

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, March 14, 2019

HF&R campus may get major upgrade

By Brian O'Shea

A representative of Pinnacle Architecture presented Highlands Fire and Rescue and town staff with a plan to renovate the current department campus, turning

the multi-building complex into one, two-story structure.

The project was discussed at Tuesday's Public Safety Committee meeting and HFR Chief Ryan Gearhart said this is a long time

coming, and he likes what he sees.

"We've been working on this for years," said Gearhart. "With the town growing and call volume increasing, this needs to get done."

•See HF&R page 16

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HCLT continues to fight the woolly adelgid

By Brian O'Shea

The hemlock woolly adelgid is a small pest that feeds off the sap of a hemlock at the base of the needles and if left untreated, leads to the hemlock's demise.

Eastern and Carolina hemlocks are important to the environment as they are often located near streams providing critical habitat for plants and animals in the area, said Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) Stewardship Coordinator Kyle Pursel.

In fact, for more than a decade, the demise of hemlocks lining streams and rivers in the area – most notably the Cullasaja – has been evident.

"The eastern hemlocks that grow along streams are very im-

• See WOOLLY page 17



From left The Literacy Council Program Manager Tonya Dee Anderson and Executive Director Bonnie Potts surrounded by iPads for Highlands School elementary students in the school's media center.

HS Kindergarten through 4th get iPads

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

K-4th grade students at Highlands School got a big treat Tuesday morning as 106 iPads

were delivered Monday afternoon after a year-long effort by The Literacy Council.

The Highlands Literacy Council's goal, in regards to the iPads, is

to improve literacy, and learning in general using technology.

Beginning Tuesday, elementary students will have a 1 to 1

•See IPADS page 10

American Legion turns 100

By Tim Moseley

On March 16th the American Legion is turning 100 and local Post 370 is celebrating the centennial milestone.

While the local post was chartered in 1946, the organization as a whole traces its roots to March 15-17, 1919, in Paris, France -- in the aftermath of World War I.

The American Legion was federally chartered on Sept. 16, 1919 and quickly became an influential force at the national, state and local levels -- dedicated to serving veterans, a strong national defense, youth and patriotism.

A year after it was formed, the American Legion had chartered more than 5,400 local posts that continue to operate today. Since then, it has grown to more than 13,000 posts around the world with more than 2.2 million wartime-veteran members.

•See AMERICAN LEGION page 11

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

About the time it takes to be an affective mayor

Last week someone publicly questioned my work schedule and travel expenses. I will respond.

The implication was that the costs I incurred to Raleigh to attend the League of Municipalities Legislative Dinner were excessive. The initial plan was for me to ride with the Town Manager, but he had an unanticipated town commitment that prevented his attendance. Since we were already registered, and the town needed representation, I drove my vehicle since I do not have access to the town vehicle. For the record, I received the standard mileage rate for a nearly 700 miles/24-hour round trip. I did not stay at the downtown Marriott or Sheraton at rates over \$250. I stayed at the Holiday Inn that gives elected officials an \$88 a night rate.

At the dinner, I conversed about pressing issues with Senator Jim Davis and Representative Kevin Corbin. Prior to the dinner, I attended two presentations on workforce housing and community broadband, both relevant town issues.

I average a weekly work schedule of about 20 hours. Normally, I keep morning office hours, and I routinely meet with residents and staff throughout the week. I am always



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

on call if there is any problem that needs my attention. On many days, including evenings, I represent the town at community functions and ceremonies. Contrary to the suggestion that I attend a "coffee klatch," those monthly community coffees require planning and preparation, as does the weekly radio show and this column. I gladly embrace these efforts as a way of keeping citizens informed.

My duties require travel to regional and state meetings. Very rarely do I charge the town mileage for attending these rather important sessions. For instance, my trip to Raleigh this past fall to meet with the NC Attorney General's staff concerning our hospital sale cost the town of Highlands nothing. I do not possess a town credit card.

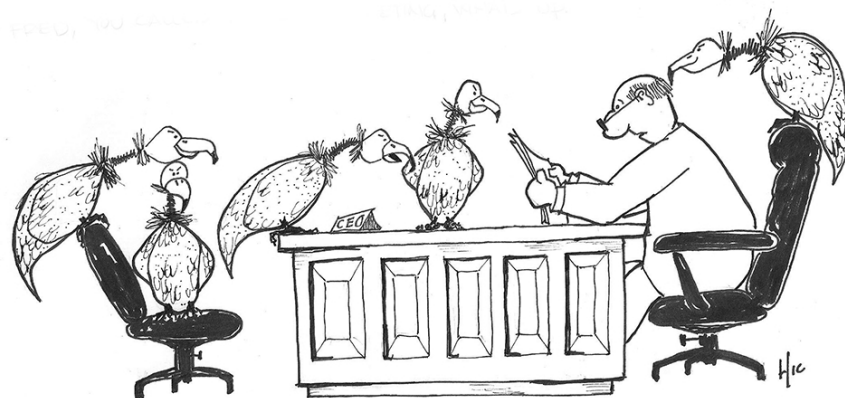
My \$5,000 a year breaks down to about \$96 a week with no benefits. If folks believe I'm not busy enough considering my compensation, please let me know how I can improve.

Also, questions have been raised concerning publishing the names of delinquent utility accounts after an extended period where electric, water and sanitation fees have not been paid. The town is allowed by law to do this, just as the county publishes names of folks who fail to pay property taxes. This effort is not so much a "public shaming," but rather a last collection effort before debt is written off the books.

The Town Board adopted this policy a number of years ago after a lenient policy had resulted in the write-off an unsustainable quarter of a million dollars in unpaid accounts. Payment and disconnect policies were instigated mirroring other utilities like Duke Energy and Haywood. We also adopted a catch-up policy for people who get behind with their bill. We also refer folks to community assistance programs.

The state requires the town to operate our utilities as enterprise funds. These utilities have to be self-sustaining, and yes, they make a profit that goes into the town reserve funds. These reserves help maintain utility infrastructure, plus hold down town debt and property taxes. If a company like Duke operated the Highlands electric utility, I guarantee they would make a profit that would go to stockholders rather than to the local community. Our rates for all utilities are on the low side of the spectrum, while our service and immediate response time is an added value.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Since you are new to Washington, we thought you should know how things work around here."

whicsever@yahoo.com

• LETTERS •

Keeping up while I'm away

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Bud Katz for his March 7th article entitled "Tax and Borrow, or Tax and Spend. Pick one."

He hit the nail on the head. Amen

I am in Atlanta but have a second home in Highlands for 15 years now.

I enjoy keeping up with the news in Highlands while away via the online edition of Highlands Newspaper.

I love the mayor's article, also.

Joe Nuzzaco
Atlanta and Highlands

• WEATHER •

	Friday 3/15		Saturday 3/16		Sunday 3/17	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	59 F	33 F	48 F	25 F	50 F	30 F
RealFeel	61 F	49 F	53 F	33 F	56 F	32 F
Winds	5 g 8	6 g 9	5 g 7	4 g 6	4 g 8	5 g 7
T-Storms	24%	1%	0%	0%	2%	3%
Rainfall	0.15	0	0	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

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.



COTTAGES ON 4TH 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. Luxury features including 14' ceilings in great rooms, Carrera or travertine tile in the baths plus heated master bath floors, and more! *Pricing includes a full membership to Old Edwards Club valued at \$80,000. This membership includes all of the new family-friendly amenities at GlenCove by Old Edwards.*

Offered for \$1,695,000 each | Contact Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty for more information

Photo of house shown above is of another Old Edwards Club project, Cottages on 5th, and is representational of what will be offered at Cottages on 4th

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• MILESTONE •

Motz makes the grade for Atlanta Track Club

By Morris Williams

You have seen Fred Motz in his role of a Camel Handler for many years in the Christmas Parade. But did you know that Fred is quite an accomplished runner? He has completed just short of 50 marathons and has run for the Atlanta Track Club Masters Team for decades.

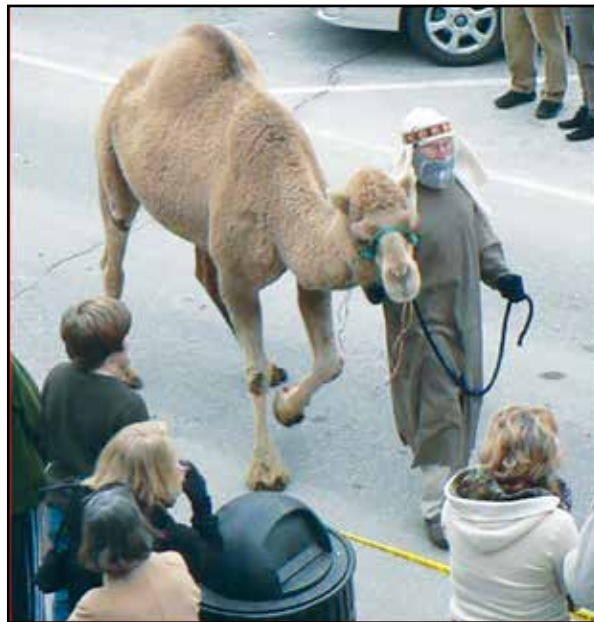
In the last few years, his racing has been limited to local races, Peachtree and a few other out-of-town races. Recently, Fred made a comeback to big time racing. He agreed to run with the 70+ age division of the Atlanta Track Club in the National Masters Indoor Track and Field Championship meet in Winston-Salem.

This is an annual meet where clubs from all over the USA come to compete. Points are awarded to the top six finishers in every event for all age divisions. At the end of the meet all the points are accumulated and the club with the most points is crowned Champions.

Last year the Championship went to the Potomac Valley Track Club with TNT International Racing Club finishing in second place ahead of the Atlanta club.

This year Fred contributed to a scrambling of the order of finish. The Atlanta Track Club Masters Team won the National Championship over 92 other teams. Fred contributed to the victory producing points in two individual events and in two relays.

As an individual, Fred finished 4th in the nation in the



Fred Motz as camel handler in the Christmas parade.

3,000-meter race in the 80-84 age division with a time of 18:59 and he was 5th in that age division in the Mile with a

time of 9:21.

For relays the ATC did not have enough 75-79 runners available to form a relay team. It is allowable to drop down in age divisions to form a relay team but a younger person cannot go up to an older division, so Fred agreed to drop down and join three other guys to form a relay team. Fred ran on the 3rd place team for the 4 x 200m relay with a cumulative time of 3:54. The 75-79 Age Division team that Fred ran on in the 4 x 800m relay set a New World Record for that age division with a time of 18:04.

Fred is looking forward to the indoor championship meet next year when several 79-year-old teammates will age up and they can run relays in the 80-84 age division.

Congratulations Fred on helping the Atlanta Track Club Masters Team become National Champions, but don't quit your job as a Camel Handler. Has anybody noticed that the camel looks a lot like Fred?

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Nominations open for the BizWeek 2019 'Up & Coming Business

The Macon County Economic Development Commission and Certified Entrepreneurial Community Leadership Team have announced that nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 Up & Coming Business Award. The award recognizes the Macon County business that exemplifies excellence in growth, innovation and impact on the community.

"BizWeek 2018 was the inaugural year for the Up & Coming Business Award", said EDC Director Tommy Jenkins. "We were pleased with the fantastic enthusiasm for the award, as well as the quality of the nominees. This year looks to be even more exciting."

Nominations are open to Macon County for-profit businesses under current ownership between three and ten years as of April 1, 2019.

Online nominations for the award are now being accepted with finalists to be announced at Entrepreneur Networking Night IX, scheduled for April 9th at Lazy Hiker Brewing Company in downtown Franklin. The winner will be named at the BizWeek 2019 Banquet, April 11th at Bloemsmas Barn.

Information on both events is available at www.maconedc.com

To submit a nomination visit www.maconedc.com. Nominations close March 27, 2019.

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Surviving a Cruise

By Lee Lyons

If you or anyone you love is thinking about taking a cruise to New Zealand, there are a few things you might consider.

The brochures, advertisements, and travel agencies are geared (paid) to entice you to go on “the trip of a life time.” It sounds easy. Hop on a plane. Hop on the ship.

Did you ever see photos of how real people look when they finally check on board the ship after 30-plus hours of traveling from one hemisphere to another?

Hopping on means driving three hours to Atlanta, waiting in that airport for four hours, hopping another five hours to LA, waiting another three hours and then wine, dine and watch movies the 15 hours on over to Australia.

When you see your photo upon re-entering the country two weeks later, you will not recognize yourself. Did you ever think a vacation could have you looking worse than

death?

Also, the captain, while quite dashing in uniform, cannot control the weather. Imagine bracing the cold rain and wind at 6 a.m. to see the fjords, the most breathtaking scenery in the world. Instead of cameras clicking and oohs and aahs, you hear, “I can’t see it. It’s too foggy. My God, I just got drenched. I thought it was summer over here.”

The postcards show the magnificent ship passing between the towering mountains under a bright blue sky, the narrow strip of ocean smooth as glass. It never shows how you bounce against the walls of the endless halls, while the white caps swell and find your room just in time to throw up.

Does the towel folded like a swan and the chocolate candy on the pillow make up for being stuck in a small room with another person who is seasick with digestive problems?

Sure, you can have room service 24 hours a day, but who can eat?

The costly excursions can also be mis-



leading. One of the advertised highlights is to meet the indigenous people of New Zealand, the Maori people. After waiting and waiting in the assembly room, the cruise director announces, “The purple cards line up here.”

The bus, full of coughing people, finally stops at a house where the neighbors run out half naked and stick their tongues out at you.

In Tasmania, I rode seven hours on another bus to see the ruins of an old prison. Just go to Alcatraz if you must see a prison.

To be fair, some people like casinos, bars, buffets at The Golden Corral, treadmills and exercise classes, bingo and cooking demonstrations, waiting in lines, going through ques, being on time for dinner, for the bus, for the show. The ship has two thousand people with hand sanitation cream everywhere -- so some people must love it.

Speaking of love. Many people sign up with the Love Boat in mind. Even if you’re going to find a Koala bear, finding love is part of the dream. However, the idea of finding love is not reality.

If your husband doesn’t like to dance, chances are he’s not going wild in the B.B King Blues Lounge. If either one of you already drinks too much, has a gambling problem, a wandering eye, or can’t eat sweets, one of you is going to be in trouble. They do have AA meetings and thank God for elastic waist bands.

For the solo traveler — it’s just like home. You go into a bar for happy hour. Two drinks for the price of one. You sit at a table alone trying to look pleasant. All around you, but not actually at your table, murmuring laughter blends with ice tinkling in glasses. The pianist sounds like Julio Igle-

sias, “Begin the Beguine.” You exhale a long Listerine breath at the handsome man who comes over and whispers in your ear. Is it French, Italian? You push back your hair and ask through painted lips, “What did you say?”

He repeats, “Madam, I’m sorry, happy hour is over. The drinks are full price now.”

When that happens, try to act as if ordering two glasses of the most expensive champagne you’ve ever seen anywhere is perfectly normal and pretend you are not really in a floating assisted living establishment gazing into an empty chair with two glasses of bubbly.

When you finally make it back to your own bed in your own country, chances are you’ll be sick. How could you not get sick after the person who sat next to you coughed for 15 hours from Auckland to LA.

Even though you arrive back in the U.S. exhausted, you will not be able to sleep. Your body clock will be on New Zealand time for several days. You will wake up at 3 a.m. still rocking and be tempted to review your credit card statement.

Please do not do this. Your resistance is low and this could put you over the edge. At least you can’t jump overboard.

Scroll through the photos on your cell and try to convince yourself, it was worth \$10,000 to see a kangaroo as well as a racoon that looks exactly like the one in your garbage.

When you’re stronger, you can face -- your bucket list was full of slop and there really is no place like home.

• Lee is a member of the Highlands Writers Group.

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• WORD MATTER •

Living Longer versus Living Better

People able to access health care, meaning they have either personal or employer-funded insurance, or are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, VA, tend to live longer now than in years past. Other than minor blips involving suicides, motor vehicle accidents, drug overdoses, gun violence, and other non-medical causes, Americans, while not the world's leader, are living longer than they have in the past.

One of the confounding aspects of this otherwise pleasant fact is that while we're living longer we're not necessarily living better.

I won't bore you with too many statistics but two things are certain: first, a majority of health care spending occurs when we age. This should come as no surprise. Second, as we age, and spend more on being able to do so, quality of life doesn't necessarily keep pace. Short headline: we're spending more to live longer but not necessarily to live better.

As boomers continue to retire and become Medicare-eligible, the costs of providing healthcare services increase exponentially. We already pay more per capita for health care than every other nation in the world, enabling more of our people to live longer than they have in the past, but again, not necessarily better.

In his groundbreaking book, *Being Mortal*, Dr. Atul Gawande suggests that healthcare should focus not simply on keeping someone alive, but instead on giving someone the best possible life for the longest possible time. In other words, quality of life should take priority over longevity for its own sake. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is either approaching old age, is already there, or who has aging relatives.

Unfortunately, most medical schools don't teach the 'quality of life' idea. Physicians are trained to use every tool and process available in pursuit of one purpose: keep patients alive. This often comes with another three words: at all costs.

It's understandable that family members do not want to lose a loved one. But does it follow that just because "it's covered"



Bud Katz

society should invest enormous resources to keep someone alive without regard for that person's quality of life?

More and more individuals, when confronted with a terminal diagnosis, are choosing to pass on so-called 'extraordinary life-saving measures.' Instead, many elect less time in order to better enjoy what time they have with family and friends.

I have, seemingly forever, viewed some reasonable level of healthcare as a basic right for all Americans, for all humans, actually, instead of something available based on one's ability to pay. My sense is that if someone wants better or more healthcare than society can feasibly provide, or better or more healthcare insurance, and can afford to buy it, more power to them. Many have done this by purchasing a supplemental policy to address shortcomings in Medicare. Why can't this principal be applied so as to provide some level of healthcare for everyone? Medicare for all, perhaps?

It's a fact that our healthcare system is, on a per capita basis and by a wide margin, the most expensive in the world. If, as is often stated, we get what we pay for, it would appear to follow that our outcomes should be better than they are. The fact is, relative to the rest of the developed world, they're not. We shouldn't therefore view longevity alone as the only benchmark of a successful outcome without considering quality of life.

It was estimated in 2012 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that, by 2040, 21 years from now, one of three dollars spent in the United States will be spent on health care. One supposes this might be somewhat acceptable if we could expect that enormous percentage of our national investment to produce for our citizens some enhanced or improved quality of life.

The overwhelming majority of men and women who work in healthcare do so with both professionalism and the best of intentions. The system itself, though, must, at the end of the day, provide its patients, its customers, if you will, with better outcomes in terms, not only of longevity but continuing quality of life as well.



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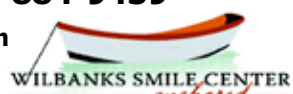
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Is this a Good Time to Buy in Highlands?

It's been a long time since we've seen this kind of activity in the Highlands' real estate market.

Properties are selling quickly, even during these winter months. There are actually multiple offers coming in on individual pieces of property, just as it was prior to the recession. The difference now is that there is still a good amount of inventory...although it is dwindling fast. Due to a rare combination of changing economics and available properties, real estate values in Highlands are the best we have been in many years, while interest rates are still quite low. It is looking like the Federal Reserve will not be raising rates anytime soon.

Our community continually offers a rare combination of down-home comforts, with a flair for the refined. These are some of the many reasons why there will always be people flocking to our area. This is also why residents chose the Highlands plateau for their second or permanent homes as far back as the late 1800s.



Lynn Kimball
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Meadows Mountain Realty
828-421-8193
at Lynn@bhhsmmr.com

Let's look at another consistent factor. Real property is a limited, absolute commodity in which location determines its value. Economists tell us that the real estate industry drives the economy. Real property is the only commodity that is no longer being made and is not going anywhere. It has remained dependable that investment portfolios

with a basis in real estate have the most stability and opportunity for growth.

For the reasons stated above, Highlands' real estate has always been a popular investment. But now in 2019, at a time such as this, opportunities abound to "own a piece of the rock" on the southern plateau of these glorious Blue Ridge Mountains.

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

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Soccer, golf and track



Kedra McCall

With basketball season coming to an end new seasons of ladies soccer, men's golf, and track begin.

Varsity girls basketball finished in a hard fought first round of state playoffs and the varsity boys pushed on to the second round finishing their season there.

Both golf and track have only had practices so far but are preparing and looking forward to their season.

Ladies Soccer has played three games.

They lost to both Smoky Mountain, 4-0, and Murphy, 2-1. They then turned it around and brought out a strong 4-1 win over Hayesville.

Come out and support all your Highlanders as their new seasons begin.



Highlands Jeslyn Head fends off a Smoky Mountain player on Monday.
— Photo by Brian O'Shea

• YOUNGER THROUGH FITNESS •

Mind and Body

Aging is inevitable; we will all die, therefore it's the quality of our lives that count. No one escapes the aging process completely after entering middle age and moving forward.

Being proactive physically and eating more real unprocessed food can slow down age related decline and allow us to function as much younger persons. There is however a few more parts in the puzzle.

Last weekend I went to Florida to visit my 92-year-old mother at her independent living residence in Largo Florida. I slept on a roll away cot in her apartment and ate in the dining room for several meals over the course of my four-day visit. Surprisingly, this facility is full of many vibrant people in their late eighties and nineties.

On our way to the dining room a sharply dressed woman with white hair fashionably done walked up and greeted us. Of course, my mother engaged her in conversation and as a bonus took the opportunity to introduce me. Visiting adult children are a badge of honor amongst her resident peers who all belong to the greatest generation.

This lady asked my mom if she was interested in a card game later that day. She said she was getting a group together. She also noted that she would be going for her daily 30-minute walk after lunch and then meet up with the group for cards in the activity room. I asked her what card games she plays. Her two favorites are Bridge and Kings in the Corner. Today it was to be Kings In The Corner. She also noted that she will play most any popular game as she is confident that card games keep

her mind sharp including Solitaire before bedtime.

After she left for her walk, my mom told me that this lady we just spoke with was 98-years-old! In other words, less than two years from 100 years.

The following day I was introduced to a gentleman who had been an Army paratrooper and then a Green Beret. He had served in and survived WW2, Korea and Vietnam. He told me his day consists of several exercise classes and daily walks. I personally observed over the next few days that he spends a lot of his time socializing with anyone who wants to engage him in conversation. He is still military lean and moves with fluidity. In addition, he has a permanent infectious smile. I did not ask him his age however if he was 18 in 1945 (the youngest possible age for a WW2 battle veteran) he would be 92-years-old today.

Ask yourself, what do these people have in common? The answer is they are active, they take pride in their appearance, they interact socially and they exercise both their bodies and their minds. Most important, is they project a positive outlook!

The above examples are proof positive of a lesson I learned years ago when I was in my thirties. Back circa 1989 I lived in a town home community in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

To get from my car to my front door I had to walk past the courtyard gate of an older lady who lived alone. On one occasion as I was walking past her



Hank Miller
828-305-9713

gate, she greeted me from her patio chair through her courtyard door. I stopped for a moment and exchanged pleasantries with her. This was the beginnings of a years-long continuing conversation.

Her name was Emma and she was 86-years-old at the time. On average

it took me between 15 and 20 minutes to get from my car to my front door on my daily return from work.

Emma, as did the retired Green Beret and the 98-year-old women, had a very happy demeanor, in addition to a warm smile for everyone she crossed paths with.

She was always dressed neatly and would never step out her door without her hair done

up and her makeup on. Our conversations ranged from the news of the day to the philosophies of life. On one occasion she gave me her spin on longevity and happiness. She told me that when you no longer have a schedule you die. She elaborated in telling me that it is common for people to retire and then basically do nothing and many of them do not live long. She told me that if you no longer work then you must have a schedule. She herself volunteered 15 hours per week at a charitable thrift store. She got up every weekday morning, had her breakfast, read the newspaper and went into her volunteer job. She, too, had a regular bridge game and low and behold she walked the circle around our neighborhood every single day. She also told me that people who live in the past cannot be happy because they miss the wonders and lack enthusiasm for what is new and exciting.

There was only one day that she would allow herself to get

down and that was on the anniversary of the death of her husband of over 59 years. She did indicate to me that she also would remind herself to be grateful for the life they had together, put a smile on her face and keep active.

So, there you have it, life lessons that are priceless from living examples and Emma who passed on decades ago still teaching her lessons through me to you.

Fitness is both physical, mental and spiritual.

• Hank is a local fitness trainer specializing in the age 50 and over population. He is certified by The American College of Sports Medicine as an Exercise Physiologist and is a licensed NC Massage Therapist specializing in Therapeutic Stretching. Send comments to: hank@thebestexercisesforseniors.com

March Sales Extravaganza! 2 Days Only

Fri. & Sat., March 15 & 16 • 10a-4p
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Items have been coming in daily throughout the month.

Wide array of furniture and home accessories, lamps, bedroom furnishings, exercise equipment, game & dining tables & so much more. China, crystal, cookware, baskets.

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...IPADS continued from page 1



Macon County Schools LAN Tech Colby Anderson delivers the iPads encased in charging stations to each classroom on Monday at Highlands School. The iPads were secured by The Literacy Council through a gift of \$50,000.

student/iPad ratio at Highlands School.

More iPads are on the way for students at The Literacy Council and staff at both institutions will be using the same programs and seamlessly communicating with each other about a student's needs to address any learning issues they may have.

"We wanted to be able to communicate with the teachers and offer the same programs to be consistent with what the school is working on," said Literacy Executive Director Bonnie Potts. "This opens up so many opportunities for the students to learn."

The iPads were purchased through a gift from Art and Angela Williams, owners of Old Edwards Hospitality Group. First-grade Teacher Bonnylin Covey said having a 1-1 ratio will help in a number of ways, especially during group work.

Highlands High School students already have a 1-1 ratio.

"There are all these programs my students use that help



Each iPad is programmed for individual students and teachers with an Apple ID account already set up in their name. — Photos by Brian O'Shea

with reading and math and they are so motivated to use them, but we only have two computers," said Covey. "Now I'll be able to do all my groupwork on iPads and no one will say they don't have an

iPad or get jealous. This is going to be so much fun, it's so exciting."

Covers for the iPads were purchased by a donation from the Swift Foundation in coordination with Advanced Highlands Education Committee (AHEC). AHEC is made up of members of the community who have come together with the goal of raising private capital to improve the infrastructure at Highlands School.

The iPads were delivered by Macon County Schools LAN Tech Colby Anderson who said the iPads are programmed for each student and teacher with their own Apple ID without the commerce capability, which is an ID account system developed by Apple specifically for students and educators.

"The iPads are all set up for students and teachers and they're all connected," said Anderson. "Teachers can go on their iPad and see a student's screen to help with a problem or make sure the student is working on what they're supposed to be working on. There's really a lot they're going to be able to do with these."

Students were not present when the iPads were delivered as it was a teacher-work day.

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...AMERICAN LEGION continued from page 1

Throughout its first century, the American Legion built a legacy on such accomplishments as leading the way to create U.S. Flag Code, helping start the Veterans Administration, as well as drafting and getting passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (otherwise known as the G.I. Bill) which transformed America in the second half of the 20th century.

It has also helped veterans receive benefits for health care conditions based on their honorable service, including Agent Orange exposure as service-con-

nected.

Today the American Legion has nearly 3,000 accredited service officers worldwide who assist veterans with their benefit claims and other concerns.

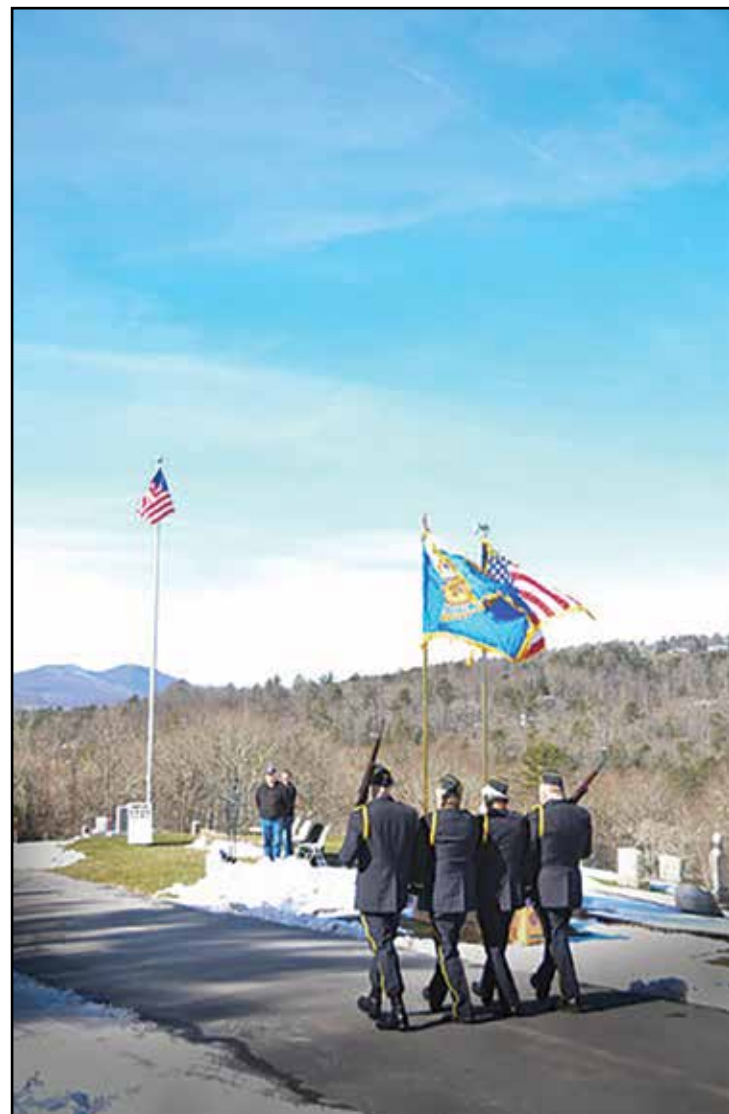
Highlands Post 370 currently numbers 41 members who have served their country and now continue to serve their community. The post's activities include Wreaths Across America, assisting in flag placement for veterans' holidays at the Highlands cemetery, and Veterans Day Ceremonies.

Post 370 has also been instrumental in the creation of the High-

lands Veterans Memorial, which includes the Walk of Honor made from personalized bricks located behind Town Hall in front of the police station on Oak Street.

"The American Legion Family of Highlands is excited to share both the legacy and the vision of our organization," said Post Commander Ed McCloskey. "We've done a lot of good and intend to keep doing it for a second century."

Keep an eye out for local post members as they continue the centennial celebration throughout the year.



Images from the 2018 Wreaths Across America in Highlands.



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •



MC Democratic Party Convention is set for Saturday, March 23 in Franklin

The Macon County Democratic Party Convention is taking place on Saturday, March 23rd, in the Carpenter Community Building starting at 10 am. In preparation for this event, meetings for all Democrats were held within each of Macon County's 15 precincts during the first few weeks in February.

Highlands Precinct Democrats, called their meeting to order at 5:30 pm on February 9th in the Hudson Library Meeting Room. Precinct meetings follow a specific agenda: the Pledge of Allegiance, the election of new officers, the selection of delegates to the County Convention, and the making of resolutions to be presented at the County Convention. At the Highlands Meeting, the current slate of officers was presented and the following were accepted by acclamation: Robert E Smith as Chair, Gerri Tulley as Vice-Chair and Karen Hawk as Secretary/Treasurer. Based on the number of its' registered Democrats, Highlands Precinct is allocated 6 delegates for the County Convention. The 7 selected were: Robert E Smith, Gerri Tulley, Karen Hawk, Suzanne Duggan, EJ Tarbox, Susan Smith, and Al Brady.

The highlight of the evening was the formulation of resolutions for the Democratic Party. These resolutions are voted on at each convention and must make it through each level –county, district, state, and national -until ultimately they form the National Party Platform. Our goal was to revisit and revise if needed the Manifesto for the Democratic Party. A Manifesto is a VISION STATEMENT containing the principles and values for which Democrats stand. From such a Vision Statement, all policies then follow.

The Precinct attendees broke into small groups to discuss what they perceived were the current values and principles of the Democratic Party. Later, each group in turn presented their ideas that coalesced into the following HIGHLANDS DEMOCRATIC MANIFESTO:

- 1) Protect and promote the principles of SOCIAL and ECONOMIC JUSTICE through EQUALITY of ACCESS for all citizens-including voting, employment, health-care, education, housing and protection under the law.
- 2) Prioritize STEWARDSHIP of our EARTH.

The "Green New Deal" has been likened to FDR's New Deal and Kennedy's challenge to walk on the moon within 10 years. It could be the VISION that challenges us to the creativity needed in addressing Climate Change.

- 3) Emphasize CIVIC DUTY as fundamental to a Democratic government or republic. By encouraging civic participation- voting, military service, volunteer corps, serving in public office, communicating opinions and concerns to elected officials- "we the people" are truly empowered to be the change we wish to experience in and from our government.

- 4) Reclaim and build INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES and COOPERATION on the global scale. Communication via media and technology has changed the nature of society and culture worldwide. Our nation is no longer an island, rather a part of the puzzle called "the world". We influence the well-being of the world not through dominance, but through cooperation and sound leadership.

Equipped with our Democratic Manifesto, we look forward to the opportunities and challenges of the upcoming political process culminating in November 2020. Forward together.

NOTE

- Sign up now for summer camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Call 828-526-2602 or go online at highlandsbiological.org. Scholarships available.

- Sign up for the Highlands Historical Society's free Kelsey Kids summer day camp for children ages 8-11 set for Mon. - Fri., June 24-28. www.highlandshistory.com.

Ongoing

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

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

Monday - Saturday

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

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

Monday - Friday

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

First Mondays

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

Mondays

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

- 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.

- 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

- FREE Community Table Dinner at the

Community Bldg. at 6p.

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

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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

- OccupyWNC meets at the 7pm in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

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

- 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

- 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

- 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, with LEGO Club on the 4th Thursday.

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

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

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

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

making LEGO creations.

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 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.

Sundays

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

Fri., March 15

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Gold and Shamrock Dance," Friday at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Dr Jim Duncan of Otto NC is returning to do the calling. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426.

• At the Rec Park, Senior Dinner will be Friday at 12 noon. The menu will be Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Salad, Roll and Desert.

Sat., March 16

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day on the Greenway Trail from 9a-noon. If you are interested in participating, please email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-342-8980. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot behind the Recreation Center at 9 a.m. for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike from Jones Gap to White Rock Mtn. on the NC Bartram Trail to a blue blazed trail up the Mtn., elevation change 400 ft., to a spectacular view of the Tessentee Valley, Albert Mountain and the Nantahala Mountains. Meet at Bi-Lo at 10

am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun., March 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile birding hike with very little elevation change along the Tessentee Creek in the Tessentee Farms area where a restored farm house can also be visited. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors' Center at 2 pm. Drive a short round trip distance to the Tessentee Farms. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., March 21-23

• Highlands Community Players present its dinner theatre with four one-act plays. Doors open at 6:30p, the first play starts at 7p. Tickets are \$37.50. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Sat., March 23

• MC Democratic Party Convention at 10 a.m. in the Carpenter Building on Hwy. 441. • The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike with elevation change of 100 ft. to view Lower Whitewater Falls on the Whitewater River, 2 miles down from the upper Whitewater Falls. The hike has great views of Lake Jocasee in South Carolina. Meet at Cashiers Rec. Park at 10 am, drive: 22 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Sue Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike, elevation change 1300 ft., on the Bradley Fork/Smoke-mont Loop in the Smoky Mtns. Nat'l. Park. Hike along the pretty creek, then up Chasteen Creek to a beautiful cascade, and down and around Smokemont Loop. Wildflowers should be coming out. Meet at Oconaluftee Visitor Center in Cherokee NC at 9 am, drive: 8 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations. Hike limited to 15 people.

• OEI's Chefs in the House, a dinner series at half-mile farm. Call 828-787-2620 or 828-787-2635 for reservations.

Sun., March 24

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2-mile hike on Lakeside Dr. Trail, starting at the Health Dept. in Franklin for a nice winter hike with mild ups and downs, passing through the Environmental Resource Center. Meet at the Sheriffs Dept. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations and directions if needed.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., March 28-30

• Highlands Community Players present its dinner theatre with four one-act plays. Doors open at 6:30p, the first play starts at 7p. Tickets are \$37.50. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Fri. March 29

• Community Coffee at the Hudson Library with Mayor Pat Taylor 11a-noon. Topic: the Highlands Town Retreat. Refreshments provided by the International Friendship Center.

• Jackson County Republican Convention

and Precinct Meetings All Jackson County voters registered as Republicans by January 31st 2019 are invited to attend the Jackson County Republican Convention on Friday at the Jackson County Senior Center in Sylva. Registration for the Convention will be open at 5

PM. The Precinct Meetings begin at 5:30; the Convention at 6:30 PM. A buffet dinner will be served. For dinner reservations (requested) and for additional information call Jackson County Republican Chair Ralph Slaughter at 828 743-6491.



Two former high school classmates played by Jamie Thomas (L) and Jenna Barry (R) meet unexpectedly, reminisce and needle each other about good and not-so-good times of the past in one of the four humorous plays of HCP's Dinner Theater, March 21-23 and 28-30. Box office 828-526-8084, website highlandscashiersplayers.org.

HCP presents its dinner theatre with four one-act plays beginning March 21

It's time to make your reservations for the Highlands Cashiers Players' popular Dinner Theater at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. The HCP box office will be open Thursday and Friday, March 14 and 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for season subscribers and beginning for others on Saturday, March 16, through the run of the show. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 21-23 and March 28-30. There is no Sunday matinee.

This year the event will be held in a much more spacious area than in the past—upstairs in the PAC auditorium. Four short humorous plays will be presented on the main stage between the four courses of a delicious catered dinner. Doors will open at 6:30, show starts at 7 p.m.

Directors and casts are as follows: Donna Cochran directs actors Virginia Talbot and Elizabeth Gordon in Your Number Is Up by Betty Prisendorf. Lynleigh McLain directs and acts in the second play with Jamie Thomas, Last Words by Philip Kaplan. Rachel Fiesel directs Jamie Thomas, Jenna Barry, and Ricky Siegel in A Carol Burnett Sketch, and Todd Lipphardt, directs Rachel Fiesel and Ricky Siegel in Oh Tannenbaum by Mark Henry Levine.

Actors and directors come from three communities in the area: Highlands, Franklin, Rabun Gap, and Scaly Mountain. Although Lynleigh McLain, Jamie Thomas, and Todd Lipphardt have all acted with HCP, they will be directing for the first time. Actors new to the HCP stage are Rachel Fiesel and Jenna Barry.

Key behind-the-scene team members are Courtney Scarborough, Production Coordinator, Lance Trudel, Stage Manager, Carol Lucas, Dining Room Manager, Sarah Knight, Box Office Coordinator, Lynleigh McLain, Volunteer Coordinator, and Megan Potts, sound/lighting technician.

Tickets for dinner and show are \$37.50. For HCP season subscribers, there is no charge, it's part of the subscription package. Check our website for more information: highlandscashiersplayers.org. Tickets may be available on line.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Mountaintop Taco Night raises \$1,100 for Polio and Alzheimers



Dr. John Baumrucker adds a little more salsa to the chili on Rotary Club of Highlands Plateau community supports Rotary Taco Night. — Photo and story by Brian O'Shea

The fundraiser at the Rec Park Saturday night brought in about \$1,100 to help fund two Rotary projects: CART, a project that funds alternative Alzheimer's research and Polio Plus, a project begun in the late 1980s when there were over 300,000 cases of paralytic polio yearly in many countries around the world. Now there are just a handful of cases in two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Food was prepared and served by Rotarian volunteers and about 85 people enjoyed tacos and chili.

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DOGSPEAK

• REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO •

The dogs who came before me

I find it hard to imagine, but the Royal Parents had dogs in their lives before me. I knew about Tinker the Wonder Dog because she was still here when I arrived, but all these other dogs were news to me.

Mum is a grand storyteller and she started by regaling me with tales of her childhood dogs. When she was a little girl living in an apartment house in New York City, the only dog she had for a friend was her neighbor's cocker spaniel. Mum came home from kindergarten, stayed with the white-haired neighbor, ate her afterschool snack, and played with the pup until her mom got home from work.

"Why didn't you ask for your own dog, Mum?" I ruffed.

"I didn't need one; I had an imaginary cocker spaniel named Annabel." I couldn't help rolling my eyes at that. In Mum's mind, she played with Annabel and brushed her and snuggled with her. The story everyone remembers is Mum admonishing her uncle not to sit in a chair because Annabel was sleeping in it. Mum says Annabel looked like Lady from "Lady and the Tramp," one of her favorite Disney movies.

Now, I can't see how an imaginary dog can be as good as the real thing, but I bet having a dog as an imaginary friend is what makes Mum so good at understanding me. When I get writer's block, she's amazingly adept at helping me figure out what I want to say. Mum really gets me.

She didn't have a real dog until her family moved from the city to Long Island. There, they had a big house and a fenced backyard, perfect for a dog. That first dog was named Pudgy. Mum and her sister picked that name because as a puppy, the boy was, well, pudgy. He lost his baby fat but didn't grow very big. Mum remembers him as muscular little thing who



The Royal Pooch Lord Banjo

was quite talented at digging holes beneath the redwood fence to visit the Doberman Pinscher in the yard behind theirs. She thinks Franz, the Doberman, helped with the digging.

After refilling the hole too many times, the families gave up and let the "kids" visit each other whenever they wanted. Mum says the two looked like Mutt and Jeff, whoever they are, as they ran and frolicked, dug up bushes and grass and ensured that nothing much grew in either backyard, behavior that upset Ganma no end. All that digging may be the reason that Pudgy went to live with an Aunt when Mum's family moved South.

For a while, Mum and her sisters had cats until their Dad came home one day with Bonnie Blue. "We had no business with an 80-pound, blue-eyed Weimaraner in our small house," Mum recalls, "and Bonnie Blue ended up going to a farm after she tore the stuffing out of my father's recliner. That was the last straw for Ganma." Funny how Ganma was so tolerant of her grandpets later in life, maybe because none of us tore up things at her house.

Later, Mum's parents had Odette the poodle and then another cute munchkin dog named Noelle. When Mum left home, she only had cats until she married my Dad. From then on, they had a blended family of four-legged children. And, nowadays, they're lucky enough to have me and Puddin' as their boon companions. What more could the Royal Parents ask for?

• 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 inkpenn119@gmail.com.



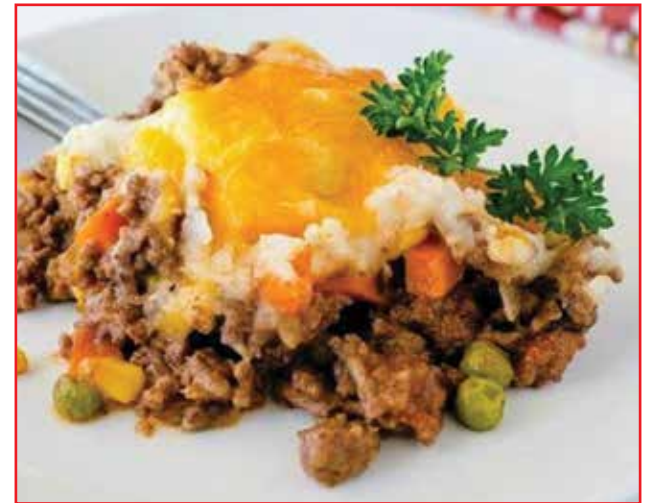
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Shepherd's Pie

Keeping in the spirit of Saint Patrick's Day, I decided to go with a Shepherd's Pie, one of Ireland's most beloved dishes. This is an easy home style dish, that feeds many and is packed with flavor. It is also a perfect weeknight dish! Enjoy!



Ingredients from

The Spice & Tea Exchange:
Onion Obsession Spice Blend
Lamb & Pork Seasoning

Ingredients from grocer:

Potato Layer Ingredients:
3 large russet potatoes
2 TBS butter
1/2 cup milk

Meat Layer Ingredients:

2 lbs of ground beef
1 small onion
2 TBS flour
2 TBS tomato paste
1 cup beef broth
1/2 TBS Worcestershire
1 1/2 peas and carrots, frozen or canned
1/2 cup corn
1 cup of shredded

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350.

1. Add potatoes to a pot of cold water, bring to boil and cook until tender. Drain and mash with butter, milk, and 2 TBS of Onion Obsession Spice Blend.
2. In a heated sauce pan, cook down ground beef and add chopped onions, and season with 1 TBS of Lamb & Pork Seasoning.
3. Pour out excess fat and add flour. Cook for a minute or two and add tomato paste, Worcestershire, and beef stock.
4. In a sauce pan with melted butter, saute peas, carrots, and corn and season with salt and pepper.
5. In a casserole dish, spread the ground beef in an even layer on the bottom. Next, layer the vegetables, finishing with the mashed potato layer on top. Garnish with cheese and bake in a preheated oven for 20 minutes.



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Contest for artwork to market and advertise PAC Youth Theatre's production 'Great Scenes from Shakespeare's Plays' – due March 26

Students in the communities of Highlands, Cashiers, Franklin and Rabun, GA are being enlisted to design poster art, playbill designs and T-shirt graphics for the PAC Youth Theatre Spring play, "Great Scenes from Shakespeare's Plays (with Combat)," slated for Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

"Our Youth Theater program is all about encouraging young talent, so naturally we'd turn to local young artists to help us create the look of our play," says Pac Youth Theatre Director Megan Greenlee-Potts. "The winners will be selected by age groups from students at each of the participating schools – Blue Ridge School, Highlands School, Summit Charter School, and the Homeschool Groups of Highlands, Ca-

shiers, & Franklin – and all entrants will see their works displayed at the Highlands Performing Arts Center."

All entries are due by Tuesday, March 26, and may be submitted by email PACYouth.highlands@gmail.com or hard copies can be dropped off to the Performing Arts Center or the Hudson Library in Highlands and Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library, addressed to Megan Greenlee-Potts. One winner will be picked from each school. Each winner will receive a \$25 Amazon Gift Card. There will also be a reception with a Meet & Greet with the cast and the artist-entrants after the evening Public Performance on Saturday, April 27. All artists with entries and their families are encouraged to attend this performance and reception.

The play will be performed for the general public at 7 p.m. Saturday, 27; and at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28.

"Great Scenes from Shakespeare's Plays (with Combat)" will feature young performers in scenes from "Romeo and Juliet" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," suitable for the entire family.

For information about the play and the PAC Youth Theater Program, call Ms. Greenlee-Potts at (828) 526-9047 or email-PACYouth.highlands@gmail.com.

Book your Appointment Today!

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On the corner of 3rd & Spring

...HF&R continued from page 1

At this year's award ceremony in January, Chief Gearhart said the department responded to 640 calls – more than ever before, "with no sign of stopping."

The proposed plan from Randy Baker of Pinnacle showed the possibilities of expanding the campus to include sleeping quarters, more office space, a meeting room, showers/restrooms, kitchen, and dining area.

One of the main goals of the project is to add sleeping quarters for firefighters working 24/7.

"A key part is to get those accommodations upstairs," said Town Manager Josh Ward. "A lot of fire departments are going that way, 24/7 full-time firemen."

The plan would give the Department approx. 8,800 square feet of bay space and 8,000 square feet of office space. HFR would have nine bays, seven in front and two in back. The existing two bays and the conference room near the rear of the main building will remain as part of the newly built structure.

The EMS building is not part of the project at this time, though the space it occupies may be necessary in the future.

In addition, though loose talk has suggested so, the Highlands Playhouse campus isn't being targeted for HFR expansion.

The idea is to make the most of what's on the site now.

"You can raze this building, but honestly, it's more useful not to," said Baker referring to the existing building. "There's no sense in tearing something down if it works."

It's also been determined that the location of the complex works well especially since the cost of property elsewhere would be debilitating.

A major hurdle will be what to do during the renovations? Can the department operate out of the existing complex?

"That is a hurdle we are going to have to cross," said Gearhart. "We would possibly be able to keep some stuff here but not much. We are not real sure what we will do at this point."

The upgrade comes with an estimated cost of \$2.3 million, which boils down to approx. \$160 per square foot of office space and \$140 per square foot of bay space.

There are multiple ways the town can approach this process. The project could be designed and built by Pinnacle and their contractors who are familiar with

• See HF&R page 17

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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.

...WOOLLY continued from page 1

portant because they provide shade to the streams,” said Pursel. “Shade keeps the stream cold, and a lot of things need the cold to survive, especially trout.”

HCLT protects over 3,000 acres of forests, wetlands and vistas, and for more than 10 years part of this conservation has included treating for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) throughout those protected properties.

Pursel and Americorps Volunteer Grace McCants geared up on Tuesday and headed out to Pinky Falls and a private easement off Flat Mountain Road to treat hemlocks showing signs of HWZ infestation.

Hemlocks are treated with Imidacloprid, a chemical applied at the base of the tree. Imidacloprid is a neonicotinoid systemic insecticide and has been known to be harmful to bees. For that reason, before a hemlock can be treated, Pursel and McCants remove any pollinator plants in the immediate area eliminating the chance bees can be exposed to the treatment.

“We try and make sure to take every precaution so that doesn’t happen,” said McCants. “We’re trying to be helpful, not hurt anything. The benefits of treatment outweigh the risks and we do everything we can to minimize those risks.”

HCLT targets properties with older

hemlocks, hemlocks located near streams, and areas with dense concentrations to treat groups at a time. If the trees are not treated, HWA slowly sucks the life of the tree over time. Treatment to prevent this from happening is done on a rotation basis throughout HCLT’s properties every 5-7 years.

“Adelgids attack the base of the needle and put the tree in a drought stress, basically the tree thinks its undergoing constant drought,” said Pursel. “If this is sustained, it stops producing new growth and after a couple of years it dies.”

HWA is native to Japan and was brought over to the United States in the 1950s. It was first discovered in a garden in Richmond, VA. In its native habitat, HWA is not a threat because there are other predatory species that feed on HWA and control the population. HCLT has also released predatory beetles in the past that feed on HWA and help minimize the damage it can cause, but the fight continues.



Kyle Pursel with HCLT is applying Imidacloprid, a chemical applied at the base of an infected tree
– Photos by Brian O’Shea.

...HF&R continued from page 16



Rather than constructing a new HF&R complex elsewhere, renovations to the existing HF&R complex on Oak Street will likely become a reality.

– Photo by Brian O’Shea

specialty projects including fire departments, schools, and hospitals. Or, the town could ask Pinnacle to design the plans, and then the town could bid the project out to general contractors.

Using Pinnacle and their contractors gives the town a cost cap that is only subject to change if something significant is unforeseen (i.e. 20 feet of rock below the structure) or the town makes drastic changes to the plans; both could cause the cost to escalate.

Other features discussed were ventilation systems, drainage, bay door size, where offices should be located, if the building will

need excessive grading, etc.

The town will provide Pinnacle with topographic maps of the property and then the issue will go before the Town Board.

After Pinnacle receives the topographic information, they can produce an in-depth plan for the project, which runs about \$80,000, but again, it’s up to the board if the town proceeds.

As of press time, HFR’s renovations have not been added to any upcoming Town Board meeting agendas but Ward said it will likely be part of the discussion at the upcoming retreat on March 28.

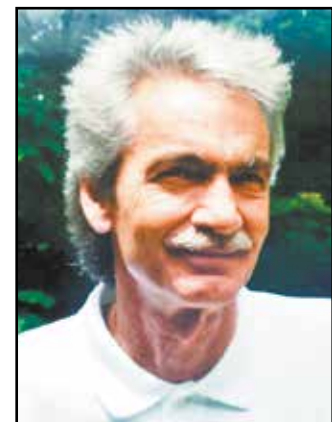
The retreat provides town staff the opportunity to review with the Town Board departmental capital requests for FY 2019-’20 as well as the opportunity to discuss long-range capital needs that may or may not be implemented within the upcoming budget.

“Among other things, a discussion will be had pertaining to the replacement of the existing fire department. The discussion was started several years back and has regained traction recently. The reason for a new building is due to the age and the size of the current building,” said Ward.



The white dots are woolly adelgids feeding at the base of the hemlock needle.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



**What
would YOU
do if you
had your
life to live
over?**

Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist
Church

We lost an hour this past weekend. It seems to me to be the perfect entree to talk about the giving of time rather than the taking of it.

The Bible speaks of this dynamic of time repeatedly. It must therefore be important to God. Don't you think?

Indeed it is!

We all have a certain number of days given to us by Him (Psalm 9:12).

The purpose of those days (from heaven's perspective) is that we might finish the work God has given each of us to do. You have yours and I have mine (John 17:4, 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

We can waste those days, however, and come to the end of our lives with nothing substantial to show for them.

All of this reminds me of a song written by my grandmother, now in heaven since 1984. The first verse goes like this:

If I had my life to live over.
I would live it for Jesus each day.
I would walk the path straight and narrow
And never forgetting to pray

She wrote these words in 1958 subsequent to a near-fatal car accident involving her son, my Dad. Dad was traveling with a new and popular trio named the Sons of Song. They are now defined by Wikipedia as "The first all male trio in Southern Gospel Music." And you can even google the trio name and hear them sing this song.

The words are touching and express the remarkably deep love a mother has for her child. How much more then may we say of the Heavenly Father and His great love for us!

By the way: What would YOU do if you had YOUR life to live over?

None of us can do that but we can live each day left to us for Jesus Christ. He can do more in our lives in one year which will more than compensate for all the years we may have wasted.

However, one day, time as we know it will come to an end and eternity will begin. And all of us – yes, everyone on the planet – makes a decision today regarding where they will spend eternity.

The destinations are two: Heaven or Hell. And isn't it

Proverbs 3:5

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High School;

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

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

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening

Worship, 6p. Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Pastor Zane Talley

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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)

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

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

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• BIZ/ORG NEWS

H-C Hospital is recognized in Business North Carolina's List of 'Top Patient Picks'

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has been recognized by *Business North Carolina* in its 2019 list of Top Patient Picks. This recognition is determined using patient-satisfaction data from the standardized, nationally administered Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers survey, which queries discharged patients on whether they would recommend the hospital to friends and family for its high quality of care. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital earned the No. 3 spot among roughly 100 hospitals across the state.

"We are thrilled to be named to *Business North Carolina's* Top Patient Picks list for the second year in a row," said Jackie Medland, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "Awards like this mean so much to us, because the recognition is based on feedback from our own patients and community, and reflects our steadfast commitment to the highest levels of care and service."

Business North Carolina magazine's Top Patient Picks represent the percentage of patients who would recommend the

hospital to others, as of December 2018, and is based on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, a survey completed by adult hospital patients between 48 hours and six weeks after discharge. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital performed well above state and national averages at 85 percent, which indicates that 85 percent of the time the patients who received our services would recommend us to their friends and family. The North Carolina average is 71 percent, while the national average is 72 percent.

• *Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, a member of Mission Health, an operating division of HCA Healthcare, is a community hospital serving Macon, Jackson and the surrounding counties. Located on Highway 64 between the towns of Highlands and Cashiers, the hospital offers 24/7 emergency care, acute inpatient care, rehabilitation, as well as long-term care through Eckerd Living Center. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has 24 beds for acute care services and 80 beds in the Eckerd Living Center. Ambulatory services are also available, including therapy services and primary care practices serving both Highlands and Cashiers. For more information, please visit missionhealth.org/highlandscashiers*

Two pulmonary providers join Harris Regional Hospital



Christine Kryger



Leslie Morris

Harris Regional Hospital is pleased to welcome two new pulmonary providers to our medical staff, further expanding access to care for the community of western North Carolina. Pulmonary specialists aid in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of a number of issues including asthma, COPD and other conditions of the lungs and respiratory tract that are prominent in our region. In addition to caring for our community with pulmonary issues, our new providers will be working in our American Academy of Sleep Medicine accredited sleep labs that help those that are affected by sleep issues.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

interesting to you that Jesus preached about Hell more than any other subject? How desperately He must want us to be warned and informed.

But today is the day of salvation! Today we may decide for Jesus Christ! I hope you

will do that. No one knows you better. No one loves you more!

We can lose an hour and it really doesn't matter very much. But if we lose eternity then nothing else really matters at all.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Dec. 19, 2018. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Dec. 19, 2018

• At 11:58 a.m., officers were notified about a parking violation on Oak Street.

Feb. 25

• At 8 a.m., officers received a report of a saw valued at \$1,000 being removed from a garage at a construction site on Satulah Road. Feb. 28

• At 12:58 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

March 6

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a call about a

simple assault that occurred on Holt Knob Road.

March 7

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Spring near S. 4th Street.

March 9

• At 12:09 p.m., Jeremy Lewis Homer, 39, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is March 18, 2019.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 5 March 5

• At 9:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Cullasaja Club Drive.

March 6

• At 6:11 a.m., the dept. responded to call at the H-C Hospital concerning a waterflow alarm.

• At little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holt Knob Road.

• At 5:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

March 7

• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 2:47 p.m., the dept. stood-by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 4:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Wilson Road.

March 8

• At 6:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Walhalla Road.

March 9


• At 11:39 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on S. 4th St.

At 10:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Log Cabin Lane.

March 10

• At 7:36 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Morewood Road.

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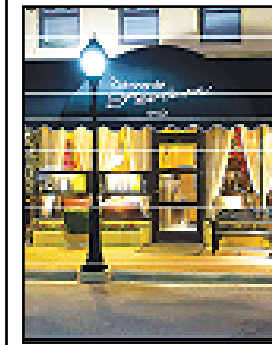
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