

Highlands Newspaper

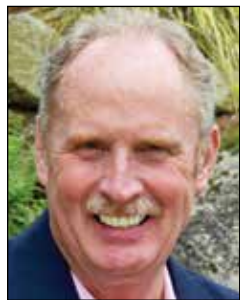
FREE Every Thursday

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Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019

Seven Town Board candidates lineup for 2019 election Q&A



John Dotson

Two years ago, candidates running for Highlands Town Board ran unopposed. This year there will be seven candidates on the ballot – three incumbents and four contenders.

Running for re-election are Commissioners, John Dotson, Eric Pierson and Brian Stiehler. Opposing them are Marc Hehn, Nick McCall, Michael Rogers and Hank Ross.

Each candidate has been asked to answer six questions. This week we will feature answers to Questions 1 and 2 by the candidates in alphabetical order.

Question 1:

Why are you run-



Marc Hehn



Michael Rogers

ning for Town Board and what credentials and/or skills can you bring to the Town of Highlands community? If you are seeking re-election, why do you want to run again?

And Question 2:

Highlands is feeling the effects of the increase of tourists visiting our community. As a nonprofit, do you think Highlands is entitled to



Nick McCall



Hank Ross

some of the room tax money the chamber/visitor center receives each year to address needs like, parking, sidewalks, parks and recreation upgrades, infrastructure upgrades, entertainment venues, restrooms, garbage receptacles, etc.?

John Dotson

Question 1:

I am seeking re-election because I feel



Eric Pierson



Brian Stiehler

the current make-up of the Town Board is a cohesive group of folks when it comes to the betterment of Highlands. I am certainly grateful to the voters of Highlands to have been allowed to be part of that group and the process for the past 12 years.

While each of use comes from a different

• See Q&A page 9

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'JAWbreaker' accomplices still racking up charges

By Brittney Loft-house

Just days after appearing in Superior Court in Macon County for drug charges stemming from the April 2018 "Operation JAWbreaker" arrest, James Steele was ar-

rested and charged with felony possession of heroin and misdemeanor drug paraphernalia.

Operation JAWbreaker was named for three men suspected to be leading a major drug ring that was the target of more than a

year of undercover work in early 2018. James Steele, Arthur Potts, and Wade Ennis. The operation is aimed at dismantling a well-organized criminal enterprise involved in distributing large

• See CHARGES page 21

Summit Charter School student expelled for alleged threat against school

By Brian O'Shea and Kim Lewicki

Staff at Summit Charter School was notified of an alleged threat made by a student against the school on Friday, Sept. 20. The incident occurred toward the end of the

school day and the student was removed from campus. On Oct. 2, school officials reported that the student had been expelled.

"We have concluded our discipline proceedings in response to the allegations of a

student communicating threats to school safety on our campus. As a result of the proceedings, the student of concern has been expelled from Summit Charter School," reads the prepared

• See SUMMIT page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The status of ongoing projects outlined

Paving of Cullasaja Road began yesterday. The road will be closed to through traffic until the end of the week. Through traffic will also be stopped when Hickory Hill and Oak Lane are paved upon the completion of Cullasaja.

The radar activated signs directing trucks away for the Gorge Road will be installed at the first of November. The installation of a camera that will photograph truck violators will follow at a later date.

The old water tank on Satulah Road is gone and the new tank is fully operational. Repaving of Satulah will be done this spring. The new water line on Split Rail is also completed and repaving of Split Rail will also be done in early spring.

If you see crews attaching lines on our utility poles, they are more than likely workers for JB & L, the contractor building the fiber optic network. The estimated completion is some time in April.

In the next couple of weeks, the Land Use committee will be meet to begin re-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

viewing the short-term rental issue. The date of the first meeting is TBA. Feel free to call Town Hall at 526-2118 for the scheduled time.

The bear resistant commercial toters have arrived. Our staff will soon assemble the wheels and then deploy the toters. The toters have an imprinted town logo to deter theft. Our public works staff will be working with merchants who use dumpsters

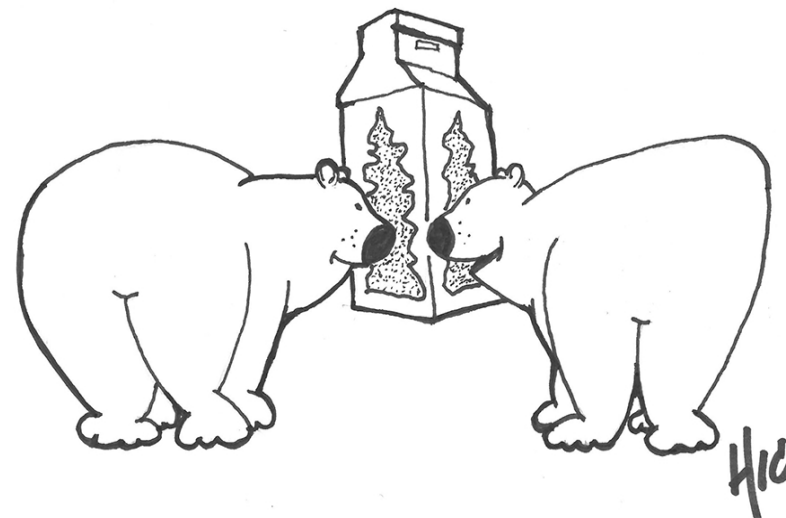
located on public rights-of-way in transitioning to the mobile toters. Businesses that want to continue using a dumpster can have them relocated on their property at a site where the garbage truck can access the dumpster.

Next week I, along with staff and Commissioner Brian Stiehler, will be meeting with NCDOT staff concerning several possible projects around town. The projects are small improvements initiatives, not major road projects. We want to look at improving several intersections and adding sidewalks to the main corridors. The challenge will be securing approval and funding from DOT. That's not an easy and fast process. It may take years to see a project, even a small one, completed.

At the time of this writing, there is a growing concern about the lack of rain and resulting fire danger. State forest officials are concern that conditions are approaching the ones that created the wildfires in the fall of 2016. While there is no current fire band in effect here, we could go to that status very soon. As we enter fall, fire officials encourage residents to make sure leaves and vegetation are cleared well away from buildings. A wildfire sweeping through a residential area can be devastating, as Gatlinburg residents tragically discovered in the fall of 2016.

Some may ask what concerns the mayor, Town Manager and staff during this last part of the year. My answer is a major hurricane off the gulf coast of Florida that usually heads here, or an unpredicted winter storm like Highlands experienced last December. Both can be devastating to critical infrastructure.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Clever but we have a team of local experts designing counter measures."

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MC Health Dept. is on the lookout for Legionnaires Disease

Confirmed cases of Legionnaires disease linked to a North Carolina state fair now stand at 79, including 55 people hospitalized and one death

"At this time, we are following the State's guidance and participating in the investigation process. A few concerned citizens of Macon County have been referred to the hospital for testing. So far,

nothing has been confirmed," said Tammy L. Keezer, assistant health director, Macon County Public Health.

The Buncombe and Henderson County Health Departments, in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, are investigating multiple cases of Legionnaires' disease reported

• See LEGIONNAIRES page 23

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.

• WEATHER •

Fri, 4-Oct	Sat, 5-Oct	Sun, 6-Oct
		
82°F 58°F	67°F 54°F	70°F 57°F
Sunshine and remaining warm	Partly sunny and cooler	Mainly cloudy and comfortable
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 88° Low: 63°	High: 70° Low: 58°	High: 73° Low: 57°

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ROLLING ACRES Located at the end of a cul de sac less than 2 miles from town, this great home is in immaculate condition. With beautiful cabinetry and countertops, the kitchen has a pass-through to the living room and opens to the dining room. The dining room is large enough to seat a gathering and has a picture window to enjoy the mountain view. Off the dining room is a lovely screened porch. The master on the main has another screened porch and an upscale bathroom.

MLS# 91293 | Offered for \$500,000



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC The great room has vaulted and beamed ceilings with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. The home is light and bright as the back faces east and catches the morning sun and is shady in the evening. Enjoy morning coffee in the large eat-in kitchen. The split floorplan is ideal and the master suite boasts a tray ceiling and access to the open deck. Located on the 17th fairway overlooking the green. Club membership is optional.

MLS# 91526 | Offered for \$500,000

WOODLAND HILLS Well-maintained home close to town, 3BR and 2 BA on main level with upper level loft. Huge downstairs with the additional guest area and a full bathroom, two family rooms. There is a large open deck off the main level with a lower level covered deck. Great landscaping as well as wonderful back yard with rope swing. Only a couple minute walk to community Apple Lake for canoeing and fishing where the home has deeded access.

MLS# 91530 | Offered for \$497,000



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Come see this cozy home with the prettiest view of all the Golf Villas in Highlands Falls! Overlooking the 10th green, the lakes around the clubhouse and the ridges beyond, the back deck is surrounded by rhododendron, making it wonderfully secluded! The large covered deck boasts a comfortable seating area and a separate dining spot. Vaulted, beamed ceilings, gleaming hardwoods, a wet bar, and a lovely stone fireplace. Don't miss this one!

MLS# 90948 | Offered for \$477,000



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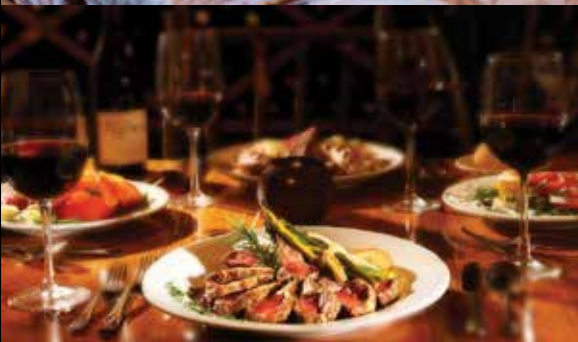
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PANTHER MOUNTAIN You will fall in love with the coziness, charm and privacy this home has to offer. There are three bedrooms on the main floor in a split bedroom plan. The master opens to the deck and the great view. The great room is vaulted and the home has lots of wood enhancing the mountain ambience. With an updated floor plan, neutral colors, and generator, you can lose yourself in the peace and quiet. Next to national forest land with a great view!

MLS# 90493 | Offered for \$459,000

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

MLS# 89700 | Offered for \$425,000



MISTY COVE Situated on almost four acres, this one level home is ideal for all your needs. Three bedrooms and Two baths are located on one side of the home and the large master suite is on the other. The large stone fireplace in the living room is perfect for those cold days. Relax on the rear covered deck and enjoy the sounds of the stream down below. If you want privacy and serenity, this home has it all. Must see to fully appreciate!

MLS# 91577 | Offered for \$449,000

HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Adorable cottage in a very private location on a cul de sac. The home has an older pedigree but has been updated with the addition of a large master suite plus a lower level which features a family room and additional guest quarters. The main level features an updated kitchen with a breakfast bar and opens to the greatroom with stone fireplace. The back deck is large and is the perfect spot to enjoy the birds and the view of Shortoff Mountain.

MLS# 91516 | Offered for \$398,000



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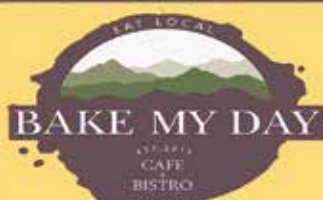


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HEATHERSTONE TOPS Sitting on just over 4 acres, large and elegant rooms abound in this mini estate and surround you with exquisite finishes including hand-carved wood trim throughout. The great room of this stunning residence is graced by soaring ceilings and windows to take in the sweeping mountain and golf course views. A floor-to-ceiling stacked stone fireplace opens to both the great room and the kitchen. Private gated community.

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

HIGHGATE This immaculately maintained house is ready to move into today! The house backs up to the protected Nantahala National Forest and has a ridgeline view. There is no shortage of beautiful spaces for family and friends to enjoy, including large screened outdoor porches with a wood-burning fireplace. The large master with vaulted ceiling boasts a private screened porch, great bath and walk-in closet. Offered furnished with short exclusion list.

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



INTRODUCING:



Thirty one years ago, Judy Michaud began her career in real estate in Highlands. She spent years honing her skills as one of the two top broker/agents in the area, working tirelessly for her clients at Signature Properties of Highlands. But deep inside, she had a desire to have her own real estate firm. Judy purchased Meadows Mountain Realty and began to assemble a team of professionals that are the elite in the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market. In 2015, Judy decided to take her company to the next level by affiliating with one of the world's most respected and trusted companies, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices (BHHS); thus BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty was formed.

In 2018, Judy teamed up with Mitzi Rauers to form **Five Star Real Estate Team** — a “boutique” real estate team within BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty that brings a higher level of service to their clients. Together, Judy and Mitzi bring a combined experience unprecedented on the Plateau. Just as BHHS is “Real Estate’s FOREVER BrandSM,” **Five Star Real Estate Team** will become your forever real estate team.

JUDY MICHAUD

BROKER/OWNER

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E-mail judy@bhhsmmr.com

Office 488 Main St., Highlands

MITZI RAUERS

BROKER

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...Q&A continued from page 1

field and perspective, it is that difference that makes for a strong group.

Certainly, we do not always agree on style, but when it comes to the good of Highlands and its residents, I think we all agree on substance.

Question 2:

Years ago, when the room tax money was designated to go the Chamber of Commerce, I don't think anyone anticipated the funds to be anything more than an advertising subsidy for the Chamber.

Highlands has indeed seen a substantial increase in tourism over the past 10-15 years and therefore an increase in revenue from room tax.

The infrastructure of the town has been put under greater strain due to the increased tourism. From streets to sidewalks to public restrooms to garbage – all have seen pressure from additional tourism. At this point, that addition monetary strain is born by our taxpayers.

My personal feeling is that the Town Board, as representatives of the taxpayers of Highlands, needs to take a hard look at the current room tax revenue and make adjustments as required. We cannot continue to burden our taxpayers with expenses related to others

Marc Hehn

Question 1:

I have offered to serve on the Town Board of Commissioners because I am very concerned about healthcare on the plateau. And, I feel that my 45 years of local governmental experience will be of value to the town. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning, I am a Full Member of the International City Management Association, I am a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a Class A Potable Water and Class A Wastewater Operator and Nationally Certified as a Landfill and Recycling Manager.

Question 2:

State Law requires expenditures from the 3% Occupancy Room Tax to be approved by the local Travel and Tourism Authority. Currently the funds are only used to promote travel and tourism. I have seen these taxes used in other jurisdictions for overtime for police during festivals, construction and maintenance of regional recreation complexes plus the costs to ensure the festivals were in compliance with Fire Codes. The Travel and Tourism Authority would need to authorize such expenditures going forward. The town's representative on the Travel and Tourism Authority only makes up one third of the membership on the Authority so that person would need to

make a strong case for funding assistance for tourism related expenses to the town.

Nick McCall

Question 1:

I am running for a seat on the Highlands Town Board because I believe it is time for change and I am cautious of the current direction we are focused on heading. I love this community and town and I am passionate about Highlands and our future. I am a 6th generation Highlander and I own a business in downtown Highlands so I understand both the needs of the local community and commercial district.

I would like to see more transparency and oversight on the Town Board. I would like to see more consideration given to the effects on the business community from decisions made by the Town Board. I also want to represent the people of Highlands and be honest with them about issues. I want to give the local community a voice that matters and I will listen and vote according to what they want and not what special interests want.

I have owned and operated an Internet company so I know first-hand how important this issue is and through my experience can bring insight and knowledge. I feel it is very important to get Internet to Ravenel, Queen Mountain and other outlying areas.

I went to Appalachian State and studied political science. My grandfather was a former Mayor and Town Board member and my father served on the Town Board as well. This afforded me the privilege of growing up with two incredible mentors from whom I learned so much. We are all incredibly blessed to live in this beautiful town, and to be a part of such a loving and selfless community. Change and growth are both parts of life, but we need to be ever mindful of changing the who we are out of who we are.

Question 2:

I do not know if I would use the term entitled, but I do feel the town should receive a portion of the revenue. It just makes sense that if the town is tasked with providing services like sanitation and maintaining the roads, and the wear and tear on the water treatment systems, that some portion of the money should be used for compensation.

A major need we should address immediately is the installation of sidewalks down NC 28, NC 106, and US 64. Not only is it good to connect the community, but there has become a major safety issue with pedestrians walking inches away from traffic. Something else that we cannot ignore any longer is that Highlands has a parking problem. A parking solution, whether a

parking deck or a lot of some kind has to be addressed. These projects could be funded with the town's portion of this revenue, saving taxpayer's money.

Eric Pierson

Question 1:

I am running for re-election for several reasons, but the most important reason is

that my family has a long history here and I care deeply for this town. My children are seventh generation Highlanders. Seeing them grow up here, where my family has for decades, gives me great pride and a feeling of responsibility to do what I can to see that our family can continue to be citizens

• See Q&A page 14

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Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court gave the Trump administration permission to use \$2.5 billion in uncommitted Department of Defense funds to build a portion of wall along our southern border with Mexico.

It's a true statement that we are faced with a serious immigration problem. However, short of invading and colonizing the nations at the root of our dilemma – Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador – we are going to be unable to stop people trying to escape danger to life and limb, as well as crushing economic deprivation.

Walling off the southern border addresses the President's promise to supporters. It doesn't solve America's legal and illegal immigration challenges.

It's important to restate that almost all migrants seeking asylum at the south-



Bud Katz

ern border are trying to escape extreme poverty, corruption, and violence within barely governed, sovereign nations in Central America. Wall-building along our southern border with Mexico will do little more than provide a false sense of solving the problem. Look at a map of the western hemisphere. The southern border is only one, relatively small part of how

desperate people can enter the U.S.

Our border with Mexico runs 1,954 miles. Our border with Canada, including Alaska, is 5,500 miles. The eastern seaboard, Maine to Florida, is 2,069 miles, while the west coast, including Alaska, extends 7,600 miles. The Gulf coast is 1,630 miles. Add it up, there's over 18,700 miles of border and coastline through which dangerous and/or desperate people can enter our nation. We will never have

enough resources to monitor all possible points of entry into the United States.

And, let's be honest. It's not ALL immigrants we want to stop or slow. It's only those who we choose to believe are "taking our jobs" and/or "getting free stuff." Both of these notions are untrue, but a sizeable number of us choose to believe otherwise. The President has indicated on more than one occasion that he's fine with immigrants from Norway. He's also fine with immigrants from other, wealthier, northern European nations. He's not fine with poor, desperate Central Americans, or Africans, or those from predominantly Muslim nations, or ... well, you get the idea.

Contrary to popular belief, many of the currently estimated 12-million undocumented immigrants in the United States did not sneak across the southern border with Mexico. Almost three-quarters over-

• See WORD MATTER page 13

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Keep on the Sunny Side

Judging by the buzz on social media, many of you watched the Ken Burns eight part series on country music, and know that the Carter family sang the song Keep on the Sunny Side. It was written in 1899 by Ada Blenkhorn. Blenkhorn's nephew was wheelchair bound, and always asked to be stationed on the sunny side of the street, thus the inspiration of the lyrics that the Carter family brought to fame in 1928, and it stayed popular to this day.

Here are the lyrics of the chorus:

Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life.
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way
If we keep on the sunny side of life.



Jeannie Chambers
828-526-3717

Real estate in this area is on the sunny side right now, sales are up from last year. There has been talk of an economic slowdown happening over the next few years, and there has even been reports of a manufactured recession for political gain.

Now, I'm neither an economist or a stock broker, but I am a Realtor who has seen lots of ups and downs in the 27 years I've been selling real estate in Highlands, and there are two things I've learned along the way. Well, maybe just maybe, more than two things, but specifically two things regarding real estate and the economy.

#1 – Highlands doesn't follow the national trend, or rather, Highlands lags behind the national trend about two years. For instance, when looking at the following 2-year stats, remember that 2007-2009 were

• See **INVESTING** page 18



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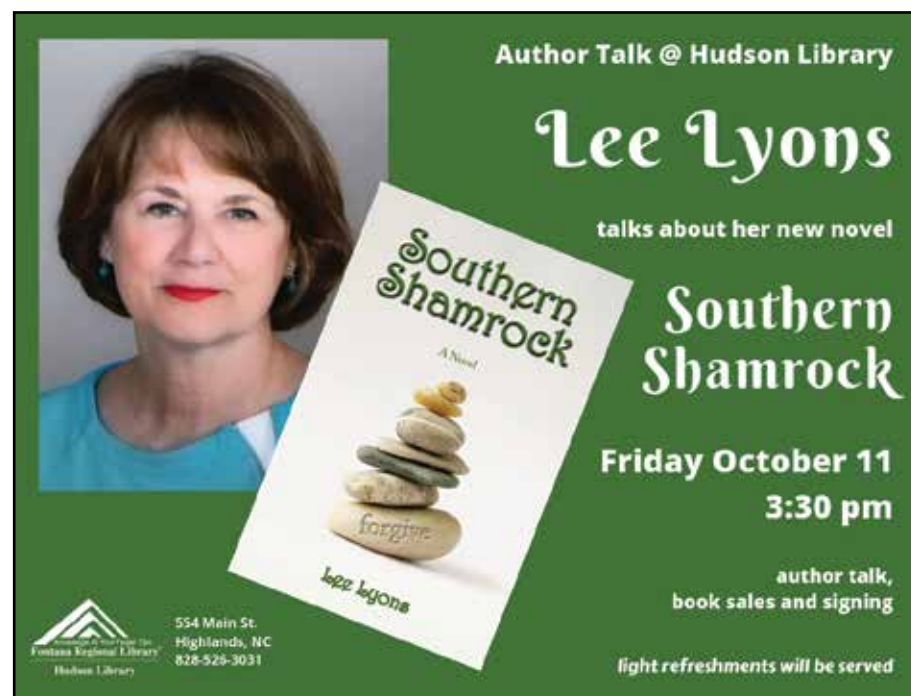
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PRINCESS PUDDIN'

• CATSPEAK •

Books for Cat Lovers

It's Mum's job to write about books, but I demanded to be the one to write about the best cat books. I'm sure you're aware we kitties read by lying on reading material, preferably newspapers, but a book will do.

My Aunt Lisa gave us my all-time favorite cat book, "The Dalai Lama's Cat." It's my favorite because the cat tells the story, and her beginnings are similar to mine. His Holiness's Cat, HHC for short, was found with his siblings near a trash heap in New Dehli. As the runt of the litter, she seemed destined to return to the trash until the Dalai Lama rescued her in the nick of time.

Like a food wrapper or beer bottle, I too was thrown from a car window into a bush in Midtown Atlanta. An angel, who was forever rescuing abandoned kitties and finding them homes, plucked me from the bush. My soon-to-be Mum was searching for a calico kitty and, luckily for both of us, found me online. So, HHC and I have our near-death experiences in common.

HHC learns, not at the Dalai Lama's feet, as she says, but in his lap; and she shares her adventures and imparts her wisdom in her sweet book. I must encourage Mum to get the next two books in the series, "The Dalai Lama's Cat and the Art of Purring" and "The Dalai Lama's Cat and the Power of Meow."

"The Story of Fester Cat: How One Remarkable Cat Changed Two Men's Lives" is yet another book written by a cat. This "feisty feline," as Fester's new housemates describe him, wanders into a Manchester, England backyard and stays. Paul Magrs, one of Fester's pet parents, is a writer, like my Mum. Strange coincidence, right? It's Paul who first encourages Fester to write, starting with reviews of cat



books. I guess it was natural for Fester to go from book reviews to the story of his life.

Fester is a grown streetwise cat before he takes up residence with the men, but they take good care of him, and the story of his new life is another

sweet read. As I write about these two books, I realize that I must have an affinity for books written by cats, not necessarily books about cats.

Mum requested I mention another of her favorites. You may remember Cleveland Amory who for many years was a television critic for TV Guide. He was also an animal rights activist, and his first cat book was "The Cat Who Came for Christmas." It was #1 on the NY Times bestseller list for 12 weeks in 1987. Polar Bear, a little white stray, was the star of that book, though Polar Bear didn't write it. Amory wrote two more books about Polar Bear: "The Cat and the Curmudgeon" and "The Best Cat Ever." All three were bestsellers. Mum says that even though the white kitty didn't write the story, it too is a heartwarming tale.

It must be something about cats that our stories are always sweet. Mum says that even though we can be demanding little things, we can steal your heart in a flash. Dad agrees and says there's nothing better than reading in bed with me snuggled against his shoulder with my head beneath his chin. I wonder whether there's a book in my future, a book written by me, that is. We shall see.

• 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 ink-penn119@gmail.com. Kathy and Lord Banjo's books can be found on Amazon and at Books Unlimited in Franklin.

...WORD MATTER continued from page 10

stayed legally-obtained, student, work and travel visas, and have, over time, assimilated into American life. They work, pay taxes, live, shop and dine alongside us, and they don't impact our lives one way or another.

These folks aren't the one's targeted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

Almost none of those who have migrated across the southern border — poor, less educated, attempting to find a safer, better life — are rapists or violent criminals. They're quietly working in lawn care, roofing, landscaping, housekeeping, spas and salons, kitchens, laundry facilities, food processing plants, "back-of-the-house" healthcare facilities, and child care, as well as other low-wage jobs neither sought nor valued by the vast majority of Americans.

These people are the targets of ICE agents.

Democrats in Congress will continue to employ whatever procedural means they can to limit or delay construction of additional walls or fences. They'll do this for purely political purposes. The President, and Republicans, will continue to attack illegal or undocumented people, also for political purposes. This is the cynical nature of the immigration debate in America these days.

The problem is real. Solutions are complex, costly and, politically-charged.

Some of us like to define both the problem and the solution in simple terms. Problem: illegal immigrants are bad. Solution: build a wall. It would be nice were it that simple.

There was a time, not so long ago, when we were more open to immigrants.

The reason we're not today is because many Americans today are scarce instead of abundant and are fearful instead of hopeful.

This is politics at its worst, from both sides. When we are made to feel unsafe or insecure, we tend to look for someone or some group to point a finger at. Right now, blame is focused on immigrants, especially those from impoverished, crime-ridden places and circumstances.

One way or another, the President will get his wall, or at least part of it. This will not address America's immigration problems; only top-to-bottom, bi-partisan reform will do that. And, it will not lift the spirits of Americans who don't envision a more prosperous future.

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...Q&A continued from page 9

and stewards of this remarkable place.

Highlands is not what it is today due to happenstance. It is because of the foresight and leadership of the ones before us. I have always recognized this, and therefore done my best to be one of those leaders for Highlands. From early on, I made myself available for the betterment of our town by sitting on most of the boards that govern and make a difference in our community. I've spent six-plus years on the planning board and appearance committee, four years on the zoning and ABC boards and over nine years on the Macon County planning board. I have also been (and continue to be) a 23-year member of the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department. Over the last eight years as a Town Commissioner, I've worked hard on projects that improve Highlands and ensure its viability in the future (construction of a new, increased capacity water tank on Satulah, upgrades to the lake Sequoyah water intake and water treatment plant, implementation of fiber infrastructure throughout town for future smart utilities, and the future construction of a new fire station that will see Highlands through the next several decades), just to name a few.

So, I am running for re-election to take what I have seen and learned from my years of serving on these boards and continue moving Highlands forward in a progressive and responsible manner for my kids and all the citizens of Highlands.

Question 2:

This is a topic that quite a few concerned citizens have been asking questions about recently (a lot in line with what is posed here in addition to others) and one that we have started discussing in trying to answer those questions that have been posed to us. No where in the state, that I know of, do the monies generated from occupancy tax go directly from the county to a Chamber of Commerce other than here. Most all that I am familiar with go to a local Tourism Development Authority that would typically be apprised of local business persons along with a

couple elected officials. Highlands receives a good amount of room tax money (from what I understand, it will be over \$700,000 this year alone). The promotion of Highlands is good, but all of those tourists put a burden on our sidewalks, parks, public restrooms, etc. that the town spends 10s of 1,000s of dollars on each year with citizen taxes out of the General Fund. So, I believe this is an issue that needs a good deal of discussion going forward.

Michael Rogers

Question 1:

I am running for several reasons. But first about me. I have served six years on the Zoning Board and I worked well with everyone in my six-year tenure. I am not a drama person; I am a person that works with other people to solve issues from the smallest to the largest. I am 57 years old, I have been self-employed all my life here in Highlands. I am a hard worker and I answer my phone or I will call you back (24/7). I am always available. I was in the paving business for 15 years, the water and sewer business for 39 years; I also run a small landscaping business. I am here to serve the constituents of the Town of Highlands. You will not go wrong voting for me. I have a vision and I am a person you can talk to. I am a meticulous person that will get the job done the right way.

I am running for the Town Board first because I want to see the main sewer line from the Town of Highlands extended out 64E to the Jackson County line so we can get Highlands Falls, Cullasaja Club and Wildcat Cliff CC hooked onto the Town sewer system. The purpose of running the sewer line is to clean up the town's water (Cullasaja River). As we all know this will require some additional work on our sewer treatment plant and I have a plan to get rid of the treated water and not dump it into the river or on the ground.

We should be able to get help from the State of North Carolina to help cover the majority of the cost of the sewer treatment plant and it would be like no other one in the state. I would like to set a precedent that other counties

would follow to clean up our water, our waterways, creeks, streams and rivers.

As you know the current Town Board moved the drinking water supply from having the best quality of water to the worst quality water. I think they were misled by misinformation given to them, as the purpose was they wanted quantity over quality. I feel they have robbed from the infrastructure and have not kept on top of the drinking water situation. Our town drinking water once came from the head of Big Creek, next to the Shortoff Mountain Trail, and now it comes from the dam at Lake Sequoyah. The dam that was once at Big Creek is no longer there. As we all know the Skyline Lodge dam sits in the middle of Big Creek and it leaks. At one time, the owner of the dam at Skyline Lodge was willing to turn over the dam to the Town of Highlands if they would maintain it. This all happened when my father Larry Rogers was part of the Town Board. The Town did not want the liability. I feel like we need to have control of the water up Big Creek as it is the cleanest water coming into Highlands. Where the current water intake is now there are four golf courses, two sewer plants and the whole Town of Highlands running through Lake Sequoyah. It is the lowest point in Highlands.

I feel like there is an urgency to get the sewer line run to the Jackson County line to help clean up the water since the water intake is at the lowest point now. This was a major mistake moving the water supply to where it is now, not to mention the \$3 million plus/minus that was spent there. We don't mess around with infrastructure and we stay on top of permitting and we make sure our water, sewer and power is priority. Once the initial money is put out for the sewer infrastructure there will be a profit to be made for other projects.

The second reason is I want to see the town cleaned properly which would be the road banks, the ditches, proper patching and paving of roads. (I like the tree

• See Q&A page 15

...Q&A continued from page 14

canopy over the road as it does give us a mountain look if the road banks are trimmed back properly it would encourage the wildflowers to grow).

I want to see a sidewalk extended down Highway 106 down to the first entrance of Cobb Road. I would also like to see a rock wall installed to match the town's rock work at the corner of NC 106 and Spring Street. All of these things cost money and I have a plan to raise money without raising taxes or robbing from the infrastructure. I would also like to see wildflower beds in certain areas along the corridors of Hwy 64, Hwy 106 and Hwy 28.

Third, I want to make this clear that all town employees will be taken care of by me if elected. I realize they all have families and all their jobs are safe but I have a different but better way of doing things. I am not a slave driver but a common person with common sense. Every single business owner on Main Street is important to me, they pay big rent and taxes, I will make sure the sidewalks are clean of snow, leaves and debris and I will make sure the snow removal on Main Street is done properly. This will be priority as our economy is based on visitors to Main Street.

Question 2:

I feel we are entitled to some of the room tax money but we also need to be taking care of the Main Street businesses, because those shops, restaurants and motels are a huge part of what makes the wheel turn. We need them and we have a beautiful town with good people and I will take care of all of you.

Hank Ross

Question 1:

Highlands is at critical time in its growth, and we need all of the knowledge and experience possible to help us deal with these challenges. I have previous experience serving as a Town of Highlands commissioner from 2001 to 2009. Along with that experience, my design and construction background give me skills and knowledge to understand the many responsibilities a commissioner will face on a regular basis. My environmental design education and current practice as a land planner gives me insight into the challenges of protecting our natural resources and greatly helps in understanding town planning issues.

My past occupations include positions as a land use planner, environmental regulatory manager and recreation designer. I am the owner of Ross Landscape Architecture, a local land design firm for 22 years.

I have been involved and served our community since moving here in 1994. Besides serving as a commissioner, my service activities include Rotary Club of Highlands (President 2016-2017), Highlands Chamber of Commerce (Chairman 2000-2001), Friends of Founders Park (Current President/Founding Board Member), Leadership Highlands Class of 2002, Town Planning Board (2001-2003) and the Appearance Commission (1998-2003).

I care very much about Highlands. I want to make sure that the Town Board always takes into consideration the natural and cultural heritage of our community and respects the rich traditions of the people who built this town as well as the people who live here now. We should welcome growth, but it should be growth that keeps Highlands a great place to live, work and visit.

Question 2:

Currently town property owners pay the lion's share for all infrastructure with some funding from State and

county taxes. I feel a reasonable percentage of the room tax proceeds can and should help mitigate the impact from outside visitors on our downtown public services and infrastructure.

Brian Stiehler

Question 1:

It has been an honor to serve the town for the last eight years. I've enjoyed my time on the board and hope the residents of Highlands trust me to serve another term. In the

• See Q&A page 22



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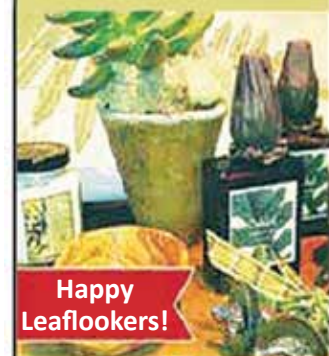
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...INVESTING continued from page 11

the dates of the great recession.

1/1/2005 – 12/31/2006	548 closings
1/1/2007 – 12/31/2009	445 closings
1/1/2010 – 12/31/2011	233 closings
1/1/2012 – 12/31/2013	343 closings
1/1/2014 – 12/31/2015	468 closings
1/1/2016 – 12/31/2017	558 closings
1/1/2018 - 9/30/2019*	507 closings

(*If most of the 74 in due diligence/pending sales close, 2018/2019 will lead will take the lead)

While closings were down in 2007-2009, it was nothing compared to the following four years, and by 2016, things were back on track. Now, these stats are only numbers and don't begin to reflect the hardships of some of the sellers. There were many sellers who took less than they'd paid for their homes, especially if they'd owned their homes less than a decade. Didn't seem quite fair when just a few years before, buyers were swooping up homes, doing little to nothing in the way of improvements, and turning them for a profit the next year or two. Cycles. Everything seems to run in cycles.

My #2 is real estate is still the best investment! I may be a little biased, but I believe it to be true. Stock brokers will tell you to stick it out, stay in it for the long haul, and maybe real estate sort of forces one to do that as well. Stocks are more liquid investments, while real estate takes some time. For most sellers in this area, while their home is waiting for the economy to stabilize, whether the property is for sale or not, they are able to continue using and enjoying the property.

Don't be a bird brain when it comes to real estate investing. There's a happy medium to being like the stork with his head in the sand, to flying around like Chicken Little. Be informed, talk with your Realtor, and go ahead and listen to the media and check daily stock market reports, but don't let the stats bog you down, because doing so may affect your daily outlook on life.

The negativity in the world today is not healthy. If we keep on the sunny side of life, it not only affects us personally, it affects everyone around us. Now, is a great time to list, buy or sell real estate. As long as I've been

here on the plateau, I've listened to the anguish of people wishing Highlands could "close the gates" to keep any more people from coming, while some of those same "gate closers" have been here less than 10-20 years. I consider myself lucky to be here.

If you are considering listing your property for sale, or buying a home, condo, or land on which to build, now is a great time. Real estate is an investment you can use while the investment grows. How can you put a price on a summer spent in Highlands, a beautiful sunrise, sunset, a walk through the woods? Those things are priceless, and you can enjoy them yourself, or share with friends and family. How's that for living life on the sunny side? Try it, you'll like it.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners/brokers at Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands, NC. You can reach them by phone 828-526-3717, or by visiting highlandsiscalling.com. They're not hard to find, they're on the sunny side.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Highlands Rotary recognized Students of the Month at the Sept. 24 meeting. From left: Asst. Principal Sarah C. Holbrooks, and students Darby Templeton, Austin Chastain, Dillon Schmitt and Rotary President Sherry Holt.



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...SUMMIT continued from page 1

statement. "We will continue to collaborate with the family of the student and Jackson County as they put in place services and support for the student. This case remains an open investigation with Jackson County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Juvenile Justice."

On Friday, Sept. 20, students reported to Summit Charter School staff that a student on campus had allegedly communicated verbal statements to other students threatening the safety of the school. There was no incident of weapons on campus, nor an incident of a threat being carried out.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department responded to the report, and authorities confirmed that the school was under no imminent threat and that the campus was safe. Authorities conducted an investigation of the report on Sept. 23 and 24. On Sept. 25, with information verified from the investigation, the school notified parents.

"Jackson County Sheriff's Department confirmed the school was safe, and parents were notified as soon as the information reported was verified through the immediate investigation of our School Resource Officer and Jackson County Sheriff's Department," said Head of School Rob Pusch.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin explained his district's proceedings under such circumstances. The main difference being the timeline. Summit notified parents five days after the incident and shortly thereafter Facebook postings began appearing.

"In any emergency such as this, it is our goal to first secure the safety of students and staff. Often in an emergency, it takes us some time to determine the facts. Once we have the school secure and are fairly certain of the situation that we are dealing with we communicate with parents," said Baldwin. "We make this information available to parents to reduce their anxiety and to get out in front of all the false information that normally accompanies these events. Typically, parents quickly begin to receive text messages and other communications that have inaccurate or incomplete information. It is always our goal to get accurate information to parents as quickly as feasible under the circumstances."

Baldwin said in the Macon County School system staff members have designated roles within the emergency operations plan that involve communicating with parents and media.

"While we do our best under the circumstances of a critical incident to notify parents and community as soon as feasible, there are no specific requirements under

the law to make these notifications. It really is more about building trust while empathizing with the needs of parents and the community to know what is happening with their children," he said.

Baldwin said since each school in the Macon County system now has an SRO, law enforcement is immediately notified.

"Law enforcement, that being the SRO officer, plays an integral role in securing the facility," he said. "We make every attempt to notify parents on the day of the event. I have found that we are in a much better position if we can 'beat' the story home to parents."

Summit staff held question and answer sessions with parents on Sept. 25 and 26 and continues to be available for families.

"It's sad the situation has rippled through the community and people are understandably rattled," said Pusch. "I want to ensure people that our school is safe and we're going to make sure it stays that way."

Jackson County Sheriff's Dept. Maj. Shannon Queen said they are limited in what information can be released and has referred the case to the Dept. of Juvenile Justice. Pusch said Summit is cooperating with all agencies involved.

Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland said there aren't any laws outlining a notification timeline either to parents or law enforcement.

"As far as parents being notified, in Macon county they would have been notified at the appropriate time which generally starts with a notification on Social Media. It is the responsibility of the school system to notify," he said. "We have an exceptional relationship with our school system and the Sheriff and Superintendent are always communicating concerning school safety and incidents that occur on any Macon County campus. This would include our community college and private school campuses."

Summit Development Director Melissa Hudson said the school has maintained open communication with students and families throughout the school community.

"We have hosted three Town Hall meetings and the entire school community has and will continue to receive ongoing communications regarding the school safety matter," said Hudson. "Additionally, our school counselors provided parents, faculty, and staff with information and resources on how to talk to students about school safety."

In Wednesday's statement officials said as a school, they will draw on this situation as an opportunity to assess safety procedures and protocols, and to identify active steps the school community can take to ensure the campus remains a safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environment.



Summit Charter School in Cashiers

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

The Secure Act



Michael P Henderson, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™

When I became a financial advisor in 1999, the amount of assets you could pass on to your heirs without paying federal estate taxes was \$650,000 per individual. Today it is \$11.4 million. As a result, there are fewer estates subject to the tax (most estimates for 2018 were between 1700 and 1900), and this has become a problem for the Federal Government.

For many affluent Americans, this has been a welcome change. But, as we know, the government needs additional revenue (depending on how you define “needs”) and currently a bill called the SECURE Act (Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement) has already passed the House with broad bi-partisan support (417-3). It will head to the Senate after the August recess. Early indications are it will pass, and the President will likely sign it into law. If passed, it will be the

most significant revision of retirement plans since 2006.

The good news is it offers several changes to IRA’s, 401(k)’s and other individual and small business retirement plans. For example:

- it raises the age you must begin taking required minimum distributions from your IRA from 70½ to 72.
- If you still have earned income, there would be no age restrictions for contributing to an IRA.
- Part-time employees would become eligible to contribute to 401(k)’s.
- You could take penalty-free

withdrawals to cover the expense of childbirth and adoption.

• And small businesses would get a tax credit for starting a 401(k).

But as we all know, there are two sides to every coin, and the government has realized that because of the changes to the estate tax exemption over the last twenty years, there are trillions of dollars that are currently tax-deferred, and may remain so for many years if something doesn’t change.

The bill will not only affect retirement accounts, but assets outside of IRA’s would be significantly affected after they are inherited by a non-spouse beneficiary.

As the estate tax exemption has ballooned, many investors with “non-qualified” assets, (i.e. stocks, bonds, mutual funds outside of a retirement plan), that were bought and held in brokerage accounts, have been able to pass them on to a non-spouse beneficiary, and that beneficiary would qualify for a “step-up” in their cost basis to whatever the value of the property was on the date of death. Currently, the step-up amount is not subject to taxation unless it was above the exemption amount of \$11.4 million.

This is especially advantageous to assets with a “low cost basis”. But with the SECURE Act, this would go away. The non-spouse beneficiary would inherit the cost basis of the asset and when it was sold, they would owe taxes on the realized capital gains the original investor had not realized. Of course, if the asset was never sold, the heir could hold onto it and continue to receive any income it may produce.

The other significant (negative) change is for IRA’s. As you may know, IRA’s do not receive a “step-up” and are fully taxable as income when money is withdrawn, whether by the owner or the beneficiary. As such, the estate tax exemption has never been applied to IRA’s whether it was \$650,000 or \$11.4 million. In other words, regardless of the size, the account is always subject to taxes in some form or another, but not until withdrawals are taken.

Under current law, if a non-spouse beneficiary inherits and IRA, (for example the children of the IRA owner), the beneficiary must take “required minimum distributions” also known as RMD’s. However, they are currently allowed to “stretch out” these distributions over their life expectancy and leave the bulk of the account to continue growing tax-deferred over many years, or maybe even several decades.

• See **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
page 27

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...CHARGES continued from page 1

quantities of meth and heroin – not only in Macon County, but in Western North Carolina and North Georgia.

More than 25 people were arrested as part of the operation, with some of the lower-level players already being convicted in court. Steele, Potts, and Ennis currently still have their cases pending in Superior Court Administrative Court.

Last week, deputies with the Macon County Sheriff's Office observed Steele traveling at a high rate of speed along the Highlands Road and initiated a traffic stop. Steele denied consent to search the vehicle he was driving, which was registered to Ennis. Macon County Sheriff Deputy Jonathan Bean made the traffic stop and after being denied consent to search the vehicle, called for additional officers. Macon County Sheriff K9 Officer Deputy Nick Lofthouse ran his K9 partner Diesel around the vehicle and received a positive alert. After further investigation, deputies discovered a small amount of heroin in the vehicle. Steele was then arrested and booked into the Macon County Detention Center on a \$6,600 bond.

During the gathering of intelligence for Operation JAWbreaker, investigators discovered that drug purchases and transactions were arranged by James Steele, Arthur Potts, or Wade Ennis and that the three men made additional arrangements for those drugs to be transported back to this area for distribution. During the operation, investigators were able to identify the three suppliers of heroin and meth in the Atlanta area. In collaboration with local, state and federal partners, investigators and law enforcement were able to intercept various shipments of heroin and meth during traffic stops as they were headed back to Macon County.

It is also believed that individuals arrested as part of Operation JAWbreaker were responsible for the 2017 death of a former Franklin High School student who was found dead in a hotel room in Atlanta after an apparent overdose.

When Steele was first arrested for JAWbreaker, he was charged with a continuing criminal enterprise, conspiracy to traffic opium/heroin, trafficking opium/heroin, possession of heroin, and delivering heroin X2, and possession of a controlled substance on jail premises.

At the time of that arrest in 2018, Steele was out on bond awaiting trial for 2017 charges of felony possession of fire-

arm by felon, felony possession with intent to manufacture sell and deliver methamphetamine, and possession with intent to manufacture sell and deliver heroin.

The 2018 JAWbreaker arrests resulted in a \$1.3 million bond, which Steele was able to post with the help of a bond bailman. As a condition of his bond, the bondsman required Steele to wear an ankle monitor, which he was wearing at the time of his arrest last week.

Steele is not the only member of JAWbreaker who has picked up additional charges. Potts was recently arrested after breaking into a home in Highlands.

Potts was arrested and charged with two counts of felony breaking and entering, two counts of felony larceny after breaking and entering and other misdemeanor charges.

He also still has the 2018 JAWbreaker charges for felony aid and abetting continuing criminal enterprise, felony to conspire to traffic opium/heroin, and felony possession with intent to manufacture sell and deliver heroin. Like Steele, Potts also has charges pending that predate the JAWbreaker crimes.

Steele is awaiting trial for misdemeanor assault on a government official and felony possession of meth – charges which occurred in 2017.

Potts also has a felony larceny from a construction site and felony possession of stolen property from a construction site pending in Superior Court – charges that he obtained in 2016.

"This will not be the last time we deal with any of these individuals previously named," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "We will not stop until swift justice is served on any individual who is taking part in putting poison into our community, addict or not. If you are selling to others to feed your own habit, then to us and to the families of those lives you are destroying you are a menace to our society, and we will treat you as such. It's not because of a lack of effort on our part that these people continue to walk amongst our community. We need tougher laws and stiffer penalties which I believe will encourage addicts to seek help."

Steele, Potts, and Ennis are all scheduled to appear back in Superior Court in Macon County on November 18 for the Operation JAWbreaker arrests. Steele's first district court appearance on his new charges are scheduled for October 8. Potts' newest charges are scheduled to be heard in district court on November 12.

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...Q&A continued from page 15

past, I've served in a number of leadership roles in the community. I served as chairman of the Literacy Council, Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Highlands. I've also served the past eight years on the Macon County Economic Development Commission and the past year on the TDC (Tourism Development Commission), which I now serve as chairman. For the last 10 years, I have chaired the Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament. In those 10 years, we've raised nearly \$180,000 to fund scholarships for local students. But most importantly, I feel like I did a good job of representing the concerns of local citizens and that is my priority for the next four years. I moved to Highlands in 2000 and this community has become my family's home. I am so grateful for that opportunity and want to give back to a community that has given me so much.

Question 2:

In 2012, I served as the Chairman of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. I know and understand occupancy tax and how that total has grown over the years. In 2012, that total topped about \$300,000. Today, just seven years later, the total is

near \$900,000. I was recently appointed as the Chairman of the TDC, which serves as oversight of occupancy tax dollars and how that money is spent. While occupancy tax revenue can only be spent on "things that promote tourism," that definition can be interpreted in many different ways. I recently spoke to experts at the NC School of Government at Chapel Hill about this very topic.

With that total continuing to grow, I think there is an excellent opportunity for the Visitor Center and the town to work together on projects that benefit the tourism experience as well as those of us who live here full-time.

For example, a public WiFi network is something I envision that we could do. Another possibility is the improvement of Main Street past Reeve's and along Wright Square. These projects fall under acceptable uses of occupancy tax funds. Of course, we want to continue to support the operation of the visitor center and those activities that are funded by way of this tax. That said, this is taxpayer money and it needs to be spent wisely and with utmost transparency.

• **Next week:** *Should the Town of Highlands regulate VRBO, AirBnB and the vacation rental accommodation industry?*



Dr. John Baumrucker examining an infant in Bolivia.

Proceeds from all-male Beauty Pageant to support Bolivian Mission

The Highlands Bolivian Mission is holding its semi-annual fundraiser, the All Male Beauty Pageant at the Highlands Playhouse on October 7. The show starts at 8 pm, but there is a free wine bar sponsored by Bryson's Food Store beginning at 7 pm. The cost of admission is a \$100 donation to the mission. Tickets can be purchased at Wilson Gas, The Highlands Playhouse and the Highlands United Methodist Church. All donations are tax deductible.

The proceeds will sustain the mission's projects in Montero, Bolivia. The foster home has been operational since 2003 and presently houses 23 boys. The home stresses education and all the boys have chores; even the smallest ones have their duties. These

chores develop a sense of pride and ownership in addition to instilling good work habits and responsibility.

Though the mission began as a medical mission, it quickly branched into other areas. The mission has built 16 basic homes, a church and developed a jail ministry where all the medicines are provided by the mission. Also, over the 22 years of the mission, more than one million dollars-worth of medical equipment has been donated. Presently it costs approximately \$60,000 yearly to run the foster home.

The pageant is just a small way to thank the donors who have allowed this mission to help so many people, said Baumrucker.

"If eight to 10 prominent men from the community can entertain the crowd for a while and make them laugh, it is worth making fools of us all to bring in close to \$20,000. Money goes a long way in Bolivia."

There is a Rotary wheelchair giveaway scheduled in January that the mission planned, and three area Rotary Clubs helped to fund. The plan is to distribute 250 wheelchairs the District of Santa Cruz that includes Montero, the site of the mission.

In April, the Baptist Church will join the mission and stay at the new and beautiful Mama Joanna Guest House that was just finished this past April. The foster home boys run the facility gaining real world business experience doing all the marketing, accounting and cleaning. The income from the Guest House will eventually help fund the foster home for many years to come.

Additional ticket information can be obtained by calling Dr. Baumrucker at 828-200-0902 or texting to that number.



Amernet Quartet



Fall Mini-Residency with the Amernet Quartet!

Friday-Saturday, October 11th - 12th
Highlands and Cashiers

After the summer Festival is over, come back to the mountains for a completely different experience – beautiful Leaf Season! The prestigious Amernet String Quartet, in residence at Florida International University, will give programs for Highlands, Blue Ridge and Summit schools, Chestnut Hill Retirement Center and a public concert on Saturday evening October 12th at 5 PM in Highlands at the Presbyterian Church. **Saturday's concert is free and open to the public.**

The Residency is sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach
Call 828-526-9060 or email hccmfnc@gmail.com for information.



A room in Mama Joanna Guest House.

...LEGIONNAIRES continued from page 2

in individuals who attended the NC Mountain State Fair in Fletcher, NC, Sept. 6-15, 2019.

"We don't know for certain whether people might have been exposed to Legionella bacteria at the NC Mountain State Fair," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Zack Moore. "As a precaution, we are recommending that anyone who went to the fair and has symptoms of pneumonia, like cough, fever or shortness of breath, see a doctor right away and talk with them about Legionnaires' disease."

The source of the outbreak is under investigation but the North Carolina Division of Public Health said in an online post that many of the cases reported attending the NC Mountain State Fair in Fletcher.

Authorities are looking at airborne droplets from water rides at the fair as a possible cause of the outbreak, said Kelly Haight Connor, a spokeswoman for the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

State health officials were first notified about an increase in cases in Buncombe

and Henderson counties two Mondays ago.

The cases range in age from 37 to 90, and more than half are male, according to health officials.

The state's "Communicable Disease Branch is working with Mountain State Fair organizers to investigate a possible connection of these cases with attendance at the fair earlier this month," said Buncombe and Henderson county officials.

Legionnaires' disease is a form of bacterial pneumonia (lung infection). A person may develop Legionnaires' disease when they breathe in mist or accidentally swallow water into the lungs that contains Legionella bacteria.

In North Carolina, more than 150 cases of Legionnaires' disease are reported each year. Symptoms typically begin two to 10 days after exposure and can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches and headaches. Legionnaires' disease is a serious illness but can be treated effectively with antibiotics. Legionella bacteria can also cause a milder flu-like illness

called Pontiac fever, which resolves without treatment.

Most healthy people exposed to Legionella bacteria do not get sick. The people at highest risk for Legionnaires' disease include individuals 50 years or older, current or former smokers, and those who have a chronic lung disease or a weakened immune system.

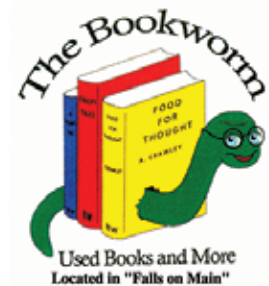
Legionella bacteria are found naturally in the environment. These bacteria can become a health concern when they grow and spread in human-made water systems like hot water tanks, cooling towers of air conditioning systems, decorative fountains and hot tubs or spas that are not properly maintained.

People who attended the NC Mountain State Fair and are experiencing cough, fever or shortness of breath should call their health care provider right away.

For additional information or to report possible cases of Legionnaires' disease, please call the Division of Public Health at (919) 733-3419 or contact your local health department. In Buncombe County, call (828) 250-5109. In Henderson County, call (828) 694-6019.

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•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse Fri & Sat 1, 4, 7; Sun. 1 & 4; Tues-Thurs 1, 4, 7. See ad.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am-5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

• At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

Monday - Saturday

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

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the 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. & Fri.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

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

Third Tuesday

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

• Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Lunch with the Docs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital noon to 1 p.m. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345. Limited to 50 attendees.

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.

• 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.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays Through Oct.

• The Church of the Incarnation next 6-week Grief Support Group meets in Jones Hall from 4-5:15 p.m. The Grief Support Group is offered to anyone dealing with grief. Anne Koenig, LPC, RPT-S, a local private practice counselor also affiliated with the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center Highlands will facilitate the group sessions. Anne has been in practice for several decades. She has led a number of groups, including groups to help relieve Post Traumatic Stress. For information and registration, please call the Church office at (828) 526-2968, or Anne Koenig at (404) 357-0728.

Thursdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30

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

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

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

• At H-C Hospital, Lunch with the Docs noon to 1p.

Hymn Sing this Sunday at First Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned hymn sing at 4pm on Sunday, October 6. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

Events are limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345.

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Fourth Thursday

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

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square, 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 Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. 526-1595.

Last 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., Oct. 3

• BINGO Night for Highlands Wreaths Across America is 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Highlands Community Building.

Fri. Oct. 4

• At PAC, Live via Satellite, Great Art on Screen Tintoretto at 5:30p. Tickets are available online or at the door.

Sat. Oct. 5

At PAC, Live via Satellite, Kinky Boots musical. at 1p. Tickets are available online or at the door.

• The Highlands Nature Center will feature Jason Love, Author and Associate Director of Highlands Biological Station, as he reads from his new children's book Shady Streams, Slippery Salamanders and leads an exploration of the Botanical Garden's streams to look for our amphibian friends. from 2-4 p.m. All are welcome Copies of Shady Stream, Slippery Salamanders will be available

for purchase. For more information please call the Highlands Nature Center at (828) 526-2623.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Rabun Bald, starting at Beegum gap on the Georgia Bartram Trail to ascend the second highest mountain in GA (4,696), elevation change 700 ft. Great views of the area from the platform atop the mtn. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 10 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun. Oct. 6

• Homecoming at Blue Valley Baptist Church at 10 a.m. Singing by Anita Coggins and Heartstrings. For more information, call Pastor Oliver Rice at 706-782-3965.

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned hymn sing at 4pm. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• Blessing of the Animals 2-3p in Kelsey Hutchinson Park in Highlands. Donations go to Highlands/Cashiers Humane Society.

• Join the Highlands Biological Foundation for a Cajun celebration on Sunday at Highlands on the Half-Shell in the meadow behind the Nature Center. The fun starts at 4pm and will last until dark. Come dressed in your favorite "Cajun casual." Tickets are \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members. To purchase tickets, visit www.highlandsbiological.org or call 828-526-2221.

Fri., Oct. 11

• Highlands author Lee Lyons will present an author talk and booksigning of her novel "Southern Shamrock" at The Hudson Librdary at 3:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Sat. Oct. 12

• The prestigious Amernet String Quartet, in residence at Florida International University, will present a public concert on Saturday evening at 5 PM in Highlands at the Presbyterian Church. Saturday's concert is free and open to the public. Call 828-526-9060.

Sun. Oct. 13

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike in Pantherdown Valley on a loop trail to Wilderness Falls, Frolic falls, and back to Salt Rock Overlook, elevation change 400 ft. Meet at the Cashier Recreation Park at 2 p.m., drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader: Robin Lurie, 954-632-7270, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Thurs., Oct. 17

• The annual Scholarship Golf Classic will be hosted at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The event kicks off at 7:30am with breakfast and practice on the range tee and practice green. A 9am shotgun start is followed by cocktails, lunch and awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Thin Space

Rev. Bentley Manning
Episcopal Church
of the Incarnation

Celtic Christians were some of the very first people to use the term thin space in order to describe mesmerizing places like the rocky peaks of Croagh Patrick or the beautifully stunning isles of Iona. Thin spaces, for the Celts, named particular places of God's good creation where heaven and earth were united — bridging the gap between human and heavenly realms.

Highlands and the land surrounding us, I think you would agree, is a thin space — a space where mountain peaks, rushing rivers, and towering trees flamed with branches of red, orange, and yellow open a window to the Divine.

But of course, beautiful parts of God's creation are not the only places bridging the gap between heaven and earth. One of the thinnest places to be found is simply in the stillness of prayer. For it is in prayer that our hearts are lifted heavenward and we begin to discover, bit by bit, that a greater reality — a transcendent reality we proclaim as God, known in the face of Jesus Christ, sustained by the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, is close at hand. Indeed, prayer is one of those spaces where the boundaries between earth and the life of God start to collapse. In prayer God begins to show through and we come to see heaven and earth existing side by side — much, much closer than we often realize or choose to acknowledge.

However, a deeper sensitivity to the thin spaces between our world and the heavenly is not a call for quietism or reduced action in the face of real suffering and oppression. Far from leading us to abandon the present world, our glimpses of the Divine confront us with a bold challenge and urgent warning that things, here and now, are profoundly unwell and that our world is not how it was truly intended to be.

Rather it is in prayer that we begin to know and trust that transformation is possible. For as we begin to offer more and more of ourselves to a life of prayer — not just our joys but all of those parts that have become lifeless and fractured by sin — we begin to realize that there is no boundary too great, or space too thick, for God to cross over.

And maybe then, when our lives have been shot through with God's heavenly grace, will we be able to carry a vision of what the world might look like when it is suffused with God's heavenly presence and love.

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

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8:30a Early Service; 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship

Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays — Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

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

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

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

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

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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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CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Jason K. Barone • 526-2418

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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

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

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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Sept. 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 20

• At 9:54 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

• At 11:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 at Arnold Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 17

Sept. 17

• At 9:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of the smell of gas at a residence on Azalea Lane.

Sept. 18

• At 4:13 p.m., the dept. helped search for a hiker on Yellow Mountain Trail.

• At 6:15 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to Dry Falls.

• At 6:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on N.Cobb Road.

Sept. 19

• At 6:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

Sept. 20

• At 11:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

• At 5:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 7:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a K-H Founders Park.

Sept. 23

• At 4:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

...FINANCIAL MATTERS continued from page 20

Of course, this means the U.S., with its \$22+ trillion debt and trillion-dollar deficits, would have to wait for “their” money. So, the SECURE Act would change this too and require any non-spouse beneficiary to EMPTY the account within 10 years - subjecting it to taxation much earlier.

As you might imagine, these changes affect the estate planning of many people in the U.S. But the mindset of our legislators is that IRA’s were never meant to be passed down, but to be used for income during the retirement years of the individual. Meanwhile, the “step-up in basis” rules for non-IRA assets appears to have been overlooked

until now (who knows), but if the bill passes, I would encourage you to seek advice from your financial professional and I will be sure to cover this again as it happens.

• *Michael P Henderson, CFP® CKACERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner Investment advice and financial planning services offered through Crossover Point Advisors LLC, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor. The opinions expressed in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results.*

Two satellite shows at PAC this weekend

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present, Live via Satellite, two performances this weekend. Friday, October 4 at 5:30p, Great Art on Screen Tintoretto, A Rebel in Venice fully immerses audiences in the life of the last great artist of the Italian Renaissance. With the enchanting narrative voice of twice Academy Award nominee Helena Bonham Carter, audiences visit places that evoke and preserve the memory of the painter, including the State Archives, the Doge’s Palace, St. Mark’s Square, the Church of San Rocco, and more, all in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Tintoretto’s birth.

On Saturday, October 5 at 1pm a new offering from By Experience – musical theater from London’s West End, Kinky Boots. Winner of every major Best Musical award on Broadway and in the West End, Kinky Boots is the hottest show in town! With songs by Grammy® and Tony® Award winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, and based on



the comedy film about a son who reluctantly inherits his father’s shoe factory, Kinky Boots continues to strut its spectacular stuff in its third year at the Adelphi

Theatre. Big-hearted and high-spirited, the West End musical, inspired by true events, tells the true story of Charlie Price, the new owner of his late father’s Northampton shoe factory. Trying to live up to his father’s legacy and save the family business from bankruptcy, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, an entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. As they work to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible... and discovers that when you change your mind, you can change the world.

Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Highlands Land Trust Chili Cook-off winners

The Highlands Land Trust held its annual Chili Cookoff fundraiser at K-H Founders Park last Saturday. Participants tasted about a dozen chili concoctions and then chose the winners. From left is first-place winner Lindy Womack with Black & White Turkey Bean; 2nd place winner Tracy Stribling with Football Day Filler – Classic Beef & Bean; and 3rd place winner Ivori Schrey with Spicy Vegan.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki



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MASSAGE THERAPIST wanted for new holistic center in Franklin. Will train in Reiki. 239-822-2752. (st. 8/15)

HELP WANTED HIGHLANDS ACCOUNTING FIRM seeking trainable employee for book keeping assistance. Must be computer literate, don't necessarily have to have Quickbooks experience but that would be a plus. Somewhat flexible schedule but must be available to work from my office in downtown highlands. Pay based on experience. Send resume, availability and pay requirements to my email address. eswiftpayroll@gmail.com. (st. 9/26)

SKYLINE LODGE & ALTITUDES RESTAURANT is has positions available with competitive pay: Front Desk, Maintenance, Landscaper, Servers, Busser, Dishwasher, Sous-Chef. Please forward resume to skylineodgegm@gmail.com and call 828-526-2121 for an interview. (st. 9/12)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR BUSY CONSTRUCTION OFFICE. Position will cover receptionist and secretarial duties as well as A/P and Contract Management. Must have good secretarial skills, phone skills and a working knowledge of accounting and construction. QuickBooks experience is helpful. Email cover letter with salary requirements, resume and references to Comptrol1er19@gmail.com. (st. 9/12)

MED TECHS, CNAS, AND RN NEEDED at Chestnut Hill. Call Cheryl at 828-526-8400. (10/3)

THE LOG CABIN RESTAURANT Is now hiring sous chef, line cook, host/event coordinator & servers. Relaxed professional work environment. Excellent compensation. Start immediately. 828 526-5777 (or just stop by) www.logcabinhighlands.com (st. 8/29)

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COLONEL MUSTARD'S SPECIALTY FOODS IN HIGHLANDS looking for an awesome person with a passion for food and cooking. Part time position available, includes some holidays and weekends. If you are a quick learner, friendly and hard-working, you'll fit right in with our team. Please stop by the shop to fill out an application or email resume to col.mustardshighlands@yahoo.com. (st. 7/11)

DUTCHMANS CASUAL LIVING STORE Looking for full and part time sales associate to join our team. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Please call Shannon or Gabbi at 828-526-8864. (st. 6/6)

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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)

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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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (9/26)

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

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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 dd-marsh15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

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