

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 13, 2017

USFS is considering stabilizing Bridal Veil Falls

This past September, the USFS requested a geological evaluation and assessment for rock fall hazards at Bridal Veil Falls, a popular tourist attraction on US 64 west just outside of town.

What's fun about Bridal Veil

is that motorists can veer off US 64 west to drive under the falls for a natural car wash and reemerge to continue along their way. Originally, US 64 was aligned with the roadway under the falls but due to frequent icy conditions, the road

was rerouted from behind the waterfall to its current position.

Due to rock falls that have occurred since 2003, the USFS hired Altamont Environmental, Inc. to do a risk assessment due to its popularity and the visiting public.

In 2003, 2013 and this past summer, there were significant events in the area ... the most notable in 2003 when a large boulder overhang above the falls dislodged and fell off to block the thruway

•See BRIDAL VEIL page 8

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How President Trump's budget will affect MC

Part 3 of a series – Effect on education

President Donald Trump called for a \$9 billion, or 13.5 percent funding cut to the United States Department of Education when he released his first budget proposal. Like the other cuts he has proposed, cuts to education are intended to increase military

spending

Although state and local governments pick up most of the “education” tab, the Federal government accounts for some of overall spending in terms of education, but federal dollars are often geared

•See BUDGET page 3

Highlands Hurricanes extend winning streak

On March 25 the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to Murphy to swim against Cherokee County Aquatics Club (CCAC), Jackson County Swim Team (JCST), and the North Georgia Rapids (NGR). In a close meet the Hurricanes once again triumphed. The scores were HHST 393; NGR 378; CCAC 210; and JCST 77.

Overall 24 Hurricanes traveled to Murphy, all of whom scored at the meet, and brought

home 115 ribbons (22 of them 1st place blue ones), set 62 personal records and 15 team records.

The Hurricanes were led by Chase Kenter, Jack Sumner, Calvin McQuitty and first time swimmer Layla Babac. Kenter, Sumner, and Babac won all 5 of their races scoring 35 points each. McQuitty won four races, and had 2 Junior Olympic qualifying times, even with getting touched out in the mile swim for 2nd place, still scoring 34

• See HURRICANES page 2

Town Easter egg dash is Saturday at the Rec Park



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Easter is a big deal in Highlands! On Good Friday at noon, the community gathers at the Catholic Church on 5th Street to begin the Stations of the Cross walk through town where the group stops at each church along the way. On Saturday at 11a, families gather at the Rec Park on N. 4th Street for the annual Easter egg dash for kids ages 0-9. On Easter Sunday, April 16, prior to the myriad of activities at each church in town (see ads throughout the paper), there is the Ecumenical Sunrise Service at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street at 6:45a. If it rains it will be in the Episcopal church sanctuary on 5th Street.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Here's what's up



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Highlands is leaving winter and moving quickly toward spring. There is also movement on several town issues, so here is an update on several items.

By the time this article comes out, the town will have entered an agreement with Duke Energy on how we will collect their coal Ash recovery fees for them. The board recently voted to resolve this issue by abiding by the decision of the North Carolina Utility Commission on how much Duke can assess customers for coal ash remediation.

We are waiting for the Utilities Commission to make a final ruling after hearing from all parties. The Commission could grant Duke the five billion dollars that was originally requested for the cleanup. Or, they could grant Duke four, three or two billion. The ruling will impact the bottom line figure that will appear on everyone's bill starting in about eight months. Bills will clearly state coal ash costs for each customer.

At the direction of the Town Board, our IT staff has been developing a RFP (request for proposals) for a private broadband company to partner with the town in

building a utility network that will provide fiber optic broadband to our businesses and homes. The RFP is in a final legal review and will soon be sent to potential partners. Proposals will then be reviewed by staff, and the board will make the final decision of selecting a private business partner.

I expect a final vote at the upcoming board meeting on the proposed contract for Verizon to locate an antenna on the extended tower on Bear Pen. A contractor has been working on increasing the tower by 20 feet. This work should be complete by the time of this article, or shortly thereafter.

The downtown parking ordinances will soon be going back into effect. I have been receiving feedback from several sources that it may be time to revisit the time in which the parking restrictions are in effect. Several people have noted that we now have full parking downtown even at times during the winter months. Should there be consideration given to making the parking restrictions year around instead of just from May to the end of December? We will see.

At the next board meeting on Thursday, April 20, representatives from the US Postal Service will be present to discuss the issue of downtown mail delivery. Folks interested in this issue should attend the meeting. This first agenda item is not a session about general mail service, but rather a presentation and discussion about the pros and cons, or possible procedures for implementing downtown mail delivery.

Finally, the immigration issue continues to be discussed in Highlands, as well as in communities all across the state and nation. I will continue to work closely with the police chief in monitoring this situation. We will inform the community of any changes that we see coming. As for now, there are no procedural changes impacting Highlands. I may be wrong, but I anticipate none.

• THANKS •

Thanks to everyone that was there for the Baty family in their time of loss. We appreciate everything everyone done for us. Thank you,

– The Baty Family

• MILESTONE •

Egler running 17th Boston Marathon for cancer research

Brian Egler of Highlands will be running his 17th Boston Marathon for Cancer Research on April 17. He said last year the Highlands community helped him raise \$8,580 – the best year so far – toward the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge grand total of over \$5.6 million.

This year he hopes to raise over \$8,500 once again!

One hundred percent of this sum will support the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Running 26.2 miles is hard. Training for the marathon during the winter



Brian Egler

months is hard (especially in the mountains of North Carolina!). But none of this compares with the fight that those with cancer endure each and every day.

"I'm so grateful for your continued support, and I hope you will be able help again," he said.

Checks can be made payable to the "Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge" and send to: Brian Egler, PO Box 2743, Highlands, NC 28741

People can also donate online at: <http://www.runDFMC.org/2017/briane>.

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

points. Kenter set another 4 team records, McQuitty 3 and Babac 1.

Vivi Geren set 3 team records and scored 21 points; Diane Dallmann set 2 team records and scored 5 points; Penelope Hilson set one team record and scored 14 pts; and Dasha Halldin set 1 team record and scored 23 pts.

Andre Halldin scored 27 pts. Kate Phillips scored 20 pts. Finneas Garner scored 19 pts with one Jr. Olympic Qualifying time.

Ben Halldin and Hayden BySura scored 19 pts. Fen Hilson scored 18 pts. Conner Hughes scored 16 pts. Ellie BySura scored 12 pts. Blake Kenter scored 8 pts. Seth Curtis, Jordan Powell, La-Donna Dallmann, Jack Gagne, and new swimmer Elizabeth Hilson

all scored 5 pts. Justin Powell scored 4 pts, and Asa Garner scored 3 pts.

Next on the schedule, the Hurricanes will host a home meet on Saturday morning, May 6, 2017.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Swim Team with swimmers from age 4 to 17 that practice at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool M-Th evenings and Saturday mornings. All practices are not mandatory. The only requirement for joining the team is to be able to swim 1 length of the pool (25 yards) unassisted. For more information call Steve Hott, Head Coach at 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Rec Park Pool at 828.526.1595, or just show up at practice!

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY APR 14	SATURDAY APR 15	SUNDAY APR 16
68°/46°	69°/50°	69°/50°

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Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

• OBITUARY •

Madaline Johnson Huie



Literary Society members. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands.

Madaline is survived by her husband of 64 years, W. Stell Huie, daughter Helen Huie Ashenfelter and husband, John Ashenfelter, of Chatham NJ, daughter Sarah Huie Coleman and husband, Joe Coleman, of Madison, GA, brother Tomlinson Fort Johnson III and wife, Sue Johnson, of Atlanta, her

grandsons William Andrew Ashenfelter and wife, Margaret Ashenfelter, of Hartford, CT and David Huie Ashenfelter of Chatham, NJ.

A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 11 AM on April 17. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Madaline's name to the First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741, or to the Highlands Community Fund, PO Box 1150, Highlands, NC 28741, online at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1443146>.

Madaline Johnson Huie died peacefully at her home in Highlands, NC on April 4, 2017 from complications associated with Multiple Sclerosis. A native of Atlanta, she was the daughter of Madaline and Tomlinson Fort Johnson, Jr. Educated at E. Rivers School, Washington Seminary and Queens College, she graduated from the University of Georgia. She was a member of ADPi and PEO.

In Atlanta she served as President of the Board of Hillside Cottages and as President of the Junior Committee of the Atlanta Symphony. She was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church and the Rabun Gap Nacoochee Guild.

In Highlands, her home for over 20 years, she served as Chair of the Board of the Literacy Council and a member of the Board of the Highlands Community Child Development Center. An avid reader she enjoyed the fellowship of the Knockette

...BUDGET continued from page 1

toward much needed programs and functions in the public education system.

The cost of the United States' entire Education Department for 2017 came in at \$69.4 billion with \$3,074,581 of that coming to Macon County Schools.

Not only would the proposed budget cuts impact Macon County Schools, President Trump's budget also earmarks a significant amount of money to promote school choice, something President Trump campaigned on.

Currently, charter schools are funded at over \$300 million annually. President Trump's budget includes allocating an additional \$168 million to increase opportunities at existing charter schools, while increasing the number of charter schools around the country.

This school year, Macon County has 52 students from the county who are currently attending Summit Charter School. There are two students attending the Learning Center in Cherokee County, two students at NC Virtual Academy, and five students enrolled at North Carolina Connections Academy.

Macon County Schools 2017-'18 budget includes a local funding allocation of \$85,000 to these charter schools and

will also include a loss of state dollars of roughly \$5,600 per child.

The budget also includes \$250 million for an unspecified "new private school choice program," which experts are calling a voucher system. President Trump's budget proposal states that total school choice funding will eventually reach the level he mentioned in the campaign: \$20 billion.

His budget proposal also includes a \$1 billion increase to Title I funding, which provides funding for high poverty schools, but specifies that the money be earmarked to promote school choice.

Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin cautioned board members last week during a budget work session that the President's proposed \$2.25 billion cut to eliminate Title II Part A funds would mean a loss of two teaching positions locally.

Title II funds are federal dollars designated to better recruit, support and train educators, particularly for high-need schools.

In the past, Macon County has been able to utilize the funds locally to support two teaching positions, which he noted would have to be replaced locally, or from the county's budget allocation to the school system.

• See BUDGET page 5

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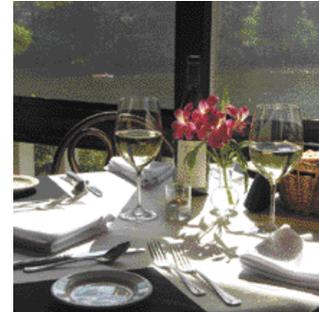
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...BUDGET continued from page 3

Macon County Commission Vice Chair Ronnie Beale said that Title II funds are essential for districts such as Macon County, who often use the funds for continuing education and training opportunities for teachers. The program helps train qualified teachers that spend valuable time in the classroom.

After-school programs are also in danger in the proposed federal budget, which proposes curtailing \$1.2 billion to the 21st century community learning centers program, which is dedicated to providing before- and after-school enrichment opportunities such as tutoring and other services.

The budget proposal either totally cuts or eliminates funding for around 20 departmental programs "that are not effective, that duplicate other efforts, or that do not serve national needs," according to the proposal.

Also targeted to be cut under President Trump's

budget, are additional programs like GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. GEAR UP is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education by providing states and local community-education partnerships six-to-seven year grants for support services to high-poverty, middle and high schools.

GEAR UP, along with TRIO, a federal outreach and student services program designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, is set to see a \$193 million cut.

Potential cuts on the federal level aren't the only thing that has Macon County leaders worried.

Last Wednesday, Dr. Chris Baldwin presented the board with three different budget scenarios to address fed-

• See BUDGET page 6

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Good Friday, April 14th - 12 Noon
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Holy Saturday, April 15th - 7:30pm
 Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, April 16th - 11am Mass

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...BUDGET continued from page 5

eral uncertainties as well as questions regarding state funding.

The largest concern locally is with a classroom size mandate set to go into effect this fall. Next year, state law requires schools across North Carolina to reduce class sizes in kindergarten through third grade. Kindergarten classes, for example, would have to shrink from a maximum of 24 students to 19.

"I don't think anyone would disagree that reducing class sizes is a good thing," said Macon County Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove, "but requiring a reduction, without providing the necessary funds to do so isn't a good thing."

According to Dr. Baldwin, if the law goes into effect next August, Macon County will need funding for six teachers to meet the mandate. That doesn't include funds for the classroom those six teachers would need.

North Carolina House Bill 13 would ease the burden and offer districts like Macon County a solution. HB 13, which was co-sponsored by Representative Kevin

Corbin would provide local districts with some flexibility on classroom caps. Even though the bill passed the House 100%, the Senate won't even take up the issue.

The House and school districts across the state are urging a change in the law, Senate leaders refuse and the bill will likely never even be discussed, according to Senator Jim Davis. Davis said the issue the Senate has is that funds have been provided to districts in the past to lower classroom sizes, but the Senate doesn't see any evidence of that and doesn't think the funds have been used appropriately.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Baldwin disagrees and believes the funds were used as allowed by the law. School districts have traditionally had some flexibility to make their average class size slightly larger than the size state officials use to calculate how many teachers to fund for each district. Local school officials have used that flexibility to create and pay for teaching positions in non-core areas such as art, music, and PE.

In Macon County, that funding and flexibility has directly been used to provide

seven art, PE, and music positions. If the current law isn't changed, those positions and programs are first in line to be cut to make up the funding for the six positions that would be needed.

While Macon County is bracing for six positions because of the mandate, larger districts in the state such as Buncombe County, would potentially need to add 70 positions, and Wake County Schools is planning for a \$26 million impact for teachers and a need for additional space.

Sen. Chad Barefoot, who not only represents Wake County, but who also co-chairs the Senate Education/Higher Education committee, says lowering class size is a priority, and districts who used previously allotted funds to fund art and PE teachers (although it was allowed) put those positions ahead of the need to lower class sizes.

The board of education voted to sub-

mit a budget proposal to the county that would request \$7.3 million from Macon County for current expenses, and would then allocate \$1.4 million from the school system's fund balance to cover the cost of a 2 percent increase in utility costs, and funding for the six teaching positions and two federal positions that would be needed based on state and federal budget proposals.

Even though board members expressed concern about using fund balance resources to cover the cost of recurring expenses -- when traditionally fund balance funds are only supposed to be used for nonrecurring costs -- Dr. Baldwin recommended moving forward with the proposed budget anyway.

• To see Parts 1 and 2 of the series go to www.highlandinfo.com, click on Local News and click on March 30 and April 6.



First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2017

Thursday, April 13, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Come for a light dinner followed by a communion service in Coleman Hall.

Friday, April 14, 2017

12:00 noon

Stations of the Cross

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Sunday, April 16, 2015

6:45 a.m.

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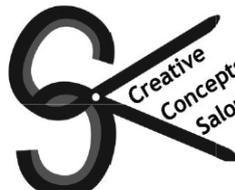


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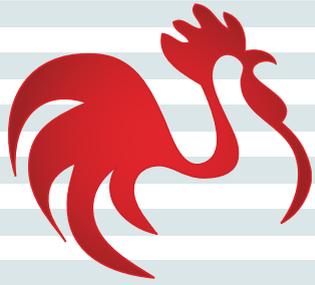
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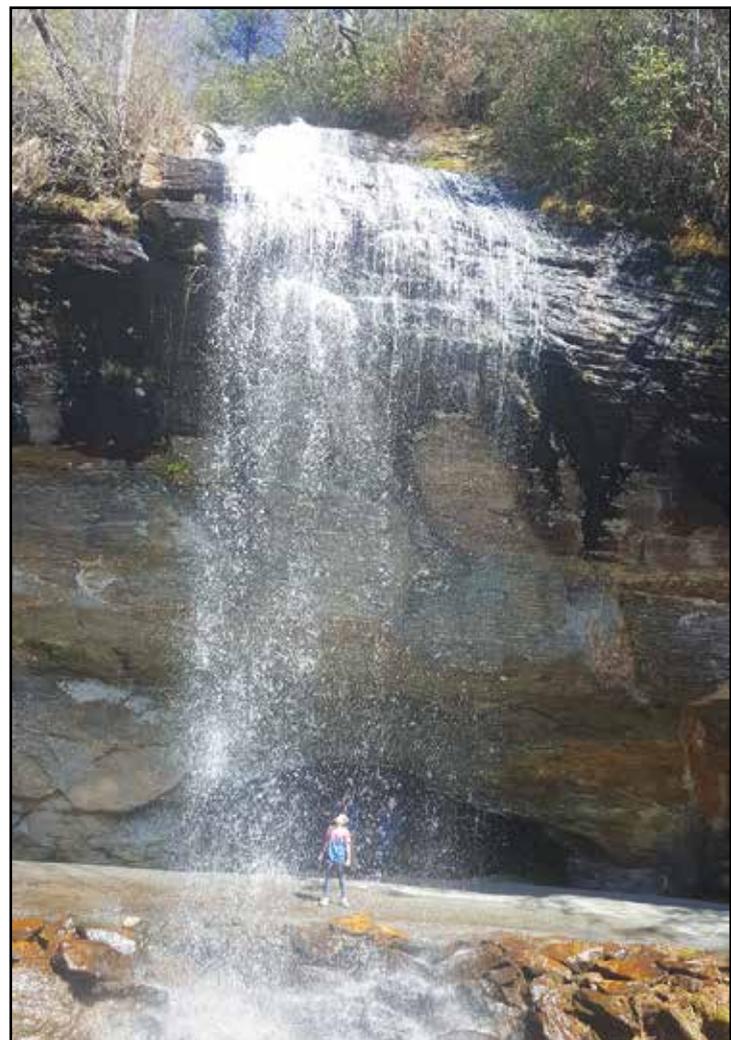
...BRIDAL VEIL continued from page 1

under the falls.

Early this past summer, following a term of heavy rains, a slope failure occurred near the north end of the parking lot. According to Altamont, "170 cubic yards of highly weathered rock and soil fell from a wedge failure feature on the north end of the parking lot in the woods."

They said the slope failure appears to have been the result of cutting into the slope to make room for the parking lot at the scenic overlook and additional slope failures in that area are possible.

None of the past events resulted in injury, but the USFS wanted to evaluate Bridal Veil Falls for additional rock fall hazards, particularly since it attracts so many tourists.



Scores of visitors enjoy Bridal Veil by car or by foot. The recent rain made the experience particularly refreshing this past weekend.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Twice last summer, Altamont field staff performed an evaluation of the site using harnesses, helmets and safety ropes attached to large trees located upstream of the waterfall. They inspected the quality of rock above the crest of the falls and hiked areas north, south and west of the falls. In addition, a 3D laser scan was performed to analyze the structures that were too high to reach.

The team ranked areas above, below and around the falls as low risk, moderate risk and high risk.

High risk locations were noted at the top of the cliff which means rock there could potentially impact US 64 below.

There is a large mass of rock at the top of the falls and though it appears stable, since a boulder from the vicinity broke off and

fell in 2003 "discontinuities in that area suggest the possibility of future rock failure." Discontinuities refer to soil type, vegetation growing in cracks as well as freezing and thawing activities.

Altamont engineers said a small mass of rock about 10 feet by 3 feet is poised at the top of the cliff next to the waterfall. It rests on top of the same westward dipping failure surface as the previous wedge that broke off and could be unstable if certain conditions occur.

There are several low risk masses, close to the ground, that appear to be stable and have a low probability of impacting US 64.

In the end, Altamont has ranked three areas as high-risk for failure based on the geometry of discontinuities, evidence of past releases, potential for root or ice wedging and the height above ground.

Mitigation strategies would involve one or more of the following:

- Remove vegetation and maintain a 5-foot setback from the edge of the cliff. Vegetation removal is a preventive measure to reduce the risk of root wedging, which is a common cause of rock fall.

- Engineering slopes to a 1-to-1 gradient which will provide a stable soil profile in the north parking lot area.

- Scaling selectively to remove loose rocks and flakes that have high potential to fail.

- Installing passive rock bolts at select locations but drilling a hole through the rock mass past the plane of weakness and into competent rock; then grouting in place 1 ½ inch diameter rock bolts. The rock bolts can be installed flush to the surface and made to cosmetically resemble the surrounding rock. In some locations, a face plate may be required which would aesthetically impact the scenic overlook.

In addition, a geologist or a geotechnical engineer would have to periodically monitor the area to identify any additional movement or changes in the area.

September's report is the first step in a process that will determine costs and timeframes associated with mitigation proceedings.

Altamont said the USFS must



Since the USFS didn't have the funds to remove the boulder that fell from the top of the falls in 2003 and blocked the thruway under the falls, in 2007 developer Bill Nellis blew the boulder up and transported and repurposed the pieces at his development on Harris Lake.

estimate the number of visitors to the falls and their behavior while visiting. While conducting their field work, Altamont saw many visitors stop each day to look at the falls, walk behind the falls, explore the cave feature behind the falls and climb down into the splash zone pit.

USFS Nantahala District Ranger Mike Wilkins said first on the hazard mitigation list is the parking lot. Bids have gone out to remove the 170 cubic yards of material that fell recently. During the summer or fall a renovation to the parking lot will be designed.

As far as mitigating the high-risk hazards noted by Altamont, Wilkins said funding will determine the avenues the USFS takes.

"We could do the rock bolts, which are very expensive, or we might just put up ballards to keep motorists from going under the falls, or some kind of aesthetic fencing."

Fencing along the drip line of the falls up top is also an option.

"Bridal Veil Falls is a low-figure, long-term hazard but a fall could happen and it would be tragic," he said.

Meanwhile, barricades will remain at the ingress and egress points under the falls, as well as signage telling people to stay out.

"Though rock falls are rare, the easy access next to US 64 and the promotion of the falls, including Dry Falls, increases the potential for several visitors being injured or killed if a massive rock fell or rockslide occurred," stated Altamont in their report.

Mayor Pat Taylor said no one wants to see access to Bridal Veil Falls curtailed, but safety is key.

"Bridal Veil Falls is a signature venue for entering Highlands. The USFS is responsible for making their recreation sites as safe as possible for the public. This project has several complicated challenges that will take time to resolve, but it will improve access and safety to Bridal Veil," he said.

— Kim Lewicki

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER • GRILL WOOD • FIRE PIZZA
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LUNCH & DINNER

Grill

Every day from 11:00am - close
 Fresh angus burgers, fresh Natural chicken breasts, fish or chicken tenders, cooked to order, hand-cut fries, salads, homemade soups, daily specials.
See our website for more info.

Pizza

Every day from 11:00am - close
 Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta bowls, daily specials and weeknight dinner specials.
See our website for more info.

Soup & Salad Bar

Mon-Sat 11:00am - close
 Fresh salads, homemade dressings, soups, chili and more.
\$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

Weekday Lunch Special

Monday - Friday 11am to 2pm
 Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar
 Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our bakery, plus the entire soup and salad bar... *\$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)*

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm
 Skillet fried chicken, country angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
\$11.99 (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items fully prepared, ready to take home including grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb-rubbed chicken, made-in-house bbq, chicken salad deli salads & much more!

DINNER TO GO

A different full dinner every night.
Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out - Call ahead to reserve.

Monday: choose either:

Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.

Or...

24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
\$21.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw. *\$24.95 serves four*

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls. *\$21.95 serves 4*

Weeknight Pizza Special:

Available Monday -Thursday 4:30 to close
 16" NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings.
 Comes with garlic bread & salad *\$21.95*

or

Baked Linguini: Meatballs, tomato sauce & cheese. Comes with garlic bread and salad *\$21.95*

or

Baked Penne Pasta: Italian sausage, onion, bacon and mushrooms in white sauce. Comes with garlic bread & salad *\$21.95*

WINE MARKET

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

NOTICE:

• Highlands School: Due to the loss of instructional time from inclement weather delays, May 5, 2017 will now be a regular day of school instead of a teacher work day

Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm.

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

Mondays, May 29, July 3, and Aug. 7

• Botanical Garden Tour. 10:30 am - 11:30 am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, 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. & Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

• 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.

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

First Thursdays

• 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. For info call 369-7385.

Through April 1st Saturday

• At the Nature Center, First Saturdays Citizen Science - All Ages. 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Free For info, call 828-526-2623

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m. This will be a combination class with many different styles of exercise.

Wednesdays

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

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.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• 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. at First United

Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. 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 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. 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

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

Third Fridays

• Senior Dinners are held on the third Friday of each month from November through April at noon in the Rec Park.

Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., April 13

• The April 2017 meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club Inc. will be on Thursday April 13, 2017 at 6PM at the Blue Ridge School in Glenville, NC. The school is located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers NC. Drive to the back of the school to the wood working shop. Visitors are always welcome.

Fri., April 14

• Stations of the Cross walk through town begins at the Catholic Church at noon.

Sat., April 15

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct a work day from 9a - noon on Saturday. If you're interested in participating, please email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-2385. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) in the Recreation Park at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session, and you'll be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday at 11am at the Highlands Recreation Department for ages 0-9 years old.

Sun., April 16

• Ecumenical Sunrise Easter Service in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street at 6:45 a.m. If rain, then in the Episcopal Church

Join us this Easter

celebrating the resurrection of Jesus at Highlands United Methodist Church

315 Main Street with

Pastor Randy Lucas and Asst. Pastor Jennifer Forrester

April 13

Maundy Thursday Service ~ 7pm

April 14

Stations of the Cross ~ 12p.m.

Good Friday Service ~ 7 pm

April 16

Ecumenical Sunrise Service ~ 6:45am

Join us and other churches

at K-H Founders Park

Easter Services

The Living Cross ~ 9:09, & 10:50am

Bring a flower to place on the outside living cross
before each service.

Easter Coffee Break ~ 9:45am

Come enjoy us for fun and fellowship

Children's Egg Hunt ~ 10am

For more information, please call 526-3376



• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

sanctuary.

Tue., April 18

• SIRI, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Fri., April 21

• Eco-Tours: "Laughing Earth Garden Tour" Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The earth laughs in flowers." What better way to celebrate Earth Day than a guided walk through Dan Pittillo's wildflower garden in Cullowhee on this easy to moderate hike. Co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, \$10 for HCLT members. To reserve: info.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111.

"Stay Wild" benefit at Chattooga Belle Farm The Chattooga Conservancy will host its "Stay Wild" celebration and fundraiser at the Chattooga Belle Farm in Long Creek, SC on Friday. The event starts at 6 p.m. and will have local live music, a barbeque supper with vegetarian option, beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks, raffles and a silent auction. The live music features well-known musicians from Rabun County who have come together under the name "Group Therapy," that consists of Brad Barrett, Lisa Looks Twice, Filmer Kilby and Mike Hamilton, playing country, blues and folk tunes. In addition, SC singer-songwriter Jennifer Goree will perform folk,

bluegrass and "countrified pop." Guarantee your entry and meal by buying a ticket in advance at www.chattoogariver.org. For more info, contact 706-782-6097 or info@chattoogariver.org

Sat., April 22

• Plateau Pick Up 2017 on Earth Day. Help clean up our beautiful mountains and roadways. After each section has been picked up, come to Cliffside Lake for a thank you cookout and sit back a relax with your fellow volunteers. You will also receive a T-shirt for volunteering. To Register click the link below or call Jennifer Cunningham at 828-526-2112 or email visitor@highlandschamber.org.

• At the Nature Center, Earth Day Festivities - All Ages. 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. Free. Celebrate our planet and learn what you can do to conserve its resources! Interact with local conservation organizations, learn more about our native wildlife, and participate in animal feeding programs. For info, call 828-526-2623.

Fri. & Sat., May 5 & 6

• At the Nature Center, Wildflower Whimsy - Friday, May 5, 5 - 8pm. Cost: \$75 members; 828-526-2623

Sat., May 6

• At the Highlands Biological Station, 10am - 2pm. \$100 non-members Join us for Wildflower Whimsy to learn more about plants' diminutive world. All proceeds support the Highlands Biological Foundation. Speaker: Gary Kauffman, NC Fish and Wildlife Service



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Holy Week Schedule

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

6pm Maundy Thursday
in the Chapel

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

12 noon Ecumenical Stations
of the Cross Procession
1p.m. (Following the Procession)
Good Friday Liturgy in the Chapel

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

6p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite II Nave

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

6:45a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
K-H Founders Park
9am & 11am
Holy Eucharist Rite II
In the Nave
*No Sunday School
*Nursery available
during both services

Easter Egg Hunt after
the 9a.m. service

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Happy Easter!
Sunday, April 16th



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Great location in Chestnut Hill in this 3br/2ba with a level lot, private cul-de-sac location. Rocking chair front porch plus a screened porch. Landscape care done by HOA. \$290,000. MLS #82769



BIG BUCK LODGE is truly a grand estate. This private and serene property consists of 35 wooded acres that backs up into the National Forest. Exceptional quality and care was taken while building this one of a kind estate with the grandeur of a formal home. Pamper yourself in luxury. MLS# 85171 \$2,995,000



Great 2br/2ba recent remodel of historic barn with Mill Creek bordering the land. Hay loft is now a huge master ensuite. Private well with some of the best water on the mountain. Wide plank flooring, original locust posts and beams, new insulation, new roof, upper deck looks at creek. MLS# 82974 \$284,900



Updated 2 bedroom log cabin with exceptional long range mountain views on over 10 acres. Drive to the top and see a wonderful flat building site with even better long range views. Property is on the Atlanta side and minutes from downtown Highlands. MLS#84525 \$685,000



Renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath immaculate home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Cathedral ceilings, new carpet, wood flooring, granite counter tops, new appliances, updated baths, fireplace and 2 car garage. \$399,000. MLS #85031



Highlands Mountain Club with great mountain view. Spacious 3br/2ba bath condo. Enjoy the pool, tennis, and clubhouse. Fully furnished at \$229,000. MLS #82270



Close to town 3br/2ba home with some mountain view. Master, living room and kitchen on main are bright and cheery and bring the outside in with a solid wall of glass. Downstairs guest rooms & family room with wood stove. Adjacent lot available. MLS# 82336 \$299,000



Architecturally unique home with a great lake setting on Cold Springs. 3/3 main house plus a two car garage with apartment above. Adjoins a conservation easement so you can enjoy the peace and serenity of the lake while maintaining privacy. MLS #79848 \$967,000



Authentic log cabin with rustic interior and modern appliances. Custom cherry-wood kitchen counters. End of the road privacy and quiet on 9 acres of lush wooded land. This 3/2 cabin is located off Buck Knob Road in Scaly Mountain. MLS#84143 \$599,500



Constructed from a barn from Pennsylvania, this 5br/5.5ba home in exclusive Highgate is the epitome of a mountain home. Beautifully landscaped, large covered decks w/fireplace and an amazing guest cabin with everything you need! \$2,175,000. MLS REF #CAS142.



Live in the safe and quiet community of Teague Estates in an immaculate 3br/2ba home! Enjoy the mountain views and sounds of Buck Creek from the oversized back deck. Half way between Highlands and Franklin with easy access to both towns. MLS#84749 \$227,000



Close to town this 3br/3ba home with decks and porches galore and a hot tub. There are three Master suites and a Summer kitchen on lower porch. \$475,000. MLS #84133



Own a family retreat - in the north Ga mountains, in the city of Sky Valley. Great investment opportunity. This rustic, mountain styled 3 bedroom main home offers wood-wood floors and beams & large wood-burning stone fireplace. Separate 2 car garage, 2 bedroom guest home. MLS#84770 \$175,000



16-acre estate with stream and view. An adorable 2br/2ba cottage with den. Sit on the deck and enjoy the view and the forest. Walk the many trails on the property to your heart's content. Keep as one tract or subdivide. MLS# 84135 \$299,000



Highlands Falls Country Club 3br/3ba condo with a great fairway view and in great condition. Two master suites, stone fireplace, sunroom and vaulted ceilings. \$295,000. MLS #73808



This fantastic 2br/2.5ba charming cottage in Trillium Links and Lake Club is light and bright and includes 3 outdoor sitting areas. Open floor plan and beautiful wood floors on the main level...lives comfortably. \$242,000. MLS #84503



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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Should You Make Your Home Smart?

While we may not yet have Rosie the robot from The Jetsons (though I can think of times she would be most useful!), we have certainly entered the age of the connected "smart home." With so many smart home gadgets on the market, from doorbells that send you images of anyone who steps onto your porch to refrigerators that tell you when you are low on eggs, where do you start and will making your home "smart" pay off when it's time to sell?



Tricia Cox
Broker/Director of IT at
Berkshire Hathaway Home
Services
Meadows Mountain Realty

Understanding that everyone's wants and needs are different, there are some areas where the trends seem to indicate that investing in these technologies, which aim to make our lives more comfortable and efficient, may give your home the upper hand when compared to a home that is not connected. These technologies may not raise the price of your home, but anytime you can bring in another "wow" factor, it really helps. This is especially true in a market such as ours where we still have a tremendous amount of home inventory

and competition.

When prioritizing where to begin, concentrate on technologies that provide security, privacy, cost savings and energy savings. According to a recent survey conducted by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), people rate smart locks, lighting, thermostats and cameras as the most important when it comes to smart home devices. The ability to control your locks, change the temperature on your heating or cooling system and take a peek at the interior and exterior of your home when you are not there all from your smart phone are technologies that are available and affordable.

When it comes to lighting, smart technologies can truly transform a home. A professionally installed, well designed lighting system can add glamour, ambiance and space-magnifying qualities to any home. Lighting control can also be integrated with other elements of you home for ease of use. For example, pushing a "Goodnight" but-

• See **INVESTING** page 18

OPEN HOUSE IN-TOWN HIGHLANDS

Saturday, April 15th
11:00am-1:00pm



10 Rocky Hill Road **Mirror Lake** / MLS# 85582 / Offered for \$359,900



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deborah@cashiers.com

Directions: From Downtown Highlands, proceed on Hwy 64 (Franklin Rd) towards Franklin. Drive 0.7 miles, take a right on Rocky Hill Rd (just past August Produce). First house on left.



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This 3 BD, 3 1/2 BA cottage in Flat Mtn. Estates has a mountain view and end of the road privacy. Wonderful covered porches. Carport, low maintenance. Offered at \$779,000. mls #85199



Majestic mountain views from every room in this home on Lower Brushy Face Circle. Large great room with cathedral ceilings. Formal dining. Eat-in, over-sized kitchen. Three spacious bedroom suites. Both living areas feature wood burning rock fireplaces. Wet bar, butler pantry on main. Wide covered and open decks. Offered at \$1,295,000. MLS# 74948



Wonderful views and over 4 acres of privacy with this charming mountain cottage. Main floor master with bath. 2 BD upstairs with shared bath. Huge deck. Offered at \$395,000. mls #80351



5 floor to ceiling fireplaces, media room and game room. The Chateau has one of the best 30-mile view with a spectacular look at Whiteside Mountain. Offered at \$2,468,000. mls #76453,



3 BD, 4.5 BA with Whiteside, Bearpen mountain views. Custom kitchen, wood floors and vaulted ceilings. Covered porch, screened porch and patio. Guest suite with living room, laundry. Stonework clads the exterior of this custom home. 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,050,000. mls #85152



See all the way to the Blue Ridge Parkway from almost every room. 6 BD, 6 BA and 2 half baths. Large stone fireplace. Main floor has two guest suites. Elevator to the lower level goes to movie theatre, family room, wine cellar, workout room, kitchen plus two-car garage and workshop. Extra lot. Offered at \$2,995,000. mls #80315



3 BD, 3 BA home with spacious open plan on one level, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, handicap accessibility, and covered parking. Secluded on 1.51 acres. New roof, new paint, well-maintained with view. Golf membership available subject to approval/payment of fees. Priced to sell at \$895K. MLS# 75598.



2 BD 2 BA villa has exceptional view of the 6th & 3rd Fairways, Clubhouse lake and mountain view. Recently renovated kitchen & bathrooms. Covered porch & open deck. Offered at \$269,000. mls #85535



2 BR 1 BA serene and private in the middle of 6.74 wooded acres. 9' ceilings and open floor plan. Great view of Satulah and Brushy Face mountains. Easy access off paved road. Borders USFS. Great price! Come take a look! Offered at \$220,000. mls #85462



Exquisite home on gentle lot with high scales, huge room sizes. Living room with fireplace, opens on to a large deck and screened porch. Master suite on main level with ensuite bath. Den/office, 2-car garage. Upstairs has 2 BD, Gallery/media room. In town living! \$575,000. mls #79670



This cute cabin rests on a pretty 3/4 acre expanse and is only a mile and a half from town. Split floor plan with 2 BD and 2 BA with freestanding fireplace in the living room. Outdoor living space includes a covered deck. Asking \$124,900 MLS # 80305



1 BR 2 BA historic real log cabin with barn on almost 3.5 acres. Stone fireplace, wood floors, tile bath, laundry hook up. Offered at \$250,000. MLS #75551



Three BD 2 1/2 BA home with room for expansion. Den, sunroom and carriage house with attached single carport. Both homes contain many custom built-ins, wood floors and tiled baths. Also a 2-car garage with an unfinished upstairs. Offered at \$700,000. mls #85361



4 BD, 2 BA home with great charm. Updated kitchen and great covered porch. Large private lot with plenty of parking, small stream below the house. Offered at \$489,000. mls #79147



Lovely Fairway cottage great location walk to the clubhouse! 3 BD, 3 BA, fireplace and gas stove. Carport, workshop. Meticulously maintained and great course and mountain view! Stacked stone fireplace and screened porch. Offered at \$339,000. mls #77291



Close to town, in the woods, charming and comfortable. 3 BD with fireplace in the master bedroom. mls# 63260, Offered at \$374,500.



Charming cabin with Whiteside Mtn. view needs some love but is comfortable and functional with 4 BD and 3 BA. Good parking; woodburning fireplace. Walls of glass. Offered at \$885,000. mls #78695



5 BD, 4 BA, not your plain Jane ranch. Very unique with heavy logs, lots of stone and wood. Lovingly restored with central heat and air and meticulously maintained by the current Owner. Offered at \$875,000. mls #81152



Waterfront cabin on Big Creek with private dock, a short canoe ride to Lake Sequoyah. Completely remodeled inside and out. 3 BD, 2 BA. New wood floors, walls and ceilings. Granite tile kitchen countertops. New wrap around porch. New fire pit off back deck. Single car garage. Basement ready for finishing. Priced at \$379,000.00 MLS# 76808



3 BD, 1 1/2 BA. Great starter home or quiet getaway. Needs some TLC. Offered at \$175,000. MLS #74462

• THE INK PEN •

Our Mixed Up Spring Weather

I got a kick out of Charles Seabrook's late March "Atlanta Journal-Constitution" column where he described the first day of spring as New Year's Day for "wild creatures." He imagined that the Carolina Wren singing outside his window March 20 was singing Happy New Year as it and other songbirds prepared for nesting season. Our family of Wrens started refurbishing last year's nest just outside our screened porch in early March, perhaps because of the warmer temps. When the door to the porch is open, the cat is on the prowl and focused on their activity. It's interesting to hear the different language the Wrens speak depending upon where Puddin' is. When she's on the porch watching them, they hiss. If not, they chirp.

I don't always get to see some of the small birds that pass through, but this year I spied a pair of dark-eyed juncos with their distinctive gray cap and face and white lower breast. Another day, we looked out the kitchen window to see a red-shouldered hawk sitting on a big tree branch about six feet from the bluebird house, where a pair of bluebirds had settled in late February. He stayed there at least 20 minutes. Then later that day, there arose such a clatter; no, it wasn't Santa and his reindeer. It was a huge flock of birds all milling around the treetops and squawking. We supposed the hawk was in the neighborhood again, and the flock was sounding the alarm.

You may have read that Georgia's blueberry crop was damaged irreparably by the 20-degree temps we had the week



Kathy Manos Penn

of March 13th, and we didn't escape unscathed here in Metro Atlanta. Our azaleas had started to bloom, and their tender buds were wilted by the frost as were the green shoots on our butterfly bush. The shrubs we planted all down the driveway last year have a brown cap of leaves now. Thankfully, our gardener tells me they will come back, and she'll eventually trim off the unsightly dead leaves.

Another sign of our early spring was Banjo balking at going out for his walks. As he says, "This heat is too much for a little boy in a fuzzy suit." He took to sleeping in our guest bathroom by mid-March, a sure sign he feels the heat.

On top of that, our boy is allergic to inhalants—translation, everything we humans are allergic to. He doesn't seem to have sinus problems like we have; instead, he has skin problems. If we catch it in time, megadoses of prednisone will prevent him from breaking out in hot spots and then having to be shaved. Fingers crossed we manage to stay on top of them. I have been missing our compounding pharmacy, but miss it even more as I'm running out of the chewy dog treats they compounded for me from prednisone. Now, I'm back to trying to camouflage the pills to get the boy to eat them. We used peanut butter until we found out he's allergic to that too!

And finally, there's the screened porch. Though we haven't yet done a major clean up, we've dusted it off several times so we can relax out there. One March Sunday, it was warm enough to eat dinner on the porch, and then the temps dropped to the

20s the next week. As you well know, we dust it off, and within hours, it's covered in pollen once again. Wouldn't it be nice if the pollen ended earlier this year too? Regardless, it's safe to say spring has sprung.

• Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident

now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy's website at www.theinkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

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...INVESTING continued from page 15

ton on a keypad by your bed may turn off lights and TVs around your home and lock your doors.

Other areas where smart technology is often worth the investment can be found in home entertainment and multi-room audio systems. Today's technologies go far beyond cabling up your living room with surround sound. The trend here is for greater quality and a more immersive experience. As Ultra HD 4K technologies grow in popularity and more 4K content becomes available, the entire television experience will improve. The higher quality picture will make you feel as though you are in the middle of your favorite movie or sporting event. The same is true as more and more people subscribe to streaming services. Having a professionally installed audio system that will deliver your favorite music throughout your home will not only become more common, it may become a feature that is on the must-have list for many home buyers.

Above all, remember that smart home technologies are meant to enhance your experience in your own home. Will investing in these technologies sell your house? Not necessarily. However, they may focus a buyer on your home over another one. If you are considering taking the plunge into making your home a smart home, go ahead and dip a toe in the water. A thermostat may not clean your house and do your laundry,

but you will love having the ability to raise the temperature a few degrees if you are arriving at your mountain house on a chilly fall evening. As for me, I'm still hoping for Rosie!

• *Tricia Cox is a Broker and the Director of IT at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty. Serving the areas of Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire and Glenville. Visit their website, MeadowsMountainRealty.com or give them a call at 828-526-1717.*

Via Satellite 'Hedda Gabler' at PAC

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Live via Satellite the National Theatre of London's production of Hedda Gabler by Ibsen on Saturday, April 15th at 1pm. "I've no talent for life." Just married. Bored already.



Hedda longs to be free...Hedda and Tesman have just returned from their honeymoon and the relationship is already in trouble. Trapped but determined, Hedda tries to control those

around her, only to see her own world unravel. Ruth Wilson (Luther, The Affair, Jane Eyre) plays the title role in a new version by Patrick Marber (Notes on a Scandal, Closer). Tickets are available online: www.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The truth of the resurrection

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
First Baptist Church Highlands

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen just as He said. Come see the place where He was lying.” (Matthew 28:5-6). The historical validity of the resurrection of Jesus is the capstone of the Christian faith. Because of this, it has been the focal point for criticism by unbelievers, and attempts to accommodate it to modern sensibilities by the less than orthodox of the faith. It is as if the latter are ashamed to believe in a literal resurrection of Christ, just as they are averse to expressing in clear terms the reason Jesus Christ, the Son of God came to this world in His First Advent – to shed His blood and die for our sins. It all sounds so unsophisticated, so narrow in scope, so intolerant and judgmental to proclaim our need of the Living Savior!

The objections to the validity of the resurrection are as old as the resurrection itself. There is the “swoon theory” or belief that Jesus didn’t really die, but went into a comatose state, only later to be revived. There is the oldest one – even recorded by the Bible – that somehow the disciples bribed the guards and stole the body to perpetuate the myth and carry off the biggest con job in history. And then there are those who would have us believe that all of His followers were hallucinating and only imagined they had encountered Him. Or my favorite one, that Jesus is not literally risen, but simply lives in all of us through His message of truth and love, and example of His life to do good. There has been, is, and always will be a great resistance to belief in the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But why such animosity toward the Christian faith’s capstone? Why don’t we see similar attacks on the claims of other faiths? When you peel away the objections, there is this universal tendency to resist the message of the cross and the resurrection because it is offensive and personal to a fallen world. In our pride, we don’t want to hear we are sinners and need a Savior, and that God provided our cleansing through the death of Christ on the Cross. In our pride, we don’t want to accept the miraculous story of the resurrection – because if it is true, we have no more excuses for not becoming a Christian, a follower of the Living Lord.

In modern day theological parlance, it is fashionable to side-step these Biblical truths, and turn the death, burial and resurrection of Christ into an inspirational story about one willing to die for the truth and revolutionize our thinking for the marginalized and oppressed, serving as a motivation to accomplish socio-political agendas. This is not to say that there is not much to be done to bring about justice and hope for all people. But the cross of Christ and His resurrection are not about these social justice and equality

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 21

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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

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

Choir 5 pm

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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Pastor Dan Robinson

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Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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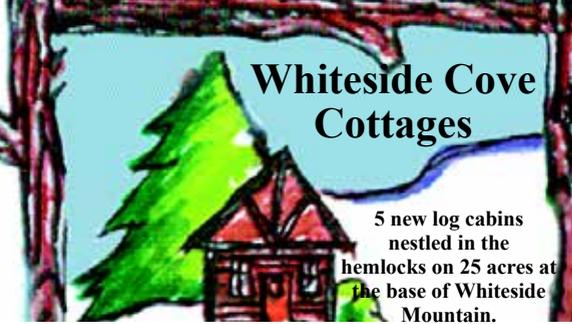



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• POLICE & FIRE •

The Highlands Police log entries from April 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 4

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

April 5

• At 8:49 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Highlands Plaza parking lot.

April 10

• At 12:57 p.m., officers responded to a call from Bear Mountain Outfitters about a person entering the store after being told not to return.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 4.

April 4

• At 12:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a resident at Chestnut Hill Drive.

April 6

• At 10:57 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road.

• At 6:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a resident at Big Bear Pen Drive.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 19

agendas. The root of all our problems – social, moral and political – have a common root, the root of sin. It is this that must be addressed, and the church must return to its historical and biblical message of our Lord, who died on the cross for those sins, and lives again in all of us who believe, even as He literally lives and reigns at the right hand of the Father. The inequities in our world, the chaos in our political arena, the inequalities in our social constructs, and our moral decay will not be rectified by good intentions, elections, jurisprudence, social engineering or protests. The cure is in the confession of our sins, accepting God's sacrifice of His Son on the cross, and in our profession, that He is truly alive, living to intercede for us, filling us with His Spirit to produce the fruits of righteousness, and coming again to make all things new and right. *This is the truth of the Resurrection!*

Production artwork winners



The creations of local students will be posters and T-shirts for the PAC Youth Theater production of "The Frog Prince," Thurs., April 27-30 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. From left are Katy Potts, of Blue Ridge Early College, who won the Program Art Design and Paige and Trent Bryson from Blue Ridge School who won for poster designs.

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C.N.A. NEEDED FOR ASSIST-

LIVING. Please apply in person at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251. (6/1)

SMILING FACES AND DE-

PENDABLE PEOPLE NEEDED for part time and full time positions. Apply at SweeTreats Deli. Corner Main St. and So. Fourth. 526-9632. (st. 4/13)

THE MOUNTAIN FRESH PIZ-

ZA DEPARTMENT has two positions available for the 2017 summer season. Candidates must be energetic and team oriented. Positions require a range of skills including customer service, food prep, utility assistance and line cook. Evening coverage needed. Please contact Mountain Fresh Grocery at 526-2400 and speak with Missy or stop by in person at the corner of 5th and Main.

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB

ANNOUNCEMENTS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT – UTILITIES BILLING AND COLLECTIONS TECHNICIAN Performs difficult detailed administrative and clerical work performing the utilities billing, collections, customer service functions and related work as required. Work is performed under the regu-

lar supervision of the Finance Director. This is a full time position with benefits package. A full job description and requirements are available at the Town Hall or on our website. Applications are available at Town Hall or on-line at <http://www.highlandscn.org>. Criminal background checks and pre-employment drug screenings are required. Deadline for applications is Friday, April 21, 2017 at 4:30PM. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (4/13)

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT – POLICE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT F/T - Under the supervision of the Chief of Police, performs a variety of routine and complex clerical, secretarial and administrative work in keeping official records, providing administrative support to the police command staff. Full time work with benefits package. M-Th 10hr Workdays. Base Salary \$13.66/hr DOQ. EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED: Graduation from a high school or GED equivalent, with a two (2) year specialized course work in general office practices such as typing, filing, accounting, and bookkeeping, a strong working knowledge of MS office tools and the Internet/willingness to be trained. Two

(2) years of increasingly responsible related experience, or any equivalent combination of related education and experience. Must type a minimum of 50 words per minute. A full job description and applications are available at the Town Office or on-line at the Town's website: www.highlandscn.org. Application deadline is Friday, April 28, 2017. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (4/28)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED BARTENDERS & WAIT

STAFF. Must be a responsible team player with a positive attitude. Full time and part time positions available. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet 343-D Main Street, Highlands N.C. Please no phone calls. (st. 4/6)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

is hiring a full-time, experienced line cook. Also hiring a breakfast cook, prep and deli positions. Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400

PART TIME HELP NEEDED. RETAIL. Working knowledge of computers a plus. Customer Service and ability to think on your feet is an added plus. Flexible Hours. Seasonal but could become year round. Contact by text 615-400-5498 or email: colleenk959@gmail.com (st. 3/30)

BISTRO ON MAIN is now looking for experienced, enthusiastic, and energetic employees for our highly successful, fast-paced Bistro. We are currently hiring ALL positions: experienced prep and line cooks, dishwashers, servers, buspersons, and hosts. Call 828-526-2590 for more information. (4/13)

FURNITURE MAKERS/TRIM CARPENTERS/CABINET INSTALLERS for full-time work in High-end cabinet shop in Highlands, NC. Please send resume to: info@warthconstruction.com. (st. 3/2)

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT looking for experienced waitstaff, bartender and bus person. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 (st. 3/2)

HIGHLANDS INN & HIGHLANDS INN LODGE now accepting applications and interviewing for all positions. Front Desk, Housekeeping, Maintenance,

Night Audit, Breakfast Host & cook. Full time and part time available. Call 526-5899 for appointment or stop by 96 log cabin lane for application. Resumes or questions may be emailed to sales@highlandscn.com. (st. 2/16)

EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIANS NEEDED. Call 828-526-5147 (st. 11/22)

WANTED

U.S. AND FOREIGN COINS. Call Dan at 828-421-1616. (4/20)

OPEN HOUSE

TURN-KEY VACATION RENTAL. FSBO – Brokers protected. Great year-round, short-term/vacation rental history. Open House Sat., 4/14, 10a to 2p and Sun., 4/15, 1-4p. 411 Picklesimer Road. 912-441-1559. (4/13)

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

ROOMMATE WANTED. Scaly Mountain Home. \$500/month. Pets OK. (610)955-9356 (4/20)

ONE BED/ONE BATH, furnished. All utilities paid. Call 828-371-0829. (st. 1/12)

SMALL OFFICE SPACE for rent, near the Bascom. Year lease, \$435/mo. 828-526-5558. (st. 3/30)

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT. Christ Church of the Valley. 3,400 sq. ft. heated or unheated. 118 Hwy. 64 East, Cashiers, 743-5400 (st. 3/9)

CASHIERS/SAPPHIRE - 3 Bed/3 Bath home. Year round Mountain Views. Yearly lease 1,750. per month. Will consider lease option. (561) 346-6400 (st. 4/6)

SERVICES

HANDI-MAN – Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, yard work. Call Al at 828-332-7271 or 828-369-6245. (3/9)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVINVINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 3/16)

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

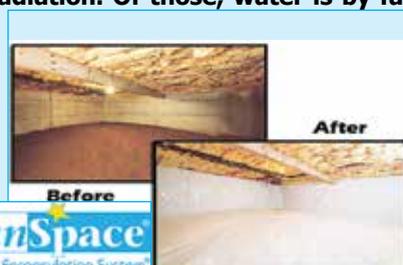
Have You Fixed Your Dirt Crawl Space?

Dry Crawl Spaces
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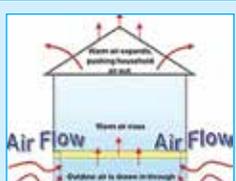
There are three things that destroy materials in general and wood in particular: water, heat and ultra violet radiation. Of those, water is by far the most destructive.

Protect your home from:

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- Bugs
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- Smells & Odors
- Loss of Storage Space
- Radon Gas
- Rising Energy Costs



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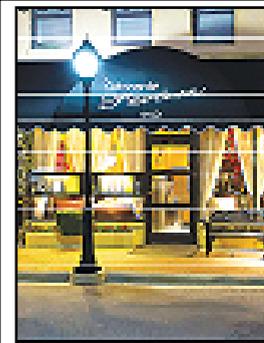
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