

## Pets of the Week



Annie is a 5 to 6 months old. She has long hair and is a beautiful orange tabby. She's a talker and loves attention.



Beauty enjoys being snuggled and getting her head scratched. She's around 5 to 6 months old and has longer hair.



Catniss is the cat room queen. She would love to be the center of attention in your home.



Orange tabby twins, Heath and Twix, are growing up in the shelter. These boys have come a long way and now enjoy your company, as well as playing with their toys.

The Tri-County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center is on Icaria Road in Tyner and can be reached at 221-8514.

## CHOWAN SENIOR CENTER

Chowan Senior Center is at 204 E. Church St., in the basement of E.A. Swain.

### Activities

Sign up for Medicaid at the Center on Aug. 21.

Grocery Shopping Assistance will be held Aug. 1, 15 and 29.

Monthly Medical Notes will be at 11:30 p.m. Aug. 13.

Crossword Puzzles will be at 11:30 p.m. Aug. 22.

Birthday Quiz will be at 11 a.m. Aug. 8.

Trivia Plus will be at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 27.

Word Search will be at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 20.

The monthly luncheon will be held at noon Aug. 23. The center will serve, fried chicken breast, baked beans, potato salad, lemonade and dessert. Cost is \$3 and the deadline is Aug. 9.

Bingo will be played from 1-2 p.m. every Tuesday at the center. This is free.

Computers will be available to use from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

August birthdays will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. Aug. 2.

### Classes

Come join our crochet group from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 7, 21 and 28. Share your ideas with others. Learn

to crochet different patterns.

On all Fridays, the wood-carving group will meet at the center from 9 a.m. to noon. Join the group or just come see the projects they are working on. We are looking for someone to lead this class if you or if you know of anyone who would like to volunteer.

Katrina will teach paint class from 10:30 to noon Aug. 14. All materials are supplied and the cost is \$12. The deadline to pay is Aug. 2.

The center is starting a beginner line dance class at 10:15 a.m. Monday and Friday. Following this class, at

10:45 a.m., the center will have its regular line dance class.

### Trips

We will leave the center at 8 a.m. Aug. 16 and go to Patrick Henry Mall for shopping and lunch on your own and return by 5 p.m. The cost is \$8, and the deadline to pay is Aug. 2.

We will leave the center at 5 p.m. Aug. 19 and attend the 7:05 p.m. game between the Norfolk (Va.) Tides and the Gwinnett Stripers. It is turn back the clock night with 50 cent hot dogs, popcorn and soda. Cost is \$25 and the deadline is Aug. 5.

### Fitness

The fitness room is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Weight equipment will be here in about 8 weeks.

Arthritis exercise will be held from 10:15-121 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Mondays, we will leave the Center at 12:15 p.m. for Senior Bowling at Albemarle Lanes. Return by 3:30 p.m. Transportation is \$2.

Every Wednesday, we will leave the Center at 11:15 a.m. for a Fun Swim at the YMCA swimming from noon to 1 p.m., and return by 2 p.m. Cost is \$6 and deadline is

two days before.

The Walking Club will meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday at the old D.F. Walker gym.

Fitness classes are \$4/class or \$30/month:

\* Monday: 9 a.m., Total Body, Esssentials or Yoga; 5:30 p.m., Pilates

\* Tuesday: 9 a.m., Step Interval; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Fitness & Tone

\* Wednesday: 9 a.m., Chilates; 5:30 p.m., Pilates

\* Thursday: 9 a.m., Your Choice Class; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Fitness & Tone

\* Friday: 9 a.m., Yoga

## TOBIAS

Continued from A5

is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win . . ."

The nation was different back then. I'm not sure if a new space-race goal would serve anymore to "organize and measure the best of our energies and skills."

I am certain that the idea of giving humanity "another home planet" (because, you know, "global warming" or "asteroid collision" or "nuclear apocalypse") is just a moonbat fantasy, or more likely a cynical shell game.

Like it or not, the planet Earth is humanity's only

home forever. We might, on occasion, float around in space stations or rocket to Mars (though riddled all the way with cosmic rays). But there will be no place that can nurture human life (and any other kind of life) like home.

The earth just might be the only location of intelligent life in the cosmos. And what if . . . what if the earth is the only place in the entire universe that hosts any life at all?

Which brings me to this question: Just what was the most important goal for the Apollo missions (and all spaceflight)?

The finest achievement turned out to be, after all, not the exploration of the moon. To be sure, lunar

exploration was important, and so was winning the space race in the Cold War. But frankly, the moon is a harsh mistress (as sci-fi master Robert Heinlein once said). It is desolate, a "lonely kind of existence," as Frank Borman opined while Apollo 8 circled the moon at the close of 1968 — a year where there was very little "peace on earth, good will toward men."

But as he, and crewmates James Lovell and William Anders, came around from the dark side of the moon, they encountered for the first time in human history a sight most glorious and beautiful, breathtaking in its poignant sapphire and emerald

brilliance.

It was Earthrise. It was the ascension of our home planet from the bleak lunar horizon. It was this earth seen for the first time from the stars.

In his narration about the Apollo 8 voyage (in the splendid documentary "First to the Moon"), Lovell said that in our Christian faith, we say that we go to heaven when we die.

"That's true," he agreed, "but it's also true that when we are born we go to heaven. Because look at it — a blue and white glistening glowing orb floating in the blackness of space. A welcoming place of life, so fragile, so miraculous."

For my part, I do not want vast sums of money

spent on manned spaceflight. This nerd doesn't need astronauts anymore. I don't want a single dollar spent on finding another "home" for humanity: the one we have needs fixed, not discarded. There are more important needs calling for national treasure.

Diseases need cured. The poor need taken care of. Too many young Americans are languishing in student debt. Democracy, decency, and human freedom and kindness need support. The earth itself is hurting and needs repair: Nature seems broken, and needs much more care.

Too many people are looking only at their

iPhones and not looking at the stars.

Or at the Moon.

Or at the beauty of this holy Earth.

Thank you, Apollo 11 (and 8 and 12 through 17) for showing us the whole Earth for the first time.

. . . as lovely and miraculous that it truly is.

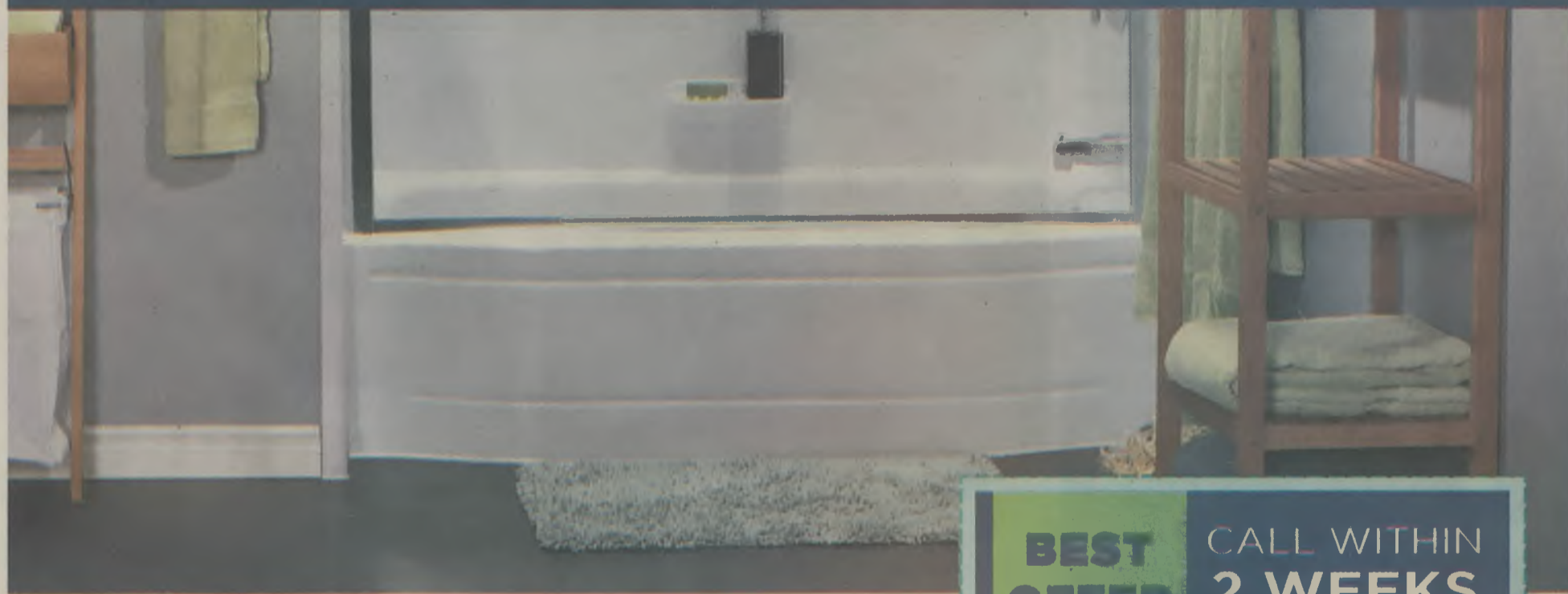
. . . just as God saw it at the beginning, when He hung it first like an ornament in the sable velvet of the night sky. And said that it was good.

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