

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thursday, July 9, 2020

NC leaders sign second round of COVID state relief money

By Brittney Lofthouse

North Carolina leaders signed the second round of state relief money into law this week,

which will provide additional support for local governments, schools, hospitals and state agencies.

Governor Roy Cooper signed House Bill 1023 into law on July 1 after it was approved by both

• See RELIEF page 17

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Plans are in the works for schools' teaching options

By Brittney Lofthouse

Parents and teachers across most of the country are anxiously awaiting leadership to make decisions regarding school this Fall. While some states such as Florida and Georgia have already announced school will resume, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said last week he is not ready to make that decision.

Consequently, Macon County Schools are continuing to develop plans for school this Fall, ensuring that social distancing can be accomplished if school resumes in-person and developing a remote learning instruction plan in the event that students will not return to the classroom.

“At this point we don’t know

• See TEACHING page 11



From left are Volunteer Marie Johnson and HEC Program Coordinator Maryanne Creswell with many of the raffle items on view at the Emergency Council on Poplar Street. — Brian O’Shea

HEC cancels annual Bluegrass Bash

Critical Fundraiser Raffle is still a go

By Brian O’Shea
Plateau Daily News

The Highlands Emergency Council has cancelled this year’s

annual Bluegrass Bash at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park due to COVID-19 restrictions and the risks of large gatherings.

HEC is staffed by volunteers and provides food, clothing, furniture, and fuel to those in need.

• See HEC page 6

Greenway volunteers finish Oak Street spur

By Brian O’Shea
Plateau Daily News

The Highlands Plateau Greenway (HPG) is a trail system that connects many of the natural settings and historic sites throughout Highlands. On June 20, volunteers completed the entrance along Oak Street just in time for the July 4 holiday. HPG is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop and maintain this system of trails.

Volunteers finished the extension from Oak to Mill Creek last year. Last month, they put the final touches on the Oak Street entrance after planting a pollinator garden and installing a stone walkway.

HPG ran into some delays completing the Oak Street project with the onset of the COVID-19

• See GREENWAY page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The garbage business is costly

Let me talk trash. Beginning this past Thursday our trash problems began. Town Hall staff received a high volume of calls from folks saying their trash had not been picked up. Some callers said the truck had failed to pick up the trash at the regular time. Other callers complained the truck just drove by their trash container.

We had a trifecta of problems that resulted in some collection problems especially on that Friday holiday. The trifecta was having three of our trash trucks experienced major mechanical problems all at the same time. Crews were having to drive them back to the town yard for the mechanic to assess the problems. In the process crews did drive by some trash cans. Two trucks had to be taken off the plateau for major repairs and were still in the shop at the first of this week. The other truck limped through the day with still some recurring problems.

Trash trucks are very complicated and temperamental machines. One of the problem-trucks was the oldest in the operating



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

fleet of five. It is scheduled to be replaced in the coming months.

To respond to the situation, smaller trucks and personnel from other departments were mobilized to complete the routes. It's my understanding that some auxiliary crews were even working on Saturday.

When one thinks about it, we work the heck out of the garbage trucks. The town provides seven days a week garbage service between the residential and commercial sectors, including

holiday collections except on Christmas Day and New Year's. Very few waste disposal companies, if any, provide this level of service for the cost we charge. Between the residential and commercial routes our trucks pretty much operate daily between 7 am to 4 pm. At the end of every route, the trucks are driven to the Macon County Transfer Station on Rich Gap. The garbage is offloaded onto larger tractor trailer trucks that then transport our trash some 20 miles to the Macon County Solid Waste Department. It is a costly process. The town also picks up cardboard and trucks it to directly to the county site in Franklin. The county then sells it to recycle companies. Highlands does not get the money from the cardboard sales.

The town sanitation department operates at barely a break-even level. Some years, like the past year, we have a deficit. So, it gets back to those cantankerous garbage trucks. They cost a lot of money and on any given day one may be out of service. To have three break down on the same day is unheard of, but it happened. The large number of folks in town for the Fourth of July added a sense of urgency to the problem.

I want to thank everyone for their understanding and patience. I also want to thank those customers who have already purchased the bear-resistant toters that the Town Board voted last August to require.

On August 1, all customers hopefully will have converted to these toters. These toters with the lift bar will also help our workers avoid unnecessary back injuries by eliminating the need to manually lift and empty cans. An employee doing repetitive lifting about 600 times a day is an outdated operation that must be changed.

• LETTERS •

Not everyone can wear a mask

Dear Editor,

In his article of June 25, Mr. Bud Katz said: "...It's extremely disheartening to see the number of people in town milling around without face covering. To us, it means one of two things; you believe yourself immune from, or impervious to the virus, or, you don't care about us or our community."

Could it be possible that those possibilities are the only possibilities, or could there be others which Mr. Katz hasn't thought of or doesn't care about? People with breathing issues like asthma and COPD should NOT wear a face mask. When you have those you don't want to do anything that makes it harder to breathe.

There is also the fact that the masks are ineffective and do not protect anyone from Covid-19 or any other virus. The virus/virii are so small (they are measured in microns) that they pass right through the masks. Even the manufacturers admit that.

They don't work and they can't work. Wearing one of those to protect yourself from a virus is like building a chain link fence around your property to keep mosquitoes out.

Danny Crane
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 15

• NOTICE •

The Highlands Newspaper office at 256 Oak Street is temporarily closed. We are going through some renovations and updates, and plan to be back open in a few weeks with new and improved facilities.

In the meantime, we are working out of our home office. To contact us – as always – please email highlandseditor@aol.com or call 828-200-1371.

• WEATHER •

Thu, 9-Jul	Fri, 10-Jul	Sat, 11-Jul	Sun, 12-Jul
			
77°F 62°F	80°F 64°F	80°F 60°F	82°F 62°F
Periods of sun with a t-storm RealFeel® High: 83° Low: 70°	Some sun with a thunderstorm RealFeel® High: 90° Low: 67°	Mostly sunny and pleasant RealFeel® High: 87° Low: 69°	A t-storm in the afternoon RealFeel® High: 91° Low: 67°

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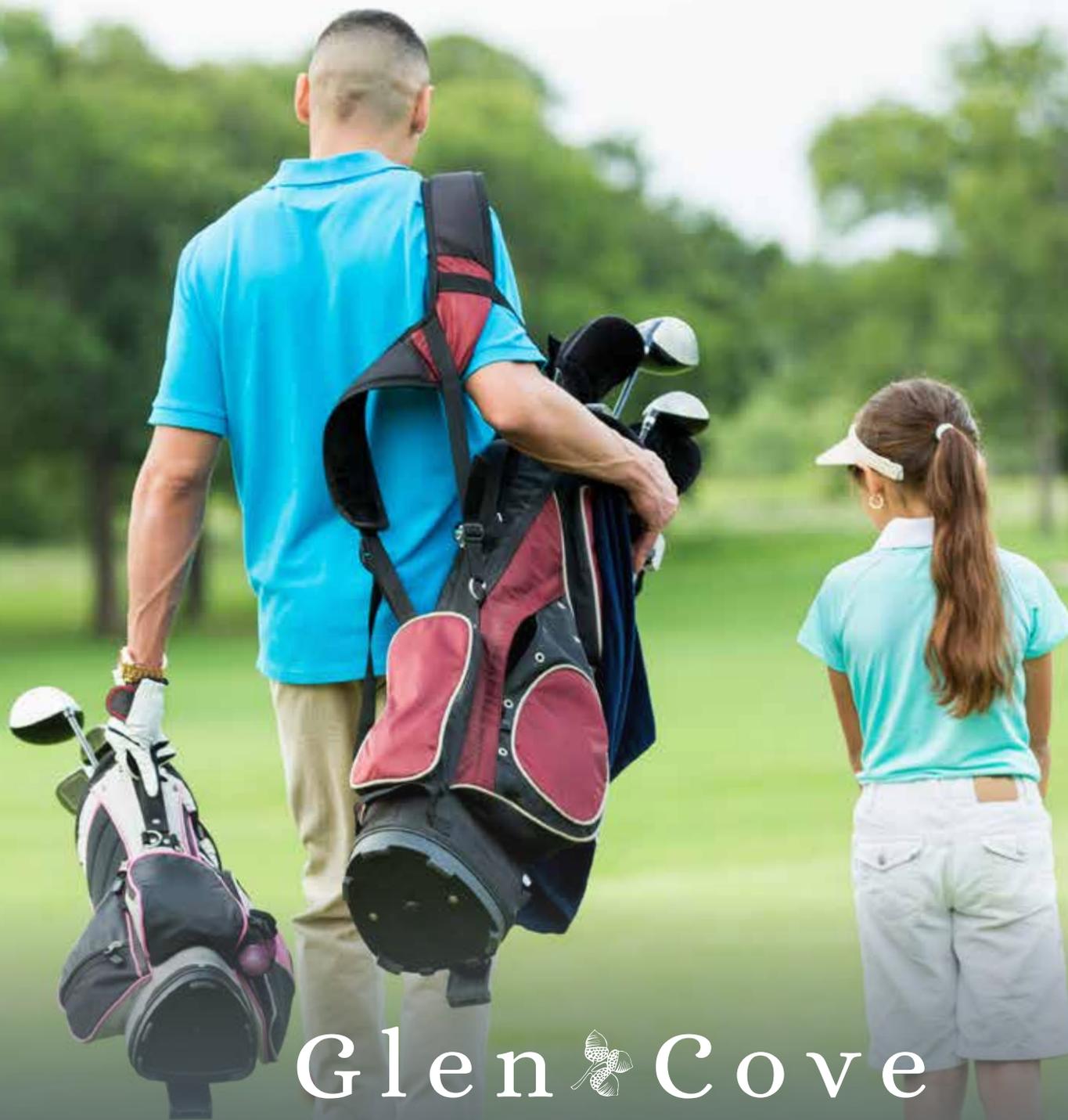
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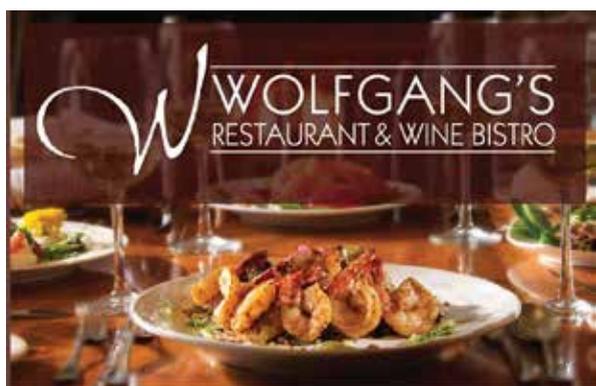
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• OBITUARIES •

Madellon (Nana) Rogers

Madellon (Nana) Rogers passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 25, 2020 at the age of 97. She was born in Salem, SC the second of five children to Thomas and Ella Mae Holcombe but lived most of her life in Cashiers, NC.



She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, John Lee Rogers, her son Robert A. (Tony) Rogers, daughters Sandra Talley and Wanda Rogers and two grandchildren Kelly (Talley) Mungler and Conda Lee Burrell.

She is survived by her daughters, Betty Galloway (Ted), Mary James (Jeff), and Johnnie Sue Frady along with 11 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

She loved flowers, birds, sewing, reading, and cleaning. But more than anything else she loved her family. She was a strong Christian and always kept her Bible close at hand.

She grew up during the depression and could do more with less than anyone you would ever meet. A tireless worker, she earned her living cleaning summer homes until she was 85 when she fell and broke her pelvis. After her forced retirement she spoke often about how much she missed working.

She was a true southern lady and like most of the women of her generation she was very conscious of appearances, always well-mannered and presenting a neat and tidy appearance in her clean and well pressed clothes. She was always stylish so even though she suffered from foot pain, she refused to wear what she deemed "ugly old people" shoes.

Up until a month or two before her death she did her own laundry, cleaned her own home, took out her garbage

• See OBITUARIES page 12



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...HEC continued from page 1

HEC Program/Project Coordinator Maryanne Creswell said cancelling the bluegrass concert puts the nonprofit in a difficult situation as it is a big fundraiser for the organization. However, the raffle that accompanies the Bluegrass bash is still on.

"The raffle is so important this year," said Creswell. "Our other fundraisers like the 'Food for Fuel' program at the Presbyterian Church, or the BBQ after the Christmas Parade, they may not even happen. This raffle may be it."

The drawing for the raffle will be on Thanksgiving weekend and raffle items include jewelry, ceramic centerpieces, paintings, and multiple quilts.

Creswell said COVID-19 has hit area families hard and many are struggling.

HEC was serving about 80 families in early May through the food program. As of last week, they are serving over 200.

"COVID-19 really affected our food program," said Creswell. "We went from serving 80 families to over twice that. That's hard for us because we operate on donations, grants, and the kindness of people's hearts. The community really cares about the people in this area and we need their help now."

Raffle Items and corresponding numbers below. People can purchase raffle tickets for specific items:

Creswell added that with winter coming, she anticipates a greater need than previous years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Raffle Tickets:

Jewelry Pieces: \$10 for 6 tickets

All other raffle items: \$5 for 6 tickets

Raffle items are on display

at the Highlands Emergency Council on Poplar Street,
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To donate to HEC directly, mail checks to P.O. Box 974,
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All the raffle items are numbered and all tickets except for jewelry are \$5 for six tickets. Jewelry tickets are \$10 for 6. Everything from ceramics to textiles to jewelry is up for grabs.

- Photos by Brian O'Shea

HCC ladies play golf to support the Highlands Emergency Council



On June 24th, the Ladies' Golf Association at Highlands Country Club hosted a golf outing to benefit the Highlands Emergency Council. These ladies were the big winners in the event. They are from left Bonnie Pettway, Cindy Mills, and Patty Hatcher. (The final figure is pending as donations are still coming in.)



DOGSPEAK**• LORD BANJO REFLECTIONS •****Lord Banjo's take on the quarantine**

The silly cat got to write a column about this stay at home thing a few weeks ago, so it's only right that the royal pooch gets a turn too. Life is always grand for this pup. And, yes, technically I'm no longer a pup, but if my mum can refer to her friends as girls, then surely a 13-year-old dog can be a pup.

**Lord Banjo**

only supposed to lie by his recliner and demand attention at six pm or later, that I should not expect him to cater to my wish to be touched all day long. Me? I say if he's in his recliner watching television all day, then his arm needs to extend to my belly and rub it nonstop.

The other cool thing about them being confined to the house is they're always here for lunch. That means I never miss a day of

Mum also says things like "boys will be boys" when Dad does something silly, and no one has mistaken him for young in quite a while. I mean he may be young at heart, but he's on Social Security, and you know what that means he's old – really old. And that makes me wonder why there's no program like that for elderly dogs – maybe Doggie Dollars? But I digress.

It's not bad having the royal parents here all the time, except I'm used to having uninterrupted barking time. I like to lie by the front door and bark at passers-by—people, dogs, bicycles, deer, squirrels, and the occasional loud car. Mum says I bark at leaves falling from trees too, but she likes to exaggerate.

I'm kinda tired of hearing, "Banjo, enough." I believe it is my royal prerogative to bark whenever and as long as I please, especially because barking is a personality trait of the Great Pyrenees breed. Methinks this quarantine thing is making my parents cranky, or maybe it's that they never realized just how much time I spend barking.

For the most part, though, I like having them around. With Mum in her office most of the day, I can make my way upstairs to lie beneath her desk where she can rub my belly with her feet—sometimes for several hours since she no longer leaves to workout, eat lunch with girlfriends, or shop.

When I'm not beneath the desk or barking by the front door, I keep Dad company in the living room. He says I'm

getting my tribute of three chunks of ham when Dad makes his lunch. Cool, huh?

One strange thing is they've begun hanging out on the screened porch doing something they call a jigsaw puzzle. I have a vague memory of them doing something like that years ago before Puddin' arrived. She's seven, so it's been a while. They sit at the round table on the porch moving tiny cardboard pieces around. Dad even built a big wooden platform for the tabletop, so the little things won't fall through the slats in the table.

Mum says that once Puddin' discovers what they're doing, all bets are off. The girl has a disturbing tendency to bat things off tables—coasters, pencils, pens, paper clips. She's even tried to push Alexa off Mum's desk. Can you imagine what fun she'd have with the puzzle pieces? Before we had this cute calico kitty, we had a white cat named Dancer. She lived to be twenty-two and had given up leaping on tables, so puzzles were safe back then.

Was it Art Linkletter who said, "Kids say the darnedest things?" Well, all I can say is pet parents do the darnedest thing, but I love them despite their silly ways.

• Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his mum, Kathy Manos Penn, author of the Dickens & Christie cozy animal mystery series available on Amazon. Find Lord Banjo's book locally at Highland Mountain Paws and write him at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

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History is NOT Repeating Itself

Historically, the local real estate market is flat in presidential election years. However, in this pandemic world, this market is being redefined overnight.

Many brokers who have been here for 20, 30 years (myself included), have never seen the feeding frenzy for properties that is occurring now.

One afternoon, I listed a house for over one million dollars at noon, and by five pm, I had three offers with one over the listing price. Other brokers are receiving multiple offers as well. One property had eight offers in one day. What is happening and why?

Here are the reasons why I believe our local market is strong and will continue to be stronger:

1. People are concerned about staying in the cities and having to ride out a second lockdown and/or rioting in densely populated areas;

2. Less people will travel by air and will want to drive to a second home that is closer. This new form of adventure allows one to experience a lifestyle in the safety of one's own home and community with amenities;

3. Larger homes are being viewed again as desirable as they allow more room for home offices and sheltering activities;

4. Work from home and flexible work schedules provide today's worker the ability to be in their second home connecting to work by zooming away for meetings;

5. Young adults, who have experienced Highlands and Cashiers in their youth and who now have the flexibility to work from this area which they love, are looking to buy



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their own homes for the space and privacy for their families instead of imposing on their parents for just a weekend;

6. This area – with wide open spaces and lots of outdoor activities – is perfect for social distancing and staying active as well as perhaps the safest area on the planet;

7. Downtown Highlands, known for its walkability, five-star restaurants, world-class shopping, art galleries, theatre and other cultural events is a magnet for people yearning for the good 'ole days of Norman Rockwell' small towns;

8. Highlands will continue to adapt to future changes, but the local population will insist the history and preservation of this

small-town atmosphere will endure.

This market has turned into a sellers' market overnight, so buyers beware. If you find a property that suits your needs, do not delay in making an offer as you may likely lose it. The buyers we are seeing are very fine, high quality people who will be assets to this community. We welcome them all!

Hope you enjoyed a Happy July Fourth without fireworks but know that the local real estate market is on fire for homes that are fairly priced, updated, well-maintained and properly marketed.

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty with thirty brokers across the Plateau with their main office at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. As the top-producing firm in Highlands for six years and celebrating their twentieth anniversary, the experienced Sotheby's brokers are eager to help you with any of your real estate needs. Call them at 828.526.4104.

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Photo taken in January 2020 before social distancing.

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Enjoy a stroll through Highlands Botanical Gardens

By **Brian O'Shea**
Plateau Daily News

Nestled just outside downtown is the Highlands Botanical Garden, with almost 2 miles of trails on 12 acres that includes a lush forested area and Lindenwood Lake. The Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station's 24-acre daytime adventure.

The trail begins at the Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road, to the left of the building and leads into the woods. At springtime, the forest floor is speckled with all manner blooming flowers including iconic Trilliums, Jack in the Pulpit, Speckled Wood Lily, and more.

Paige Engelbrektsson, Nature Center Education Specialist for Highlands Biological Foundation (HBS' nonprofit-partner organization) said in June visitors should see three classic shrubs that turn the Garden into a "fireworks display," including Mountain Laurel, Punctatum Rhododendron, and Catawba Rhododendron.

Along the Bog Boardwalk by Lindenwood Lake hikers will spot several pitcher plants flowering by the water's edge, including Purple Pitcher Plant, Sweet Pitcher Plant, and Yellow Pitcher Plant.

"Walking through the Botanical Garden, rain or shine, brings visitors into a microcosm of the Highlands Plateau's stunning biodiversity," said Engelbrektsson. "Over 400 species of plants create a wealth of color and richness for both people and wildlife. On sunny days birders can spot the many species that call our campus home while native pollinators of all kinds flock to our demonstration gardens. Visitors often spot our well-known snapping turtles along the dam and when the sun begins to set, frogs of all kinds call from the edges of Lindenwood Lake."

She added that rainy days in the Garden remind her of the importance of rain to the region.

"So many of our iconic species thrive because of our high rainfalls and wet soils," said Engelbrektsson. "The salamanders tucked into their underground



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...BOTANICAL continued from page 9

burrows or swimming below our miniature waterfalls are a fantastic example of this. And strolling along the boardwalks in the fog or sitting by the stream in a light mist offers a unique kind of peace, the chance to soak up the moment as the plants are soaking up the rain.”

As of mid-May, the Highlands Nature Center remains

closed, but they are offering virtual garden tours, which allows people to connect whether they live in Highlands or across the country.

Engelbrektsson said HBS’ “A Garden in Every Season” tours will be live-streamed via their Facebook Page on the first Monday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Additional live-streams may

be added throughout the summer.

The Botanical Garden is free of charge. It remains open dawn to dusk year-round.

The Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, and The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.



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...TEACHING continued from page 1

which direction the state will decide to go this Fall, but what we do know is that we are better prepared than we were this Spring," Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said during June's Board of Education meeting. Dr. Baldwin noted that the school system, with the help of federal and state funding, have been purchasing ipads and hot spot devices for students in the event that some or all of school this Fall will be done virtually. Dr. Baldwin said that teachers are also conducting intensive training in Google Teams -- the platform the school will use in the event of remote instruction in the future.

School systems in North Carolina received grant funding from the Federal CARES Act in April to purchase equipment and for technology upgrades in the event remote learning continues long-term.

A survey conducted online by the Macon County School Board showed that out of 224 responses, 67% of parents said the internet in their home was adequate, 23% said it was not reliable, and 10% said they didn't have internet at home.

There are bills in the legislature intended to increase rural broadband access, however with the General Assembly expected to break for Summer, they wouldn't be back in session to vote on the measures until after Labor Day.

In the event that remote learning is needed, Senate Bill 113 was signed into law last month to allow local districts to decide if and when schools utilize remote instruction. The General Assembly has required that regardless of COVID19, schools across NC will have at least five remote instruction days during the school

year. Senate Bill 113 states that if a local district thinks remote instruction is better for the health and safety of the students, the district can utilize remote instruction at their discretion.

Some parents are not waiting for the state to decide which avenue is best for their children. According to the parent survey, around 200 parents (13.2% of 1,653 responses) said they do not intend to send their children to school this Fall. Of those 200 parents, roughly 125 said they intend to homeschool their children.

Depending on what avenues of homeschooling parents intend to take, Macon County Schools stands to lose funding for general instruction.

"Macon County Schools receives funding on a per pupil basis," said Dr. Baldwin. "This is accomplished by considering the average daily membership or ADM of the school system during the previous school year and then providing funding for each of those students. This means that the funding for school year 2020-'21 will be based upon the number of students who attended our schools in school year 2019-'20."

If 200 families make the decision to home school their children this year, but continue with the remote learning through the school system, the loss of funding will have little to no impact on school year 2020-'21 and 2021-'22.

However, if those families choose to home school and not utilize the remote learning opportunities provided by MCS, the school system could lose around \$6,000 of state funding and \$2,000 in federal funding per child. For all 200 children, that would mean over \$1.5 million.

"This loss of funding would impact the following school year,

in 2021-'22," said Baldwin. "It is possible that the COVID-19 pandemic will be behind us by the fall of 2021. So a number of the families choosing to homeschool in 2020-'21 may choose to return to live instruction in school year 2021-'22 even though the school system's state and federal funding will have been reduced. This will force Macon County Schools into a position of hiring a number of teachers for school year 2021-'22 through an appropriation of our fund balance."

Baldwin noted that families who choose to continue with remote learning through the school system will be provided an iPad. "The school system is also pursuing a number of avenues to provide connectivity to these families," said Baldwin. "The cost of the devices and connectivity solutions will be provided from the Cares Act funding."

For parents who do not have access to internet, Dr. Baldwin said other options will be made available.

"Unfortunately, we will not be able to reach every student with digital materials," said Baldwin. "This means that teachers will continue to provide both digital and non-digital materials. As you can imagine, each teacher is going to handle this differently depending upon their level of technological literacy and comfort. And, each teacher will handle it differently depending upon the make-up of their class in terms of the student's connectivity and ability with technology. As I said, remote learning will be better next year, but it will not be as effective as live instruction. Until every child in Macon County has a device and effective connectivity we are going to struggle mightily with remote learning."

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As of Wednesday morning, July 8 there are 296 COVID-19 cases in Macon County; 81 in Highlands; 310 tests pending.

...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

and ironed every piece of clothing she wore. Remarkably even though she never used hair dye her hair never turned completely gray.

Her body may have been 97 but her heart was still the heart of a young woman. She never thought of herself as old. Instead of admitting she might be growing old, she would say she was "slowing down." (Although her version of slowing down made the rest of us appear to be standing still.)

She told great stories about her youth that brought laughter and tears to the listeners. She knew joy and sorrow and lived a full and purpose-driven life. She was well loved and well thought of by all who knew her.

We her family and friends, will miss her patience, her kindness, her humor, her devotion to her family and her quiet but steadfast presence in our lives. We are proud to have known her and blessed to have loved and been loved by her. She leaves behind an enduring legacy that we will treasure, always.

Her family would like to thank the Eckerd Living Center in Highlands for the wonderful care their mother received in the last months of her life. Knowing she was well cared for helped to ease some of the pain of losing her.

Funeral Services are being handled by Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory. In lieu of flowers please send donations in memory to the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers, NC. Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

James Ernest Strickland

Rev. Jimmy Strickland, 48 of Cashiers, NC passed away Tuesday, June 30, 2020. He was born January 22, 1972 to James Oliver and Lois Cockrell Strickland in Cabarrus County, NC. Jimmy loved Jesus and ministry was the biggest and most important part of his life.

Preacher Jimmy, as he liked to be called would always end any conversation with "I Love You" and "Jesus Loves You." He never met a stranger and loved everyone he encountered. A big participant of his church, Jimmy was a youth pastor, deacon and music director. He was a talented musician, playing the guitar, 6 string banjo, the keyboard and a writer of music and singing.

One of his greatest accomplishment was making a professional recording of a CD at KHZ Audio Recording Studio in Clarkesville, Ga and also his own recordings in his home.

In addition to his love of music, he loved his community and would volunteer at Blue Ridge School reading for the kindergartners and dressed up as Santa and the Easter Bunny for the children. Rev. Rick Platt and Jimmy taught guitar and keyboard lessons to students at Blue Ridge School.

He would help the coach and say opening prayer for the Special Olympics and always would give people the Gideon Bible if they needed one. Jimmy was awarded the Good Neighbor Award from the Cashiers Crossroads Chronicle and was an Honorary Fireman.

Jimmy was a much loved member of the Church of Sapphire. It has been said "you ain't been prayed for until Jimmy prays for you."

Jimmy is survived by his parents, James and Lois Strickland of the home, aunts and uncles, Carol and Stephen Foster of Cashiers, Earline Caldwell of Cashiers, Patricia Turner of Cleveland, NC, Barbara Osborne of Landis, NC, Dot Cockrell of Mooresville, NC and Mary Ruth Dixon of Salisbury, NC and many cousins as well as special cousins, Jerry and Sara Prewitt and Lisa Myers.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his grandparents, Raymond and Fay Brewer Cockrell and paternal grandparents, James Everett and Annie Pruitt Strickland.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 1pm, Saturday, July 11, 2020 at the Church of Sapphire with the Rev. Rick Plot, Rev. Frank Jones, Rev. Gary McCall and Rev. Berlis Powell officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to Pleasant Grove Church, 1858 Bull Pen Road, Cashiers, NC 28717 or The Church of Sapphire, NC-281, Sapphire, NC 28774.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Strickland family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com



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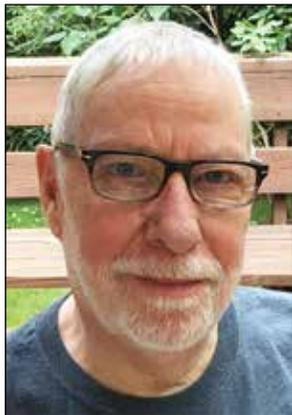
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• WORD MATTER •

Breakdown Dead Ahead



Bud Katz

I spend a lot of energy attempting to understand the deep schism that exists in our country. It's not Covid; we were shattered long before the pandemic emerged. It's not about Trump, or Obama, either.

Covid has exacerbated matters, as did the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, followed by ongoing Black Lives Matter protests, plus violence by opportunistic criminals. That said, I know when and why this hostility-based politics began. It was in 1988 when consultant Lee Atwater created the "politics of polarization."

When George H.W. Bush ran for president his opponent was Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis. Despite the fact that Mr. Bush was arguably the most qualified presidential candidate in my lifetime, Mr. Dukakis was at one point, well ahead in polls. Mr. Atwater seized upon the case of a criminal, Willie Horton, who received a weekend furlough under a Massachusetts program in place while Mr. Dukakis was governor. Mr. Horton never returned from his furlough. Instead, he committed other violent crimes, which Mr. Atwater used to brand Mr. Dukakis as soft on crime.

But, he didn't stop there.

The change in campaign messaging was, not to just declare the policy as bad, but to brand Mr. Dukakis as a bad person. The furlough policy, arguably, was bad. Mr. Dukakis was not. George H.W. Bush went on to win the election, validating Mr. Atwater's strategy. This is when contemporary American politics became about winning by any means, including character assassination, which has led to the hateful rhetoric and nasty tone of discourse in our nation.

Fast forward 32-years.

We live in a nation sharply divided over terms like red and blue, liberal and conservative, right and left, Democrat and Republican. I believe there's a large, moderate "middle" and see myself as a part of it, but our voice has been drowned out by the anger, finger-pointing, shaming, blam-

ing, and name-calling from the extremes on both sides.

This has led, sadly, to bizarre behavior by some of our more hate-filled fellow citizens.

I'm sure I was one of many who recoiled when I saw a St. Louis couple brandishing weapons at peaceful protestors walking by their home. I stared, wide-eyed, when a middle-aged man literally pushed his way into a Walmart screaming how his "rights" were being vio-

lated by a requirement that customers and employees wear masks inside the store. A woman, shopping at Lowe's, screamed at employees enforcing the retailer's mask requirement. When that didn't work, she began the name-calling.

These people had something in common besides politicizing recent events. They all believed their alleged "rights" mattered more than those of others.

Everyone needs to understand this. Walmart and Lowe's have every right to require employees and customers to wear masks in their stores during the Covid pandemic. Customers have no legal or moral standing to demand the ability to ignore those requirements to the detriment of store workers and other customers. And, while the U.S. Constitution provides for free speech, free assembly and gun ownership, most jurisdictions prohibit privately-owned weapons during permitted protests or other public assemblies.

I've read the U.S. Constitution. These folks need to do the same. At 7,591 words, including signatures, and all 27 amendments, it's still a quick read, about ten minutes; the length of a short story.

The U.S. Constitution, as it was drafted, along with the amendments passed in the ensuing 200 years, is the foundation of every one of our laws, and our rights as Americans. Until our courts rule otherwise, people do not have the right to ignore laws, rules, directives and restrictions passed by our leaders at all levels of government, or those imposed by retailers on shoppers.

It really doesn't matter if you're red or blue, or any other self-attached label. It re-

• See WORD MATTER page 15

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The pollinator garden and entrance to the Greenway are on Oak Street across from the First Baptist Church.



Greenway President Sonja Carpenter with Jim Ward who was named Trail Worker of the Year.



A stairway on Oak Street leads to the Greenway trail.

...GREENWAY continued from page 1

pandemic, but HPG President Sonya Carpenter said volunteers stepped it up to put in the extra hours to finish in time for a scheduled hike on July 4.

“During the period of quarantine, in March and April we encouraged our volunteers to stay home and stay safe,” said Carpenter. “We discussed ways that we could hold workdays but maintain a safe environment by requiring masks and upholding social distancing guidelines. These limitations postponed the progress, but we were able to get the entrance completed by 4th of July, our goal.”

HPG holds monthly volunteer workdays on the third Saturday of each month. Oftentimes projects, such as the Oak Street entrance, require extra hours and additional workdays need to be scheduled to finish the job.

“We have wonderful volunteers at the Greenway, with a broad base of knowledge and expertise,” said Carpenter. “Many of our volunteers have participated in trail construction for many years and we as a community owe them a huge thank you for creating this trail system. We have many new volunteers and always welcome new members who would like to learn about trail construction and are interested in making a contri-

bution to our community.”

After finishing the entrance, HPG held its annual meeting at the Highlands Rec Park and awarded Jim Ward Trail Worker of the Year.

“The trail worker of the year is awarded to an individual who has shown dedication to the HPG through work hours on the trail,” said Carpenter. “This year it was awarded to Jim Ward, who stepped up and served as Trail Supervisor. Jim helped to organize workdays. This is a big job. For each workday, he would determine what materials would be needed and get them to the site, communicate with volunteers and show strong leadership. We greatly appreciate his efforts!”

Carpenter said next on the agenda is developing a loop trail at the Kelsey Trail Preserve on 5th Street, a portion of the Greenway maintained by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

“We are looking forward to working with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to construct a new trail in the Kelsey Preserve, a lovely green space a few blocks from downtown,” she said. “This project is next on our to-do list.”

Other HPG Business

Projects from past year:

- Kelsey Trail Hike on July 7, 2019
- Built the new entrance on

Oak Street including trail, steps and pollinator garden

- Cleared storm damage at Rec Park Trail and Big Bear Pen
- Planted Atamásco lilies on Oak Street Trail
- Installed more posts and hand rails along stone steps on Big Bear Pen Trail
- Improved tread and pruning work on the Rhododendron Trail
- Repaired handrails on steps to Mill Creek
- Inspected and improve drainage on trail system
- Thanked our town employees with lunch
- Continued Kids Hike Highlands Passport Program for Kids

Upcoming Projects:

- Dedication of the Oak Street Entrance
- Continue installation of posts and railings along the Bear Pen Trail stairs
- Build loop trail in the Kelsey Preserve
- Trail maintenance
- Create Board Walk & platform from Pierson Drive to Harris Lake
- Update the website
- Long-term Projects:
 - Trail to Cashiers
 - Bike Trails in Highlands



A bevy of volunteers keep the Greenway intact and work to blaze new trails across the plateau.

Broadband funding bills are being considered in the NC GA

The NC General Assembly is considering several bills that would increase broadband infrastructure across the state.

The COVID/Supplementary G.R.E.A.T. Grant Period (HB 1105) was introduced in the House on May 14 and would provide an additional \$30 million to the NC Division of Information Technology's Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grant program, which expands access to broadband infrastructure in the state's rural counties.

These supplemental funds are intended for applications submitted on or before September 15, 2020 and funds would be awarded on or before December 30, 2020. The bill is currently in the House Appropriations Committee.

On April 21, Jeff Sural, Director of the Broadband Infrastructure Office at the NC Department of Information Technology, shared with the NC House COVID-19 Subcommittee meeting on Economic Support his desire to eventually increase the GREAT grant program to \$135 million.

The Provide Affordable Broadband Access to NC (HB 1122) contains several provisions to increase digital inclusion across the state.

It modifies the GREAT grant program and FIBER NC Act (introduced in

2019) and requires health plans to reimburse for telehealth services.

It also establishes a pilot Homework Gap grant program to provide Internet access to students and teachers who do not have, or who cannot afford, home Internet service. The program would be administered by the Broadband Infrastructure Office in the NC Department of Information Technology in consultation with the NC Department of Public Instruction.

The one-year grant program would provide Local Education Agencies (LEA) to purchase equipment and services for individual student and teacher use, and provide Wi-Fi on school buses. Funds would be allocated in the following ways:

- \$4,500,000 to LEAs to purchase mobile hotspot devices, service for the hotspots, and equipment and mobile service to provide Wi-Fi on school buses.
- \$250,000 to administer the grant program and conduct research on the size and scope of the homework gap.
- \$125,000 to conduct a third-party evaluation of the pilot program and progress made toward closing the homework gap.
- \$125,000 for mobile service testing to ensure mobile hotspot devices can provide adequate access for at-home educational needs

...WORD MATTERS continued from page 13

ally doesn't matter if you agree or disagree with the letter or spirit of the law, directive or restriction. We don't get to decide what laws, or legally imposed restrictions we're going to obey. To believe otherwise is anarchy

We are as polarized as I have ever seen, and I've lived a while. Now, to be clear, disagreement among people of

good will is a healthy thing. But if Walmart or Lowes says, "wear a mask," either wear a mask or shop elsewhere. If you don't like what protestors are saying, protest back, but don't brandish weapons and then scream self-defense.

What we are seeing in these actions is a breakdown in civil society, something none of us should want.

Jackson County Dept. of Health has found a COVID-19 cluster in a local business.

Eleven employees of Mountaintop Golf & Lake Club have tested positive for COVID-19. All positive employees are following isolation orders; additional positive results are expected. The investigation is ongoing. Symptomatic individuals who test positive will be required to remain in isolation under the following conditions: 1) At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared AND, 2) at least 72 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms. Asymptomatic individuals who test positive will be required to remain in isolation under the following conditions: 1) At least 10 days have passed since their positive test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

JCDPH is working to identify any additional close contacts of these employees.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Reaching the Station

Dear Editor,

Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We will soon reach the Station. How restlessly we are waiting, waiting for the Station. When we finally reach the Station, we cry! That will be it. "When I'm 18." "When I buy that new Mercedes." "When I put my last kid through college." "When I paid off the mortgage." Then I shall live happily ever after.

The truth is that there is no Station. It's the trip. It's the journey. "Relish the moment." Stop waiting. Instead eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, laugh more, cry less, climb more mountains, spend more time with your family and friends. Start today.

Kenny Youmans
Highlands, NC





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• THE PAST & THE PRESENT •

Breaking News

I don't like to watch breaking news these days, almost always depressing and seemingly worsening. It only adds to the sense of claustrophobia of past coronavirus months.

Bad news seems endless.

More than 130,000 deaths from the coronavirus in the US and counting, a collapsed worldwide economy, a resurgent racism, rioting in towns and cities, a corrupted political system, seasons no longer seasonal, and now perhaps one of the most devastating hurricane seasons in history looming. Where is any promise of hope in all this? And for our nation?

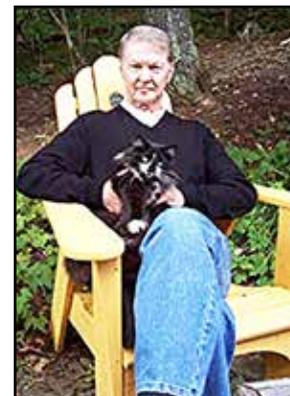
I just don't like breaking news anymore.

As a writer and historian, my life not only seemed nominally predictable but also satisfying, as if by writing about the past that act would boundary my present and guarantee a future. It doesn't.

In fact, I have puzzled over, written about, and even cautiously predicted dangers our liberal democracy has faced in past troubling times. Still, I never thought I would be a prophet or witness its actual dismembering and dissolution in the present. Surely just imagining it would be enough. Yet it wasn't.

In a long ago philosophy class, I came across Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan, a classic of social contract theory which examined how much freedom we should be prepared to give up for the protection and security of living under a powerful state. If you don't find the prospect of Hobbes' "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, short," and unpredictable life appealing, you should be prepared to give up a lot; things like constant surveillance, your privacy, personal information and connections, where you live and travel, and, yes, even your smart phone. Almost everything. Hobbes' Quality of Adjusted Life Years (QUALY) always seemed pretty gross to me, certainly not my future. I never liked him much.

Hobbes' Leviathan comes from the Book of Job in the Bible and, in ancient Hebrew, can be construed to mean, "to couple with a dragon," in this case an



Milton Ready

increasingly powerful if headless government. For those on the right and left who worry that the virus lockdown and recent riots are pushing us into an Orwellian future in which our every move and action can be monitored and controlled by an app or a vaccination, those fears seem increasingly real.

In this sense, protesters who occupied state capitols with AR-15s and George Floyd demonstrators have

much in common. It's the old horseshoe theory of political science where right and left extremes bend to come together. Except for hating each other, I don't really know what either political party stands for anymore, so muddled have so-called left and right philosophies become.

That's not breaking news.

After all this is over, how much of an increased police and military control, curfews, lockdowns, rationing of essential supplies, medical care, and curbs on our freedom will be relinquished? Will government give up such advantageous tools of control once these crises have ebbed? When ex-Generals like the Marine John Allen, former commander of US forces in Afghanistan, grimly talk about current crises as the "beginning of the end of the American experiment," I want to reach for a Hemlock cocktail like another philosopher, Socrates. Or a shot of Jack Daniels.

These days I can't seem to think clearly about all the breaking news. It's a continuous, confusing, changing kaleidoscope of a mess. Equally blurry on the future, I once again turn to philosophy for a little understanding. A little.

The early 19th century philosopher, Georg Wilhelm Hegel, once wrote that "The owl of Minerva flies only at dusk," generally taken to mean that we finally come to understand a historical period or crisis only as it passes away. Yet I'd like to know sooner before I pass away.

If I didn't like Hobbes, I certainly didn't comprehend much about Hegel, but I think the owl meant wisdom and understanding, something we all should be looking to find. I'd like that kind of breaking news.



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...RELIEF continued from page 1

the House and the Senate unanimously. The measure provides an additional \$150 million to support local governments and \$100 million for state agencies from federal funds provided by the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. North Carolina received a total of \$4 billion in federal funding, with the first round of funds distributed in April which amounted to about half of the amount allocated by the federal government.

The new federal dollars will provide an additional \$7 million for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for schools systems across the state this Fall and an additional \$5 million in grant funding for the Department of Public Instruction to provide schools to provide access to services for exceptional children who have lost critical services as a result of COVID19. Although the fate of schools this fall has yet to be determined on the state level, Gov. Cooper said \$7 million is a good start, but not enough for the entire state to operate under.

"This bill includes funding for personal protective equipment for our schools, but we need to work together do more. It also helps ensure that summer feeding operations can continue to provide meals for children who can't be at school, which is critical for our families right now," said Gov. Cooper.

For the second round of stimulus funds, larger counties in the state -- more than 500,000 residents -- received 45% of the funds directly from the U.S. Treasury. Smaller counties like Macon County will receive an even share of the additional \$150 million and are required to disperse 25% to its municipalities. The first round of funding left it up to the counties whether the municipalities would receive

a portion of the funds, and if so, the amount they would receive. As part of Macon County's budget passed at the beginning of June, both the town of Franklin and town of Highlands were given \$60,000 each of the \$150,000 the county received.

To aid small businesses in the state, House Bill 1023 includes \$15 million for job retention grants for businesses and nonprofits that were excluded from the federal Paycheck Protection Program. The package also sets aside funding for tourism, marketing and

technology advances for the state.

To address the increase in mental health services, the spending package includes \$6 million for the Department of Health and Human Services for rehabilitation centers, mental health facilities, group homes and funding for children living in foster care.

Rural hospitals were specifically allocated an additional \$2.5 million of a larger \$9.5 million grant funds from the bill, and free & charitable clinics and the North Carolina Community Health Center Association were granted an additional \$5 million.

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Tomb of Pope John Paul II.

Father Reginald Foster is a Milwaukee-born Carmelite priest who began his studies in Rome in 1962. After excelling exceedingly in his knowledge of the Latin language, he was asked to become one of the Pope's latinists, to which he replied "Certissime!" or "absolutely!"

At the time, Father Foster was teaching Latin at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and over the decades, would become famous in the Church for his genius, brilliant teaching style, and his eccentricities. One of his famous lines would be told to a student unable to answer a question: "even the dogs in ancient Rome understood Latin!"

Over four decades, beginning in 1969, Father Foster also became a legend in the Latin office of the Vatican. Nearly every document in need of an official Latin translation, from papal encyclicals to gratulatory notes to the U.S. for the moon landing, bore his fingerprint or at least approval. He even helped the Vatican ATMs offer Latin as a possible language.

During his time at the Vatican, Father Foster served four popes: Pope Paul VI (1963-1978), Pope John Paul I (1978), Pope John Paul II (1978-2005), and Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013).

When John Paul II was elected, he immediately began signing his name: Joannes Paulus II. To the common viewer, this may not mean much; however, to a Latinist, the letter "J" would stand out; and to Father Foster, it was a disaster. As a Latin purist, he preferred using the letter "I," since J's were not used during the golden age of Latin around the time of Christ but were invented in the medieval period.

Without delay, Father Foster sent the Pope a note asking His Holiness to use an "I." A response came: quod scripsi scripsi or "what I have written, I have written," bibli-

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Wes Sharpe, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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9:30a Early Service; 11a Worship Service;

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 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

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

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Pastor Gary Hewins

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Sun.; Tues: Men's Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

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Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

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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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

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.: 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; Early-Bird Christmas Eve service of

Lessons and Carols, Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:30 am.

All are welcome.

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Mass: Thurs. 12:10; Fri. 9am; Sun: 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Thurs. 9am, Fri., 11am; Sun. 9am

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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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 June 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 30

• At 12:05 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

July 1

• At 9:55 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

July 2

• At 8:28 p.m., officers responded to a call of destruction to property and aggravated assault in the Mountain Fresh parking lot where a man was waving a knife at victims and stabbed thier tire valued at \$150.

• At 5:17 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehcile accident on Big Bear Pen Road.

July 3

• At 9:15 a.m., Highlands Police Department, assisted by Macon County Sheriff's Office, arrested

24-year-old Matthew Huante, of Highlands, on warrants for two offenses of Misdemeanor Assault. These warrants were issued in connection with an investigation of an assault with a knife (not inflicting injury) which happened during the evening of July 2, 2020. Huante was given a \$4,000 secured bond by Magistrate J. Brogden. His trial date is Sept. 1, 2020.

July 5

• At 5:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of someone entering the gated pool area of the rec park after hours.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 30.

June 30

• At 11:56 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Buck Creek Road.

July 1

• At midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 3:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Hickory

Lane.

July 3

• At 9:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of the smell of smoke in the vicinity of Raoul Road.

July 4

• At 12:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 4:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road

July 5

• At 8:59 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Mrytle Speed Road.

• At 1:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Pipers Court.

July 6

• At 3:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buckberry Road.

• REC PARK NEWS •



Pool Hours Starting Saturday, June 27

LAP SWIM (18+)

Monday-Friday • 6am-10am

(6 lanes, 3 lanes required circle swim lanes)

Monday-Thursday • 5pm-7pm (1-2 lanes) (Shared Pool)

Saturday • 10am-11am (6 lanes)

WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday 10:15am-11am

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday-Thursday 11am-7pm

Friday & Saturday 11am-6pm

Sunday 1pm-6pm

RESTRICTIONS – MASKS REQUIRED ON DECK

No Pool Parties Available until further notice

Pool will be limited to 30 swimmers at a time.

Temperatures will be taken at sign in

Front office, bathrooms, showers and dressing rooms are open. Lockers are closed.

No equipment will be available for water aerobics or lap swim

Reservations for lap swim will not be available after Friday June 26

Call the Pool at (828)526-1595 for more information.

NOTE:

The Civic Center is still closed while the town awaits Governor Roy Cooper's Phase 3 announcement.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 26

cal words taken from, of all people, Pontius Pilate.

Such was a momentary defeat for Father Foster and the purists. However, an opportunity for the final word came upon the death of John Paul in 2005.

One could imagine the extensive planning for the death of a Pope, especial-

ly if his decline was as slow as John Paul's. However, one detail John Paul overlooked was the precise inscription on his headstone. Tasked, as usual, for official Latin scripts, Father Foster found his opportunity and happily overlooked the Latin for the Pope's tomb: Ioannes Paulus II.

Howland named 'Rotarian of the Year'

Sherry Holt, Outgoing President of The Rotary Club of Highlands, is shown presenting the Rotarian of the Year Award to Dr. Slocum Howland in recognition of his Dedicated Service and Loyal Devotion to the Ideals of Rotary.

Slocum joined The Rotary Club of Highlands in September, 2003, has served the Club in several capacities, the most recent was Sargent At Arms.





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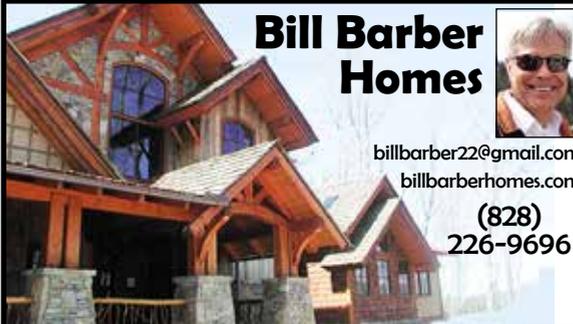
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Social time begins at 9:30 and services begin at 10 a.m. on Sundays

Visit our website www.wayfarersunity.org for more information, or call 706-746-3303

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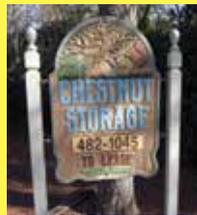
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SONAL - 40 hours guaranteed until October 31. Employment in Highlands Falls Community Association

Maintenance Department wanted for help with roads, water, sewer, etc. Could become year-round with benefits. Please Call 828-526-2203 or 828-200-9763. (7/9)

THE LOG CABIN restaurant, downtown Highlands, is hiring all positions including sous chef, front of house manager, servers, line cooks and handyman/landscaper to start immediately. Call 828 526-5777 or email jason@logcabinhighlands.com. (st. 6/11)

FULL-TIME SECURITY GUARD Position in Highlands. Please call 706-982-5526. (6/18)

LUXURY LODGE MANAGER needed for live in position. Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain, offer cooking classes and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Must have impeccable references and some experience in hospitality/maintenance. mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 6/11)

LOCAL TREE COMPANY HIRING - Jesse's Tree Service, LLC, local to the Highlands, NC area is seeking both tree climbers and grounds/cleanup crew. Pat experience a plus but company will train. Salary is based on experience. We are looking for reliable, drug-free, hard working individuals. Driver's license and a clean driving record a plus. If interested, please call owner, Jesse Finley at 828-342-1974 to set up an interview. (st. 6/4)

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NOW HIRING AT WILD THYME. We are looking for a sous chef, waitstaff, and hostess. Must have positive attitude and reliable transportation. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet in Town Square on Main Street in Highlands. Please no phone calls. (st. 5/28)

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Old Edwards Inn: Night Auditor, Housekeepers, Turn-down Attendants, Houseman

Spa: Cosmetologist, Certified Massage Therapist, Spa Attendant

Admin: Part-time Marketing Assistant.

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JOIN OUR TEAM! Nectar Juice Bar (located inside Whole Life Market) is now hiring! Are you looking for a fun, healthy-minded individual looking for full-time, year-round work? Experience is not necessary, but kitchen or barista skills a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th St., Highlands.

CHESTNUT HILL is an upscale Assisted Living Community in search of a Dietary Cook, CNAs, MedTechs, Wait Staff and Housekeeping. Send resume to Lindabtiff@aol.com or call 828-526-5251. (st. 2/13)

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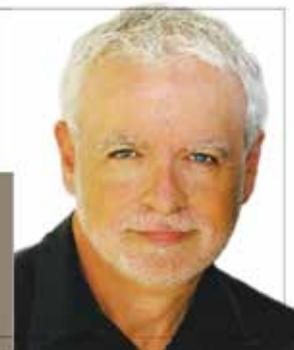


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