

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., May 3, 2018

The future of healthcare in Highlands

On Friday, April 27 it was standing room only at Hudson Library's Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor. His guest was Steve Heatherly, CEO of Sylva's Harris Regional Hospital and

Bryson City's Swain Community Hospital – both part of the Duke Lifepoint system.

With Mission on the verge of merging with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) folks

were anxious to learn if there was a chance events could swing in another direction ... if perhaps Duke Lifepoint might take Mission's H-C Hospital under its wing

• See **HEALTHCARE** page 7

Operation JAWbreaker snares Macon County and GA drug dealers

Highlanders in the initial roundup

During the early morning hours of Thursday, April 26, officers with the Macon,

Jackson and Rabun county sheriff offices, N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Bureau of

Investigation, 30th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Franklin

• See **DEALERS** page 8

A 'Highlands' standoff



This bear and Sharon Elder had a 5-minute standoff on Mirror Lake Road. She finally backed up and went another way. There's no telling how long the bear sat there but it was clearly unimpressed by the approaching vehicle.

Tate and Shearl face off in Franklin

While there are three seats open on the Macon County Board of Commissioners, only one seat, District I which represents Highlands, will appear on the primary ballot next week. The seat currently held by Commissioner Jim Tate is the only seat to have a primary challenger this spring. John Shearl, also a Republican, filed against Tate and on Tuesday, May 8, whomever receives the most votes will be elected to the board.

Tate graduated from the University of Georgia in 1995 and said that while he could have gone anywhere in the world to start his

• See **FACE OFF** page 5

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King & Queen for the night



The Highlands School 2018 prom was held in the main clubhouse of the Highlands Country Club Friday night, April 27. Seniors Max Renfro and Madison Lloyd – Class of 2018 co-salutatorians – were named King & Queen for the night. See photos on page 18.

– Photo by Sayla Roman

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The importance of our community's institutions

I want to thank everyone who attended the Community Coffee with the Mayor last Friday. It was an important event that addressed the issue of access to healthcare in the region.

I especially want to thank Steve Heatherly, the CEO of Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva for sharing his views on the status of regional healthcare. Harris Regional is a part of the Duke LifePoint system and serves this region with facilities in Jackson, Swain, Graham and Macon counties.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

erate our hospital. This meeting revealed that wasn't the case, at least at this point in time.

Instead, Steve addressed myriad of issues in providing quality healthcare that facing all small community hospitals like our and others. He stressed that several years ago Harris realized it could not continue to go it alone and had to affiliate with a larger system, Duke LifePoint.

Steve addressed some very thoughtful, albeit difficult questions, from the audience. In a

number of ways, I am gratified we are having this calm and insightful community conversation as decisions are made about the merger and the future of our hospital.

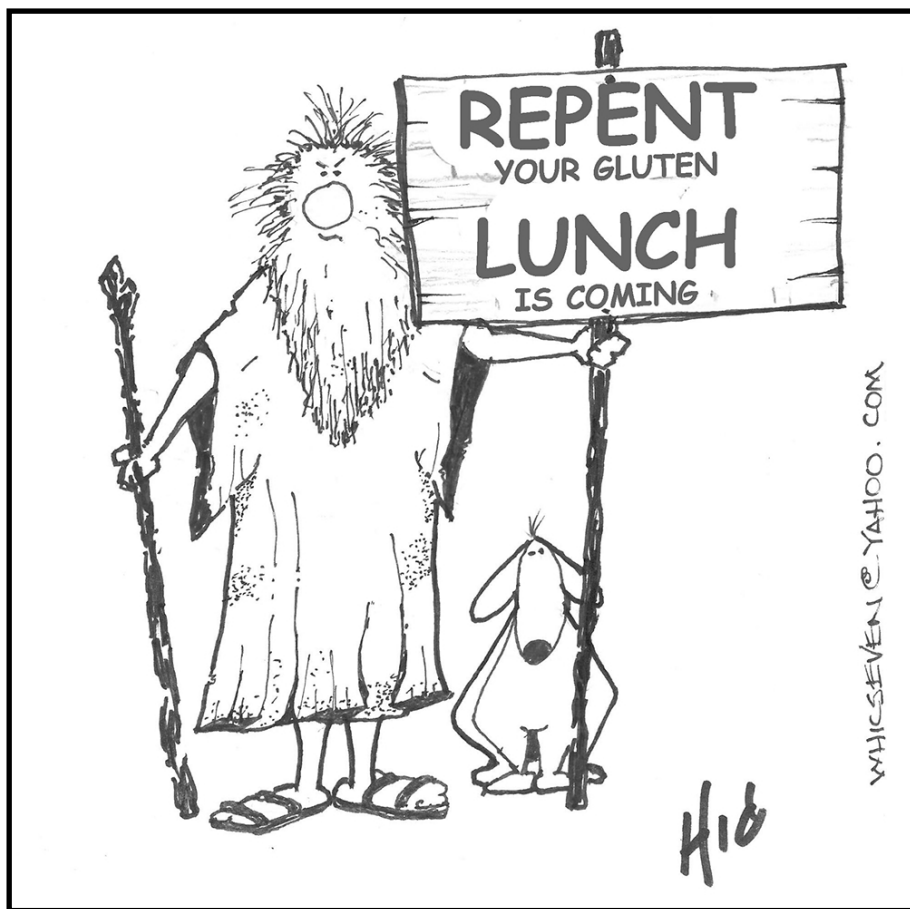
I also want to express my gratitude for the Hudson Library for hosting this and the many other community coffees over the last five years. It is truly a community center and forum for information and ideas. In many ways the library, a Highlands institution, mirrors the history of another community pillar, Highlands/Cashiers Hospital.

Both institutions were built by the generosity of Highlands/Cashiers area residents. Looking way back, in the early days of the town things like the hospital, the TB clinic, the school, and the library were not supposed to be in this tremendously isolated, small mountain town.

The Hudson Library is the first community public library in the state with its founding as the Highlands Free Library Society in 1884. It was incorporated in 1895, and by 1911 the trustees had bought the

• See MAYOR page xx

• HIC'S VIEW •



• LETTERS •

A hard rain

Dear Editor,

What is that old saying, something about peeing in your ear and telling you it's raining? Well, that is what Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's current CEO Jackie Medland and Mission Health President and CEO Ron Paulus have been doing for some time now.

• See LETTERS page 15

• WEATHER •

	Friday 5/4		Saturday 5/5		Sunday 5/6	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	77 F	51 F	65 F	51 F	67 F	45 F
RealFeel	83 F	57 F	71 F	55 F	74 F	51 F
Winds	6 g 9	4 g 6	3 g 6	3 g 6	3 g 5	3 g 5
T-Storms	4%	20%	40%	23%	40%	24%
Rainfall	0	0.01	0.7	0.32	0.31	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to • www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

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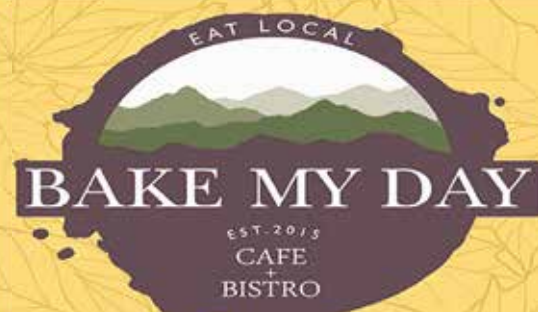
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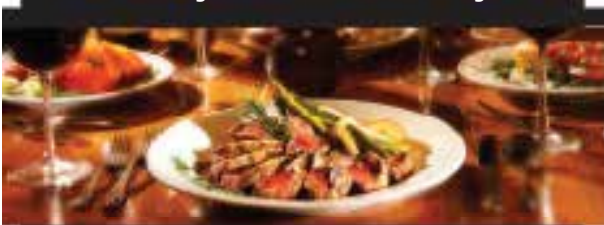
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...FACE OFF continued from page 1

landscaping business, he chose to start his life in Macon County. As a 6th generation Macon County native, Tate said his sole purpose for seeking re-election to the board of commissioners, a board he has served on since December 2011, is to make Macon County a better place for his children to serve as the seventh generation to raise their families here.

Shearl said he decided to run for Macon County Commissioner 20 minutes before the filing deadline was up and this makes his second attempt to be elected to the board. Shearl said the main purpose for running is to ensure that Macon County doesn't pass any sort of grading license program that would require landowners to get a permit to conduct grading on their property.

Both Shearl and Tate spoke to voters last week during

a forum held at the Macon County Public Library. Shearl made it clear that he was no politician and wasn't up-to-date on the county's budget or planning process. Shearl continued to point out that his reason for running was because he objected the county's grading license program and wanted to be sure it never came to fruition.

"What I am campaigning on is being totally against this grading license, because I don't want any more government rules and regulations on my own private property," said Shearl.

Tate noted that he, too, was against any rules or regulations that would take away property rights from landowners.

Tate noted that the commissioners voted to indefinitely table the grading license program and that he would rather see a voluntary education program implemented that would provide residents with materials to aide in the grading process, rather than a program or rules mandating such.

Both Shearl and Tate gave their support of fully funding school capital outlay needs, ensuring that projects needed in the school system are budgeted for and planned.

"We need to adopt a budget that covers our needs and live within our means," Shearl said of the \$3 million in capital outlay needs identified by the school system.

Tate said the county is already headed in the right direction to address the capital outlay needs, referencing the county's Capital Improvement Plan. "We haven't passed a budget for the coming year, but I am willing to bet that about a third of our budget is going to go towards education and public safety," said Tate.

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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Goings-on at the Literacy Council



Drop everything and READ!

The Literacy Council declared Thurs., April 12 as Drop Everything and Read Day for its after-school enrichment program. Students in grades K-3 spent the afternoon in the reading room where they took turns reading aloud, reading in pairs, and reading alone. From left are Charlie Wilkes, Hudson Tilley, Miley Damian, Cassie McDowell, and Matthew Morales.

BINGO for Highlands School PTO



On Thursday, April 12, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands School PTO to sponsor Bingo. All net proceeds went to the Highlands School PTO.

Citizens turn out for 'Shooter' preparation class at HUMC

More than 100 people from Highlands, Macon, Jackson and Rabun counties attended the Active Shooter course last week.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said with an active shooter event happening countrywide at least once a month and with those events lasting 5-7 minutes – often ending before law enforcement can arrive – it's important to be prepared.

"Asking the public to take

some immediate lifesaving action for themselves or others, is what the training was about.

"I have had a lot of positive feedback on the course and I am already looking at other dates to host another Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events course."

In addition, Chief Harrell said his department is always willing to do onsite risk assessments for property owners.

"In the meantime, be diligent



Planting trees for Arbor Day

Literacy Council students wait in line to care for their own dogwood sapling under the guidance of Sarah Pursel, Education Coordinator at The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

The Literacy Council and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust have a long-standing partnership to serve students in the community. The organizations work collaboratively to create fun and exciting educational programs for students of The Literacy Council and the Sonshine School. The Literacy Council provides a snack and selects books to read to students based on the program topic for the month. The Land Trust creates a lesson plan and

provides the program materials and supplies. The organizations hold the program for The Literacy Council's After School Enrichment Program and for the students of The Sonshine School every month.

In celebration of Arbor Day, students planted native white dogwood trees at the Peggy Crosby Center and the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, and read "We Planted a Tree," by Diane Muldrow. Dr. Gary Wein, Executive Director of The Land Trust, planted the trees with the students and graciously gave each student a dogwood sapling to plant at home with their families.

with an increased sense of awareness and have a plan, should the unthinkable happen," he said.



... HEALTHCARE continued from page 1

instead.

Recently, CEO of Mission Health, Dr. Ron Paulus stressed the importance of its regional hospitals staying with Mission and ultimately HCA, even though when meeting with the media in Highlands last week he said H-C Hospital had no value and if it weren't part of Mission and HCA wouldn't be interested in it.

"We want Mission Health, in its entirety, to join HCA Healthcare," he said in an email. "It is the objective of both parties and we believe it is ultimately the best outcome for our community."

It should be noted that when Mission Health took over a little over four years ago, H-C Hospital's, Angel Medical Center's and Transylvania Regional Hospital's contracts with Mission included an op-out clause – and that clause still stands.

But Paulus said these are difficult times to operate a hospital

and the proposed partnership with HCA Healthcare is an opportunity to ensure Mission Health is best positioned to continue providing high-quality medical care across Western NC and help secure the communities' ability to access care close to home.

During the Community Coffee discourse, similarities between choices made by H-C Hospital years ago and Mission Health of late, and Harris/Swain began to emerge.

First, the nonprofit H-C Hospital moved under the expansive Mission umbrella and second, Mission Health decided to partner with the mega for-profit HCA. Both decisions mirrored Harris/Swain's decision to join Duke LifePoint. The reason? The business of healthcare is difficult.

Basically, a small, nonprofit, community hospital can't make it alone these days and aligning with a for-profit enterprise makes good, sound business sense. In ad-

dition, Duke LifePoint and HCA both like the "hub and spoke" model for delivering services in Western NC.

A characteristic of rural hospitals is that as capital and operating margins become tighter, the tendency is to focus on keeping the doors open. "And that's the way it was when we were a private nonprofit hospital," said Heatherly.

The situation was the same at H-C Hospital. As H-C Hospital CEO Jackie Medland said, "the foundation's job was to keep the doors open."

Heatherly said the healthcare industry is changing at an incredibly rapid pace. "The pace over the past five years, has outpaced the first 20 years I worked in healthcare," he said.

Changes involve the delivery of healthcare, how healthcare facilities and providers are paid for services, and the consolidation in

• See HEALTHCARE page 11



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... DEALERS continued from page 1

Police Department and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration executed search warrants and served arrest warrants on numerous individuals involved in distributing heroin and methamphetamine into our area.

Named "Operation JAW-

breaker," the operation is aimed at dismantling a well-organized criminal enterprise involved in distributing large quantities of meth and heroin - not only in Macon County, but in Western North Carolina and North Georgia as well.

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Working together to undo this criminal enterprise, local, state and federal investigators gathered intelligence on multiple suspects and have been able to successfully obtain enough evidence to identify at least 25 individuals involved in the conspiracy of transporting, delivering and/or selling heroin and methamphetamine throughout Macon and Jackson counties, as well as Rabun County, GA.

Of those 25 suspects, three were identified as co-conspirators and suppliers living in the Franklin and Highlands areas. The first names of these suspects were the inspiration for Operation JAW-breaker's name - an acronym for the three individuals whom investigators identified as a main source of Macon County's heroin and meth supply.

During Operation JAW-breaker, investigators were able to identify at least three additional sources of suppliers living in the Atlanta area and supplying Macon County.

Investigators spent hun-

• See DEALERS page 14

... MAYOR from page 2

lot next to the Episcopal Church to build the first library. In 1983 the library received funds from the Barratt Trust to acquire the current property and to build the existing facility. Robert Rhodes headed the campaign to raise local, private funds for the building. Mayor John Cleveland cut the ribbon to the new building in 1985. Several years later local funds were raised to build the Bascom Gallery addition. The lion share of funds to do the recent renovation also came from private, local sources. There is a similar history about how the hospital came about.

So, my point is that residents have given their time and treasure to build these institutions. The hospital, as well as the library, are community treasures. In that spirit, Highlanders want to insure the hospital stays a vital part of this community for generations to come.



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• WORD MATTER •

Two thrilling minutes: Derby Day in America

This weekend, fans of the Sport of Kings get to celebrate an important rite of spring. Every first Saturday in May, all eyes focus on Louisville, KY where, for approximately two thrilling minutes, the finest 3-year-old thoroughbreds in the world contest the Kentucky Derby.

My father introduced me to horse racing when I was a boy. "Playing the ponies" was his drug of choice. We'd visit Aqueduct and Belmont Park, where I'd place his bets at the \$2 window.

He was gone by the time Secretariat came along in 1973. I've always believed, still do, Secretariat at his prime was the greatest athlete of any species I'd ever seen. I saw him set track and American records at the Derby, and the Preakness Stakes, the second in the three race series, on television. I was in attendance when he put on the greatest individual performance of all time in the Belmont Stakes. His track, stakes and American record-time for the grueling 1½- miles still stand, 46- years later. His 33-length margin of victory was awe-inspiring.

In 1979 I was working as a radio sports reporter, commentator and talk-show host in St. Louis, MO. I wrangled a press credential and went with three colleagues to Louisville to witness the Derby in person. That year, a big, beautiful colt, Spectacular Bid, won the race impressively. But his win was nothing like that of the big red horse six-years earlier.

The race itself wasn't the highlight of that trip.

One of my colleagues had reached out to Claiborne Farm, located 1½-hours from Louisville, in Paris, KY. This was where Secretariat performed stud duties for 16 years following the end of his racing career. We got to visit, and the four of us gazed, up close and personal, at the great horse himself. He'd put on a few pounds, of course. Who wouldn't if your entire job was eating, sleeping, and ... you know. Being in his presence stands as one of the great moments of my life.

When he died, in 1989, an autopsy revealed Secretariat's heart weighed almost 2½ times that of the average horse. Big



Bud Katz

Red, as he was called by those closest to him, was given the supreme honor of being buried whole. This is a big deal because, in most cases, if you're a horse, being buried whole isn't done. He rests in the cemetery at Claiborne Farm, along with other greats of the sport.

A few days ago, knowing my affection for the Triple Crown races, my wife referred me to an article out-

lining the costs of spending Derby weekend in Louisville. The bottom line is, if you do it right, those three days could set you back as much as \$12,000 dollars.

The Kentucky Derby is, indeed, the most exciting two minutes in sports. This, to me, is not up for debate, but \$12,000 is a whole lot of money, even for two really exciting minutes. A family of four could eat pretty well for a whole year on \$12,000. That same family could rent a home for a year, even in Highlands.

This weekend, we'll watch the great American horse race in the comfort of our living room. We'll probably invest up to four hours leading up to those two always-memorable minutes. We'll pass on the mint juleps. We'll smile at the lengths some of the women attending the race go to 'out-hat' one another. We'll tear up when we hear My Old Kentucky Home. We'll thoroughly enjoy the profiles of the owners, trainers and jockeys. We'll come to understand, again, why these traditions matter and why the race has endured in the American imagination, and has captivated fans and others, for almost 150 years.

I'll try my best to handicap the race, along with NBC's experts.

My father, of course, would have it all figured out. "Bet Justify," he'd say with certainty. "Or, maybe, Mendelssohn."

I've always believed, when you have a chance to see the best in the world at almost anything you ought to take advantage of the opportunity. These are arguably the best thoroughbreds in the world, but we'll still watch the race on TV. We'll have better seats and won't have to drop such a princely sum.

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• ALL ABOUT BOOKS •

Chris Bohjalian: A prolific writer

I am a mystery addict, but I also enjoy an engaging novel from time to time. The works of Chris Bohjalian fall into that second category. When I began to think about which of his novels I'd read, I was surprised that I'd read four of his 20 books.

Three of his novels have been made into television movies – “Secrets of Eden,” “Past the Bleachers” and “Midwives” – and another three are in development.

I first discovered Bohjalian when “Double Bind” came out in 2007. I was probably hooked by the references to the “Great Gatsby” in the reviews. “Double Bind” ranks up there as one of the most intriguing books I've read. The lines blur between Gatsby's tale on Long Island and this story that takes place in Vermont. I was kept guessing until the very end, and even then I questioned what had really happened.

When I went to Amazon to get a bit of info for this column, I was shocked to see the book's average review rating was a mere 3.6 out of 5. I guess it's not to everyone's taste, but I couldn't put it down. One review described the novel as evoking Fitzgerald and also channeling Hitchcock. I think of it as literary fiction.

I enjoyed it so much that I went on to read “Skeletons at the Feast,” a love story set in Germany during WWII. In the book, people are trying to escape from Germany and reach the Allies. The cast of characters includes an aristocratic Prussian teen, a Scottish POW, and an escapee from a train on its way to Auschwitz. I think it was while reading this novel that I came to realize how fluid the borders were in Eastern Europe in the 1800s and 1900s. It's hard to imagine what it must have been like to be Prussian one year



Kathy Manos Penn

and German the next. Reading novels like this one makes me realize just how fortunate we are here in the US.

Off and on through the years, I've read quite a few novels set in Europe during WWII, but none set in Italy until I read “Light in the Ruins.” It begins in Tuscany in 1943 with another aristocratic family. They don't try to leave Italy, but they do seek to escape entanglement with either side. The story moves between

the war and 1955 as it reveals the story of the Rosatis. It's as much a story of family as it is of the war.

Bohjalian returns to modern times and Vermont in “The Sleepwalker.” I'm not giving anything away when I tell you that the sleepwalker, Annalee Ahlberg, disappears one night. The plot describes how her disappearance and her sleepwalking play out

in the family dynamics. The story kept me guessing. Was she alive somewhere? Had she died?

I suspect I'll pick up another of his books again one day. “Sandcastle Girls” has been on my list for a bit. For some reason, the plot of his latest book, “Flight Attendant,” doesn't grab me, though it's getting rave reviews. Perhaps I'm attracted to his books because they provide not only character studies, but also mysteries. Whether you're a mystery fan or a fan of well-written novels, I don't think you can go wrong with a Bohjalian book.

• *Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Her latest book, “Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch,” and her collection of columns, “The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday,” are available locally at the Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and are also available on Amazon. Contact Kathy at inkpenn119@gmail.com.*

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... HEALTHCARE continued from page 7

the industry – particularly in Western NC.

As for Harris Regional and Swain Community Hospital, Heatherly said the nonprofit route was resulting in a slow rotation around the drain. “We needed to find a path to a better business model and a two-year journey lead us to become part of the Duke Lifepoint system in August 2014.”

The Duke University Health System is the “health” part of the equation and Lifepoint – a for-profit operator in Nashville, TN – is the operating company for the hospitals.

Lifepoint is a spin-off of the HCA. According to Heatherly, in 1999, HCA got in trouble with the government, and one of the settlement requirements was that 20 rural hospitals be taken from its portfolio. Lifepoint was created and for 20 years its focus has been operating hospitals in rural communities. It has grown to 72 hospitals in 23 states.

Heatherly said Lifepoint makes that financial model work by investing in those hospitals, growing services and giving people a reason to use their local hospital as opposed to driving out of town.

He said pressures that cause consolidation of hospitals is mostly financial. “It comes down to purchase power [one big reason Mission Health is aligning with HCA, according to Paulus] and the ability to ‘buy’ skill sets and deliver service lines.”

He parroted what H-C Hospital and Mission have said for years ... that’s it’s difficult to recruit and keep physicians in rural communities and that’s why Duke Lifepoint’s “connective system of care” in Franklin and Bryson City is a “selling point.”

The connective system of care means physicians can move about and stay busy, which appears to be the model Mission Health has been using and will likely continue to use with HCA.

Heatherly also said the hospital model has changed over the years.

“The length of stay in hospitals has dramatically decreased by one-third – from 4.5 to 3 days. All over the country there are massive facilities that were built for a healthcare system that delivered mostly inpatient care. Today, 70% of our revenue is outpatient,” he said.

The suggestion that the reason for Heatherly’s forays into the Highlands-Cashiers area was to investigate taking over the equipment and actual H-C Hospital campus was refuted with a simple “No.”

“We don’t get to tell Mission what to sell and I don’t get to tell Lifepoint what to buy,” he said. “But here locally, would we

be open to H-C Hospital becoming part of our system? Sure. Right now, we are going through the next generation of our strategic plan. We believe it’s important to expand our geographic footprint within the next 12-18 months. That could be here or anywhere else in our region. There is clearly a need for healthcare in the Highlands Cashier area and we believe we can play a role in that. What that role is we don’t know. Perhaps some sort of outpatient facility like what we have in Franklin, but specifically, I can’t say. We are still exploring.”

Medland said if the merger takes place, H-C Hospital has five years to prove itself financially, safety- and quality-wise, EMS and if it hits all the marks the hospital would be viable for 10 years.

According to both Dr. Paulus and Medland, as per the Letter of Intent, HCA can’t just close a facility, but it can try to sell it. When asked if Duke Lifepoint would be interested in taking over the H-C Hospital – if the merger takes place and if ultimately HCA puts it up for sale – Heatherly said from a local perspective, whether it’s now or five or ten years from now, Harris/Swain would have an interest in integrating services as a local system serving the counties in Western NC.

“So, if opportunity to do that comes next week and my parent company says that’s something we want to pursue, then we will be all for it,” he said.

Later, Heatherly agreed that the seasonality of the Highlands Cashiers area presents an unique set of challenges all its own.

– Kim Lewicki



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2018 Upcoming Events



at the
Center for Life Enrichment

• Monday, May 14 – “Oyez, Oyez, Oyez” The Year in review of the U.S. Supreme Court

Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Todd Collins

• Some Fun Facts about the U.S. Supreme Court

1. THE SUPREME COURT was established in 1789 and first convened in New York City in 1790. The court later moved to Philadelphia and then to Washington, where it hears cases today.
2. In its history, 112 justices have served. Four have been women, and one of them, Sonia Sotomayor, is the nation's first Latino justice. Two justices have been African-American, and eight have been Jewish.
3. The Supreme Court didn't have its own building until 1935, its 146th year.
4. Ivy League law schools are well represented on the current court: Four justices graduated from Harvard University; three graduated from Yale University and one graduated from Columbia University.
5. Justices are seated in order of seniority. The chief justice takes the center chair. The senior associate justice sits to his right, the second in seniority to his left, and the rest alternate right and left by seniority.

• Tuesday, May 15 – iOS for Beginners

Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith

• Thursday, May 17 – The New World Order: Chinese Influence

Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen

• Thursday, May 17 – iOS for Intermediate Users

Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith

• Friday, May 18 – Enhancing Poor Soil with Biochar

Time: 2-4 Cost \$35/\$45 Presenter: James Taylor



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Movies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.

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 5:15 p.m.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30-6:30 at the Rec Park.

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am with Susan Nastasic.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

Tuesdays

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

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

Third Tuesday

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5 By appt. Call 813-625-6785.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:15. A combination class with many different styles of exercise.

First 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.

Wed. & Fri.

Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm

Thursdays

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

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

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

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

1st and 3rd Thursdays

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

Saturdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 10-11am. By appointment. Call 813-625-6785.

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.

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

• At The Bascom, Photographing the Forest/Photography Resident Artist Classes with Vicki Provost, 10 am – 4 pm Level I. Explore the forests of Highlands and learn to capture this unique environment through photography. Basic DSLR camera operation, a photo shoot at wooded area and beginning photo editing techniques will be covered. Participant will need a DSLR camera, owner's manual, flash drive, sturdy shoes and ability to walk on a moderately difficult forest trail. Tuition: \$100. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Through June 3

• At The Bascom, Joel Gallery. Mnemonic Palace... Grant Benoit exhibit. Exploring memory devices and theories on remembering through the lens of the domestic space, Benoit incorporates hand printed wallpaper, sewing, and sculptural work in response to The Joel Gallery's unique architecture. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

• At The Bascom, PaPer View exhibit. Sarah Morgan Wingfield, an artist of many disciplines including paper making, is the guest curator of this exhibition, which features the works of fifteen artists from around the country who create with paper and not merely on paper. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Through June 10

• At The Bascom in the Loft Gallery. Noon-Day Land... Anna Norton exhibit. Video Installation of the movement of light within the Nantahala National Forest. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Through May 12

• Fill a Bag. Help Feed Families. Bag, healthy, nonperishable foods and place them hanging from or by your mailbox, or take them to your nearest post office. The food will be distributed to the area food banks.

Friday, May 4

• The High Mountain Squares will host its “Cinco de Mato Dance,” Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Dr Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426 or www.highmountainsquare.com

Sat., May 5

• At the Hudson Library, at 3 p.m. there is a 200-year

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

story unfolding in a 51-minute film, "Light to the World." It is a story of humanity's progress through history, propelled by the teachings of Baha'u'llah, The Glory of God for present day humanity. All peoples are welcome! 800.228.6483. www.bahai.us. 828.332.7765.

Tues. and Thurs. May 8, 10, 15, 17

• At The Bascom, High Fire 6 Glazes Compared/ Resident Artist Series with Frank Vicker, 10a to noon. The Resident Artist Series in Clay is a program designed for students of all levels. Open Studio for the day of class and 25 pounds of clay. For more information, please contact Frank Vickery at fvickery@thebascom.org. Tuition: \$125/Add Open Studio for the month for an additional \$75 per month. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Wed.-Fri., May 9 - 11

• At The Bascom, Wood-turning Fundamentals with Don Marks, 9 am - 5 pm Levels: I, II. Receive a thorough introduction to the woodturning lathe, its parts, and safety procedures. Learn to identify various turning tools, practice proper sharpening techniques, and get hands-on experience with the spindle roughing gouge, spindle gouge, parting tool, and bowl gouge. Workshop Pricing: Member \$300/Non-Member \$350. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Wed., May 9 and May 16

• At The Bascom, Spring Fling with Co-

lette Clark, 10 am - 1 pm Level: All. Learn the technique of applied flowers and leaves to ceramic vases and glazing. Tuition: \$150 Member/\$200 Non-Member. For more information visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Sat., May 12

• Macon County Public Health will hold several Rabies Vaccination Clinic at Highlands Community Center from 9-10:30 a.m. and from 11a to noon at the Scaly Mountain Post Office. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$10 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2106 for more information.

Mon., May 14

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez" The Year in review of the U.S. Supreme Court. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Todd Collins. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Tues., May 15

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, iOS for Beginners. Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost \$75/\$85. Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Thurs.-Fri., May 17-18

• At The Bascom, 2018 Collective Spirits: In-Home Private Wine Dinners on Thursday, May 17 and the "Stock Your Cellars" Wine Market & Tasting on Friday, May 18 at The Bascom. Once again this event will feature some of the finest chefs and vintners in the country. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Thurs., May 17

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, The New World Order: Chinese Influence. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Niall Michelsen.

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, iOS for Intermediate Users. Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost \$75/\$85. Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Fri., May 18

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Enhancing Poor Soil with Biochar. Time: 2-4p. Cost \$35/\$45. Presenter: James Taylor. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Mon.-Fri., May 21-25

• At The Bascom, Delightful Pottery with Elise Delfield 10 am - Noon & 1 pm - 5 pm Level: All. Work with Elise on throwing an altered pot on the wheel and creating unique slab trays. Elise will demonstrate her techniques including how she paints with ceramic stains. She will be delighted to talk about her influences, why she makes, and answer questions about anything clay. Bring your clay tools and brushes. At the end, students may have some work to finish at home. Tuition: \$425 Member/\$475 Non-Member. For more information on these events

please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

Tues., May 22

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, (Un)Holy Wars: The Crusades. Time: 2-4p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Vicki Szabo. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Wed., May 23

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, The Making of Our Mountains. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Cheryl Waters-Tormey. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Thurs., May 24

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, A History of the War on Drugs. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Angela Dills. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Thurs., May 28

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Ever-Changing State of American Politics. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Al Tuchfarber. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Tues., May 29

• Community forum about HCA and Mission future at Jane Woodruff Buliding on the first floor. at noon.

Wed., May 30

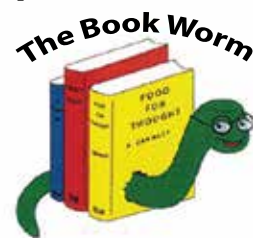
• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, An Epicurean Evening in Morocco. Time: 4-6p. Cost: \$90/\$100. Chef: Melissa Pelky Hass. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

• Community forum about HCA and Mission future at Cashiers Rec Center at 5 p.m. • At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, iOS Delving Deeper: More about the iPad and iPhone. Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost: \$75/\$85. Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Thurs., May 31

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Basic Photoediting for iOS. Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost \$75/\$85. Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

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Highlands Rec Park Pool Schedule

- Lap Swim: Monday-Friday, 6am-10am 6 lanes.
- Lap Swim: Monday-Thursday, 6-7pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 6:15.
- Public Swim: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm, Saturday, 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm.
- Water Aerobics: Monday-Friday, 10:15-11:15am and Monday-Thursday, 6:15-7pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 10:15am-Noon.
- Pool available for pool parties Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6-8pm.

Tues., June 5

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, The Battle Over the Southern Past. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Fitzhugh Brundage. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

Wed.-Fri., June 6 - 8

• At the Bascom, Painting -- Gone Wild! Smokey Mountain Wildflowers in Watercolors with Hillary Parker from 10 am - 4 pm Levels I, II, III. Tuition: \$450/\$500. For more information on these events please visit www.thebascom.org or call Lin Sheffield at 828.787.2866

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Proctors needed for end of year testing

End-of-Grade tests for Grades 3-8 begin on Tues., May 17 and second semester High School exams begin Tues., May 24. North Carolina requires that certain settings have proctors in addition to the administrator of the tests.

Tues., May 17 - 6 proctors needed

Wed., May 18 - 7 proctors needed

Tues., May 24 - 5 proctors needed

Wed., May 25 - 3 proctors needed

Fri., May 27 - 3 proctors needed

If can proctor, please contact the school at 828-526-2147 and ask for Nicole Lui (ext. 309) (nicole.lui@macon.k12.nc.us) or Frances Beck (ext. 301) (frances.beck@macon.k12.nc.us).

Please note, you will not be able to proctor in your child's or a relative child's classroom.

Tests begin at 8 a.m. and end about 11:45 most days. Some settings require longer sessions.



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Discussion: Boomeritis And The Aging Athlete

Date: Thursday, May 10

Time: Noon - 1pm

Location: Southwestern Community College - Macon Campus, Room 111
44 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, NC



William Handley, MD

Dr. Handley is an orthopaedic physician that is part of the excellent team of providers at Harris Regional Hospital with locations in Sylva and Franklin. Dr. Handley will be presenting a talk on Boomeritis and normal issues that relate to aging including tendon, muscle and bone issues. Dr. Handley will cover common ailments and options for treatment.

Lunch will be provided
To RSVP, call 844.414.DOCS (3627)

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The season is upon us; our secret is out Are we ready?

It's May! How did that happen? Rather than waking up from a sluggish real estate off-season, we are going into the new Highlands Cashiers Plateau season full steam ahead.

We had a very successful off-season this year and the Highlands Cashiers multiple listing service is currently 50% up in dollar sales volume from this time in 2017. Fingers crossed that this increase in sales volume continues and possibly even grows through the season. As a caveat, we were ahead

of 2016 at this time last year and ended up almost even in dollar volume at the end of 2017.

It seems that our sleepy little hamlet is now becoming a year-round destination for tourist and new residents alike. Events like the Highlands Food and Wine Festival and the publicity that event has brought to the area coupled with the extensive advertising and the numerous awards the Old Edwards Inn & Spa has brought to the area has put us on the map.

In addition, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce has increased its social media presence and that is driving mentions of Cashiers in national publications like Garden and Gun.

Everyone is working hard to build up our national (and international) presence and image. We are in the running in at least one USA Today survey of small towns. Last I checked, we were holding at number four in the Best Small Town for Shopping poll. Go onto Facebook and vote so that we move up even further.



Wanda Klodosky, BIC
Landmark Realty Group,
828-526-9520 Mobile

I recently heard from an editor of Tampa Magazine who is doing an article on our area for its Sunday feature article. Also, it is great seeing the Town of Highlands' weather cam featured on WLOS in the morning from Asheville. Less than a year ago, I often wondered why we were never even mentioned!

The word is out so it's up to us to put our best foot forward. The homes that are selling are generally in very good condition. Buyers are expecting more and in fact,

the advertising and the new awareness of the area is touting more. Home sellers need to take note and make sure their homes are cared for, are priced well and are presented well with professional photography and advertising.

So now is the time to get the home you want to sell up to the standards that today's buyers expect. Paint, repair, declutter, landscape and make sure your home is ready. Sellers, make sure you are working with professional Realtors who understand that our area is going through changes that you and they must keep pace with in order to succeed.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark Realty Group covers the Plateau with offices in Highlands, Cashiers & Burlingame/Lake Toxaway and is the area's leader in sales dollar volume as a firm. Landmark has recently partnered with Leverage Global Partners to extend our marketing reach globally. Visit www.landmarkerg.com or call 828-526-4663 to contact our friendly and professional Realtors.

... DEALERS continued from page 8

dreds of hours conducting surveillance in both Western North Carolina and Georgia, including the Atlanta area. Warrants for the arrests of those Atlanta, GA suspects will be issued and they will be extradited to Macon County upon their arrest.

During the gathering of intelligence, investigators discovered that drug purchases and transactions were arranged by James Steele, Arthur Potts, or Wade Ennis and that the three men made additional arrangements for those drugs to be transported back to the area for distribution.

During the operation, investigators were able to identify the three suppliers of heroin and meth in the Atlanta area. In collaboration with their local, state and federal partners, investigators were able to intercept various shipments of heroin and meth during traffic stops by law enforcement as it headed back to Macon County.

This investigation was initiated in January 2017 shortly after the conclusion of Operation Thunderstruck which resulted in the conviction of 26 defendants. Fol-

• See DEALERS page 19

•H-C HOSPITAL NEWS•

All hail nurses! Intuitive caregivers who are indispensable to future healthcare

Calling. Not just a job. A passion that can't be ignored. Not for everyone. These terms have all been used to describe the complex clinical work – and truly art – of nursing. These descriptors – and many more – are all true, and reveal that caregiving requires much more than hand-holding – though that too is undeniably important. Nurses have brilliant minds, huge hearts and tough spirits. I know many nurses who defy simple description, and all deserve kudos for the demanding, complex work they do.

First of all, nurses show up – for their patients and each other – every single day. They work in exquisite concert within dynamic care teams that include physicians, therapists and assistants. Because their tasks aren't isolated, they must follow well-defined care protocols within the context of ever-changing patient conditions. Nurses assess, plan how to treat patients, provide informed interventions, and evaluate the effects of interventions. They also read subtle – but important – cues. Nurses learn to be acutely attuned to their patients' changing needs, which can be reflected as much in a sigh or grimace as in a verbal request for help. They take into account every patient's unique medical history, condition, and emotional needs, which can be as diverse as the sunsets we enjoy on our beautiful plateau. They manage their patients' care in the face of competing priorities.

Nurses are lifelong learners. To that end, a national initiative created by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute of Medicine, the Future of Nursing Report, was created to set goals that will transform the nursing profession – and healthcare itself. Many of these goals involve education, such as more baccalaureate-prepared bedside



Jackie Medland
CEO H-C Hospital

nurses, residencies to ease graduates into a complex field, and doctoral-prepared nurses to teach our nurses of tomorrow. The Report also emphasized the need to have nurses functioning at the “top of their license,” or working to the full extent of their education and clinical training. This is especially true for Advanced Practice Nurses, whose responsibilities, such as writing prescriptions, can be limited by narrow state regulations. Finally, the Report addresses the current and anticipated nursing shortage by devising

ways to attract and retain nurses, and diversify the profession.

Nurses are not just at the bedside. Beyond providing hands-on patient care, nurses serve as care managers, quality and safety coordinators, clinical managers, Chief Nursing Officers, and in numerous other leadership positions within health systems (including mine!). Nurses' work, needs, and challenges weave throughout every level and aspect of care. The Report advises that if nurses – the largest sector of the healthcare workforce – exercise their natural clinical leadership, at the bedside, in the board room, and at the policy level, they'll be positioned to transform healthcare throughout our nation.

I see brilliance and competence co-existing with care and compassion in our nurses every day at HCH, ELC, and our affiliated practices. It's no coincidence that the icon of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, was also a statistician and social reformer. Next month we'll celebrate our extraordinary nurses with scheduled educational events, festivities, and a gift, courtesy of gifted photographer Richard Cole and Mountain Garden Club member Gina Dunwody.

Next time you meet one of our many wonderful nurses, please thank them for making our community stronger and healthier!

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Once, we had a pretty good hospital here in Highlands with a lot of pretty (very) good doctors. Then, a few years ago, Mission Health took over our good hospital and a light rain began to fall, but not to worry, everything's OK.

But now, it's beginning to rain pretty hard as something called Hospital Corporation of American looms on the horizon of our once pretty good hospital and there are fears we may be washed away altogether

Who's peeing on who now or, to quote Bob Dylan, “it's a hard rain's a-gonna fall.” Get out your umbrellas.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

Do we have meaning and purpose?

Dear Editor,

A short while ago I took a trip with my nephew's sixth-grade class to Washington DC; not knowing really what to expect, I found a renewed meaning and appreciation for this nation I love.

While viewing some of the memorials of the men and women leaders of wars and times past, I felt a sense of respect and awe from many in our group. However, some showed disrespect. They were young adults who didn't understand what was before them. I somewhat expected this but not at a memorial.

Our brief stop at the White House was met with protesters yelling slogans and waving signs of their dislikes and grievances.

In the midst of all the divisiveness, I was humbled by the unity of the past. Although difficult, painful and full of hardship, there was a urgency of making a country and its people united as one.

The founding men and women had a purpose and a direction, with a determination that is not seen in present times. A willingness to forsake all, even family, for an ideal that never had been tried or tested. This great experiment known as “America” has made us who we are and what we hope to be.

Our growing through adversities to achieve unity despite our diverse opinions, is and was something to be admired.

Our universities are the bedrock and model this to the world; the meaning of university is (unity within diversity in finding truth) or meaning.

Unfortunately, our representatives have failed in this, and do so willingly. It seems modern man has no interest in open discussion in preserving our past or the ideals, we once held dear. Re-writing or the elimination of parts of our Constitution is not something far reached. Negating the past or allowing its removal so there is little reference to glean upon; to write upon a new slate in hopes of a new era is not the way to go.

If we deny our past, we lose our future; we become a people adrift, not knowing the reason for sacrifices made or from where we have come.

I took great notice of the quotes that were engraved in stone memorials. These great leaders of our past spoke with such compassion and depth and meaning, with hope for a country and its people that is found in few other places. Words about men being created equal, in value and self-worth, freedom of the human spirit, a restrained government, morality, a blind and equal justice for all, a people looking out for each other with unity and purpose, fighting evil with good.

What is the bedrock or foundation of people thinking in this way? How does a belief and a trust in such ideals come about?

If we are being truthful we know the answer. God has instilled a greater destiny and a desire within the heart and soul of each of us. Why not celebrate and engrave this within our hearts and minds, so those coming into this world can see our eternal memorials set in stone in the seeking of truth which is the bedrock for life and living.

“I am the way, the truth and the life”...follow me. (Jn. 14:6)

Deni Shepard
Franklin

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The truth about salvation



Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian
Church

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, he has crossed over from death to life."

Jesus speaks these words to the man from the pool of Bethesda. He healed this man and when the Jews found out they questioned him. They wanted to know who healed him. The man had no idea who had healed him. When he ran into Jesus again and found out who he was he went back to the Jews and told them it was Jesus who healed him.

The Jews were really upset that Jesus was doing all these wonderful things that helped people. They were jealous and when they confronted Jesus his answer about his Father made them even madder and they wanted to kill him.

Jesus Christ came into this world to do for people things they could never do for themselves. He came to deliver them from the terrible bondage they were trapped in by sin, Satan and death. He tells the Jews that he has some truth they need to hear. That truth was they needed to listen to him and believe who he was. Jesus was the Word, he was the revelation of God. He brought a wonderful message of hope. The path to salvation begins with the hearing of God's promise to save everyone who hears the gospel and believes it with all of their heart. Jesus came to do three things for mankind. He came to live a perfect life which the law requires to come into the presence of God. He also died the atoning death to pay the price for the sins of those who place their hope and trust in him and in him alone. He won the resurrection victory, defeating death and setting all who believe in him as the Son of God free from death. These are the things you must believe if you are going to be delivered from condemnation and given the gift of eternal life.

Man is born into a life of sin and spiritual death. He is the subject of death, death is his lord. There is absolutely no way he can ever free himself from this terrible plague. This is why Jesus came into this world because he knew man was helpless and hopeless. Jesus came with a mission and that is what he is telling the Jews in John 5. He came from God to act in the place of sinful men. To take upon himself their sentence of death and give to them the hope of life. He came to help them cross over from death to life.

How are they going to be able to do this? He is going to give them a new heart and a new spirit and place his Holy Spirit in their hearts. Once he has done this work

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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; Ch. 5p

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: 6p

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

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Thank you for your support!

Jim, Allison, Ethan, Eliza

As a 6th generation to raise a family in Macon County, there is nothing that would make me prouder than to have my children want to be the 7th generation to raise a family here in Macon County.

I will continue to work hard every day to ensure that we live in a community that we are proud to call home. It has been my honor to serve Macon County as your commissioner and chairman, and I still have a deep desire to continue to work for you. Thus, I humbly ask for your support.

VOTE FOR JIM TATE

District 1 Macon County Commissioner | Tuesday, May 8th 2018

My beliefs are simple and to the point:

- 1) Fiscal Responsibility: Let's continue to live within our means financially and continue to run our government efficiently.
- 2) Education: Let's provide our children with the facilities and tools to be successful.
- 3) Heritage: Let's protect our natural and cultural heritage so that future generations can have the same opportunities we enjoy.
- 4) Safety: Let's keep our communities safe so that we can pursue our lives, liberty and happiness without fear.
- 5) Taxes: Let's continue to keep our taxes among the lowest in the state.
- 6) Buisness: Let's keep Macon County business friendly by providing the necessary infrastructure to support economic growth.
- 7) Civil Discourse: Let's solve our problems through open and respectful conversations.

Jim The Man for Highlands
TATE
County Commissioner

Vote May 8th

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jim Tate

Evening on the Boardwalk



The Highlands School 2018 Prom was held at the Highlands Country Club Friday, April 27.
– Photos by Sayla Roman and the Sunset staff

... DEALERS continued from page 14

lowing the overdose death of a former Franklin HS student in 2017, information was obtained by investigators that some of the people identified in Operation JAWBreaker were with her at the time of her death.

"We did not forget about this beautiful, young life and many times throughout this case investigators working this operation have talked about her and others just like her," said Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland. "Just as with Operation Thunderstruck in 2016, many of these suspects played a significant role in distributing the same poison into our community that is becoming an epidemic nationally. They each made a conscious decision to get into the business of selling drugs and did so without any concern or compassion for the families they were helping to destroy."

Holland said additional arrests are forthcoming in connection with Operation JAWBreaker.

"Investigators have already identified those suspects but for now we are gathering even more intelligence so that just as it was in Operation Thunderstruck the cases are rock solid and end with a successful prosecution and conviction while keeping more drugs out of our community," said Holland.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office wishes to extend a sincere appreciation to the directors, chiefs and sheriffs of the various agencies along with all of their officers for their dedication and commitment in disrupting this organization and their criminal activities being conducted in Macon, Jackson and Rabun counties.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office will be seeking assistance of the public in locating any of the suspects they are unable to locate during recent arrests. In the coming days information and photos on each of those listed as "WANTED" will be released to the public and can be located on the agency website at www.maconnc.org/sheriffs-office.html or its MCSO Facebook page.

As part of Operation JAW Breaker the following arrests have been made as a result of this ongoing year-long investigation that involved local, state and federal agencies. Additional arrests are forthcoming as this investigation continues.

James Douglas Steele:

- Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin, Trafficking Opium/Heroin, Possession of Heroin, Deliver Heroin X2, Possession Controlled Substance on Jail Prem-

ises. \$1,300,000 Bond MCSO.

Wade Ennis:

- Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin, Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine, Trafficking Opium/Heroin, PWIMSD Methamphetamine, Maintaining Dwelling/Place, Possession of Heroin, Possession of Methamphetamine. \$1,708,000 Bond MCSO.

Jessica Keener:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Trafficking Opium/Heroin, Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin, Maintaining Dwelling/Place, PWIMSD Methamphetamine, Possession of Controlled Substance in Jail, Resisting Public Officer. \$800,000 Bond MCSO.

Austin Posey:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin, (Additional Charges are forthcoming) Traffic Opium/Heroin, Maintaining Dwelling/Place. \$515,000 Bond MCSO.

Christy Hurst:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin, Trafficking Opium/Heroin. \$500,000 Bond MCSO.

Arthur Potts:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin. Held in Habersham County, GA Jail.

Beth Kimsey:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin Held in Rabun County, GA Jail.

Tanner Scent:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise. Held in Habersham County, GA Jail.

Julie Ann Smith:

- Conspiracy to Traffic Opium/Heroin. Held in Rabun County, GA Jail.

Leslie Jones:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise. \$500,000 Bond MCSO.

Carrie Ann Huskey:

- Aid and Abet Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Trafficking Methamphetamine. \$500,000 Bond MCSO.

Thomas Giesy:

- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. \$2,500 Bond MCSO.

Samantha Cain:

- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. \$2,500 Bond MCSO

Nicole Wend:

- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Posted \$2,500 Bond

— Submitted by the MC Sheriff's Office



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Pat Allen, Broker in Charge



... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 16

that person will be able to see his sin and his need of a Savior and know that Jesus Christ is his Savior. He will open his ears and listen, he will open his heart and believe. One of the important things you need to hear is found in John 14:6 when Jesus says "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except they come through me."

The truth about salvation is that it comes through Jesus Christ and through him alone. God sent Jesus into this world with a mission to save all the Father had given him. If you will open your ears and hear his word and open your heart and believe what he teaches about himself. You will be saved from your life of sin and made alive and given a place with Jesus and the Father in heaven.

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HELP WANTED

BISTRO ON MAIN in Highlands is hiring experienced servers, bussers, hosts and cooks. Stop by the Main Street Inn for an application, or call 526-2590. (5/10)

ASIA HOUSE – Now hiring experienced bussers and waiters. Call 828-787-1680 or stop by 151 Helen's Barn Ave. (st. May 3)

TAYLOR BARNES SALON is accepting applications for full and part-time positions. Licensed cosmetologists and nail technicians are invited to apply in person. Please stop by to fill out an application. 330 Dillard Road. Highlands.

FULL-TIME SALES POSITION. Weekends & holidays a must. Great hours with a great salary. Nancy's Fancys. 828-526-5029. (st. 4/26)

FRESSERS COURTYARD CAFE hiring cooks, counter help and food runners. Call 828-526-8847. (st. 4/19)

YEAR-ROUND, FULL-TIME RETAIL POSITION IS AVAILABLE AT TJ BAILEY'S in Highlands and Cashiers. Must have flexible hours and have excellent people skills. Sales experience is a plus. Call 828-526-2262 or email resume to store@tjbaileys.com (st. 4/5)

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff, bartender, line cook and backer. Please call

Jacque at 828.526.3807. (st. 4/5)

SWEETREATS – Earn great tips in a fun and fast-paced setting. New ownership is looking to fill full and part time positions for May 2018 in our newly renovated space. Apply on our Facebook page. (st. 3/29)

PAOLETTI'S ON MAIN STREET. Now hiring for 2018 season. Bartender, Servers, Bus person, cook. Call 828-526-4906. Email resume to amp28741@yahoo.com. (st. 3/29).

HIGHLANDS INN & HIGHLANDS INN LODGE now accepting applications and interviewing for all positions. Front Desk, Housekeeping, Night Audit, Breakfast Host & cook. Full time and part time available. Call 526-5899 for appointment or stop by 96 log cabin lane for application. Resumes or questions may be emailed to sales@highlandsinnlodge.com. (st. 3/1)

SKYLINE LODGE – housekeeping staff, front desk clerks, and maintenance workers wanted for 2018 Season. We offer training. Call 828-526-2121 for an application. Background checks done. (st. 2/22)

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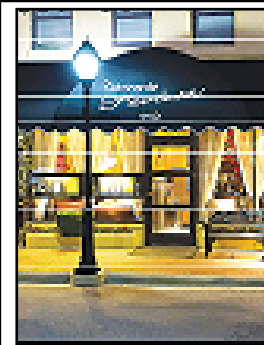
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