FAITH

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN TO MARK DAY OF PENTECOST. 10A

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019
THE DAIL



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

DON HOERSTKAMP (LEFT) AND Joe Brownlee talk about the two airplanes donated by Brownlee to Wings of Hope.

Spread your wings

Nonprofit agency gets high-flying donation

BY MELANIE TUCKER melt@thedailytimes.com

It's aboard a plane that you get the greatest feeling of the vastness of the world, something Joe Brownlee Jr. has experienced many times as a pilot.

This owner of Brownlee Construction in Knoxville has never been far from being able to take flight whenever he pleases. The two planes he has owned most recently, a Cessna 401 and a Piper Cherokee, have served business and recreation purposes. One trip might be necessary to check on construction projects in neighboring states; others have taken him where few have gone.

Take for instance, a 3,600-mile journey Brownlee took with his dad and a few others for a fishing adventure of a lifetime in a remote Alaskan village.

"At that time, you couldn't get there except by plane," Brownlee explained.
"There were no roads. That was 30 years ago. There's still not much of a road."

He remembers they flew over plenty of fish on their way to their destination. Lakes and streams teeming with them. As for seeing other people, not so much.

"You can't believe how big a place it is and nobody's home," Brownlee said. "We would fly for an hour, 200 miles, and not see a sign that anybody was there or ever had been. Not a road, smoke, not anything"

At 72, he's got plenty of escapades he can share of his time as a pilot. His dad was one also, and one of his sons.

On Tuesday, this lover of flight handed over his two planes to a nonprofit called Wings of Hope, based in St. Louis. The humanitarian organization provides medical transports in the U.S. and also serves as missionaries in nine other countries. Wings of Hope pilot Don Hoerstkamp made the journey to TAC Air at Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport to take possession of the Piper and Cherokee.

Inspections and other Federal Aviation Administration regulations had to be followed to the "T" before the two long-serving airplanes made their way to St. Louis. Brownlee said he now owns no planes. At least for the moment.

UP, UP AND AWAY

He got his pilot's license in 1968 and was flying at a young age, next to his father, who founded Brownlee Construction in 1947. "The year I was born," Brownlee Jr. pointed out.

When he decided it was time to let the planes go, Brownlee said he knew he wanted Wings of Hope to have them. He has read articles over the years about the projects Wings of Hope takes on to better the lives of others. He contacted them six months ago to get the transfer up in the air.

Hoerstkamp has racked up plenty of sky miles as well. Before he became a volun-



Hope by Joe Brownlee.

teer pilot with Wings of Hope, Hoerst-kamp also flew professionally, getting his license in 1966. He said he owned a Piper dealership at one time, and also was a flight instructor. He said Wings of Hope has many just like himself — former professional pilots who still love soaring at 8,000 feet.

He said there have been a half-dozen or so planes donated to the nonprofit this year. They come in all shapes and sizes.

"We have had everything from jets to single-engine tail draggers," Hoerstkamp said. "As far as the planes that go into the mission field, the most popular is the Cessna 206. It's a single-engine plane that's long enough to get a stretcher inside."

In some instances, planes that weren't operational have been donated. If it's the Cessna 206, Wings of Hope is very much interested.

"We have sent our road crew out to disassemble an airplane and truck it back," Hoerstkamp said."We try to stay away from doing that unless it's a 206. We will still truck in an airplane like that."

The longest flight Hoerstkamp has done

SEE **WINGS,7A**

Romance with ex's

sister causes rift

DEAR ABBY: I am a 57-year-old man who has been divorced for eight years. (My ex-wife was the one who filed.) I



ABBY

recently reconnected with my ex-wife's sister, "Edith," whom I hadn't seen in years. We began a friendship, which

as evolved into a serious elationship.

My ex is having issues with our romance and has been trying to turn friends, our grown children and our parents against us. We are both single and enjoy each other's company. Is there any reason why we should not pursue this relationship, because "we're upsetting my ex-wife's family"? —TWOLOVERS IN NEW YORK

DEAR TWO LOVERS: When your wife left you, she lost the right to dictate what you should do with your life — including whom you date or even marry next. She is acting like the proverbial dog in the manger, and I sincerely hope your friends and family don't let her get away with it.

DEAR ABBY: Ever since I can remember, I have felt like my mother hates me. Growing up, my two brothers got whatever they wanted while I had to beg for things I wanted. An example: My brothers were given a car for graduation; I got contact lenses. Neither one could do anything wrong in my mother's eyes, but whatever I did was wrong.

Now that I'm an adult, she still treats me this way, and it's making me depressed. I have medical issues that she refuses to believe I have. What can I do to make my mother like me? — DEPRESSED DAUGHTER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DEPRESSED: It would be interesting to know what kind of a relationship your mother had with her own mother, because it's possible that she's repeating a pattern she learned when she was a child.

I'm sorry you are hurting because of the way she has treated you, but it isn't possible to "make" somebody—even a parent—have feelings that just aren't there. What might help you is to discuss your dysfunctional relationship with your mother with a licensed mental health professional who can help you understand that if there is fault involved, it belongs

solely with her and not you. **DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend who calls 20 times a day. If one of my kids asks me something and I ask her to hang on while I respond, she hangs up on me. We have had a falling-

I think it's rude of her to just hang up. I feel it would be different if she called only a few times a week for a few minutes, but that's not the case. Am I wrong to be upset? — HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE

DEAR HOLD ON: No, you are not wrong. Your children are trying to be cooperative and respectful. It is your friend who is being unreasonable.

DEAR ABBY is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA

THOMPSON FAMILY REUNION: Will meal will start at 4 p.m. Bring

CALDERWOOD REUNION: Will be

COULTER FAMILY AND FRIENDS: BORING FAMILY: Will hold its utensils and cups will be provided. A printer will be for those wanting to share. EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1956: Will hold a spring Saturday, June 15, at the

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963: Will hold its 56th

will be provided. Donations

will be accepted at the door.

RSVP to Ken and Jo Anne

EVERETT HIGH ALUMNI LUNCHEON: School. Doors will open at at 12:15 p.m. The host class is

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY: The

RILEY AND MARY CABLE REUNION:

SIX MILE COMMUNITY REUNION: vilion. The potluck dinner will the community. Drinks, paper **EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF** aol.com or joyjacksonhill@ gmail.com or follow on 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept.

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF casual. A class photo will

HOLSTON HIGH SCHOOL: Is Harvest Park. More than 400

MARTIAL ARTS: Will be offered and Thursdays at Faith Belt, will offer instruction. For ANTI BULLY/ANTI-ABDUCTION

wwwsmokymountainselfde-

MORNING CUP TOASTMASTER

STOCK UP INVESTMENT CLUB:

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION: Meets on the

SMOKY MOUNTAIN PICKLEBALL CLUB: If you are interested in with seniors. There are free information, visit www.

BLOUNT COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES: Meets MILITARY VETERANS LUNCH **BUNCH:** Group meets at

BLOUNT COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION: Meets from

EDITOR'S NOTE: For a listing of

Refreshments will be provided. For more information or HAVEN HOUSE: Offers an adult more information, call the **SMOKY MOUNTAIN CANCER** people with cancer, their

group for parents who have experienced the loss of a

GROUP: Meets from in Knoxville, Contact Nancy



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JOE BROWNLEE DONATED TWO airplanes to Wings of Hope.

WINGS: International program impacts 60,000 people

for Wings of Hope was to Africa. He's also taken planes to Ecuador and Belize.

DOING GOOD WITH VOLUNTEERS

In 2018, Wings of Hope provided transport for 162 medical patients free of charge. The volunteer pilots, mechanics, doctors and nurses along with patient flight advocates must meet strict training and licensing requirements. The pilots must have their commercial pilot's license and instrument ratings and have logged at least 1,000 hours in small aircraft.

The organization's 18 volunteer pilots have 222,300 hours of piloting experience.

The website provides an overview of some of the patients who have been served by Wings of Hope. One of them is a girl born with one leg shorter than the other. She was flown from central Kansas to St. Louis Shriners Hospital for bone lengthening. It would have been a 16-hour car ride.

Another is a police officer with cancer. He was flown from Mississippi to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

The planes that Brownlee has donated are not suitable for flying medical transport, said Carol Enright, communications manager for Wings of Hope. Neither of them can accommodate a stretcher for non-ambulatory patients. Wings of Hope will sell the planes to fund its programming.

As for how far the Wings of Hope planes in the U.S. will travel, Enright said they transport within a 600-mile radius of the St. Louis headquarters. That would include East Tennessee.

The international programs in nine countries, by comparison, impact close to 60,000 people annually, she added. Those countries include Belize, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Nicaragua, Zambia, Tanzania and Paraguay. In every case, Wings of Hope partners with an in-country organization.

For instance, in Tanzania, they partner with Flying Medical Services (FMS) providing fly-in medical clinics to 25 Maasai settlements, focused on prenatal and infant care, Enright said.

"In 2018, FMS treated 30,620 patients, vaccinating 18,917 children and providing 5,772 women with prenatal care," she explained.

WITH STORIES TO SHARE

Brownlee and Hoerstkamp could swap stories for hours and probably did as Hoerstkamp was in town for a few days. Brownlee said planes were and are a mode of transportation for him, not a hobby or something not taken seriously. He admits to doing rolls - not to be showy — but in order to learn how to come out of one should he get into an emergency situation.

It will be different now that be doesn't own a plane. At least he doesn't at the present time. But, spend a little time with this seasoned pilot and you get the impression one will be near and accessible.

"My whole life I've had planes," Brownlee said. "I have never been without a plane, in 72 years."

FRIENDSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 204 E. COLLEGE AVE.. JUNE 12: The monthly luncheon

will be held at noon in

MOTHER LOVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 3919 WRIGHTS FERRY ROAD,

DECORATION DAY

ELKMONT

JUNE 9: Homecoming will be celebrated beginning Cemetery. Chad Teaster will

OLD FASHIONED INDEPENDENT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. 938 MEADOW ROAD, GREENBACK

JUNE 9: Homecoming will 10 a.m. worship. Music will be provided by Gospel Dinner will follow the

PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, 487 COCHRAN ST., ALCOA JUNE 9: Larry Lewis will preach

for Homecoming at the Supernals will sing. SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH,

6823 HOWARD SCHOOL ROAD, MARYVILLE

JUNE 9: Homecoming and Decoration will be observed. place at 10:45 a.m. with lunch to follow.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH,

130 BETHLEHEM CHURCH ROAD, **MADISONVILLE**

JUNE 19: An evening with

COLD SPRINGS COMMUNITY CLUB, 616 COLD SPRINGS ROAD, WALLAND

JUNE 8: Monthly gospel singing will be held, featuring New will begin at 6:30 p.m. Hot **NEW PROVIDENCE PRIMITIVE**

BAPTIST CHURCH, 2633 SIX MILE ROAD, MARYVILLE JUNE 8: Simple Faith Ouartet

will be in concert. Dinner will

EUSEBIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1701 BURNETT STATION ROAD,

JUNE 13: The Eusebia History Group will meet at 7 p.m. The group will hear stories about the steamship

EAST WALLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, 720 E. MILLERS COVE ROAD, WALLAND

including adults, will be held day. Food will be served each

FAITH ENCOUNTER CHURCH, 2342 **DUNCAN ROAD, MARYVILLE** JUNE 24-28: VBS will take place day. To register, visit www.

CHURCH, 3920 W. LAMAR ALEXANDER PARKWAY.

JUNE 10-JUNE 16: VBS will be

The closing program will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 16. JILLVIEW BADTIST CHILDCH 271 MENTOR ROAD, LOUISVILLE

JUNE 9-14: Theme will be "Roar, 8:30 p.m. Dinner provided cookout will be held from

HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH, 526 HOPEWELL ROAD, MARYVILLE JUNE 9-13: Classes available 6 to 8 p.m. A meal will be

KNOB ROAD MISSIONARY BAPTIST

CHURCH, 2023 KNOB ROAD, MARYVILLE JUNE 10-14: "Anchored in Faith"

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH, MCARTHUR ROAD, MARYVILLE

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, 608 ED DAVIS ROAD, MARYVILLE JUNE 16-20: Classes will be

Fun Night will take place at PLEASANT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 503

PLEASANT HILL ROAD. MARYVILLE JUNE 6-8: VBS is being held





