailable.

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• HS SPORTS •

with Kedra McCall

This past week Highschool basketball played Nantahalla, Andrews, and Cherokee. Only varsity teams played Nantahalla and both finished with a win. Girls won 70-30 and the boys won 66-49. They then played Andrews. Both JV girls and varsity girls beat them. Varsity girls won 55-28 and JV girls won 47-14. The boys came very close but came up slightly short. Varsity boys lost 58-56 and JV boys lost 28-25. Finally, they played Cherokee. No team was able to finish with a win but played well. JV girls lost 49-30 and JV boys lost 69-19. Varsity girls lost 91-60 and varsity boys lost 86-51. Their next home game will be tomorrow, Friday, January 19th. They will play Rosman starting at 4 pm.

Middle school played Nantahalla, Summit, and Rabun Gap. Only girls played Nantahalla and they beat them 60-22. They then played Summit. The girls lost 31-18 but the boys won 39-17. Then they played Rabun Gap and both came out with a win. The girls won 38-14 and the boys won 47-14. Their next home game will be today, January 18th. They will play Eagle Ridge starting at 4:30.



Savannah Shaheen shooting foul shots and technical foul shots

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital provides host of services to address sudden and serious health crises

January is a time when many of us are energized by our hopes and intentions for the New Year. One of my aims for 2018 is to continue to provide our community with a better working knowledge about the scope of services at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, because we want you to understand and trust how we're prepared to care for you and your family in your times of greatest need.

I recently spoke with a community member who was formulating a plan in the event that she experiences a serious health emergency, like a heart attack or stroke – a wise and proactive move on her part. She provided me with a great opportunity to think about our services from the patient's perspective. Let's say you're home alone, and you experience symptoms of a stroke. The acronym "FAST" provides an easy way to remember stroke signs:

- Face: Look for an uneven smile
- Arm: Check if one arm is weak
- Speech: Listen for slurred speech
- Time: Call 911 right away

For anyone experiencing these symptoms a stroke, HCH can provide the following care:

1. EMS will notify our Emergency Department (ED) and prepare for the individual's arrival as time is of the essence.

2. HCH's trained emergency physician will provide an immediate, thorough evaluation to determine if a stroke has occurred.

3. If there is evidence of a stroke, the patient will receive an immediate CT scan to reveal whether a clot has obstructed blood flow to the brain, or if a blood vessel burst and caused a "brain bleed."

4. Our telemedicine capabilities allow us to communicate immediately and remotely with dedicated stroke experts at Mission Hospital, a certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, where a board certified stroke neurologist will collaborate with our physician 24 hours per day, every single day of the year. Our goal is to have all this accomplished within 10 minutes of arrival to the ED.



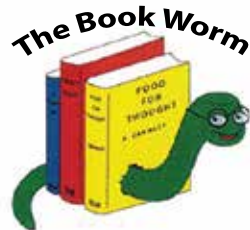
Jackie Medland
President

5. Our ED physician and Mission Hospital stroke neurologist will recommend treatment based on diagnostic findings, when symptoms began, and other factors. The patient may receive a "clot busting" drug here at HCH if appropriate, be immediately transferred to Mission Hospital by the MAMA helicopter if surgery or other intervention is necessary, or be admitted to HCH for observation and other treatment.

We're proud to provide the full array of care for a patient suffering from a stroke, and as recovery follows, we also offer post-acute rehabilitation services either in the hospital or the Eckerd Living Center. These programs, along with our MAMA helicopters, ensure that stroke patients receive the best – and fastest – care available. That's important, because the faster patients can get to the hospital and be evaluated, diagnosed, and treated, the better they'll fare in recovery.

With the integrated network of the Mission Health system, the care we provide to this community is advanced and expansive – and we strive for continuous improvement with your input. I remain committed to working with you to make our community stronger and healthier, in 2018 and beyond.

1/2 Price Sale



On Cookbooks & Travel

Located in the "Falls on Main"

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the Hudson Library**

Singers, dancers, actors wanted

On **Sunday, Jan. 21** from 1 to 3 PM at PAC, Danie Beck, choreographer for HCP's Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical revue, *Some Enchanted Evening*, will be auditioning dancers for the May show. Beck, a nationally known choreographer who produced half time shows for the Orange Bowl for 10 years, is looking for people who move well on stage. Beck, a Cashiers resident and active volunteer is part of the triumvirate producing the Highlands Cashiers Players musical revue.

Les Scott, HUMC's Musical Director, is also the Musical Director for HCP's May 24-27 and May 31-June 3 show. Singers are encouraged to prepare a Rodgers and Hammerstein song. A list of the songs in the show can be found on the HCP website www.highlandscashiersplayers.org but any Rodgers and Hammerstein song can be used. He will be

auditioning **Sunday, Jan. 21** going from 3-5 PM at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut St.

Show Director Adair Simon is looking for five main singers and numerous backup singers and dancers. "Whether you are a triple threat -someone who acts, sings and dances- or you focus on singing or dancing, we want to see you. We are looking for five strong singers, two men and three women. We also absolutely need singers to back up our main singers and dancers to enhance the singers" said Ms Simon. "Our rehearsals will start in late March or early April. **Monday, Jan. 22** from 5:30- 7 PM will be for callbacks and for those who could not be at the Sunday singing auditions. Dancer callbacks and again for those who could not attend the Sunday dance auditions on Sunday will be from 7 to 8 PM.

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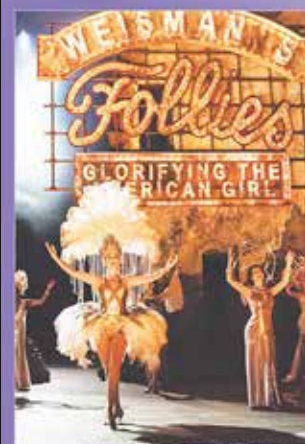
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Dec. 11. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Dec. 11

• At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Dec. 12

• At midnight, officers received a call about a verbal argument at a residence on US 64 west.

Dec. 14

• At 1:30 p.m., officers received a call about someone trespassing in a home on Ravenel Ridge Road when they were seen on a camera.

Dec. 15

• At 10:55 p.m., Michelle Harsh Silverthorn, 49, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and driving with a revoked license on Main Street. She was issued a \$500 secured bond. Her trial date is Feb. 28.

• At 11:15 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Dec. 16

• At 11:45 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on N. 5th Street.

Dec. 25

• At 6 p.m., officers received a call

from a woman who said she left a ring in a hotel room on Main Street and now the ring can't be found.

Dec. 26

• At 2:33 p.m., officers received a call about a shoplifting incident at Potpourri on Main Street where someone took a shirt off the rack and walked out of the store.

Dec. 28

• At 8 a.m., officers received a call about vandalism of a wooden fence at a residence on Laurel Heights Road.

Dec. 29

• At 8 a.m., officers received a call of firewood being stolen and someone trespassing at Mitchells Lodge.

• At 8:59 a.m., officers received a call about vandals and burglary at a residence on Sherwood Forest Road where \$1,500 in building materials were stolen.

• At 11:35 p.m., Taylor Thomas Earman, 42, of Highlands was arrested for being drunk and disruptive. He was issued a \$650 unsecured bond. His trial date is Jan. 18.

Jan. 1

• At 8:50 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hemlock Ridge Road.

• At 11:22 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the post office parking lot.

Jan. 3

• At 10:25 a.m., officers received a report of a breaking and entering with larceny at a residence on Cobb Road where personal items were removed.

• At 10:29 p.m., officers received a call about trash on a shared driveway and in a yard on Wvingina Place.

Jan. 5

• At 11 a.m., a wallet was reported missing.

Jan. 6

• At 10 a.m., Potpourri reported someone purchasing two pairs of sunglasses by phone using a credit card owned by someone else.

Jan. 7

• At 11 a.m., a wallet was reported stolen out of the office of Cyprus Restaurant.

• At 6:06 p.m., officers received a report about someone driving without a license, registration or insurance and possessing meth on US 64 west.

Jan. 8

• At 11 a.m., officers received a call about a woman at Old Edwards Inn being harassed.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Dec. 19.

Dec. 19

• At 2:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

• At 3:08 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 3:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horsecove Road.

Dec. 21

• At 7:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an unattended fire on US 64 east.

Dec. 22

• At 7:10 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on Horsecove Road.

• At 6:48 p.m., the dept. carried out a person from Bull Pen Road.

Dec. 24

• At 8:54 p.m., the dept. responded

ed to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.

Dec. 26

• At 4:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail Road.

Dec. 28

• A little after midnight, the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Hospital Drive.

• At 7:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wilson Road.

Dec. 29

• At 6:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail Road.

Dec. 31

• At 9:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

• At 4:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hapoldt Drive.

• At 7:43 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on Buck Creek Road at US 64 east.

• The dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on US 64 west at Dry Falls.

• At 9:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• The dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on Buck Creek Road.

Jan. 1

• At 8:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hapoldt Drive.

• At 8:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hemlock Ridge Road.

• At 10:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

• At 9:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hapoldt Drive.

• At 10:29 p.m. the dept. responded to a structure fire on Moon Mountain Road.

Jan. 3

• At 12:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible brush fire on Dendy Orchard Road.

Jan. 4

• At 9:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Potter Lane.

Jan. 5

• At 7:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 1:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Church Street.

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What can you expect when negotiating a home sale? Every situation is different, but it is rare that an initial offer will be accepted in its entirety. Sellers and buyers value price, timing and dates, among other things. A buyer may offer the asking price but want a much delayed closing, for example. In this instance a buyer can negotiate the closing date to get the deal done.

If a seller draws a hard line in the sand it shows an unwillingness to want to sell. When a buyer holds firm, we question how much he wants to buy a particular property. For success, it is essential to separate emotions from the negotiations in order for both parties to have the opportunity to win.

When a seller decides that it is time to sell, it is important to remember that negotiations involve compromise. You can consider it an honor when your property has attracted a buyer who has such a large variety of properties to choose from. In all my years of experience, I have found that THE BEST TIME TO



Lynn Kimball, Broker
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For a buyer, a little sensitivity goes a long way. If timing is important for a homeowner to sell, it can also be an emotionally draining experience. Instead of adding insult to injury, try allowing a seller to maintain some dignity. For instance, if a home is being sold furnished, allow the owner some leeway with items they'd like to keep. Give them some flexibility with moving dates. Don't pick apart the home inspection asking for insignificant repairs. Put yourself in their place. After all, most real estate purchases are not new homes.

If you are a buyer or seller and find yourself dealing with a difficult personality in a sales transaction, keep your eye on the prize. The truth is, each needs the other in order to accomplish their goal. When a person is inflexible, it is usually a result of fear that someone is taking advantage of them. Some understanding and compassion goes a long way. Everyone will benefit in the end.

• Lynn Kimball has over 43 years of real estate experience, with 32 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the

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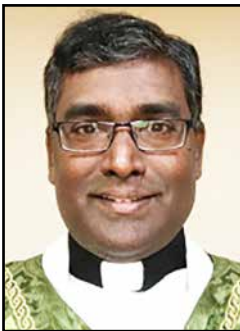
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Spirituality of Matter

**Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier
Arockiasamy,
Administrator,
Our Lady of the
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Science teaches us matter is anything that has mass and takes up space. We find most matter naturally on earth is either a solid, a liquid, or a gas. Human beings are physical beings with matter and form, and they are spiritual beings with soul and spirit. Most of the time we think of ourselves as material beings. It is normal for us to think materialistically, but we should, and sometimes do, also reflect on the spiritual aspect of our existence. Why do I exist on earth? What is the purpose of my existence? What will happen to me after my death? Death is one of the great mysteries of our life.

Materialism is a system of thought that explains the nature of the world as entirely dependent on matter. Human beings should understand what it is to be a substance and what it is to exist. Life exists only when matter can acquire energy from its external environment. Life is characterized by the presence of complex transformations of organic molecules into cells, organs and tissues. The Law of Conservation of Mass, or matter, states that matter can change its form or shape, but its mass always remains the same.

Our life is a living system which not only repairs or replaces its structures through a constant supply of materials, it also keeps its life processes in operation through a steady supply of energy. Human consciousness makes us aware of the energy-dependent existence within an environment that is common to all living cells. The energy which we receive from God, the almighty power, makes us a spiritual being. Only through conscious awareness of him can we find the purpose of our own lives and existence on earth. It is through him, only, that we can understand to what the earthly death of our physical bodies leads. Life must be studied as the structural and functional organization of matter from the point of view of both science and theology.

With reference to the Holy Bible, the book of Genesis teaches the creation story: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters." (Genesis 1:1) When we reflect on the first three words, "In the beginning", we have a basic principle of Physics. The words are a statement of time. Even though God is outside of time, he created time as he created the original material out of which he formed the earth. Modern physics describes time as a function of matter. The atomic structure of matter seems to hold the key to the movement of time. The Bible states this essential principle when it points out that time and matter were created simultaneously.

Genesis 1:1 continues with "God created the heavens and the earth." This is the logical scientific explanation for the origin of matter. There is no naturalistic explanation for it origin. Some evolutionists contend that matter has always existed. But if this were true, we would not be here today. If matter always existed, even evolutionists must admit that

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 14

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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•HEALTHYLIFESTYLE CONCEPTS•

Naturally boost your immune system - Part 2

Believe it or not, there are numerous safe and effective ways to boost your immune system and significantly increase your chances of bypassing the yearly colds, flus and sinus infections that usually seem to begin this time of year. From drinking organic cold-pressed juices, eating deliciously warming soups, and taking time to rest when you feel run down, you have a number of natural strategies that will have you up and running again in no time. When you keep your immune system in optimal working order, you're far less likely to acquire an infection to begin with or, if you do get sick, you are better prepared to move through it without complications and soon return to good health.

1. Take a Good Source of Animal-Based Omega-3 Fats. Increase your intake of healthy and essential fats like the omega-3 found in krill and fish oil, and oily fish like salmon and sardines, which is crucial for maintaining health. Decades of research back up the claim that the types of omega-3's found in marine animals, called EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), can protect your heart. It is also vitally important to avoid damaged omega-6 oils that are trans-fats and in processed foods as it will seriously damage your immune response. Be sure to read labels to make sure you are taking a high quality omega-3 supplement, as discount supplements and vitamins are known to do more harm than good.

2. Wash Your Hands. Washing your hands will decrease your likelihood of spreading a virus to your nose, mouth or other people. Be sure you don't use antibacterial soap for this -antibacterial soaps are completely unnecessary. Instead, identify a simple chemical-free soap that you can switch your family to, there are many to choose from at your local natural foods market. Believe it or not, simple hygiene can go a long way to promoting better health.

3. Use Probiotics & Enjoy Naturally Fermented Foods. A wealth of research has been conducted in the last several years on the use of probiotics, also known as "good" bacteria, in both children and adults. What we have learned is that without the diverse populations of friendly bacteria in our digestive systems, our immune



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systems would not develop properly. We don't often think of our gut when we think of the immune system, yet 80% of our immune tissue actually resides in the gut and is called gut-associated lymphoid tissue or GALT. The intestines are the first line of immune defense, disabling invaders before they can get into the body, as well as our pathway to assimilate the nutrients we need to survive. Fresh organic vegetables and fruits not only nourish our bodies but they also provide the fiber that "good" bacteria need to

survive on. If you are eating as many refined sugars as the typical American, then you are feeding the "bad" bacteria rather than promoting the "good" bacteria that help protect you from disease. Naturally fermented foods, such as yogurt, kefir, pickles and sauerkraut, are finally being recognized as a delicious way to enhance both the meals and health of modern Americans. Fermented foods have been a part of every traditional culture – as far back as Roman times, people ate sauerkraut because of its taste and benefits to overall health. The Art of Fermentation by Sandor Ellix Katz and his website www.WildFermentation.com has a wealth of information on how you can make and enjoy your own naturally fermented foods that will strengthen your immune system and keep you healthy and nourished all winter long.

4. Use Natural Antibiotics. Examples of well-known and used natural antibiotics include colloidal silver, oil of oregano, goldenseal and garlic. These work like broad-spectrum antibiotics against bacteria, viruses, and protozoa in your body. And unlike pharmaceutical antibiotics, they support your body's natural ability to fight off invaders and do not lead to antibiotic resistance, which weakens your body and makes you vulnerable to next year's strains. Key essential immune-supporting vitamins and minerals include D3, C and zinc and there are many high quality immune-supporting supplements at your local natural foods market or on-line that combine natural herbs, vitamins and minerals (just be sure there are no "fillers" or toxic additives like mineral oil or sucralose!). Many natural anti-microbials have been used for centuries in traditional winter foods and beverages and include garlic, ginger, cinnamon, turmeric and cayenne, which when added to soups, stews, curries and teas provide warming and delicious ways to boost your immune system.

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Gleeson team purchases White Oak Realty Group

Susie deVile has announced that Patrick and Deborah Gleeson of Highlands have purchased White Oak Realty Group. Patrick Gleeson has assumed the role of Broker-in-Charge, with Deborah Gleeson and deVile serving as Broker Associates with the firm.

After successful careers in sales, marketing, and hospitality-related fields, Deborah and Pat realized several years ago that the real estate business was the perfect fit for their desire to serve others while representing and selling the lifestyle that people yearn for in Highlands and Cashiers.

deVile said, "Deborah and Pat work exceedingly well together as a team, and it shows in their genuine way with others. When I began searching for the exact fit for White Oak Realty Group's new owner, I knew immediately that I wanted to hand the reins over to the Gleesons. Their real estate professionalism, marketing and sales acumen, drive to serve others, kindness, and phenomenal work ethic are very much in keeping with the existing ethos of the firm."

Deborah (aka "Bee") grew up in Jacksonville, FL, and graduated from Auburn University with a degree in International Business. She moved to Atlanta following college and for 30+ years led a successful career in the Financial, Hospitality, and Luxury Hotel industries. Her experiences included everything from opening Houston's restaurants, coordinating events like the 1996 Olympic Games Partnership for Merrill Lynch, and then various Corporate and Quality Assurance positions with The Ritz Carlton Hotel Company in Atlanta, GA. and Rancho Mirage, CA, as the Company achieved the Malcolm Baldrige Award for service excellence. Deborah holds the belief that... "my role is about helping others escape the hustle and bustle of their daily lives, and share the vitality, beauty, health, and tranquility of mountain living."

Pat grew up in Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota, and studied Journalism and Meteorology at The University of Minnesota and the College of St. Thomas, where he played college level tennis. His formative years included six years opening and managing restaurants, and becoming a Fishing Guide in the BWCA (Boundary Waters Canoe Area). Those experiences led to 30+ year career in Advertising Sales and Media Management. In 1988, Pat moved to Atlanta, GA with a group that purchased Ted Turner's billboard company. From there, he served on sales teams with ABC/Disney, the Georgia Bulldog & Atlanta Braves Radio Networks, and then 13 years with Comcast in Regional &



Patrick and Deborah Gleeson.

National Sales. Launching Comcast University's C.O.R.E. Ad Sales Training Division, he served 3,000 sales people across the country, teaching the finer points of professional media sales. A consummate outdoorsman and fly fisherman, Pat joined the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) in 2013 as VP of Sales, building the NOC into one of the largest Whitewater Rafting and Wilderness Adventure entities in the U.S.

deVile said, "I am delighted to remain as a broker with the firm and will focus my real estate energy and efforts on listing and selling commercial properties and land, as well as being an exclusive buyer's agent for residential sales. The decision to sell was one I did not take lightly. After all, owning White Oak has been like riding the most beautiful magic carpet since 2010, and I honor and appreciate the firm and how it changed my life with all my heart. I am forever grateful to the community, our colleagues, and our beloved clients for being integral to White Oak's past and future success."

"This is a dream come true for us," said Pat Gleeson. "We consider White Oak Realty Group to be a leader among boutique real estate brokerage firms on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. Deborah and I are eager to bring our servant spirit, entrepreneurship, and standards of excellence to the firm. We will devote our energy and passion to our clients, and the communities we serve. We are thrilled to be working alongside Susie and as the collective vision for our firm becomes a reality."

...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

Michael 'Mikey' Aaron Crisp

Michael Aaron Crisp ("Mikey," 63, of Highlands, passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2018.

He was the son of Edna Norton Crisp of Highlands and the late Henderson Guy Crisp. He was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Leesa Scott Crisp. Mikey was an accomplished musician and played many different genres as well as jazz and blue grass with many bands in Highlands and elsewhere. Mikey was an electrician and plumber as well as an all around handyman who could repair almost anything. He was always there when anyone needed his help. Mikey loved being outside, where he saw God in nature and music. He loved gardening and being on his tractor. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Highlands.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 31

years, Judith Elizabeth "Beth" Crisp of Highlands; two brothers, Jack Henderson Crisp and Charles Stanley Crisp both of Highlands; mother-in-law, Mozelle Edwards of Highlands; brother-in-law, James Edwards of Snellville, GA; nephew, David Crisp and his wife, Alyson Baumrucker of Scaly Mtn. and niece, Clara Beth Crisp of Mt. Rest, SC.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Highlands School, In Memory of Mike Crisp, to benefit the High School Music Program, C/O Annette Jenkins, Pierson Drive, Highlands High School, Highlands, NC 28741,

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com.

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The Real Estate business is multi-faceted and we typically wear many hats. You'll serve alongside our team of Brokers as we service our Clients with excellence. Along the way you will learn new things. In fact, if you've thought about embarking upon a Real Estate career and practicing Brokerage, this position is a great way to find out if it's right for you before investing the time & money it takes to become licensed.

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 10

the universe would be nothing but a weak and homogeneous field of energy according to the Second Law of Thermodynamics. It states that total entropy can never decrease over time for an isolated system, that is a system in which neither energy nor matter can enter or leave.

The book of Psalms, 19:1, says that the heavens declare the glory of God, the sky proclaims its builder's craft. The book of Isaiah, 40:12, asks, "Who has cupped in his hand the waters of the sea, and marked off the heavens with a span? Who has held in a measure the dust of the earth, weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?" There is only one answer.

So, dear brethren, the spirituality of matter comes with our physical existence, having form and matter and existing for a limited time. Without our physical selves we cannot, in this life, have our spiritual selves. Since God is unlimited and outside of time, he controls everything in his hand. We grow in our spiritual aspect by having faith in the Creator and by glorifying him. In Isaiah, 49:15-16, God tells us, "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name." Let us have faith in God and his creation of matter.

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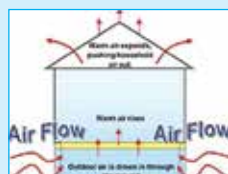
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