

Highlands Newspaper

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Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Capital campaign kicks off at Incarnation

Glorious Vision is a plan for the Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation to expand its sanctuary and renovate the entrance on Main Street in Highlands. The plans were announced to the public on Sunday at a capital cam-

paign kickoff party at Incarnation located at 520 Main and 5th streets. Rector Bentley Manning said the expansion is necessary to accommodate a growing congregation.

"We're expanding the main sanctuary due to increased atten-

dance," said Rev. Bentley. "Each week we have people sitting in the overflow watching the service on a screen. We're going to expand the seating and enhance the sanctuary to be more reflective of the

• See INCARNATION page 26

Area's USFS Ranger retires after 29 years

Nantahala District Ranger Mike Wilkins is hanging up his U.S. Forest Service uniform and is looking forward to spending more time with family.

"I am retiring for several reasons; the Lord and my wife say it is time and I believe them, I want to spend more time with my wife of 41 years, 3 kids, and 10 grandkids, I have a 90-year old mother that I moved to the area and I can help her a little more in retirement, I will finally have time to scout for deer signs and hunt a little more, and fish some, too," said Wilkins.

In the 29 years, and 40+ years as a USFS public servant, Wilkins has seen the USFS evolve.

"Computers and email," he said. "Hey, during my first 4-5 years, the district IBM typewriter would only hold three pages. The capacity our computer has to run programs for analysis, spread

• See RANGER page 8



Photo by Kim Lewicki

A day and night of July 4th celebration activities

It begins at 10a when the Boy Scouts build and launch Bottle Rockets at the Town Ball Field on Poplar Street. At 11a it's Traditional Field Games at the Town Ball Field – balloon toss, three-legged race, sack race and more; 12p MAMA Medical Helicopter will land at the Town Ball Field, weather permitting, *and if it is not on a call*; from 11a-2p there the Rotary Club's Hot Dog fundraiser at the Town Ball Field; 2p Rotary's Duck Derby on Mill Creek; 6-8p there is a live concert at Founders Park (No alcohol allowed); at 8 pm it's the annual Highlands Men's Chorus Patriotic Concert at the First Presbyterian Church at 5th and Main. It will be over in time for fireworks. (If rain cancels the fireworks, the concert will still be held); at 9p or dark Annual 4th of July Fireworks.

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Greenway is about to finish Oak Street trail extension

By Brian O'Shea

Building a trail is a methodical, laborious process, but that didn't stop a slew of volunteers who showed up to Highlands Plateau Greenway's workday last month to get their hands dirty for a good cause.

"It's great, we're out here in the woods to support the community, it's really fun," said Volunteer Andy Schmar who spent his Saturday morning working on connecting the Mill Creek portion of the Greenway off Oak Street in Highlands.

Volunteer Phil Miller said he's proud to be a part of a walking and hiking trail system throughout Highlands.

"It's satisfying to know that we're helping to make the trails

• See GREENWAY page 18

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Russia has not and will not bury us

Former Soviet Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, was a crude, unsophisticated man. He boasted being "a man of the soil." The dirty little man came to visit the United States in 1959 and repeated his mantra that Russia would bury America. In an address where Khrushchev was the guest of honor, Los Angeles Mayor Norris Poulson stated: "We do not agree with your widely quoted phrase 'We shall bury you.' You shall not bury us, and we shall not bury you. We are happy with our way of life. We recognize its shortcomings and are always trying to improve it. But if challenged, we shall fight to the death to preserve it."

Turns out Mayor Poulson was right. The Soviet Union did not bury the United States, nor Western Europe. Our democratic values, creativity, freedom and vitality ultimately overwhelmed that repressive and outdated system. President Reagan's call in the late '80s to "tear down the wall" was taken to heart by the people of Eastern Europe.

Flash forward to last week. The current leader of Russia is not from the Khrushchev peasant tradition. Vladimir Putin is a smooth, cunning former KGB agent. He did not make a crude frontal attack on the



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

United States, but rather made the indirect, sly statement. He declared that "liberalism is obsolete." What he was actually saying was all the values of the Western democratic tradition that were born in the Age of the Enlightenment are no longer relevant.

Like Khrushchev who continually repeated the notion of burying the West, Putin with his obsession to revive the old Soviet state, has repeatedly stated in one form or another that the Western liberal tradition that undergirds current democratic states is imploding and nonfunctional. His deceptive critique is directed toward our major political parties, both of which were founded on these "liberal" ideals and constitutional process. He envisions a global order, a detente between nations, that pays lip service to vague notions of freedom yet ruthlessly crushes individual liberty. Putin has allies such as Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, as well as a host of smaller dictator types.

I'm not a big city mayor like Norris Poulson was back in 1959, but on this Independence Day let me proclaim that the liberal ideas of our founders, especially those of Jefferson and Madison, are not obsolete.

On this day let us remember the words to the preamble to of the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

In 1789, Jefferson's close friend, James Madison, wrote the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution. These fundamental rights that have served the nation throughout our history were an extension of the preamble to the Declaration of Independence.

Both these liberal statements have shaped our destiny and will guide the nation in the future. Hopefully, Americans find Putin's declaration that liberalism is obsolete to be anathema to what we hold dear as a nation. The bill of rights may be obsolete in Russia or China, but they are not so in America. When the majority of Americans decide these liberal, democratic ideas are no longer relevant, our great republic will be lost.

Let's celebrate our freedom today with happy enthusiasm. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison would like that.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• LETTERS •

Low Country Shrimp Boil was a success

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Friends of Founders Park Board of Directors, I want to thank all involved in our Low Country Shrimp Boil at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park held on June 15th. Our 4th Annual Low Country Shrimp Boil could not happen without the generous support the 300 patrons who attended. Also through generous contributions from our sponsors, we had another successful event to benefit our park. Special thanks goes out to our event chair Bill Edwards, our dedicated board members and excellent volunteers. The food was masterfully prepared by Chef Marty Rosenfield assisted by Doc Wilson and Pablo Tejada. It was our best yet. The Ugly Dog Pub staff, led by park board member Kay Craig, served up excellent brews and Davis Picklesimer of Highlands Wine Shoppe provided first-

• See LETTER page 12

• WEATHER •

	Thursday 7/4		Friday 7/5		Saturday 7/6	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	79 F	63 F	78 F	63 F	78 F	62 F
RealFeel	89 F	69 F	87 F	68 F	86 F	68 F
Winds	3 g 4	3 g 4	3 g 5	3 g 5	4 g 6	4 g 6
T-Storms	60%	24%	60%	24%	49%	24%
Rainfall	0.06	0	0.23	0	0	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

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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.



CULLASAJA CLUB 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 a 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. From the generously-sized porch you are able to enjoy a naturally cascading stream/waterfall, as well as partial views of the #17 fairway.

MLS# 91186 | Offered for \$459,000

MOUNT LORI This one level home has a lovely courtyard in front which is a great place to putter in the yard or a wonderful spot for a garden. The great room has a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and opens to an open back deck or a great screened porch. The kitchen is well appointed and allows the cook to interact with guests. The master bedroom is spacious with a lovely deck and good closets. On the opposite side of the home are three bedrooms and three baths.

MLS# 89168 | Offered for \$450,000



COLD SPRINGS Cold Springs is a great family community with amenities that include a spring-fed lake, tennis court, stable, and paddock. The front yard is great for children or pets and the back covered deck is very large and welcoming. In addition to the three ensuite bedrooms, there is a bright and light office/library with plenty of space for your favorite books. The main level features a space to relax in front of a roaring fire plus a large spot for comfy furniture.

MLS# 89105 | Offered for \$450,000

HIGHLANDS FALLS CC This home has an older pedigree but has been updated with the addition of a large master suite plus a lower level which features a family room and additional guest quarters. The main level features an updated kitchen with a breakfast bar and opens to the greatroom with stone fireplace. The back deck is large and is the perfect spot to enjoy the view of Shortoff Mountain. Offered completely furnished. and ready to enjoy!

MLS# 89050 | Offered for \$445,000



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

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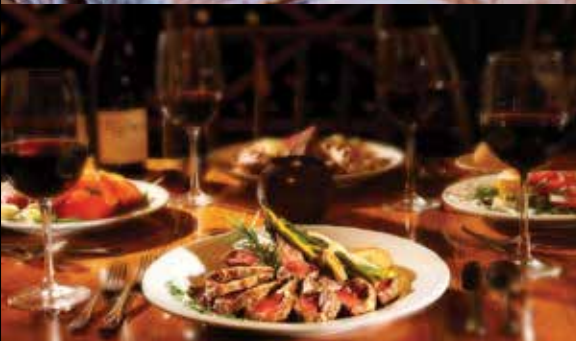
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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC It is hard to get a view this nice where you do not look at a lot of other homes, especially in a gated community in this price range! The villa overlooks the 6th fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club and also looks out to the national forest. This is the only unit in the Club Villas with a garage. There are two bedrooms and two baths on the main level. The lower level which has two other bedrooms and a family room is accessed from outside.

MLS# 89700 | Offered for \$425,000



BUCK CREEK Check out this great house with six adjoining parcels! This is a beautiful estate property in this development. From the back porch and lower level party house you have an awesome view of the mountains and you can hear the roar of Buck Creek below you. The house affords three levels of living space with attached garage and workshop/shed on the property plus a fire pit and gazebo. Three bedrooms, three full baths.

MLS# 90598 | Offered for \$420,000

SHELBY PLACE Exceptionally well maintained, charming in-town 3BR/3BA with single car carport located less than a mile from Main Street. Open living/dining area with fireplace. Granite countered kitchen with SS appliances. Two bedrooms on main, master suite on upper level. Large deck surrounded by a canopy of trees for outdoor dining. Lower level could be finished into additional living space. Located in Shelby Place subdivision with clubhouse and tennis court amenities.

MLS# 89855 | Offered for \$395,000



COLD SPRINGS This cozy 3BR/3BA post and beam home offers plenty of space for family and friends. The main level features living room with fireplace, kitchen, master bedroom, laundry room, and hardwoods throughout. The upper level includes two bedrooms, a full bath, and large storage area which could be converted to a bonus room. Cold Springs amenities include tennis courts, stocked private lake, pastures and stable for horses, and access to miles of USFS trails.

MLS# 91184 | Offered for \$377,000



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• HIGHLANDS AREA DINING •

• OBITUARY •

Hallie Louise Sanders

Hallie Louise Sanders, 94, of Highlands, passed away Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Born in Macon County, NC, she was the daughter of the late Charles Stamey and Stella Ledford Stamey. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Leo Sanders; her son, Helton "Sonnie"



Sanders and brothers and sisters, Jessie Ledford, Dover Stamey, Pearson Stamey, Leatha Wilt and Eugene Stamey. Louise was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. She enjoyed word search, bingo, putting puzzles together and studying her Bible.

She is survived by her daughter, Hilda James of Highlands; six grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; nine great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Service was held Sunday, June 30, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Eddie Stillwell and Dr. Gary Hewins officiated. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Dearell Sanders, Thomas James, Ben West, Junior Mason, Salvador Dlalde, and Ruben Contreras.

Memorial donations can be made to the Macon County Senior Services, 108 Wayah Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

...RANGER from page 1

sheets, and statistics for timber, wildlife, etc. is wonderful. Having GIS maps and all sorts of various resource layers improves management and decision making. The capacity to send instantaneous emails for increased communication internally and externally can be a huge time drain from work. One has to work hard to keep it in balance."

He added that fire suppression tactics have also evolved over the years.

"Fire management has been a professional sideline of mine since I was on a fire crew as a college student," said Wilkins. "I have been on one of the 16 National Interagency Incident management teams since 1988. Our capacity to be so much more strategic in our suppression actions through better computer fire prediction models has been a huge change. Natural resource management is a much more thoughtful ecosystem approach as research continues to educate us."

Wilkins graduated from Virginia Tech in 1976 and his first job was with the Florida Division of Forestry. Six months as a trainee forester on the state forest and then two years as a county forester giving forestry advice to landowners, writing management plans. He also gave tree advice to urban home and business owners and was

• See RANGER page 11

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2/BD 2BA cabin sits right on the lake and is ready for your personal taste and updating. Real knotty pine wood paneling with wood burning stone fireplace. Wood floors and updated windows. Great full-length covered porch overlooks the water. Great location! Offered at \$495,000. mls #88196



This unique Jim Fox Home has an open kitchen/great room plan with garden terrace, waterfall feature, large deck with a 50+ mile view. Creative designer touches. Massive antique beams and glass used throughout the dwelling. Terrace level has an additional kitchen, living room and 3 more bedrooms with 2 baths. Detached carport and lower level covered parking. Offered at \$1,975,000. mls #84778



23.06+/- acres with a 1/BD 1/BA home with additional 3/BD 1/BA farmhouse on the property built in early 1900s. Property has been in the Cash family since 1930. Great views. Property adjoins USFS lands. Offered at \$850,000. mls #87292



Located on the 5th Fairway, this great family home has an open floor plan and updated finishes. 3 bedrooms on main level with finished lower level with family room and two additional bedrooms. Wonderful covered porch. Excellent value in Highlands Falls Country Club. Attached double garage. Offered at \$595,000. mls #88444



This unique property consists of over 90 acres of rolling land, flanked partially on one side by USFS land. About 27 acres of open pasture, wooded acreage with streams that flanks the Chatooga River with whitewater, waterfalls and swimming holes. Views of Blackrock Mountain. Perfect family getaway renovated in 2005 by Lupoli Construction. The main house has 3/BD, 2.5/BA with wormy chestnut floors and painted paneling, huge stone fireplace in living room, gourmet kitchen. Guest house needs some renovation but has good bones. An estate with multiple home sites. Offered at \$5,000,000. mls #81843



This home sits on over 10 acres of land with great panoramic views to the west. This all glass contemporary home is well built with 3 fireplaces, 2 levels of decks, walls of glass. Convenient to the hospital, country clubs, Highlands and Cashiers. Offered at \$995,000. mls #87715



5/BD, 4/BA, not your plain Jane ranch. Very unique with heavy logs, lots of stone and wood. Lovingly restored with central heat and air and meticulously maintained by the current owner. Offered at \$875,000. mls #81152



Highrocks features gated access to a large private 3.6-acre lot with stunning views of Whiteside. The house features multiple stone fireplaces, water features, and a custom kitchen. Main level has living room, dining area, master bedroom, a Carolina room with fireplace accessed off of the kitchen. Antique wood floors, updated baths, lower level has guest quarters with media room and wine cellar. Large 2-car carport with guest efficiency above. A network of trails on the landscaped grounds. Offered at \$4,499,000. mls #83614



This beautiful 3/BD 2BA log cabin on the Atlanta side of Highlands on Buck Knob Road in Scaly Mountain has almost 10 acres of land and a great view to the west. Covered porch across the entire back of the log cabin. Offered furnished with a few exceptions. Offered at \$555,000. mls #87736



Wonderful views and over 4 acres of privacy with this charming mountain cottage. Main floor has master with bath. 2 bedrooms upstairs with shared bath. Huge deck to enjoy the layered mountain view. Offered at \$350,000. mls #80351



This charming home has been completely remodeled. Great location in the town of Highlands, close to the Highlands Country Club. Home is on one level with screened covered porch and fenced yard. Two-car garage. Lower level has a small apartment with private entrance. Offered at \$575,000. mls #86318



Called The Chateau. This is one of the most amazing homes in the area. Five floor-to-ceiling fireplaces, media room and 1,000 sq. foot game room. The Chateau has one of the best 30-mile views anywhere in Highlands with a spectacular close up look at Whiteside's rocky face. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #88147



5/BD 5/BA home located at Highlands Country Club. Usable lot with lovely landscaping. Seller has golf membership. 45 KW Generator. Sophisticated irrigation system and a 19-station window and deck flower box irrigation drip system. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #88512

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•WORD MATTER•

Something Has to Give

What happens when individual liberty comes in conflict with the common good? Which deserves primacy? How do we resolve the conflict so supporters on both sides are equally happy? Or, equally unhappy?

There are a number of ways in which this conflict shows up in American life. Gun violence, to be sure. Cigarette smoking, certainly. Drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana, yes. Abortion, zoning, accessibility—there's more but you get the gist.

Our nation has always—should always reward initiative and exhibit a modicum of common sense with regard to government regulation and oversight.

This is NOT a call for regulation. You likely will never see that from me. This is an honest rhetorical query.

Individuals want to be able to live their lives on their own terms. And, our founders believed in, and put in writing, notions of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But they also put in writing a desire to provide for, and promote, the common good. I've written about my concern for whether the U.S.A. is one nation, a confederation of free, independent states, with sometimes competing agendas, or 350-million people all out for themselves.

How, as we continue growing, and as our population continues to diversify, will we manage to remain a beacon of light for the rest of the world, while taking care of our people at home, and while remaining true our economic heritage? Can the rights of individuals continue to flourish while still addressing the wants, needs, and expectations of society as a whole?

I actually spend time thinking about this as my children hit their stride as adults, and my grandkids grow into fully formed Americans.

What brought this pondering to the forefront for me was a story on NPR about the astounding growth in the numbers of middle-grade and high schoolers who are using e-cigarettes—vaping. For those who don't know, vaping delivers nicotine without burning tobacco. It's been pitched to young people as a "safe" or safer way to smoke.

It's not.

Smoking accounts for more premature deaths in our nation than any other legal or discretionary means. It accounts for more cardiac related deaths than cancer and lung disease combined.

The NPR story revealed mounting evi-



Bud Katz

dence that vaping may not be as safe as has been advertised. As regulation now limits how and how much tobacco entities can promote cigarettes to young people those same regulators are looking at whether or how much to limit promotion of vaping and e-cigarettes to that same impressionable market.

Isn't it in the common good to restrict access to tobacco and e-cigarettes among our nation's youth? Or should individual young people get to make that call for themselves?

How does it impact what is already the costliest healthcare system in the world? Should that be a consideration? Isn't a healthy nation part of, and essential to the common good?

To some it's an easy call. My individual liberty is more important than your common good. To others, who see a national imperative here, sorry; you're going to have to tamp down your own liberty in favor of a healthy America.

Drugs, legal and illegal, alcohol, tobacco, overly rich, fatty foods — these products can cause a slow, sometimes painful death. Should limits be imposed on them? Should Americans who don't drink, don't smoke, or vape, who eat right and exercise, be forced to subsidize the healthcare of those who indulge, place stress, and add cost onto our healthcare system?

If limits should not be imposed, if an individual's liberty indicates they should be allowed to, in effect, kill themselves, potentially kill others, and impose a kind of tax on the rest of us, should individuals not be permitted to end their own lives? It's already legal in nine states and the District of Columbia. Should women be free to terminate pregnancies? Those exercises in what supporters view as individual liberty are being taken away on almost a weekly basis.

Are we hypocrites if we support some but not all individual liberties? And, what kind of nation are we if we place the individual American over all Americans?

You'll notice a number of question marks in this column. That's what's happening here — I'm posing questions. When the wants of the individual infringe on the needs of society, the common good, what should prevail? Are we in favor of one over the other? Or, as is the case with much of life in our great nation, can we figure out how to have both?

• INVESTING AT 4, 118FT. •

The Sounds of Freedom

"I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his Freedom"
— Bob Dylan

This is a column about investing in Real Estate. More on that in a moment.

But just for today, I'd like to focus these 500 words on a different investment, the one made by so many who came before us, and who's lives were spent to guarantee our freedom. If you're still reading and were one of the few, the proud, and the brave who served ... all of us salute you and thank you.

For me, there's nothing that conjures up my thankfulness more than the sounds of freedom presented in the songs we will hear today and throughout the weekend. It probably explains why I always tear up a little at the singing of the National Anthem, and that I have a difficult day on September 11th each year. If you get a chance, listen to WHLC-FM 104.5 on Thursday, or head over to First Presbyterian for their "Salute to Freedom" concert before the fireworks, and you'll hear it.

What are these "Sounds of Freedom?" Evidence the lyrics of the U.S. Army's "The Army Goes Marching Along" which puts it this way; "men in rags, men who froze, still the Army met it's foes, and the Army went rolling along." In "Anchors Aweigh" the U.S. Navy hails; "blue of mighty deep, gold of God's great sun, let these our colors be, 'til all of time is done." And who can forget the U.S. "Marine Hymn;" "first to fight for



Pat Gleeson, Owner, BIC
White Oak Realty Group
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right and freedom, and to keep our honor clean." Our National Anthem, the "Stars Bangled Banner" makes everything right at the very end when we proclaim; "O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave" (cue the tear in my eye). Please note that if you choose to kneel, not remove your cap, or no-show the Anthem; be ever-thankful that our freedom gives you a right to do so; but those same freedoms allow me not to agree with you (end of

editorial).

I'll finish with this. In many baseball venues throughout the land, we sing "God Bless America" during the 7th inning stretch (another tear-jerker) and I quote: "God Bless America, land that I love, stand beside her, and guide her, through the night with the light from above." It's the "from above" part I am thankful for today. As the Apostle Paul wrote long ago "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free ... serve one another humbly in Love" (Gal. 5:13). Listen as you go along this week for The Sounds of Freedom.

Now back to Real Estate. Business is good, Life is good, and we'd love to help you if we can.

• Pat and Deborah (aka Bee) Gleeson and their dog Gemma can be found at White Oak Realty Group, located in downtown Highlands on 4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn. White Oak Realty Group, founded in 2009 by Susie deVille, a leading boutique brokerage firm on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach Pat, Bee, or Susie at 828.526.8118.



Ranger Mike Wilkins

— Submitted

"On second thought, I do like to brag 'cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag"

— Johnny Cash



Wishing you a
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...RANGER from page 8

always involved in fire suppression.

Wilkins joined the USFS in March 1979 as presale forester and a timber sale administrator. He was stationed in Ketchikan, Alaska for 2 years and brought his wife from Orlando, Fla. to an island in Alaska. From mid-April to early November was field season. Wilkins would fly on a small-float plane to Prince of Wales Island on Mondays and would come home on Fridays if the weather permitted.

Career Timeline:

• 1981-1983: Timber Management Assistant in charge of all timber management

• See RANGER page 22

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...LETTERS from page 2

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Our dedicated board members include Dixie Barton, Sonya Carpenter, Caroline Cook, Kay Craig, Carter Davis, Bill Edwards, Mary Guy Gunn, Kay Hodges, Charlotte Muir, Jim Oesterle, Rick Reid, Julie Schott and Gary Wein. Our hard working volunteers for this year's event included Andy Chmar, Dinah Davis, Dave Jellison, Cindy Karas, John Muir, Pegsie Payne, Helene & Ricky Siegel, Susan & Robert E. Smith and Rick Willeford. The park space was skillfully coordinated by the Town of Highlands Lester Norris. Buck Henry, Hailey Small and others set up and took down the furnishings.

Friends of Founders Park is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization and 100% of all donations are used for park improvements. Thank you again for your generosity and for attending our event.

Hank Ross
President, Friends of Founders Park

Help keep Job Corps centers open

Dear Editor,

Attention: The nine centers are STILL being closed, despite the Trump administration reversal regarding Job Corps. There is no change extended to the nine centers being closed—even though it has mistakenly been reported as such. This information comes from 1-800-733 JOBS – and employees from the Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center – which they say is still being closed.

This was also confirmed by the USDA, Forestry Service (1-800-832-1355) by Manny Martinize.

One of the nine CCC to close by September is the Oconaluftee Center in Cherokee, NC. Seven of these nine centers to be closed were top performing centers. This are working centers that were making a difference in the lives of 'at risk' kids. The Oconaluftee Center received the highest USDA service award– yet it's going to be closed? Further, the center is ranked 21 out of 124.

Are we going to invest in at-risk children? Why should we? Because the program not only saves lives – it also saves taxpayers money—as unproductive lives are a drain on society. It's going to cost one way or the other – choose the option that enhances both the recipient and the donor.

What happens where there are other forest fires in Western NC, like those of 2016, which burned over 70,000 acres? People lost their homes and livelihoods. During the 2017 record-setting wildfire season, all federal wildland fire-fighting resources we used within a couple of months. The CCC students were vital in aiding this horrible forest fire emergencies in Western NC.

It's time to call those folks below and tell them we value what the Oconaluftee Center in Cherokee, NC. Does

DOGSPEAK

.REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO.

On becoming a star: Part 2

First I got a spiffy velvet robe, and then Mum threw me a party. You can't believe how many oohs and ahhs and belly rubs I got. Well, actually, if you know anything about me at all, you probably can believe the attention I got. After all, the Royal Pooch is hugely popular and handsome and sweet.

Even though Mum is well known locally because of her columns, she joked that folks would be more interested in seeing me than they would be in seeing her, and you know what? She was right. We caught one person on camera saying, "We didn't come to see the Royal Mum, we came to see Lord Banjo!" Proof positive, I'd say, that I've won the popularity contest.

You would have no doubts about my popularity if you could have seen my fans throwing their arms around my neck or kneeling at my paws as they gazed adoringly at me. My loyal subjects came to the Royal Bash bearing gifts! That's right; I received a plush purple rug, several squeaky toys, and even brownies. I hardly got a peek at the brownies before Dad snatched them up. Maybe best of all was the cute little boy who brought his toys to share with me. We two had a grand time playing on the floor together.

If my Great Pyrenees ancestors could see me dressed in my royal robe and crown, I'm convinced they'd be proud of me. Lou- is XIV may have declared those gentle giants the Royal Dogs of the French Court, but I bet they didn't have a Royal Bash or a Royal Seamstress. To complement my royal robe and crown, the Royal Mum wore a tiara, and Dad donned a purple robe. The entire family looked spiffy that day – except, of course, Princess Puddin'.

We didn't invite my calico sister to the party, and I'm sure she'd have thrown a little



The Royal Pooch Lord Banjo

fit had we tried to dress her up. Do you think the term hissy fit comes from kitty behavior? Puddin' is a sweet girl, but she throws a spectacular fit when Mum brushes her. On those occasions, the entire neighborhood knows the Princess is not happy! I can only imagine how the fur would fly if Mum attempted to dress her in a tiny velvet cape.

Me? I love my new duds and wish Mum would let me wear them more often. She insists they're only for special occasions. The rest of the time I must make do with the sporty bandanas the Royal Groomer gives me.

After the hoopla of the Royal Bash, the Royal Abode seemed unnaturally quiet. I got my usual belly rubs from Dad and a few rubs from Mum as I dozed beneath her desk, but having only two people to make over me was no longer enough. "Hey Mum," I barked, "You need to fill my schedule with weekly appearances to ensure I continuously get the respect and belly rubs I'm due."

Suffice it to say, those words resulted in a snippy response from Mum, and she proceeded to educate me on the difference between polite requests and rude demands. Eventually, Mum calmed down and proceeded to fill my schedule, and I have been enjoying the nonstop adoration ever since.

Perhaps you were one of the lucky dog lovers who got to "adore" me at the Village Square Arts & Crafts Festival last weekend. If not, it is possible I may deign to return to the September event. You never know.

**Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find similar stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available at Mountain Paws in Highlands, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at ink-penn119@gmail.com.*

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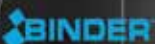
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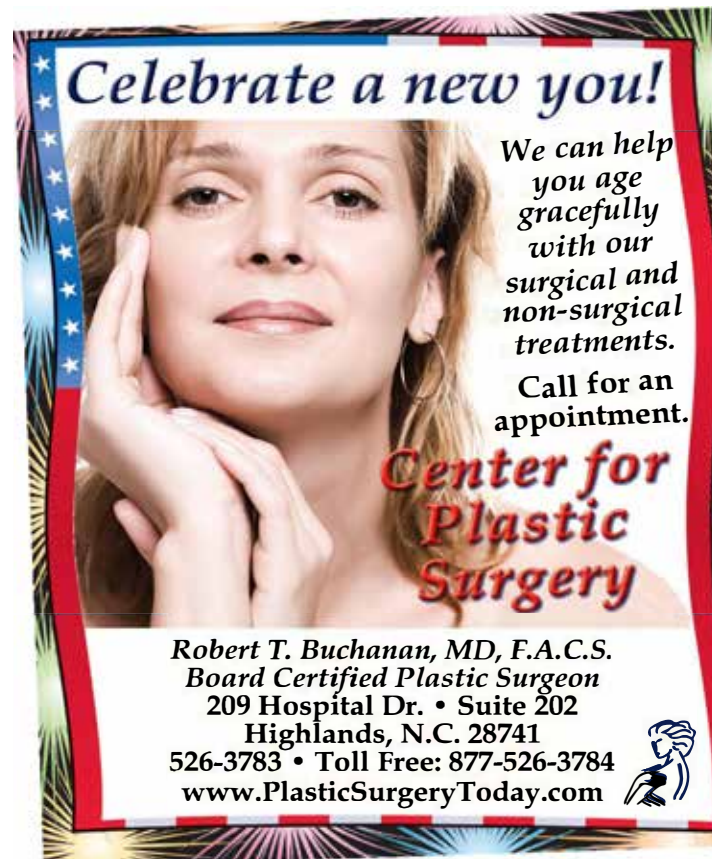
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...LETTERS from page 12

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...GREENWAY continued from 1



Volunteers work on Oak Street extension. — Photo by Brian O'Shea

within Town," said Miller. "Plus, we're out in nature and it's a great group of people."

Volunteers made a lot of headway in connecting Mill Creek to Oak Street and hopes to complete it on the next trail workday on July 20.

The HPG is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop a system of walking and hiking trails that protect and connect the natural settings and historic sites of the Highlands, N. C., area, said newly elected HPG President Sonya Carpenter.

The Greenway is intended to be a locally owned and managed trail system for walkers and hikers of existing and planned paths along a continuous, safe, and green route.

The trail system is easily identified through signage, maps, and user guides; and designed to promote the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the natural and historical environment, as well as quality of life on the Highlands Plateau.

Carpenter said June's trail workday accomplished a lot through the hard work of those who dedicated their time.

"Some of our great volunteers worked on installing new railings to assist hikers on the stair portions of the Big Bear Pen trail (an ongoing project)," she said. "Others made great headway working on the Mill Creek connector trail. A few of our volunteers cleaned up the landscape by our gazebo by weeding out nonnative invasive plants and pruning back vegetation that encroached upon the trail."

Carpenter added that HPG is

an all-volunteer organization with wonderful, hardworking volunteers who have worked long-hard hours for many years to build the Greenway and maintain it.

"In particular, I would like to recognize Ran Shaffner and Hillrie Quin who together launched this Greenway and have nurtured both the project and the volunteers for over 12 years," she said. "In addition, I would like to thank Jim Ward as our trail work organizer (Trail Boss). Jim does a great job of organizing our volunteers to make the most of their valuable time and accomplish great work on the trail."

Ward said he enjoys working outdoors and spending time with good people.

"Most of us are from somewhere else, but we like coming here and hanging out with great people," he said.

• *For more information about HPG, join them on the Kelsey Trail hike on July 5, or sign up to volunteer at a Saturday workday (third Saturday of each month).*

Forum on lack of healthcare July 11 at 6 p.m.

Join the "Concerned Citizens Health Forum" Thursday, July 11 at 6 p.m. in the Cashiers Rec Center meeting room. All are invited to discuss the health needs of the Highlands-Cashiers area. The purpose is to discuss issues with existing and future medical services for the area, with the pending departure of its primary care physicians.

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If you grow up riding horses and appreciating beautiful homes, chances are you will want to own a Gentleman's farm someday. Your day has arrived! The charming gate to Serenity Acres welcomes you to the groomed grounds with three homes, several barns, pastures and a riding ring. This 38-acre estate was the Cashier's Designer Showcase in 2014 when purchased by the current owner. A weekend here has all the ambiance of a luxurious country inn, stylishly decorated and combined with a bit of whimsy to put guests at ease. Comfort comes first at Serenity Acres with ample supply of comfortable guest suites and living areas both indoors and out. The amazing view from this flat valley is awe-inspiring.

MLS 88507 **PRICE UPON REQUEST**

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STORY BROOK MANOR

180 Laurel Branch, Highlands, NC

Situated on over an acre of land with babbling brooks and interesting vistas this home affords its owner an opportunity to live in their own private resort. Professional grade Kitchen and multiple living areas with two master suites and two guest rooms in the main house plus a separate studio apartment above the garage. Home is located near Sky-Line Lodge and has no rental restrictions.

MLS 89057 **\$885,000**

CRAIG BERRY +1 828.342.1707
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Annual Patriotic Concert is July 4 at 8 p.m.

The Highlands Men's Chorus will present the annual July 4th patriotic concert this evening at 8pm at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert will consist of many favorites including "America," "This is My Country," "A Tribute to the Armed Services," "God Bless the U.S.A.," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "God Bless America," and more.

There will also be a sing-along with audience participation. The American Legion Post 370 Color Guard will present the Colors in a moving ceremony.

Highlands Men's Chorus is directed by Dr. Michael Lancaster, who serves as Director of Music/Worship at Highlands First Presbyterian Church and also as Conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus. Accompanist for the group is Susan Clearman. Also featured will be Larry Black, trumpeter; and Angie Jenkins, Organist.

Come early to get a good seat! In the event the town fireworks show is cancelled due to rain, the concert will still take place. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

HIGHLANDS HISTORIC VILLAGE



WALK THROUGH HIGHLANDS HISTORY



MAJOR EXHIBITS:

- Prince House Circa 1877
- Museum - 4,000 Artifacts
- Old Jail - 1918
- Lapham Tent House 1908

MEMORIAL WEEKEND THROUGH OCTOBER

www.highlandshistory.com

**FREE
ADMITTANCE**

524 N. 4th Street | 828-787-1050

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Summer Movies at the Playhouse Sundays 4 & 7 p.m.; Monday & Tuesday 1, 4, & 7 p.m.

• 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-Thursdays 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.

• 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., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Tuesdays through July 30

• Free Community Yoga and Gentle Movement at The Ball Field with Rachel Kinback, Certified Yoga Teacher, 500hr; 5:30-6:15p. People of all ages and ability levels are invited to meet at the Ball Field for fun, expressive, gentle Yoga and Movement. This 45 min guided practice will be inclusive, so come as you are. Packing a blanket or exercise mat and water bottle is encouraged. The baseball field site is located adjacent to the Highlands Community Building off N. 4th

St./ Hwy 106 headed toward Cashiers. Restrooms will be available on site.

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.

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.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at

Rec Park.

Thursdays

• Through July 18, The Church of the Incarnation Grief Support Group Thursdays, from 4 - 5:30. The group will not meet on July 4th. The purpose of the group is to offer support for those suffering from life transitions, such as terminal illness, death of family or close friend, miscarriage, and relationship or job loss.

• 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

• 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 from 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.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• 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 fascinating 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., July 4

• 10a Boy Scouts build and launch Bottle Rockets Town Ball Field; 11a Traditional Field Games Town Ball Field; 12p MAMA Medical Helicopter Town Ball Field Weather Permitting, and it is not on a call; 11a-2p Hot Dog fundraiser by the Rotary Club of Highlands Town Ball Field; 2p Duck Derby Rotary on Mill Creek; 6-8p Concert at Founders Park (No Alcohol Allowed); 9p or dark Annual 4th of July Fireworks.

• The Highlands Men's Chorus annual patriotic concert at 8pm on Thursday at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert will consist of many favorite patriotic songs. There will also be a sing-along with audience participation. The American Legion Post 370 Color Guard will present the Colors. If the town fireworks show is cancelled due to rain, the concert will still take place. AND it will be over before the fireworks. Main and Fifth Streets. Come early to get a good seat!

Fri., -Sun, July 5-7

• At Acorns, a French Cicada/Erin Gray Trunk Show. 10a to 5p.

Fri. July 5

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Foxfire Boys.

Sat. & Sun., July 6-7

• At The Bascom, a book signing with author of the "Magnolia Bayou Cookbook," Matt Terrell

Sat., July 6

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on

Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. Get Right Band

Tues., July 9

• At the Nature Center. Free. Salamander Meander 9-10p. Go on a nighttime search for our slimy salamander friends!

• "A Conversation on Racism" sponsored by The Appalachian Humanist Group let by Jay Wamsted. 10:30-11:30 a.m. in The Hudson Library Meeting Room. Main Street. Highlands.

Mon., July 10

• At The Bascom, Moulthrop Meet and Greet from 10a to noon. It's free.

• The Interlude Concert Series gets underway at 2pm with a special presentation of "Ransom Notes," featuring siblings Kate Ransom, Violin; and William Ransom, Piano. Co-sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Music Festival and First Presbyterian Church, the concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church. There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual- come as you are.

July 11-27

• At the Playhouse, "Oklahoma For ticket call 828-526-2695 or go to highlandsplayhouse.org.

Thurs., July 11-13

• A Gem Show at Jannie Bean Fine Custom Jewelry at 152 S. 2nd Street. 10:30a to 4:30p.

Thurs., July 11

• Zahner Lecture Series "Carnivorous Plants of the Highlands Plateau" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

Fri. July 12

• At The Bascom, garden themed Artist Talk featuring Rosemary Stiefel. Join us as Rosemary discusses working with celebrated gardener, Ryan Gainey

From 10-11a in The Bascom Library

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Johnny Webb Band



**Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning • Facials
Massages • Eyelash Extensions
Walk-ins Welcome!**

Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Villardo

Stylists: Heahter Escandon

Maggie Barden, Bri Field, Desiray Schmitt
and Cali Smolarsky

Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt

Massage Therapist: Brenda Lopez

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BREAKFAST * LUNCH * DINNER * GRILL
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MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

BREAKFAST

Daily until 11:00

Made-to-order with cage-free eggs, freshly-made Belgian waffles and French toast, bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins and croissants. Espresso bar featuring in-house roasted coffee and the best Mimosas around!

LUNCH & DINNER

Grill - daily 11:00 until close

Freshly-ground Angus brisket burgers, hand-cut fries, specialty salads and sandwiches, and while-they-last daily features. Daily hot bars include Asian, Mexican, and more!

Wood-fired pizza oven - daily 11:00 until close

Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from scratch, Fresh Grande cheese, basil, crushed tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage and pancetta.

Gluten-free crust available!

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11:30- 3:30

Menu may include skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, with soup & salad bar available.

WINE MARKET & CRAFT BEER

A comprehensive selection of wine with great prices and a knowledgeable staff. Wine and craft beer by-the-glass and cocktails available. Enjoy a drink while shopping!

BAKERY

Full-service scratch bakery with Artisan breads and pastries and doughnuts, made fresh daily. Custom cakes to chocolate chip cookies - something for everyone.

SPECIALTY CHEESES

Artisan and domestic cheeses, tapenades, olives, our house-made crackers, and other specialty food items...

And Much More

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.MFGRO.COM

STORE OPENS MONDAY - SATURDAY AT 7AM & SUNDAY AT 8AM
Corner of Fifth & Main, Highlands NC • 828.526.2400

...RANGER from page 11

planning and implementation and roads on a 1-million-acre district with numerous islands around the Prince of Wales Island.

- 1983-87: Timber Management Assistant in Wise, Va. on the Clinch Ranger District in charge of timber, roads, wildlife, special uses, right-of-ways and facilities.

- 1987-1990: District Recreation staff person in charge of managing all trails, campgrounds, fire manage-

ment, and law enforcement

- 1990-present: Moved to Franklin N.C. and has been District Ranger ever since -- almost 29 years.

Wilkins said he'll miss caring for the land and serving people as a steward of the people's forest.

"I have enjoyed working with and for my fellow FS employees," he said. "After 29 years here and on the forest, they are my date, time, family, and will miss them. I have had a tremendous time working with the vast amount of volunteers and partners we have. We have eight volunteer trail

groups and 100 recreation special use permits for special events and outfitting and guiding. All those businesses are folks we have both a contracts and partnerships with as they provide recreation opportunities that a segment of the public requires in their forest. I have also enjoyed working with a vast array of loggers and timber purchasers who take a very serious approach to good stewardship as they thin and regenerate the forest through commercial timber sales.

• See RANGER page 25

BRYSON'S CORNER CELEBRATION

CORNER OF 4TH & MAIN

7/5/19 4-6PM

ART, FOOD, & FASHION

PARTICIPATING IN THIS

FREE EVENT:

SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

HIGHLANDS KIDS

ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING

CHARLESTON SHOE COMPANY

HELP US KICK OFF THE 2019 SEASON
RIGHT, AND ENJOY SELECT DISCOUNTS

IN ADDITION TO THESE BUSINESSES,
BRYSON'S FOOD STORE WILL HAVE A
WINE TASTING



Gorgeous views with end of the cul-de-sac privacy, this 3 bedrooms 3 baths home is the perfect mix of rustic and elegance. 2 fireplaces. Furniture available separately. Offered for \$974,900. Contact Andrea Gabbard 828-200-6742.



Andrea Gabbard
c 828.200.6742 o 828.526.8300
andrea.gabbard@sothbysrealty.com

Highlands | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Andrea is one of the top 25
Real Estate Brokers in 2018.

Highlands Sotheby's International
Realty is the top selling firm in
Highlands since 2013 as per
HCMLS Navica.



Come join the excitement
as we celebrate our 38th Season
of World Class Music and
Internationally Known Artists
at the

Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

July 5 - August 11, 2019

www.h-cmusicfestival.org
hccmfnc@gmail.com

(828) 526-9060





OPEN HOUSE

590 Chattooga Ridge Trl, Unit B

Wednesday - July 3, 2019 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Brokers and Public Welcome!

A Modern Touch with Amazing Mountain Views!

Offered for \$1,225,000. MLS 91210

Darlene Conley, Broker



Behind the Gates of Old Edwards Club! Straight Walk In, open concept condo with long layered mountain views, located inside the gates of Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove. Two master suites, one on main and one on lower level, screened porch with fireplace with wonderful view of Shortoff Mountain.

Offered for \$575,000. MLS 91036

Darlene Conley, Broker



Entertain with a View! Cozy inviting Koenig built timber frame style. Makes a wonderful mountain retreat home for you and your guests. Master on the main, 3 additional en suite guest rooms on the terrace level, media room, wine cellar and wet bar. Plenty of outdoor living, two screened porches, two covered decks and one sun deck.

Offered for \$1,595,000. MLS 91216

Darlene Conley, Broker



12 IN TOWN Acres! This gated custom home was built with attention to detail. From the beautiful heart pine flooring & matching window accents to the three fireplaces & deck overlooking your own private forest, this home boasts a true mountain feel! The open living area features a floor to ceiling fireplace & soaring cathedral ceilings. A massive upstairs bonus room is for entertaining!

Offered for \$1,265,500. MLS 88484

Ryan Bears, Broker



Lovely and majestic home in desirable Wildcat Cliffs Country Club with mountain views. Quality construction throughout with an open floor plan with spacious great room, 2 dining areas, wet bar, updated kitchen & back to back fireplaces. The master wing is private. Enjoy the view from a large covered porch as you watch the colors change as the sun sets.

Offered for \$1,250,000. MLS 91197

Pat Allen/Julie Osborn, Brokers



From the charm of the outside to the gleaming hardwood floors & wooden accents that grace the open floor plan you are beckoned to sit & relax. Lots of windows allow the mountain views as clouds change their shapes & expose the majesty of the mountain before you. The spacious screened porch is perfect for morning coffee as songbirds help awaken you or enjoy afternoon wine as you let cares drift away!

Offered for \$695,000. MLS 91302

Pat Allen/Julie Osborn, Brokers



Julie Osborn,
SFR, SRES, MBA
Broker



Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP



Office: 828-526-8784 | Cell: 828-200-9179

295 Dillard Road, Highlands

pat@patallenrealtygroup.com | julie@patallenrealtygroup.com

PatAllenRealtyGroup.com



Pat Allen,
SFR, CLHMS
Broker-in-Charge

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness'... for all.

Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
Methodist Church

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

This week we celebrate our nation's independence. With the signing of the Declaration of Independence 243 years ago on July 4th, 1776 our forefathers laid claim to a freedom that they could not yet fully see. There would still be a bloody war to be fought. Many battles lay ahead. Foreign rule would not loosen its grip, nor relinquish its power without a fight. Oppressors do not willingly yield to the oppressed. Power is seductive and, once acquired, is reluctantly surrendered.

We mark the Fourth of July in many festive ways. Here in Highlands, there are a number of opportunities and events available for us all to have fun with our friends and family. From sack races at the ball field to the Rotary Club of Highlands' annual Duck Derby to the brilliant fireworks display, we will join together to celebrate our nation's birthday.

Our nation was founded on the high ideals of equality and freedom for all. And though history bears a painful reminder that we have not always lived up to those high ideals, and we cannot deny that the self-evident truths proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence remain an unrealized dream for many, perhaps these days of celebration can serve to remind us all of the life-giving principles of freedom and equality that serve as the foundation, and lie at the very heart, of our nation's heritage and identity.

My wife Kathy and I traveled to the Joy Performance Center in Kings Mountain, NC this past weekend to see "Liberty Mountain," a dramatic stage production that tells the story of the pivotal Revolutionary War battle for Kings Mountain. Carefully researched and written for the stage by Robert Inman, the play depicts the lives of settlers who came to America seeking the freedom to live, worship and raise their families as they chose. The production culminates in a representation of the bloody one-hour battle on Kings Mountain, when British Major Patrick Ferguson's Loyalist militia was defeated by Patriot militia units from Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. Many historians agree that this battle served as a turning point in the Revolution. (By the way, in case you're interested, the play runs through July 21st. After seeing this year's production, I highly recommend it. And I would be happy to commend it to you, even if our son Matthew wasn't playing a leading role as the Scots-Irish Presbyterian Minister, Reverend McKenzie!)

The play offered a vivid reminder of what we can so easily forget. Freedom is costly, and many have sacrificed everything in its pursuit and for its defense. And so this week,

• See SPIRITUALLY page 25

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Church in the Wildwood

Horsecove Road • 1-828-506-0125

Hymn singing Sundays through Labor Day Weekend
7-8 p.m.

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

8:30a Early Service; 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.

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

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.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: 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

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor 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

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Father Casmir - 526-2418

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor 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.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...RANGER continued from page 22

On the land side of things, Wilkins said he'll miss the challenges aimed at improving the forest.

"I enjoyed all sorts of natural resource projects that improved the forest currently and for the future," said Wilkins. "From solving erosion issues, improving fisheries, forest restoration, improving wildlife habitat, protecting rare plant sites, protecting our two wilderness areas, managing a 700-mile road system to reconstructing and constructing trails, to maintaining and

...SPIRITUALLY from page 24

in the midst of our festive celebrations, perhaps we can all take a moment to remember, to say thank you, to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for all who have gone before, and for everyone who still carries the torch of freedom into dark and dangerous places.

And maybe our prayers of gratitude can serve to renew our commitment to be our best selves, to live fully into the principles and high ideals upon which America was founded. And with the help and grace of God, may we not rest until the self-evident truths of equality and freedom, are truly and fully realized for all.

building new developed recreation areas. Forest management is long-term thing, so we have tried to both conserve and preserve where appropriate."

Wilkins said the Forest Supervisor will designate an Acting District Ranger. The position will be advertised within the USFS and a permanent replacement will arrive sometime in the fall.

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Jay Wamsted has taught Math at Benjamin E Mays High School in southwest Atlanta for 14 years. In addition to an essay forthcoming in *Harvard Educational Review*, his work has been featured in various journals and magazines, including *Mathematics Teacher*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, and *Sojourners*. "Walls" his 2017 essay published in *Little Patuxent Review* was named a Notable Essay for this year's *Best American Essays*. He can be found online at *The Southeast review*, *Under the Sun*, and the TEDx YOUTUBE channel, where you can watch his 2017 talk "Eating the Elephant: Ending Racism & the Magic of Trust." He and his wife have four young children, and he rides his bicycle to and from work just about every day.

...INCARNATION continued from page 1



Architect rendition of renovated exterior of Church of the Incarnation.

sacrament and God's glory through beauty."

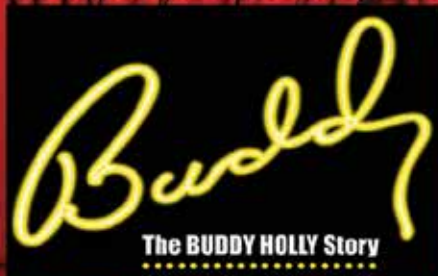
The main sanctuary currently seats 200, and after the project's completion will seat

260. The old chapel (facing 5th Street) seats 100 and will remain the only part of the building untouched by construction. In fact, Bentley said the aim is to spread the look of the chapel throughout the church.

Incarnation has hired Cram and Ferguson Architects out of Concord,

• See INCARNATION page 27

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...INCARNATION continued from page 26

Mass. who Bentley said have extensive experience with these types of projects.

"We feel good because we're working with some of the best liturgical architects in the country," he said. "We can't change the footprint of the church so we're using our space to the fullest."

The project costs \$6M in total and Incarnation has already raised \$3M. Along with the expanded sanctuary, Incarnation plans to add a spire on the Main Street side of the building.

"The spire will balance out the bell tower and will be a beacon of God's sanctuary of welcome," said Bentley. "After presenting the plans to parishioners there was an overwhelmingly positive response. To have that kind of unity is incredible."

The theme of the project is to illuminate, invite, and inspire. Bentley said the interior of the main sanctuary will incorporate beauty, color, warmth, and energy.

Assistant Rector Kellan Day gave her first sermon at Incarnation on Sunday and is excited to be a part of this project.

"I think the energy this place has and the plan's emphasis on beauty, not just making the building bigger, was really compelling," said Rev. Day.

Bentley said Cram and Ferguson are in the process of coming up with detailed architectural drawings and Incarnation will be going through the permit process during the campaign efforts to raise the additional \$3M.

— Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News



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POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

Highlands Police entries from June 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 13

- At 6:45 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hickory Street.

June 18

- At 4:54 p.m., officers were informed of a felony larceny, with the taking of various valuable items from a locked dress and safe valued at more than \$6,000 and assault on a female at a residence on Paul Walden Road.

- At 6:24 p.m., Michael Trevor Reese, 26, of Highlands, was arrested for assault on a female, felony larceny and false report to police. He was issued at \$7,500 secured bond. His trial date was June 26.

June 20

- At 11:14 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

June 22

- At 10:44 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on in the 200 Main parking lot.

June 24

- At 7:58 p.m., officers responded to a report of affray, simple assault and theft from a motor vehicle parked at 4th Street Market.

June 25

- At 11:10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Poplar Street.

- At 12:13 p.m., officers responded to two-vehicle accident on Holt Knob Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 15.

June 15

- At 11:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

June 16

- At 1 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Wyanoak Drive.

June 17

- At 12:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Main Street.

June 18

- At 8:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a mutual aid call from Cashier FD but it was cancelled en route.

- At 4:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Paul Walden Road.

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