

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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## Mayor plugs partnering at combo mtg.

Last week, Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor, town commissioners and staff traveled to Franklin for a joint meeting with the Franklin Town Council and the Macon County Board of Commissioners. Three times a year, the town and county elected bodies come together with each taking a turn to host the event which includes dinner and updates from each area of the county. The Town of Franklin

hosted the recent meeting at the Franklin Fire and Rescue Dept. In addition to Taylor, Highlands was represented by Town Commissioners Donnie Calloway, Amy Patterson and Eric Pierson as well as Town Manager Josh Ward, Town Clerk Gibby Shaheen and college intern Olivia Stewman. Partnerships between the elected bodies was the underlying theme of Taylor's update. He be-

gan with a discussion on the county's critical need for broadband, and the progress Highlands has made in fulfilling this need for the town. He stated broadband is just one area the town governments and the commissioners can partner together for the betterment of the entire county. "Despite the fact that NC House Bill 129 and NC House

• See PARTNERING page 16

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## Forest Service proposes cutting public input

Deadline to submit comments is August 12, 2019

A proposal from the Forest Service to cut public participation concerning upcoming project decisions has the Chattooga Conservancy sounding an alert. The organization claims the

policy changes would cut out environmental review and public involvement for most Forest Service decisions, including logging, road construction and pipeline

• See FOREST SERVICE page 19

## Wreck on Middlecreek Bridge points to need for change



An early evening wreck at the Middlecreek Bridge on NC 106 in Scaly Mountain stalled traffic in both directions for about an hour Sunday evening. The narrow bridge makes two vehicles maneuvering it difficult which is one reason the bridge is slated to be replaced in 2020. According to NCDOT Project Engineer Keith Paschal, the current bridge will be used as an on-site detour while the new, wider bridge is built alongside it. The job is scheduled to be "let" May 2020 with work beginning 40 days later. Two septic tanks need to either be moved or redirected before the project can begin.

- Photo by Glenda Bell

## School fall sports are off and running

By Brian O'Shea

Highlands Middle and High School sports are in full swing and student athletes are hitting the field, court, trail, pool, and course getting set for competition later this month.

Some sports making a comeback are HS and MS cross country as well as HS girls golf; new is MS swimming. Athletic Director Brett Lamb said there are additional sports this year because of high-student interest.

"We know the additions will be a work in progress, but numbers have been good so far," said Lamb.

• See SPORTS page 15

## BBBS family has fun at TS&TE



Big Brothers, Big Sisters sponsored a group activity at The Spice & Tea Exchange on Main Street Friday night where the "bigs" and the "littles" worked together creating a kid-friendly meal of 6-layer dip, guacomole, tacos and air-fried donuts. For more information on the BBBS program, email Danielle Hernandez-Juarez at highlands@bbbswnc.org.

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Main Street paving is postponed again

When it comes to government, things can change in a New York minute. Monday morning I received an email from NCDOT announcing that the resurfacing of US 64, including Main Street, and NC 28 had once again been delayed. Originally this five-million dollar project was scheduled for this past spring. It was recently postponed to spring of 2020. Now it is once again pushed back to spring of 2021!



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

essentially encumbered private property for future use. Many of these seizures never resulted in roads being built, and property owners were denied use and development of their land.

The constitutionality of the MAP Act was challenged by these property owners in court. The NC Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of the landowners and directed NCDOT to compensate hundreds of property

owners.

NCDOT is now in the process of settling with the property owners, and costs could exceed over 1-billion dollars. That translates into a lot of lost road construction. I suspect the resurfacing project has fallen victim. It might be time for the state to tap into that "rainy day" surplus fund to cover settlement costs. While many may appreciate fiscally conservative practices, crumbling highways and roads is another matter.

Getting contractors to do work in this robust economy is a critical problem. Plans suddenly change. Our contractor for the water tank on Satulah also has the \$875,000 contract for the Split Rail waterline replacement. Stillwell and Associates have made fast time on completing the water tank. They were scheduled to go to Murphy to do a contract, and then return September or October to start the Split Rail project.

Their Murphy job was recently delayed, so Stillwell decided to move up the timeline for the Split Rail project since their equipment and personnel were here. A contractor promising they are leaving but will come back can be problematic. So, this week Stillwell began laying waterline on Split Rail. It will take months to complete, but they are moving forward.

I met with a group from the Split Rail community last Friday to update them as best I could. It is a huge project requiring heavy equipment to cut through rock and dig trenches for 6-inch lines. It will be disruptive, and some folks will be shocked at the earthmoving and loss of vegetation. Once the line is complete and residencies are connected, cleanup and paving of the road will take place.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



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Inventive wildlife defeat bear proof containers.

## • LETTERS •

### Say 'no' to lighting up Highlands

Dear Editor,

When President Bush was re-elected in 2004, movie actor Alec Baldwin was so undone he said he felt compelled to move to Canada. He made the same empty threat when Donald Trump won the presidential election in 2016. Personally, and futilely, I am still awaiting Baldwin's belated departure.

That being said, I can relate to his countless feelings of distress, dismay, disbelief, chagrin, personal affront, personal violation and ultimately, feelings of shock. These were some of my re-

• See LETTER page 8

## • WEATHER •

	Friday 8/9		Saturday 8/10		Sunday 8/11	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	77 F	61 F	79 F	61 F	79 F	63 F
RealFeel	83 F	66 F	87 F	67 F	85 F	67 F
Winds	4 g 6	4 g 6	4 g 6	4 g 6	4 g 5	3 g 5
T-Storms	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### 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.



**NEW ON MARKET:** Great location in Chestnut Hill on a cul de sac. Lovely rocking chair front porch plus a screened porch in the back. Landscape care and exterior maintenance of the home is provided by the HOA. This is like living in a condo but enjoying a single family home on one level with a garage. HOA fees also include road maintenance, snow removal, water, and sewer. The home is in great condition and easy to see.

**MLS# 91604 | Offered for \$315,000**



**PRICE CHANGE:** Adorable cottage in Highlands Falls CC in a very private location on a cul de sac. The home has an older pedigree but has been updated with the addition of a large master suite plus a lower level which features a family room and additional guest quarters. The main level features an updated kitchen with a breakfast bar and opens to the great room with stone fireplace. The back deck has a view of Shortoff Mountain. Offered completely furnished.

**MLS# 91516 | Was \$445,000 NOW Offered for \$398,000!**

## NEW on MARKET & PRICE CHANGES!

**PRICE CHANGE:** Totally renovated from inside out, this charming cottage offers 3 bedrooms and 2 baths all on the main floor. Drive into the garage and walk into the laundry area, then into the new kitchen with the latest appliances. Master bedroom and bath sit at one end and the two other rooms and bath are on the other side of house. It has an attached two car garage with a small workshop space. The home is offered totally furnished, turnkey, and ready to move into.

**MLS# 90683 | Was \$595,000 NOW Offered for \$549,000!**



**PRICE CHANGE:** With handsome wood floors throughout the common areas, a stone fireplace and vaulted ceilings, the home has a terrific floorplan that makes entertaining a breeze. A new kitchen features an oversized island, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. The large master suite opens to the covered deck and features lots of windows. The lower level boasts three bedrooms plus a family room with wet bar.

**MLS# 89562 | Was \$995,000 NOW Offered for \$950,000!**



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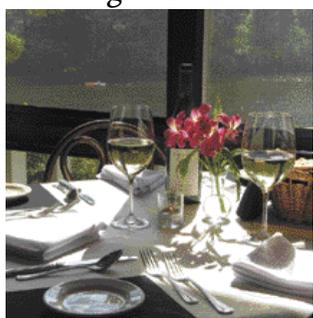
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**HIGHGATE** The house backs up to the Nantahala National Forest and has a ridgeline view. There is no shortage of beautiful spaces to enjoy, including large screened outdoor porches with a wood-burning fireplace. The large master with vaulted ceiling boasts a private screened porch, great bath and walk-in closet. Two guest suites are nothing short of perfect, including a bunk area in one. There is a large office as well as a fenced dog yard and beautiful landscaping.

**MLS# 90504 | Offered for \$1,225,000**

**HORSE COVE** Enjoy miles of breathtaking, long-range views overlooking Horse Cove and beyond. Design of the home is intended to capture as much of the view as possible using large windows and glass doors throughout. The master, living room and dining room each open to the deck to allow for cool breezes and fresh air. The lower level has two guest bedrooms, one bathroom, family room, and sun room. Located at the top of Horse Cove and close to downtown Highlands!

**MLS# 91376 | Offered for \$1,050,000**



**BIG BEAR PEN** Seated in either the sunroom or the covered porch with wood-burning fireplace, you can admire the beautiful views of Whiteside Mountain and the cascading falls at Highlands Falls CC. As you walk through the foyer you are greeted by the spacious light-filled great room with beamed cathedral ceiling and living room with large stone fireplace. This open floor plan with its formal dining area and outdoor living space is the perfect home for entertaining.

**MLS# 89150 | Offered for \$1,145,000**

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**MLS# 91522 | Offered for \$950,000**



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## ...LETTER from page 2

actions to the July 25th report in Highlands Newspaper of the July Town Board meeting (July 18th) concerning the "lighting up" of downtown Highlands as presented and advocated by two representatives from the Chamber of Commerce.

I am sure it is politically incorrect to suggest that those two representatives have a conflict of interest, as they are both proprietors or co-proprietor of two of the most popular and successful businesses in town (which I admire; more power to them). The personal component of their advocacy is not my main objection. It is the suggestion itself, to light up downtown Highlands from October to April. Why stop there?

Highlands is not a fake town, not a phony town, not a Disneyland, a Dollywood, a "Potemkin Village." It is a real place where real people live, work, raise families, attend church, help their neighbors, live their lives.

While we welcome visitors, tourists, day-trippers and support our local businesses, do our local businesses support us, the real people who live here 24/7, 365 days a year, or are the transient, temporary people more important to the Chamber of Commerce and to certain local businesses than we are, the full-time residents who pay for everything the visitors enjoy and from which all the Chamber businesses profit?

I do not want to pay for illuminating our town unnecessarily, for creating a tacky destination and for depriving our trees, birds, bats and all the creatures, including humans, of a certain amount of darkness we all require to lead healthy lives. I would add that it also seems counter-intuitive to making Highlands a "Blue Zone" community as advocated by the mayor and his wife.

Are the environmentalists out there actually concerned about the environment or do mercenary instincts always take precedence?

If there is anyone else in this rapidly disappearing town of ours who is not happy about this purely commercial initiative, it is not only your duty, but a privilege, to speak out publicly. Sitting around our kitchen tables and complaining to our friends has no effect whatsoever. It is a waste of breath. Step up and speak out.

Alice Nelson  
 Highlands

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## The 'Lucys' that are Highlands

Owning real estate as a second home and primary residence on the plateau has brought to me some of the best things in my life. There have been many memories of outdoor activities or relaxing by a fire. Also, there have been numerous wonderful meals with friends; both new and old. These may have been at one of the many restaurants, at someone's home, or just a picnic in this beautiful area. I met my husband here and was



Carl Romberg  
Landmark Realty  
Group BIC

married at The Church of the Incarnation, the church that we now call home and share with full time and seasonal parishioners. And our family has celebrated numerous holidays together.

One of my favorite memories is very vivid and occurred back in the spring of 2008. My divorce had just occurred, and I had lost my 15 year-old cocker spaniel several months earlier. I was meeting a friend to go through one of the art shows in the park. As I parked, I noticed a medium size dog walking towards me and thought "that looks like the kind of dog I would like." She was tan and white, short hair, cropped tail and had brown eyes that would pull you into her soul. She walked right up to me and then proceeded to follow us around the festival. My friend and I went to lunch and left her behind with all the other artists and patrons.

About 4:00 that afternoon, something told me I should go back and check on her. I walked right up and there she was lying in the grass beside one of the artist's tent. I was told that she had been there for hours. I asked several other artists and no one knew anything about her, other than she was hungry. She had trouble standing up, but I got her in the car and off we went to the house where I pulled about 25 ticks off of her. No reports of a missing dog came up, so we went back to Gainesville on Sunday afternoon. She sat upright, like a person, leaning against the seat so that she could look out and watch where we were going. I was thrilled that she didn't get car sick.

A trip to the vet told me she was around 4 years old, had puppies at some point, but was parasite free. The soreness of standing up was probably from running a long distance and would improve over

time. My nieces heard that I had a dog and had to come see her. While visiting, one said that she looked like a "Lucy". For some reason that seemed perfect, so it became her name. I was determined that she would be crate trained, especially while I was at work and during the nights. She quickly adjusted to this and to being a house dog when not in her crate.

The first thing that I noticed about Lucy was that she was always hungry. She ate extremely fast and always maintained a perfect weight of just 28 pounds according to the vet. She desperately wanted to achieve her goal weight of 50 pounds. As I was going to do this the right way, I served her breakfast as soon as she was out of the crate and dinner at promptly at 6:30.

Lucy continued to go for rides. It didn't matter if I was going to visit my Mom on Sunday afternoons, coming to Highlands for the weekend or going to Atlanta. She called shotgun unless some other passenger was along. She would still sit upright and look where we were going, until she figured out where that was and would then lay down for a nap.

As time passed by, she settled into a routine. The crate during the day, the sofa during the evening, then decided a wing chair was more appropriate at night. Breakfast would be when she jumped out of the wing chair and dinner would be at 6:15. Then she discovered the bed would be more appropriate as a place to spend the night and 6:00 would be better for dinner. It was obvious that those brown eyes were in control.

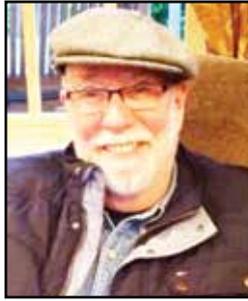
At some point a local told me she was a Mountain Feist. I had never heard of this breed, but found that she fit the description and that the Southern Appalachian Mountains are one of their ancestral homelands. They are great dogs, and sound like a hound when they bark, which was rare.

A couple years ago, we noticed her elbows were starting to point out, later to find out that it was rheumatoid arthritis. Next, we realized the one-mile walk through the neighborhood was too much for her. Her wing chairs and sofas were

• See **INVESTING** page 12

# •WORD MATTER•

## Debates – Ugh!



**Bud Katz**

Anytime I give in to the urge to write about politics I state, out front, that my voter registration is NPA. That means I have no political party affiliation. I dislike both parties and most people in politics.

My head hurts from watching two rounds of “debates” involving 20 Democratic candidates pursuing their party’s nomination to run against Donald Trump in 2020. After nearly three years, I believe I know who Donald Trump is. I was already familiar with several of the Democratic candidates. Some were new to me. I wanted to see if anyone inspired me.

I’m still waiting.

It seems the Democratic candidates can be divided into two camps: the so-called progressive, “we can promise anything, regardless of what it costs” camp, and the so called traditional, “we can’t promise anything because it will cost way too much” camp. It’s exhausting.

When the President was a candidate he promised steel and coal jobs would come back. They haven’t. And, they’re not going to come back. He promised a border wall paid for by Mexico. He may get his wall, but we’ll pay for it. He promised there would be so much winning that we’d get tired of all the winning. What have we won? We’ve angered our allies and played footsie with Vladimir Putin.

The Democrats, as a group, are telling us, “Elect me and you’ll get, a) all your student loans forgiven, b) free money, every month, for everyone, c) free college for anyone who wants to go, d) a government job for anyone who wants one, e) etc.

Here’s what neither the Democrats nor the President’s reelection campaign are telling you. The real battle is not for who wins the White House. The real battle is for control of the Senate. While we’re all distracted by the President’s tweets and the Democrats’ promises, the important races are down ballot. And, based on Mr. Trump’s win in 2016 and the Democrats’ taking of the House in 2018, everything is up for grabs.

What was disconcerting about these so-called debates was the circular firing squad approach the Democrats borrowed from the Republicans back in 2016. In

most cases, instead of offering positive messages about their own ideas for America, the candidates in both instances focused more on tearing one another down. I understand one must first get the nomination before one can get elected, and one must get elected before one can display Presidential leadership at home and in the world. But, following

these debates, do Democratic voters have any better idea who can actually win the general election? I don’t think so.

If I were a Democrat, which I am not, my first concern would be, not what are you going to give me for my support, but who has a shot at defeating Donald Trump? Based on the debates, at least right now, I don’t have a clue, and I suspect neither do they.

As is the case almost every four years, the questions banging around in my head are, “Is this the best we can do?” “Are these the best we have?”

I’d like to hear discussion about what we’re going to do to improve education for our children and grandkids. I know states and local governments have a lot to say about that but so does the federal government. I’d like to know what we’re going to do about climate change, the single, for real, existential threat to our planet. I’d like to know what will be done to ensure voting rights for all Americans, an end to partisan gerrymandering and voter suppression activities, and federal election campaign finance reform. I know these issues aren’t as sexy as healthcare or immigration, but they’re every bit important and no one is talking about them.

The President is going to have an enormous war chest with which to pummel whomsoever the Democrats settle on as their standard bearer. He’s got a loyal, entrenched base and, he will have a record on which to run and on which to be opposed.

I suspect he knows that a percentage of those who voted for him in 2016 did so in opposition to Hillary Clinton. Those voters are in play for 2020, as are those who don’t care for the tone of his presidency. And, if they’re not already, all eyes should be on Texas and its 38 electoral votes. The Lone Star State is definitely in play.

Ain’t politics fun? No. Not really.

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**...INVESTING from page 10**

slowly replaced by poofs, strategically located in the living room, bedroom and porch. For the last year or so, she was on pain medication, served in cheese, her favorite snack. Despite the pain, she was still able to push dinner up to 5:45, and add a couple of pounds towards her goal weight, but continued to function fairly well. Lastly, getting up and out the door was a challenge, but she was always ready for food and welcome for assistance to get out.

A couple of weeks ago we realized the time had come. Saturday morning she had an extra big bowl of food and we went for a final ride. She sat up until she knew we were headed down the mountain then started her nap, or possibly faked it. The final moments were peaceful for her, but agonizing for us. Each day becomes a little easier and we will have other dogs, but not another Lucy. As it turns out, Lucy knew exactly what she was doing when she walked up to me that day long ago.

A special thanks to Dr. Brad and the staff at Animal Wellness Hospital in Highlands as well as the staff at Rabun Animal Hospital in Mountain City.

• Carl Romberg is a full-time Highlands resident and the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office located at 225 Main Street (the office with all the dog paintings and water bowl out front). Feel free to stop by and visit with him, or reach him at 678-936-9309 or [carl@LandmarkRG.com](mailto:carl@LandmarkRG.com)



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**DOG SPEAK****REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO****What's wrong with my behavior?**

Contrary to the opinions of my pet parents, I see nothing wrong with my behavior. Take this statement from one of my Great Pyrenees Facebook friends: "I roam, I bark, and I don't always listen, but I'll guard you and love you forever and always."



The Royal Pooch Lord Banjo

there was no fence out there. She'd sniff and smell and stay close.

Not me! I'd go out the front door and stay close until my parents looked the other way. In a flash, I'd set sail out of the yard and take off down the street. Mum says that despite my rather large size, I seemed to jog up the embankment and float over the bushes. Hence the term "set sail." I enjoyed those adventures. Dad? Not so much. He'd

chase after me, calling "Banjo, get back here right now; Banjo, come." He said a few other things that can't be printed in a family paper.

It only took a few of those episodes before I was banned from the front yard. My good behavior and failing eyesight, though, have recently earned me the privilege of visiting the front yard with Mum and Dad after dinner. I really don't like going out the side door when it's dark and prefer the well-lit front door. All was fine until I started expanding my boundaries and taking my sweet time responding to the come command. My exploring the neighbor's front yard was the last straw for Dad.

Now the debate at the Royal Abode is long and loud. "Do we drag him out the side door with a flashlight? Do we put a leash on him and walk him around the front yard? Whatever are we going to do with him?" My answer? Whatever makes me happy because "I roam, I bark, and I don't always listen, but I'll guard you and love you forever and always." End of discussion.

Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find similar stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available at Mountain Paws in Highlands, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com)

Now I ask, "What more could you want in a four-legged child?" According to the Royal Parents—lots. First, the powers of my bark collar seem to have diminished, no matter how snugly I wear it, and I am now able to bark whenever and however long I like.

What triggers a bark? It can be something as obvious as walkers on the street in front of the Royal Abode or deer in the driveway. On occasion, a leaf may fall from a tree, or as my Aunt Pam says about her dog, I may bark at an ant crawling on a blade of grass. As a vigilant guard dog, I must respond to all threats, even those unseen by humans. Unfortunately, Mum and Dad don't appreciate this trait, especially before dawn.

Next, I have taken to "going walkabout" as Mum says. For my readers who aren't word nerds like Mum, "walkabout" is an Australian term for a journey taken by young Aboriginal males. Mum read it in one of her gazillion books and immediately saw it as a fitting term for my tendency to roam. When I learned that young men take this journey between the ages of 10-16, I thought it seemed even more apropos. I, after all, am twelve.

From the time I arrived at the Royal Abode at age two, I have had a tendency to wander. With our backyard electric fence, I'm able to go in and out our side door and contentedly roam the woods. My older adopted sister Tinker was well behaved enough to be allowed in the front yard with Mum and Dad even though

**Little Highlander Cheer Camp is Aug. 17**

Little Highlander Cheer Camp is Saturday, Aug. 17 from 10a-3p for ages 4-to rising 6th graders. The camp will be held at the Highlands Recreation Department. The cost for the camp is \$25 which includes a t-shirt and lunch. The camp will be ran by Kristin Huneycutt the Highlands School Cheerleading Coach.



Gary Garren, Loan Specialist

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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## Ongoing

• Summer Movies at the Playhouse Sundays 4 & 7 p.m.; Monday & Tuesday 1, 4, & 7 p.m.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

• At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

## Monday - Saturday

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

## First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

## Mondays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Garden Tour. 10:30am. Enjoy a walk through the Botanical Gardens

with our knowledgeable staff, viewing beautiful native plant life in diverse habitats.

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

## Mon. & Thurs.

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

## Mon.-Wed.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

## Mon. & Fri.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:15 a.m.. All levels welcome.

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

## Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

## Tuesdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Toad Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active -- feeding time!

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

## Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

• Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Lunch with the Docs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital noon to 1 p.m. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345. Limited to 50 attendees.

## Tuesday and Thursdays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

## Wednesdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Mad Science. 2:30pm. Try your hand at scientific inquiry with a brief hands-on program aimed at youth ages 7+ (younger ages OK with supervision).

• At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner - Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays - Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit [www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com).

• Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

## First 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.

## Wed. & Fri.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers visit our website [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

## Thursdays

• Through July 18, The Church of the Incarnation Grief Support Group Thursdays, from 4 - 5:30. The group will not meet on July 4th. The purpose of the group is to offer support for those suffering from life transitions, such as terminal illness, death of family or close friend, miscarriage, and relationship or job loss.

• At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30

• NAMI Support Group for in-

dividuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita (828) 526-9510.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

## 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

## Fourth Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

## Fridays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Snake Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active -- feeding time!

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

## First Fridays

• The Bascom at Sotheby's series features different artists each month with a reception the first Friday of every month at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty from 4-5:30p at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. The public is invited to come meet the artist, view the exhibit and have some wine.

• At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in Night - all ages Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. 526-1595.

## Fourth Friday

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a until noon.

## Friday - Monday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

## Saturdays

• 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 or downstairs in The Bas-

## HIGHLANDS HISTORIC VILLAGE



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# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

com Library room.

• At the Nature Center. Free. Creature Feature. 11:30am & 2:30pm. Experience one or more of our live animal ambassadors up close while learning about their fascinating adaptations.

• Free music in the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8 p.m.

## Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

• Church in the Wildwood, hymn singing each Sunday through Labor Day weekend from 7-8 p.m.

## Though Aug 17

• At the Playhouse, "Always, Patsy Cline." For ticket call 828-526-2695 or go to highlandsplayhouse.org.

## Thurs., Aug. 8

• At CLE American Foreign Policy and Presidential Leadership Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To register call 828-526-8811.

• Zahner Lecture Series "An Alfred Russel Wallace Companion" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

## Aug. 9-11

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, a Planet Clothing and Simon Pearce Trunk Show from 10a to 5p.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Franklin library on Siler Farm Road, Fri. through Sun. 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

## Fri. Aug. 9

• At CLE Women and Islam Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Michelle Browers. To register call 828-526-8811.

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Johnny Webb Band

## Sat. Aug. 10

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. STIG

"Sunday Drive" (a Billboard Christian Top 30 Artist) will perform at 6pm "at Patton UMC, 112 Patton Church Road in Franklin.

## Mon., Aug. 12

• At CLE More Peril or Promise? Youth in the Middle East and North Africa Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Michelle Browers. To register call 828-526-8811.

• At CLE Food, Wine and French National Identity Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Lloyd Kramer. To register call 828-526-8811.

## Tues., Aug. 13

• At CLE American Travelers and the Formation of Our National Identity Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Lloyd Kramer. To register call 828-526-8811.

## Wed., Aug. 14

• At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Organ Inauguration Concert at 7:30 p.m. with Dr. Kirk M., Rich, organist.

## Thurs., Aug. 15

• Zahner Lecture Series "Forests of the Southern Appalachians" at the Nature Center

at 6 p.m. Free.

• Lunch with the Docs at H-C Hospital noon to 1p. You're never too young for advanced Directives with Dr Robyn Restrepo. RSVP to 526-1345.

## Fri. Aug. 16

• At CLE Sherman, Grady and the Making of Atlanta Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Cully Clark. To register call 828-526-8811.

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Tallulah River Bankd

## Sat., Aug. 17

• Little Highlander Cheer Camp from 10a-3p for ages 4-to rising 6th graders. The camp will be held at the Highlands Recreation Department. The cost for the camp is \$25 which includes a t-shirt and lunch. The camp will be ran by Kristin Huneycutt the Highlands School Cheerleading Coach.

## Mon., Aug. 19

• At CLE Spain: From Franco and Fascism to a Modern Democracy Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Santiago Garcia-Castanon. To register call 828-526-8811.

• At CLE Spanish Tapas Time: 5-7 Cost \$90/\$100 Chef: Melissa Pelkey-Hass. To register call 828-526-8811.

## Tues., Aug. 20

• At CLE Data Mining: How Do They Know What I Like? Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Keith Osher. To register call 828-526-8811.

## Wed., Aug. 21

• At CLE World War I: One Hundred Years Later Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Vejas Liulevicius. To register call 828-526-8811.

## Thurs., Aug. 22

• MC Board of Elections Educational Seminar on Voter ID requirements for 2020 election at 10 am. at the Highlands Civic Center. Also at 6 p.m. at the Franklin Community building on the Georgia Road.

• At CLE Can Mankind Be Trusted with Control Over Its Own DNA? Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenters: Jill Granger. To register call 828-526-8811.

• Highlands School Open House for all students is Thursday, 4-6 p.m.

• Zahner Lecture Series "The Plant-Pollinator Love Affair That Keeps Our Planet Humming" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

## Fri., Aug. 23

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Frank and Allie

## Sat. Aug. 24

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. The Manor and Friends

## Sat. & Sun., August 24 & 25

• The Village Square Art & Craft Show brings together top notch artists and crafters from around the mountains for two days of family fun, food and music. 10 to 5 both days, rain or shine. FREE. K-H Founders Park, Pine St. in Highlands. Sponsored by Mountaintop Rotary of Highlands. For info call (828) 787-2021.

## ...SPORTS continued from page 1

Lamb added that creating the additional teams was not a huge burden on school resources.

"Cross country, swimming, and golf do not require a great deal of funds," said Lamb. "The Booster Club has helped with offsetting some additional costs, as well as a great community that supports our kids like Highlands Rec Park for swim and Highlands Country Club for golf."

Girls golf starts its season on Aug. 20, but the team began practicing on Monday at Highlands Country Club. Coach Brian Stiehler said he is looking forward to what this season brings.

"I have a great group that is eager to play, and I'm looking forward to encouraging them on a game they can play their whole life," he said. "I'm excited to see them play well and have fun."

Newcomer to the Highlands School athletic scene is Social Studies Teacher Caleb Brown who is also taking the helm of boys' varsity soccer team.

"I'm looking forward to it, they have great attitudes and I have high expectations," said Brown. "We're a younger team, so there's room to grow and develop."

Brown, who came from Columbia, SC

to teach at Highlands, said he's always had a passion for soccer, and this is another way to interact with the students outside of the classroom.

Girls varsity and JV volleyball teams were on the court Monday and Head Coach Katy Postell said things are looking good moving forward.

"We've got leaders like Kedra McCall, Jeslyn Head, and Jordan Carrier coming back, and we've got 10 new players, seven who have never played before," said Postell. "And the new players are catching on beautifully."

Postell added that the girls were not required to adhere to any physical regiment over the summer. Most of them spent summer in a gym playing other travel and camp sports, so there was no need to double-up.

"Honestly, both teams are looking so good," she said. "We're already in better shape than we were at this time last year."

Highlands girls' varsity golf competes at Highlands Country Club against Franklin on Aug. 20.

Highlands varsity soccer plays East Henderson at 6 p.m. at home on Aug. 19.

Highlands varsity volleyball plays at 5 p.m. away against Hayesville on Aug. 20.

## Trunk Shows

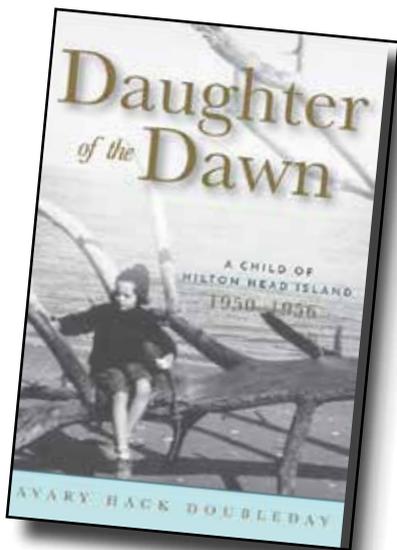
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**Local author Avary Hack Doubleday’s book available at The Book Nook in the Toy Store on Main Street 364 Main St • (828) 526-9415**

# • OBITUARY •

## Christine ‘Christy’ Kelly



Christine “Christy” Kelly, 69, of Scaly Mountain, NC passed away Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

Born in Miami, FL she was the daughter of the late Frank Kelly and Bebe Ann Randall Kelly. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Molly Meiring.

Christy was a member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands, NC. She loved to volunteer, serving as a past President of Rotary Club, lobbying for American Cancer Society, and helping with Highlands Public Schools and the

Literacy Council.

She is survived by her companion, Jim Meiring of Scaly Mountain, NC; five children, Kelly Barba to of Highlands, NC, Erin Sullivan (Kevin) of Durham, NC, Kate Riechmann (Tim) of

Jacksonville, FL, Casey Case (Brandon) of Atlanta, GA, and Joseph Daniel Meiring (Kim) of Austin, TX; four sisters, Pamela Ruth “PR” Kelly of San Rafael, CA, Randi Kelly of Boulder, CO, Terry Stottlemeyer (Steve) of Sarasota, FL, and Linda Parrish of Highlands, NC; four grandchildren, Nora Ashby, Addis Mae,

Rosalee Joan, Wren, Jayden, and Jonah; and several nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service was held Saturday, August 3 at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. Kevin M. Sullivan, Minister Emily Wilmarth, Minister Curtis Fussel, and Deacon Scott McNabb officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Macon Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com)

## ...PARTNERING continued from page 1

Fiber House Bill 431, have stalled, the Town of Highlands has been working on building a broadband fiber optic network for the last five years,” said Taylor. “We are not talking about it anymore; we have signed a contract for \$4.6 million and are partnering with a private

provider, Wide Open Networks.”

According to Taylor the provider will be investing a substantial amount of money to help build a network that will provide fiber to every business and home in Highlands. He anticipates the investment will also provide an opportunity for Highlands to partner with other areas in the county to expand broadband between Scaly Mountain and Highlands which would create an opportunity for the Otto community to hook onto the network.

The contractor has 300 days to complete the building of the network. Taylor said the only problem is that the big fiber bundles are on backorder because of the high demand; however, in the meantime work is being completed building outside of the network’s central hub.

Taylor also said a partnership between Highlands, Franklin and the county commission may prevent truckers from using the gorge road.

“Trucks on the gorge road are a real problem for both of our communities,” said Taylor. “It takes one trucker who doesn’t pay attention to the signs and gets stuck on that gorge road to create a tremendous amount of problems. My goal is to stop the truckers from using the gorge road.”

Taylor said the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has appropriated money to install a radar activated system in Highlands and in Franklin in front of the turnaround. If a large truck approaches, the signs’ flashing lights will be activated and will instruct truckers to go down NC 106 or use the turnaround. The radar system should be in place within the next month.

According to Taylor, the NCDOT has also suggested cameras be installed on both ends of the gorge road to photograph truckers going by the signs and continuing down the road. The cameras would allow state highway patrol or local police to document truckers who willingly drive past the warning signs and continue down (or up) the road. The use of the cameras would require special local legislation to be passed in the North Carolina legislature. Mayors Taylor and Scott are working with Representative Kevin Corbin, Senator Jim Davis and Brian Burch, Engineer for NCDOT Division 14, to gain legislation to permit the use of cameras on that stretch of road.

Taylor also shared how Highlands is becoming a “bear wise community” to address the

• See PARTNERING page 22

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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

## ...TALE continued from page 18

Presbyterian churches on Main Street, but you'll be hard-pressed to locate one outside town limits. Cashiers even has a rare Anglican church. What do they signify? Wealth, class, and education mostly. Catholics? Methodists? They're usually townies in the mountains but, on back roads, it's all about Baptists. All kinds of them. You can also find a few Assembly of God, Adventist, and Jehovah's Witness congregations clustered around the plateau. In North Carolina, fundamentalist, evangelistic, and Pentecostal churches no matter their names have melded into a kind of folk religion that has a shared sense of values that differs markedly from mainstream, mainline denominational churches.

Yet there is another culture here on the plateau as well, one now in the shadows but quickly emerging, that of Latinos. Now you see them, now you don't. Along with summer people, Hispanics have substantially propelled North Carolina's and the plateau's growth. Between 2019 and 2022, it is estimated that per-

haps as much as 25% of North Carolina's economic GDP will be directly attributed to Latinos. In 2012, they owned perhaps 34,900 businesses and increasing, had a purchasing power of approximately \$385 million, and a younger labor force that, in some counties like Macon and Jackson, often make up perhaps 20% of workers. In Highlands, for example, you'll see new Hispanic businesses in trades like painting, tree service, landscaping, and mom and pop restaurants.

Look closely at demographics and you will find that, more and more, Latinos like calling North Carolina home as much as natives. Each year, more stay in Franklin or around Cashiers and do not return to South Carolina, Georgia, or to Mexico or Central America. Overwhelmingly male, they have not yet impacted schools as they have in counties like Charlotte-Mecklenburg or Pembroke but they eventually will. For now, they're Americans on parole, anxiously waiting to be accepted into mainstream society.

Yet what does this stew of

cultures mean for the Highlands plateau? For now, it works well for everyone. Still, this heady mix contains within it seeds of its own destruction, namely nativism, distrust, suspicion, differing social values and language, and, at some point, a competition for jobs and political power, all potentially brought on by an economic downturn or political convulsion. Until then, let's all enjoy a spiced-up lifestyle, some good bluegrass music, a taco or two, and celebrate that which is foreign to all of us.

• *Retired Professor of History, UNC at Asheville, author of several works of "The Tar Heel State: A History of North Carolina" with "A New History of North Carolina" coming out later this year, also of "Remembering Asheville" and "Mystical Madison," several works of fiction including "Oh Carolina!" about early North and South Carolina, lots and lots of articles published mostly in North Carolina and Georgia, former Army Ranger and combat commander ending my service as a Captain, 4th degree black belt in traditional Korean taekwon do. He spends much of my summer in Highlands for all the obvious reasons.*



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## The Summer People and Natives: A tale of two cultures

By Milton Ready

If you live on the Highlands plateau that generously includes Cashiers, Glenville, Franklin, and Highlands then you seasonally experience a clash of two cultures, one of foreigners, summer people, and another of locals. As the late President Lyndon Johnson supposedly once remarked, foreigners “aren’t like most folks I know,” a crucial distinction to locals.

In Highlands, you see that every summer when the plateau is inundated with “foreigners” mostly from Atlanta, Columbia, Greenville, all over Florida, and, of course, Latinos from everywhere. Yet the cultural mix not only seems to work, it appears to benefit everyone if not equally. That’s called capitalism or, on a larger scale, globalism, and we’re right in the middle of both on this historically isolated plateau.

Did you know North Carolinians love trucks as much if not more than any other state? In 2016, the state registered 4,496,137 trucks, 3,546,263 automobiles, 195,618 motorcycles, and 32,525 buses. Although the mythic nostalgia of Thunder Road, NASCAR, and moonshining exist and are exploited and exported to foreigners, locals know it’s mainly about trucks, not sculpted stock cars. All kinds of trucks, big, small, tall, rusty, dirty, not very new, some really old, bad mufflers and good baffles, and with almost anything thrown in the truck bed, beer bottles, trash, scrap lumber, tools, a kid or a cousin or two, and even a sometimes-chained junk yard dog. Don’t dare peer into a window or look in a truck bed. Sometimes a good truck might even cost more than a tolerable double wide.

Still, you won’t find many trucks with Florida license plates. Instead, look for those on Mercedes, Lexus, BMW, Audi, Cadillac, Infiniti, and Land Rover sedans. Do they also have dogs inside? Many do, but not exactly junkyard variety with names like Kujo, Brutus, Butch, Harley or Callahan from the movie Dirty Harry. They’re more likely called Gigi, Coco, Caramel Frappuccino, Sassy, and Chloe and have better medical care than most mountaineers. Convertibles? Here on the Highlands plateau? Really? Guess who owns them? Yes, cars and trucks are a cultural marker between summer people and natives but only one of many.

Where do you dine or eat? Madison’s at the Old Edwards? An Italian bistro called Paoletti? Wolfgang’s? Sound foreign, don’t they? Or at the Smoke House or Ugly Dog? Slab Town Pizza or Wendy’s? The local loco Mexican restaurant? How many trendy bistros or BBQ places do you frequent? Do you have a power breakfast or lunch or a sausage biscuit from a local convenience store? Gluten free or not? Springer’s free-range grilled chicken or anything caged and fried? Do you care about a “perfectly prepared white caper sauce” with your salmon or whether your French fries are hot and salty? What about your porky preferences? Bacon on everything or apple smoked from “high on the hog?” In the mountains, what and where you eat smacks of cultural differences.

Then there are churches, lots of them here in the mountains. Where you worship distinguishes you perhaps more than what you drive, eat, or how you dress. For example, in Highlands you’ll find impressive historic Episcopalian and

• See TALE page 17

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. 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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Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

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

Choir 5p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

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Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • 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.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening

Worship, 6p. 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

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from July 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

**July 23**

• At 9:04 p.m., officers were called about a fight ensuing over possession of a truck at a residence on Dogwood Drive.

**July 25**

• At 6:43 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 and Cobb Road.

• At 9:32 a.m., officers were called about vandalism to Fibber MaGee's Closet on Laurel Street where a security light was damaged.

• At 11:55 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Oak Street at Town Hall.

**July 28**

• At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident in the Historical Village parking lot.

**July 29**

• At 1:15 a.m., Justin Aaron Ortiz, 25, from Mountain Rest, SC, was arrested on drug/narcotic violations after police were called to the Highlands Community Building about someone possessing narcotics. He was issued a \$3,000 bond. His trial date is Aug. 13.

• At 4:45 p.m., officers were called about a shoplifting event at The Christmas Tree on Main Street where a metal snowman ornament valued at \$21.95 was taken.

**July 31**

• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Reeves Hardware.

• At 8 p.m., officers responded to a

1-vehicle accident on Raoul Road and Oak Lane.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 20**

**July 20**

• At 3:52 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Half Mile Drive,  
• At 7:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Highlands Walk.

**July 21**

• At 9:20 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire at the Playhouse .

• At 7:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mayflower Drive,  
**July 22**

• At 8:44 p.m., the dept. provided first-responders to a residence on Valentine Drive.

• At 9:28 p.m., the dept. was called to stand by for the MAMA helicopter at the ballfield but the call was cancelled.

**July 27**

• At 8:56 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Horse Cove Road,

• At 11:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Horse Cove Road.

• At 2:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Kelsey Court.

• At 5:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south,  
**July 28**

• At 2:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bull Pen Road,

• At 4:27 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke on Foreman Road.

## ...FOREST SERVICE continued from page 1

rights-of-way.

They say the Forest Service must legally consider public comments on this proposal, but if the proposal passes, this could be the last chance to comment on nearly all Forest Service proposals.

The proposed new rules would allow the Forest Service to authorize most projects using Categorical Exclusion (CE). It would also eliminate public notice requirements for CEs and Environmental Assessments (EAs). This means that the Forest Service could conduct thousands of acres of timber harvests with only a note buried in the agency's "schedule of proposed actions" and post it online long after decisions have been made and shortly before implementation begins, they say.

Why is the Forest Service proposing this?

According to its website, the Forest Service last updated its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations in 2008. Since then, challenges like extended droughts, insect infestations and diseases have made the effort to protect people, communities and resources from threats

like catastrophic wildfires even more difficult. Together, these challenges have strained available staff and resources across all its mission areas.

The Forest Service says the proposed rule will help it make timelier decisions based on high quality, science-based analysis which will improve its ability to get work on the ground done while meeting its environmental stewardship responsibilities.

They say the updates in the proposed rule incorporate lessons learned and experience gained from its staff and partners over the past 10 years and is the result of robust input from agency personnel, the public, and other stakeholders.

However, the Conservancy claims the proposed rule change would allow the following practices without public input or environmental review: commercial logging up to 4,200 acres; building up to five miles of new roads at one time, and closing access roads used by the public for hunting, fishing, recreation; and bulldozing new pipeline, utility rights-of-way, and other "special uses" that are up to 20 acres in size.

Along with excluding the public, they say these decisions could also be made without critical environmental review and without considering alternative methods to meet the same project objectives.

"The Forest Service argues the new rules will 'increase efficiency of environmental analysis' because it believes it is wasting time with public comments and environmental review. However, we know from experience that the Forest Service often proposes ill-conceived projects that include logging old growth, rare habitats, pristine wilderness, highly erosive slopes, and cherished recreational areas," says the Conservancy.

They say it's not the public that is slowing Forest Service projects down, it's the lack of funding and resources to conduct the necessary level of analysis.

"The Forest Service must not be allowed to conduct controversial projects without being held accountable to the public. Now could be our last opportunity to speak up."

*Comments are due August 12, 2019. Submit using the guided tool at [OurForestOurVoice.org](http://OurForestOurVoice.org).*

— Kim Lewicki



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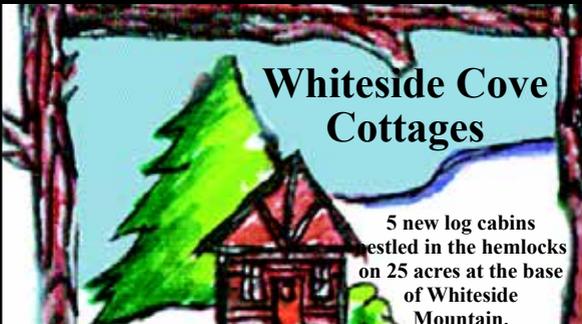
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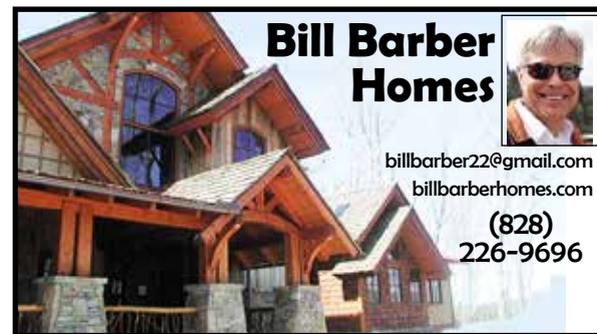
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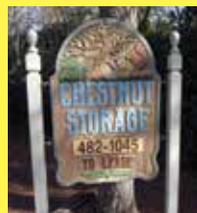
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## ...PARTNERING continued from page 16

increased visits by bears to the town and residential areas. With much of the bear problem being connected to how the town handles its trash, a few changes have made a successful difference in fighting the bear problem. The town trash cans, which the bears frequently turned over in search of food last summer, have been replaced with bear-proof street cans. The town also wants to stop using shared dumpsters in the commercial areas of town which are an invitation to the bears. The plan is to replace the dumpsters with bear-resistant Barricuda totes.

The public works committee is working to implement the same practices in the residential areas of town. Such practices will help with the bear problems and prevent back injuries from hauling trash cans. Eventually, residential trash cans will be replaced with bear-resistant totes which will be emptied using the toter lifters on the town trucks.

Taylor said the county and the town are also partnering to improve convenience for trash disposal and recycling. Currently, the town has two options - the Buck Creek and the Rich Gap recycling centers but he is working with the county to find additional areas for trash disposal in Highlands.

With an increased fire tax and recent purchase of the old deVile property at Main and Oak streets, the Highlands Fire Department is moving forward with plans to build a new fire department.

Taylor also spoke of a potential partnership with the county to enhance EMS services in the Highlands area. With the changes in health care, the community has expressed concerns about availability of medical access in a timely manner. He suggested that EMS be relocated to the new fire station and barracks added for emergency responders to help improve response time for EMS and ambulances.

- Kim Lewicki

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