

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019

5k-10k run raises \$20,000 for HS

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Droves of runners, supporters, and volunteers descended upon Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park on Saturday for the 7th

annual Rotary Club of Highlands Twilight 5k/10k. After the race, runners drank cold beer and jammed out to the band High 5.

Almost \$20k was raised to help purchase more ActivPanels

for Highlands School, in addition to the "smartboards" already purchased by the Advanced Highlands Education Committee (AHEC).

Charlie Ledford of Highlands

• See 5k-10k page 13

HS soccer team ties up first game

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands School boys varsity soccer team tied East Henderson at home on Monday with a final of 2-2. Both of the Highlanders' goals were made by Luis Torres Zamudio and new Head Coach Caleb Brown said they had a great first game.

"They really did phenomenal," said Brown. "They were hungry for it right out of the gate. We ended with a draw, but we commanded possession throughout the game and showed Highlands is a team to be reckoned with."

It was tied 1-1 at the end of the first half and then Highlands put one in the back of the net in the beginning of the second half. With about 7 minutes left, East Henderson slipped one past Highlands goalie Ethan Tate to tie it up.

Brown said Highlands needs to work on 50/50 balls and set pieces.

• See SOCCER page 16



New faces at Highlands School for the 2019-'20 school year are from left: 4th grade teacher Sherrie King, 2nd grade teacher assistant Stephanie McConnell, high school history teacher and boys varsity soccer coach Caleb Brown, and 6th grade teacher Stephanie Cook.

Photo by Asst. Principal Sarah Holbrooks

New faces, new classes, at Highlands School

There are more teachers and classes this year at Highlands School as well as more students enrolled for the 2019-'20 school year.

According to Principal Brian Jetter, there are 370 students en-

rolled which is up from last year's 341. A final count will be taken 10 days after school starts.

Due to state requirements concerning elementary class sizes, there is an additional kindergarten

• See SCHOOL page 12

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Free breakfast program still on for schools '20-'19

By Brittney Lofthouse

It's a story that makes the headlines all too often in our nation. "Anonymous donor pays off lunch debt for an entire school."

While the story is always heart-warming, it raises a more important question as to why students across the country are not only having to battle fractions and spelling tests, but also figure out if they will get to eat that day.

According to the School Nutrition Association, at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 75%

of schools in the nation reported having unpaid student meal debt. That debt has kept children from graduating, prevented them from having a warm meal during the day, or shammed them among their peers. Families' inability to pay for school lunches is becoming an increasing problem.

Of the school districts with unpaid student meal debt, 40.2% said the number of students without adequate funds increased last school year, SNA found.

• See BREAKFAST page 8

County gives PAC \$60,000

At its August meeting, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to allocate \$60,000 to the renovation and expansion of the Highlands Performing Arts Center (PAC). The allocation will be a two-year commitment from the county for the project with \$30,000 allocated each year in the budget under economic development.

Appearing before the board,

Cindy Trevathan, PAC Board of Directors member, made a presentation to commissioners soliciting their support for the project. The commissioners have been very supportive to several community centers throughout the county and have been instrumental as well as financially supportive in helping the larger Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center

• See PAC page 2

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Issues on tonight's Town Board agenda

I returned to Highlands Sunday night after visiting with family members. We did three days of fishing on the San Juan River in New Mexico. My travels always make me appreciate living in Highlands.

The San Juan is a great trout river and the surrounding landscape is dramatic and beautiful. The people were very warm and welcoming. One of my nephews from LaLa Land asked me if we had trout fishing in Western Carolina. I responded that we have over 3,000 miles of trout streams that are probably the best in the country. I can't wait for him to visit Highlands and see what this plateau has to offer.

Yes, other regions have great attractions and maybe it's a mayoral exaggeration, but I still believe we have the best place to live and to visit. The big question will be how this community continues to maintain a tremendous quality of life and also welcomes visitors who share a similar interest in quality experiences. I know many Highlands citizens share similar thoughts.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Bringing more and more people here for day-trips and short-term party events may not be in our long-term best interest.

With the changes in the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the upcoming election, I suspect this issue will be a topic of intense discussion. The town also needs to move quickly in developing a new comprehensive plan in 2020. I believe the best way to achieve this goal is

to bring in a professional consulting organization that can guide our planning board through the process.

Tonight is the August Highlands Town Board Meeting at the Highlands Community Building beginning at 7.

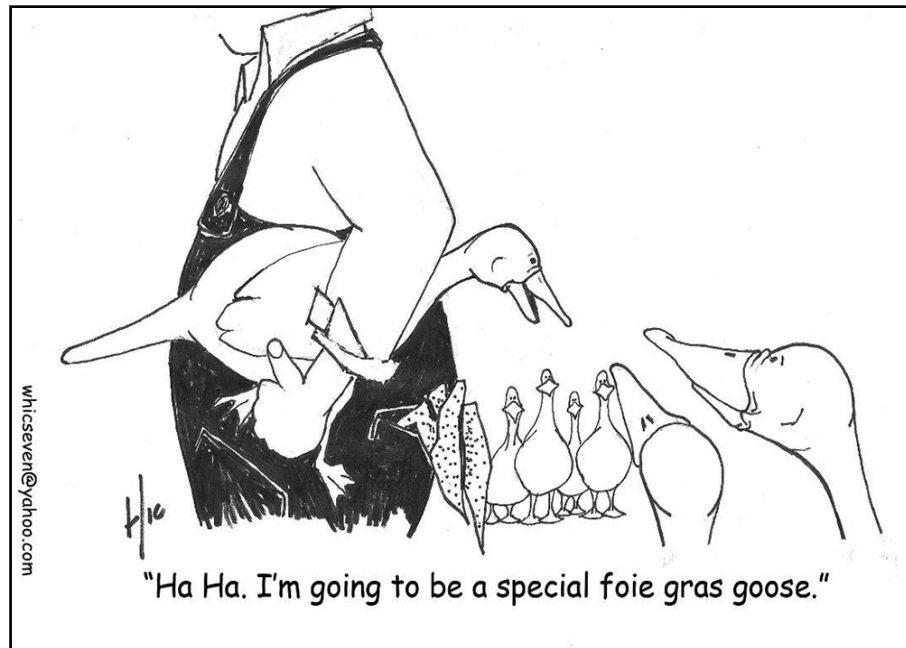
I am asking the board to support a resolution for cameras on the Gorge Road. These cameras would be radar activated and photograph trucks that willfully disregard warning signs and continue on the Gorge Road. Special, local legislation will be needed for these cameras. The resolution is the initial step.

The architectural agreement for designing the new fire department will also be reviewed. The fire department and town staff are moving this process forward without delay.

The board will hear a report from the Public Works Committee concerning solid waste management, especially as it relates to the bear issues. I anticipate the board approving a plan that will require the use of toters. Residents would have about a year to make this conversion.

The staff will request the transfer of additional town reserve funds to the North Carolina Capital Management Trust Fund. The town carries large reserve balances during the year that could be placed in this fully protected fund. Our Town Manager and Finance Director transferred funds from the scholarship and similar funds to this state fund last January. Since then the town has netted about \$80,000 in interest. Additional town funds could be placed in the NC Management Trust Fund and earn a return for taxpayers. The good news is the town can withdraw money within a day from this trust fund without penalties.

• HIC'S VIEW •



...PAC continued from page 1

project get established.

In keeping in line with what the county has done for other community centers and projects, the board agreed to show its support to the Highlands PAC project. The board also recognized the significant impact the performing arts in Highlands has contributed to the economy.

"I recommend we support the project and show our interest by allocating \$30,000 a year for two years; this is in line with what we have done with Cowee School and other community centers throughout the county,"

said Vice-Chairman Ronnie Beale in his motion to the board. "The performing arts in Highlands has had a significant impact on the economy of the town and county."

Trevathan told the board that 100 private donors have raised \$10 million for the original project which includes renovating and expanding the existing PAC. She said an additional two to three million dollars is needed to finish the project but said the project was made possible with an anonymous donation of \$5 million dollars.

• See PAC page 22

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.

• WEATHER •

Fri, 30-Aug	Sat, 31-Aug	Sun, 1-Sep
74°F 56°F	75°F 55°F	74°F 57°F
A p.m. t-storm possible	Some sun, a t-storm possible	Mostly cloudy
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HIGHLANDS Two homes for the price of one! Complete privacy on 4.49 acres w/mountain views/pond, streams & springs. The main home has vaulted ceilings and stone masonry fireplace. There are 2BR/3BA, a large sleeping loft, a new kitchen, and a lower level family room plus a 2-car garage/workshop. The 2BR/2BA guest house has an open living area with a kitchen and a beautiful pond view. Each home has its own private drive. Guest house would make a great vacation rental.

MLS# 91073 | Offered for \$695,000



CULLASAJA CLUB Recently renovated by premier builder John Lupoli, this spotless home is located near the front of Cullasaja Club for easy access and only a short drive to Highlands or Cashiers. With an open floor plan, gleaming hardwood floors, skylights and vaulted ceilings, the cottage lives large. The kitchen boasts SS appliances, granite counters, desk space, and a large island. Home warranty. Adjacent lot available at additional cost to make the property 2+ acres.

MLS# 90115 | Offered for \$625,000

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN Walk to downtown Highlands from this two story Arts & Crafts home located on Mill Creek. Three bedrooms, three and a half baths and an open floor plan. Built-ins, cathedral ceilings, and a breakfast bar in the kitchen. The living room has lots of windows and a corner gas log fireplace for cozy evenings in. Lower level family room, large open deck, and a great outdoor living space by Mill Creek. Beautiful creek views!

MLS# 91432 | Offered for \$597,000

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN 1950's home with pine paneling and hardwood floors. Two master suites with baths, one hall bedroom and bath. Attached to the home is 800 square feet of retail/office space. In the back is a spacious 1BR apartment over a 2-car garage. Many possibilities for this property zoned B-4, light commercial, all within walking distance of the Town of Highlands. Owner would finance short-term to a qualified buyer with substantial down payment.

MLS# 90846 | Offered for \$589,000



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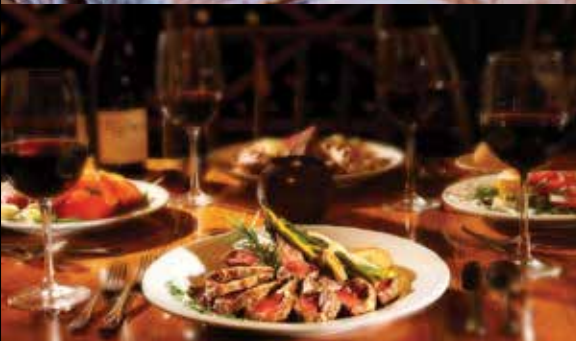
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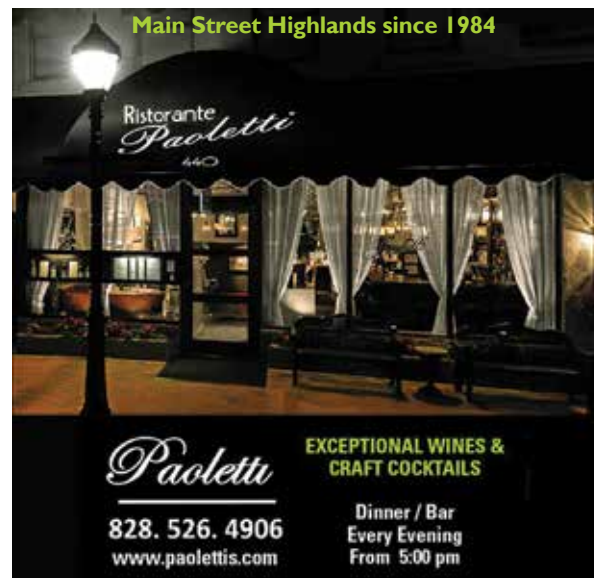
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MLS# 90566 | Offered for \$585,000



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC This one level home not only backs up to the National Forest land for complete privacy but makes for an easy walk to the Swim and Tennis Center or to the clubhouse. The great room opens to the kitchen and to the large screened porch. The master suite is oversized and boasts two large walk-in closets plus "his and her" baths. Two great guest rooms plus a vaulted family room with a second fireplace complete the picture.

MLS# 90917 | Offered for \$579,000

HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Located on the 11th fairway overlooking the green, you can enjoy golf and mountain views from the covered screened porch. The great room has vaulted and beamed ceilings with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. The home is bright as the back faces east and catches the morning sun and is shady in the evening when you are entertaining on the deck. The kitchen has been updated with new countertops and stainless steel appliances.

MLS# 91526 | Offered for \$550,000

TURTLE POND Peace and tranquility only 12 minutes from downtown Highlands. This is the perfect home for those who love to have friends and family come to visit. Situated on over 5 acres of beautiful land and adjoining the National Forest. With five bedrooms, two bonus rooms to provide additional sleeping areas, a large living room upstairs, and an additional family room downstairs, there is plenty of room. All of this and offered furnished with few exceptions.

MLS# 90428 | Offered for \$549,000



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...BREAKFAST from page 1

School lunch debt has become such a problem across the nation, some states have actually passed legislation prohibiting schools from singling out students and “shaming” them for having unpaid charges.

At the end of last school year, Macon County racked up about \$2,000 in unpaid school lunch debt.

“Most parents pay by the end of the fiscal year,” said David Lightner, Nutrition Director for Macon County Schools. “It is not as big of a problem in Macon County as it is in other counties across the US, however, it is something we continue to face every year.”

Dr. Baldwin noted that while it’s not as much of a problem in Macon County as it is elsewhere in the country it’s an issue the school is constantly struggling to address.


“Principals are put in the awkward position of contacting parents to make them aware of any school debt,” said Baldwin. “We would much prefer that principals dedicate their time to improving safety and instruction. Once the lunch debt exceeds a certain amount, the school system turns to our board attorney to write the parents a letter in attempt to collect the payment for lunches. We have taken the additional step of litigation to collect the money, but this has occurred very infrequently. Most of the time parents pay for their child’s lunches. However, when we are unable to collect the full amount, the school system must then refund the school lunch program from our general fund balance. As you can imagine, this diminishes our ability to purchase classroom instructional materials, books, and safety equipment. Most importantly, school debt has a negative impact on all of our students.”

Federal programs allow families in financial hardships to apply for free and reduced lunches, which help, but it doesn’t fully address the issue.

Although the average price of a middle school lunch is \$2.68, the cost can add up for families, especially those with several children. In June, the Macon County Board of Education approved a 10-cent increase for school meals across the district. Elementary lunches in Macon County

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The Price is Right!

Sometimes it feels like each new season of selling real estate is like that game show, 'The Price is Right.' The new listings are grouped together with all the old listings on stage, and buyers from the audience try to bid what they think should be the closest correct sales price. The person with the best answer gets selected to play the game. "You're the next contestant on This Sale is Right."

Believe it or not, there is a happy price medium, it just takes longer for some to find it. Why is that? Because we're all human. There are some sellers still stuck in the pre-recession pricing strategy: "List high, doesn't matter how long it takes, eventually it will sell."

There are some buyers still stuck in the height of recession: "Offer 20%-25% less than asking, if the sellers really want to sell, we will end up with a decent price; they'll snap up my quick cash closing."

Take a look at the last decade – these are closings in the Highlands Township:

Closing Period	# of closings	Avg. Days on Market	Avg. Listing Price/Sales Price%
Jan 1 - Aug 19 '09	47	4-5 years	86.60%
Jan 1 - Aug 19 '14	91	486 days	88.90%
Jan 1 - Aug 19, '19	124	207 days	92.68%


It's up to the Realtors to educate the buyer and the seller of the current trends. As new properties are listed, usually a CMA (comparative market analysis) is done by the listing broker.

• See **INVESTING** page 19



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•WORD MATTER•

Young Men and their Guns

A food festival in California's Santa Clara County. A shopping center in El Paso, Texas. A bar in Dayton, Ohio's historic downtown.

These are locations of the three most recent mass shootings in our country.

We know the motive of the 20-year old shooter in the El Paso event, where at least 20 were killed. By the time you read this more of the 23 others who were wounded may have died. He used a semi-automatic AK-47-type weapon. He posted his intentions on the Internet. He wanted to kill Mexicans.

The shooter in Gilroy, who killed three and then took his own life, used a WASR-10, semi-automatic weapon and, according to eyewitness testimony, appeared to be shooting at random. This one, from his own social media profiles, had no apparent underlying political agenda; he just wanted to kill people. He bought the gun when he was 19.

The Dayton shooter arrived well-prepared. He brought a .223 caliber, high-capacity rifle with more than one, 100-round drum magazines. He wore protective body armor and ear protectors, so as to muffle the noise. Nine died, including the shooter's own sister, before police, who responded within 30 seconds, killed the 24-year old perpetrator.

Mass shootings in the United States are now so commonplace, so woven into the fabric of our lives, they don't generate the same level of outrage as before. National television news, which, by the way, has as its top priority to instill fear into its viewing audience, occasionally doesn't lead its nightly newscast with the story.

The Los Angeles times recently completed a two-year project investigating what commonalities exist among those who bring weapons into so-called 'soft targets' with the sole intent of killing as many people as possible before either killing themselves, being killed by police, or being taken into custody. There are four consistent characteristics associated with 160 mass shooters they tracked since 1966, including the either obvious or surprising fact that they are overwhelmingly young, angry, suicidal, white males.

First, the vast majority of mass shooters experienced childhood trauma and exposure to violence at a young age, which established a precursor to visible mental health concerns. Second, practically every mass



Bud Katz

shooter had experienced a crisis in the weeks or months leading up to the shooting. Third, most shooters had studied the actions of other shooters online, so as to obtain validation for their motives. Fourth, and here is where the rubber meets the road, all the shooters had the means to carry out their plans.

The scariest part of this overwhelmingly American condition is that our Constitution,

and our values, with regard to gun ownership, privacy, ever lower taxes, and the elusive notion of freedom, make 'solving' this problem somewhere between extremely difficult and impossible. As any law enforcement professional will tell you, there is almost no way to stop someone from committing a mass shooting if the shooter is ready to give up his own life. But, there are ways to reduce the frequency of these events without sacrificing our rights to own guns, to free speech, and to privacy.

First, 'soft targets' need to be hardened, with security measures such as metal detectors and visible police presence. And, assault-type weapons need to be better controlled, with age restrictions, permit-to-purchase licensing, universal background checks, and red flag laws designed to keep them out of the hands of vulnerable individuals and/or people in crisis.

Second, the media shouldn't provide oxygen to mass shooters; stop mentioning names of perpetrators, shorten video coverage, and don't print 'manifestos' that sick, twisted people want to share with the world.

Third, the NRA and their enablers in Congress, if they believe guns aren't a part of the problem, should funnel real funding toward adolescent and young adult mental health initiatives so as to identify and help remediate these damaged, angry, alienated young men, most of whom don't care whether they or others live or die.

Fourth, social media and other Internet organizations should, of their own volition, severely restrict access to sites containing hate speech, blatantly racist, xenophobic, white nationalist, and misogynistic content that helps feed the fires of hatred and bigotry lying within those who might see such material as validating their anger.

And, as far as our President, whose daily, angry tweets feed the problem, is concerned, if, as he claims, he wants to Make America Great Again, perhaps he can start by considering steps he can personally take to help make America safe again.



Gary Garren, Loan Specialist

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...SCHOOL continued from 1

class.

For 2019-'20 there is an Individual Class max size and a Max Average of ALL Classes (in that grade level) within the Local Education Agency (LEA) for grades K - 3.

For 2019-'20, the Individual Class max size is 22. The Max Average of ALL Classes (in that grade level) within the LEA is 19.

"We have two kindergarten classes because we have a total of 27 kindergarten students enrolled which exceeds the Individual Class max of 22," said Principal Jetter.

There are 14 students in one kindergarten class; 13 in the other; 22 students in 1st grade; 14 in one 2nd grade and 13 in the other; and 20 in the 3rd grade.

The new elementary teacher assistant Stephanie McConnell will work both second-grade classes - one with Cynthia Henderson and one with Robyn Hessling. There isn't enough funding for each second-grade class to have a full-time teacher assistant.

Due to numbers, there is also an additional sixth-grade homeroom and another high school history class.

The two 6th-grade teachers are new hire Sherrie King and Joy Archer.

There are also two high school history teachers - new hire Caleb Brown who is also the Boys Varsity Soccer team coach and Chris Green.

Spanish is online this year. there are 16 students signed up for Spanish first semester and 12 for second semester

Open House is tonight, Aug. 22 from 4-6 p.m. Students and families are encouraged to visit the school so students can get acquainted with their teachers and the school.

The first day of school is Monday, Aug. 26.

- Kim Lewicki

Scott & Patti: Björn Again



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at 12pm & 4pm
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PRINCESS PUDDIN'

• CATSPEAK •

Cats know their names

This comes as no surprise to me so why is this pronouncement all over the news? Are humans truly unaware of this simple fact? Of course, we cats know our names, but as the many articles note, we don't always respond when called. Duh! Why should we come running just because you say our names? Tell me, do two-legged children always come when called?

It cracks me up that someone took time to research this topic and publish the findings in the journal "Nature." Was it necessary to study 78 cats to discover that we respond to people calling our names – when we want to, that is? The researchers studied cats in homes with only one cat, multi-cat homes, and cat cafes, and they found we're able to distinguish our names from those of other cats or dogs and from similar-sounding words.

As do I, the cats in this study responded to their names by "moving their heads, wiggling their ears and meowing." I, of course, do more than that. On occasion, I come when called or I leap into a lap or onto the bed to snuggle with Mum or Dad, but again, only if I feel so inclined.

For example, when my pet parents return home after a trip, I understand them when they call my name over and over, but I'm



certainly not going to run to them. My taking my time to appear delivers the unspoken message that I'm miffed.

My Dad often adds a "G" to the end of my name and places the accent on the second syllable – Pu-DING. No matter, I recognize my name. Other times, my pet parents use different intonations when they speak to me. When I'm eying the rotisserie chicken on the kitchen counter, I can tell by the way Mum says Puddin' that she means, "Don't you dare." The result, of course, is that I wait until she walks out of the kitchen before I leap. I'm no dummy.

Rumor has it that there's a move afoot to teach cats new words. Seriously? I think I can safely speak for all cats when I say we do not care to be trained. We'll learn whatever words we choose. As a writer, I know plenty of words, and I'm self-taught.

If you have a cat, you already know that we're also alert to hu-

man moods – no words needed. That's why I spent lots of time in bed with Mum when she had surgery this year. She needed me to help her feel better. Please note, all of these cat behaviors are voluntary.

I also have the amazing ability to note when Mum moves toward the stairs. I watch from Dad's lap to see whether she walks past the stairs or up them. If she starts up the stairs, I leap down and dash ahead of her into her office – where kitty treats are dispensed. Again, no words required.

Sometimes, I wait at the foot of the stairs to see whether she turns toward her office or her bedroom. I don't follow her into the bedroom unless it's bedtime when I watch her wash her face and get ready for bed. Then I choose a sleep spot for the evening. I may wander from chair to bed to desk during the night, but I stay close by. Enough said. No research is required to establish that I know my name and my place.

• Princess Puddin' Penn resides in Georgia with her dad, her mom Kathy Mannos Penn, and her canine brother Lord Banjo. Please send comments, compliments, and questions to inkpenn119@gmail.com. She appears in "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," a book that can be found on Amazon, at Books Unlimited in Franklin, and at Highlands Mountain Paws.

...5k-10k continued from page 1

was the top finisher in this year's first 10k race with the best overall time of 39.14 and said he showed up to support Rotary and Highlands School.

"It's always a goal to finish in the top, but it means more being a local because I care about supporting our Rotary and our school," said Ledford.

Race Director Derek Taylor said they raised approximately the same amount as last year despite having fewer runners and deemed it a success.

"It was absolutely great, I have no complaints," said Taylor. "I want to thank the volunteers, Rotarians, sponsors, Highlands Police and Fire Departments, and thank you to the entire community. We know they're out here because they want to support the school."

Graham Blank set a new 5k-course record with 16:56 and Will Mathiowdis ran with a stroller and won his age group and the stroller category with 20:15. However, Mathiowdis did not beat the

age-course record from last year, which he set.

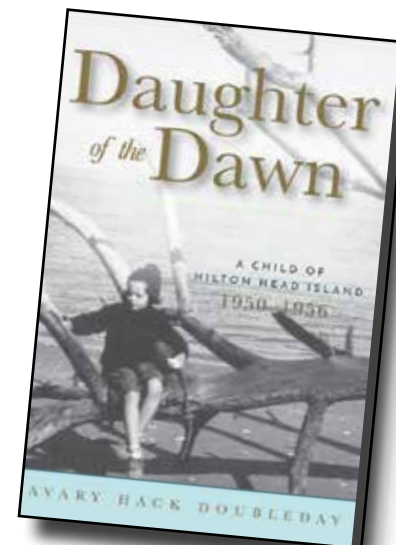
Part-time Highlands resident Chris Carneal has been running the Twilight 5k for the past five years with his family and said he wouldn't miss it.

"School starts soon so this gets us back in shape and gets us going," said Carneal. "We're always looking for opportunities to run as a family and give back to the community. This race is fantastic."

Gajan Retnasaba ran the 5k without shoes and said that's how he likes to run.

"It's much cooler," said Retnasaba. "The breeze feels amazing between your toes with each stride. I've just done it forever, I love it. And it's great seeing everyone out here supporting this. There's music, beer, friends, why would you be anywhere else?"

After the race, High 5 rocked it out on stage well into the evening.



Daughter of the Dawn takes you to a remote island – not so long ago. Through a child's eyes, author Avary Hack Doubleday describes private hunting clubs on the island, evacuating for a hurricane, and lessons learned in a one-room schoolhouse. As Avary paints her memories she reveals the characters of her parents which led them to this adventure and which molded her own character as she grew up at the dawn of the development of Hilton Head Island.

Local author Avary Hack Doubleday's book available at
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Ongoing

• Summer Movies at the Playhouse Tuesday-Sunday 4 & 7 p.m.; See ad.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

• At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

Monday - Saturday

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Garden Tour. 10:30am. Enjoy a walk through the Botanical Gardens with our knowledgeable staff, viewing beautiful native plant life in diverse habitats.

verse habitats.

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC 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.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

Mon. & Fri.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:15 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Tuesdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Toad Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active - feeding time!

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

• Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Lunch with the Docs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital noon to 1 p.m. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345. Limited to 50 attendees.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Mad Science. 2:30pm. Try your hand at

scientific inquiry with a brief hands-on program aimed at youth ages 7+ (younger ages OK with supervision).

• At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner - Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays - Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit www.cbchighlands.com.

• Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

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.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays Sept. 5-Oct.

• The Church of the Incarnation next 6-week Grief Support Group meets in Jones Hall from 4-5:15 p.m. The Grief Support Group is offered to anyone dealing with grief. Anne Koenig, LPC, RPT-S, a local private practice counselor also affiliated with the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center Highlands will facilitate the group sessions. Anne has been in practice for several decades. She has led a number of groups, including groups to help relieve Post Traumatic Stress. For information and registration, please call the Church office at (828) 526-2968, or Anne Koenig at (404) 357-0728.

Thursdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30

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

• At H-C Hospital, Lunch with the Docs noon to 1p. Events are limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Kara

Village Square Art & Craft Show set for Aug. 24 & 25



The August 24/25 Village Square Art & Craft Show will feature some exciting new artisans, including Ilene Kay (Clyde, NC) and her jewelry creations. Also lots of your favorite artists, including painters Marcus Thomas, Sue Gouse and Vicki Ferguson. Rustic furniture, birdhouses, weaving, ceramics, glass art, food products and more will also be on display. Join Mountaintop Rotary for fun, food, and music at this not-to-be-missed annual event. (828) 787-2021 for info.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Miller at 828-526-1345.

• 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

Fourth Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

Fridays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Snake Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active -- feeding time!

• Live music in Town Square, 6-8 p.m.

First Fridays

• The Bascom at Sotheby's series features different artists each month with a reception the first Friday of every month at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty from 4-5:30p at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. The public is invited to come meet the artist, view the exhibit and have some wine.

• At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in

Night - all ages Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. 526-1595.

Fourth Friday

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a until noon.

Friday - Monday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Saturdays

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

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

• At the Nature Center. Free. Creature Feature. 11:30am & 2:30pm. Experience one or more of our live animal ambassadors up close while learning about their adaptations.

• Free music in the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8 p.m.

Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

• Church in the Wildwood, hymn singing each Sunday through Labor Day weekend from 7-8 p.m.

Thurs.,Aug. 22

• MC Board of Elections Educational Seminar on Voter ID requirements for 2020 election at 10 am. at the Highlands Civic Center. Also at 6 p.m. at the Franklin Community building on the Georgia Road.

• At CLE Can Mankind Be Trusted with Control Over Its Own DNA? Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenters: Jill Granger. To register call 828-526-8811.

• Highlands School Open House for all students is Thursday, 4-6 p.m.

• Zahner Lecture Series "The Plant-Pollinator Love Affair That Keeps Our Planet Humming" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

Fri.,Aug. 23

• Southern Highlands Reserve (SHR) welcomes the public for its 2019 Native Plant Sale 9a to 3p at the Nursery Complex within the Core Park. There will be a wide variety of native plants seldom found at most retail nurseries will be available. Pollinator plants, perennials, shrubs and many found at both high and lower elevations. Plants will be sold in 1-gallon and 4-inch containers. Each plant has been grown with care from hand-collected seed. To learn about Southern Highlands Reserve, contact us at info@southernhighlandsreserve.org

• The Western North Carolina Area Team of Operation Christmas Child is hosting a Project Leader Workshop and party at Holly Springs Baptist Church, 366 Holly Springs Church Road in Franklin. Volunteers will be filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies and hygiene items for Operation Christmas Child. RSVP, email jtrull.OCC2017@hotmail.com.

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Frank and Allie

Sat. Aug. 24

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. The Manor and Friends

Sat. & Sun., August 24 & 25

• The Village Square Art & Craft Show brings together top notch artists and crafters from around the mountains for two days of family fun, food and music. 10 to 5 both days, rain or shine. FREE. K-H Founders Park, Pine St. in Highlands. Sponsored by Mountaintop Rotary of Highlands. For info call (828) 787-2021.

Sun.,Aug. 25

• Fiber Sunday will take place at Cowee Textiles from 2-5p in room 104 at The Cowee School Art & Heritage Center at 51 Cowee School Dr., Franklin. Bring a textile project you are working on from spinning, knitting, weaving, rug hooking, baskets. E-mail Teresa Bouchonnet at bouchonnet@coweetextiles.com with questions.

Mon.,Aug. 26

• First day of school at Highlands School.

• At CLE The Abolitionist's Daughter: A Novel by Highlands' Own Diane McPhail Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Diane McPhail. To register call 828-526-8811.

Tues.,Aug. 27

• At CLE The Spanish Civil War: An Introduction Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Alberto Centeno-Pulido. To register call 828-526-8811.

Wed.,Aug. 28

• At CLE Threats to Honey Bee Health Time: 10a-12p Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Olav Rueppell. To register call 828-526-8811.

• The Carolina Women's Chorale will be the Interlude Concert at First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Free.

Thurs.,Aug. 29

• Glenville Area Historical Society annual meeting Thursday at 6p at the Glenville Community Center. Light refreshments and meet and greet before election of Directors and to hear a review of the 2018- 2019 year. For additional information call 828 743-1658, email historicalsocietyglenvillearea@yahoo.com or log on to www.glenvilleareahistoricalociety.com.

• Zahner Lecture Series "William Bartram's Travels through the Upper Little Tennessee River Valley in 1775" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

• At CLE Day Trip to the Southern Highlands Reserve Time: 8:30-2:30 Cost \$50/\$60 Presenter: Kelly Holdbrooks. To register call 828-526-8811.

HCP's 'Dearly Departed' opens Aug. 22



HCP's founder
Jean Morris

Highlands Cashiers Players 25th season is here! The first show of the season is, "Dearly Departed." Directed by Dr. Ronnie Spilton and filled with both familiar and brand new faces, this Southern comedy is one you will not want to miss. Jean Morris, founder of the Highlands Cashiers Players 25 years ago will be attending opening night of Dearly Departed. The show runs at PAC Aug 22-25 and Aug. 30-Sept 1 and is dedicated to her. Call the box office at 828-526-8084 for ticket information or go online at www.highlandscashiersplayers.org

Carolina Women's Chorale at Interlude First Presbyterian, Wed., Aug. 28



At 2pm on Wednesday, August 28, the Carolina Women's Chorale will be featured in an Interlude concert which will take place at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. This will be the final Interlude concert of the season. Founded in 2016 by Donna Philips, Carolina Women's Chorale consists of singers from Highlands, Cashiers, Sylva, and Cullowhee. The group is directed by Dr. Michael Lancaster and accompanied by Susan Clearman. Included in the program will be "Were I a Little Bird" by Schumann, "Duetto Buffo Di Due Gatti" by Rossini, gospel spiritual "Go Where I Send Thee" arr. by Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory, "I Am in Love, I Dare Not Own It" by Alice Parker, and more. Carol Grantham, mezzo soprano, and Christine Reeder, soprano will be featured soloists. There is no charge for the Interlude concerts which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual- come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.



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Highlands Cashiers PLAYERS
PRESENT

25th Season
Dearly Departed
Written by David Bottrell & Jessie Jones
Directed by Dr. Ronnie Spilton
Production Coordinator: Courtney Scarborough

Thursday-Sunday, August 22 - 25 and
Friday-Sunday, August 30 - September 1

Evenings @ 7:30, Sunday Matinees @ 2:30
Special Matinee Saturday, August 31 @ 2:30

A drop dead funny comedy!

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Tickets: 828-526-8084 www.highlandscashiersplayers.org



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...BREAKFAST continued from page 8

cost \$2.65, 5th-8th cost \$2.85 and high school students cost \$2.95. Reduced rate lunches are .40 cents. School lunches have steadily increased about 10 cents per year over the last few years.

Though students from low-income families can receive assistance, not all families apply and some are deemed ineligible. Students from families whose incomes are at or below 130% of the poverty level qualify for free school meals. Children whose family incomes are between 130% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals.

For the 2018-'19 school year, 130% of the poverty level was \$32,630 for a family of four, according to SNA.

If a debt isn't paid, the school must reimburse the federal government, which presents a problem for schools that don't have extra funds in the budget to do so.

The federal government does offer universal school meals in some areas, including Macon County, if a majority of the student body is eligible for assistance.

Because the aggregate population of Macon County is below

the poverty line, every school in Macon County receives free breakfast.

Since the poverty level at East Franklin Elementary School and Union Academy are predominately low-income, those students are all provided with free lunches.

According to Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, 2,610 students received free and reduced lunch prices across the district. About 2,900 students took advantage of the free breakfast district-wide.

"Macon County Schools was reimbursed \$1,799,805.68 for those meals by the end of school year 2018-'19," said Dr. Baldwin.

Macon County Schools Nutrition Director David Lightner said the program is still on.

"We will continue to operate the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, and offer Universal Free Breakfast for 2019-'20," said Lightner.

...SOCCER from 1

"These guys train hard and it shows out on the field, they're giving it everything they got," said Brown.

East Henderson may have put two on the board, but it could have been a whole lot worse if not for the efforts of Tate who repeatedly dove to make saves throughout the game.

"We did outstanding compared to what I thought we were going to do tonight," said Tate. "I'm really impressed with our performance."

Helping keep the pressure off Tate was Highlands Jeffrey Olvera who was in the thick of it in the box more often than not.

"It was a good start to the season since we've only been playing about a month," said Olvera. "To tie a team this good shows potential for the rest of the season."

Highlands Collin Stoltzfus said there's work to be done but they hung in there.

"It could have gone better," said Stoltzfus. "The midfield was getting the ball up the whole game and the defense held the line, but we need to pass more, and pass better."

Highlands next plays against Smoky Mountain in Sylva at 6 p.m. on Aug. 28.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Selwyn (Drew) Andrew Chalker 2019 Bel Canto Scholarship Award winner

Selwyn (Drew) Andrew Chalker is this year's recipient of the Bel Canto scholarship. The annual scholarship is awarded to a Highlands School graduate who has an interest in the visual arts or music.

Drew's interest in music began when he was very young. His father and both grandfathers shared a love of playing the guitar and they passed this mutual love on to him. Drew remembers all three of them spending hours teaching him notes and chords. "This time together was bonding and enhanced our relationships. I hope to pass this love of playing an instrument on to my own child one day. When I am playing the guitar, I feel I can forget the stress of the day."

During his Senior year,



HS 2018 graduate
Drew Chalker

Drew learned first-hand the many decisions facing him and relied on his love of music, finding it "a healthy coping mechanism to deal with what each day throws at me."

Drew plays the guitar and enjoys listening to all types of music. He and his friends play their own compositions as well as covering new and old tunes from various artists. "Drew has a natural talent for music. Music has always been a part of his life and I'm certain will be a part of the lives of his future family," said Highlands School Music teacher Marcia Franklin. "He was also an accomplished trumpet player and received several band awards."

Drew plans to attend Western North Carolina University and will study Business and Sports Management /Marketing. Music will provide a gateway to his career choice due to the significant role it plays in promoting athletes and products.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Loving Church or Faithful Church?

Pastor Mark Ford
First Baptist Church
Highlands

Which one? Or should we choose? Dietrich Bonhoeffer reflected on this in A Testament to Freedom. He would point out that a church of faith – “the most orthodox faith that faithfully adheres to the creed” – is of no use if it isn’t equally a church of pure and all-encompassing love.

What good is it to believe in Christ and recite the Nicene Creed and still embrace hatred and bigotry? Does it make sense to proclaim Jesus Christ one’s Lord in faith and not to accomplish His will in love (Jn. 14:15)? This type of faith is not Scriptural faith – it is hypocrisy. It is of little value for us to confess faith in Christ and hold to historical doctrine and practices while ignoring our calling to equally seek in love to reconcile to the Lord the godless, marginalized, and outcast.

If the church is to fulfill its role to call our nation – in this case the United States of America – to faith in Christ, it must clearly be seen as a “burning fire of love.” Simply, the Lord’s people should be the leading force for reconciliation to God and to one another. The church as God’s people is to be the place where all other fires of hatred are extinguished. Instead, these fires of proud, self-centered, hate-filled people are to be turned into a people filled with the fire of God’s love.

It should be clarified here that this fire of love does not extinguish the fire of God’s righteousness. God’s holiness is the consummation, the comingling of righteousness and love. This fire of love and righteousness will both drive people to their knees in repentance, and equally draw people to God’s all-gracious and all-encompassing love.

The churches of the Reformation have accomplished some important things in bringing people back to the fundamentals of the faith – Christ alone, Scripture alone, grace alone, and faith alone. But despite this orthodoxy, we have a long way to go to accomplish the “greatest of these is love” (I Cor. 13:13).

Scholarship Golf is Oct 17

The annual Scholarship Golf Classic Thurs. Oct. 17 will be hosted at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The event kicks off at 7:30am with breakfast and practice on the range tee and practice green. A 9am shotgun start is followed by cocktails, lunch and awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

Proverbs 3:5

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

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Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship
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Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
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Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes
CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am, Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968
Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am
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Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;
Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Mondays: Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m.
Wed.: Choir: 6p

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John 3:16

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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.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening
Worship, 6p. Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell
rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm
Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from July 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 14

• At 2:43 p.m., officers received a report of a stolen Dodge/Dakota worth \$500 from a residence on North Drive and Highlands.

July 19

• At 3:30 p.m., officers were called from the east end of Main Street where a dog attacked another dog.

Aug. 1

• At 4:45 p.m., officers were called about theft of a hammer and a drill worth \$150 from a building on Helens Barn Ave.

Aug. 3

• At 2 a.m., officers were called about a breaking & Entering at a residence on Main Street where someone opened the door and entered the residence without permission.

• At 10:21 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Holt Circle where a drunk and disruptive person was knocking and urinating on the porch.

• At 10:33 p.m., Blake Alexander Glover, 32, of Charlotte, NC, was arrested at a residence on Holt Circle for being drunk and disruptive. He was issued a \$500 unsecured bond.

Aug. 5

• At 9:49 p.m., James Anthony Smith, 38 of Clayton, GA, was arrested on three warrants from other jurisdictions. He was issued a \$13,000 secured bond.

Aug. 6

• At 2:56 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Main and S. 2nd streets.

Aug. 9

• At 5:26 p.m., officers responded to a

1-vehicle accident on NC 106 at the entrance to the Highlands Mountain Club.

Aug. 10

• At noon, officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Church and S. 4th streets.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 13.

Aug. 13

• At 3:20 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road,

• At 11:50 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 west.

• At 4:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

• At 11:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

Aug. 14

• At 5:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

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

• At 2:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lost Trail.

• At 6:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 15

• At 7:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 7:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 9:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Hickory Knut Gap Rd.

Aug. 16

• At 3:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Aug. 17

• At 12:51 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Clear Creek Road.

...INVESTING continued from page 10

ker to determine the best listing price. Listing prices are derived from comparing the subject property to similar homes, preferably in the same area, and with as many of the same characteristics as possible that have sold within the last year. It is crucial to revisit the process at the listing renewal time to ensure the pricing is still on track.

Often when a listing broker delivers the suggested listing price to a seller and they come back with "But I need to get more" or "I've got more than that in the house" or "Oh, no, you see, this property is in an estate. The proceeds will be divided between X amount, and we each need X amount". All of these statements may be true, but it still doesn't change the suggested listing price.

When listing prices are adjusted too high, the property is likely to become "dead on the market," and when that happens, there are less showings and hardly any offers.

When a buyer listens to their broker, and has done a little of their own homework, the buying process streamlines into faster closings.

These days, most buyers get their pre-shopping experience from Zillow. While Zillow gets their information from public sources, the "Zestimate" may not work in certain areas that hold their own values, or for unique homes. Zillow should be treated as a tool and is only one source of information. A Realtor can give a buyer information from the local MLS, along with knowledge of the market in general to help guide them with offering prices.

Which brings us back to The Price is Right. What is the right price to offer for a property?

Usually a buyer makes this decision after seeing a few (sometimes a lot) of other properties, they don't just buy the first one they see (although that does happen). Obviously, a

buyer never expects to pay full price, but that happens, too, especially if supply of demand is low.

There are many variables in determining an offering price. The buyer's ability to pay the price, the seller's motivation to sell, has the price changed since the property was listed? If so, why? Just because there has been a price drop doesn't mean the seller is desperate to sell. When there has been a considerable price drop, the buyer should consider a closer gap between the asking price and offer. I use the term "sharpening their pencils," and sellers and buyers do this after the process has begun with negotiations, but smart shopping beforehand, and seller's adjusting prices after the initial listing are other ways of sharpening those pencils.

When buyers and sellers are armed with knowledge of the current market, there's no need for inflated prices or bottom feeders. If a property is priced in line with the current market, the offering price should be within 3% to 8%, and then may be negotiated to a higher price before settling on a final price.

Sometimes, during the due diligence period, the price may be negotiated again. If a listing has the language, or verbally communicated by the seller as "as is," the price is usually non-negotiable after the contract has been fully executed, meaning a buyer can accept the property, knowing of any defects found, or walk away if it's before the end of the due diligence period.

The buyers armed with knowledge will be the next contestants on This Price is Right, so come on down!

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WAIT STAFF FULL- OR PART-TIME. Experience preferred. Stop by at Wild Thyme Gourmet on Main Street in Town Square. (st. 8/8)

RENTAL SPACE AVAIL- ABLE for hair designer. Apply in person Tues. - Sat. at Mountain Magic, 44 Satulah Road, Highlands. (st. 7/11)

COLONEL MUSTARD'S SPECIALTY FOODS IN HIGHLANDS looking for an awesome person with a passion for food and cooking. Part time position available, includes some holidays and weekends. If you are a quick learner, friendly and hardworking, you'll fit right in with our team. Please stop by the shop to fill out an application or email resume to col.mustardshighlands@yahoo.com. (st. 7/11)

DUTCHMANS CASUAL LIVING STORE Looking for full and part time sales associate to join our team. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Please call Shannon or Gabbi at 828-526-8864. (st. 6/6)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE. Hiring all positions. Commitment to excellence in food quality and guest service. We are proud of the products and service we provide, we create experiences not just sell food. Offering defined, sane schedules and healthy work environment allowing for a balanced life. Very cooperative pay. Food service experience preferred. Tobacco free workplace. Contact us at Smokehousehiring@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

FULL-TIME SALES POSITION. Weekends & holidays a must. Great hours with a great salary. Nancy's Fancys. 828-526-5029. (st. 5/2)

POTPOURRI BOUTIQUE STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for full time and part time sales persons. Retail sales experience with women's clothing and accessories preferred, eyewear experience a plus. Must be able to work weekends and holidays, except Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day. Fun, lively, fast paced environment. Please stop by the store for application or email resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st. 4/4)

SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING

STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC. Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

THE UGLY DOG PUB wants you to be a part of our team. We need managers, full-time servers, bartenders, and support staff with a positive attitude, ability to multitask, and a willingness to work as a team. Experience preferred but not required. Working nights and weekends is required. 828-526-8364 theuglydogstaff@gmail.com. (st. 3/21)

WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff, hostesses, line cook, pantry person and bussers. Please call Jacque at 526-3807. (st. 2/14)

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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (9/26)

CAREGIVER/ GUARDIAN - Compassionate and Trustworthy. Over four years of service in caregiving; guardian for more than eight incapacitated clients. Hours are flexible to meet your needs. Dependable and punctual. Please contact me to see if I can accommodate your needs. References upon request. Catherine Robinson, 727 215-4195. Catherine-guardian15@gmail.com. (st. 7/3)

HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (6/27)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/ KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 4/25)

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE FOR SALE BY OWNER - \$395,000. Tudor Hall Lane in scenic Mill Creek Village. Gurnished condominium. Easy walk to center of town. 2bd/2ba. 2-car garage. Lots of built-in storage. 60-ft. long covered front porch. Brand new roof. Cedar log construction. HOA payment \$100/monthly. Call: 828-526-8989. (8/22)

SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843-460-8015. (st. 5/30)

3+ ACRES WITH MULTIPLE ACCESS/ EXIT POINTS. NUMEROUS BUILD SPOTS. 2 car garage finished (insulated, electrical). 2 bed., 2 bath single-wide with large deck to enjoy expansive views. New well pump. Good for businesses.. Lower Clear Creek 5 miles down HWY 28. Lots of hardwoods and privacy. asking 159,000 (st. 9/21)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm ... open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmars15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A COMMERCIAL/MIXED USE PROPERTY strategically and conveniently close to Highlands in Scaly Mountain. Property includes a post office, real estate office, individual home and five apartments. Directly across from new Dollar General store. For information, contact Jody or Wood Lovell with Highlands Sotheby's International Realty at 828-526-4104. (st. 6/20)

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS YEAR-ROUND OR LONG TERM RENTAL Highlands/Cashiers area. 1 person, no pets. 828-371-1155. (st. 8/22)

SUMMER RENTAL NEAR MIRROR LAKE. 3 BR/2BA. Avail 7/2020-8/2020. 1 mo. min. \$4200/mo. Pls call for photos and details. 843-224-8783. (8/29)

LUXURY APARTMENT IN TOWN. Walk to Main Street. 1BR 1BA. \$3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)

...PAC from page 2

Construction is underway of the expansion of the PAC to implement a new expanded facility for the performing arts community. The new facility will add an additional 350 seats to the existing 250 seat chamber hall as well as an 85-seat black box for movies and more intimate events. The project will also include the renovations to the existing hall and expansion of the lobby to improve access, visibility and comfort.

The new facility will bring all performing arts together under one roof, a vision of Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor several years ago. The facility will be home to the Highlands Community Players, Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, Bel Canto, the Highlands Playhouse, youth theaters and live streaming of the New York Metropolitan Opera and the National Theatre of London.

"Our mission is to provide a facility that provides world class entertainment at a low cost for all the performing arts in Highlands," said Trevathan.

To meet this goal, the PAC coordinates concerts and fundraising drives to help offset the operating cost of the facility and keep rents low for the non-profit resident art groups. The expanded facility will provide greater opportunities for community events including conferences, wedding receptions and meetings.

With the expanded facility, operating cost are expected to increase but more revenue from ticket sales will be generated.

The PAC strongly encourages maintaining the traditions and customs of the local area, hosting bluegrass bands and story tellers. Plans are underway to use the expanded facility for an annual Appalachian festival to further celebrate the culture of the area as demonstrated in music, dance and movies.

Arts North Carolina estimates about \$2 billion is spent on performing arts in North Carolina; of that 44 percent goes to the organization and \$ 1.2 billion goes to surrounding businesses such as restaurants, hotels and shops.

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