

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019

Highlands Community Building gets much needed TLC and attention

A community building in which to hold social activities and charity events was envisioned for

Highlands as early as 1931 with the proposed site on the Dillard Road. But it wasn't until 1969 when the

Rotary and the Jaycees got involved that the plan came to fruition.

•See **BUILDING** page 11

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HCLT now protects 100 properties

By Julie Schott

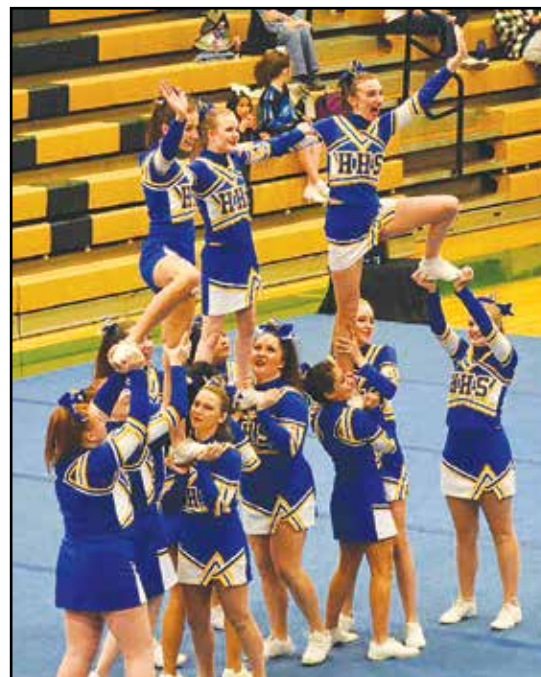
Last year was an outstanding year for land protection on the plateau! Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) was able to conserve six new places. This brings the total HCLT conserved properties to date to 3,230 acres in 100 places!

Chances are you already know about and enjoy some of the places that your Land Trust owns and protects such as Satulah Mountain Preserves; Ravenel Park, home of Sunset and Sunrise Rocks; McKinney Meadow and The Kelsey Trail to name a few. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust protected properties range from the upper Nantahala River to the mountains overlooking Sylva to the rim of Pantertown Valley in the Chattooga River. We protect streams, forests, wetlands and rock outcrops. Most of our properties are not open to the public,

• See **HCLT** page 5



Highlands Middle School cheerleading team flying high.



Highlands High School cheerleading team striking a pose.

Highlands Middle and High School cheerleading teams take first at Asheville

By Brian O'Shea

The intensity was high at the Spirit Xpress Regional cheer competition when dozens of teams gathered at AC Reynolds High

School in Asheville on Saturday. Highlands Middle and High School teams performed and both walked away with first-place trophies in their divisions.

Head Coach Kristen Huneycutt said both teams did well and earned the win.

"They did great," said

•See **CHEERLEADING** page 6

Macon County commission reps line out NCACC Legislative Goals

Recently, Jim Tate, Ronnie Beale and Derek Roland from Macon County joined voting delegates from counties throughout the state to determine the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' (NCACC) legislative priorities for the 2019-2020 biennium session of the North Carolina General Assembly. Governor Roy Cooper delivered keynote remarks and thanked county commissioners for their commitment to public service.

"From broadband expansion and capital needs in the school system to accessing mental health services, all counties in North Carolina are facing challenges similar to those that we are experiencing in Macon County.

•See **GOALS** page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The lowdown on upcoming STIP projects

Most of my week has been spent dealing with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. I will provide updates on projects this week and next week.

Monday morning Town Manager Josh Ward told me the DOT engineer in charge of repaving Main Street, US 64 and NC 28 called late Friday to let us know the project had been postponed. The five million dollars for the project was diverted to hurricane disaster relief in the eastern part of the state. Consecutive hurricanes beginning with Mathew caused serious road and bridge problems that DOT continues to address. The repaving funds will be put back in the forthcoming budget so the badly needed resurfacing of these major highways running through Highlands will now start in April of 2020.

I attended the meeting of the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee on Monday night. I am a member of this committee that prioritizes new road projects for this region. The committee is a part of a statewide DOT program known as the



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

State Transportation Improvement Program, aka STIP. Proposed projects are placed on several priority lists and are assigned points from regional committees like the one I'm on and by state DOT officials. A project moves up or down the list for funding based on points received. The total process can take 10 years for a project to move forward to completion.

Appearing on the STIP 5.0 priority list that we reviewed was the NC 106 project which was presented to the public last summer. DOT recently announced this project would probably never be funded. Nevertheless, it did appear at the bottom of the STIP with a black line drawn right through the middle. It has been lined out and will not appear on the next priority list. It's dead.

With that said, I still believe some modest improvements should be made to NC 106. One will be the replacement of the bridge below Scaly Mountain that is scheduled to move forward.

Some emergency pull-offs like the ones on the Gorge Road could also be done. There are several unpaved spaces that could be paved as pull-offs. There are several tight curves and intersections that could be modified to improve truck and school bus operations.

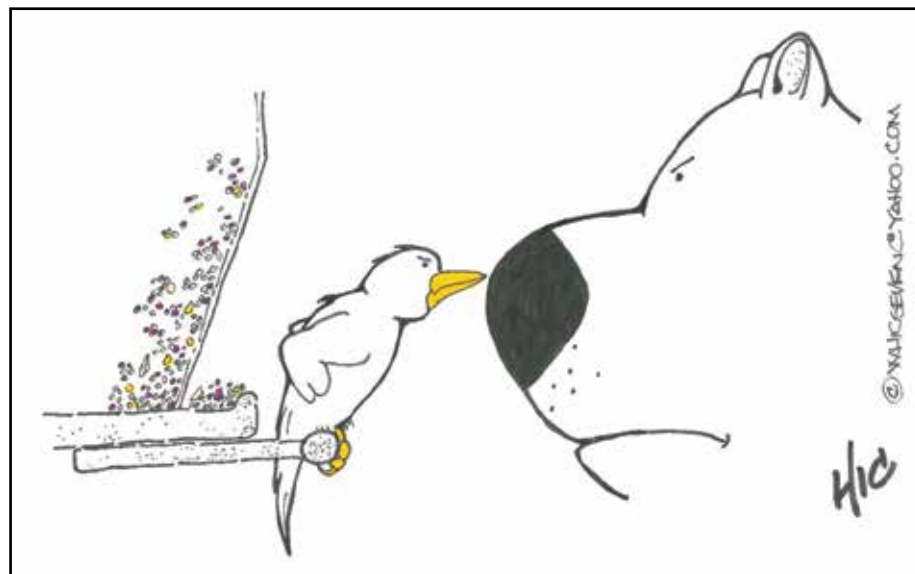
In Highlands I believe a well-designed sidewalk running to Main Street would be an improvement. A sidewalk system for all of our major corridors is needed, especially since there is an increasing number of people walking on the shoulders of these major highways. The limited sight distance on the curve at the Arnold Road intersection could also be improved.

But the improvements I suggest would not occur overnight. They require initiative and community support. They would have to be placed on a priority list and that in itself would take time.

While there are Macon County road improvements still on the STIP Priority List, none are now within the Highlands Plateau. I don't see any major projects here, at least during my tenure as mayor.

Next week I will provide a briefing of yesterday's meeting with DOT concerning tractor-trailer trucks on the Gorge Road.

• HIC'S VIEW •



WORD FROM NCDOT

Main Street paving has been postponed until April 2020

Late Friday afternoon NCDOT notified the town manager that the planned paving of Main Street, US 64 and NC 28, scheduled to begin in April, has been postponed until April of 2020. The five million dollar funds for the project were diverted to hurricane relief. The project funds will be put back in the forthcoming budget.

In the meantime, the Town Manager Josh Ward has requested DOT to make several temporary patches to problem road areas such as the one in front of Reeves Hardware.

As to paving the trees on Main Street issue was tabled at the last Town Board meeting. "The delay of the paving of Main Street gives everyone time to reassess plans and designs for planting the trees," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "It is not a dead issue, just an issue that now has more time to process. The pressure to act immediately is now gone."

• WEATHER •

	Friday 2/1		Saturday 2/2		Sunday 2/3	
	Daytime	Overnig ht	Daytime	Overnig ht	Daytime	Overnig ht
Temp	45 F	28 F	51 F	33 F	51 F	37 F
RealFeel	47 F	22 F	56 F	26 F	53 F	33 F
Win ds	5 g 8	4 g 7	3 g 7	4 g 6	4 g 8	4 g 5
T-Storms	1%	1%	1%	1%	20%	20%
Rain fall	0	0	0	0.08	0.02	0.03
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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CULLASAJA CLUB Located on the 17th fairway, this great four bedroom, four bath home is move-in ready. The main floor has a large, open kitchen, plus a dining and living room space with cathedral ceiling and stone fireplace. Also on the main level is a large master suite with a private screened-in porch, additional guest room with full bath, and a laundry room. More guest bedrooms/baths on both upper and lower levels.

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BUCK CREEK Nestled next to the national forest, this home is located on Panther Mountain. Enjoy the peace and quiet while sitting out on the back deck enjoying the long range mountain view. You will fall in love with the coziness, charm, and privacy this home has to offer. The home has an updated floor plan, neutral colors, a whole house generator, and towel warmers are just a few of the upgrades. 2.95 acres. Don't miss this one!

MLS# 89224 | Offered for \$459,000



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COLD SPRINGS This wonderful home is great for a couple or an extended family. The main level features a space to relax in front of a roaring fire plus a large spot for gathering with family. The kitchen is large and open with plenty of counter-top space for multiple cooks! The master boasts a fireplace, a walk-through closet and a large bath with double vanities. Also boasts a wine storage closet and sauna. Great neighborhood amenities include a lake, tennis court, stable and paddock.

MLS# 89105 | Offered for \$450,000



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...HCLT continued from page 1



Satulah Mountain with Black Rock and Whiteside Mountain in the background.

but they all benefit the public in some way. These are our newest protected properties:

The Hartman's gave their portion of Sunset Rock, expanding the HCLT owned Ravenel Park and protecting a larger portion of this Highland's treasure.

Sassafras Gap Farm is a 22 acre property donated by Stell Huie on the edge of Blue Valley that has a stunning view of Satulah Mountain and buffers Nantahala National Forest.

Castor Meadows is a small old farm in the Glenville community donated by John Berteau with rare habitats including beaver wetland and early successional habitat.

Dendy Orchard Knob is a small conservation easement donated by Ken Nimmons buffering Nantahala National Forest in the Turtle Pond community.

Cedar Hill is a 44-acre conservation easement on the eastern side of Rock Mountain in Cashiers, overlooking Sapphire Valley. It protects rare species and

habitats, and adds to other HCLT protected lands in the area.

High Knob is a 150 acre conservation easement donated by Patrick Horan and Noel Thurner near Caney Fork and protected in partnership with the Open Space Institute. It protects a climate-resilient landscape that provides critical habitat for plants and animals as climatic changes happen and connects to a large swath of other protected lands in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Several rare and endangered species call this property home.

To learn how you can preserve your family land or to find out how you can become a member, contact Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at 828-526-1111 or info.hitrust@earthlink.net. We are a nationally accredited, 501 c3 non-profit organization that depends on the support of our members and grantors to conserve new places and care for the properties we have. Together we are saving the places we all love and need.



These views are protected by HC Land Trust. This is Sunset Rock, Black Rock and Sagee.



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Highlands
Playhouse

...CHEERLEADING continued from page 1

Huneycutt. "All of the stunts hit."

Middle School won 1st place Middle School Non-Tumble and received a bid to the US Finals. High School won 1st place in Medium Varsity Non-Tumble with a bid to the US Finals. Huneycutt said adding tumbling to the routine includes stunts like back-flips.

The Middle School team performed first. Things were running smoothly, until a slight mishap occurred with the hand-off of a sign, but the girls kept the show running and carried on with smiles on their faces.

"I was really nervous at the start, but really excited," said 6th-grader Katie Earp. "I was happy with the outcome of it (performance), it was really awesome."

6th-grader Lathea Watts said it was exhilarating taking the stage.

"It felt really cool," said Watts. "I was really excited and just felt like I could do anything. If we make a mistake, we rolled with it and forgot about it. It happens."

Huneycutt said some last-minute changes were made to the rou-

tine and the girls had a limited amount of time to practice before the competition.

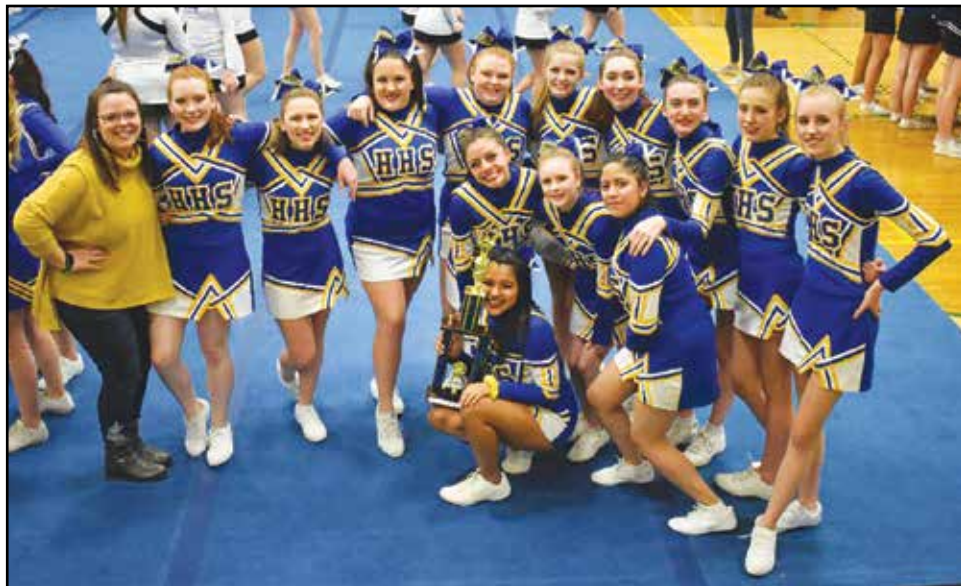
"This team has gone through some recent changes and all of the members have worked very hard to be successful," she said.

8th-grader Ashlynn Wilson said competing was her favorite part of cheering. Once she took the stage in Asheville, she said she was thinking about her counts and where she needed to go.

"I think we did pretty good," said Wilson. "All of our stunts hit. There are still some things that we need to work on but overall, we did good and we were loud!"

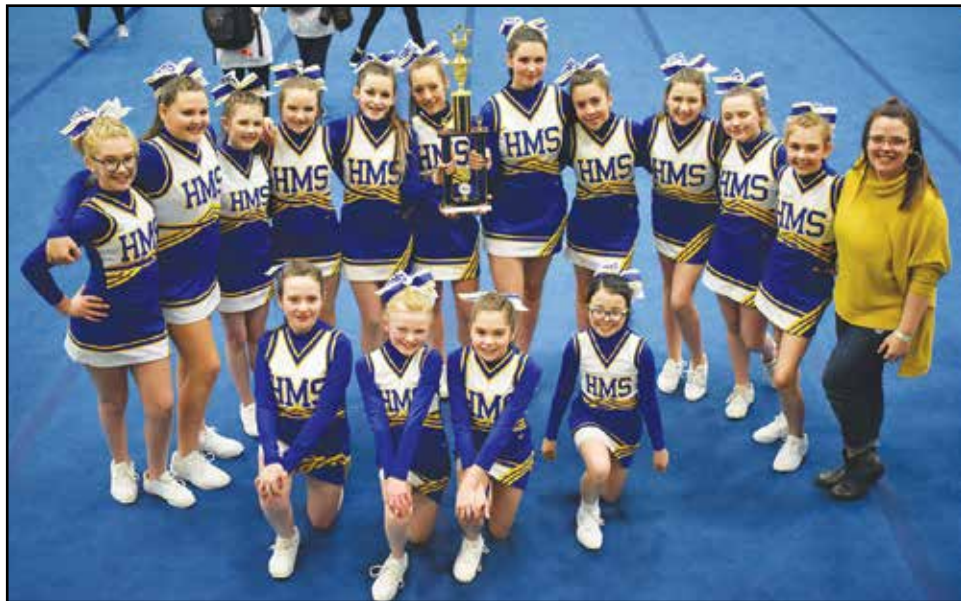
The High School team performed and nailed their stunt sequence in the middle of the routine, the most difficult part said Huneycutt.

"It requires a lot of focus and perfect timing," she said. "The girls were more confident during this competition and it showed in their emotions and performance."



High School team with trophy.

— Photos by Brian O'Shea



Middle School team with trophy.

Sophomore Zaia Rodriguez-Denardis said competitions get everyone's adrenaline pumping when they see hundreds of fans cheering them on when they take the floor.

"Right before we went on the floor at the competition, the nerves were everywhere," said Rodriguez-Denardis. "In my head I always think this is just two minutes where I will own the floor. I'm always thinking about how it will feel after I win. And to this day it hasn't disappointed."

All routines consist of a mix of dance, stunts, and jumps. Rodriguez-Denardis said keeping spirits high while performing physically demanding stunts can be a challenge.

"The hardest part of our cheer routine by far, is the fact that after we're lifting girls into the air, we have to race to do jumps and flips," she said. "All the meanwhile keeping smiles on our faces and keeping the spirits high."

Both Highlands cheerleading teams next compete at the Spring Classic in Asheville on April 26.

• WORD MATTER •

It's All Greek to Me

I've been told Chinese is a very difficult language to learn. I know barely enough to order food from a restaurant menu and not be subjected to the kind of look I often give English-speaking folks who really butcher the language. Since I don't plan to visit China anytime soon I probably don't need to learn the language, but I have to wonder if Chinese is as difficult for someone to learn than American-style English.

The genesis of this meandering line of thought surfaced while I was listening to a 1972 song written by Ray Stevens. The song, Dead Skunk in the Middle of the Road, is unimportant and is, frankly, not the greatest example of American music. What is relevant is that I learned – thank you, Google – I apparently have been mispronouncing the name of the artist, Loudon Wainright III, for nearly half a century. I got the Wainright part right, but the Loudon ... not so much. Glad I never bumped into him, or Loudon the first or second. I don't believe there's a Loudon the fourth, but I digress.

Despite some certainty I'd heard the name pronounced as I had often used it by some DJ at some time in the last nearly half-century, I'd been saying his name as if the first syllable was the word loud and the second syllable was on, like the definition of atop. LOUD-on, as it is spelled, with emphasis on the first syllable. An old friend once attempted to correct me. "No," she said, "the name is pronounced as if the first syllable was British slang for bathroom: LOO." The second syllable, she said, was pronounced like the first half the first name of the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Don. So, she said to me, "It's LOO-Don, emphasis on LOO".

It was unsettling to learn neither of us was correct.

Mr. Wainright's name, again, according to Google, is pronounced LOO-din. Think of it as the British slang for the bathroom, plus another word for noise. It's pronounced similarly, I guess, to the name of the cough drop company, Luden.

Speaking of cough drops, if you're in any way a word person, consider, and remember, we're talking about American-



Bud Katz

style English now, how many different ways there are to pronounce the four letters, ough. There's cough, rough, through, thorough, dough, bough, thought ... you get the idea. Now imagine how difficult it would be to explain American English linguistic nuances such as this one to someone from China who speaks no English

at all, but who speak Chinese fluently.

For the record, there are two distinct Chinese languages: Mandarin and Cantonese. They contain seven dialects: Jin, Wu, Gan, Xiang, Min, Hakka, Yue, Ping, and Huizhou. Don't get me started on correct pronunciation. Huizhou, for example, is correctly pronounced WE-zoo. I have no earthly idea what it looks like when written. American English contains no fewer than 24 dialects. Think about that.

I often hear people lament the fact that other people in America don't speak English. It would be nice if they did, but one thing I do know is that learning a new language as an adult is way harder than learning it as a child, at home and in school.

Many, no, most Americans aren't as fluent in English as they believe they are. I often find myself, and I have a B.A. in English, unable to get something on paper without alerting the spell/grammar checker on my word processor to at least a few typically minor flaws. Imagine being an adult with a moderate education who comes to the U.S. and is expected to speak English immediately upon arrival. As the Queen herself might say, that ain't easy.

Depending on your perspective it can be either frustrating or rewarding to attempt assisting a non-English speaker who needs help. Over the years I've found myself on both sides of this situation. Thankfully, I've managed to make myself understood or have been able to understand the person with whom I was interacting. Patience, it is said, is a virtue in such circumstances.

I'm using this column today to apologize to Mr. Loudon (pronounced LOO-din) Wainright III for getting it wrong for so many years. I promise I will never make that mistake again.

I'm pretty sure it would have been easier had his parents named him George, or Fred, or maybe even Bud. Yep. Bud Wainright III. That would work.



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Winter fun in Highlands is on



Highlands ice skating rink at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street is open Thursdays 1-8, p.m. Friday and Saturday 1-10 p.m. and Sundays 1-5 p.m. - weather permitting through March 3rd. The cost is \$5 and includes skates. Coffee, hot chocolate and water are available for \$1.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

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• HS SPORTS •

Some wins ... some losses

This week high school basketball played Rosman, Swain, and Hiwassee Dam.



Kedra McCall

Both JV girls and varsity girls beat Rosman soundly. JV boys also beat Rosman but the varsity boys didn't quite get it.

The teams then played Swain where JV boys, varsity girls and boys won. The JV girls did not play because Swain does not have a JV girls' team. They took a clean, 3-game sweep over Swain.

Finally, they played Hiwassee Dam for a conference game.

The only team to win was the JV boys. The rest came very close but couldn't quite finish on top.

Their next home game will be Friday, February 1st. They will play a conference game against Blue Ridge starting at 5 pm with no JV girls. This will be their senior night so come out and show the seniors as well as all Highlanders your love and support.

Middle school basketball played both Cullowhee and Tallulah Falls. Neither girls nor boys could pull out a win over either team. They will not have any more home games this season. Their Tri-State tournament has begun so go and support them as they wrap up their season.



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Do You Prefer the Charm of an Existing Home?

When homebuyers begin their research, they want to see all their available options! In many cases, they will include both new construction and existing homes in their search; but is a new construction home really the house of their dreams?

According to a recent survey by Zillow, of the 38% of total buyers that added new construction to their list, only 11% ultimately purchased a newly constructed home!

They added that 71% of these buyers are repeat buyers who are financially secure, with 45% using the money from the sale of their previous homes to make a purchase.

So, then why did most of the buyers surveyed choose not to purchase a new home?

1) Location - Buyers could not find new construction in the desired neighborhood, and some felt that new construction is not established (e.g., landscaping,



**Lynn Kimball
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices
Meadows Mountain Realty**

community, neighbors).

2) Timing - Buyers face the end of a lease or sale of their current property and could not wait for a house to be built.

3) Price - Some buyers felt that new construction base prices were deceiving. Adding upgrades and HOA fees no longer made

the home fit in their price range.

4) Appeal - For some buyers, new construction homes are too "cookie cutter," and models are limited. Others feel that the charm and uniqueness of an existing house trumps one that's never been lived in.

Bottom line...Not all buyers are looking for a newly built house! There are many buyers looking for "the charm and uniqueness" of an existing home. If you are considering selling your house, don't wait!

• Lynn Kimball has 44 years of real estate experience, with 34 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and is currently serving as Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signature-properties-nc.com. BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations, on Main Street downtown Highlands, on HWY 107 South in Downtown Cashiers or visit Lynn at the Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

Internships are available through SEARCH program

Project SEARCH will hold an information session at Mission Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, Room 5205, in Asheville at 6 pm. The program offers a one-year internship for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Its goal is to help the students, ages 18 to 30, achieve their goals of securing meaningful, competitive employment. Speakers will include Tim Bleckicki, Mission Health Project SEARCH instructor, and the job coach, as well as current and past interns, and program partners. There's a Q&A at the end for parents and students. For questions, please contact Tim Bleckicki at tbleckicki@arcnc.org or 828-254-4771 or visit <https://arcnc.org/project-search-asheville>.

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Valentine's Day
Thursday, Feb. 14



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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...BUILDING from page 1

While still in the talking stages, the Jaycees took it upon themselves to build a new community building at the north end of the ball park on Poplar Street.

Designed by Jim Fox to hold 120 people, construction began by the Jaycees after they raised enough money to get started.

After many fundraising events like the first Monte Carlo charity event, an annual Jaycees golf tournament, and even an ox-roast festival, the Highlands Community Building was completed in 1979.

For their efforts, the Jaycees won the state's "best project" award.

Jaycees is a leadership training and civic organization for people between the ages of 18 and 40 and is a branch of Junior Chamber International.

Over the years, many a party has been held in the building, as well as rotary meetings, school functions and dances, and for more than a decade, town meetings have been held there.

In 2018, the town decided to invest in the building and make some much needed improvements.

The town's FY 2018-'19 budget included \$50,000 for the Community Building - \$19,000 was allotted for interior painting, \$19,000 for flooring, and \$12,000 for new sign.

Gone is the parquet dance floor and the stained carpet that covered the rest of the floor. Now new engineered flooring covers the expanse making for a clean and streamlined look.

The inside has been painted an off-white all the way up and through the rafters.

•See BUILDING page 17



Roofers removing old shingles on the Community Building on Poplar Street.

- Photo by Brian O'Shea



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Saturday, February 2

12:55 pm RT: 3.75 hours

Pre-Opera Discussion @ 12:30pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047

Adults: \$26 PAC or MET Members: \$22

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE

• **The Rec Park** is now taking teams for the Spring Men's League Basketball league through February 1st. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Ongoing

• **Movies at the Playhouse – NEW SCHEDULE** – Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 and 4 p.m.; NO MOVIES MONDAY; Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 1, 4, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 / \$2 off on Tuesdays.

Winter Pool schedule

- **Lap Swim:** Monday-Friday 6-10a. 6 lanes and Monday-Thursday 3:30-7p. 1-2 lanes (shared Pool) and Saturday 10-11a 2 or 3 lanes.
- **Adult Swim:** 18 years plus Monday-Friday 11:30-1:30p no lap lanes and Saturday 10-11a shared with lap swim. Available Equipment: water weights, adult pool noodles, fins, water jog belt & kickboards.
- **Public Swim:** Monday-Thursday 3:20-7p Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 1-6pm and Sunday 1-6p.
- **Water Aerobics:** 18 years plus Monday-Friday 10:15-11a.
- **Aqua Dance and Fitness:** Monday 5:30-6:30p.
- **Baby and Me class:** Ages 6 month-3 years Friday 5:30-6p.
- **Movie Night:** all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30 and movie starts at 7p. Call for movie title and prices
- **Pool Parties:** available Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6-8p. Call the pool at 828-526-1595 if you have any questions concerning the pool.

Harry Potter Family Day/Night at Hudson and Cashiers libraries Thurs., Feb. 7

If you're a Muggle who wants to learn your way around Diagon Alley, or you've ever been considered for a position in the Ministry of Magic, visit the Highlands' Hudson Library or the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library for Harry Potter Family Day/Night Thursday, February 7.

In Highlands, The Bascom, will help host an unforgettable Harry Potter Kids Zone event. The fun kicks off at 3:30 PM on Thursday.

At Harry Potter Kids Zone, the wonder of J.K. Rowling's unforgettable stories will be explored and, most excitingly, the next generation of readers will be introduced to the unparalleled magic of Harry Potter. At Hudson Library, young wizards, witches and Muggles will be treated to an afternoon of magical games, readings from favorite Harry Potter books, and Harry Potter art projects! It all begins when the Sorting Hat decides



who will be in which house.

This is a first Harry Potter Book Night for Cashiers and it's set for 5-7 p.m. Thursday. It will be an event-filled night full of the wondrous magic J.K. Rowling so expertly created in her books.

Cashiers participants, who are encouraged to arrive dressed as their favorite Pottermore character, will discover a party in full swing, complete with snacks, games, crafts, readings and trivia challenges. At the core of the event is a deep appreciation for the Harry Potter books, which have a rabid fanbase that stretches around the world, and even a few realms beyond.

As Hermione Granger says in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, "When in doubt, go to the library!" But there's no doubt about this: Harry Potter Book Day/Night celebrations at area libraries will be magical, bookish fun for the entire family!

• The Bascom has gone to winter hours. We will be open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). The Bascom galleries and shops will be closed Tuesdays - Thursdays. Admin offices and The Dave Drake Studio Barn are open normal business hours. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

Monday - Saturday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 5pm: Open Studio in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

• At the Bascom, Art By Appointment private ceramic classes in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Monday - Friday

• At the Bascom, You Too Can Raku by appointment class in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Bascom, 10am - 1pm: Studio Alive drawing group. For more information call 828-526-4949.

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.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• 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 from 10:30-11:30a in

the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

• The Highlands Writers Group meets to read, workshop, or to just share information on writing, every Tuesday, 3pm-5pm, in the downstairs board room at The Bascom, 323 Franklin Road, Highlands, For more information, call 828-526-3190.

Tuesday

• At the Bascom, 3:00pm - 5pm: Writers group. For more information call 828-526-4949.

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 to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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 at Rec Park.

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 – 8:15pm 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.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

• Highlands Area Indivisible group meets at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Hudson Library.

• 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 at the Hudson Library at 5p. For info call 770-823-0601

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.

First Fridays

• Movie Night- all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30 and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. For any other information call 828-526-1595.

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.

• 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, 10am - 12pm: Community Knitters group, For more information call 828-526-4949.

Sundays

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

Fri., Feb. 1

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Super Bowl Dance," Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Marty Northrup from Charlotte, 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.

Sat., Feb. 2

• At PAC, Bizet's Carmen, Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street,

Wed., Feb. 6

• Some concerned citizens will hold a discussion about the anomalies of the recent California fires at the Macon County Public Library at 7:30 pm in Franklin. Preceding the discussion will be a visual presentation along with a conference call interview of a survivor of the Paradise Fire. We are hoping to form a local research group. Contact Ruth Bishop at 800-736-3351.

Thurs., Feb. 7

• Harry Potter Family Night at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library from 5-7 p.m. Participants, who are encouraged to arrive dressed as their favorite Potterverse character, will discover a party in full swing, complete with snacks, games, crafts, readings and trivia challenges. At the core of the event is a deep appreciation for the Harry Potter books, which have a rabid fanbase that stretches around the world, and even a few realms beyond.

Sat. Feb. 9

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous hike at Coweeta Hydrological Lab on the Ridge Trail to Dyke Gap, elevation change 950 ft., with good views of Albert Mtn., returning down Cunningham Branch to Shope Fork and Coweeta office complex. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9am,

drive 16 miles round trip. Call Leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

• Democratic meeting in The Hudson Library Meeting Room from 5:-7 pm. Appetizers and Wine. A back-room political meeting to create a Democrat Manifesto (For what do we stand? And to formulate the principles from which all policies would come)

Wed., Feb. 13

• Project SEARCH will hold an information session night at Mission Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, Room 5205, in Asheville, on at 6 pm. Project SEARCH is a partnership between Mission Health, The Arc of North Carolina, A-B Tech, NC Vocational Rehabilitation, Vaya Health and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. The

program offers a one-year internship for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Its goal is to help the students, who range in age from 18 to 30, achieve their goal of securing meaningful, competitive employment. This session is a one-hour introduction and determination of candidacy appropriateness. Speakers will include Tim Blekicky, Mission Health Project SEARCH instructor, and the job coach, as well as current and past interns, and representatives of program partners. There's a Q&A at the end for parents and students. For questions, please contact Tim Blekicky at tblekicky@arcnc.org or 828-254-4771 or visit <https://arcnc.org/project-search-asheville>.

• See EVENTS page 14

MET's 'Carmen' live via satellite at PAC Sat., Feb. 2



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the MET Opera's production of Carmen on Saturday, February 2 at 12:55pm. Bizet's Carmen is one of the World's most popular operas. It's the story of an intriguing, sensual gypsy, a soldier who falls in love with her and a toreador who intervenes. It could be called, "fatal attraction." And ... yes ... someone dies. But, in the end the music rules. Even if you haven't seen or heard the opera before, you'll likely recognize much of the music. Carmen arias have been used in the Muppets, Sesame Street, Gilligan's Island, Bad News Bears, a Bertolli pasta commercial and even in Major League Baseball. A pre-opera discussion will begin at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

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...EVENTS continued from page 13

Fri., Feb. 15

• Senior Dinner at 12 noon at The Highlands Recreation Department. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Sat., Feb. 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike with some ups and downs along the way to Yellow Branch Falls, one of the most scenic falls in western SC, 60 ft. high with dark rocky ledges over which the water falls (some say) like icing on a chocolate cake. Meet at Cashiers Rec Park at 10am, drive 50 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Sue Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., Feb. 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike, elevation change 520 ft., from Warwoman Dell to Martin Creek Falls on a lovely leisurely section of the GA. Bartram Trail. Meet at Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 9am, drive 15 miles round trip. Call

leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9.2-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., on the Cataloochee Divide in the Smoky Mtn. Nat'l. Park to the Appalachian Highland Science Learning Center with beautiful views along the way. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9 am, drive 30 miles round trip (100 miles from Franklin) Hike is limited to 15. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations.

Sat., Feb. 24

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5-mile hike in the Smoky Mtn. Nat'l. Park, elevation change 500 ft., along Deep Creek (with two waterfalls along the way), then cross over to Sunkota Ridge, and return to Deep Creek. Meet at Dillsboro Huddle House at 10am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Jody Burtner, 828-788-2985, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

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DOGSPEAK**• REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO •****You've Got to be Kidding**

Mum may have to cease reading me excerpts from the newspaper because some of the stories are quite disturbing. I mean I've heard people say that reading the paper is plain ol' depressing, but this latest story has got me bummed.

Have you heard that people worry about robots taking over the world a la the Terminator movies?

I'm sure you've read articles about robots doing folks out of their jobs, right? Well, this story is about robots doing us animals out of our jobs. That's right, and it's not things like heavy lifting, guarding the house, sniffing for bombs or drugs, pulling wagons, fetching balls, or digging holes. We animals might stand for that — well all except maybe the ball fetching and hole digging.

It's much worse, and it's bad for dogs and cats. There's some weird technology called animatronics. It refers to using robots to emulate people and animals. Technically, a human-like robot is an android, but an animatronic dog or cat? That is beyond the pale.

Companies have developed robotic dogs and cats to provide emotional support to humans. I've already told you what I think about mascots, humans who dress up to look like animals, but robots? How can a robotic cat provide emotional support?

You'll have to find a video to get the full impact of this atrocity, but a robotic cat purrs and meows. If you pet its face, it will nuzzle your hand and even raise its paw to wash its face. They say it will roll over on its back for a belly rub, but I don't believe it. The company bills them as therapy robots that can provide comfort to the elderly. Are they serious?

You know, Puddin' can be a pain, especially when she takes over my dog



The Royal Pooch Lord Banjo

beds, but I still love her. I know I'm not the one who scoops her pan, but how hard can that be? Well, yes Mum has to clean the cat hair off the couch and the bedspread too, but still. And then, there's the occasional hairball. No matter, I'm not buying it. A robot cat won't move back and forth between Mum and Dad's laps to share the love, and I can't see it leaping and playing with cat toys. Nope,

no way we're letting any robots in the Royal Abode.

As for robot dogs, Mum and I watched a video of a Companion Pup by Hasbro. It opens its mouth and barks and turns its cute golden head, but it doesn't roll over, lie beneath your desk, lick your face, or any of those critical touchy-feely things. I do more, so much more than this silly robot does. Can you take it for a walk? Nope. Can you train it to come, sit, stay or shake? Don't think so.

Apparently, some pet parents think it's inconvenient to take us dogs for walks, and they don't want to use those little plastic bags for you know what. I do understand that if a person isn't very mobile, we dogs can be a problem. So, less able folks should get special dispensation to have robot dogs. For that matter, they should go for the robot cat, since it does way more than any of the robot dogs we've seen.

Let it be known that Lord Banjo is mightily displeased with the idea of robotic cats and dogs and forbids any further mention of them. Should a robotic animal appear in the Kingdom, rather than "off with their heads," it will be "out with the batteries."

• Lord Banjo is a Georgia resident. Find similar stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available locally at the Mountain Paws in Highlands, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at inkpenn119@gmail.com.



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Get Your 'Game Day Food' On!**Old City Chili****TSTE ingredients:**

Sweet Onion Sugar
Steakhouse Spice Blend
Matanzas Chili Spice Blend

From the Grocer:

1 lb lean ground beef
1 lb ground sirloin
1 large onion, chopped
1 large bell pepper, coarsely chopped
1/2 of a 15 can of black beans, drained and rinsed
1/2 of a 15.5 can of kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1 - 29 oz can tomato sauce
1 - 28 oz can whole peeled tomatoes
1 - 6 oz can of tomato paste
2 TBS minced garlic
Chopped scallions (optional topping)
Shredded Cheese (optional topping)
Sour Cream (optional topping)

Preparation:

• Add ground beef, ground sirloin, onion, and bell pepper to a 6 qt. pan
• Add about 45 twists of Steakhouse Spice Blend and then brown meat over medium heat, stirring occasionally until evenly browned. • Drain.
• Add black beans, kidney beans, tomato sauce, tomatoes (squeeze in your hand before adding, to break into pieces) tomato paste, garlic, Sweet Onion Sugar, and Matanzas Chili Spice Blend.
• Simmer uncovered for about 30-45 minutes, stirring occasionally
• Top chili with cheese, sour cream and scallions. Enjoy!

**Jalapeno Poppers****TSTE ingredients:**

1 oz Bleu Cheese Powder
2 TBS Habanero Sugar

From Grocer:

8 oz Sour cream
12 Jalapenos
12 oz Package of bacon, slices cut in half

Preparation:

• Preheat oven to 400.
• Mix Bleu Cheese Powder with 2 TBS of water to a creamy consistency and then mix with cream cheese.
• Scoop cheese mixture into halved jalapenos.
• Wrap jalapenos with a halved slice of bacon and place on pan. Sprinkle with Habanero Sugar.
• Bake for 30 minutes, or until bacon is crisp and brown.

Corn Bacon Dip**TSTE ingredients:**

Bacon Smoked Sea Salt

From the Grocer:

1 cup cooked corn
1 garlic clove, pressed
1 - 8 oz package of cream cheese at room temperature
Cooked, chopped bacon (garnish)
Chopped, chives (garnish)
Chips

Preparation:

• Place all ingredients in food processor, and blend until smooth. Refrigerate for an hour. Garnish with bacon and chives. Serve with chips!

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70 years and counting!



Bob and Vicki Thompson of Jasper, GA (both 92 years old) celebrated 70 years of marriage on January 22, 2019.

They met at a roller-skating rink in Jacksonville, FL on Dec. 22, 1948 and were married on January 22 1949. They have lived since then in Florida and Georgia. Vicki was born and raised in Highlands and is the daughter of the late Florence Henderson and the late Claude Calloway. Vicki's mother died suddenly when she was around 7 and she likes to say that the whole town helped raise her and her two brothers Scott and W.C. She is also a half-sister to Highlands Commissioner Donnie

Calloway and his brothers Joe, C.L. and Ronnie Calloway.

She lived with her grandparents Deck and Dessie Henderson on Pine Creek in Jackson County. She later worked for Fred and Inez Moll who had leased and were running the Pierson Inn when they invited her to move with them to Jacksonville. From that time on she only came back to visit her relatives but never forgot her roots or her family.

Congratulations Vicki and Bob...70 years together is quite an accomplishment in today's world.

...GOALS continued from page 1

This conference gives all North Carolina counties the opportunity to come together as one voice and make our challenges known to the North Carolina General Assembly.” Ronnie Beale, Vice Chairman, Macon County Board of Commissioners.

Kevin Austin, NCACC President Elect and Yadkin County Commissioner presided over the two-day Legislative Goals Conference, which was held January 10-11. Macon County sent Ronnie Beale to serve as a voting delegate to the conference to debate, amend, offer new proposals and cast votes on the Association's guiding principles and legislative priorities, which guide advocacy efforts at the General Assembly.

The conference is the final step in a comprehensive process, which gives each county a voice in shaping NCACC's legislative agenda. NCACC President Elect Austin explained this inclusive approach. “Our process offers an opportunity for all our counties to participate. These goals come from counties all across the state and have been vetted by their boards before they come to the Association. It's a grassroots effort, which involves all 100 counties,” President Elect Austin said.

“As we all know, the availability of broadband internet has been discussed here in Macon County for quite some time now.

It was interesting to see how many other rural counties across the state are facing similar issues with respect to broadband availability. I was very pleased to see that the expansion of broadband to unserved and underserved areas emerge as the top legislative goal for FY 19-20.” Jim Tate, Chairman, Macon County Board of Commissioners.

Below is the list of NCACC's top five legislative goals for 2019-2020 as determined at the Legislative Goals Conference; visit www.ncacc.org/legislativegoals to access the full list of goals for the biennium.

NCACC's Top Five Priority Goals for 2019-2020

1) Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the unserved and under-served areas and residents of the state.

2) Seek additional revenue sources, including a statewide bond and lottery proceeds, to equitably address statewide public school and community college capital challenges.

3) Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction to all counties. Oppose efforts to divert to the state, fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties or to erode existing county

revenue streams.

4) Support provision of state resources to ensure county ability to provide essential public health, behavioral health and social services, with specific consideration to the challenges of incarcerated persons, the continued county role in behavioral health governance, and programs addressing substance use disorder, throughout Medicaid transformation.

5) Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows a local school board to file suit against a county board of commissioners over appropriations to the local board of education's capital outlay fund.

Editors: Print quality photos may be downloaded for use at:

<https://ncacc.smugmug.com/NCACC-2019-Legislative-Goals-Con>

Photo should be credited as follows: Photo courtesy Chris Baucom/NCACC.

About the NCACC: The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is the official voice of all 100 counties on issues being considered by the General Assembly, Congress and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in the areas of advocacy, research, risk management and education and leadership training.

...BUILDING from pg 11

But like with any older building, one repair often leads to another.

The night after the contractors took up the old flooring revealing the concrete slab it rained ... hard. When the installers came in the next day there was water pooled from the fireplace on the front wall all the way back to the center of the room.

“They dried it all up and were able to put the flooring down, but they said we needed to look at the structure because something wasn't right and they didn't want it to happen again,” said Town Manager Josh Ward.

As it turned out, the whole front of the right side of the building (the side closest to the ball park) behind a huge rhododendron was rotten

“I hated to lose that rhododendron because it was so big, but because of its size, when it rained behind it stayed really moist. We actually found a big piece of siding behind there had just fallen off.”

Contractors determined that's where a lot of the water was getting in as well as around the flashing at the top of the chimney.

An inspection of the entire exterior revealed more rot on the backside of the building behind the kitchen.

So, the Town Board OK'd a bud-

• See BUILDING page 19

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Of Dancing Penguins and Flying Nannies



Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United Methodist Church

In my life as an itinerant preacher, my family and I have had the opportunity to live in a variety of communities and to walk alongside a number of really neat folks. Since our move from Kansas to Oz (for my metaphor-challenged friends, that's Salisbury to Highlands), my wife Kathy and I, now empty-nesters, have been able to enjoy many of the cool things and people that make this such a special place.

One thing I'm enjoying about our Highlands years is the ability to experience Sunday morning worship, then take a short stroll to the Highlands Playhouse to catch a first-run movie. It's a pretty cool perk of life in our little mountain town. This past Sunday, Kathy and I decided to follow up our Sunday worship with the 1pm showing of "Mary Poppins Returns".

It's a delightful, fun and adventure-filled journey into a child-like world of imagination, a world of magic balloons, dancing penguins and wise-cracking umbrellas, a world complete with majestic music and fast-paced choreography. Be open to the cinematic invitation to suspend your disbelief, allow yourself to inhabit the alternative universe of the big screen, and "Mary Poppins Returns" can awaken the dormant inner-child within.

Though fully immersed in the imaginative world on the big screen before me, my grown-up self stirred long enough to appreciate the value of taking time to remember and experience the value of imagination again. The adult side of me is well aware that my vocation requires me to think and speak of serious things, and I often tend to spend a good bit of time in my own head. Though I don't claim to be a great thinker, I do spend a great deal of time in thought. And quite frankly, sometimes the weight of the gospel message lies heavy on this preacher's heart and mind.

But Sunday I was reminded that every now and then, even the most serious among us can benefit from seeing a nanny floating down from the sky holding onto a runaway kite, or marvel as pictures on a vase come to life, or watch balloons carry a sea of children and adults into the air, or

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship 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.

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

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

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.: 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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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Pr. Nathan

Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Father Casmir - 526-2418

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447, Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

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

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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

...BUILDING continued from page 17

get amendment of \$31,000 for rot repair which included new siding.

"We re-sided and basically reconstructed the front and back and got rid of the rot and then re-sided the back and came around the side to match," said Ward.

Not long after that, Recreation Director Lester Nix saw water stains appearing on the newly painted ceiling and every now and then when it rained, there would be a drip here, a drip there.

Consequently, the roof was inspected and there were multiple places where the shingles were completely worn out.

"They were 20-year shingles but there is no telling how long they have been there ... no one seems to know ... but clearly longer than 20 years," said Ward.

The Town Board OK'd another budget amendment for \$21,500 to repair and re-shingle the roof.

This time 30-year shingles are being installed, and the clouded skylights that stopped letting light in long ago, were framed over to make sure new leaks don't initiate there.

As part of the roof job, the peak where the plywood came together was without a roof-line vent so that was also

fixed.

Shingles also covered the vertical front north side of the building but will be replaced with siding matching the rest of the building ... for now.

The shingles were removed unnecessarily and may be replaced – as originally designed – at a later date, said Ward.

The front door, which has always been fickle, has also been replaced so that it can be opened, closed and locked easily. Ward said there was money in a line item that funded that.

"The renovation of the building is complete now," said Ward. "It really needed some improvement. It's been forever since any work was done to it."

Nothing is planned in the kitchen but there has been talk about upgrading the bathrooms at some point, said Ward.

In addition, the windows may be replaced – possibly a discussion point at this year's annual Town Board Retreat.

Ward said the windows are clouding up because the seal is broken and gas between the window panes has leaked out causing a fogged effect.

– Kim Lewicki

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 18

see street workers break out in song and dance.

I spend most of my time in the adult world where people deal with real-life struggles and are weighed down by real-life worries. I spend most of my time in a world where magical nannies don't gracefully glide down to earth. I spend most of my time in a world that can often be harsh and hard, where there is often more reason to lament than laugh.

Perhaps that's all the more reason to allow ourselves a break from life's realities from time to time, if for no other reason than to consider that maybe there are some real things that can only be revealed through God's gift of imagination. Maybe there are some things we can never see without removing our adult glasses. And if your imagination is out of shape from lack of exercise or dusty from too much time on the shelf, that's OK. It happens to the best of us.

Joan Chittiser, in her blog from January 2018 "The Monastic Way", reflected on the life of Joan of Arc. She points out that, during her trial in England which resulted in her sentence to be burned at the stake, Joan of Arc testified that God had called her to lead soldiers from her native

France against the English in the battle for the French throne. Confronted by the accusation that she merely "imagined" God speaking to her, she is reported to have replied - "How else would God speak to me, if not through my imagination?"*

Now I'm not attempting to align the call of God with animated dancing penguins, but maybe its not too far-fetched to consider that we might be a bit more open to the mystery of God if we allowed our keen intellects to become a bit more.....shall we say, playful.

One thing of which I've become acutely aware in my pursuit of deep thinking (remember "Deep Thoughts by Jack Handy" all you SNL fans?) is that the more I learn, the more I realize just how little I know. I've also come to understand that some things are hard to appreciate without imagination, and some things are quite impossible to see without it.

So as you travel along the yellow brick road today, here's hoping God stirs a little child-like wonder in your heart so that you can catch the majestic beauty that's easily missed by adult eyes. Here's wishing for you a whimsical day of waterfalls and rainbows, ocean waves and mountain peaks, humming birds and soaring eagles, along with a healthy dose of dancing penguins and flying nannies!

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Jan. 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Jan. 4

• At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of a simple assault at a building on NC 106 where someone hit the victim in the nose with his head.

Jan. 5

• At 3:45 p.m., officers received a call about theft from an apartment on N. 5th Street where a 3 ft. by 15 ft. oriental rug valued at \$3,000 was stolen.

Jan. 9

• Officers responded to a call about shoplifting of two food items valued at \$18 at Mountain Fresh Grocery on Main Street.

Jan. 14

• At 1:19 p.m., officers responded to a call for service at an apartment on N. 5th Street where someone had broken in.

Jan. 17

• At 12:39 p.m., Joseph William Ferro Grier, 36, of Highlands was arrested for driving during a license revocation and failure to appear. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond. His trial date is Feb. 18.

Jan. 19

• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a call for service at a residence on Cul-lasaja Drive where the occupant came home and noticed the front door was open.

Jan. 21

• At 7:25 p.m., officers responded to a call of a verbal argument at a residence on Wilson Road.

Jan. 22

• At 9 a.m., officers were called about the larceny of power at an apartment on Helens Barn Ave. where someone had connected to someone else's power amounting to \$550 in damages.

• See **POLICE & FIRE** page 20



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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

continued from page 19

• At 2:12 a.m., officers responded to a call of a verbal argument at a residence on Wilson Road.

Jan. 24

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a call for service at an apartment on Helen's Bar Ave.

• At 8 a.m., Manuel Eduardo Chico, 44, of Highlands was arrested for larceny of power and theft from a build-

ing. He was issued at \$1,000 secured bond. His trial date is Feb. 12.

Jan. 26

• A little after midnight, officers were notified of someone staying on someone else's property on Laurel Street without permission.

• At 9:30 a.m., Alexis Sade Hall, 21, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI when pulled over on NC 106. She was issued a \$600 unsecured bond. Her trial date is Feb. 18.

Jan. 27

• At 10:51 a.m., officers responded to a call of a vehicle theft on Tanner Loop in Highlands where someone stole an equipment trailer valued at \$5,000.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 17, 2019.

Jan. 17

• At 11:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Old Edwards Lane.

• At 12:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders in response to a medical alarm at a residence on Harris Drive.

• At 5:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible gas leak at a residence on Watkins Road.

Jan. 19

• At 2:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Half Mile Drive.

• At 3:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Half Mile Drive.

Jan. 22

• At 12:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Dr.

Jan. 25

• At 3:48 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

Jan. 26

• At 8:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

At 5:05 p.m., the dept. investigated smoke in the vicinity of Walhalla Road.

At 10:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Panther Mountain Road.

Jan. 27

• At 8:59 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 64 east.

At 3:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location in Highlands Plaza.

Jan. 28

• At 10:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 4:58 p.m., the dept. investigated smoke in the vicinity of US 64 east and Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 9:46 p.m., the dept. answered a mutual aid call from the Cashiers FD but it was cancelled.

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roof repairs, debris removal. Call 371-1103. (st. 4/26)

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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. 11/22)

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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 ddmarsh15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

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LOCATION IS EVERYTHING! Prime retail space available on Main Street in Highlands: 3,000 prime retail space available for rent starting March 1, 2019 Contact Jody or Wood Lovell.

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty. 828.526.4104. (st. 1/10)

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LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY IN THE DISTRICT COURT

RE:FLORESV.OROZCO, MACON COUNTY FILE NUMBER: 18-CVD-618

TO:JOSE MAURICIO MUNOZ OROZCO, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Absolute Divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than (40 days after the first publication will belong on this line), said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 21st day of December, 2018.

Jonathan Song, Attorney for Plaintiff
Song Law, PLLC 1085 N. Main Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 452-2220
Jan. 17, Jan 24, Jan. 31

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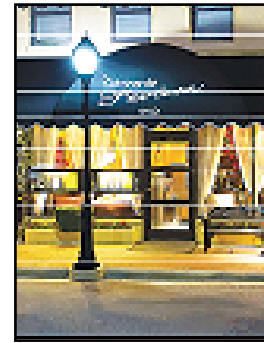
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