

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 21

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: [HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com)

Thursday, May 23, 2019

## '19-'20 budget and fiber network finalized

After much research and deliberation, the town's fiber optic network is a go.

At the May Town Board meeting, Commissioners OK'd the construction contract and financ-

ing of the project with a \$4.6 million loan with BB&T.

Once the make-ready work fixing drip lines throughout the system is completed, JBL Communications, LLC can begin construc-

tion which will take 300 days.

The fiber optic cable will be installed in the power space, on utility pole lines owned by the Town of Highlands to facilitate an

• See **FINALIZED** page 24

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## Town hires Assistant Planning Director

After about a year on the job, Highlands Town Planner Andrew Bowen resigned August 2018 and ever since the search has been on to find a replacement.

The position entails planning and code enforcement – enforcement of town ordinances – the part of the job no “planner” particularly likes.

Consequently, with no takers for the job as outlined, the Town Board agreed to split the job – there would be a planner and a code enforcement officer who would work as part of the police department.

This past February, John Cherry was hired to be the town's code enforcement officer. Years ago, he worked as Highlands' canine officer and after a stint overseas has returned with expanded duties.

Finally, at the May Town

• See **PLANNING** page 24

## Highlands School Class of 2019



Graduation for the class of 2019 is Saturday, May 25 at 5 p.m. in the new gym at Highlands School. Pictured are Toby Barnes, Jake Billingsley, John Brooks, Tristan Castro, Selwyn Chalker, John Collins, Grace Crowe, Jesus Damian Clemente, Freddie Garcia Lopez, Perla Garcia Montano, Ronald Gates, Destin Gearhart, Samuel Hawkins, Hannah Holt, Logan Houston, Joshua Kennedy, Katie McCall, Katy Munoz, Abigail Olvera, Alexandra Pokora, Nicholas Pokora, Nicholas Ridge, Rylee Rivers, William Shearl, Caden Smolarsky, Chase Sullivan, Carson Talbert, Maria Tapia Valerio, Yeynor Vasquez Cerrato, Michael Zachary and mascots 1st-graders Todd Vilardo and Corena Dearth.

## Drones: functional and fun

By Brian O'Shea

Drones are all the rage because they are both functional and fun – functional for the workings of towns and fun for outdoor enthusiasts.

In Highlands and Cashiers, drones are used in a variety of ways – search and rescue, illuminating nighttime crash scenes, mapping, collecting data to improve agriculture, video footage of mountaintop homes for use in the real-estate market, or purely for recreation.

### Search and Rescue

Highlands Fire and Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart said drones are useful in a variety of situations.

“In one instance we had some guys who were trapped up on a rock by Shortoff (Road), we were able to fly up there, see any medical issues they had, and deploy to that area,” he said. “If there's a forest fire you can get a

• See **DRONES** page 22

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Informing others about town initiatives

I was on the road last week. My travel was connected to current town issues.

On Monday night Sallie and I drove to Brevard to hear a talk by Tony Buettner about the creation of a BlueZones community. Tony will be in Highlands on Monday, June 10, at 5 pm at the Performing Arts Center to do a presentation concerning creating a BlueZones that encompasses Macon and Jackson counties, including Franklin, Sylva, Cashiers and Highlands. If you want more information about this BlueZones event, please call Sallie at 828-506-7025. She has been leading the effort to develop this important community program.

On May 14 Josh Ward, Rebecca Shuler, Matt Shuler and I traveled to Franklin to make a presentation to the Macon County Board of Commissioners concerning the Highlands broadband network. I stressed to the commissioners that the network will eventually extend beyond the town and into the county. In fact, we already serve some county residents, and anyone in the county already



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

on our utility grid will also be on the network. I also reminded everyone that Highlands residents are also county taxpayers. When the county develops a broadband network, much of the Highlands Plateau will already have broadband.

I invited the county to partner with the town, like the town and county already does with recreation. The county provides support for the Highlands Recreation Department so everyone in the county has full access to the facilities. I proposed that the county allocate \$250,000 a year for the next four years as a capital contribution to the development and expansion of the broadband network.

On May 15, I drove to Hickory to attend the North Carolina League of Municipalities annual conference. I spent Wednesday and Thursday morning attending various workshops and presentations.

A recurring topic was how small communities can develop community broadband networks. Frankly, Highlands is way ahead of most small towns. All small, rural communities now realize providing broadband is an essential utility for their future economic vitality. I told one workshop group on Thursday morning that Highlands is on the verge of building a fiber network. I failed to tell them I was leaving after lunch for a Town Board meeting Thursday night where the network construction contract would be reviewed.

As I presided over that approval of the fiber network contract on Thursday night, I reflected on what I heard at the conference. I am convinced that the fiber network will be a critical investment in the future of Highlands. Yes, it will cost a lot of money and there are associated calculated risks. On the other hand, to sit back and do nothing is a greater risk to the future vitality of this community.

One of the reasons for a fiber network is that it allows the town to operate a smart utility grid. At the conference I learned that some cities are already operate smart grids where usage and bills are monitored by customers. Highlands is close to offering these options. Stay connected.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



"I have realigned our investment portfolio into this commercial, income producing property."

## • OBITUARY •

### Doris Moore Long

Doris Long, a resident of Highlands since 1977, passed away peacefully May, 9, 2019, in the superb care of the cardiac staff at Mission Hospital, Asheville, NC.

Born in Orange, New Jersey, to parents Bertha S. and Otis R. Moore, Doris attended Beaver College and Parson's School of Design. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and in Highlands, was an active member of the Highlands Ca-

• See OBITUARY page 13

## • WEATHER •

	Friday 5/24		Saturday 5/25		Sunday 5/26	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	81 F	58 F	82 F	58 F	82 F	58 F
RealFeel®	89 F	66 F	89 F	68 F	89 F	66 F
Winds	5 g 6	3 g 6	4 g 7	4 g 6	5 g 8	4 g 7
T-Storms	24%	17%	24%	14%	19%	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.



**SAGEE MOUNTAIN** This outstanding home is in a coveted neighborhood and is a combination of both modern and rustic chic. Renovated with creative touches throughout, this 3 bedroom/4.5 bath home shines with artistry and style. You will enjoy all the custom features and how the walls of glass bring the outside in. Efficiency apartment/studio with full bath is connected to the main house. Beautifully landscaped flat grounds - a rarity in Highlands.

**MLS# 90926 | Offered for \$1,497,000**



**HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN** "Picture perfect" is a perfect description for this well-maintained home within an easy walk to everything Highlands has to offer. Located on a quiet cul de sac, the home boasts a lovely water feature and stone patio with fire pit. The living room has soaring wood ceilings, accented by a stone fireplace and beautiful wood flooring. Partially finished lower level has a private entrance and kitchenette and would make a great mother-in-law suite.

**MLS# 90910 | Offered for \$797,000**

## NEW on MARKET!

**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** Imagine how easy and carefree your life can be in this pristine villa! Located close to everything yet very private, you can walk to all of the great amenities that are offered by Highlands Falls Country Club whether it is getting in some practice for your golf game, taking on a challenge on the croquet courts, working out in the best fitness center on the mountain, or meeting friends at the clubhouse. Amenities available with membership approval.

**MLS# 90948 | Offered for \$487,000**



**HIGHLANDS** Enhance the great bones of this home with your own artistic touches. Relax on the back porch that overlooks the yard, suitable for gardens. Downstairs guests could relax on the patio there. Two bedrooms, one bath on the main level, with the same arrangement downstairs, only there's much more space. Rolling Acres is an established neighborhood and this home offers end of the road privacy. Just five minutes from downtown Highlands.

**MLS# 90936 | Offered for \$295,000**



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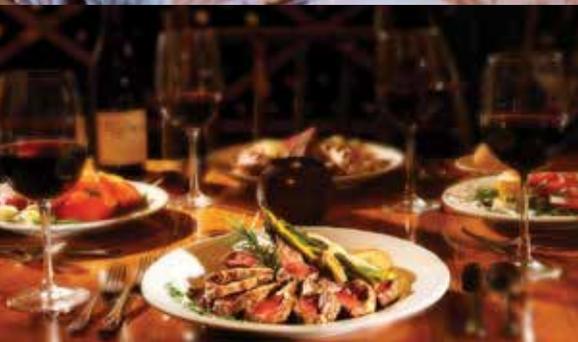
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# • HIGHLANDS AREA DINING •

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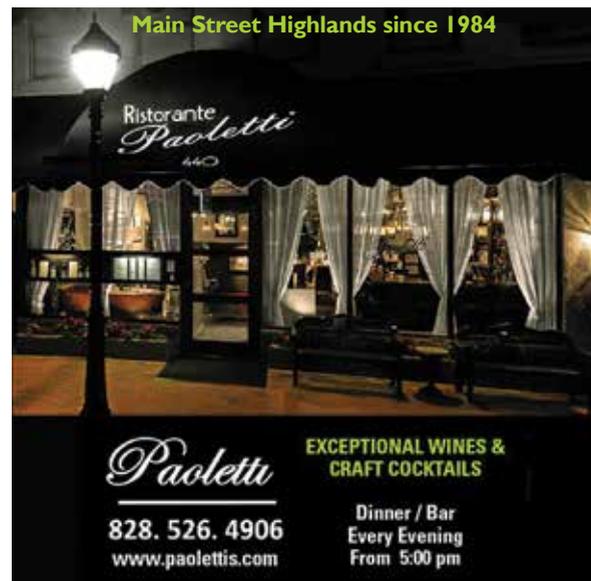
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**HIGHLANDS CC** If quality is what you seek, look no further. The sellers assisted in the design and let nothing to chance during the construction to ensure that only the finest materials and craftsmanship were incorporated into it. From the moment you approach the front, you can tell that this home is not only beautifully built but beautifully maintained as well. The back yard is a great space for families to play or dogs to run. There is plenty of room for a garden as well.

**MLS# 90522 | Offered for \$2,000,000**



**LAKE TOXAWAY** Located in the luxury community of Lake Toxaway Estates, this stream front home is a convenient drive by car or golf cart to the clubhouse, marina, golf course and other amenities. Using authentic post & beam construction and a Scottish mountain home design, the 7,000+ square foot home lives large, yet each area of the home has been designated with comfort and coziness in mind. Fire pit and footbridge over the creek plus deeded lake access!

**MLS# 90638 | Offered for \$1,750,000**

**SKY VALLEY, GA** Sitting on just over four acres, this mini estate surrounds you with exquisite finishes including hand-carved wood trim throughout. The great room of this stunning residence is graced by soaring ceilings and windows to take in the sweeping mountain and golf course views. A floor-to-ceiling stacked stone fireplace opens to both the great room and the kitchen. The beautifully designed kitchen boasts custom cabinetry and woodwork inspired by the Biltmore Estate.

**MLS# 88318 | Offered for \$1,699,000**



**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** The magnificent views of Whiteside Mountain greet you as you open the front door to this meticulously maintained home. The main floor includes a beautiful living room with cathedral ceiling and gas stone fireplace, dining area with built in bar and wine storage, up-to-date kitchen with gas stove and electric oven, laundry room with storage and additional full size refrigerator as well as a lovely large screened porch.

**MLS# 89271 | Offered for \$1,695,000**



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices

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Photos shown are of another Old Edwards Club project, Cottages on 5th, and are representational of what will be offered at Cottages on 4th



# COTTAGES ON 4TH

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- 14 foot ceilings in the great room with wood beams and high baseboards
- Kohler fixtures, granite in all baths and in the kitchen
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Vesta Jones

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## S.H.A.P.E.

MAY 8-29, Room 308  
Russ Johnsen,  
Thomas Bates

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## 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CLASS, JUNE 5 - JULY 31, Room 308

Julie Hughes

Rising 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders meet in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade room,

6-7 pm, to discuss and answer some of their biggest questions about their faith through a study of the Word. We'll use *Case for Christ for Kids* by Lee Strobel as a tool, along with the Bible, to address the existence, miracles, ministry and resurrection of Jesus.

## GRIEF SHARE

JUNE 12 - SEPT 18,  
Room 112, Mary  
Blackburn, Bill + Sharon  
Youngerman

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## MARRIAGE

JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 10,  
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Thomas + Lisa Bates

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## FOUNDATIONS

JULY 17 - AUGUST 14  
Media Room  
Various Elders

Geared toward the new believer, this class will provide insight and instruction on how to best begin your walk with Christ. This will help you to grow and mature in your faith and to become an effective member of your church family.

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Conley joins Pat Allen Realty Group

Pat Allen, owner and broker-in-charge of Pat Allen Realty Group, is delighted to welcome Darlene Conley to her firm. "We are thrilled to have Darlene join our team of professional brokers. She is smart and saavy in real estate and clients love working with her," says Pat.

Darlene is a graduate of Western Carolina University with a degree in Finance and Economics. Prior to raising a

family, she worked the financial industry; IPO's, leverage buyouts, mergers, institutional trading and finally working on special projects within International Trading. She transitioned from the financial world to working for various groups doing charity fundraising.

A few years ago, she began doing renovation/remodeling work for a private investor's rental properties. That naturally led to moving into the real estate sales profession. Darlene currently holds a license in Georgia and North Carolina. She is also a published author of children's books. Darlene and her husband, Paul, are residents of Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club.

"My family's roots are embedded in the mountains of Western North Carolina. My mother was born and raised in Asheville where her family names of the Morgans and Smathers are part of the history of Buncombe County. While attending Western Carolina University, I met my husband Paul. Our love of the mountains brought us back here years ago, where we built our retirement home. I feel that my greatest strength is the love of the area and knowledge of what this area has to offer to those who wish to move here. I am delighted to be a part of Pat Allen Realty Group, with their stellar reputation and having recently being chosen as one of the Leading Real Estate Companies of the World. Stop by my office at 295 Dillard Road or email me at Darlene@patallenrealtygroup.com"

Pat Allen Realty Group has now grown to 11 brokers who are committed to real estate after having careers in many varied and professional fields. "We are proud to be local and privately owned," says Pat. "We appreciate and are grateful for our community who contributed to our success. We give back so others can move forward."



Darlene Conley

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### Highlands In-Town

This is the epitome of townhome living in DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS! Elegant & mountain chic with rich wood elements & natural light. Quality-built with the architect's open great room with soaring ceiling and large wood-burning fireplace for chilly mountain mornings that opens to the lovely dining room and gourmet kitchen flanked by a large marble island for extra seating. This unit is so beautiful you'll want to stay home!

**Offered for \$1,450,000. MLS 90299**



### Sky Valley

Beautifully maintained & spacious southwestern facing newer construction home offering three levels of living. Sits at +/-3100 feet, showcasing evening sunsets & cool mountain breezes. Open floor plan with hardwood floors, granite, master on main, wood burning fireplace, mud room, screened porch & wrap around deck. 2BRs up & 2 flex rooms down w/full baths.

**Offered for \$315,000. MLS 89938**



### Highlands In-Town

Historical renovated Joe Webb log cabin! New tile and luxurious baths, designer kitchen with new upgraded appliances, custom cabinets, gorgeous granite, gleaming hardwood floors, beautiful screened porch, courtyard dining area with fireplace. Sited on a level lot with lush rhododendron and a small stream with gazebo. Just 5 minutes from Main Street!

**Offered for \$729,000. MLS 88148**



### Highlands In-Town

Walk to town from this well-maintained, low maintenance rustic chic cottage. Old Highlands charm with one of the prettiest yards in town with green space galore! Linger at the huge stone fire pit or rock your cares away on the covered porch! A stunning architecturally designed window is framed by wooden walls and glass in the den with a stone fireplace and built-in bookcases and hardwood floors.



### Scaly Mountain

This upscale home has a dramatic kitchen opening to the dining and great room, boasting vaulted ceilings with handpicked beams and lovely hardwood floors. A large stone wood-burning fireplace is sure to take the chill off and an outdoor firepit is waiting! A light and bright master bedroom on the main is complete with luxury bath. A 2nd den and 2 BR on the lower level allow privacy. Numerous decks allow majestic mountain views.

**Offered for \$689,999. MLS 88315**



### Sky Valley Country Club

This 6BR/7BA grand home is perfect for a large family to make mountain memories or a vacation rental that would allow several couples to share. Located in a private and serene area in Sky Valley Country Club. Don't miss the "steal of the century," priced at only \$899,900! Bargain priced for superb quality and construction and over 6,000 heated square feet!

**Offered for \$800,000. MLS 90955.**



**Julie Osborn,**  
SFR, SRES, MBA  
Broker



*Pat Allen*  
**REALTY GROUP**



Office: 828-526-8784 | Cell: 828-200-9179  
295 Dillard Road, Highlands

pat@patallenrealtygroup.com | julie@patallenrealtygroup.com  
[PatAllenRealtyGroup.com](http://PatAllenRealtyGroup.com)



**Pat Allen,**  
SFR, CLHMS  
Broker-in-Charge

# •WORD MATTER•

## Water, Water, Everywhere

I was reminded recently of something we all learned as children; NEVER take anything for granted. We Americans have expectations. We have been conditioned to believe certain things are always going to be there. Water, for example.

We all know on some level that water is the fundamental essence of life. Things would be very bad if, all of a sudden, the water we expect to appear when we turn a faucet, or flush a toilet, wasn't there. I could refer you to sub-Saharan Africa but many of us don't really relate to how bad things are over there.

We were on vacation in Puerto Rico about twenty years ago. We enjoyed staying in Fajardo where the Caribbean meets the Atlantic. Lots of water there. In fact, much of Puerto Rico is a rain forest, not unlike the Nantahala where we live. Theirs is tropical, while ours is temperate. We had no idea that while we were enjoying ourselves the people living on the island were struggling through a hard drought. It became uncomfortably clear when those operating the hotel had to make a choice; keep the potable water running or keep the air-conditioning running.

They chose air-conditioning.

For two days we were without water for drinking, or bathing, or flushing. The hotel provided plenty of bottled water for drinking. We were on our own with regard to bathing; many of us used the fresh water pools to rinse off salt water from the sea. We coped but were both happy and enlightened when we came home. Neither of us could recall a time when we were without potable water for more than a few hours. It was a sobering experience and it left us concerned for those unfortunate residents of the island.

A couple of weeks ago we awoke to the scenario of having no water and not knowing why. We enjoy a typically safe, secure, reliable community-based water system. In rare circumstances, maintenance, for example, we've experienced a few hours of inconvenience. In this instance, the folks who monitor our system let us know that consumption for this time of year was uncharacteristically high; four times normal usage in fact! The storage tank, from which dozens of property owners dependably receive via gravity flow clean, fresh water from wells connected to underground springs, was nearly empty.



**Bud Katz**

The pumping system, working at capacity, was still unable to keep up with outflow.

We had a leak somewhere in the system. A big one. And for a while the source of the leak could not be determined. Ultimately it was discovered, repaired, and all is now well.

Over eight years of living in Highlands I've learned that residents on the plateau obtain potable water from many origins. Remarkably, a small number still carry water directly from nearby creeks and streams to their homes. Some capture rainwater in cisterns or drill their own wells. Others connect to municipal sources, while many obtain water from community-based systems tapping into wells fed by underground springs.

Ever since Summer 2004 in Florida, when we lost water and power for nearly two weeks in the wake of Hurricane Charlie, I've been sensitive to everything involving water.

As a force of nature, water is virtually unparalleled. Pretty much every day national news reports on someplace in America where, following record rainfall, dams failed and rivers ignored dykes, levees and retaining walls, causing devastating flooding to nearby homes and neighborhoods.

I believe everyone, here and around the world, deserves access to safe, clean drinking water. In the grand scheme of things, clean water ranks above all else in our national and global hierarchy of needs. In the future, conflicts will occur over access to potable water. Water supplies are under constant threat from drought, decaying infrastructure, salt water intrusion in coastal regions, pollution due to land development, industrial neglect and bad acts, and even, dare I say it, terrorism.

When everything works as expected we let other things occupy the front spaces in our consciousness. In other words, we tend to take it for granted. But make no mistake. On those rare occasions when we find ourselves without water, for whatever reason, we all come face to face with what should be one of our darkest fears. It pays to remember what's really important in life.

The day is coming, not tomorrow but perhaps sooner than we'd like to think, when we will no longer be able to take access to clean water for granted.

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HIGHLANDS

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Wonderful post and beam move-in condition with spectacular Blue Valley view. Open living room with fireplace, dining and kitchen. Upstairs is a master suite with large bath with soaking tub and shower. Lower level has a guest bedroom, bath, sitting room with laundry, and an additional office or overflow room. Large RV garage that is stubbed for possible studio or guest quarters. Offered at \$650,000. mls #90675



Spacious family home atop a small knoll on 2.5 acres with ridge line view with low maintenance yard. 4 bed, 3 and 1/2 baths, large office and 2-car garage. Emergency generator. In excellent condition. all paved access and in a great small subdivision. Offered at \$760,000. mls #90687



Wilson Road. Wonderful flat lot and walk to town with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a 2 car garage, wood floors, heated tile master bath, generator. Lush rhododendron in back and sides for privacy. Oil furnace with wood stove backup to keep you warm. Offered at \$699,000. mls #90636



Five/bed, five/bath home. The master bedroom balcony overlooks the diamond shaped pool and the lake. The basement has been converted into the ultimate play room, complete with a movie theater and a sauna. The fifth bedroom is in the adjacent apartment. The house sits on 28.48 acres and includes two houses on the other side of the lake – a 3-bedroom, 2 bath cottage with a hot tub and stocked fishing pond, and a one bed, one bath cottage with separate office and full kitchen and a half bath. Offered at \$2,500,000. mls #90412



Great House at Highlands Falls Country Club. Recently renovated and in move-in condition, 3 bed 2 baths, 2-car garage, great decks that take advantage of the wooded and ridgeline views. Open plan with vaulted ceilings and a custom kitchen. Offered at \$575,000. mls #90925



In Highlands Falls Country Club near the clubhouse, this 3 bed/3 1/2 bath works well for entertaining. Wood floors in the main areas, carpeted bedrooms and great storage spaces. Double porches are screened. Great view from almost every room. 2-car garage. Offered at \$995,000. mls #90647



Brand new and walk to town from Wilson Road this 3 bedrooms (with 2 master suites) 3.5 bath home with garage, outdoor porch and lovely stream. Lots of storage over garage and inside climatized storage off upstairs master suite. Separate upstairs and downstairs HVAC. Foam insulation. Fully enclosed crawl space with concrete floor, creek in back yard. Offered at \$995,000. mls #90425



Highlands Country Club on golf course. 3 bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths on main level and 2/1 on lower level. Detached garage and golf cart storage. Renovated kitchen. Beautiful lake views from two large patios. Living room, dining room, den and office on main level. New heat and air. Whole house generator and dehumidifier. On town water and sewer. Offered at \$799,900. mls #90370



Located on a private dead end lane, this 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home is in the Cotswolds. Vaulted ceilings, two-story glass, custom kitchen, large master suite, motion light switches. Large outdoor areas to enjoy the mountain vistas. 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,375,000. mls #90157 Furnishings are available for purchase.



Completely remodeled home close to town in coveted Mirror Lake area! 2 bedroom 2 bath, beautiful kitchen, living area with stone fireplace. Outdoor living area with fireplace. Garage. Just bring your personal touches. Offered at \$459,000. mls #90682



Located on a quiet street and sitting on a private lot, this 3 bedroom 3 bath has been lovingly and thoughtfully renovated and is move in ready. Bright open spaces in the main living area which opens onto a lovely Carolina Room with fireplace, screened to take in the fresh clean air that Highlands is noted for. 2 main floor bedrooms and an upper suite. A 2 car garage rounds out this wonderful package that will not be around long. Offered at \$675,000. mls #90924



Walkingstick Road. Looking for a small cabin with great view, this cabin lives large with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, and is pleasant with a porch and a wall of glass in the living room to enjoy the view of Sagee and Blackrock mountains. This house is in good condition and is at a price that won't break the bank. Offered at \$339,900. mls #90192



Walk to town location from this 2 bedroom 2 bath home with bonus room. Screened back porch, fence yard and extra lot. Offered at \$340,000. mls #90680



With 1.22+/- acres this beautiful property includes over 200 feet of frontage on boldly rushing Buck Creek. Tastefully finished 2 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment (over a 2-car garage). Offered at \$360,000. mls #90408. The 1.22 +/- acre lot next door is also available for \$150,000. mls #90409



3BR/2BA in Highlands Falls Country Club with open floor plan. Updated with hickory hardwood flooring throughout, matching Jenn-Air stainless kitchen package, new paint inside and out, new roof, decking and railing. Has ample parking and a great view of the 12th green! Encapsulated crawl space completed in 2019. All on one level, vaulted ceilings in living room with a stone wood-burning fireplace with insert and heatlator. Sold completely furnished including golf cart and new outdoor furniture. Double attached garage. Private screened porch off the dining area. \$499,000. mls #90513

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# • THE INK PENN •

## Remembering Vietnam on Memorial Day

As a high school and college student during most of the Vietnam War, I was consumed by the drill team, dating, and studying—not the nightly news. It's only since I've known my Vietnam veteran husband that I've learned more about the war and the toll it took on our troops and the fabric of our country.

I was blissfully ignorant of the military and political battles waged back then, though I've since learned lots about both via movies, documentaries, and books. "Pac 6: A General's Decision" is a documentary about Linebacker II, the Christmas 1972 mission, credited with bringing the North Vietnamese back to the negotiating table after talks had stalled earlier that year.

Linebacker I was the U.S. response to the Vietnamese Army's 1972 Easter Offensive. That response brought the enemy to the negotiating table, but by December, President Nixon, frustrated and determined to get them to negotiate in good faith, ordered his Joint Chiefs of Staff to initiate three days of B-52/Tacair strikes on December 18, 1972, with the objective: "maximum destruction of selected targets." They were told to be prepared to go longer.

The mission was ultimately successful in restarting the peace talks which led to the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and the release of our POWs—some of whom had been held in inhumane and torturous conditions for more than seven years—but it started out disastrously for our B-52s and our airmen. Fifteen B-52s were shot down by over 1,000 Surface-to-Air missiles (SAMs). Of the 92 B-52 crew members who went down, 33 died, 34 were captured, and 26 were rescued. For details on the tactics that led to those losses, you can view the film at <https://vimeo.com/195186849> and read the story on <https://www.historynet.com/the-11-day-war.htm> and <http://www.linebacker2.com/-.php>.

This film, though, is about much more than military tactics and bravery in battle. It's the story of one man's integrity—one man making a difference, one man standing up to do the right thing. It's the story of Brigadier Glenn R. Sullivan's fateful decision to jump the chain of command, a decision that saved the lives of untold crew members and enabled the mission to be successful and to accomplish its



Kathy Manos Penn

overarching objective—get the talks going in earnest.

That decision cost General Sullivan his career, an outcome he would have been well aware of even as he took action to alter the dismal trajectory of the original tactics. Despite his leadership and his role in turning things around, he was denied a second star and retired two years later.

Like me, the General's son was a typical self-absorbed college student during the war, with little understanding of his father's involvement. This film, then, is also the story of that son and his search for an understanding of his father's role. The General died in 1998, and now 20 years later, this film honors not only those who gave their all but also one man who sacrificed the career he loved to do the right thing.

When Barry Dycus approached G. Ray Sullivan, the General's son, about making this film, Ray was reluctant because he knew his father wouldn't want his story to be the focus. Though it speaks to the respect the men had for General Sullivan, it's a well-balanced piece that allows those who fought and survived to express their perspectives on what B-52 aircrews came to call the "11-Day War."

The film was produced by Barry and Ray with the help of donations from veterans and civic groups. Their goal is to have it shown on a broadcast channel like the American Heroes Channel. Ray, who lives in LaGrange, has presented to civic and veterans groups around the country and would be happy to visit your group to do the same. Contact him at [zenphoto@mindspring.com](mailto:zenphoto@mindspring.com).

Stories like this serve to remind me of the true meaning of Memorial Day—a day to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Wherever you may be on May 27, pausing at 3 PM local time for a National Moment of Remembrance is one small way to remember their sacrifice.

• Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).

**...OBITUARY continued from page 2**

shiers Hospital Auxillary, the Sapphire Chapter of the American Needlepoint Council, and the United Methodist Church.

Doris was predeceased by husbands, George Victor Kears, Jr., Harry E Long and Louis Hixon Smith, Jr. She is survived by a sister, Shirley M Shipston of Worthington, OH; son, Mark R. Kears (Lynda) of Casa Grande, AZ; daughter, Cheryl K. Combs (Floyd) of Clemson, SC; stepdaughter, Elizabeth Anne Smith Conte (Chet); granddaughter, Jo-Elle K. Wade of Holly Hill, FL; niece, Judith S. Keener (Joe) of Worthington, OH; and nephew, Richard Shipston of Belleview, FL. Per her request, no funeral or memorial services will be held. Bryant Grant Funeral Home, of Franklin, NC, is handling her interment. Condolences may be registered with them at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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## Highlands Veterans Plaza is site of Memorial Day ceremony on Monday May 27



Join American Legion Post 370 of Highlands this Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 for a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Highlands Veterans Plaza in front of the Police Station on Oak Street honoring the nation's veterans. Mayor Pat Taylor will raise the flag and Post Commander Ed McCloskey will make a few brief remarks. Forty-two veterans whose bricks have been added to the Walk of Honor will be acknowledged. The Walk of Honor is a brick path through the Veterans Plaza. The names of veterans are inscribed on the individual's brick. There are currently 252 inscribed bricks installed with a landscape designed for hundreds more. If anyone would like to purchase a brick in honor or in memory of a veteran, forms are available in the new "Silent Salesman" at the Veterans Plaza. Memorial Day is a day to remember those, past and present, who have given of themselves to help secure and maintain the freedoms Americans enjoy as a nation. Ceremony held rain or shine.

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# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse – NEW SCHEDULE – Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 and 4 p.m.; NO MOVIES MONDAY; Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 1, 4, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 / \$2 off on Tuesdays.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). The Bascom galleries and shops will be closed Tuesdays - Thursdays. Admin offices and The Dave Drake Studio Barn are open normal business hours. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

## 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 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., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.

## Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

## Tuesdays

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets every Tuesday, 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at the Bascom Center for the Visual Arts. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or [budandlynn@me.com](mailto: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.

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7pm in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit [www.occupywnc.org](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

## 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.

## 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 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) for class schedule.

• 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.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

## Thursdays

• Beginning June 6 through July 18, The Church of the Incarnation announces that a Grief Support Group will be offered on Thursdays, from 4 – 5:30, beginning June 6 through July 18. 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.

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

• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30- 5 pm. A different STEAM Program each week.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals 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 for more info (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

• See **EVENTS** page 15

# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

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.

## 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 First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. For any other information call 828-526-1595.

## 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 Bascom Library room.

## Sundays

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

## Thurs-Sun, May 23-26

• HCP presents "Calendar Girls" at Highlands Performing Arts Center. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Tickets will be available Thursday, May 23. Box office is 828-526-8084, website highlandscashiersplayers.org.

## Thurs., May 22

• Please join us at Highlands Cemetery as we place USA flags on veteran's graves in observance of Memorial Day. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please contact Phil Potts 828-200-9753 or ppotts63@frontier.com for

• See EVENTS page 18

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# Kick off Summer this Memorial Day in Highlands!



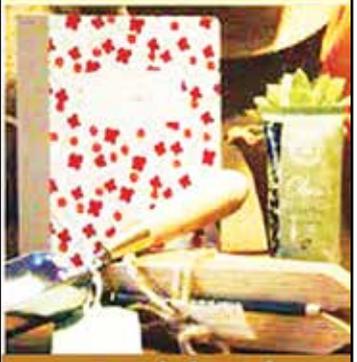
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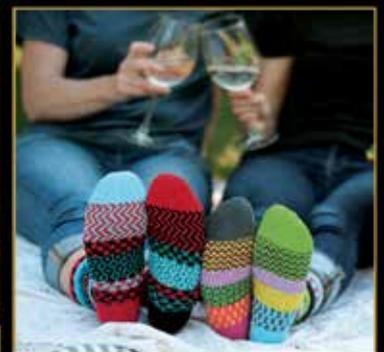
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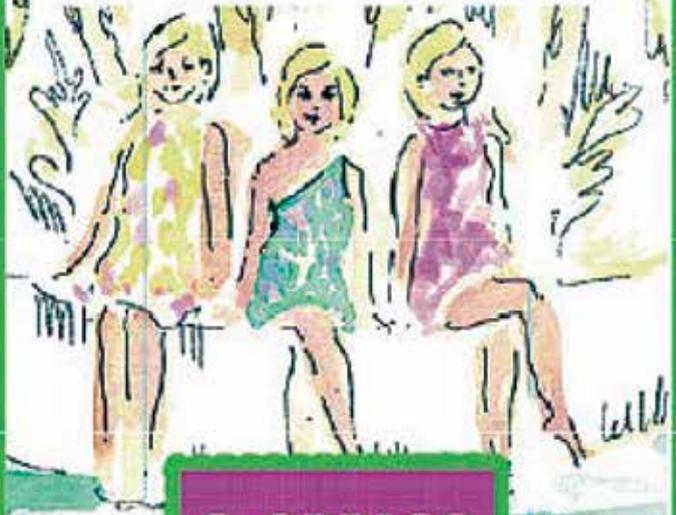
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www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com

## ...EVENTS continued from page 15

more information.

### Fri., May 24

- Operation Medicine Drop at the Crawford Senior Center Friday, from 8am – noon at 108 Wayah Street. Drop off outdated or unused prescription/over-the-counter medicine for proper disposal.

### Sat., May 25

- Scaly Mountain Women's

Club Pancake Breakfast 8-10:30a in the Old Scaly School House on the corner of Buck Knob and NC 106. \$4 for 5 and up. Free for under 5. No household pays more than \$25.

- The Mountain Garden Club PLANT SALE at the town ballpark 9a to noon. Rain Date: Sun., May 26

- Highlands School graduation is Saturday, at 5 p.m. in Highlands School new gym.

### Sun., May 26

- Season hymn-singing begins at Church in the Wildwood from 7-8 p.m. for more information, call 828-506-0125.

### Mon., May 27

- Join American Legion Post 370 of Highlands this Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 for a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Highlands Veterans Plaza in front of the Police Station on Oak Street honoring our nation's veterans. Mayor Pat Taylor will raise the flag and Post Commander Ed McCloskey will make a few brief remarks. Forty-two veterans whose bricks have been added to the Walk of Honor will be acknowledged. Rain or Shine.

### Tues., May 28

- At CLE, Bats in Your Backyard. Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

### Wed., May 29

- At CLE, If at First (and again and again) You Don't Succeed: Miguel de Cervantes and the World of Don Quixote. Time: 10-

12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Santiago Garcia-Castanon. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

### Thurs., May 30

- At CLE, Southern Appalachia and the Atomic Bomb Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Kelley Dinkelmeyer. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

- Live at The Orchard at The Farm by Old Edwards, Chatham Rabbits. \$10 admission. Cash Bar and Free Nibbles. 7-9 p.m. Public Welcome.

### Fri. May 31

- At CLE, From Curing Cancer to Covert Espionage: How Nanotechnology is Changing the World Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Channa DeSilva. To register please call 526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome!

- Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library from 11a to noon.

### Thurs-Sun, May 30-June 2

- HCP presents "Calendar Girls" at Highlands Performing Arts Center. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30. Box office is 828-526-8084, website highlands cashiersplayers.org.

### Thurs.-Sun., June 6-9

- From Thursday, through Sunday, it's the 12th annual Highlands Motoring Festival. Thursday, is the opening event – Monte Carlo Night at HFCC. From 6pm to 10pm. Food, beverage, and gaming. At the end of the evening, items donated by local merchants will be auctioned off. On Friday, the Festival's "One Lap of the Mountains" driving tour leaves Highlands in the morning for a day of driving a curated route on special roads of WNC. It's sold out. On Friday evening it's a Parade of Main Street beginning at Kelsey Hutchinson Park at 5:30pm. A procession of classic and modern exotic cars will leave the Park at 6pm. Upon returning to the Park, there is a Welcome Party at the High Dive until 8 p.m. The Festival's main event, "Cars in the Park" opens to the public at 10am on Saturday, with more than 100 classic cars on display. On Sunday, in Wright Square from 8am to 12pm there is an unjudged event. It is open to the public and free of charge.



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# • YOUNGER THROUGH FITNESS •

## Exercise is the best medicine

Your attitude and your health are intertwined. The biggest impediment most people encounter in starting or maintaining a regular exercise program, is in their mind.

For many of you exercise is not fun, and you avoid it. For others a regular exercise program just takes up too much time.

Why is that? If you ask almost anyone if exercise is good for them the response is usually a resounding yes.

It is now common knowledge that something as simple as walking 30 minutes can have a significantly positive effect on blood pressure, circulation, joint pain, stress and even aid us in obtaining better sleep patterns.

The same effect can be obtained by riding a bicycle, swimming, playing tennis or pickle ball and walking the golf course instead of spending most of the time in a cart.

Taking the time two to three times per week to moderately fatigue the major muscle groups in your hips, legs, arms and shoulders can help keep your muscles from atrophying.

Some of the things I mentioned are enjoyable to most people and some of them are not. The benefits of all of them however are immense.

I personally have never actually enjoyed the act of weight-lifting or strength training but have enjoyed the benefits this process has given me for over 40 years. I continue to push my muscles to fatigue several times a week because I believe that I have in many ways found the Fountain of Youth.

Many of my clients are on the same page. I have been told repeatedly that the reason they hired a trainer is that they will not keep a regular program up on their own.

Recently a client who works full-time, strength trains under my guidance, plays pickle ball, hikes, and is now also attending an adult ballet exercise class told me how she motivates herself.

She told me that in the hour



Hank Miller  
828-305-9713

before she comes for her workout that she mentally tells herself, "I am about to do something very good for myself. After I exercise, I will feel great and be healthier and happier." She explained to me that since she began doing this, her ability to push a little harder has improved and also that she actu-

ally looks forward to not only the benefits of working out but also the process!

If you are finding it difficult to either start or maintain a regular fitness program, then maybe you can try a similar approach. Take a moment and mentally tell yourself how good you will feel after you work out and how much better life can be when you are physically fit. You know the benefits; you know that exercise is medicine. You know exercise is probably the most powerful medicine available. Exercising can keep you younger and may even increase your life span. Think about it. Think about it. Think about it!

• Hank is a local fitness trainer specializing in the age 50 and over population. He is certified by The American College of Sports Medicine as an Exercise Physiologist.

NO FEE



**KELSEY  
KIDS CAMP**

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**8:30 AM - 12 PM**

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**Highlands Baseball Field**

Raindate - Sunday May 26

**CALENDAR GIRLS**

PRODUCED BY



Highlands Cashiers  
PLAYERS

*Written by Tim Firth*

*Directed by Ricky Siegel*

Thursday-Sunday, May 23-26 and May 30-June 2  
Evenings at 7:30, Sunday Matinees at 2:30



Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets: 828-526-8084 [www.highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.org)

# CHATHAM RABBITS

Live at The Orchard  
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Sessions*



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## HCP's 'Calendar Girls' opens May 23



Six of the 10 women who perform in The Highlands Cashiers Players production of *Calendar Girls* by Tim Firth have bravely set aside any reservations they might have about seeming to be partially nude to

bring to our area the charming, humorous, and hugely popular British comedy.

*Calendar Girls* was originally a 2003 British film, adapted as a play by Tim Firth in 2008. It is based on a true story of a group of middle-aged Yorkshire women who posed semi-nude to produce a calendar to raise money for Leukemia research, winning permission from the usually staid and proper Women's Institute (the WI) in 1999 after the death from cancer of a member's husband. While not a laugh-out-loud comedy, the wonderfully dry British humor provides plenty of amusement for the audience interspersed with occasional tears.

Directed by Ricky Siegel, the HCP cast includes experienced actors Jamie Thomas, Lynleigh McLean, Robin Phillips, Barbara Werder, Sue Feldkamp, Vangie Rich, Donna Cochran, and Rachel Fiesel as well as newcomers to the HCP stage Kaye McHan and Pam Sharpe. The men are David Spivey, Ron Leslie, Ken Knight, and newcomer Pastor Randy Lucas.

*Calendar Girls* opens at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, on Thursday, May 23. There will be eight performances over two weeks: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and two Sunday matinees on May 26 and June 2 beginning at 2:30. Tickets are \$23.50. For season subscribers, it's the final play of HCP's 24th season. For tickets leave a message at the box office number for a call back, 828-526-8084, or go on-line to HCP's website, [highlandscashiersplayers.org](http://highlandscashiersplayers.org).

# EXPERIENCE

## Bluegrass



Sunday, June 16 8pm

**Mark O'Connor  
& The Mark O'Connor Band**

## Retro Rock

Friday & Saturday, June 21 & 22

2 Concerts 8pm

**Travis LeDoyt  
Tribute to The KING**



The Martin-Lipscomb  
Performing Arts Center

## Broadway



Saturday, June 29 8pm

**Broadway's Next Hit Musical**

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street  
Tickets available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047

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Pictured from left are AHEC member Melissa Delany who also represented Art & Angela Williams of the Williams Foundation, Superintendent Dr. Baldwin, BOE and AHEC member Stephanie McCall, AHEC members Leigh Hartman, Derek Taylor, and Jeff Weller and Jon Swift of the Swift Foundation. AHEC members not pictured are Janice Raby, Hilary Wilkes and Jim Tate.  
—Article & photo by Kim Lewicki

## Community groups honored for upgrading student experience at Highlands School

“No school or school system can be successful without the support of its community,” said MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Baldwin at Monday night’s Board of Education meeting in Highlands. “Highlands and Macon County are very fortunate to have the support of two groups The Literacy Council and Advance Highlands Education (AHEC).”

Thanks to those two groups and other donors, each student K-5th grade got the latest Ipad with a cover.

The Williams Foundation started the ball rolling with a \$33,600 donation to The Literacy Council for 117 Ipad covers for grades K-3. The Swift Foundation donated money for the covers as well as Ipad covers for 4th grade students and Jim Kneisley and his partner Highlands 3rd grade teacher Cindy Henderson, donated money to buy Ipad covers for the 5th grade.

Media Director Ms. Stamey said now students in K-8th grades no longer have to share 30 old Ipad covers.

“AHEC’s mission is to enhance Highlands School to give students the best chance to succeed when they leave here,” said AHEC member Derek Taylor who has committed \$50,000.

With \$100,000 in commitments, AHEC’s goal is to also provide funds for teachers in their classrooms.

## ...DRONES continued from page 1

good size of the fire with a flyover. When you pull up in a truck, you only see one dimension. Drones definitely have a place here.”

Town MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler said plans are in the works to have several members of HFR licensed to pilot a drone in case one or more of those people licensed are out of town. Until recently, town staff used a \$1,500 drone purchased over a year ago. That’s no longer the case as the town just spent \$32K on a bigger and better drone.

So why the jump in cost of over \$30K? Its capabilities. The new drone, a Matrice, has three cameras mounted on its frame—a high-resolution camera, a zoom camera, and a thermal camera. The thermal camera can see living objects in the dark due to the object’s heat signature. The zoom camera is used to determine if the thermal signature is a stranded hiker or a deer.

“The biggest reason we did this was for those guys (HFR),” said Shuler. “Having the thermal camera and light kits will help out Police and Fire departments a lot.”

The Matrice can also connect to multiple controllers and screens simultaneously so the pilot can fly the drone on one screen and emergency personnel can look at another screen that shows what the cameras scouring the area for the victims are pointed at.

The Greenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad recently used a drone in coordination with ground crews to search for a plane that went down

off Horse Cove Road as well as search for missing hikers.

### Mapping

Last year the Town of Highlands first used a drone to map the town limits to monitor changes and collect other data. Aerial imagery used to be done by satellites at low resolution, meaning one pixel equaled 30 meters (a building would appear as a block in the image). However, a pixel now represents a half inch using drones.

“With our first drone we really pushed it to the limits,” said Town MIS/GIS Field Specialist Carlton Wheatley. “Not in flight time but in processing all the images we took. It’s important to have the most accurate map possible for utilities. For example, when water crews get called out to fix something, they need to know what they’re working with.”

### Agriculture

Blue Ridge Early College Agriculture Teacher Nick Pressler said a program using drones is being developed to collect data to improve plant health. The program is called Emerging Technologies in Agriculture and will be offered in Spring 2020.

“If you look at agriculture as a whole, technology is driving it,” said Pressler. “Unmanned tractors, UAV’s [unmanned aerial vehicles] using GPS, GIS, water content, soil moisture, etc. It’s no longer putting stuff in the ground and watching it grow.”

Pressler said drones can collect data over much larger areas of land than on foot or ground-based

transportation. BREC already has four drones but has its eyes on a newer one once the program is up and running.

### Recreation

Enter drone pilots Kevin Dickey and Dalton Kinsey, both of Cashiers, NC. They fly custom-built drones using a controller and first-person view (FPV) goggles to see what the drone sees as it dives 1,200 feet down a cliff face.

They fly drones purely for the fun of it. They build the perfect aircraft based on preference and the stunts and tricks they like to practice across the Plateau. They likened building their drones to a gamer building a computer rig.

“Getting the components together for a freestyle drone is fairly in depth,” said Kinsey. “It is all about personal preference. You can go for a long-range cinematic build or you can build a short flying ‘fun to play’ with drone. Some of the crazy tricks are cool to watch but my favorite thing is diving big cliffs. And we have plenty of those around this area.”

But piloting a drone designed for stunts is difficult.

“Most drones, are slower and self-leveling; the ones we fly are acrobatic,” said Dickey. “We can go inverted, do flips and rolls, and change direction and speed in the blink of an eye. It’s like playing video games in the real world and creating any playground landscape you want.”

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seeks to address social determinants of health that uniquely challenge our surrounding communities. We believe in investing in programs that offer constructive solutions and measurable improvements for healthy living. We want to partner with your organization to keep our communities strong and vibrant for years to come.

**GRANT WORKSHOPS:**  
**May 28**  
 &  
**May 30**  
 Please RSVP to  
[info@hchealthfnd.org](mailto:info@hchealthfnd.org)

# Building Healthy Communities

## Apply Today!

***Grant applications available through June 15***

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is now accepting grant applications online [www.hchealthfnd.org](http://www.hchealthfnd.org)

**WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING THESE FOCUS AREAS**

**Access to Healthcare**

**Education Initiatives**

**Community Vitality**

**Economic Stability**



*Given our mountainous terrain and population demographics, access to care plays a vital role in supporting healthy and strong communities. We welcome proposals that involve emergency and public transportation, indigent care, behavioral health, physician recruitment and retention.*



*The attainment of education is one of the highest factors in predicting good health. We welcome proposals to advance technologies for academic enrichment, reduce k-12 absenteeism, improve student access to health and counselor professionals, teacher development and retention, early childhood learning and literacy improvement for all ages.*



*There are numerous opportunities for manifesting healthful mountain living. We welcome proposals for community initiatives to promote healthy, active lifestyles, community health screenings, broadband access and substance abuse prevention programs.*



*Affordable housing initiatives and food insecurity are among the most critical needs to be addressed for a sustainable economy.*



For more information please visit our website: [www.hchealthfnd.org](http://www.hchealthfnd.org) Email: [info@hchealthfnd.org](mailto:info@hchealthfnd.org)

**A Proud Past.  
 A Promising Future.**

## ...PLANNING continued from page 1

Board meeting, Town Manager Josh Ward announced that the town had hired Michael Mathis of Franklin to be the "Assistant Planning Director-In Training."

Town Manager Ward has been Acting Town Planner since Bowen left. Ward started his Highlands career in that department more than a decade ago, working his way up to Town Planner, then went to Bryson City to be Town Manager. In December 2016 he returned as Highlands Town Manager. Since he was Town Planner he can groom Mathis for the job.

Last Thursday, Ward said he believes Mathis is a good fit for the planner job. "We were looking for someone who was young and would stick around," he said.

Which is exactly what Mathis, 23, has in mind. "If you get a good job like this, you stick with it," he said.

Mathis lives in Franklin and is recently engaged. He started his college education at Southwestern Community College and then



**Michael Mathis**

went on to Western Carolina University where he earned two bachelor degrees – one in Business Law and one in Finance – he graduated May 2018.

Asked why he accepted the position in Highlands, he said it is his chance to give back.

"To serve the community," said Mathis. "While I was going through school I was laid off and the citizens of North Carolina put me through school. So, I figured this is my chance to give back."

Mathis said the job in Highlands will also enable him to be close to home and family.

"Plus, this is a great team to work with," he said.

For the first few days of his first week he has been accompanying Ward around Highlands getting a feel for the day-to-day operations of the department.

His salary is \$40,000 with benefits.

– **Kim Lewicki & Brian O'Shea**

## ...FINALIZED continued from page 1

Advanced Fiber to the Premise Broadband Network to serve 100% of residential, business and other service points within the town limits. Once constructed, Wide Open Networks will be the single firm to accomplish all services.

This is a major part of the FY 2019-'20 budget which will be adopted following a public hearing scheduled for the June Town Board meeting.

### FY 2019-'20 budget

The overall FY 2019-'20 budget has revenues and expenditures totaling \$28,640,484.

The ad valorem tax rate remains at 1.64 cents per \$100 valuation. The tax rate still include .015 earmarked for recreation capital projects, which is scheduled to sunset June 30 of 2020. The valuations are determined by the Macon and Jackson counties Tax Departments. The rate is based on an approximate in-town property valuation of \$1,816,000,000.

All other revenues are projected to be stable with a continued strong Local Option Sales Tax distribution.

The Fire Tax rate will increase from 1 cent to 3 cents per \$100 valuation to construct a new fire department main station.

The charges for electrical and sanitation services remain unchanged.

The water/sewer rates will increase ef-

fective July 1, 2019 by \$2 – from \$35 for up to 2,500 gallons used to \$37 – to balance the operational budget for those departments. Outside town limits services will remain double the in-town rate.

To present a balanced budget, \$660,692 was appropriated from the undesignated General Fund Balance and \$1,495,670 was appropriated from the electric reserve fund for a combined total of \$2,156,362.

Currently, the current General Fund Balance is approximately \$4,000,000; the current General Fund Reserve Balance is approximately \$3,800,000; the current Electric Reserve Fund Balance is approximately \$4,000,000.

"The Town's undesignated General Fund Balance remains strong, and with the exception of the Sanitation Department, all Enterprise Funds are stable and covering their operating costs," said Ward.

Ward said sanitation fees may increase next fiscal year after staff determines how to offset department overtime.

### Hickory Hill Road speed limit

Commissioner Brian Stiehler brought the speed limit on Hickory Hill Road to the board because the posted 25 mph is actually too fast for the road which is also hard to navigate due to its condition.

• See **FINALIZED** page 30

# Highlands

# Sotheby's

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828-337-0706  
sherylwilsonnc@  
gmail.com



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**1298 Links Drive, Cashiers, NC**  
**\$2,295,000 • MLS #89437**

This is one of Trillium's finest, 5 BR | 6.5 BA Arts and Crafts home. This home has 180 degree long range mountain and Lake Glenville views. Bring your boat, friends and children for a fun day on the lake or enjoy the numerous amenities offered in this family community. Sheryl Wilson 828-337-0706.



**72 Zermatt Circle, Highlands, NC**  
**\$950,000 • MLS #89642**

This beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home has loads of charm and curb appeal and is located less than one mile from the downtown. Finished basement with a great room, fireplace, kitchen, large bedroom and full bath. Sheryl Wilson 828-337-0706.



**125 Springhouse Drive, Unit 311B, Cashiers, NC**  
**\$695,000 • MLS #89751**

Nestled in a private setting in the heart of Trillium Links, this upper level 3 bedroom, 3 bath town home has an open floor plan with a large living and dining area. Covered back deck. Sheryl Wilson 828-337-0706.

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Geography, topography, & cartography

“Geography has made us neighbors; history has made us friends”

— John F. Kennedy

I am mesmerized by maps. As a kid, I used to open the centerfold (not that one) of National Geographic Magazine every month. It was a map, suitable for hanging on my wall next to the Mickey Mantle poster.

Highlands wouldn't even be on the map if it weren't for its geographical significance. If you draw a line between Savannah, GA and Chicago, IL and another between New Orleans, LA and New York City, NY; where the lines intersect, that's us. Highlands, NC, USA, planned as the major trade route and population center in the eastern United States. Wrong!

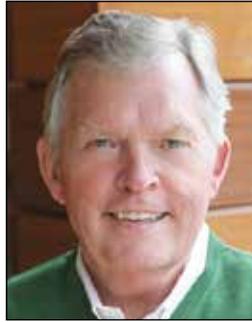
It's sad that only 10 states require a geography course in order to graduate from high school. But have no fear, Generation Z is studying culinary arts, cosmetology, and yes, even basket-weaving at some far-out high schools. God help us!

But the Big 3, Geography, Topography, and Cartography certainly factor into Real Estate decisions here on the Plateau.

The geographical choices are endless as you consider moving here. From Scalyto-Sapphire and Glenville-to-Horse Cove you have the world to choose from. We hear it all the time. “Close to town,” “I want a view,” “Give me water,” and “On a golf course” readily become Buyer priorities.

The key is to find the property that best suits your lifestyle and choices. Perhaps you long for that mountain cottage. In that case Highlands Country Club, Mirror Lake, and Lancewood fill the bill. If big views are your style, areas like Ravenel, Whiteside Cove, and Big Sheepcliff, could offer a mountain range and a price range within your budget range.

Attention all Golfers, Tom Fazio's fingerprints are all over these hills hav-



Pat Gleeson, Owner, BIC  
828-782-0472

ing designed Wade Hampton, Mountaintop Golf, and now the newly created High Hampton. You'll soon have that Golfer's Farmer's tan around your ankles.

Part of the thought process is choosing a “style” of home that truly befits the property you're considering. Over the years, architects from the southern region have served their clients in Highlands well, designing residences that really match the topography and

geography. Guys like Jim Fox and Joe Web. Google Keith Summerour sometime and see what he's accomplished here, beginning with the Wendy's in Cashiers and progressing to the Old Edwards Inn in Highlands.

Modern day “locals” like Jeffrey Owens continue to design amazing spaces in Highlands and beyond. And who can forget the late, great, Tommy Chambers, an artisan restoration genius who contributed so much to preserving Joe Webb cabins and who chose to use local stone and reclaimed materials to

create some timeless environments.

Be sure to factor in Topography as you search. With the winter snowfalls and ice events you'll want to make sure you can drive to your chosen geography (hint: all-wheel drive and then some). Don't forget the wind. You “Type A's” out there will not be able to control it. If you looked at that cliff-side retreat on a calm idyllic spring morning, the gales of November may have you feeling like Mary Poppins.

Think Geography, Topography, and Cartography as you dream of being here. Next, go buy a map and get lost for awhile!

• Pat and Deborah (aka Bee) Gleeson and their dog Gemma can be found at White Oak Realty Group, located in downtown Highlands on 4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn. White Oak Realty Group, founded in 2009 by Susie deVille, a leading boutique brokerage firm on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach Pat, Bee, or Susie at 828.526.8118.

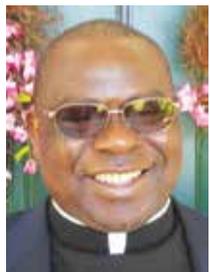
# To Those Who Served Our Country, We Are Eternally Grateful.

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## Amazing grace of Easter

**Rev. Fr. Casmir**  
**Our Lady of the Mountains**  
**Catholic Church**

First I want to thank the Highlands Newspaper for including "Spiritually Speaking" in its lineup. Because the truth is, we tend to forget all we do that originates from our spirit. To go to work, you need to think about it and make the decision to go to work. Your decision to go to work or not is a spiritual exercise. So, I think that the column is praise-worthy and commendable.

To understand my line of thought I would refer to Hebrews 4: 12-13: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (RSVCE).

This is what I mean when I quote from the Scriptures.

Also, I believe that the Bible is more scientific than science. God creates and science studies. Science does not create. Science discovers some ways and means nature work.

### Amazing Grace of Easter

There is this story of two friends who graduated from the same university with the same degrees and were hired to teach in the local school of their hometown. They teach the same grade with two classes. Let us call one Teacher A and the other Teacher B. Teacher A continued to teach the students the same lessons he prepared the first year. Students passed from their grade to the next for 10 years receiving the same lessons throughout.

For Teacher B, every year he reviewed his lessons and added and removed a little bit, year after year for 10 years. By the end of 10 years he discovered that what he taught in the first year was different than what he taught the students of the tenth year. This means that he had 10 years experience as a teacher. While his friend Teacher A had one year experience 10 times. Mark the difference.

If you read "Transfiguration" account of Mathew's (Mt. 17:13) Jesus warned his disciples, Peter, James and John not to tell anybody about the Transfiguration experience until he has risen from the dead - the extra-ordinary Easter event.

It was after the resurrection, that the EASTER experience of the disciples Peter, James and John began to sink in with the meaning of Transfiguration. Then, they began to understand more fully the powerful event of resurrection. Their faith in the mystery of resurrection began to grow. The amazing grace of Easter.

The book of Revelation 21:1-4 calls it a "new heav-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

## Proverbs 3:5

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor  
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Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
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Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
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Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470  
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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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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.

### 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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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  
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Sun.: 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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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson  
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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  
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### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741  
LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com  
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;  
Worship/Communion: 10:30

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### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church  
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Rev. Marty Kilby  
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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

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447, Pastor Gary Hewins  
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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

## Mountain Garden Club annual Plant Sale is Sat., May 25 at the ballpark



Please plan to attend the 37th annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale. Always the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. The focus of this three-hour sale from 9a to noon at the ballfield on Hickory and US 64 east is "Save the Bees" so there will be plenty of native pollinator plants that will beautify your landscape while helping the bees at the same time. Proceeds from the sale benefit youth gardener activities at Highlands School, college scholarships, garden therapy at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center and more. Some of the recipients of the club's generosity are always on hand to volunteer at the sale as well as all club members, partners, spouses and friends of Mountain Garden Club. Each of these plants were dug from private residences in Highlands and have been potted and nurtured by club members. Look for hostas, ferns, show-stopping dahlias and much more.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 26

en and a new earth..." and that the first earth has passed away, and the sea was no more. Easter is the sign of the new heaven and the new earth of the kingdom of God in our modern times. It cannot be over emphasized. We are living in the world bought and redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2: 24 tells us, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,[c] that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. "

### Challenge

Just as Jesus challenged Peter and his friends James and John to wait after his resurrection to understand the meaning of transfiguration, so we are challenged to spread the kingdom of God on earth.

Do not forget the Peter said that such a thing like death on the cross will never happen to Jesus when Christ first predicted his death on the cross. The Scriptures says then Jesus turned to Peter and rebuked him and said, "Get behind me Satan. You are a hindrance to me: for you are not on the side of God, but of men." (Mt. 16:23). So, if you think the challenge is easy or unreal you are mistaken. It is very difficult, but with God NO -THING is impossible. Some body once said, "Do not tell God

how big your problem is, RATHER tell you problems how big your God is." By this he means, the Jesus of the Cross, the Jesus of Resurrection, and the Jesus of Easter mystery.

The question is: if you are a Christian, what type of Christian are you? Are you a type A Christian who just get enrolled in the Church, and stayed like Teacher A in your Christian life Or like Teacher B type of Christian who keeps renewing and improving his life according to the kingdom of God. This is what our world needs today for survival. We can no longer allow the forces of darkness to overwhelm us.

### Prayer of Christ

It is now left for us to work to realize the fervent prayer and wish of Christ, "I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (RSVCE), (Jn. 17:20-21).

This will not only bring Christian unity but also the amazing gift of Easter – heaven on earth. The reign of the kingdom of God. Where there is no darkness and Jesus Christ is the Light, the Way, the Truth and the Life. All rolled in One.



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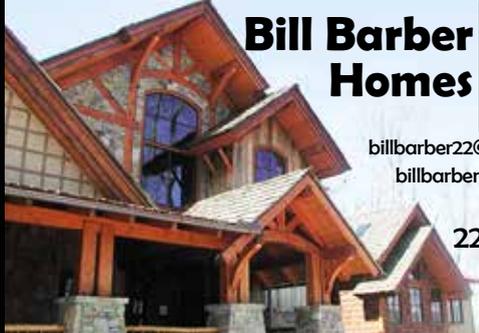
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# POLICE & FIRE REPORT

**Highlands Police entries from May 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## May 9

• At 9:04 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

## May 13

• At 9 a.m., officers were alerted to a larceny of a washing machine left behind Mountain Findings.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 14.**

## May 14

• At 1:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherrywood Drive.

## May 15

• At 8:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cole Mountain Circle.

• At 12:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Forest Trail.

## May 16

• At 8:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brooks Road.

## May 17

• At 7:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

• At 6:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

## May 18

• At 10:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Talley Lane.

## May 20

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location in Highlands Plaza.

• At 7:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Pipers Court.

## ...FINALIZED from page 24

Happily, Hickory Hill Road is one of the four roads slated to be paved this budget year.

However, instead of only addressing the speed limit on Hickory Hill Road, commissioners agreed to take a comprehensive look at all the roads in the Mirror Lake district before determining a safe speed limit for the area.

— Kim Lewicki

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