

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 13, No. 16

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., April 21, 2016

Conditional Zone could mean new hotel in 'the pit'

It's been a vacant lot for about 20 years but if all goes well, a hotel will rise from the pit bordered by Helen's Barn Ave., and Second and Spring streets.

At the Wednesday, April

13 Zoning Board meeting, Jeff Weller of Summit Architecture, representing RLR Investments, took the first step in the conditional zoning process for the project.

Since property in the B3 zone must adhere to setbacks from roads and adjacent property, RLR Investments is requesting the zone be changed to B2 Conditional so the property can be developed lot

line to lot line.

As it is now, there is a 25-ft. setback from Helen's Barn Ave. and from both Spring and Second streets as well as a 10-ft. setback

• See HOTEL page 6

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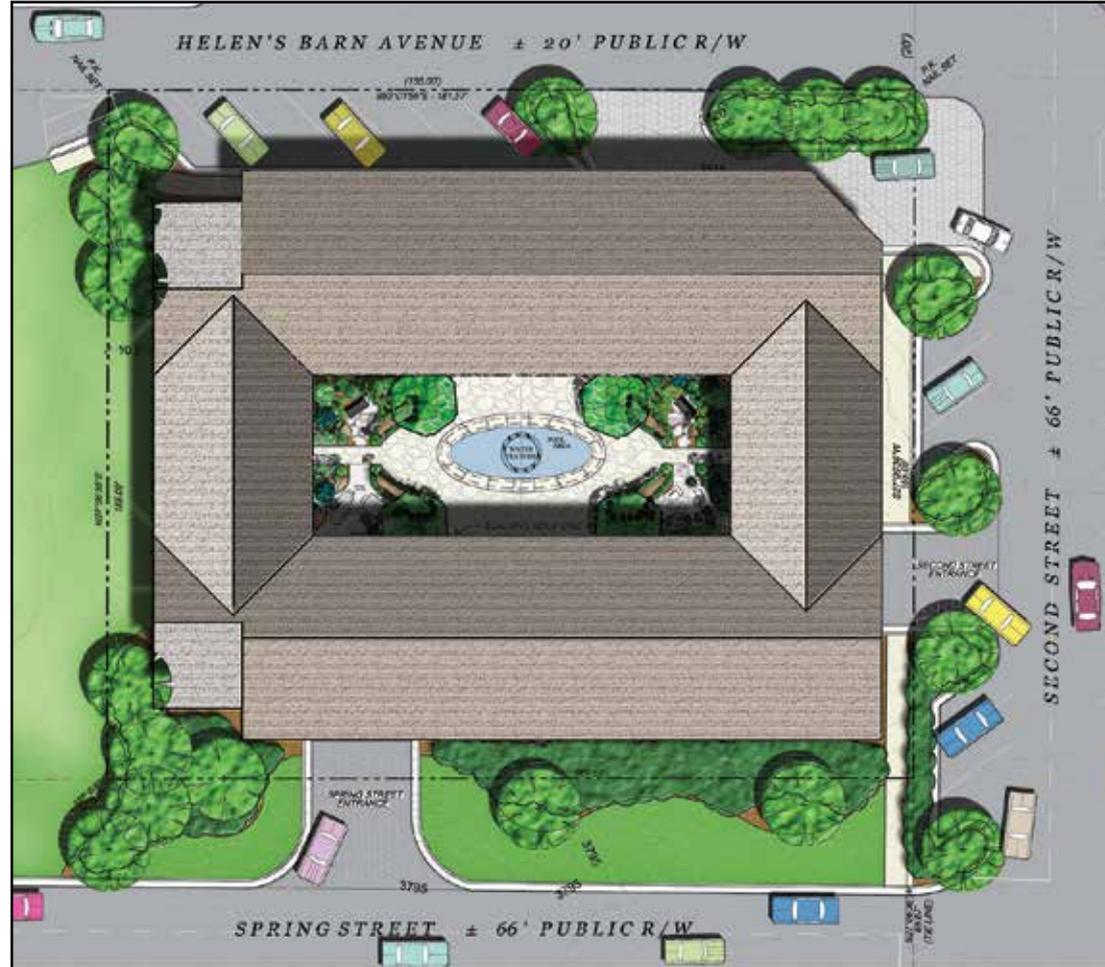
Board of Ed to amend numerous policies

Corporal punishment may be on the block

Policies and procedures mandated by the state are ever-changing and in an attempt to get the local policy manual up-to-date with recent changes, the Macon County Board of Education is working with board attorney John Henning Jr. to conduct a complete policy overhaul.

"The Board is converting to the North Carolina School Boards Association's "PLS" (Policies to Lead the Schools) model policy manual," explained Henning. "Laws and regulations governing school districts are constantly changing. There is legal liability in not having up-to-date policies, and NCSBA does a wonderful job of catching and incorporating all of these changes and provid-

• See BOARD OF ED page 5



RLR, Inc.'s, Park on Main expansion is planned for the vacant lot bordered by 2nd and Spring streets and Helen's Barn Ave and would include a pool and underground parking.

Downtown parking restrictions now in effect

As traffic increases in downtown Highlands so do the number of parking issues reported to the Chamber of Commerce and Highlands' town officials.

Here is a reminder to everyone that seasonal parking restrictions began on April 15 and continue through December 31.

Generally, parking is restricted (red areas) in the business district between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday now through the end of December.

Employers and employees are directed to park on the unregulated peripheral streets adjacent to the business district, such as Oak and Spring Streets during restricted hours. By obeying the downtown parking restrictions parking spaces can be used by shopping and dining visitors and residents.

• See PARKING page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Town Board agenda and more

The April Highlands Town Board meeting is scheduled for tonight at 7 pm at the conference center next to the ball field. The agenda is somewhat routine.

The Friends of the Park coalition will be asking for board permission to schedule several fundraising events in the park. They will also request town funding of a couple of items for the park. The Highlands Motoring Festival will be requesting use of the park and closure of Pine Street for their annual event that benefits the Literary Council of Highlands.

In planning matters, the board will review and schedule a public hearing for the rezoning request and to make UDO amendments. The amendments are primarily editorial and typographical changes.

Our planning director will continue to look at other aspects of the UDO, such as ambiguous or contradictory wording. He will bring back to the board those and other possible changes at a later date. Wording and refinement of the UDO document is a continuous improvement process.

The board will also be given a parking ordinance update by the police chief. Highlands is entering the parking enforce-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

ment season this coming month. Parking enforcement is also a continuous improvement process from year to year.

There are several items that are still in process and are not on tonight's agenda. The contract for the cell tower behind the fire station is still being analyzed by US Cellular, and is not ready for board review at this time. The final draft of park policies is also still in process. The town staff and recreation committee are res-

olving several issues in the policies. Our electric utilities consultant will come before the board later this year to update us about any Duke Energy coal ash plans and proposals.

The Highlands Plateau and Gorge Cleanup is this Saturday. Please lend a hand by showing up at 9:30am at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Office to volunteer. Road assignments will be made at that time. The town will be placing dumpsters this weekend at the Highlands Conference Center and at the pull off on US 64 next to the Lake Sequoyah Dam. If anyone wants to pick up trash anywhere in the Highlands area, the trash bags can be placed in these dumpsters.

I continue to head up the Highlands Trash Ambassadors. If anyone wants to participate in fighting litter beyond the Saturday cleanup, just drop by town hall and give us your email address so I can keep everyone posted.

When a person volunteers, they will be

• See MAYOR page 17

• MILESTONE •

Locals view 'Captain America' premier in LA

Jeff Akana, Business
Manager
The Atlanta Boy Choir, Inc

*Highlands actress is guest at
Hollywood movie premier*

Megan Lewicki, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lewicki of Highlands attended the Hollywood Premiere of the upcoming blockbuster movie, Captain America: Civil War, as a guest of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe, Director of the Atlanta Boy Choir.

The movie premiered at Hollywood's famous Dolby Theatre on Tuesday evening April 12th and features the choir in one of its scenes. Maestro Wolfe was invited to attend as one of the Honored Guests by Dave Jordan, Walt Disney Films, Co. producer.

Maestro Wolfe, longtime resident of Highlands, now lives in Sky Valley and having admired Ms. Lewicki's acting career, invited her and her soon-to-be husband,

Joel Axelrod, to be his guests at this very important Hollywood premiere.

This movie, which opens world-wide on



Megan Lewicki out side the Dolby Theatre in LA.

May 6th, was filmed largely in Atlanta. The Atlanta Boy Choir was selected to appear in this production because of its Grammy Award winning reputation.

The choir is now in its 60th season. Maestro Wolfe has many of its alumni in the entertainment industry, and two well-known ones Dwayne Shattuck, Producer of TV's Mad Men and Christopher Neiman, star of Star Trek attended as well.

This choir, which has been heard around the world in famous concert halls, will appear in Highlands on Sunday Afternoon, May 22nd at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The concert is free and open to the public and will precede the choir's visit to British Columbia the next week.

Reserved seating for this concert will be available to Patrons of the choir by calling 404.378.0064 or by emailing info@atlantaboychoir.org.

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Locally owned and operated by

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Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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• WEEKEND WEATHER •



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• OBITUARY •

Ann Hetzel Beatty

Ann Hetzel Beatty, 94, of Panama City Beach, FL, died Monday, October 26, 2015 at Covenant Hospice Care, Bay Medical Center in Panama City, FL. She peacefully passed away surrounded by loving family.

Ann was born September 17, 1921 in Hagerstown, MD to Geraldine and Harry C. Hetzel. She married Jack Beatty on December 1, 1949, who preceded her in death in 1995.

Ann was a devoted and loving mother to seven children. Five surviving children are: Bryant Hodgson (Joan), David Beatty (Deborah), John Beatty (Dawn), Lisa Brown (Arthur), and Laura Becker (Donald). Also surviving are numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Ann's sister, Janet Fisher, and her brother, Alan Hetzel, also survive her. Ann's two sons, Wayne (Victoria) Hodgson (1992), and Douglas (Jean) Beatty (2012) preceded her in death. Her sister, Joyce Hetzel also preceded her in death (2008).

Ann grew up in Charleston, SC where she attended Ashley Hall School. Summers were spent in Highlands, North Carolina, a favorite retreat for the Hetzel Family. She



was a long time resident of Atlanta, GA and also lived in Boston, GA for a number of years after her husband, Jack, retired.

Ann loved being with her family more than anything on this earth. She enjoyed spending time in the last few years going over the treasures of photos, scrapbooks and countless keepsakes that she was known for collecting during her life. She was an excellent storyteller, craft maker, piano player and cook. As a child, her Christian faith and that of her family was shaped by regular seasonal church attendance, so this occasion also marks a homecoming celebration.

On Saturday, April 23 an interment and Service of Committal will be held at 1 p.m. followed by a Memorial Service at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, NC.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be directed to: Mission fund for Highlands Community Child Development Center, and/or to the Black Mountain Home for Children, c/o First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, P.O. Box 548, Highlands N.C. 28741. Phone: 828-526-3175.

• FORUM •

The Satulah story continues ...

Happy Years for the Park at Satulah Summit

By Jim Green

A public park was created at the summit of Satulah Mountain in 1909 when the people of Highlands contributed the money and bought the 32 acres at the mountain summit. The land was put in trust with instructions that it be "held for the purpose of making and maintaining a public park to be used and enjoyed by the public forever." Highlanders have enjoyed the use of the park for over 100 years.

The exceptional long view from the summit includes majestic mountains and lush valleys. The summit stands some 3,400 feet above valleys less than eleven miles away, and it is more than 700 feet above Main Street. The southern cliffs

descend steeply into the piedmont hills below. In places there is a nearly straight fall of some 900 feet. On clear days, four states are visible.

A variety of rare and beautiful vegetation lives at the summit. During the Ice Age when glaciers invaded much of the North American continent, the southern Appalachians stood above the glacial advance and provided a place of refuge for many species of plants that were crushed in other parts of the continent. Many rare varieties survived on the Satulah summit, and their descendents can still be seen today.

And aside from the views and the rare vegetation, there is a feeling that comes to many when they stand on the summit. It

• See SATULAH page 5

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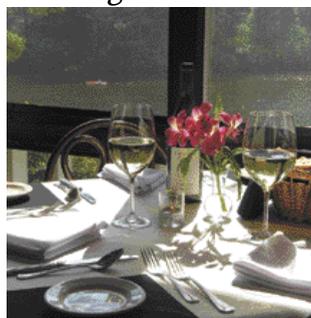


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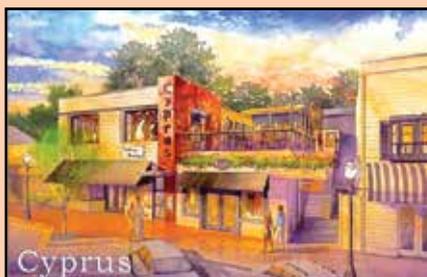


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...SATULAH continued from page 3

may be in part awe and reverence for nature. I can't describe it, but many who have visited the summit will understand.

The Highlands Improvement Society constructed a small stone shelter at the summit soon after the park was opened. While little of the structure is left, it provided cover from a sudden shower for many years. Public use and enjoyment of the park were encouraged.

For the first one hundred years after the park was created, Highlanders enjoyed convenient access. In the early years, they were able to drive their cars all the way from Main Street to the summit. Both Satulah Road and Worley Road were open for automobiles the entire way. As the years passed, the upper ends of these two roads deteriorated and became walking trails. From that time until not very long ago, visitors to the park drove to the present ends of both Satulah Road and Worley Road. They parked their cars at the ends of these roads and walked the comfortably short remaining distance along the trails to the summit. This continued along Worley Road until only a few years ago. Access was easy. Visitors to the park came when they pleased and stayed as long as they liked.

During all of those years, the park land remained in its natural, unblemished state. Highlanders were proud of their exceptional park. They respected the beauty and sanctity of the site. And they enjoyed its use.

Those were the happy years...

...PARKING from page 1

The Highlands Police Department will be issuing parking tickets to violators.

The complete ordinance and parking map are available at Town Hall on N. 4th Street.

...BOARD of ED from page 1

ing updates."

Henning noted that ensuring all of the school system's policies were current and in line with recent legislative changes is a huge undertaking and rather than Henning starting from scratch with Macon County's policies, Henning suggested converting to the school board association's policies which would be more efficient and effective.

Policies to Lead the Schools (PLS) is a web-based policy reference manual developed by NCSBA. It provides local boards of education with a resource for up-to-date, legally compliant sample policies. PLS contains over 330 sample policies, including: All policies required by the State Board of Education and General Assembly; Recommended policies; Annotations that further explain the policies, suggest alternatives and identify where the policies may be modified to reflect local board and school system practices; as well as extensive references to legal authorities, including state and federal laws, regulations and guidelines.

"This process will ensure that Macon County Schools has the most up-to-date policies possible," said Henning. "There are many reasons to do this: liability, funding eligibility, and just plain good business practices are among them."

Last week, Henning presented the school board with policies ranging from how to handle bomb threats to terms of complying with the Iran Divestment Act of 2015. All of the proposed changes were taken under advisement by members of the school board at first reading. While no changes have been made as of yet, the school board is expected to consider Henning's proposed changes in July for a second reading before adopting the changes.

School Board member Stephanie McCall said it's likely the board will vote to do away with corporal punishment (spankings) but no votes were taken at last week's special called meeting.

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REC PARK NEWS.

And the winners are...

The Rec Dept.'s Men's League Basketball season is over. Season champions were the Hornets. From left: Josh Delacruz, Michael Baty, Robbie Vanderbilt Craig Ezechell, Derek McDaniel and Matt Harlfinger. Second Place was the Warriors. From left: Trey Chastain, Jared Crawford, Chance Gibbs, Joeseph Shelton, Trey Maslin and Blake Randal. Third Place was the Toon Squad. From left: Thaddius Williams, Wayne Festerman, Simon Graves, Murph Stalcup and Josiah Hurt.



The Hornets



The Warriors



The Toon Squad

Photos by Lester Norris

...HOTEL continued from page 1

from the Helen's Barn property to the west.

Adhering to those setback requirements would leave very little property to develop – hence the B2 Conditional Zone request.

Weller presented preliminary renditions of the exterior and interior layout but was only there for a recommendation. The Zoning and Planning boards must submit recommendations to the Town Board which will ultimately assign the “conditions” and approve the new zone.

The property is part of the Wright Square complex but was never developed as such. It includes lots 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 but the property will be consolidated into one lot.

The proposed hotel will have up to 46 rooms on two levels above ground and two subgrade levels – one for staff and storage and one to satisfy the required parking of 52 spaces for patrons. Underground parking will leave the current downtown parking spaces for visitors and tourists throughout the business district.

The hotel will be an expansion of the adjacent Park on Main hotel and the number of rooms could decrease if the owners opt

for suites rather than standard rooms.

Sidewalks around the complex will be extended and expanded to coincide with downtown's pedestrian-friendly atmosphere.

“I think this is wonderful for tourism,” said Jerry Moore, Zoning Board member and owner of Kilwins. “Patrons can park and leave their cars and walk everywhere and it keeps cars off the streets.”

According to Highlands Planning Director Randy Feierabend the concept of the hotel fits with the land use plan and the underground parking keeps the addition of the hotel to the downtown arena pedestrian-friendly.

President of the Chamber of Commerce Bob KIELTYKA said additional hotel rooms will definitely benefit Highlands.

“The Chamber of Commerce welcomes the addition of new, high quality rooms in the heart of Highlands’ business district,” he said. “An investment of this size and quality speaks to the growing popularity of Highlands as a destination resort community and it will provide visitors with another excellent housing option within convenient walking

distance of most of Highlands’ amenities.”

But not everyone agrees. “Is it needed...no” said Sabrina Hawkins, owner of Highlands Lodge and Highlands Inn. “We do not have a shortage of accommodations in Highlands. The Highlands market is flooded with hotel rooms and rentals. I cannot remember the last time everyone was sold out. Back in the good ol’ days, come Friday and Saturday evening, there wasn’t a place between Asheville and Highlands that had an available room. Building or renovating a luxury hotel, investing tens of millions, then cutting rates to \$129 or \$99 per room to compete with the “Regular Joe” hotels because you have open rooms is not making a return on your multi-million dollar investment. It just doesn't make good business sense to me. If these hotels were getting their price, it may stand to reason but that isn't the case.”

President and Managing Director of Old Edwards Hospitality Group Richard Delany said his opinion on the need for more rooms has changed over the years.

• See HOTEL page 8

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\$27.95 serves two

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Where are You in the Real Estate World?

Everyone is involved in real estate on some level. Whether you are in the rental market and are saving to purchase your first home, trading up to a larger home as your space needs have outgrown your current home, trading down to a smaller home as your space needs have decreased or simply staying put and enjoying your current home. Real estate and how you deal with your place in this world is a key component in everyone's life. In this article we will briefly address a few key points of how to navigate each of the above situations to your best advantage.

New Home Buyer

Your challenge is that you are likely to have less cash to bring to the table, but your advantage is you are more flexible in your timing than another buyer who would need to sell to move. Use your flexibility to your advantage. The first thing you want to do is a budget of what you are comfortable with spending on a home. Meet with an experienced mortgage banker so that they can give you the financing options available to you. They will be able to give you an idea of what price home you should be looking into. You can then determine how much of a down payment

you will need and what your estimated monthly cost will be. After you have your finances in order reach out to an experienced Realtor. Share with them what you have worked out with the mortgage banker and then they can help you determine what life style you are looking for and then help match you with the perfect home. A savvy professional will then not only help you with your basic negotiations but also point out things that you would potentially miss when evaluating the quality of the home.

Trading Up

The timing of selling and buying is the hardest step in this process. This is a tricky balancing act for most people, as they want to sell and close before buying and closing on the new home. To be more competitive and flexible consider selling first and renting for a period of time while you shop for that new home. In that scenario, you eliminate several of the domino pitfalls that happen when you try to sell and purchase at the same time. One of the worst things



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is to find the perfect home then watch it sell to someone else while you wait for your current home to sell. In this case, keep in touch with your Realtor often to have a good handle on how the market sees your current home.

Downsizing

The first objective here is to determine what your ultimate goal is. Are you trying to simplify your life by having more cash in your pocket or are you looking for a higher quality lifestyle with less maintenance? Sounds like an easy decision, but in reality determining the best way to downsize is harder than people initially think. You will be in a stronger position as you likely have fewer geographical constraints and generally have more cash when you've sold your home. You've likely lived in your home and know what you like and don't like about it. Rank your likes and dislikes in writing so that you can provide your Realtor with a list of important factors to look for in your next home. Renting could also open up your possibilities by allowing for a purchase of a home that needs work without having to live through the chaos, yet still be close by to oversee the renovation. While getting ready to sell the current home, just de-cluttering can make a huge difference but to take it up a notch, consider a home stager; statistics show that the

cost of a stager at the outset is more than covered in the gains when the home sells. Have your Realtor walk-through the home and give your feedback on how the home will appear to potential buyers.

Staying Put

Here your challenge is to make wise decisions to keep you comfortable while being able to change your position easily. Make sure your upgrades make sense and will add to the overall value of your home. You want to enjoy what you do, but you also want someone else to want it when it is time to sell. Refinance if it puts you in a stronger financial situation. Be energy wise; it will keep your ongoing costs lower and make your home more attractive when a change happens. Above all, keep up with regular maintenance on your home. Deferred maintenance is one of the most costly real estate mistakes.

No matter where you are in the world of real estate, remember that having a seasoned, professional Realtor at your side is invaluable in meeting your challenges and moving to the next phase of your real estate journey.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark also has offices in Cashiers and Burlingame/Lake Toxaway providing the Highlands Cashiers Plateau with professional and friendly service. Visit their website at www.Landmarkrg.com

...HOTEL continued from page 6

"Believe it or not I actually think as Highlands has grown over the last 5-10 years and increased in popularity there is now a need especially in season. Perhaps not a desperate need, but I think the new rooms will fill over the summer and fall and it will take a year or two for the extra rooms to be fully absorbed into Highlands' room inventory. I am not sure if you had asked me a year ago I would have thought the same," he said. "When I first heard about

this project I thought it might be overkill but Highlands is really hot and getting more popular by the day. And how great is it that we are to the point where someone can even consider adding a new hotel -- that speaks to the strength of the Highlands' economy."

Delany noted that 200 Main and Park on Main, although considered "new" hotels, did not change the actual available

• See HOTEL page 9



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HCLT Eco Tour of Pittillo Family Reserve is Tuesday, April 26

In 2012, Dan Pittillo, a former professor at Western Carolina University (WCU) and famed area botanist decided to protect his family land and put his property into a conservation easement with Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT). Thanks to his decision, the Pittillo Family Nature Preserve will now be protected forever. Part of the conservation easement includes a spectacular native wildflower garden, which Dan and his family have dedicated to his late wife.

Included in his conservation easement, Dan reserved the right to build and open a trail to the public. Part of the trail around Dan's wildflower garden, which he calls Nodding Trillium Garden, is done. The Garden has one of the finest and most extensive collections of native spring wildflowers that can be found in the area! Dan's careful oversight of the garden has also been used in studies looking at when plants flower and how they have been starting to flower earlier over the past few decades.

Over the past year, HCLT and student volunteers from WCU have been helping Dan build a loop trail extending up to Nodding Trillium Garden. If the project continues as planned, the new trail should soon be open so that students of WCU and the wider public will be able to visit the Pittillo Family Nature Preserve



Trillium

and see the beauty captured in the native wildflowers.

On Tuesday, April 26th, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust will lead an Eco Tour to visit the Preserve. For new friends a donation of \$35 includes the guided adventure, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to the Land Trust. For HCLT members a \$10 donation helps cover food costs. For more information and to reserve your spot contact HCLT at (828) 526-1111 or email julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

If you are interested in helping finish the trail or help HCLT on other trail projects, please call or mail Kyle Pursel at stew.hitrust@earthlink.net. To learn more about HCLT and the work they are doing in our area to save our most treasured places visit www.hicashlt.org.

...HOTEL continued from page 8

room count in Highlands because they were already operating as hotels – they were simply renovated to make them much nicer hotels.

“I might be wrong about this but the last time any significant amount of rooms were added to Highlands was when we opened Falls Cottage with 26 rooms about four years ago.”

Delany contends that the Park on Main addition will be harder to fill out of season, “but that, too, is changing as we continue to become less seasonal,” he said.

“Our ‘season’ is much longer now and we are very busy May-December and full every weekend even in the winter. I have heard from many guests they are already having trouble finding rooms for many weekends this summer. All three of our properties are filling up quickly or almost full for the next 5-6 months especially on weekends,” he said.

With a positive recommendation from the Zoning Board, the project will move on to the Planning Board at which point it will proceed further with details

and drawings. Once the design is complete, RLR Investments will apply for a SUP and supply final floor plans, a site plan, exteriors, renderings, color boards and a landscaping plan. If granted, they will proceed to the Town Board for the final word on the B2 Conditional Zone request.

Other Zoning Board News

Since special conditions weren't needed for parking, Jeff Weller, representing the First Baptist Church, formerly withdrew his application for Conditional Zoning for the church's addition and applied for a Special Use Permit (SUP) instead. SUPs are needed for any construction, remodeling or additions to buildings in the commercial district. The Zoning Board unanimously approved the application noting if possible for the church to attempt to landscape the north side of the existing fellowship hall on Oak Street as recommended by the Planning Board.

Likewise, the Ashburns application for a SUP to construct a screened porch area on the deck fronting Helen's Barn Avenue at 151 Wright Square was also approved.

– Kim Lewicki

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

Last Sundays

• At The Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at 3pm. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm first

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 26, 2016

LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday

7 – 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water

aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and

Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
3 – 5 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

6 – 8 pm

Saturday 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday 1 – 5 pm

WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday

10:15 am

Monday - Thursday 5:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Saturday 11:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

POOL PARTIES

Pool available on

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

6 – 8 pm

Fee: \$75 / \$50 deposit required

\$50 non-refundable deposit if party is cancelled or a no show less than 2 days

before

1st Wednesday of the month—

Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

Senior Night

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

Mondays.

• High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

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

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly

Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more Information call 369-3916.

Last Tuesdays

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Belly Dancing 101 at 6:30 p.m. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At the Wellness Place at 6:30 p.m., donation based Art of Meditation. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

1st 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.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

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

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays - Tuesdays

• Movies at The Highlands Playhouse, 3 and 7 p.m.

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Pinterest Fridays at 6:30p. Essential Oils, Appetizers and Crafts Night. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Every 2nd Saturday

• A group that will meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at Highlands Hudson Library at 10am. Group will have speakers, videos, recipes, health tips, and more to educate people about any health issues. Group is a non-profit. Contact Kelly Woods 828-421-3520 or live4above@aol.com

Saturdays

• At The Wellness Place Donation based 9am Yoga For Dummies at 9 a.m. Fun, Judgement Free Zone, All Levels

Traditional African Music at Hudson Library

The Hudson Library in Highlands, N.C. is hosting a musical concert featuring Sean Gaskell on Friday, April 29 at 7p.m. in the Community Room. This program is free of charge.

Sean Gaskell will give a performance on the Kora, an ancient 21-stringed harp from West Africa. He will feature traditional songs that are the heart and soul of the Kora's musical repertoire in addition to some of his own personal compositions.

Sean Gaskell has mesmerized audiences across the US, Gambia, and Senegal with his heart rending performances that spotlight the West African Kora. The Kora is a 21-string harp whose roots stretch back to the mid-1700's and feature traditional songs that



praise leaders of high political status and those who helped expand the Mande Empire. Gaskell, having studied the Kora over multiple visits to its homeland in Gambia, released his first solo album "Kora Music of West Africa" in 2012. His primary teachers are Moriba Kuyateh and Malamini Jobarteh (passed in July 2013). He has opened for headliner acts such as Oliver Mtukudzi and the Black Spirits.

This program is free and open to the public and is co-sponsored by the Arts Council of Macon County, N.C. For more information, please call the library at (828) 526-3031. The Hudson Library is a member of Fontana Regional Library.

Spring Home Improvement

What Factors Influence the Price of a Home?

(StatePoint) While curb appeal, structural integrity and a brand new set of appliances can impact a home's value, there is one factor that seems to reign supreme.

"Homeownership is one of the most solid long-term investments one can make, but it's important to recognize just how much the location of a home can impact the value," says Budge Huskey, president and chief executive officer of Coldwell Banker Real Estate.

The new Coldwell Banker Home Listing Report, a highly extensive home price comparison tool, analyzes the listing price of more than 81,000 four-bedroom, two-bathroom homes in more than 2,700 markets throughout

the United States.

The report found some startling facts: the national average listing price of a four-bedroom, two-bathroom home is \$302,632, but all of the top 100 affordable markets in the country have an average listing price under \$135,000. Meanwhile, all of the top 25 most expensive markets are \$1 million or more. The price difference between the most expensive community in California and the most affordable in Ohio is \$2.2 million.

So what accounts for this major value discrepancy in similar-sized homes? Here are several ways in which "where" matters most.

Local Industry

Job opportunities available in a given sector

can have a huge impact on the market. For example, the continued tech sector growth in Silicon Valley is one of the factors making it one of those most expensive communities in the country.

Revitalization

Over time, revitalization efforts can make certain communities more

• See **FACTORS** page 16



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Spring Home Improvement

Tips to Spruce Up Your Outdoor Spaces for the Season

(StatePoint) When the weather warms up, it's all about relaxing outdoors. But it's possible you've neglected upkeep on your home's outdoor spaces during the chilly months of winter.

To enjoy yourself more this season, take time to spruce up your yard. Here are some quick tips.

Do a Survey

Take a walk around the perimeter of your patio, deck and yard to survey what needs to be cleaned, repaired or replaced. Did potted plants and lawn ornaments survive the cooler months? Are outdoor light fixtures functioning? Are fallen branches littering the yard? Make a mental to-do list.

Deep Clean

Like interior spaces, periodic deep cleans are necessary outdoors too. But don't waste your leisure time.

"With the right tools you can work smart, not hard," says Jeff Devlin, host on a popular home improvement channel. "A heavy-duty cleaner, such as Mean Green Degreaser, not only works indoors, but is ideal for my tough outdoor cleaning jobs."



Devlin recommends using the Super Strength multi-surface formula -- which is lab-tested to clean and remove grease, grime, mildew, dirt, and oil more effectively than its competitors -- to clean and remove mildew from patios, outdoor furniture, concrete, composite and wood fences and siding, as well as to clean and degrease tools, lawn equipment and grills. Use it as a concentrated spray or diluted solution. Clean with a brush or sponge.

"For your toughest jobs, add it to your pressure washer," says Devlin. Helpful cleaning tips can be found at MeanGreenDegreaser.com.

Routine Maintenance

Perform routine upkeep to keep items from falling into disrepair or becoming overgrown or unkempt.

Sweep walkways and your deck regularly, especially if they are situated under trees. Promote a healthy

lawn by mowing it regularly, never removing more than one-third of the grass blade. Keep gutters devoid of leaves and debris so that water does not collect in your yard or at the base of your home's structure. Rinse patio furniture, umbrellas and awnings using water or a diluted cleaner.

Spring is in the air. With a little effort, you can be prepared to make the most of it.

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Spring Home Improvement

What to Know Before Renovating or Building a Home

(StatePoint) Building a home or making upgrades? One of the most important factors to consider is the material used. While "all-natural" may be an appealing quality on your plate, in construction, man-made products often provide more options and value.

Seek out materials offering durability, energy-efficiency and resistance to threats like fire and wicked weather. Many such high-quality products are domestic, so you can support US manufacturing while making key choices.

Boost home beauty, strength and efficiency with these projects:

Solid Foundation

Start a new home with a solid pre-cast concrete foundation. Those from Superior Walls are customized for individual homes and installed in one day -- far faster than alternatives like poured concrete.

Rigid foam insulation in these concrete panels wards off heat loss and creates a barrier against



sidewall water penetration. These features make the basement dampfree and a more comfortable area for extended living space in the home.

Plucky Plumbing

Perhaps your toilet rattles and leaks; maybe your tub and sink look dingy no matter how much you clean them. If it's time to replace bathroom elements, use newer materials offering water efficiency, style and safety benefits.

Look for a toilet marked with the WaterSense label, which indicates

it's been certified to be at least 20 percent more efficient without sacrificing performance. The free Water Savings Calculator at the Mansfield Plumbing website can help you determine your return-on-investment.

For a coordinated look, consider a suite of products that work together, like the Affordable Style Designer series from Mansfield Plumbing. You get a toilet, tub and sink, all in the same style.

Switching to an easy-access SmartHeight toilet can be another smart move.

Options in the bathroom like grab bars, walk-in tubs and pedestal sinks, all provide enhanced safety and comfort.

Gorgeous Windows

Over time, windows can look old and become difficult to operate. Make wise replacement choices that add beauty and privacy to key areas of your home without compromising light entry.

Whether it's an acrylic block window over a bathtub or a set of decorative glass windows in the kitchen

• See HOME page 16



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Spring Home Improvement

Pet Owners: Tips to Keep Floors in Tip Top Shape

(StatePoint) Whether you share your home with dogs, cats, birds, turtles or anything in between, you are probably aware of the challenges of protecting and cleaning your floors.

To make this chore as easy for you as it is for your non-pet parent peers, consider the following tips:

Pets in Boots

Outfitting pets with boots before going outside will protect their paws from pollutants, hot and cold surfaces, and potentially sharp items on the ground. It will also keep their feet and your floors cleaner. There are many brands and styles available, so shop around for a design that your pets will enjoy wearing.

Post-Walk Clean-Up

After walks or other trips outdoors, check your pet's fur and feet. Keep a cloth by the door for a

quick clean-up before animals settle in and get cozy on carpets. This will make maintaining floors easier as you go.

Prevent Accidents

Prevent pooch accidents by getting your dog on a regular walk schedule. The knowledge that the next trip outdoors is on the horizon will make pets less likely to use the living room carpet as a toilet. If need be, you may want to consider employing a day-time dog walker to make trips outdoors a more regular occurrence. If you have litter box issues, keep the box clean to encourage dedicated use.

Regular visits to the veterinarian can help ensure there are no health issues at play.

Choose Flooring Wisely

Until now, even the best prevention of stains and accidents has offered no guarantees. And shed-

ding of fur, feathers and dander is hard to avoid. However, innovations in flooring are making it easier on those who love their pets but are not interested in forfeiting a clean, stain-free and odor-free home.

Give yourself an advantage with a pet proof carpet, such as Mohawk's Smart-Strand Forever Clean carpet, which is designed to resist the challenges pets present. Compared to nylon carpet which absorbs up to five percent of its weight in liquid, this alternative has zero percent moisture absorption to resist stains and eliminate any residue that can be left in the fiber which can lead to a musty, dingy odor. (These features will also benefit those with kids.) It also offers a permanent spill and soil shield that makes clean-up of hair, soil and dander three times easier than with conventional carpeting.



Protect Floors Financially

Consider a pet-specific warranty for carpeting to better protect your investment. For example, Mohawk offers an All Pet Pro-

tection and Warranty on its SmartStrand Forever Clean carpeting, which is the only warranty of its kind that covers all pets and all accidents. More information can be found at mohawk-

flooring.com.

Pet owners need not forgo a clean and great-smelling home. There are many smart ways to limit stains, prevent accidents and make clean-up easier when incidents occur.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 10 a.m.. \$5.
- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.
- Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

Sundays through May 29

• Change Your Money, Change your Life. Applying God's word to your money...This 9-week class will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely and more. 3pm-5pm at the Highlands Rec. Park. To sign up go to: www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1017675. For more information contact Emily Chastain at eh.chastain86@gmail.com/(828) 200-6277

Thurs., April 21

• Taize service at 5:30 PM at Holy Family Lutheran Church, 2152 Dillard Road for any questions, please call Chaplain Margaret at 704-516-7893.

• Center for Life Enrichment offers class: A Life of Creativity in Fiber. 4 – 5 pm. Location: CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Sat., April 23

• Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will have a White Elephant and Bazaar Sale Saturday, from 9 am until 5 pm. Doughnuts & Coffee from 9-11 am. Hot Dog Plate Sale from 11 am-3pm. Kids' Festivities 12n-3pm. Cake Walk 3-5pm. Motorcycle ride check-in at 12:30pm \$20 donation includes lunch. All proceeds to benefit Relay for Life. For more info, call 828 524-7806.

• Gorge trash pick up is at 9:30. Meet at the Chamber/Visitor Center.

Mon., April 25

• The monthly meeting of the Jackson County Republican Party will be on Monday at Ryan's in Sylva 5:30 PM to eat and 6:30 PM to meet. Come to discuss candidates for election as well as plans for the District Convention to be held on Wednesday, April 27 and the NCGOP State Convention May 6-8. Republicans, unaffiliated voters and others interested are invited to attend all GOP meetings and events. For Jackson County GOP information, please call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491 or email jacksonctygop@yahoo.com. Like us on Facebook at Jackson County

Republican Party.

Tues., April 26

• Center for Life Enrichment offers hike: Rough Run Spring Wildflower Hike. 10 am – 2 pm. Location: Participants to meet @ CLE Parking lot, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information/reserve space, contact Sandy Carlton @828-526-8811.

• A Eco Tour lead by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to visit the Pittillo Family Nature Preserve. For new friends a donation of \$35 includes the guided adventure, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to the Land Trust. For HCLT members a \$10 donation helps cover food costs. For more information and to reserve your spot contact HCLT at (828) 526-1111 or email Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Thurs., April 28

• Wolfgangs and ...on the Verandah are participating in Dine Out for Life. 20% of gross proceeds will go toward Western North Carolina AIDS Project.

Fri., April 29

• At Hudson Library, Tradional African Music at 7 p.m. in the community room. Free.

Sat., April 30

• At PAC, The Met Live via satellite at 12:45 p.m.

Thurs., May 5

• Chestnut Hill Retirement Center Wellness Fair 10a to noon, at the clubhouse on Clubhouse Terail. Have your blood pressure checked, get a hand massage and a snack. After stay for a free lunch in the dining room. Dr. Sue Aery, DC, MS will speak briefly on Cellular Health and Whole Food Nutrition. For lunch please RSVP by 4 p.m., Thurs. May 2. Call 828-526-5251.

May 6-7

• Wildflower Whimsey -- a fundraiser for the Highlands Biological Foundation -- at the Highlands Biological Station. May 6, 6:30-8p and May 7, 10a - 2p. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for nonmembers. Call (828)526-2221.

Sat., May 7

• A choral workshop hosted by Highlands First Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir. For more details, call Nan Hunter at 828-526-1881 or 828-200-3101.

Thurs-Sun, May 19-22

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "A Game's Afoot. For tickets call 828-526=8084.

Thurs.-Sun., May 19-21

• At The Bascom, Collective Spirits.

Thurs. - Sun., May 26-29

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "A Game's Afoot. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Highlands Biological Foundation's Wildflower Whimsey is on May 6th and 7th



Here today and gone tomorrow, the spring wildflowers of the Southern Appalachians are ephemeral beauties. Don't miss your opportunity to witness their alluring, yet transitory show and learn more about wildflowers at the Highlands Biological Foundation's Wildflower Whimsey on May 6th and 7th.

On the evening of Friday, May 6th there will be garden tours, a lecture, live auction, and wine reception.

On Saturday there will be guided wildflower walks to discover the wonders of the forest floor and gardens alike.

There are four walks to choose from, all of which are easy to moderate levels of difficulty and will take place from 10am-2pm.

A walk along Paw Paw Creek will focus on how geology impacts botany. Visit both acidic and neutral terrains and see native fern species, including the rare Narrow Glade Fern and Silvery Glade Fern, as well as many spring ephemerals.

The High Falls trail is a perennial favorite for wildflower enthusiasts due to its profusion of wildflower variation.

This walk along the banks of Shoal Creek in Glenville also offers views of two spectacular waterfalls, Tough Run, and

High Falls. It is known for early, mid, and late spring bloomers.

Wild and scenic is a fitting designation for the Chattooga River and its lush banks. Experience a rich mélange of native plants along one of the most diverse river gorges in North America. Walk along the Chattooga Loop Trail and identify native plants in the context of ecological conditions.

The Gregory garden is located in a rich Appalachian cove full of plant diversity. Compare planted beds with a myriad of species found on woodland trails and wetland boardwalks. Learn design tricks with native plants and how to identify not only spring wildflowers, but newly emerging summer beauties as well.

Join us for an educational experience and help support the mission of the Highlands Biological Foundation. Tickets are on sale now at \$75 for members and \$100 for nonmembers. Visit highlandsbiological.org/wildflower-whimsey/ to pay by credit card online or download a brochure to mail in. For more information, visit our website or call (828) 526-2221.

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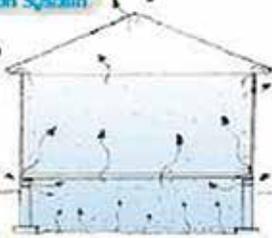
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...FACTORS continued from page 11

attractive to buyers. When a city or region sees an economic and cultural renaissance this influences the market. Buyers value related factors like safety, a walkable main street, public transit options and green spaces.

Schools

You may not have children, but it's still important to investigate the quality of local schools. This factor can have a major impact on every homeowner.

Region

Regional factors can have a huge effect on a given locality's pricing. These can in-

clude year-round weather patterns, proximity to natural beauty like beaches and mountains for outdoor activities like skiing and surfing, and commuting outlook.

For more details about the report, or to see how your area stacks up, visit hlr.coldwellbanker.com.

Buying or selling a home is a very emotional process. Whether you're listing your home or thinking of moving, take location into consideration. Doing so can help you determine your lifestyle priorities and place an appropriate value on a particular property.

...HOME continued from page 13

en, privacy windows are a great accent for any room. Those from Hy-Lite are offered in a variety of styles, sizes and enhancements. Operable awning, casement, slide and single hung units can easily be opened to encourage airflow.

Their Home Designer Collection features nods to architectural styles like Metro, Mission, Prairie and Baroque to complement any home.

The Roof

Your roof is your protective layer, between the elements and you. Ideally it should be impact- and fire-resistant, as well as beautiful. Natural slate and shake roofing materials evoke traditional charm;

however they tend to degrade over time. Look for the manmade alternative.

Polymer slate and shake roofing tiles capture the authentic look of natural materials but are more resistant to chipping, flaking and splintering. For example, Davinci Roofscapes offers an impressive array of more than 50 colors and blends for an enhanced look, plus they resist fire and severe weather. Their roofs also come with a lifetime limited warranty, saving you big on repairs, inspection and maintenance down the line.

To be a savvy homeowner, don't leave it to chance. Select durable, high-quality man-made products.

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

given orange trash bags, pickup sticks and day glow road vests. My plan is a very informal network of volunteers. Folks can pick up trash any time, as needed, and in any area such as town streets and neighborhoods. Actually, I am now providing more than just trash pick up sticks. This is war, and I am personally making "trash pickup sabers" for my soldiers engaged in this ongoing battle.

Jennifer Cunningham and Mayor Patrick Taylor are making preparations for the Highlands Plateau Gorge Road Cleanup scheduled for this Saturday. Volunteers can come to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Center at 9:30 am.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Thank you Highlands!



Father Bruce Walker
Episcopal Church of the
Incarnation

Highlands is an extraordinary community! When I arrived on the plateau over four years ago, my first thought was that I was entering into a little piece of heaven on earth. As I take my leave from the Church of the Incarnation, I am grateful to all of you who made that first impression a reality in my life.

Having the opportunity to live in a true North American rainforest and the great beauty that surrounds us each and every day is a gift I will always cherish. I used to like to say that living here was like playing golf or going fishing, even a bad day is a good day in Highlands. It is all good and I count it all joy.

The greatest joy I received was meeting all the incredible people who make up our community. Being the rector of the parish, opened the door to relationships I might not otherwise have made. The parish has its share of generational Highlanders who continue a proud legacy of commitment and service and the influx of seasonal members always added spice to our life together. I have been given a full experience of friendships which I trust will last a lifetime.

Looking into the broader community, I am grateful for my association with a collegial group of clergy. We joined hands on numerous occasions for the benefit of all and I am grateful to them. I thank the Rotarians for welcoming me into fold and allowing me to serve in some unusual (the duck race) and not so unusual ways (dental screening at Highlands School).

Speaking of dentistry, the Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers afforded me another opportunity for hands-on service that proved beneficial to me as well as to the patients. Together with the Community Care Clinic, Highlanders deserve to be proud of the health care services provided to those in need. Highlanders are known for their service to others both locally and abroad, I am glad to have been a part of the good work being done here and in Haiti.

In closing, I would be remiss not to mention, my brothers at Blue Ridge Lodge #435; their friendship and the kindness shown to me was sustaining. My involvement with them gave me yet another opportunity to explore the goodness that surrounds us on all sides. They are special people!

In many ways it is sad to be leaving for I will miss the people who have shown me love and support during my stay in Highlands. At the same time, I rejoice as I go knowing that there are many people with whom I share a certain love and that can never be diminished or taken away.

I will remember that love and hold your good thoughts, kinds words and loving deeds close to my heart as I continue to follow Christ into eternity. I appreciate the opportunity that God gave me to serve YOU!

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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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

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

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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy

Communion

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9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music Mon.:

Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior 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

University

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Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I, (chapel) 8 a.m.

Education for Adults, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (nave) 10:30 a.m.

Thursday

Healing services (chapel) 10 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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Pastor 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.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 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

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• CLARIFICATION •

With no rain, Mirror Lake is draining as planned so that the culverts emptying into the lake can be cleaned out by NCDOT.



In the April 7 edition of Highlands Newspaper in the front page story entitled "Lowering of Mirror Lake explained" we identified the owner of the lake and dam as the Mirror Lake Homeowners Association. It is the Mirror Lake Improvement Association. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

According to Sara Benson, whose family has lived on Mirror Lake for three generations, the tax assessor taxes homeowners to the "high water mark," but they do own the land under the water. "It is my understanding that the Mirror Lake Improvement Association does not own the lake. "The Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over the surface of the water," she said.

• POLICE REPORT •

The Highlands Police log entries from April 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 13

- At 5:18 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

- At 5:50 p.m., Alex Phillip Bronaugh, 18, of Highlands, was arrested for possessing marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia and resisting arrest. He was issued a \$3,500 secured bond. His trial date is June 2.

April 14

- At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at the Citgo gas station on Main Street.

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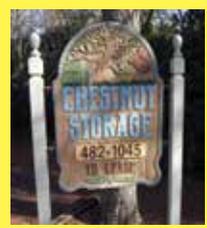
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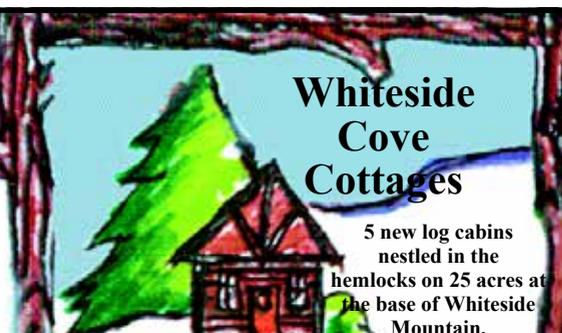
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BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS**Pastor of HUMC moving on**

Pastor Paul Christy and his wife Jamey will be moving this year to go to another United Methodist Church appointment. A new leadership position will be announced soon. Rev. Jennifer Forrester will remain to help navigate the change.



From left: Rotarian Wolfgang Greene, Steve Day, 6-10am Morning Host and Operations Director at Highlands Radio Station WHLC and Christy Kelly, President, Rotary Club of Highlands.

Steve Day entertains Rotary

In a one-of-a-kind presentation to the Rotary Club of Highlands, Steve Day recently interviewed himself. Playing radio clips from his past and present, Steve entertained Rotarians with a promotion for Rotary International, his voice of Merlin from the Fox Kids Network cartoon "Oliver and Friends", an ad for Wolfgang's Restaurant and an excerpt of an interview with Ella Fitzgerald. Rotary members and guests breathed a collective sigh of appreciation and nostalgia when Fitzgerald sang the call letters of WNEW New York, New York.

Day even played his "application" tape for his eventual position at WHLC, which was a clip from WARW Classic Rock, the #1 mid-day program in Washington DC. which won him the position. In 2008, driving into the Highlands, Steve tried to listen to his car radio, but the signal flowed over the top of his car and he wondered, "will WHLC even reach listeners on Main Street?" A hand shake has been the contract between the two for close to 10 years.

As they say, the rest is history. Media as we knew it changed radically beginning in 1986 when deregulation enabled satellite radio and USA Today, became the first printed newspaper in history delivered by satellite, eliminating numbers of local newspapers. Radio, TV stations and newspapers were bundled as groups that were bought and sold. 1986 was also the year that Chuck Cooper and several other visionaries came up with the concept of wireless communication.

Media consolidation accelerated with the Telecommunications Act of 1996. 20 years later only 6 corporations own 90% of television, radio, print and now broadband wireless.

Paying tribute to Chuck and Wanda Cooper, owners of WHLC, Steve observed that Chuck founded the radio station 22 years ago and now, thanks to the power of the internet, WHLC reaches listeners all over the world.

Pastoral Psychotherapist joins Highlands United Methodist Church staff

Highlands United Methodist Church is pleased to announce a new member of the staff and new addition to our community. The Rev. Tommie Jackson is the newest member of the HUMC Staff. Tommie has a Masters of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, and has participated in a year long CPE Internship from Duke University Medical Center. She has been practicing since 1984 as a Pastoral Psychotherapist. She is a member of American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a Fellow of the AAPC. She received her license from the NCBLPC in 1995.

Tommie is coming to Highlands from Winston Salem, NC where she had a very successful practice. Tommie will be open to all in the community and to get in touch with her and to set up an appointment you may text or call her at (336) 655-0665. When asked about her approach to counseling, she states; "My approach to counseling is an eclectic one. I may draw from several different therapy bases according to your situation. I am a person of faith, however, I promise to utilize your own faith system in the healing process, if you should choose. We will discuss treatment options and plans. You must bring a desire and investment for change. Only you have the power to decide what is right for you."

Tommie works with children, adolescents, and adults. She is trained in play therapy and sand tray play, and might use other artistic tools. Her sessions are normally 55-60 minutes unless otherwise negotiated. Payment of fees or copays are due at each session. She does accept insurance.

Tommie has two grown children and one grandson, and is happy to call her new home Highlands. She is accepting new patients.

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FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN THE BUTCHER DEPARTMENT. Salary/pay will be commensurate with ability and/or experience. Contact Don at 828-526-2400 or jobs828@gmail.com

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FT POSITION AVAILABLE FOR EXPERIENCED OFFICE MANAGER. Friendly personality to greet customers and work closely with associates. Real estate experience helpful. Ability to multi-task, attention to detail, organization and computer/telephone skills required. Some event planning/coordination may be required at times. Email resume & cover letter to newhire-cashiers@gmail.com. (st. 4/14)

YEAR ROUND SALES ASSOCIATE NEEDED FOR SPECIALTY CLOTHING STORE, JMCLAUGHLIN. Retail experience a plus. Great work atmosphere, Clothes, incentives and Benefits. Call 828-526-0844 or apply in store, 318 Main Street, Highlands, NC. (st. 4/7)

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY NEEDED part or full time. Black Bear Construction, Highlands. Experienced/Good with QuickBooks. (828) 200-0949. (st. 3/31)

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CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS. Please apply at 24 Clubhouse trail, Highlands, NC (828)526-5251. (st. 3/31)

SCALY MOUNTAIN NURSERY & LANDSCAPING is now hiring for landscape division. Call 828-526-9269 or Matt at 828-371-2474. (st. 3/17)

POTPOURRI STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for part to full time sales people. Must be able to work weekends, retail experience with women's clothing and accessories preferred. Eye-wear sales experience a plus. Stop by Potpourri 2 to apply or email your resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st. 3/10)

OPTICIAN WANTED. Part or full time position open for a NC licensed dispensing optician at Potpourri Eyewear of Highlands. Send resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st 3/10)

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Mountain Fresh Grocery. Grill, Deli, Bakery and Pizza departments. 828-526-2400 or email jobs828@gmail.com

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff and bartender. Please call Jacque at 828.526.3807. (st. 1/21)

THE HIGHLANDS BBQ CO. Is seeking Servers, Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, Please call 828-200-1500 or Send a Resume to Highland-sBBQCompany@Gmail.com

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC full time "with benefits. part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928. (st. 4/30)

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE LOT. 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. 2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and Meadow Views between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is \$89,410., Quick Sale at \$49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)

WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE - MIRRORMONT AREA. Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town, Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

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RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE HIGHLANDSCOTTAGES.COM



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MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

Save the Date - WNCAP's Dining Out for Life® Day is Thursday, April 28th!

In Highlands Dine Out at ...on the Verandah and Wolfgang's

The Western North Carolina AIDS Project's (WNCAP) 14th annual Dining Out for Life® benefit will take place on April 28th in Asheville and the surrounding communities. The acclaimed national fundraiser, has raised over 30 million dollars for AIDS service organizations across the country and in Canada since it began.

Locally, over 100 restaurants will generously donate 20% of their gross sales that day for breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, and takeout. In return, there will be an intense marketing campaign to increase diner traffic in each restaurant through social media, numerous print ads and our friends at WLOS-TV, iHeartMedia, the Asheville Radio Group, and Public Radio.

"Dining Out For Life® is an opportunity for everyone in the community to come out and support the cause," says Jesse Oates Vest, Special Events Coordinator for WNCAP. "From the diners, to the restaurants, to the amazing volunteers, there are so many people involved to make the event a success." The funds raised during Dining Out for Life® directly support WNCAP's work of HIV/AIDS education, prevention, advocacy, and case management care to those living with the disease.

WNCAP provides services to 18 counties across the region. Last year's event raised the bar to a new record high, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, our amazing restaurants and extra donations from over 12,000 diners in WNC.

This is a day to encourage friends, clients, family and co-workers to eat at their restaurant that day. Simply by donating a few hours of their time, they are making a difference in the life of people living with HIV/AIDS®.

Mark your calendars. In Highlands Dine Out at Wolfgang's and ...on the Verandah. and make your reservations today for Dining Out for Life® 2016 and you just might help save a life. DOFL raises much needed AIDS awareness and serves as reminder that our community is still being affected by HIV.



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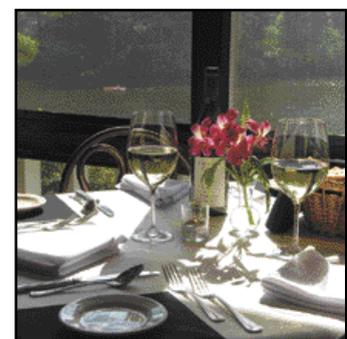
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