

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 25

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: [HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com)

Thursday, June 20, 2019

## A 'green' link from Highlands to Cashiers

A Greenway connecting Highlands and Cashiers is a lofty concept but there are folks who think it's worth a try.

In recent weeks, Mayor Pat Taylor has met with various mem-

bers of the communities to discuss the feasibility of connecting Highlands and Cashiers with a greenway – similar to the way the Highlands Greenway connects areas of Highlands.

As it turns out, with the Blue-Zones region project underway, a hiking trail to Cashiers would fit right in. Since at least 16,000 people need to be involved the Blue-

• See **GREEN** page 17

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## Hurricanes out-swim Jackson Cty Swim Team

Highlands Hurricanes Out Swim Jackson County Swim Team at Home

The Highlands Hurricanes were joined by the Jackson County Swim Team on Thursday, June 13 at the Highlands Rec Park pool. The Hurricanes scored 726 to JCST's 195.

The Hurricanes set 55 Personal Records (PRs), 3 Team Records, 2 Pool Records and 1 Mountain Swim League (MSL) Record.

The Hurricanes were led by Jelehna McKim who scored 28 pts., won 4 events and had 1 team record. Matti Cohen, Dasha Halldin, and Junior Olympians Chase Kenter and Layla Babac all scored 27 pts. and won 5 events. Cohen had 3 PR's, 1 Team record and 1 pool record. Halldin had a PR, Babac had a PR and a Team Record, while Kenter set a Pool Record and another MSL Record.

• See **HURRICANES** page 16



The site of the soon-to-be new HF&R Dept. at 149 Franklin Road.

– Photo by Brian O'Shea

## Woodruff comes through for fire dept.

Jane Woodruff has done it again.

Thanks to her years of philanthropic work Highlands has a civic building at the Rec Park, a hospital and a post office. Now Highlands

is about to get a new, expanded fire department and training facility on the 2.48 acres Woodruff had for sale at 149 Franklin Road – the old deVille property,

Times have changed for the

Highlands Fire & Rescue Department. There is a need for 24/7 staffing, compliance with new regulations concerning safety and space requirements and the need

• See **WOODRUFF** page 17

## County and towns to get Airbnb room tax proceeds

Like homeowners, Macon County stands to profit from Airbnb's success.

Over a 19-month period, Macon County has collected \$178,000 in occupancy taxes paid by Airbnb, Inc. on behalf of homeowners who have rented their property from August 2015 to April 2019.

Airbnb, Inc. is an online marketplace and hospitality service brokerage company which members use to arrange or offer lodging and tourism experiences. Acting as a broker, the company receives commissions from each booking. As with other lodging establishments, the company charges and pays occupancy taxes on each nights' stay to the county.

Occupancy taxes are used in the district that they were incurred; money generated in Highlands is used in the Highlands district and likewise the same in

• See **AIRBNB** page 15

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Budget, zoning, fees and land for new FD

The Highlands Town Board meets tonight at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field. Like in the past, the June meeting is one of the biggest meetings of the year.

Two public hearings are on the agenda. The first is on the proposed town budget for the coming fiscal year. After the hearing the budget will get final approval and go into place July 1.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

The proposed budget contains substantial funding for road paving projects and a waterline replacement. Folks ask me when various projects will get underway, especially paving projects. After the budget is approved, staff will finalize contracts and call for bids. It takes anywhere from several weeks to months for these projects to begin.

Another part of the new budget involves a slight increase water and sewer rates. A board committee will recommend raising the minimum water and sewer fees by one dollar. Coupled with that increase will be an increase of the water usage

amount for the minimum fee. That usage amount will double to 5,000 gallons per month. Also, there will be a slight, graduated increase in rates for customers that exceed the basic usage rate.

The budget keeps property tax rate at current levels, but the fire tax will increase 2 cents per \$100 of property tax evaluation. The increase will go toward the purchase of the property and the construction of the new fire station on US 64 across from the

post office. The increase will also be used to move toward 24/7 staffing of the department. How will the old fire house be used once the new one is completed remains to be determined. The good news is that the town will have options in addressing future needs.

The second hearing at the meeting will be to modify the Unified Development Ordinance in the areas of fencing, walls and habitable stories in non-residential districts. These changes are intended to clarify existing parts of the ordinances. The town staff continually reviews parts of the UDO as situations occur in order to insure ordinance language is clear and unambiguous.

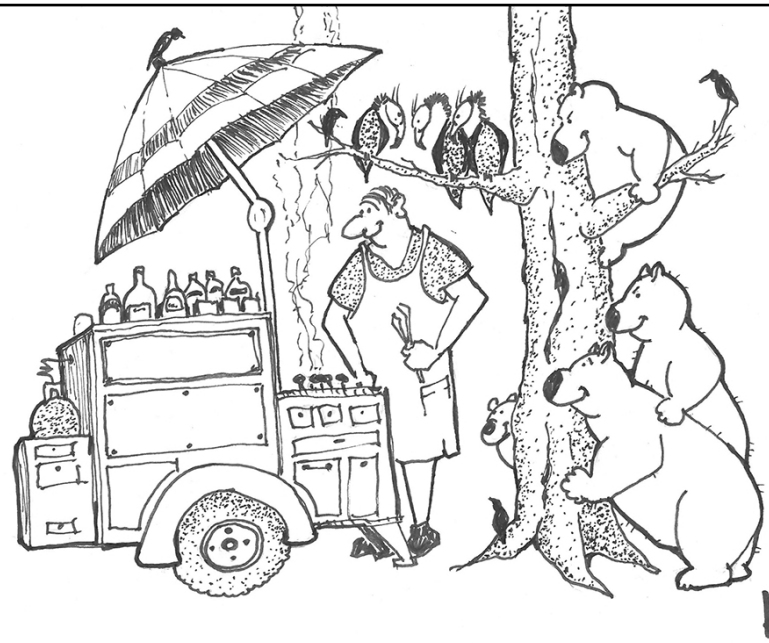
The board will also hear requests for end of the year budget amendments. One amendment will be to appropriate \$150,000 as earnest money for purchasing land for the new fire station.

A major agenda item will be the traffic schedule amendment. The public safety committee has developed a plan to change speed limits on several town roads, especially in residential areas that are narrow and unmarked. These changes come from a request at the May meeting to lower the speed limit on Hickory Hill Road.

I will be making a presentation and requesting that the public works committee review and recommend changes to Chapter 12 of the Ordinance Code concerning trash collection. We have made no changes in this area since 1982. It is time to upgrade the way trash is collected, especially in the context of moving toward becoming a BearWise community.

See everyone tonight.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



Cliff would soon learn his business plan was faulty.

## • LETTERS •

### Friendly, helpful Highlands

Dear Editor,

Being a flat lander from Mississippi, my wife and I have fallen in love with Highlands and the surrounding area. Yesterday as I was backing down the wrong road to a friends house, just off of Bowery Road, I backed into a ditch and became immobile. No less than seven different cars/truck drivers offered their assistance as they stopped to help.

A young lady went home to get a tow strap and in a mater of minutes, I was back up on the road.

The spirit and generosity of the Highlanders was well appreciated and shall not be forgotten. Yet more reasons why we keep coming back to this special place.

Mike & Ann Marsh  
Brandon, Mississippi

• See LETTERS page 8

## • WEATHER •

	Friday 6/21		Saturday 6/22		Sunday 6/23	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	80 F	61 F	79 F	60 F	78 F	61 F
RealFeel	88 F	63 F	85 F	70 F	86 F	68 F
Winds	5 g 8	4 g 5	5 g 7	4 g 6	5 g 8	4 g 6
T-Storms	24%	24%	90%	24%	60%	24%
Rainfall	0	0	0.15	0	0.25	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

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### Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.





Photos shown are of another Old Edwards Club project, Cottages on 5th, and are representational of what will be offered at Cottages on 4th



# COTTAGES ON 4TH

## ELEVATED LIVING IN HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA



Another great community from Old Edwards Hospitality! Located in-town, an easy walk to all that Highlands has to offer, this property is just over three acres; six homes will be constructed, each on a half acre lot. The community will be gated and heavily landscaped and include a common area with a pavilion and small pond. John Lupoli, the renowned Highlands builder, will build them so the quality will be second to none! There are two floor plans — a one level and a two-story, both with three bedrooms and three-and-a-half baths. The beautiful finishes will include:

- 12 foot ceilings in the great room with wood beams and high baseboards
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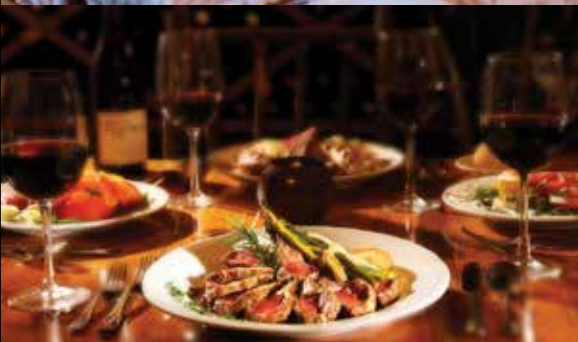
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# • HIGHLANDS AREA DINING •

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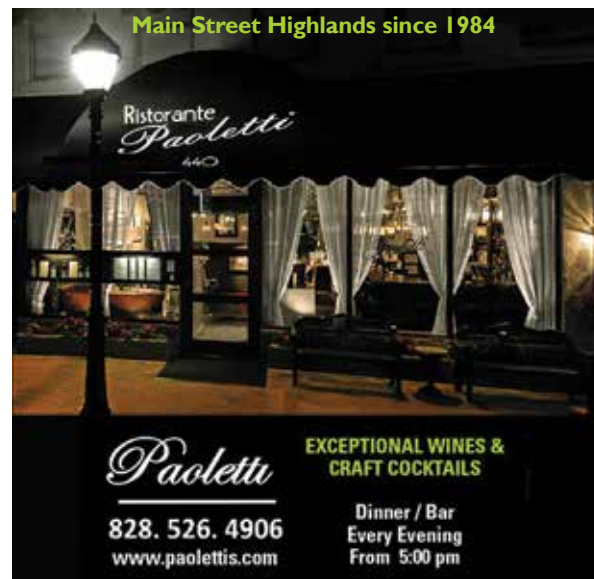
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**NEW ON MARKET:** This historic Highlands CC golf cottage combines a classic mountain experience with all the modern conveniences. The large dining room features window and doors that open to both sides of the house, with adjoining deck overlooking the golf course. The owner's bedroom is ensuite with den, bath with double vanity, jetted soaking tub, steam shower, double walk-in closets, heated slate floor, and heated towel rack. Owner is a NC real estate licensee.

**MLS# 91220 | Offered for \$1,925,000**



**NEW ON MARKET:** Sitting on just over 4 acres, large and elegant rooms abound this mini estate and surround you with exquisite finishes including hand-carved wood trim throughout. The great room of this stunning residence is graced by soaring ceilings and windows to take in the sweeping mountain and golf course views. A floor-to-ceiling stacked stone fireplace opens to both the great room and the kitchen. Located in Heatherstone Tops in Sky Valley, GA.

**MLS# 91136 | Offered for \$1,699,000**

## NEW on MARKET & PRICE CHANGES!

**PRICE CHANGE:** You'll love the babbling sound of the water feature that flows through the stone driveway and is visible from the kitchen window. This 4 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath home has spectacular views of a range of 30 mountains, including Satulah, Little Bear Pen, and Shortoff, as well as overlooking Highlands. This home is located in the exclusive gated community of Ravenel, which is walking distance to downtown Highlands.

**MLS# 90266 | Was \$ 3,057,000 NOW Offered for \$2,997,000**



**PRICE CHANGE:** This lovely home features lots of natural wood and re-finished floors. With three bedrooms and two and one-half baths on the main level, it also features a garage, workshop, and additional room downstairs. The owners have made great improvements, including a new deck, retaining wall, new paint, encapsulated crawl space, appliances, and the price includes furnishings with only a couple of exceptions. Lovely back yard and nice patio. Don't wait!

**MLS# 88950 | Was \$399,000 NOW Offered for \$379,000**



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**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** One of the best locations inside the gates of Highlands Falls Country Club, this one level home not only backs up to the National Forest land for complete privacy but makes for an easy walk to the Swim and Tennis Center or to the clubhouse. The great room is light and bright and opens to the kitchen and the large covered and screened porch. The master suite is oversized and has two walk-in closets and "his and hers" baths.

**MLS# 90917 | Offered for \$597,000**



**HIGHLANDS** Totally renovated from inside out, this charming cottage offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths all on the main floor. Drive into the garage and walk into the laundry area, then into the new kitchen with the latest appliances. Master bedroom and bath sit at one end and the two other rooms and bath are on the other side of house. It has an attached two car garage with a small workshop area. The home is offered totally furnished, turnkey and ready to move into.

**MLS# 90683 | Offered for \$595,000**

**HIGHLANDS** This 3BR/3BA old Highlands home has hardwood floors and pine paneling. Attached to the home (no entrance from home) is 800 square feet of office/retail space. In the rear of the property is a one-bedroom apartment over a 2-car garage. House has two master suites with baths, and is all on one level, walk to town. Plenty of parking. Many options for residential/commercial. Zone B-4, light commercial. Owner financing to qualified buyer. OWNER/BROKER

**MLS# 90846 | Offered for \$589,000**



**WILDWOOD MOUNTAIN** You must see this beautiful, completely renovated home which offers a custom kitchen with SS appliances, breakfast nook and separate formal dining room. Handsome hardwood floors throughout and a vaulted wood ceiling in the living room with a cozy stone wood-burning fireplace add to the appeal. The master bedroom and 2 guest bedrooms are all on the main floor. Located in an ideal setting between Highlands and Cashiers.

**MLS# 90566 | Offered for \$585,000**



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## ...LETTERS from page 2

### Speeders in the Blue Zone

Dear Editor

My hat is off to the committee who came together to create a Blue Zone up here on the plateau. Too bad our population is too small for that designation; but a mini Blue Zone would be a lofty aim for us. Imagine having an entire population of healthy, trim and athletic citizens.

Another effort by our town leaders is decreasing speed limits coming into town and on some unmarked side roads. As a frequent walker in town I am anticipating this reduction as a positive move. I have not seen anyone stopped for speeding in quite a while but there are a bunch of drivers who regard the limits as a mere suggestion. The crosswalk in front of Town Hall needs repainting for starters. It is hard to stop for a pedestrian if you have just put your pedal to the metal. The wheelchair ramp at the post office is rather dangerous. If someone in a chair actually rolls down that ramp he or she shoots right into the Dillard Road — a place where Atlanta drivers are still at highway speeds. I have often wondered if cars are allowed to share the pedestrian crosswalk with walkers crossing with the proper signal. It is a little nerve wracking when someone is driving over my heels as I cross.

In closing, it seems to me, that if you are a blue zone wannabe-- meaning you have been on a vegan diet all week, spent an hour working out and have gotten a good night's sleep, you are to be congratulated. However, all those good habits are not going to contribute to living a long and healthy life if you get squashed in a crosswalk.

**Glenda Bell  
Highlands**

### — An Open Letter —

Dear County Manager Roland & Board of County Commissioners.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of public education in our county. We truly believe that each of you understand that our children are our future.

Thank you for your willingness to support an educa-

• See LETTERS page 11

## YOGA HIGHLANDS

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# • THE INK PENN •

## Remembering Dr. Seuss

I have fond memories of reading my Dr. Seuss books and still have three titles on my bookshelf. The sing-song verses and the bold illustrations made me laugh. I also have a vague memory of Melania Trump being chastised by a librarian for sending a box of books containing Dr. Seuss titles to a school in Massachusetts in celebration of National Read a Book Day.



**Kathy Manos Penn**

The librarian noted: "Dr. Seuss is a bit of a cliché, a tired and worn ambassador for children's literature ... Dr. Seuss's illustrations are steeped in racist propaganda, caricatures, and harmful stereotypes." This memory was resurrected for me when I read a Wall Street Journal book review of a new biography "Becoming Dr. Seuss." The reviewer notes that despite this negative sentiment, Dr. Seuss books "occupied 14 of the 25 top slots in Publisher's Weekly's list of best-selling children's picture books" in March of this year.

Before he became the beloved Dr. Seuss, many of Theodore Geisel's political cartoons during WWII attacked "racism, bigotry, and anti-Semitism" but at the same time portrayed Japanese Americans as a danger to America. And, as his biographer points out, Geisel's early children's books, before "The Cat in the Hat," contained ethnic and racial caricatures that would be seen as horrifying today.

One researcher "conducted a critical race analysis of 50 children's books by Seuss and found that 98 percent of the human characters were white, and only two percent were people of color." Yet another determined that the Cat in the Hat has its "roots in blackface minstrelsy."

Perhaps I cannot see the harm in his later books because I've never seen the earlier works. The hoopla around rethinking Dr. Seuss prompted me to look at my books, "The Cat in the Hat," "The Cat in the Hat Comes Back," and "One fish red fish blue fish." I smiled as I flipped through them searching in vain for the "racist propaganda, caricatures, and harmful stereotypes" pointed out by others. My inability to see them may be an indicator that I'm not sufficiently woke.

I had a sudden flash of Rosie

O'Donnell playing The Cat in the Hat in "Seussical" on Broadway in 2000 and Jim Carrey playing the Grinch in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" the same year. I could not, however, unearth any condemnation of either actor for starring in these shows. Further research revealed that "Seussical" is still being produced by theatre companies and schools despite the shortcomings of its namesake. How is it that we can condemn the books but not the plays and movies based on them?

Of course, Dr. Seuss is in good company these days, as people call for removing the names of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Woodrow Wilson from buildings and institutions across America because of their beliefs and behaviors hundreds of years ago despite their contributions to our nation. Singer Kate Smith's rendition of "God Bless America" has similarly been banished by the New York Yankees and The Philadelphia Flyers because she recorded songs with racial content in the 30s. To borrow a term from George Orwell's "1984," these historical icons are being dumped down the memory hole, "in effect, re-writing all of history to match the often-changing" world we live in.

Perhaps Dr. Seuss said it best: "Humor is a funny thing. You pick something out of the air. If the air changes, It's not funny anymore." My air hasn't changed. I cherish the memories of sitting with my mom, laughing, as I read his books aloud. I choose to remember the magic he brought into my life.

Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/)

• Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/)

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*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.

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

## New home innovations

A true innovation for the home should either improve on an existing product or fulfill a need we didn't know we had. As I was flipping through the magazine "This Old House," the following article regarding "Inspired Inventions" caught my eye. The following are items that might be of interest to homeowners on the Plateau:



**Jody Lovell • 828-526-4104**  
highlandssothebysrealty.com

ity by Leviton: Finally, an electrical panel for the 21st century. It has LED-lit circuit breakers that show you what is working, what is tripped, and whether the trip was a ground fault or an arc fault. It will send alerts to your smart device, and let you track power usage - and cost - for your whole house or individual circuits.

Did you forget to turn off the oven? Use your phone to trip its circuit remotely.

There are 20 new inventions in this article. These are just a few that seem particularly relevant to our area.

As far as state of the real estate market so far this year, the universal word which is always true to describe real estate applies today: Unbelievable!

The market in sales volume and unit sales is down over 20% on the Multiple Listing Service, but every broker you know is unbelievably busy! The challenge is that we have plenty of buyers who cannot find what they are looking for: new, light, bright and white. All of the rustic, brown homes have fallen out of favor with the new "modern mountain" trend. As a Seller, you must decide to renovate or drop your price to make it attractive for a buyer to remodel and take on a project. I am afraid that is the way to get your home sold in this market.

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, a top producing firm for 19 years and the top selling firm in Highlands since 2013. With over 36 brokers in three offices spanning the Plateau, they have you covered!! Call them today with all of your real estate needs at 828.526.4104.

1. Perennial Roof Tile: Daltile invented a porcelain roof tile that resembles slate, clay or wood-shingle roofing that can be used anywhere in the country. It has a lifetime warranty and has life expectancy of 75 years!

2. Phyn Plus Smart Water Assistant and Shutoff: Unlike the water cop which is just on or off, this sophisticated system utilizes an ultrasonic sensor that detects leaks and freezing piper and notifies your smartphone while stopping a leak in 60 seconds.

3. Corkoleum by We Cork: From the bark that plugs wine bottles comes this cushiony, waterproof flooring that once glued down is coated with wood-floor finish and is warranted to last 20 years.

4. Optim-R Vacuum Insulate Panel by Kingspan Insulation: This foil-wrapped insulation achieves an astounding R-32 per inch-about 10 times the R-value of fiberglass insulation.

5. ComfortSeal Interior Window by Larson: These aluminum-framed windows form such a tight seal against an existing window's jambs and stool, they can cut air filtration by 75% and outdoor noise by one-half.

6. Load Center with Wi-Fi Connectiv-

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



## Greenway 'Trailworker of the Year'

Highlands Plateau Greenway President Ran Shaffner presents Jim Chance with the Trail Worker of the Year Award at its June 15th Annual Meeting. New officers elected to the Greenway Board were Sonya Carpenter, President; Hillrie Quin, Vice-President; Kevin Gates, Secretary; and Kathy Smith, Treasurer.

Left is Ran Shaffner with Jim Chance.



# •WORD MATTER•

## Twinkle, Twinkle Little ... Beetles?



**Bud Katz**

The following public service announcement comes compliments of Mother Nature.

A few weeks ago, my darling wife informed me that she had won the lottery.

Since we don't typically buy lottery tickets, I couldn't imagine what she was talking about.

Turns out she'd entered the annual lottery for an opportunity to drive to the glorious Great Smoky Mountain National Park, get a hotel room, stand in line with people from all over America, the world, even, await a seat on a Gatlinburg Trolley with backpacks filled with bottled water, lawn chairs in hand, slather ourselves in bug spray, pray for a rain-free night in order for fireflies doing what fireflies do.

She received notice we had won the chance to sit in the woods with a thousand of our fellow humans until dozens, or hundreds, or thousands of blinking fireflies decided to – well -- mate. That's what she won.

It turns out she was one of approximately 1,800 from a field of 28,000 entrants to score this opportunity.

## ...LETTERS from page 8

tion that will prepare our students to become the employees needed by businesses in Macon County and throughout the world. Macon County students will leave our high schools with a better understanding of the technology and skills necessary to be successful in any career path. By continuing to provide resources needed for renovation and maintenance, you ensure that our children and staff are able to learn and work in safe, modern facilities.

As a result of your support, our school system is inspired to work even harder for the community that we love. Again, thank you very much for your support of Macon County Schools.

When we invest in students, we are investing in our greatest asset!

Dr. Chris Baldwin  
Macon County Schools Superintendent

## BlueZones kickoff deemed a success

Dear Editor,

This letter is to the communities of Western North Carolina.

Two hundred people from Cashiers, Franklin, Highlands, Sylva and Macon and Jackson counties attended the BlueZones Kickoff Presentation on Monday, June 10. As chair of the organizing committee, I want to thank everyone who attended this gathering of communities in Western North Carolina.

It is not hard to imagine a BlueZones Region here in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. The creation of a BlueZones region consisting of the communities cited above has the potential to transform the health, and overall vitality of these communities in this region. The program supports efforts to foster individual longevity and engagement.

Tony Buettner, the keynote speaker at the kickoff, emphasized that BlueZones Communities are being created across the country. When communities buy into actualizing the nine points of the BlueZones program, positive, measurable results related to health and wellness of the overall population occur.

The next step in the process will be for the organizing committee to process the data

No big deal, you say? WRONG! It's a REALLY big deal.

We invited a couple of friends to go with. They were excited. We were excited.

The day of, was a question mark; the National Weather Service indicated a 50% chance of rain. Here's the thing, though. The park doesn't cancel the syn-

chronous firefly light show due to rain because the fireflies don't cancel. They do their thing rain or shine. Imagine that.

After checking in at our hotel we loaded our backpacks with water and carried our lawn chairs to the check-in point at the Sugarlands Visitors Center. We showed our bona fides, parked, and walked to a line of nearly 1,000 other hardy souls all buzzing and chatting about what was to be. Many were calling for a clear, cool, dry night.

Cool? No. Muggy? Yes. Clear? Depends on your definition. Dry? As it happened, YES!

We were provided special red-light flashlights to help us navigate the path from the viewing area back to the drop-off point when either we or the fireflies were done.

Our trolley drove to Elkmont, turned onto Little River Road and arrived at our destination. We chose our vantage point. My overly analytical mind had me wondering if this was worth the effort.

Short answer: it was. It definitely was.

We patiently waited just over an hour for the fireflies (they're actually beetles, we learned) to begin their annual mating ritual. That's right; we were voyeurs, watching a bunch of Photinus Carolinus fulfill their reproductive process. We didn't get to watch the actual ... thing; that would have been creepy.

That said, the show we did see was, in a word, awesome.

We couldn't discern how many of these winged beetles blinked six times and then, magically, mysteriously, all went dark at the same moment. That was the synchronous part. For almost 45 minutes we were literally surrounded by what had to be thousands of winking, blinking fireflies, all winking and blinking and then going dark. Words don't do justice to the amazing, silent, visual effect of nature, in action, doing what nature does.

Despite having repeatedly been told not to do so, a couple of yahoos fired up bright, white light from flashlights or mobile devices. This literally scared the fireflies and had the effect of dimming the show for the rest of us. They were roundly shamed by those who chose to follow the park's protocols. We rule-following humans – as well as the fireflies themselves – appreciated it when the scene returned to the near-total darkness required for us to watch this wonderful spectacle.

Firefly mating season is now officially over but rest assured the show will return next year and, hopefully, every year from

now on.

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park is a natural treasure and is located about an hour and a half from Highlands. It's huge – over half a million acres – and is a haven for camping, hiking, fishing, nature gazing, and so much more. Especially magnificent is the eleven-mile loop of heaven known as Cades Cove. Plan a visit while you're here. You won't regret it.

Until then, remember, only about 1,800 fortunate souls each year in the spring get the opportunity to fill a car, visit the park and see the fireflies. It's a singular, magnificent moment to watch nature, in all its marvel and wonder, take its course.

Good luck!

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# • 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-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

## Monday - Saturday

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

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

Saturday from 10a to 2p.

## First Mondays

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

## Mondays

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

• 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.



## Thoughts that transform grief at CLE

Grief – it is inescapable for all of us, yet despite its inevitability, rarely are we adequately equipped to deal with the pain and emotional turmoil that follows an actual, a symbolic or an intangible psychological loss. It is also a subject that we tend to avoid talking about. Dr. Jane Williams, a gifted therapist, storyteller and author of the book “Mysterious Moments: Thoughts that transform grief” will be at the Center for Life Enrichment on Thursday, June 27. Beginning at 2:00 she will use the narratives of people who are trying to sort through the seesaw of emotions that come with the grieving process. It is very personal and at times complicated.

Dr. Williams is a clinical psychologist, retired from Wake Forest Medical School and has completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard where she trained in Medical Crisis Counseling. Although dealing with grief is a normal part of loss and bereavement, we can experience and cope with loss in different ways. Loss can bring us closer to people who are still in our lives and provide us with a unique opportunity to find out more about ourselves.

There are no rules and each person copes differently; some people will have a “mysterious moment” and experience a feeling of peace, hope or healing. Although everyone reacts to loss in different ways, we rarely are prepared to deal with the pain and emotional turmoil that result after we lose someone or something that is intrinsically valuable to us.

Please join us for this presentation on a topic that is a part of life for everyone. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 for non-members. Walk-ins are welcome. Lectures are held in the CLE lecture hall in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center, located at 348 S. 5th Street. Students can attend all \$25 lectures for FREE. For more information or to register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com).

• 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 every Tuesday, 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at the Bascom Center for the Visual Arts. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or [budandlynn@me.com](mailto: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 are welcome 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](http://www.cbchighlands.com) for class schedule.

• 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 announces that a Grief Support Group will be offered on Thursdays, from 4 - 5:30, beginning June 6 through July 18. 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- 5 pm. A different STEAM Program each week.

• 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 Thursdays

• 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.

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

## 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



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Jones.

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

## June 20-July 6

• At the Playhouse, "The Buddy Holly Musical." For ticket call 828-526-2695 or go to highland-splayhouse.org.

## Thurs., June 20

• At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Lunch with the Docs: Safe Steps: Keeping Mobile & Fit. Join Luke Stockdale, orthopedic PA, as he presents a program entitled Safe Steps: Keeping Mobile & Fit. The program will be held on Thursday from noon to 1 pm in the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 103. This free event is part of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Lunch with the Docs series. Reserve your space today. Lunch will be provided. The event is limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345.

• At CLE, Apple iPhone. Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

• At CLE, History of the Blockbuster. Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Rachel Jones Schaevitz. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

## Fri., June 21

• At CLE, Heroines of American Cinema. Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Rachel Jones Schaevitz. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Ben & Marce

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Atlanta Here We Come Dance," Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Jim Cosman from South GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. Classes will also start Sept 16th, join us. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426 or check us out on Facebook.

## Sat., June 22

• At Acorn's Trunk Show of work by original abstract artist Carolyn Goldsmith from 10a to 5p. 212 South 4th Street. 828-787-1877.

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. Troy Underwood.

## Sun., June 23

• At First Presbyterian Church, "Spirituals" performed by 15 soloists from WCU School of Music and First Presbyterian Church's Choir. Admission is free.

## Mon. - Fri., June 24-28

• The Highlands Historical Society's free Kelsey Kids summer day camp for children ages 8-11 Sign up at [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com).

## Mon., June 24

• At CLE, Inside the Homes of Pablo Picasso. Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Kaitlyn Allen. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

• Fiber Sunday at Cowee Textiles from 2-5 p.m. in room 104 at The Cowee School Art & Heritage Center located at 51 Cowee School Dr. Franklin N.C. 28734. Bring a textile project you are working on from spinning, knitting, weaving, rug hooking, baskets etc. Call or e-mail Teresa Bouchonnet at 828 349-3878 or [bouchonnet@coweetextiles.com](mailto:bouchonnet@coweetextiles.com)

## Tues., June 25

## Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show

Saturday & Sunday June 29-30 | 10am-5pm



Mountain Top Rotary invites you to shop for art and crafts created by scores of top notch artisans from the region. K-H Founders Park. Free admission. Rotary will offer Dr. John's tacos for lunch. (828) 787-2021 for info.

• At Hudson Library Maker-Tools at 2pm. Come learn about our new serger and embroidery machines. These machines are available for you to check out and use!

• At CLE, The Vanderbilts: All of Them! Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Elliot Engel. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

• At the Nature Center. Free. Night Flight. Discover the nocturnal animals who take to the skies! Learn about the fascinating world of bats, owls, and even flying squirrels, then join naturalists in the Botanical Garden to seek them out.

## Wed., June 26

• At CLE, The Tortured Genius of Edgar Allan Poe. Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Elliot Engel. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

• Macon Senior Services will host a FREE "The Road to Medicare" presentation for those as they plan their drive toward 65 or those under 65 and on Social Security Disability. It will be Wednesday, June 26 at 1pm in the Dorothy R and John L Crawford Senior Services Building at 108 Wayah Street. For more information on the Seniors' Health Insurance In-

formation Program (SHIIP), contact Karen Robbins at (828) 349-2059.

## Thurs., June 27

• At CLE, Thoughts that Transform Grief. Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Jane Williams. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

• At CLE, The Novel of the Year (2018): There, There by Tommy Orange. Time: 5:30-8:30 Cost \$40/\$50 Presenter: Brian Railsback. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 Walk-ins welcome!

## Fri., June 28

• At CLE, Gardening with Succulents. Time: 10-12:30 Cost \$30/\$40 Instructor: Lisa Dailey. To register please call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 Walk-ins welcome!

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Southern Highlands

• At The Bascom, Diane McPhail, author of "The Abolitionist's Daughter" public book reading and signing in The Bascom's Greehey Atrium 4-5p.

## Sat. June 29

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. Arnold Hill

## Sat. & Sun, June 29 & 30

• The Village Square Art & Craft Show. Top-notch artists and crafters from around the mountains. Food and music. 10a to 5p both days, rain or shine. FREE. K-H Founders Park, Pine St. Highlands. Sponsored by Mountaintop Rotary of Highlands. For info call (828) 787-2021.

## Tues., July 2

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at 7p in the Cashiers' Library large meeting room. Speaker is Michael Cheek, Asst. Regional Forester for Western NC. The program is free of charge. Questions? Call Alan McDonald.

## 'Spirituals' Concert at First Presbyterian Church



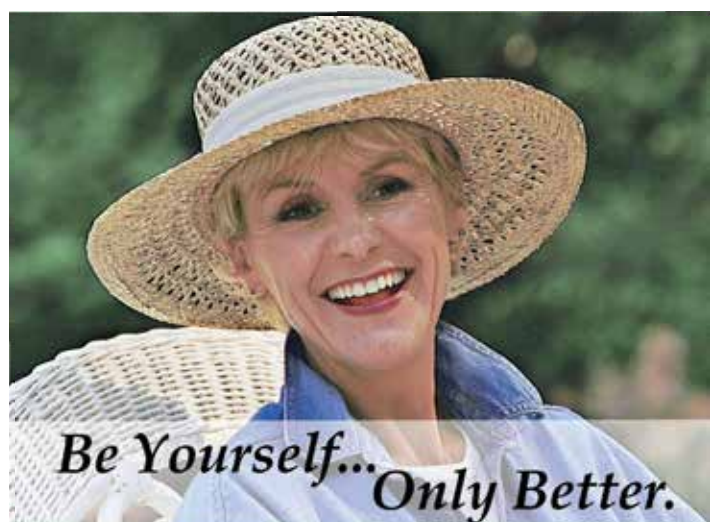
Top from left: Owen Varnadoe, Tenor; Carol Grantham, Mezzo Soprano; John Greene, Tenor; Wayne Coleman, Tenor. Bottom from left: Christine Reeder, Soprano; Wesley Walker, Baritone; Rick Trevathan, Baritone; Stell Huie, Baritone

At 4pm on Sunday, June 23, the Music Committee of Highlands First Presbyterian Church will present a Spirituals Concert. Featured will be 15 soloists from the Western Carolina University School of Music and First Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir. Admission is free.

Included in the program will be favorites "Give Me Jesus," "Deep River," "My Lord, What a Morning," "Steal Away," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Walk Together, Children," "There is a Balm in Gilead," "Ride On, King Jesus," and more. You won't want to miss this delightful event.

First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.





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# • NATURE NOTES •

## Rare Lady Slipper hiding in clear sight



Highlander Kathy Smith snapped this shot of this rare Lady Slipper in front of the first parking lot entry to the Jane Woodruff Clinic building, at H-C Hospital the morning of Friday, May 10. "My hiking group hiked yesterday an hour into the woods to find one specimen, and here it is blooming in the hospital parking lot!"

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## ...LETTERS from page 11

collected from attendees at the kickoff session. That information, coupled with feedback from stakeholder institutions, will determine the community and regional interest in moving to the next study and needs assessment phase of the BlueZones program.

The organizing committee will share the results of the surveys in the weeks to come. In the meantime, questions concerning the BlueZones program can be answered by contacting me at (828) 506-7025.

I want to thank all the people who worked on the initial organizing committee and those folks and organization who have been so receptive and supportive of this initial effort.

Without support from all these Western Carolina communities this first BlueZones program would not have been the success that it was.

Sallie Taylor, Chair, BlueZones Organizing Committee

## It's a 'caring' area

Dear Editor,

Last evening we had yet another act of generosity, the likes of which we continue to experience on our visit to the Highlands-Cashiers area. One of our guest became ill after the drive from Highlands over to the Canyon Kitchen. He ordered anyway, thinking he would be able eat but could not.

The staff was most concerned and tried to comfort him, which they did. They also did not charge him for dinner but suggested a beverage to settle his stomach instead. Wonderful country, people and experiences, just does not get any better than The Highlands.

Mike Marsh  
Brandon, MS



## ...AIRBNB continued from page 1

Franklin and Nantahala. This is a function of a resolution commissioners passed several years ago when they created the Highlands and Franklin-Nantahala Area Tourism Development Commissions (TDC) to promote tourism in the county.

The tricky thing with the way Airbnb, Inc. conducts business is when it collects the occupancy tax and pays the county it does not identify the owner of the property or where the property is located. This has presented a challenge for the county's finance department because they haven't been able to credit the money to the right district as originally set up in the county's TDC resolutions.

For the last four years, the money has been set aside until a decision had been made to fairly distribute the funds. Despite requests from the county, Airbnb, Inc. has refused to provide the county with the names of the homeowners or their locations, preventing the county from allocating the funds to the appropriate TDC for Highlands, Franklin and Nantahala.

The refusal of Airbnb, Inc. to disclose the property information prompted County Attorney Chester Jones to recommend to commissioners to modify the documents and bylaws to the TDC as well as the resolution that created those two entities to take into consideration the difficulty the county has had to apply the documents in the way they were originally set up.

At their June meeting held last week, the Macon County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to allocate the \$178,000 in occupancy taxes as recommended by Jones. Jones suggested the most equitable way to distribute the money was to appropriate the funds using a percentage based on the occupancy taxes paid by other lodging establishments who provided their names and addresses during the same time period.

Based on the history of occupancy taxes paid by the other lodging establishments, Jones recommended amending the

resolution to appropriate the funds using a percentage in accordance with known occupancy rates in each district. The percentages he recommended are 71.04 percent for Highlands, 22.74 percent for Franklin and 6.22 percent for Nantahala. Using these percentages approved by the commissioners, the funds from the Airbnb, Inc. occupancy taxes will be distributed in August 2019 to each district.

Once amended these percentages are now set in the resolution, and if the county finds the percentages need to be changed, the documents will again have to be amended.

In addition to amending the by-laws for the district's TDC, amendments also had to be made to service contracts between the county and the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce. The chambers assist with the advancement and cultivation of tourism in Macon County and work to promote tourism for their district.

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## ...HURRICANES continued from page 1



Highlands Hurricanes swim team at the Highlands Rec Park pool.

Kenter now holds 13 Mountain Swim League Records.

Finneaus Garner, Blake Kenter and brothers, Elias and

Aniah McKim, all scored 25 pts. and won 4 events. Garner had 2 PRs. Kate Haner had 2 PRs while scoring 24 pts. and winning

4 events. Savannah Byrd and Junior Olympian, Jack Sumner, each scored 23 pts., won 4 events and had a PR. Junior Olympic Qualifier, Jordan Powell, scored 22 pts., won 3 events and had a PR. Justin Powell, Max Jestin and Junior Olympian, Conner Hughes, all scored 21 pts. Hughes and Jestin won 3 events, while Powell had a PR and won 2 events. Brother and sister duo, Timmy and Cassie McDowell, and brothers, Andre and Ben Halldin, all scored 20 pts. The 2 McDowell's and Andre Halldin all had 2 PRs. Cassie won 1 event and Timmy won 2. Ben won 4 events and Andre won 1.

JoJo Cohen and Emilina Hernandez both had 2 PRs en route to scoring 19 pts. Cohen won 3 events, Hernandez 2. Ben Haner, Mark Gross and Asa Garner all scored 18 pts. Haner and Garner won 3 events. Gross had 3 PRs and won 2 events. Haner had 2 PR's.

Ansley Hughes and Jayden Hughes each scored 17 pts. Jayden had 2 PRs and won 2 events; Ansley won 3 events and had 1 PR. Jack Haner and Maddi Symanski scored 16 pts. Haner had 3 PRs, Symanski had 2 and won 2 events. Lauch Young and Jasmin Abranyi each scored 15 pts. and won 2 events. Abranyi had 2 PRs. Katya Somov scored 13 pts. and won 2 events. Briella McKim and Alex Barranco scored 11 pts. McKim had 3 PRs, Barranco 1. Barrett McKim and Anton Halldin scored 10 pts. McKim had a PR and won 2 events, while Halldin had 3 PRs. Jose-Luis Pinilla Salas scored 8 pts. and had 3 PRs, Kailyn Taylor scored 4 pts. and had 2 PRs. Also swimming for the Hurricanes was Clair Haner who had a PR.

The Hurricanes have six swimmers who have qualified and will be competing in the AAU Junior Olympics in Greensboro, NC July 25-28. Jordan Powell, Matti Cohen, Chase Kenter, Jack Sumner, Elias McKim, Dasha Halldin.

• *The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Team. They practice at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool Monday through Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. The only requirement to join the team is that you be able to swim 25 yards (one pool length) unassisted. For more information call Steve Hott, at 828.421.4121.*

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## ...WOODRUFF continued from page 1

for onsite housing for those on call.

Over the years, fire alarms, first-responder calls, motor vehicle accidents and search and rescue calls have increased dramatically and having an all-volunteer department is no longer viable.

For the past three years, the town has been looking for the biggest bang for its buck in regard to changes at the fire department. Commissioners considered renovating the current building or buying in-town property to build a new complex.

Renovations to the current building ended up not working due to underlying rock, the lay of the land and new criteria.

However, finding affordable property in downtown Highlands proved to be an obstacle until Woodruff came along.

She generously offered to sell the 2.48 acres (two parcels) to the town for \$1.5 million instead of the \$3.7 million listing price.

"As mayor I am very gratified that the Town of Highlands will be able to purchase the property across from the Highlands Post Office [between PNC Bank and Main Street Nursery] for the purpose of building a new fire station. It will have an aesthetic design that will complement the surrounding buildings and add to the appearance of the downtown area," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

An increase in the fire tax from one cent per \$100 valuation to three cents will bring in the money needed to buy the property and build the building. Even with the two-cent increase, Highlands still has the lowest fire tax in the county.

"I want to thank Ms. Jane Woodruff for selling this prime commercial property to the town at a significantly reduced price. She was very supportive of locating the fire department in this beautiful and critically located piece of property," said Taylor. "We both agree that this facility will serve the Highlands community for many decades to come. This project is just one of several that shows Ms. Woodruff's love and support for our community."

Mayor Taylor said Pat Allen of Pat Allen Realty Group, the listing agent for the property worked with Woodruff and the town to make sure this project moved forward.

"When we finalized the deal in my office, Jane and the Mayor expressed how honored they were to meet," said Pat Allen. "It was a sweet and joyful moment. I'm delighted that I could help the town as well."

HF&R Chief Ryan Gearhart said state requirements dictated what a new fire station complex needed in terms of land.

"In order for the fire department to get full credit for training through the ISO system, the state requires the training facility to

be on 2+ acres," he said.

According to Town Manager Josh Ward, a contract has been signed but the purchase is contingent on the approval of the Local Government Commission (LGC) for the town to borrow \$5.5 million for the purchase of the property and the construction of a new building.

If the LGC approves the request, the loan will be applied for through BB&T for a 15-year term and paid by the fire tax.

Ward said the process will take several months.

Aside from the financials, Gearhart said there are still several steps to complete before they break ground on the new site.

"We are in the process of getting a topo survey and plans drawn which are steps one and two. We will then need to get a bid number (\$) for the construction of the building, and then go through the loan process. But we are really excited about this endeavor," he said.

Ward said in order to receive bids for the construction, the project architect needs to complete the design for the building and submit for bids. The bid for construction, along with the purchase price of the property will then be submitted to the LGC for approval.

With no obstacles in sight, a new, expanded HF&R department at a new location is on the horizon.

"It's my pleasure," said Woodruff. "I am happy to be a part of our new fire station!"

— Kim Lewicki

## ...GREEN continued from page 1

Zones project proposed for the area involves Highlands, Cashiers, Sylva and Franklin.

"BlueZones fit well within the social determinants of health and a connecting greenway would be great for people's health and a great component of economic development," said Taylor.

For now, the Mayor is the only elected official in the group of like-minded individuals — The Greenway's Hillrie Quin, Dr. Gary Wein of the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, members of the town's GIS/MIS department, and Sam Lupas from Cashiers.

"This workgroup is trying to map out possible routes around country clubs and private property, if possible," he said. "No formal proposals are forthcoming — it's too early for that."

Calling it the "map exploratory phase," the mayor said the group is looking at map overlays and discussing what are possible connections between the two communities in way of trails.

"We have come up with about three possibilities that are very general and not complete by any means. This will take months and years to come about. There are a lot of moving parts — agencies and stakeholders involved — and it would take a lot of funding," said Taylor.

The type of trail will be based on the terrain, barriers, and possible mixed-use. Would it just be for hiking or biking, too?

Due to potential meandering routes

the trail would likely be longer than the 12-mile stretch between the towns. The mayor stressed that this would be a semi-volunteer project that will include stakeholders with resources — Macon and Jackson counties, NCDOT, USFS and the Leadership Council in Cashiers.

He stressed that this is a baby step in a conceptual process that he hopes will move forward. The Town Board will hear about the project tonight.

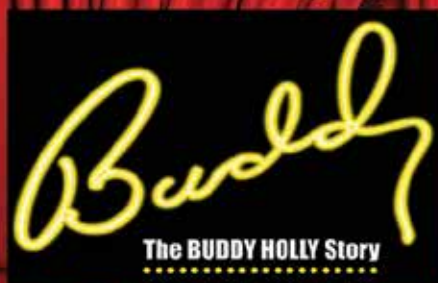
— Kim Lewicki and Brian O'Shea

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## Do you reap what you sow?

**Curtis Fussell, Co-Pastor  
First Presbyterian Church  
in Highlands**

We are deep into the month of June and summer is going strong. If you planted flowers or a garden, hopefully at this time you have “reaped what you sowed.” Or, at least you see signs of flowers and some fruit of what you have sown.

Still, it can happen that even a well-planned garden doesn’t bear the intended bounty. Many things that can go wrong. It can happen in our lives as well. We can be discouraged in life. Even with our best laid plans, not all our hopes and dreams come true. Nevertheless, be an encourager!

Jesus knew about discouragement. He did good things. He healed people and spoke gracious words. Yet, people rejected him. Some even sought to destroy him. Still, Jesus sought to lift people up, to encourage people. He maintained a positive viewpoint.

He expressed this experience in a story about a farmer who sowed seeds. The farmer threw seeds everywhere. That frivolous action tells us this is an unusual farmer; an unusual person -and maybe adds a bit of humor- after all, how silly! Well, after all that sowing, only a few seeds fell on good soil. Yet that was all it took. Just a few seeds falling on good soil and they produced a huge harvest.

With that story Jesus teaches us to remain encouraged in your life. While some of your efforts in life will prove frivolous, other efforts of your life will fall on good soil and you will reap a huge harvest.

Some years ago, a woman was seriously injured in a car wreck. The next morning the doctors came into her hospital room and said, “We hate to tell you this, but we are going to have to remove your right eye. It is so badly damaged we will have to take it out... but we can replace it with an artificial eye.”

The doctors were afraid she would fall into total despair. They were afraid she would give up on her life. How surprised they were when she said, “If you have to give me a new eye... then give me one with a twinkle in it!”

Isn’t that great? She faced her disability with strength, courage, and even humor! She decided to make the best of her situation. She didn’t give up. She didn’t fall into self-pity. She cast her efforts wide enough to fall on good soil.

This woman was an encourager in the face of life’s setbacks. It was the Apostle Paul who said, “You reap what you sow.” That’s a great truth. If you sow negative emotions, you will reap negative emotions. But if you sow positive emotions, you reap positive emotions. The choice seems clear: sow encouragement! Be an encourager! Find someone you can encourage. Help the seed fall on good soil and reap a good, bountiful harvest.

## Proverbs 3:5

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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10:45am: Child. Program, 10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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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

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

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# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**John 3:16**

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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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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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Landmark Realty Group takes collaborative client operations into the future



Pictured from left are Dan Doughty, Beverly Berkstresser and Doug Treadwell.

Landmark Realty Group, a local boutique luxury real estate firm, announced the launch of its first in-house real estate team, Mountain Life Properties of LandmarkRG. This new effort is the brainchild of Doug Treadwell, a visionary real estate veteran, who joined the Landmark Realty Group earlier this year.

Pulling from his prior experience in major metropolitan markets, Doug will

lead and work with a team of real estate professionals in offering an unprecedented and consistent customer experience. "The cutting-edge companies around the country encourage the team approach to working with both buyers and sellers. By forming a team of dynamic and professional partners, the sum of the parts is stronger than the individuals," said Doug Treadwell.

Mountain Life Properties of Land-

markRG will have a devoted group of experienced brokers, working side-by-side, in a multifaceted approach to deliver a more consistent and comprehensive client experience. "By integrating the time, talent and personalities of these exceptional people, our clients will receive a "concierge-style" experience. Having not one representative, but an actual team, to facilitate high-quality service at your beck and call. Whether you are looking for the mountain home of your dreams, or are a homeowner looking to sell quickly, our team puts you first," said Carol Wilson, General Manager and broker of Landmark Realty Group on the Plateau.

Joining Doug on the Mountain Life Properties of LandmarkRG team are Dan Doughty and Beverly Berkstresser. Collectively, the three bring over 60 years of experience to the new initiative on the Plateau. "Our commitment is to provide a cooperative atmosphere through professional expertise, exceptional vision and unwavering ethics, providing exceptional service for all clients," said Doug Treadwell.

Mountain Life Properties of Land-

markRG operates out of Landmark's Highlands Office, located at 225 Main Street, next to the Park on Main Hotel. Doug and his team look forward to working with you on the Plateau. To contact Doug directly, please email: Douglas.Treadwell@landmarkrg.com or call or call 828-482-2800.



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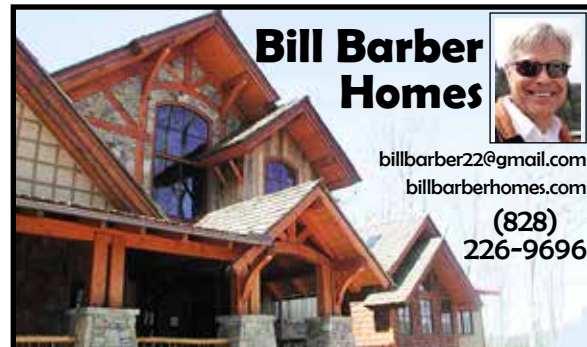
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# POLICE & FIRE REPORT

**Highlands Police entries from June 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## June 7

- At 1:55 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.
- At 2 p.m., officers received a report of a someone communicating threats to a man.

## June 8

- At 5:25 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.
- At 5:25 p.m., Baltazar Mendoza Cruz, 22, of Franklin, was arrested for driving under the influence

## June 9

- At 10:20 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.
- At 8 p.m., Alfredo Ayala Olvera, 35, of Highlands was arrested for driving under the influence and failing to stop at a light.
- At 10:41 p.m., Ana Maria Priocop, 35, of Highlands, was arrested for driving under the influence and failing to stop at a light.

## The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 8.

## June 8

- At 1:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road.
- At 10:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Blue Valley Road.

## June 9

- At 8:08 a.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on Apple Mountain Circle

## June 10

- At 4:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fires alarm at a residence on Highlands View Road.

- At 4:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

## June 11

- At 5:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

- At 5:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

- At 8:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harris Drive.

## June 13

- At 9:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Drive.



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