

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 22

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

Thursday, May 30, 2019

## MC School System asks county to help fund state's unfunded mandates

At last week's continued Macon County Board of County Commissioners May meeting, Dr. Chris Baldwin, Superintendent of

the Macon County School System, made a plea to commissioners for increased funding for the school system in the Fiscal Year 2019-

2020 budget. He reiterated what he discussed at the Board of Education meeting held the night before in

• See **UNFUNDED** page 8

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## Community turns out for Memorial Day tribute



Photos by  
Kim Lewicki

The flag was  
raised by Bill  
Edwards and  
Bill Reese

"Today, American Legion Post 370 and the Town of Highlands honors not only those whose bodies consecrate our county's soil, but also those who sleep beyond the seas and in soils of countries where they fell. There have been 1,354,664 American deaths from war. May no soldier go unloved; may no soldier walk alone; may no soldier be forgotten until they all come home." – Ed McCloskey, Post 370 commander

## What tax hikes – fire and ad valorem – mean for homeowners in MC

By Brittney Lofthouse

Macon County Manager Derek Roland's 2019-2020 fiscal year budget is slated to begin on July 1 and as proposed, would include the county's first tax increase in a decade.

While a revenue neutral tax rate would be 35.6 cents — and would generate another \$400,669 in tax revenue for the county — Roland recommended a mileage rate of 36.9 cents, which would generate another \$1.05 million in recurring annual revenue. Even with the small increase, Roland told commissioners the county still had one of the lowest tax rates in the region and throughout the state. The total proposed budget for 2019-'20 fiscal year is \$52.8 million, a \$1.8 million or 3.5 percent increase over the 2018-'19 budget.

What does the tax increase mean in terms of dollars for residents?

Macon County's current tax

rate is .00349 or 34.9 cents per \$100 valuation of a home. For a home with a \$100,000 valuation (not including the Franklin tax which is 32 cents per \$100 valuation or the varied fire taxes levied in the county ranging from 6.5 to 12.5 cents) homeowners are currently paying \$349 a year in taxes.

Just taking the ad valorem taxes into account, If the county were to pass a revenue neutral budget with a tax rate of .003561 or 35.61 cents as in year's past, that same homeowner would be looking at paying \$356.10 a year in taxes, a modest \$7.10 annually.

Under the manager's proposed budget however, the tax rate would be .003694 or 36.94 cents. At the proposed rate an individual owning a \$100,000 home would pay \$369.40 cents in taxes, essentially a \$20 a year increase in taxes.

With homes in Highlands typically valued higher than other

• See **TAX HIKE** page 15

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### The goal is to require bear-resistant toters in the commercial and residential areas

I want to thank American Legion Post 370 for the moving Memorial Day ceremony this past Monday to the Veteran's Memorial Park on Oak Street at the Town Hall complex. More than 40 new veterans' bricks were installed. An application for a veteran brick can be found at the park in front of the police department. There is a small kiosk by the walkway with all the information for purchasing a brick with a veteran's name on it. I also want to thank Phil Potts and the volunteers who placed flags on the graves of veterans at the Highlands and surrounding cemeteries for the Memorial Day Holiday.

This past weekend I went up to Satulah to see the progress on the new water tank. It is amazing how this massive structure has been erected on the site. The new tank is twice the size of the old, failing tank. Sometime this fall the new 630,000-gallon tank will come online.

The new bear-proof street cans are



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

now in place. The next step will be to replace all the old commercial toters with bear-resistant toters. This process will begin after the new budget year starts in July. There will be no increase in rental fees for merchants using these new toters. Another step will be to move away from using shared dumpsters and having merchants, when possible, convert to the new toters. Town staff will be working with merchants, especially on Oak

Street, in making this conversion.

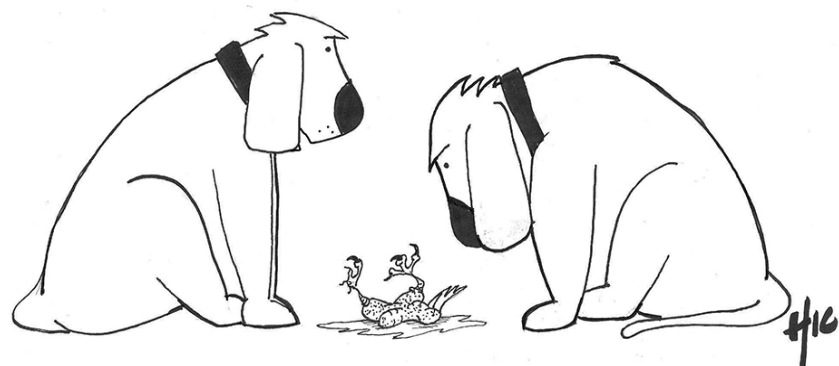
Another step in becoming a BearWise community will be to use bear-resistant containers in the residential areas. This conversion is more complex, more expensive, and about a year away from implementation. Town staff will be reviewing options and developing a plan in the coming months. As I have stated before, the old system of having our sanitation workers lift 35-gallon trash cans repeatedly every day is on its way out. The town has to move everywhere to toters with lift bars. I have had many folks ask me about the plan. My response is that if one is planning on purchasing new trash cans, consider a bear-resistant totter with a lift bar. They are available at the local hardware store or online. I see throughout the town residences that use 95- and 65-gallon toters. It doesn't matter about the size as long as there is a lift bar.

This summer I will get rid of my 35-gallon trash cans that are housed in a wooden, bear-resistant stand. I plan on getting a bear-resistant totter and building a new stand.

Tomorrow is the Community Coffee with the Mayor at the Hudson Library beginning at 11 am.

My guest will be Rebecca Shuler, Highlands Director of Finance. Rebecca and I will cover the highlights of the forthcoming budget for FYI 2019/20. There will be a public hearing for the proposed budget at the June 20 Town Board meeting followed by a final review and approval of the budget that goes into effect July 1.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



whicsever@yahoo.com

"Actually I'm trying to reconcile my canine genes with yuck."

## • OBITUARIES •

### Rene Ramsdell

Rene Ramsdell, 78, of Highlands, NC passed away peacefully with her family by her side Saturday, February 23, 2019 in Safety Harbor, FL. She was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother.

Rene was born July 2, 1940 in Cincinnati, Ohio and lived in Fort Thomas KY. She later moved to Clearwater, FL where she attended Clearwater High School. After graduation, Rene attended Burdett College in Boston and spent the summers in Ogunquit, ME where she met the love of her life, James (Jim) Ramsdell. They were soon married in Clearwater, on April 27, 1961 and lived for a short time in Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire, before settling in St. Petersburg, FL to raise two children. There, Rene served at Garden Crest Presbyterian Church as church secretary and later as director of Youth Club.

In 1987, they moved to Highlands, NC to fulfill a dream of owning a Bed and Breakfast. After 15 years as innkeepers, they retired and enjoyed living in the beauty of the Great Smokey mountains and travelling across the continent in their motorhome.

Rene was dedicated to serving the Lord and changed many lives with her acts of kindness. Always willing to help and take care of others first, her laugh was often heard before seeing her infectious smile. She was an avid reader, enjoyed exercising in the pool, tending the garden, playing cards with friends, and volunteering for community and church events at Highlands United Methodist Church.

• See OBITUARIES page 7

## • WEATHER •

|          | Friday 5/31 |           | Saturday 6/1 |           | Sunday 6/2 |           |
|----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|          | Daytime     | Overnight | Daytime      | Overnight | Daytime    | Overnight |
| Temp     | 75 F        | 52 F      | 75 F         | 53 F      | 74 F       | 51 F      |
| RealFeel | 82 F        | 64 F      | 85 F         | 61 F      | 81 F       | 61 F      |
| Winds    | 6 g 9       | 4 g 7     | 3 g 6        | 4 g 6     | 6 g 9      | 4 g 7     |
| T-Storms | 24%         | 7%        | 24%          | 24%       | 40%        | 24%       |
| Rainfall | 0           | 0         | 0            | 0         | 0.04       | 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.





**HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN** This 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home is well maintained and in move-in condition. It has a quaint mountain feel and decor throughout, with shiplap wood paneling and beautiful wide wood plank flooring. This home was built with top quality materials throughout. Separate dining area, great living area, plus a cozy sitting area with a stone fireplace. This lovely, quality home is in a great price range and very convenient to downtown Highlands.

**MLS# 90808 | Offered for \$799,900**



**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** This one level home not only backs up to the National Forest land for complete privacy but is an easy walk to the Swim and Tennis Center or the Clubhouse. Membership in the club at Highlands Falls is optional for homeowners but required for use of the beautiful facilities, which includes a championship golf course, the best fitness and croquet courts on the mountain, plus a lap swimming pool, pickle ball courts, and tennis courts.

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

## NEW on MARKET!

**HIGHLANDS** Charming old Highlands cottage, could be even cuter with remodel. Great bones with wood-burning fireplace, hardwood floors, and pine paneling throughout. Two bedrooms, one bath on main level, one downstairs. Beautifully terraced backyard, an amazing place for a garden. End of the road privacy on an acre-plus lot. Downstairs could become separate rental apartment or great privacy for your guests. Offered furnished.

**MLS# 90936 | Offered for \$295,000**

*In Due Diligence*



**CHESTNUT HILL** A lot of home for the money! The great room is light-filled and spacious with multiple seating areas, beautiful hardwood floors, and vaulted ceilings. The master is oversized with an extra large walk-in closet and a bath with double vanity. Landscape care, water, sewer, roads, and snow removal is provided by the HOA. But there is more: the exterior of this home including the roof is also cared for by the HOA - this is like living in a condominium but better!

**MLS# 90818 | Offered for \$325,000**

*In Due Diligence*



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
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**SAGEE MOUNTAIN** This outstanding home is a combination of both modern and rustic chic. Renovated with creative touches throughout, this 3 bedroom/4.5 bath home shines with artistry and style. You will enjoy all the custom features and how the walls of glass bring the outside in. Efficiency apartment/studio with full bath is connected to the main house. Stone driveway leads to a two car carport with a place for an RV.

**MLS# 90926 | Offered for \$1,497,000**



**HIGHLANDS** With mountain elegance in design and finishes, this 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home is located on a private 3.27 acre tract just 5 minutes from downtown Highlands. This stream front property includes 2 additional adjoining lots that could be sold or unified to insure privacy. In addition to paved access, underground utilities and high speed internet reception this home also boasts the rare combination of an on-site waterfall and layered mountain views.

**MLS# 90508 | Offered for \$1,450,000**

**HIGHLANDS** A sophisticated house in the small community of Highgate, located just five minutes from Main Street, is accessed by well-paved road up the mountain to an elevation of 4,200 feet. This development has maintained a low im-pact on the environment with low density; wildlife such as deer, turkey, and rabbits abound. The house backs up to the protected Nantahala National Forest and has a ridgeline view. Offered beautifully furnished - just move right in!

**MLS# 90504 | Offered for \$1,225,000**

**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** This lovely Arts & Crafts style custom 5 bedroom/4.5 bath home was built in 2000 and has been updated throughout the years. It is located on Big Bear Pen - one of the most desirable locations in downtown Highlands. From your front door at 4,100+/- ft. elevation you can hike the Kelsey Trail into downtown. The 1BR/1BA guest cottage is adorable with a kitchenette, a full bath, and a private screened porch.

**MLS# 89150 | Offered for \$1,198,500**



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### Soup

Cream of Asparagus

### Fish Special

Grilled Swordfish on a bed of  
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Mashed Potatoes

### Meat Special

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### Friday & Saturday Special

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## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 2

Rene lived life fully and is now in her forever home, the house of the Lord. Posted in their cabin in North Carolina is her motto: Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive, well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, shouting, "Woo-hoo, what a ride!"



Rene is survived and deeply loved by her husband, Jim. They enjoyed 58 wonderful years of marriage together. She is also survived by two daughters, Gail Ramsdell of Safety Harbor, FL and Bonnie McCray of Fort Wayne, IN; two grandchildren Kayla McCray and Connor McCray; brother-in-law, Doug Ramsdell (Betty), and countless friends; who all love her and miss her daily.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Highlands United Methodist Church (315 Main Street) on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 2 p.m. with food and fellowship to follow.

### Virginia 'Ginger' Hightower Kennedy

Virginia (Ginger) Hightower Kennedy died at midnight, May 21st, in Highlands, N.C. Her husband Kevin Naylor was at her bedside at the time of death. The cause of death was complications from lung cancer.



She was born March 5, 1940 in Atlanta, GA and was the daughter of Alfred D. Kennedy Jr. of Atlanta and Jane Virginia (Gina) Hightower Kennedy of Atlanta and Thomaston, GA. She is survived by her best friend and husband of 26 years, Kevin Michael Naylor. She moved to Highlands in 1995 and resided there until her death. She loved gardening, dogs and travel with her husband to places as distant as New Zealand and Angkor Watt Cambodia.

During her lifetime Ms. Kennedy was a member of the Peachtree Garden Club, the Forward Arts Foundation and the Piedmont Driving Club of Atlanta. She served on the Boards of the Bascom Visual Arts Center and the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. She and her husband were co-chairpersons of the Collective Spirits event for The Bascom in 2011. She graduated in 1958 from Miss Hewitt's Classes in New York City.

Ms. Kennedy is survived by her three children, Jane Virginia Saunders of Keswick, VA; Drummond (Dru) Saunders of Bellingham, WA; and Isabelle Kennedy Brock of Atlanta, GA and her grandchildren Harrison Kennedy Brock, Sarah Austell Brock and Jane Cameron Brock; her brother, Alfred D. Kennedy of Atlanta, GA and her sister Edna Thornton Kennedy of Durango, CO.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to The Bascom Visual Arts Center in Highlands or the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society.

A Celebration of Ginger's Life, to be scheduled at a future date, will be held in Highlands, N.C. Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com)

### Charles Daniel 'Danny' Sherrill

Mr. Charles Daniel "Danny" Sherrill, 77, passed away Friday, May 24, 2019. Mr. Sherrill was born in Swain County, September 5, 1941 to the late Lewis Edwin Sherrill and Jacqueline Hall Sherrill. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Betty Hall Sherrill of the home; two daughters, Terrie Kendrick (Clyde) and Deidra Dills (Richard) all of Franklin, NC; a daughter-in-law, Lisa Dills Sherrill of Blairsville, GA; four grandsons; four granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren; a sister, Elaine Rohr of Columbia, SC; and a brother, Rev. Edwin Sherrill of Bryson City, NC.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Betty Hall Sherrill of the home; two daughters, Terrie Kendrick (Clyde) and Deidra Dills (Richard) all of Franklin, NC; a daughter-in-law, Lisa Dills Sherrill of Blairsville, GA; four grandsons; four granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren; a sister, Elaine Rohr of Columbia, SC; and a brother, Rev. Edwin Sherrill of Bryson City, NC.

A funeral service was held 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2019. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Western North Carolina, 31 College Place Suite Doppler 103 Asheville, NC 28801. Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

### Stephen Lamar Rogers

Stephen Lamar Rogers, 65, passed away Monday, May 20, 2019. Mr. Rogers was born August 11, 1953 in Jackson County to the late Frank and Iva Lee Hyatt Rogers. He was a contractor and was a member of Windy Gap Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Ann Munger Rogers; a daughter, Denise Rogers of Tampa, FL; a son, Stacey Rogers (Michelle) of Franklin, NC; six grandchildren, Zackery Russell, Logan Russell, Preston Russell, Julia Hixon, Taylor Hixon, and Jaylan Hixon; three great-grandchildren, Madison Rogers, Owen McMahan, and Sawyer Ramey; a sister, Reatha Cabe (David) of Waynesville, NC; and two nephews, Matthew Cabe (Lindsay) of Morganton, NC and Alex Cabe of Washington, DC.

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A funeral service was held May 24, 2019 at the Windy Gap Baptist Church with the Rev. Mark Bishop and Rev. Eddie Stillwell officiating.

Online condolences may be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Rogers family.

### Charles Eugene 'Gene' Mitchell, Jr

Mr. Charles Eugene "Gene" Mitchell, Jr. 67, went home to be with the Lord Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

• See OBITUARIES page 8

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# G·R·O·W

Getting Real on Wednesdays

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## ADDICTION

MAY 1-22, Room 112  
Gary Hewins,  
Vesta Jones

Many believers today are dealing with addictive issues or want to know how to minister to others struggling with addiction. This workshop is for anyone wanting to know how they can be set free, or help others be set free, from the bonds of addiction.

## S.H.A.P.E.

MAY 8-29, Room 308  
Russ Johnsen,  
Thomas Bates

Discover how your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experience equip you for ministry and service to the body of Christ.

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

MAY 15 - JULY 24  
Café, Wayne Bost

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University (FPU)! This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! Must register on line by 5/8 at <https://fpu.com/1089017>.

## 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CLASS, JUNE 5 - JULY 31, Room 308

Julie Hughes

Rising 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders meet in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade room,

6-7 pm, to discuss and answer some of their biggest questions about their faith through a study of the Word. We'll use *Case for Christ for Kids* by Lee Strobel as a tool, along with the Bible, to address the existence, miracles, ministry and resurrection of Jesus.

## GRIEF SHARE

JUNE 12 - SEPT 18,  
Room 112, Mary  
Blackburn, Bill + Sharon  
Youngerman

A biblically-based grief support group designed for people who are grieving the death of a family member or friend.

## MARRIAGE

JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 10,  
Family Room  
Thomas + Lisa Bates

Exploring love languages, improved communication, conflict resolution, debunking marital myths & more.

## FOUNDATIONS

JULY 17 - AUGUST 14  
Media Room  
Various Elders

Geared toward the new believer, this class will provide insight and instruction on how to best begin your walk with Christ. This will help you to grow and mature in your faith and to become an effective member of your church family.

## 2019 Upcoming Events

at the  
Center for Life Enrichment

### May Schedule

- **From Curing Cancer to Covert Espionage: How Nanotechnology is Changing the World** Friday, May 31 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Channa DeSilva of WCU

### June Schedule

- **Terrorism and the FBI** Monday, June 3 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Carl Jensen
- **The 2020 Presidential Race** Tuesday, June 4 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Al Tuchfarber
- **Small but Mighty Works of Literature** Tuesdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25 Time: 5:30-8:30 Cost: \$110/\$120 Presenter: Mimi Fenton
- **Lakeside Cooking Demo and Lunch** Thursday, June 6 Time: 11-2 Cost: \$30/\$40 Chef: Travis Brooks
- **Why China Will Never Pass the U.S. as the #1 World Power** Thursday, June 6 Time: 2:30-4:30 Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Al Tuchfarber
- **More Laughing Tales of Southern Dysfunctional Families** Friday, June 7 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ann Platz Groton
- **Center for Life Enrichment - OPENING PARTY** Monday, June 10 Time: 5-7 No Cost to attend

### 2019 Trips with CLE

- **Spain/Portugal: September 15-27**
  - **May 2020 California's Central Coast Wine Trip**  
For info call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com) and see trips under the "Travel with CLE" tab
- Students Attend All \$25 Lectures for FREE, Walk-ins are Welcome!**

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THE CURIOUS MIND  
KNOWS NO BOUNDS

## ...UNFUNDED from page 1

Highlands that the school system needs financial help.

Baldwin cited increased enrollment and state enrollment mandates as reasons for needing more funding for education.

Based on numbers from Highlands School's kindergarten registration this spring, the school will need an additional kindergarten classroom next year. In addition to Highlands School, based on anticipated classroom numbers, three other schools in the county, Cartoogechaye, East Franklin and South Macon Elementary schools, will need additional K-3 classrooms.

"Our concern with the proposed budget is that with

• See UNFUNDED page 11

## ...OBITUARIES from page 7

Gene was born in Greene County, TN, November 30, 1951 to the late Charles Eugene Mitchell, Sr. and Mrs. Anna Lee Baughard Mitchell who survives.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Sandra Mashburn Mitchell of the home; his mother, Anna Mitchell of Franklin; and other family and friends.

Mr. Gene was preceded in death by his father; a brother, Jackie B. Mitchell; and a special aunt, Cora Miller.

A funeral service was held Sunday, May 26, 2019 in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Terry Jenkins, Rev. Scott Matthews, and Rev. Gary McDaniel officiating.

Memorials can be made to the Appalachian Animal Rescue Shelter, 851 Lake Emory Rd. Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made to [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Mitchell family.

• See OBITUARIES page 15

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## PRINCESS PUDDIN'

# • CATSPEAK •

## Calling all cat lovers

Why am I just now finding out there are cat holidays? You'd think my mum would have known there were special days dedicated to us felines, but if she did, she's kept it a secret.

Spring and summer are filled with these special days, so cat lovers will want to mark their calendars. First up is National Hug Your Cat Day on either May 3 or May 30. According to the website catological.com, no one can agree on which day it is so if you missed May 3, you can celebrate May 30. TBH, I don't much like to be hugged, so I've told Mum she can rub my ears and tickle my chin, but no hugging no matter which day she chooses. Banjo loves to be hugged, so maybe she can hug him instead.

In June, we get a whole month for shelter cats as it is officially Adopt a shelter-cat month. I'm a lucky kitty who never had to go to a shelter. A kind lady rescued me after a man tossed me from a pickup truck into a bush, and she kept me at her house until Mum saw my photo on Petfinder and came to meet me.

The closest I've come to living in a cage is when I've had my teeth cleaned at the vet, and that's as close as I ever want to get. The darned pet carrier for that trip is confining enough. If you don't have a cat, I hope you'll visit a shelter in June and find a cat to make your own.

National Cat Day or World Cat Day falls on August 8. This holiday began in 2002 as a way to raise awareness of the plight of homeless cats. I don't know what it is about cat people that they can't agree on which days these holidays should occur. Some European countries celebrate this holiday on



Feb. 17, and others celebrate it on October 29. Go figure. On the other hand, having three days spread throughout the year may be the way to go.

I'm not sure I want to celebrate National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day August 22. I don't like shots, and it

was August last year when mum took me to have my teeth cleaned, a most unpleasant experience. Perhaps if I keep quiet about this one, Mum will skip it.

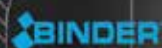
I can get totally onboard with September being Happy Cat Month, and I have a great idea. I'll leave a note on Mum's desk every night in September telling her what will make me happy the next day. When she sits down in front of her computer, my note will be the first thing she sees ... well, after she sees the pens and pencils I leave on the floor every night.

I know I want continuous dabs of wet food in my dish throughout the day, treats every time I jump on the desk, birdseed in the birdfeeder so I can watch the Outdoor channel from my little footstool by the window, Dad's lap available whenever I want it, and fresh typing paper with crisp corners that I can chew on. Oh heck, now that I think about it, Mum can do all of these things every day in September and all year long. I'm a deserving little thing, don't you agree?

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

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# •WORD MATTER•

## One Ringy-Dingy ...



**Bud Katz**

The evolution of telephone service in our nation has been constant and sometimes frustrating for those who experience it as it happens. I learned the other day that the two area codes in East Central Florida where we used to live – 321 and 407 – were to be augmented by a third, three-digit prefix, 689.

You might ask why we didn't change our phone numbers when we left the 407 area. Fair question. Had we switched to an 828 number we would have had to change everything, not just the area code, and would have risked losing contact with a number of friends, former work colleagues and neighbors. I guess we didn't want to risk that. Or, maybe, we didn't want to face the inconvenience. Now, it's possible we'll be faced with the same situation.

Finding myself midway through my eighth decade on planet Earth I realize I've had a lot of history with "the phone company." So, I'm sure, have you. And we've all experienced constant, sometimes disruptive change.

Growing up, I recall letter-designated exchanges (such as NI-ghtingale, ES-pla-nade, DE-wey). My phone number when I was a kid was NI-5-6046. I never forgot it. Even back then in New York City we didn't have to include the area code.

Then, along came digit-dialing (we dialed phones back then; didn't punch in numbers until "Princess phones" arrived on the scene in the early 1960s). NI-5-6046 became 645-6046. Then area codes got involved, which brought about ten-digit dialing.

Here on the plateau, when calling locally we don't yet have to punch in 828. The operative word is "yet." Call anyplace else, though, and its ten-digit dialing, er, punching.

In the late 1980s, my first "car phone," was a big, clunky thing anchored to the floorboard next to the gear shift in my Honda. Then came "flip phones," which resembled the Tricorders aboard the Enterprise on Star Trek.

In 2007, everything changed. "Smart phones" arrived with a huge "Wow" factor. These changed everything. The phone contains a camera, is a game console, and has a gazillion features, known as "apps." They also dramatically expanded the insidious use of "texting." There's almost nothing as closely connected to the scourge known as "staring into the screen syndrome" as texting.

I'm now on my second smart phone and will likely be forced to "upgrade" before too long.

Every day, more and more households are doing away with residential, "hard lines" altogether, in favor of cellular usage.

Whenever the phone company needs to make room for additional residential and business lines, mobile phones, and fax machines, they inconvenience thousands of us by pulling customers from one or two existing area codes and placing them into a new area code, in order to accommodate still more new users.

When I relocated to Florida in 1974, the entire state had three area codes. Now, with the arrival of 689, there are eighteen! In our state we have nine area codes, but only one for the entire western part of North Carolina. 828 showed up in 1988, when the west separated from 704, which remains in effect around Charlotte.

Many of us recall needing "operator assistance" when making long distance calls. Those calls were expensive, so we didn't make them very often. We sometimes called "collect" (reversing the charges), which meant the people we were calling could either accept or reject the call.

We could call "information" if we needed to obtain someone's number. We could dial a number and learn what time it was. We recall "pay phones" on every corner (they're virtually obsolete now), and, some of us may actually remember things like "party lines," "switch boards," and those heavy black "receivers," which sat atop "cradles" featuring large, rotary "dials," which let us know they were operational by presenting a "dial tone."

Perhaps nothing else of such a universal nature, something that touches literally every person and household in America, has undergone as much change as telephone service and usage since its inception in 1876. That's when Mr. Bell "called" his colleague and said, "Mr. Watson – come here – I want to see you."

No date has been determined as to when the 689-area code will take effect in east Central Florida. I don't know if our phone numbers will change; honestly, I hope they don't.

I do know, with metaphysical certainty, when this change occurs, and when future, unknown and unanticipated change happens, it will all be condemned by most of those affected.

## ...UNFUNDED continued from page 8

the new class size legislation, we anticipate needing to add four K-3 classrooms next year," said Baldwin. "A kindergarten teacher at Cartoogechaye and Highlands School, a first-grade teacher at East Franklin, and a first- and second-grade teacher at South Macon."

"The issue for us at Highlands School is that the geographically isolated schools bill provided one teacher for each grade level for Highlands and Nantahala schools; however, with the K-3 class size legislation, the maximum size next year for any K-3 classroom is 22 students. If we exceed 22 students, we have to provide some sort of resolution so that the classroom is reduced in size."

Based on projections for next year, Highlands School will have 24 students in kindergarten and 25 students in first-grade. With the new legislation, the 24 students in kindergarten means there will have to be two kindergarten and two first-grade classrooms. In addition, the school system normally provides a teacher's assistant for each K-1 classroom.

Baldwin told the board funding for teacher's assistants is also a challenge for the school system.

"Last year we had to fund teacher's as-

sistants out of our local appropriations in the amount of \$150,000," said Baldwin. "We are looking at needing to pick up these additional teacher's assistants from some funding source other than state."

In the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the recommended funding levels for the Macon County Schools system is \$9,607,731. At last week's meeting Dr. Baldwin asked commissioners for an additional \$937,454. Baldwin said the recommended county budget for the school system reflects an increase of \$1.8 million or 1.4 percent, over the 2018-2019 budget.

"This increase is mainly due to unfunded mandates and increases in benefits that are generally out of the control of county government," said Baldwin. "While there is no increase in K-2 funding in the recommended budget, the school system is faced with similar unfunded mandates and cost increases."

Baldwin said the proposed budget doesn't fully fund teacher's assistants, the school system's STEM coordinator, the Business Advisory Council, Macon Early College, the 2% teacher and teacher's assistant supplements, and bonuses for school system custodial and clerical employees.

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## 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).Visitors are

welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

## 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 Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

## Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

## Mon.-Wed.

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

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

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

## Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

## Tuesdays

• 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.

• 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 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

• Beginning June 6 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 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.

• 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.

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# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

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## **Fourth Thursday**

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

## **Fridays**

• 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.

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

## **Sundays**

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

## **Thurs., May 30**

• At CLE, Southern Appalachia and the Atomic Bomb Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Kelley Dinkelmeyer. 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 at The Orchard at The Farm by Old Edwards, Chatham Rabbits. \$10 admission. Cash Bar and Free Nibbles. 7-9 p.m. Public Welcome.

## **Fri. May 31**

• At CLE, From Curing Cancer to Covert Espionage: How Nanotechnology is Changing the World Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Channa DeSilva. 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!

• Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library from 11a to noon.

• Live music in Town Square 6-8p. South-

ern Highlands

## **Thurs-Sun, May 30-June 2**

• HCP presents "Calendar Girls" at Highlands Performing Arts Center. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Box office is 828-526-8084, website [highlands.cashiersplayers.org](http://highlands.cashiersplayers.org).

## **Sat., June 1**

• Community Day at The Bascom 11a-2p. Come join The Bascom in a day of interactive art activities, demonstrations, exhibitions and outdoor fun!

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

## **Mon., June 3**

• At CLE, Terrorism and the FBI Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Carl Jenson. 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!

## **Tues., June 4**

• At CLE, The 2020 Presidential Race Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Al Tuchfarber. 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!

## **Tuesdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25**

• At CLE, Small but Mighty Works of Literature Time: 5:30-8:30 Cost \$110/\$120 Presenter: Mimi Fenton. To register call 526-8811 or visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com). Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins welcome!

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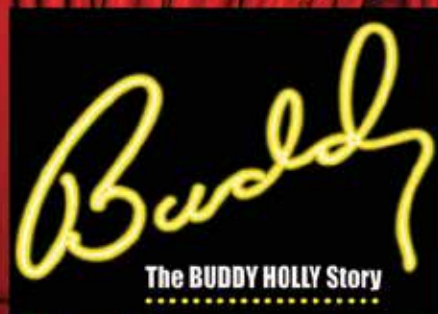
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## And the Survey Said?

The TV game show "Family Feud" started in 1976 with Richard Dawson and still runs with Host Steve Harvey. If you're one of the 10 people who haven't seen the show, the premise is two families pitted against each other vying for the most points to win money. To get points, you have to match your answers to a survey question. This further encouraged our love of 'top 10' type publications. Maybe that's why this one caught my eye from a recent Realtor Magazine article.

Straight from the Zumper.com article What Renters Want: Top 10 Most Requested Amenities (without the article's commentary) 1. Air Conditioning; 2. In-Unit Laundry; 3. Dishwasher; 4. On-site Laundry; 5. Assigned Parking; 6. Central Heat; 7. Furnished; 8. Balcony; 9. Garage Parking; 10. Hardwood Floors; 11. Ceiling Fan. If you're still counting-stop. Number 11 was actually an honorable mention.

Those top 10 would most likely be from residential renters. Here on the plateau, most of our renters are a completely different kind of animal, the vacation renter variety. The wants and wishes of residential renters vs. short term renters are basically the same, but the latter tend to be more vocal about the following top 10 list.

The order of preference depends on the renter. 1. Walk-to-town - I'm not sure if it's because people are more ambulatory these days or don't want to get in a car after having a drink, but there's definitely something special about having a place in town. 2. View - Living in these beautiful mountains, it's not hard to understand someone's dream of having a mountain vista just outside their bedroom window, but there are many people who consider a wooded view to be the best view. They can drive to see a vista, but the quiet intimacy of a wooded setting is something hard to find in a city. 3. Bedroom-to-bathroom ratio - No matter where the property is, this has become really important. I had a renter refer to those type houses as bathrobe



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Rentals  
828-526-3717

houses, because you can't leave your bedroom without wearing a bathrobe. 4. Air Conditioning - Yes, I know. We're 'air conditioned by nature,' at least that used to be the slogan of Highlands, but that was before everyone started paving every road and lane, and cutting down trees, and building bigger and bigger homes with hardly any green space. Sometimes I can almost hear the lonely trees crying out, longing for their friends and family, but that's another story. 5. Outdoor spaces - Homes may be for keeping our cool, but outdoors are meant for living. People are into gardens more than ever whether they're the actual gardeners or not, others love water features, outdoor entertaining, etc. 6. Fireplaces - Is it the Neanderthal in our genes that makes us want fire? There are fireplaces in living areas, bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens. With the growing popularity of fire pits, we're seeing them placed on decks and lawns everywhere. Some are obviously campfire style, but there are lavish ones as well. 7. Internet - Some people can only justify a longer stay in these beautiful mountains if they can stay connected to the world. 8. Zoning or HOA rules - This one is tricky, because the rules aren't always known when you're looking to buy, or known when you're looking to rent. For instance, there are some HOA rules that allow owners to have pets, but not renters. That can lead to confusion

and frustration. There are some HOA rules that limit rentals to one week, two weeks, or month-long stays. 9. Laundry - Without a laundromat in town, it means a trip off the mountain unless you go to the dry cleaners. Having a washer/dryer in your home is considered more of a necessity than an amenity. 10. Updated and Well Maintained -- There may be some vacation renters that enjoy a low budget rental with 'Early Attic' furniture, no internet, small 'boxy' TVs that only work with an old VHS system, old appliances (that may or may not have all eyes working), and there are homes available for them, but for the most part, people want updated and well maintained homes.

We know that what people want is generally the same whether our clients are renters, or potential buyers, whether they know it or not. It's always fun to see that light bulb turn on when that realization hits.

There are exceptions to every rule, but especially when someone is looking to purchase a home that will be offered as a vacation rental. It's important to know what renters want. Even if the buyers have no plans to rent their homes out, what about the buyers that come after them in 5-10-15 years? The resale value should be as important to a buyer when they're looking to buy as when they're considering listing it for sale.

The average length of home ownership of a primary residence is six-to-nine years, and second-home ownership is probably similar. I know of plenty of homeowners who have had second homes in our area for much, much longer, but I guess when you figure in the flippers, the average goes down.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners/brokers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands, NC 828-526-3717 or [info@highlandscalling.com](mailto:info@highlandscalling.com) They're ready to help you check off the top 10 in your next mountain home.



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Are your furry family members overdue for a nail trim? Good News!!! Posh Paws Pet Spa is currently offering half price Nail Trim Services. These are walk-in services; no appointments necessary. Please bring current, up-to-date rabies paperwork with you.

## Springtime Special Through June: Half Price Nail Trim Service

Clip \$5

Clip with Dremel \$10



## ...TAX HIKE continued from page 1

parts of the county, the tax increase would obviously mean more out-of-pocket expenses for homeowners.

Not including the Highlands town tax of 1.64 cents per \$100 valuation or the fire tax, for a home valued at \$1 million, homeowners are currently paying \$3,490 annual at the current tax rate. With a revenue a neutral rate, that same homeowner would pay \$3,561 in taxes, a \$71 a year increase. Roland's proposed budget would mean the homeowner would pay \$3,694 in annual taxes, a \$204 increase over the current year.

The town of Highlands also approved a 2-cent fire tax increase, however that increase is pending county approval. Currently

town residents pay 1 cent per \$100 valuation of a home. The increase would push that rate to 3 cents per \$100 valuation. Proceeds would fund a new fire department main station.

"We are raising the fire tax to build a new station and eventually have 24/7 staff coverage," said Mayor Patrick Taylor. "We need a station with barracks and decontamination facilities for staff and gear after a fire. We currently have the lowest fire tax rate in the county."

According to Macon County Emergency Management Director Warren Cabe, the last time the Highlands Fire Department requested a tax increase was in 2014 when the rate was increased from .009 to the current rate of .0108.

## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 8

### Dewey 'Pete' King

Dewey "Pete" King, 93, of Scaly Mountain, NC passed away Monday, May 27, 2019.

Born in Leake County, MS, he was the son of the late William Richard King and Mattie Caroline Mosley King. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy King. Pete was a US Army Veteran serving during World War II. He was a member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and worked as a salesman, most recently at Mountain High Lodge in Highlands. Pete enjoyed fishing in the Bahamas, camping, and watching the Miami Dolphins.

He is survived by his daughter, Karen King of Scaly Mountain, NC and several nieces and nephews.

A Graveside Service will be held at a later date in Florida.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



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(Corner of N. 4th and Oak streets upstairs  
across from Town Hall. Enter from the rear.)



# Highlands School Class of 2019 graduation



Photos by  
Kim Lewicki

May 25, 2019





# Highlands School Class of 2019 graduation



## **H-C Chamber Music Feasts**

### **"Feast with David, Julie & Julianne on Falls Drive"**

Sunday, July 7 @ 7:15 PM

\$125/person - 14 Places

Special Guests:

David & Julie Coucheron, Julianne Lee

Hosts: Marjory & Ronnie Elliot

### **"Armida on La Rive Gauche"**

Saturday, July 13 @ 7:15 PM

\$125/person - 12 Places

Special Guests: Armida String Quartet

Hosts: Martha & Al Pearson

### **"Summer Supper @ High Mitre"**

Saturday, July 20 @ 7:15 PM

\$125/person - 15 Places

Special Guests: Philippe Quint,

Ani Aznavoorian, Elizabeth Pridgen

Hosts: Bob & Charlotte Brown

### **"A Musical Feast at Rabbit Ridge"**

Thursday, July 25 @ 6 PM

\$150/person - 14 Places

Special Guests:

Fei-Fei & William Ransom will perform

Hosts: Susan & Chip Robert

### **"An Evening in Spain"**

Sunday, July 28 @ 7:15 PM

\$125/person - 18 Places

Special Guests: Solera String Quartet

Hosts: Kay Kramer & Frank Cohen; Chef:

Marty Rosenfield



### **"Dom Perignon Wine Dinner at Cedar Creek"**

Saturday, August 3 @ 7:15 PM

\$150/person - 24 Places

Special Guests:

Sara Sant'Ambrogio & Victor Asuncion

Hosts: Bob & Norris Williams

@ Cedar Creek Club

### **"Bountiful Brunch on Bowery"**

Saturday, October 12 @ 1130 AM

\$100/person - 18 Places

Special Guests: Amernet String Quartet

Hosts: Tom & Ruth Claiborne, Michael

& Martha Dupuis

## **H-C Chamber Music Salons**

### **"Music for a Wedding"**

Saturday, June 29 @ 5 PM

\$75/person - 30 Places

Yinzi Kong & William Ransom will perform

Hosts: Andrea & Carlton Cole (Highlands)

### **"Music for a Wedding"**

Sunday, June 30 @ 5 PM

\$75/person - 20 Places

Yinzi Kong & William Ransom will perform

Hosts: Kendra & Roger Haines (Cashiers)

### **"Quint at His Best!"**

Tuesday, July 23 @ 5 PM

\$75/person - 25 Places Philippe Quint will

perform Hosts: Judy & Louis Freeman

### **"Bach in a Sacred Space"**

Chapel - Highlands Episcopal Church

Thursday, August 1 @ 5 PM

\$75/person - 75 Places

Sara Sant'Ambrogio will perform

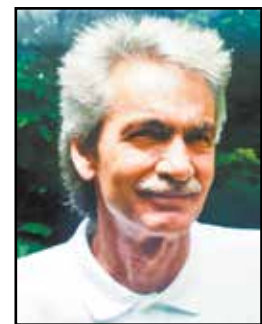
Hosts: Lana Jordan,

Michael & Martha Dupuis

Join us at this season's events by calling the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival office at 828-526-9060 or email us at hccmfnc@gmail.com. These annual FEASTS/SALONS provide important and vital financial support for the Festival which allows us to bring world-class chamber music to the mountains each year.



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## Where is the Church on God's Timeline?

Pastor Dan Robinson  
Highlands Central Baptist Church

The world culture and society are changing with warp speed. American values are being challenged and disregarded by many. Advertisements blare with "This diet!" or "That clothing!" or "This automobile!" These are things we are told we must have to make our lives meaningful.

It's all so phony! It's the "Eat, Drink and be Merry" philosophy of Hedonism. We are a "Me" saturated culture. Long-term thinking and eternal decisions seem foreign to our instant high-tech world. Indeed, the Church has not escaped this influence. It seems, that for the most part, we are spoiled, demanding and petulant. The humility and brokenness of Jesus do not draw us. Purity, holiness and sacrifice require a cost we are unwilling to pay.

How we need a shaking! An awakening. Even an abrupt confrontation. We need to see the ugliness of our sin. The shallowness of our Christian commitment. The futility of our temporal pursuits. It seems, ironically, that the great blessings of God on our nation are just about to kill us! We are fat, sassy, indolent, passive, unsatisfied and complaining.

He giveth more Grace... and we wanteth more Goodies! The prosperity of our culture and the passivity of the Church have no precedent in history. The Church has essentially traded Her values. The immediate satisfaction of a bowl of soup has far outweighed the incomparable peace of living in the fullness of our birthright. The Body of Jesus is weighed down by the sugar of spiritual candy and is diseased by the intake of the world. Only God can resolve this. And I believe He will.

But, frankly, what it may cost may surprise everyone. The Lord will not tolerate compromise forever. He will not permit His Name entrusted to the Church to fall into disrepute by the World because of the Church. A day of reckoning is surely coming. Life as we know it with its comforts, gadgets and toys may indeed either come to an end or be required of us by the Lord in order to get our attention back to Him, with Him and on Him, alone. How He desires to give good things to His own! But, when the provisions from the Hand of the Lord satisfy us more than fellowship with the Lord, then we ought to heed the warning lights. It is quite possible that we are indeed in the Laodicean age of the Church. Neither hot or cold and even now at the point of a holy ejection of spit from His mouth.

Or: We can buy gold from Him refined in the fire. We can become rich in Him. We can wear the white clothing of a Bride's dress. Our shame can be covered and our eyes may yet see Him.

The ones He loves He rebukes and disciplines. So, we should be earnest and repent. He is even now standing at our heart's door and knocking. If we will hear His Voice, open the door and ask Him in, He will come in and dine and fellowship with us to our mutual joy and sweet satisfaction. And to those who are victorious He will give the right to sit with Him on His Throne!

Let those who have ears hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

## Proverbs 3:5

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

8:30a Early Service; 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

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

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

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

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

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

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

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

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

Choir 5p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: 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

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

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

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

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com

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

Worship/Discussion: 10:30

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### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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

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

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

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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

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

Thursdays: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am





### *The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation*

seeks to address social determinants of health that uniquely challenge our surrounding communities. We believe in investing in programs that offer constructive solutions and measurable improvements for healthy living. We want to partner with your organization to keep our communities strong and vibrant for years to come.

## Building Healthy Communities

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### **WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING THESE FOCUS AREAS**

#### **Access to Healthcare**



Given our mountainous terrain and population demographics, access to care plays a vital role in supporting healthy and strong communities. We welcome proposals that involve emergency and public transportation, indigent care, behavioral health, physician recruitment and retention.

#### **Education Initiatives**



The attainment of education is one of the highest factors in predicting good health. We welcome proposals to advance technologies for academic enrichment, reduce k-12 absenteeism, improve student access to health and counselor professionals, teacher development and retention, early childhood learning and literacy improvement for all ages.

#### **Community Vitality**



There are numerous opportunities for manifesting healthful mountain living. We welcome proposals for community initiatives to promote healthy, active lifestyles, community health screenings, broadband access and substance abuse prevention programs.

#### **Economic Stability**



Affordable housing initiatives and food insecurity are among the most critical needs to be addressed for a sustainable economy.



For more information please visit our website: [www.hchealthfnd.org](http://www.hchealthfnd.org) Email: [info@hchealthfnd.org](mailto:info@hchealthfnd.org)

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— Buy / Sell. Call Bob @ 302-530-1109 (st. 5/23)

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**SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC.** Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

**SKYLINE LODGE** — Hiring Property Maintenance workers, bartender. Download, drop by or call 828-526-2121 for an application. Background checks done. (st. 3/28)

**ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING** — looking for a parttime sales associate. Call 828-526-5404 or come by Bryson's Corner at Main and 4th streets. (st. 3/21)

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

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**SERVICES GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON** roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal. Call 371-1103. (st. 4/26)

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Estimates. 828-524-1391 or 828-332-0525.

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

**HIGHLANDS HANDIMAN** — Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (9/20)

**WNC PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LLC. 828-347-1822** — Year-round property maintenance and monitoring for vacation homes/rentals/residential; pressure washing-deck repairs-carpentry-small plumbing & electrical repairs/painting/etc.; lawn care & mowing; by the job or yearly contract; call for **FREE** estimate; Insured. (5/31)

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE



**RIVERFRONT BY OWNERS** — A most desirable "level" lot, 224 feet of riverfront, 1,300 sq. ft. home and an 800 sq. ft. efficiency apartment on scenic US 64 west. Five miles from Franklin and 12 miles from Highlands. Exterior is log siding finished natural, interior is cherry paneling. A brick and concrete spiral stairway leads up to the front porch and entrance. Garages for 3 cars and a carport and a well-lit workshop. Also, a gazebo and wishing well. Air conditioner, water heater, well pump, roof shingles and windows have all been replaced. The spacious 14'x30' living/dining room has a sloping vaulted ceiling with open beams, stone fireplace, and glass doors out to the back porch on the riverbank. Truly a fisherman's dream. Reasonably priced at \$335,000. Serious and qualified callers only please. (828) 369-2278. 6815 Highlands Road, Franklin. Photos on Craig's List. (5/30)

**SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD** behind Highlands-

Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843460-8015. (st. 5/30)

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

## COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

**LOCATION IS EVERYTHING!** Prime retail space available on Main Street in Highlands: 3,000 prime retail space available for rent. Contact Jody or Wood Lovell. Highlands Sotheby's International Realty. 828.526.4104. (st. 1/10)

**RESIDENTIAL RENTALS LONG/SHORT TERM AVAILABLE 828-342-3135 CONDO IN HIGHLANDS,** 2 bed 2 bath \$2500/mth. May-October. 828-421-5172. (st. 5/9)

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**ITEMS FOR SALE NAPIER FULL-SIZE CREW CAB PICKUP TRUCK TENT.** Fits bed 5.5'-5'8". Never used. Still in original box. Bought for \$150. Asking \$125. Call 828-200-1371.



# POLICE & FIRE REPORT

**Highlands Police entries from May 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## May 17

- At 10:40 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

## May 18

- At 11 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

- At 6:20 p.m., officers received a report of vandalism at a residence on Upper Lake Road where a mailbox was knocked down.

## May 20

- A little past midnight, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east at Crowe Drive.

- At 12:24 p.m., officers were notified of a person driving while impaired without a license on US 64 east.

## May 22

- At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

- At 1:15 p.m., Marvin Rocael Ramirez Juarez, 25, of Knoxville, TN was arrested for DWI and for driving without a license when stopped on US 64 east.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 21**

## May 21

- At 8:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cole Mountain Circle.

- At 4:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherokee Drive.

- At 8:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.

## May 22

- At 8:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Country Club Dr.

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

## May 23

- At 10:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherrywood Dr.

## May 24

- At 7:01 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge.

## May 25

- At 9:57 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Talley Lane.



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