

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 6, 2017

## How President Trump's budget will affect MC

Part 2 of a series – What the defunding of the Appalachian Regional Commission will mean

In the same year, the Southwestern Commission and the Appalachian Regional Commission were created with similar goals.

The Southwestern Com-

mission was created in November 1965 by concurrent, joint resolution of the counties and municipalities within the seven counties in Western North Carolina region. It

was within this same time period that Councils of Governments (COGs) all across the U.S. were formed.

Initially, the driving factor be-

hind this movement was money.

Between 1965 and 1975, state legislatures and the US Congress created thousands of grant-in-

• See BUDGET page 6

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## Highlands School Middle School Track Team making great strides



Team members: JJ Postell, Connor White, James Earp, Sydney Figel, Conor Thorske, Brent Sleight, Own Munoz, Lucian Martin, Calvin Barloga, Brandy Zagal, Garrison Chalker and Luis Torres. Coach is Brett Lamb. At the team's first meet last week, the following members ranked in the top three places. Lawson Shuler: 1st in discus, 2nd shotput; Garrison Chalker: 3rd in shot put; Luis Torres: 3rd in high jump, 3rd in 400 meters.; Brent Sleight: 3rd in 400 meters, 3rd in 200 meters; Brandy Zagal: 1st in 300 meter hurdles. The boys finished 3rd at the meet and the girls finished 5th.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Corbin co-sponsors bills to improve NC education

The NC General Assembly has been working for years to reduce class sizes in early grades in the state's public schools. While legislation has been in place to address class sizes, the legislation has rarely been accompanied with additional funds to reduce class sizes. The idea being, if class sizes are reduced, school districts will need more money to add more classes.

One answer? House Bill 481 works to increase the amount of

lottery funds allocated to local districts, and includes specific provisions on how the funds should be spent.

HB 481, which was co-sponsored by Rep. Kevin Corbin, 50 percent of lottery funds allocated to local districts would be spent to support reducing class size in early grades so classes have 18 students to every teacher. The lower classes are intended to eliminate achieve-

• See EDUCATION page 2

## Gov. Cooper says a 'cloud has lifted with HB2 repeal'

Tuesday morning, the North Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced they were lifting the ban on holding championship events in North Carolina after the state repealed House Bill 2, also known as the bathroom bill.

House Bill 2, commonly known as HB2, restricted which public restroom transgender people could use and limited protec-

tions for LGBTQ people in the state by requiring that individuals had to use the bathroom associated with the sex on their birth certificate, rather than how they identify.

Last week, the North Carolina General Assembly struck a controversial deal to repeal the bill and replace it with HB142, a com-

• See REPEAL page 22

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### 'Town Hall Day' in Raleigh

Town Manager Josh Ward and I had a good, informative trip last week to Town Hall Day at the state capital.

Despite my frequent quips about "the goings on in Raleigh," I developed a new appreciation of the legislative process and those who serve our community and state. The day was well organized by the staff of the NC League of Municipalities.

I know people think the legislative process is slow and at times ineffective, but as I sat in the gallery of the House of Representatives I gained another perspective. The legislators were very polite and formal as they debated on the floor. I am thankful we still have a process of making laws that has some semblance of civility where multiple voices are heard and compromises can be made. The alternative would be frightening.

Later that afternoon legislators reconvened to start the process of repealing HB 2, or rather replacing it with HB 142. Here again, probably all factions came away saying they didn't get everything they wanted,



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

but for me it was a good faith effort to push the "reset button" and move forward.

Josh and I, as representatives of Highlands, had the opportunity to meet with both of our legislators, Senator Jim Davis and Representative Kevin Corbin. They made time to listen to us and discuss impending legislation. We briefed them on the town's broadband initiative and encouraged them to support the Bright Futures legislation. HB 68 will

help bring broadband to the rural and underserved communities of the state. Both legislators understand and support this critical need.

We also talked about supporting legislation to give municipalities more flexibility and options in raising revenue. These options could alleviate the pressure of relying on property and sales taxes. I am very interested in local options that slightly increase the room occupancy tax. This revenue could be earmarked for infrastructure improvements related to tourism.

We also thanked our representatives for their leadership in introducing and moving forward legislation for more funding of remote K-12 schools. If passed, this legislation will benefit the Nantahala and Highlands Schools right here in Macon County.

Our capital was very busy, and I was grateful that our representatives took the time to meet not only Josh and me, but also many other town representatives from the area. I asked Kevin Corbin, our new representative, what his weekly schedule was like. He responded that he stays at the Holiday Inn near the capital about four or five nights out of the week and then travels back to his district each weekend. That is a long round trip of over 600 miles. While he gets travel and daily expenses, his salary of about \$13,000 a year is less than what he made as a Macon County Commissioner. Senator Davis has a similar routine and situation. Their duties require a lot of time and commitment for minimum compensation.

Now if they would always vote just the way I want them to vote, all would be wonderful!



Town Manager Josh Ward and Mayor Pat Taylor at Town Hall Day in Raleigh.

### ...EDUCATION continued from page 1

ment gaps.

The proposed legislation would also mandate that 40 percent of lottery funds be spent for public school building capital funds, which is currently what all lottery funds are used for. The remaining 10 percent of lottery funds would be spent to provide scholarships through the State Educational Assistance Authority.

House Bill 481 combines the intent of both the Senate and Governor Roy Cooper, although the breakdown of how it is spent differs between the groups.

Legislation filed in the Senate in early March would use more lottery proceeds gen-

erated from expanded advertising to build more schools in poor counties and increase compensation for principals and assistant principals.

Both the House and the Senate want to increase capital project spending by a grant program with matching local money used for school construction; the Senate's bill focuses on the neediest counties. The Senate's measure would be in addition to lottery funds already distributed statewide for school construction.

The Senate proposed that other lottery funds also would give principal and as-

• See EDUCATION page 8

### Highlands Newspaper

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## • WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY APR 7	SATURDAY APR 8	SUNDAY APR 9
45°/28°	59°/27°	65°/36°

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[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

# • OBITUARIES •

## Helen B. Radder (nee Hy)



Born November 6, 1917, she would have been 100 this year, but she was a little short! (story of her life!) She finished her race Tuesday morning, March 28th, 2017 and gathered the prize that was set before her! (Philippians 3:14)

She joins her husband, Rollie G. Radder, her daughter, Marilyn Sprague, her mother Anna Hy and 10 siblings who have gone on before her. She is survived by daughters Janet Mumm of Grand Island, NY and Carole Murphy and Sue Radder of Franklin, NC as well as 8 grandchildren, 12 Great Grandchildren, 10 Great-Great Grandchildren and 2 Great-Greats on the way!

Born in Buffalo, NY she lived in the Buffalo area and on Grand Island until

moving to Florida in 1973 and then moved halfway back to Franklin/Highlands, NC in 2011. She was a member of Franklin Covenant Church in Franklin, NC. Her treasured relationship with Jesus Christ and strong faith made her a shining light to many. She lived by her favorite Bible verse, "laughter doeth good like a medicine" Proverbs 17:22

A Memorial Picnic is being planned for this summer in Western New York. In the meantime, join us in celebrating the life of Helen Radder by going to your local DQ and have an ice cream in memory of her! And if you want to do it right, you'll have vanilla. No matter how many flavors were ever available, she always chose vanilla!

## Mattie Elizabeth Zachary Crawford



Mattie Elizabeth Zachary Crawford, life-long resident of Highlands, suddenly and peacefully entered eternal rest on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

One of 11 children of Lyman and Dora Zachary, Mattie was born February 22, 1923. She was an exceptional mother to Charles, Betty, and Jimmy and a devoted wife to her late husband James Crawford. Mattie was also preceded in death by a son, Charles Crawford; four brothers, Claude, Carl, Lloyd, and Jim Crawford; and two sisters, Rena James and Bernice Hedden.

Mattie is survived by her daughter, Betty Fisher (Don) of Highlands, NC and a son, James Crawford, Jr. (Kathy) of Lawrenceville, Ga., She was a doting grandmother to Caroline McCown (Neil), Eric Crawford (Cindy), and Ryan Crawford (Jessica); a very special great-grandmother to Connor McCown, Charlie, Clark, and baby Quinn Crawford; and four sisters, Mildred Wilson, Ernestine Reed, Lillian Waller, and Lucille Potts.

A fiercely independent individual, Mattie's priority in life was her family. She loved her home and especially her yard and garden. She was noted for her beautiful dahlias, gladiolas, and nasturtiums, as well as her vegetables which she shared generously.

Well into her 80s, she would spend an entire day raking and blowing leaves and carrying off every stick or branch that fell from the many trees in her manicured yard.

Noted for her hospitality, Mattie readily wanted to share whatever she had. If she knew you, she cared about your well-being. Always looking to help someone in need, she often took jobs to earn money to give to someone in need. Many locals have been a beneficiary of her generosity, receiving a hundred dollar bill

to use as needed.

Mattie loved music, she saw that Betty and Jimmy learned to play the piano, and she especially loved gospel music. She appreciated the churches who provide music at the Eckerd Living Center. Banjo was her favorite instrument.

A celebration of Mattie's life was held Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at First Baptist Church of Highlands where she was a member. The Rev. Roy Lowe, a childhood neighbor and friend of the family, delivered eulogy. Pallbearers were Eric Crawford, Ryan Crawford, Morris Reed, Butch Waller, Ronnie Waller, and Donnie Calloway. Honorary pallbearers were Zeb Cabe, William Creswell, Jimmy Lowe, Jody Zachary, Doyle Calloway, Bill Zachary, and Kevin Waller.

Memorials can be made to First Baptist

• See OBITUARIES page 5

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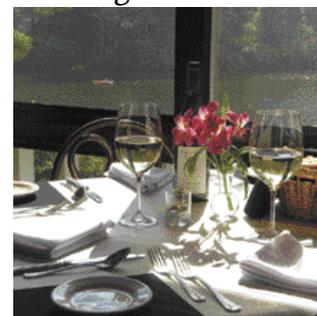


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## ...OBITUARIES from page 3

Church of Highlands Building Fund, 220 Main St., Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences may be left at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Crawford family.

### Juan Hernandez

Juan Hernandez, 53, of Cashiers, NC passed away on Thursday, March 30, 2017. Born in Harlingen, TX, he was the son of Guadalupe C. Hernandez of Illinois and the late Anastacio Hernandez, Sr.

Mr. Hernandez loved his family and was passionate about helping people in any way he could. He volunteered for many community events and projects. He loved fishing and NASCAR and loved spending time with his grandsons.

In addition to his mother survivors include his wife

Jackie Hernandez of Cashiers; a daughter, Monica Hernandez of Cashiers; two grandsons, Maverick Hernandez and Carter Smathers; two sisters, Carmen Blasdel and Maria Blasdel; two brothers, Daniel Hernandez and Antonio Hernandez and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his father he was preceded in death by a brother Anastacio Hernandez, Jr.

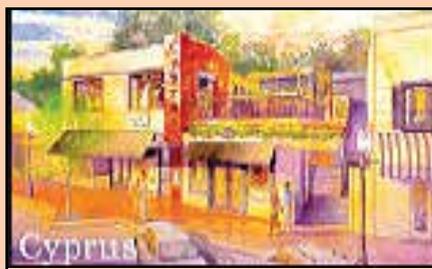
A memorial service will be held at 2pm, Thursday, April 6, 2017 at Cashiers Church of God with Rev. Nathan Moss and Rev. John Powers officiating. The family will receive friends Thursday from 12:30 - 2pm prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau, PO Box 1812, Cashiers, NC 28717.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Hernandez family. Online condolences may be made at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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#### 2017 Holy Week Schedule:

**Palm Sunday, April 9th - 11am Mass**

**Holy Thursday, April 13th - 6pm Mass**

**Good Friday, April 14th - 12 Noon**  
**Begin Stations of the Cross w/other churches.**

**Holy Saturday, April 15th - 7:30pm**  
**Easter Vigil Mass**

**Easter Sunday, April 16th - 11am Mass**

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## ...BUDGET continued from page 1

aid programs totaling billions of dollars in funds available to local governments. One of those grant programs was the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of the federal, state, and local governments. Established by an act of Congress in 1965, ARC is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president. Local participation is provided through multi-county local development districts.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's programs address the five goals identified in the Commission's 2016-2020 strategic plan:

1) investing in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen

Appalachia's economy;

2) improving the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia;

3) investing in critical infrastructure—especially broadband, transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System, and water/wastewater systems;

4) strengthening Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets; and

5) building the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

Each year ARC provides funding for several hundred projects in the Appalachian Region in a wide range of program areas:

- asset-based development;

- community infrastructure;
- education and training;
- energy;
- entrepreneurship and business development;
- export and trade development;
- health;
- leadership development and capacity building;
- telecommunications;
- tourism development; and
- transportation and highways.

Special resources are targeted to the most economically distressed counties.

Furthermore and specifically, the projects funded in these program areas create thousands of new jobs; improve local water and sewer systems; increase school readiness; expand access to health care; assist local communities with strategic planning; and provide technical and managerial assistance to emerging businesses.

When President Donald Trump proposed his budget, it included defunding and eliminating the ARC, so the Southwestern Commission stepped up to formally oppose the measure and ask Congressman Mark Meadows to take action to prevent it.

The Southwestern Commission, representing governments in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Swain, and Macon counties, unanimously approved a resolution opposing portions of President Trump's budget that would defund ARC and similar programs.

"The President's proposed budget eliminates and reduces important federal programs that make local community and economic development efforts possible," reads the resolution. "The Southwestern Commission obtained numerous grants for its local communities in the past 52 years totaling millions of dollars that leveraged millions of

dollars in local and private investments ... examples of those projects include infrastructure such as water, wastewater, roads, projects critical to business and industrial development and job creation."

The ARC provides social and economic support to the 13-state region encompassing 22 million residents, according to the NC Department of Commerce. In January, Gov. Roy Cooper "recommended eight community and regional projects in WNC for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding. The recommendations total more than \$3 million in ARC funds," according to a press release.

One of the five bullet points in Trump's proposed 2018 budget blueprint states, "puts America first by keeping more of America's hard-earned tax dollars here at home." But some of the agencies the president seeks to cut, like the ARC, already keep tax dollars "at home."

The purpose behind cutting some programs, including the ARC, the Chemical Safety Board, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, while offering tax cuts to the super wealthy, is to provide a \$54 billion increase in defense spending.

However, in fiscal year 2017, the ARC requested \$120 million, and if the ARC budget were to remain the same, the elimination of the program would only account for 0.22 percent of the \$54 billion increase in defense spending.

Zeb Smathers, a Canton Alderman and 2nd Vice Chair of the Southwestern Commission said the commission's resolution was intended to stress the importance of the funding for rural North Carolina and credits the ARC and similar programs with economic development in the region.

• See BUDGET page 8



## First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2017

Sunday, April 9, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

*A service leading to the Passion of our Lord from the Gospel of Matthew*

With guest musician Stephanie Quinn, *Violinist*, Jonathon Wilkes, *Pianist* choir, and congregational singing.

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*

Sponsored by the churches of Highlands. Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

Sunday, April 16, 2015

6:45 a.m.

*Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service*

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11:00 a.m.

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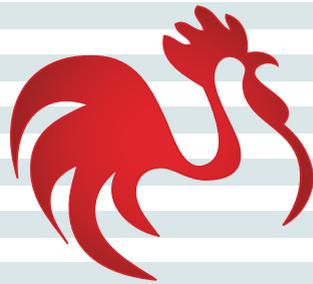
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## ...EDUCATION continued from page 2

sistant principals big pay bumps next year and create performance-based bonuses to principals.

Gov. Roy Cooper ran on the promise of working toward providing free community college tuition and has been working to garner support in the state to do so through using lottery funds.

As it stands, high school students can enroll in community colleges for free through the North Carolina Career and College Promise and schools such as Macon Early College. Cooper wants to expand that program to

allow recent graduates with at least a 2.0 GPA to attend community college for free.

Cooper isn't proposing an entirely free program, but wants students to apply for college, which is \$76 per credit hour, with a cap of \$1,216 per semester. After a student also applies for financial aid, Cooper proposes a program to cover whatever costs may exist after that.

Cooper wants to establish the program, which he calls NC GROW using lottery funds. He has said that \$19 million would be needed to start the program, which

has seen success and increased enrollment in states that have similar measures.

In addition to tackling lottery funds, Corbin also co-sponsored House Bill 495 which would increase funding for instructional resources such as textbooks, supplies, and equipment.

House Bill 495 would also allow local school boards to have more flexibility on how to spend the funding based on their individual needs.

The legislation allocates \$35 million for 2017-2018 and an additional \$35 million the following year across the state to purchase textbooks and digital resources such as iPads and digital textbooks. If a district has other needs such as instructional supplies or equipment, HB 495 wants local districts to determine how to best use their allotment.

Corbin also co-sponsored House Bill 540 which would provide a \$2,400 pay increase to teachers and state employees who earn less than \$100,000. The legislation also appropriates funds to make it happen.

## ...BUDGET continued from page 6

"We wanted to have one voice opposing cuts to crucial programs like the ARC," said Smathers. "We wanted to ask Congressman Meadows to closely watch these programs during the budget negotiations and to find a way to save them. Those programs are so important for economic development in our region and for all rural communities. We are hopeful that Congressman Meadows will support our resolution and see that these measures are funded in President Trump's budget."

In Macon County, the ARC has provided funding for economic development, increasing access to affordable housing, and increasing broadband connectivity all in the last few years.

In Congressman Meadows District, the Southwestern Commission reports that the ARC is providing \$454,567 towards \$707,563 in projects for 2017. Projects vary from economic development to increasing access to broadband and connectivity.

Eliminating the ARC would be detrimental to the progress in all of Appalachia.

"We are working to see that the ARC is included in the bud-

get, and we certainly want to make sure that people in Western North Carolina do not get short-changed in economic development assistance," said Meadows.

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale believes the impact to Macon County would be widespread, with President Trump's proposed budget impacting everything from regional economic development initiatives to the public school system.

"The first budget proposal we have seen will impact several areas in Macon County," said Beale. "From a local perspective, not even a political perspective, people in rural areas across the country, in places like Macon County, should be paying attention to this budget and the effect it could have."

He said one of the most significant cuts to impact WNC and Macon County would be proposed cuts to the ARC which "addresses the persistent poverty and growing economic despair of the Appalachian Region."

• To see Part 1 of this series go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) click on Local News and click on the March 30 edition.



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Sunday, April 16th



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COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

## BREAKFAST

**Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00 am**  
 Cage-free eggs, waffles, french toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

## 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)*

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**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.  
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24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.  
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**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:

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 16" NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings.  
 Comes with garlic bread & salad *\$21.95*

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- **SIRI** – Tuesday, April 18 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
- **IOS FOR BEGINNERS: The Basics for the iPad and iPhone**  
Tuesday, May 16 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
- **IOS FOR INTERMEDIATE USERS:**  
Learning more about the iPad and iPhone  
Tuesday, May 23 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
- **IOS DELVING DEEPER: More about the iPad and iPhone**  
Thursday, May 25 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
- **APPLE MUSIC**  
Thursday, June 15 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/85
- **SIRI** – Tuesday, June 20 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **IPAD PRO** – Thursday, June 22 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **IOS APPLICATIONS**  
Thursday, July 6 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **IOS FOR BEGINNERS (at a slower pace)**  
Tue. & Thur. July 11/13 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **IOS FOR INTERMEDIATE USERS (at a slower pace)**  
Tue. & Thur. July 18/20 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **STAY SAFE ON THE INTERNET IN 2017**  
Tuesday, July 25 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **SMART PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY** – Instructor Les Saucier  
Wednesday, July 26 Time: 10:00-4:00 Cost \$90/\$100
- **SIRI** – Thursday, July 27 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **IOS DELVING DEEPER: More about the iPad and iPhone**  
Tuesday, August 1 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
- **APPLE COMPUTERS (MacOS Sierra 2017 Part 1)**  
Tue. & Thur. August 8/10 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **APPLE COMPUTERS (MacOS Sierra 2017 Part 2)**  
Tue. & Thur. August 15/17 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **PHOTOS FOR APPLE COMPUTERS**  
Tuesday, August 22 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **MOVIES FOR APPLE**  
Thursday, August 24 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **BASIC PHOTO EDITING FOR IOS**  
Tuesday, August 29 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **ADVANCED PHOTO EDITING FOR IOS**  
Thursday, Sept. 7 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **SIRI** – Tuesday, September 12 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
- **APPLE iWork: OFFICE SUITE for iPad, iPhone and Mac Products**  
Thursday, Sept. 14 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85
- **iPad PRO (repeat of June 22)**  
Tuesday, September 19 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$75/\$85

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THE CURIOUS MIND  
KNOWS NO BOUNDS

# • HIGHLANDS AREA 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 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. 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

Come out and visit the Nature Center each 1st Saturday of the Month through the off-season. Each month visitors can participate in a national citizen science project, Project FeederWatch, and help collect data on winter bird populations in Highlands. Basic bird identification skills will also be addressed. The Nature Center will be open 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on each 1st Saturday and bird watching will begin at 10:30 a.m. 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](http://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

## Sun., April 9 Live via Satellite it's the Bolshoi Ballet at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the Bolshoi Ballet this weekend, Live via Satellite. Sunday, April 9th at 12:55pm the Bolshoi Ballet will present A Hero for Our Time. Pechorin, a young officer, embarks on a journey across the Majestic mountains of the Caucasus, on a path set by his passionate encounters. Disillusioned and careless, he inflicts pain upon himself and the women around him... "give me everything, it is still not enough." The story based on the larger-than-life hero Pechorin is adapted from Mikhail Lermontov's literary masterpiece in three separate stories recounting his heartbreaking betrayals. Is Pechorin a real hero? Or is he a man like any other? This brand new production is a tragic poetic journey that can only be seen at the Bolshoi. Recommended for Adults only. Tickets are available online at [highlands.pac.org](http://highlands.pac.org), at the door or by calling the performing arts center 828.526.9047

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

## Fri., April 7

• Ecumenical Station of the Cross Procession at noon. Begins at the Catholic Church on 5th Street and progresses through town.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Hobo Hillbilly Dance", Friday night at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Rd, Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Marty Northrup from Columbus, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream

and plus levels. Everyone is welcome.

For information call 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001 or [www.highmountainsquare.s.com](http://www.highmountainsquare.s.com)

## Sat., April 8

• At PAC, the MET Opera "Nabucco" at 12:55. There will be a pre-opera discussion at 12:30pm led by Beverly Wichman. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org) – at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

## Mon., April 10

• The Battle of Sugartown, Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on April 10, 2017, in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome.

## 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.

## Sat., April 15

• 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 sanctuary.

## Tue., April 18

• SIRI, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://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](mailto:info.hitrust@earthlink.net) or 526-1111.

## Sat., April 22

• 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.

• Highlands and Gorge Road Cleanup. Meet at the Highlands Visitor Center at 9 a.m.

## 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 Curious about the complex interactions between these plants and their environment? Join us for Wildflower Whimsy to observe these re-markable plants and learn more about their diminutive world. All proceeds support the Highlands Biological Foundation. Speaker: Gary Kauffman, NC Fish and Wildlife Service

## Fri., May 12

• Spring Wildflower Garden Tour, 12:30-3:00 Cost \$30/\$40 Tour the spring garden of Dick and Judy Allison To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

## Thurs., May 12

• "Blue Valley Overflow Trek" Join us as we partner with Chattooga River Conservancy on this easy walk through the Overflow Creek Wilderness Area. Co-hosted by H-C 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](mailto:info.hitrust@earthlink.net)

## Sat., April 8 Live via Satellite it's the Met's opera Nabucco at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present opera this weekend, Live via Satellite. Saturday, April 8th, the MET Opera's Nabucco, which was snowed out in Highlands in January. Being screened April 8th at 12:55pm by special permission from the MET; a pre-opera discussion led by Beverly Wichman will begin at 12:30pm. Verdi's Nabucco Met Music Director James Levine conducts Verdi's early drama of Ancient Babylon, Nabucco, with Plácido Domingo adding a new role to his repertory as the title character. Ludmyla Monastyrskaya sings the tour-de-force role of Abigaille, Nabucco's willful daughter, with Jamie Barton as Fenena, Russell Thomas as Ismaele, and Dmitri Belosselskiy as the prophet Zaccaria, the role of his 2011 Met debut. Tickets are available online at [highlands.pac.org](http://highlands.pac.org), at the door or by calling the performing arts center 828.526.9047

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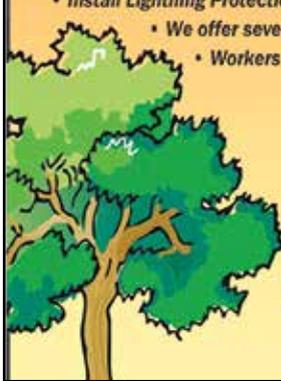
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# Spring Home Improvement

## National Curb Appeal Month: Tips to Upgrade Your Home's Exterior

(StatePoint) Curb appeal is important in setting a welcoming tone. And if your home is for sale, an attractive exterior becomes crucial.

“Realtors tell us that potential home buyers make a ‘street decision’ in less than 12 seconds on whether or not to view a home,” says Niki Decker of Fypon, a leader in the synthetic millwork industry. “That’s a very short time to make a good impression.”

August marks the first National Curb Appeal Month, a great time to focus on ways to add value and design appeal to your

home’s exterior, whether or not you have plans to sell.

The experts at Fypon are offering their top exterior upgrade tips:

- Swap a rotting wooden porch system with a new structural synthetic balustrade system that includes porch posts, top and bottom rails, balusters and all the other pieces essential to create a weather-resistant porch.
- Trim out exterior windows. Use crossheads for over a window and top with a solid, decorative or recessed panel keystone accent piece. On the sides and below the window, use moulding pieces with



plinth blocks in the corners to eliminate miter cuts.

• Replace older, rotting wooden louvers with low-maintenance polyurethane louvers. Such functional louvers should have a non-corrosive fiberglass screen backing to keep insects out while allowing maximum airflow and ventilation to enter an attic.

• A conventional older wooden door may be inefficient, worn out or plain ugly. Consider replacing your old wooden door with a solid fiberglass door, which is up to four times more energy efficient and resistant to rot, rust, dings and weather. Constructed

as a complete system of components, Therma-Tru fiberglass doors, for example, are engineered to work together for lasting performance, security and energy efficiency.

Throughout August, homeowners can enter the online “Door Do-Over Sweepstakes” for the chance to win a new Therma-Tru fiberglass entry door. To enter the sweepstakes, visit [www.TodaysHomeowner.com/DoorDoOver](http://www.TodaysHomeowner.com/DoorDoOver).

• Make smart upgrades with a proven return on investment. For example, adding energy-

• See CURB page 17

## Kay's Place & The Slipcover Chick have merged!

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# Spring Home Improvement

## The Best Bang for Your Buck Kitchen Remodeling Tips

(StatePoint) Kitchen remodeling can significantly increase home value. However this can get extremely expensive. But simple kitchen fix-ups can add both value and comfort to your space.

With this in mind, consider sprucing up your kitchen without breaking the bank. Don't know where to start? Try these tips from HomeAdvisor, a leading website offering resources for home repair and improvement projects:

- **Fix the countertops:** Changing the material of kitchen countertops is a simple way to make an impact in the room. Materials such as ceramic, laminate, granite and siltstone are all great options. Laminate is the most cost effective and granite is the most popular.

- **Refinish the cabinets:** Even though cabinet replacement can be pricey, giving your existing cabinets a new look can come at an affordable price tag.



Remove the original finish and add a new stain coat. Or paint the cabinets a bold color. Combine the paint with a crackling glaze to give the cabinets a weathered appearance.

- **Redo lighting:** Altering the lighting in your kitchen can give it a different look and feel. Track lighting is a good aesthetic choice with many different options. Add a few task lamps to improve the functionality of the work

space area. Dimmers are easy to install and can make the atmosphere of the room more versatile.

- **Upgrade appliances:** Buying even just one or two new appliances can significantly increase the kitchen's value. Large appliances, such as the refrigerator, oven and stove, should be upgraded first.

- **Restyle the floor:** Laying a new floor doesn't have to be a costly project. Materials such as peel-and-

stick vinyl tiles are inexpensive and can be easy to install. Other excellent options include linoleum, porcelain, cork and stained concrete.

More great ideas for your kitchen and beyond can be found at [www.HomeAdvisor.com](http://www.HomeAdvisor.com).

You don't need to start from scratch to give your kitchen a makeover. With small improvements, you can get a great return on your investment.

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## The Drought

According to the March 2017 [www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org) site, there are eighteen counties under the severe drought status, with Macon and Jackson being two of them. Maybe some of our April showers will help move us down a notch; it's not a contest we want to win. The water shortage isn't the topic of today's discussion however. There's another drought that's been in real estate news lately—the housing drought.



**Jeannie Chambers  
Chambers Realty &  
Vacation Rentals**

2017 is any indicator, this drought shortage may be a contest worth competing in.

The Highlands-Cashiers MLS showed 109 sales of residential/condo/town homes as opposed to an average of 63.44 first quarter sales from 2008-2016.

Just like there's two sides to every story, the upside of the housing drought may be one-sided as well. We've been in a buyer's market for years, and now the tables may be starting to

change just a little. But, wait a minute. Before Sellers start counting their possible earnings, there are a few things to remember.

1) There is no bubble. What was experienced from 1998-2007 is not likely to happen ever again.

2) Sales prices are almost always based on the current market. Pricing is more important than ever when listing. You cannot list a property based on what you paid, or what the property has the ability of becoming in the future.

3) As newly constructed homes are built, the playing field will level out, meaning more competition for current homes on the market.

4) Timing is everything. This one is the hardest part, because we just don't know when the right person will come along and buy a property. What we do know is that our area follows the nation's trend in real estate. What we don't know is when or to what extent.

The real estate market in the Highlands and Cashiers area seems to have taken off like a rocket. There is also a huge need for rentals – both year round/annual leases and vacation rentals. Some of the people here on vacation this year will be residents or seasonal residents next year.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are Broker/owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. 828-526-3717 [www.highlandscalling.com](http://www.highlandscalling.com)

According to [Realtormag.realtor.org](http://Realtormag.realtor.org), we are in the "worst housing drought ever." The article, published March 27, 2017, goes on to say "the number of homes on the market is at the lowest level on record according to NAR (National Association of Realtors), who began tracking 18 years ago."

The article blames contractors for fewer new-home builds, and the ones that are being started are for higher-end homes, not starter homes for first time buyers.

Add that to the fact that more people are taking the equity from their homes and choosing to rehab their existing homes rather than investing in second and third homes.

Many have stated this is being done to ride out the market. Our MLS shows about 1,000 active listings (residential, condos, and town homes), which is close to 25% less than 2013 active listings.

Could there be an upside to this? In our area? Yes, there may be a silver lining to our spring shower clouds.

Our market lags behind the national trend because of the uniqueness of our area. We don't have the number of first-time buyers of other areas, nor do we have industry led moves like other cities.

Buyers invest here mostly for retirement, income producing properties, and get-a-way places for their families – often and usually a mixture of all three.

We've seen a good bit of real estate activity this winter, and while it's not unusual to have winter sales, if the first quarter of

change just a little.

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### Join us this Easter

celebrating the resurrection of Jesus  
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315 Main Street with

Pastor Randy Lucas and Asst. Pastor Jennifer Forrester

**April 9**

Palm Sunday ~ 9:09 & 10:50 services

**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

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Last week at Rotary Club of Highlands....



From left: Buddy Nidey, Hank Ross Rotary Club of Highlands President and Daryl Shankland.

On March 28th, The Rotary Club of Highlands welcomed speakers Daryl Shankland and Buddy Nidey from Shankland Financial Advisors. Daryl and Buddy discussed maximizing Social Security benefits both in the accumulation phase and the payout phase with particular attention given to tax implications.



## 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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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## The Literacy Council of Highlands Welcomes New Executive Director

The Literacy Council of Highlands' Board of Directors are pleased to announce the appointment of Bonnie Potts as Executive Director, effective immediately. The Board's action comes with full confidence that Bonnie will be an excellent steward of The Literacy Council's mission and a leader and advocate for the promotion of education within Highlands and Franklin.



the work of LCH," says Susan Smith, President of the Board. "We are ready to expand and broaden our programs and are confident that under her leadership we will push LCH to the next level."

The mission of the Literacy Council of Highlands is to enrich the lives and expand the knowledge of children, adults, and families in the greater Highlands and Franklin communities

Bonnie, a native of Highlands, is a graduate of Western Carolina University and brings experience in fundraising, grant writing, marketing, and non-profit development. She comes to the Literacy Council from The Bascom, where she worked as the Marketing and Corporate Development Manager.

"The Literacy Council plays such a vital role in the community and in the educational development of people of all ages," she says. "I am honored to have this opportunity to work with the Literacy Council's incredible staff, board, volunteers, and participants."

"Bonnie brings a wealth of ideas and a contagious enthusiasm to rejuvenate

through diverse educational programs that advance literacy in its many forms, to promote lifelong learning, which results in an informed and empowered community. The programs offered by The Literacy Council include individual tutoring in all subjects, adult and youth ESL classes (English as a second language), GED classes, after-school enrichment, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Franklin in-school remediation, and more.

For more information regarding The Literacy Council, please visit [www.highlandsliteracy.com](http://www.highlandsliteracy.com) or call 828-526.0836.

## More from Rotary Club of Highlands



The Rotary Club of Highlands recognized Students of the Month at the March 28th meeting. Pictured l-r, Nicole Lui, Highlands School teacher; Lucy De La Cruz, Elementary School; Megan Vinson, High School; Stephanie Barnes, Middle School; and Hank Ross, President of Rotary.

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# •THE INK PEN•

## Are you busy or bored?

Color me busy. Before I retired, I kept encountering articles about the dangers of being at loose ends in retirement with too much time on your hands. Conversely, I'd speak to folks who'd say, "Oh, you'll be busier than you are now." Guess which contingent was right?

It's a rare day I don't have a list of things to accomplish. They may not all be exciting or noteworthy, but they are time-consuming. I can count on one hand the days I haven't had at least one thing I needed to get done, and when I have one of those days, I think to myself, "Gee, I may actually get to sit down and read a book in the middle of the day." So far, reading novels still mostly happens at night.

If you're not one of those retirees who told me how busy I'd be, you may be wondering just what fills my time. Lots of things. I do lunch with friends. I still work out at the gym and take Yoga, and it's been a plus to ride bicycles with my husband on weekdays. Going to a movie on a weekday afternoon is also a treat.

When I worked, I didn't read the morning paper until the evenings, but now I read it with my coffee, check my news feeds and emails, and play a few rounds of Words with Friends. If I don't have errands to run, I head upstairs to my office to do some writing for the *Crier*, my blog, *Highlands Newspaper*, or *BeaufortCountyNow.com*. And I still edit the occasional article for my former manager and provide feedback here and there for others I used to work with. I was pretty busy last year pulling together the collection

of my columns that came out November 21, and now I'm busy marketing it. (You can find "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" on Amazon and on my website [theinkpenn.com](http://theinkpenn.com).)

### ...CURB continued from page 12

One of my retired girlfriends is delighted to have a playmate and has a list of outings she wants us to take. We've already visited two of the three historic homes in Roswell, Georgia, spent a morning antiquing, and have Atlanta's Swann House still on our list.

Add to those fun activities all of the chores I've been putting off until I had time and my days are full up. I've accomplished a few things on my "I'll get to it someday list" and still have plenty to go. Simple things like taking a lamp to the repair shop, rearranging my office, getting the office painted, and pictures hung, and filling five bags with books to donate for library sales combine to fill the time.

I enjoy not having a "Must Do" list but instead a list I can pick and choose from as the mood strikes. I've gone through two rooms gathering knickknacks I don't know why I had and taking them to consignment shops and thrift stores. I plopped down in front of my cookbooks one day and purged that collection, and I was inspired to clean out yet another file cabinet when I read about a shredding day at a local real estate office.



Kathy Manos Penn

The winter months were a bit slower, but spring promises to be busy again with book signings and festivals around the Atlanta area, a girls trip to St. Simons and a couples trip to Black Mountain. With that schedule, I can't see boredom setting in

shrubby and planters to give your exterior a natural burst of color. Look to the front door, your shutters and trim to add pops of color additions that complement the rest of the exterior.

For more tips, visit [www.fypon.com](http://www.fypon.com). Throughout August, Fypon will include daily curb appeal tips, along with detailed curb appeal information and color advice from national color expert Kate Smith of Sensational Color.

This National Curb Appeal Month, make your home a more welcoming place by giving its exterior a facelift.

anytime soon.

• 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](http://www.theinkpenn.com). Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com).



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# Southwestern Commission looking to improve bicycle routes in Macon County

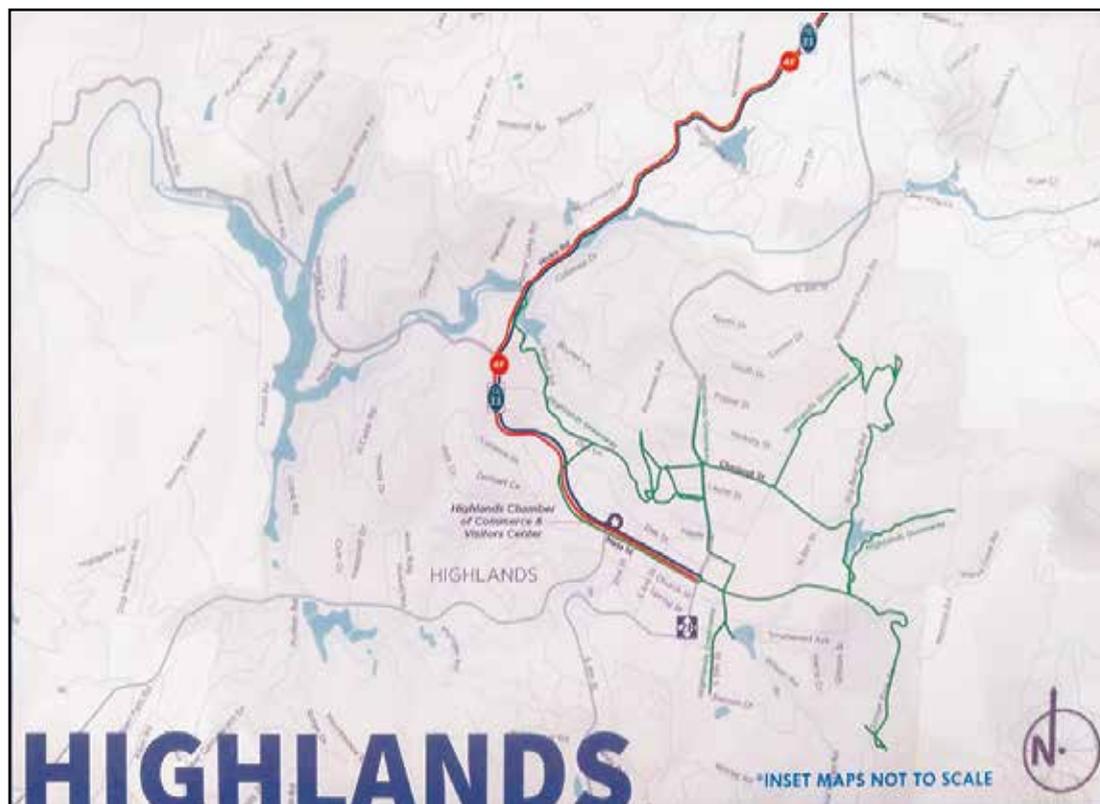
The Southern Blue Ridge Bike Plan developed by Chipley Consulting for the Southwestern Commission is geared toward improving Macon, Graham, Cherokee, and Clay counties bicycle routes and building up the bicycle tourism industry.

Based on a comprehensive study produced by Chipley Consulting, bicycle tourism generates \$2.8 million in income and supports 129 jobs in the state's four westernmost counties. The industry also accounts for \$1.05 million in tax revenues.

For WNC, the industry accounts for \$15.3 million in tax revenues and supports 1,702 jobs, according to Chipley Consulting's study.

Capitalizing on the industry and finding a way to grow and improve bicycle tourism in the region was the purpose of a series of public input meetings held over the last two weeks.

"Now that the meetings are complete, we will finalize the report and recommendations," said Sealy



The bike route into Highlands would come via Buck Creek Road rather than The Gorge Road.

Chipley, owner of Chipley Consulting. "Community input will be incorporated into this document. We will likely have one final steering committee meeting. The final step of this project will be adoption of the plan. After this is complete, implementation can occur."

Chipley Consulting is a woman-owned firm with offices in Asheville and Raleigh. It provides a range of economics, planning and communications services. The firm researched bicycle tourism in the region and developed recommendations on how to im-

prove routes.

For Macon County, improvements included looking at existing NCDOT projects and working with state agencies to make sure bicycle lanes are included as work is completed.

The plan also identified existing bike trails throughout the county, including the 3,277 elevation gain bike trail from Franklin to Highlands that includes a steep climb, light traffic, but concern for poor sight distance on Buck Creek Road.

Addressing issues such as poor visibility is part of the plan's overall goal to make those routes more user-friendly. The plan also identifies areas in each community where bike storage racks can be installed so cyclists can utilize community amenities while traveling by bike.

Following one more planning meeting, the plan will be presented to the Southwestern Commission which will work to secure grants for each segment of the route.

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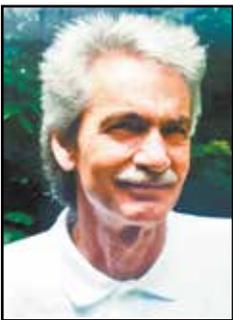
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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Operation Rescue



Pastor Dan Robinson  
Highlands Central  
Baptist Church

How far would you go to rescue someone? Would you jump into a flooded river? Run into a blazing fire? Stand in front of an oncoming bullet?

Honestly, I don't think any of us knows the answer to those questions unless and until we might indeed have to act. But, I do think we could agree that whether we do or don't seek to rescue someone, we would make that decision based on what's going on inside of us.

What is my relationship with the person who needs rescuing? Are they a stranger, enemy or loved one? What is my philosophy of the value of a life? Can I let the poor, disenfranchised, mentally and physically challenged person perish while I rescue the "beautiful people?"

We're just about 10 days away from celebrating the single greatest day in history when a Holy God answered all of the above questions.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave following His death on the Cross was without precedent. In that Cross/Resurrection event, God decided to rescue the human race through His Son, Jesus Christ. It was the highest price ever paid. It yielded the highest dividends ever possible. One man – the God-Man – perfect and sinless, died a slow death of torture and humiliation. That death made possible a personal relationship with God Himself through Jesus Christ the Son.

This event was heaven's signal! It signaled the human race that God would do anything to rescue us from our sins and ourselves.

It signaled the worth of every human being on the planet. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world and He loves the big children, too. That's us.

Maybe you have known Jesus Christ personally for a long time. Or maybe you've only known about Him yet never met Him.

Or maybe you've never even considered Him. The simple truth is: He loves you. He died in your place on the Cross., was resurrected on the third day by the power of God and now lives in heaven. He longs for you to know Him.

I can't think of a better time to get to know him than right now. The hymn says, "The way of the cross leads home. It is sweet to know as I onward go, the way of the Cross leads home."

Is it time for you to come home?

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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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 U.

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

Choir 5 pm

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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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, 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

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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

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

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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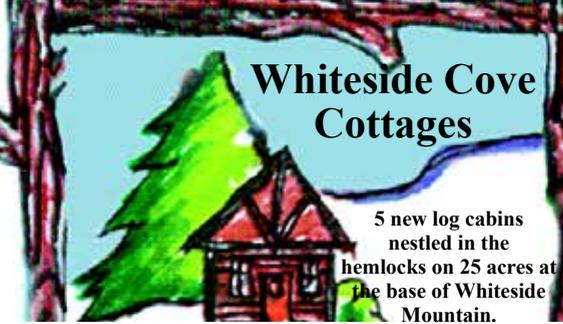



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## • POLICE & FIRE •

The Highlands Police log entries from March 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

### March 8

- At 10:15 a.m., officers were told of an attempted scam when someone called a person at Old Edwards Inn for credit card information.

### March 18

- At 5:25 p.m., officers responded to a call about criminal damage to property when someone rode a motorbike through the owner's yard on Cullasaja Dr.

### April 1

- At 10:22 p.m., officers were called by a woman who reported an assault on a female by strangulation and communicating threats.

### April 2

- At 3 p.m., criminal damage to property was reported by a resident on Webbmont Rd. where a Volvo was hit with multiple blunt objects. Estimated damage is \$2,000.

- At 12:15 p.m., officers were called about a verbal argument at a residence on Leonard Rd.

### The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from March 25.

#### March 25

- At 10:23 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

- at 11:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.

#### March 27

- At 2:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Church Street.

#### March 28

- At 9:19 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

- At 10:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Road.

- At 3:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Cheyenne Dr.

#### March 30

- At 5:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

- At 8:38 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire & Rescue Dept.

#### March 31

- At 8:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Poplar Street.

#### April 1

- At 8:01 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Clear Creek Road.

#### April 2

- At 2:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Sagee Dr.

- At 2:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

- At 6:04 p.m., the dept. was asked to search for a person on Hickory Knut Gap.

- At 9 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Woods Dr.

#### April 3

- At 2:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Hospital Drive.

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## ...REPEAL continued from page 1

promise bill approved by the Republican-controlled legislature and signed by Democratic Governor Roy Cooper.

“We are actively determining site selections, and this new law has minimally achieved a situation where we believe NCAA championships may be conducted in a nondiscriminatory environment. If we find that our expectations of a discrimination-free environment are not met, we will not hesitate to take necessary action at any time,” the NCAA Board of Governors said in a statement.

House Bill 2 was legislation passed by the previous General Assembly. A new wave of elected officials took office in January, including House Representative Kevin Corbin. Although Corbin was not responsible for the initial legislation, last week he was part of the majority who voted in favor of the repeal bill.

HB 142 resets House Bill 2 and completely preempts local governments from regulating multi-occupancy bathrooms, showers, locker rooms and changing rooms across the state.

Gov. Roy Cooper signed the measure into law last week, saying, “For over a year now, House Bill 2 has been a dark cloud

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hanging over our great state. It has stained our reputation. It has discriminated against our people and it has caused great economic harm in many of our communities.”

However, Cooper did say the new law is “not a perfect deal and it is not my preferred solution.”

### **Details of HB 142**

The new legislation fully repeals HB2 and sets the law back.

HB 142 does, however, effectively maintain a key feature of HB2, which makes it state law that leaving regulation of bathroom access solely in control of the Legislature, and preventing local governments from regulating bathroom facilities.

The repeal law places a moratorium until 2020 preventing local governments from passing or amending their own non-discrimination ordinances relating to private employment and public accommodation.

According to Rep. Corbin, attorneys in the legislature advised that HB2 would have been struck down this week in the 4th Circuit of Appeals Court if a repeal didn't occur.

“HB142 allows for the protections under Federal Law which is non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin,

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religion, or disability,” said Corbin. “Passing this bill was the right thing to do.”

Federal law prohibits any public accommodation from discriminating on the basis of “race, color, religion, or national origin.” It makes no mention of sexual orientation or gender identity (nor does it address other issues such as age or marital status), so there are no LGBT protections in the state now.

Corbin said the repeal law actually strengthens the state's bathroom laws, while ensuring that local governments can't pass legislation to supersede state preferences.

“The effect of this clarity is that the General Assembly will not have to constantly react to the next trick being played by out-of-control cities,” said Corbin. “This wording clearly reasserts the authority of the State to regulate bathroom, shower, and changing facility policy. It stops the threat of another out-of-control city council or university from passing another crazy ordinance or policy. Furthermore, it takes us back to bathroom policies that have been consistent for decades and uses only common sense to enforce: laws that deal with ‘peeping toms,’ indecent exposure, and trespass.”

Candidate and now Governor Roy Cooper has long spoken on how HB2 affected the state's bottom line.

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“We now know that, based on conservative estimates, North Carolina's economy stands to lose nearly \$4 billion because of House Bill 2. That means fewer jobs and less money in the pockets of middle class families,” he said.

He said legislators needed to fix the problem

“We needed to end discrimination and bring jobs and sports back to North Carolina.”

Governor Cooper said the compromise was a first step to repairing North Carolina's reputation and economy.

While he said more work remains to be done, last week's compromise was an important step forward and he will continue the work to fight for statewide antidiscrimination protections for LGBT North Carolinians.

After he signed House Bill 142 that repealed House Bill 2, he said he believed sports were coming back to the state.

“Having the NCAA, ACC, and NBA come back will help restore North Carolina's reputation. But this was more than about sports and jobs. It was about discrimination. For over a year now, HB2 has been a cloud over our great state,” he said.

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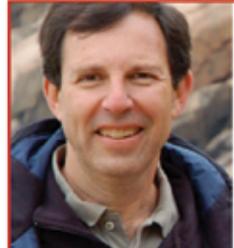
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