

Highlands Newspaper

Happy Father's Day!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 25 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thursday, June 18, 2020

NCHSAA gives OK to school sports; Gov. outlines school opening criteria

By Brittny Lofthouse
Despite record increases in Coronavirus cases across the state, high school athletics were

given the greenlight to resume Monday, June 15. The North Carolina High School Athletics Association (NCHSAA) announced

last week that sports would be permitted to resume, with strict health and safety guidelines.

• See **SCHOOL** page 7

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Churches creatively tend to their flock

By Andie Chilson
Churches in Highlands and Cashiers are doing their best to prioritize the safety of their congregations while also looking forward to reuniting as a body.

At First Baptist Church, Dr. Mark Ford, the pastor, said that he is continuing to weigh the safety precautions issued by the State as well as by the Church.

"I have admittedly been back and forth on this. But we're ready. We could do it," Ford said.

Ford has taken extensive measures to ensure the health and safety of his congregation when they are able to reconvene. Some of the safety measures include installing an infrared system in the church's ventilation, social distancing across multiple rooms within the church and re-

• See **CHURCHES** page 14



Stations have been placed at restaurants and high traffic locations in Jackson and Macon counties.

HCHF funds 200 hand sanitizer stations

Submitted
As part of its COVID-19 response, the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) has purchased and delivered 200

hand sanitizing stations to area independent restaurants for use by their patrons and high traffic areas for use by community members.

The stations can be found in Cashiers, Highlands, Franklin, and Sylva. The four Chambers of Commerce in Jackson and Macon

• See **SANITIZER** page 10

MC EDC offers loans to area businesses

Submitted
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Macon County Economic Development Commission has established the Reopening Macon Fund. The program, funded by a \$257,500 appropriation from the Macon County Board of Commissioners, will provide low-interest loans to severely impacted small businesses in Macon County, helping them to remain open. Repayment is expected either from more permanent funding sources or from future cash flow of the business.

Loan amounts range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and are available to businesses located, or based, in Macon County, have between 1 and 49 employees, been in business at least 12

• See **LOANS** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

What Phase 3 could look like

Tonight is the June meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissions. Since we are in Phase 2 of the Governor's State of Emergency, the meeting will again be held by way of ZOOM. Information on how to access the meeting is on the town website.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

I hope this is the last meeting where we only ZOOM. If we are in Phase 3 in July, I believe we will have a face-to-face meeting that will also have a ZOOM option. The when and how the state will move to Phase 3 is still in question. With the increasing cases of Covid 19, the governor may very well delay Phase 3, and/or continue to curtail the number of people allowed at public gatherings.

A major item on tonight's agenda deals with issue of opening up town facilities, namely Founders Park, to larger gatherings in Phase 3. There are a number of requests including, concerts, art shows, the wine and food festival and the 5k road race that are upcoming up. The question

for the board will be whether these events should move forward and under what conditions. The issue is compounded by the uncertainty of the spread of the virus and what the governor and state health director decides by June 26. Many elected officials in the state would give anything to have a crystal ball to look ahead, but in this state of emergency they will have to make decisions with very limited, and fluid information.

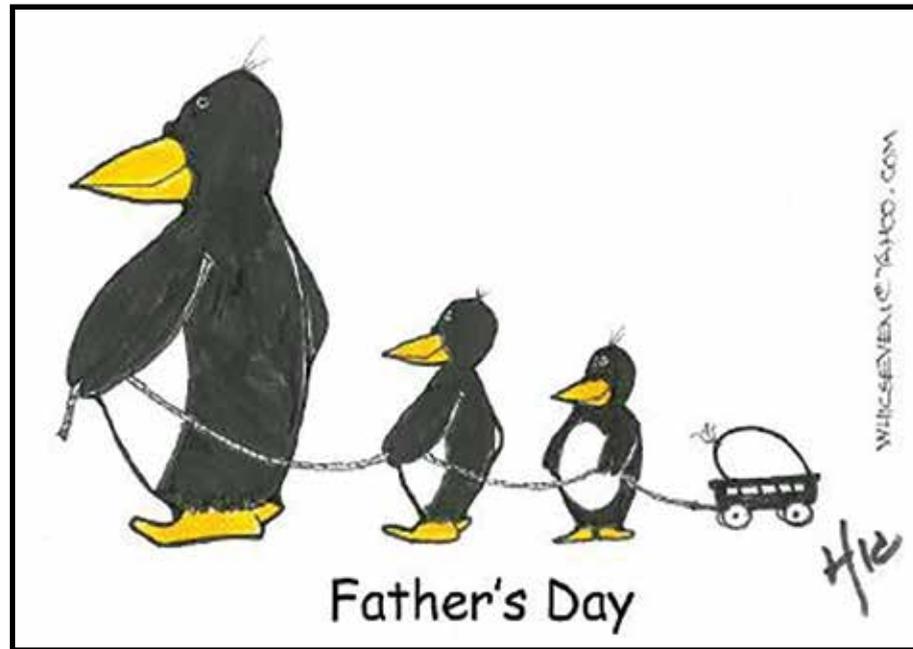
There will also be a public hearing concerning the proposed town budget for FYI 2020/21. As with the public comment period, folks can make comments at the budget hearing. I recommend calling into town hall prior to the meeting and requesting to make a public comment. The names and phone numbers will be given to me for recognition at the hearing. Requests to make a public comment can also be texted to me at (828) 506-3138. I will also open the floor for comment, but with this new technology there is always a concern that someone will be overlooked, so prior notification is recommended.

Tonight the board will also review an RFP for a company to operate our board band fiber optic network. This RFP is a 25-year lease/sale agreement. The agreement that we tried to finalize with WideOpen was a limited 10-year lease that followed the requirements of HB 129. This new lease option also complies with state statutes but permits one company to control the network. I believe there will be several companies making proposals. The network should be ready for operation this fall.

Also on the agenda, is the approval of a firm to lead the town through the comprehensive planning process. A number of companies have been interviewed by members of the land use committee and several planning board members. A contract will be approved and work should begin in the coming weeks. It will take about a year for the plan to be developed, written and presented to the board.

Hope everyone can ZOOM in tonight.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• 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, 18-Jun	Fri, 19-Jun	Sat, 20-Jun	Sun, 21-Jun
 67°F 55°F	 71°F 55°F	 74°F 57°F	 77°F 58°F
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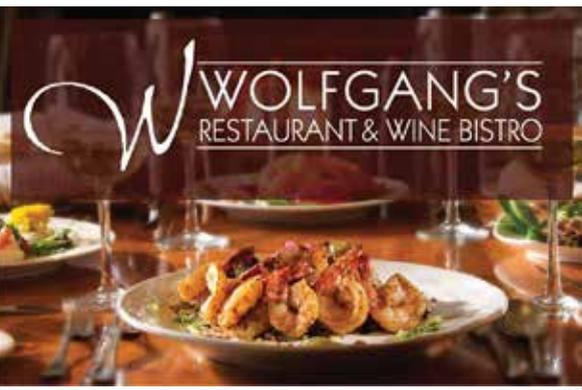
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• LETTERS •

What Highlands is; what it could be

Dear Editor,

I started in photography in 1960 soon after getting my first camera. Because my family came here in the late 1930s, I have been able to see the town change over the years.

When the town started developing in the 1920s and 1930s, most of the shops were here to service the locals -- hardware stores, grocery stores, dry goods, and stables for the most part.

Many who came here came because of the climate and the rare and stunning natural history that abounds here.

The Highlands Land Trust was established in 1909 and the Biological Station was established in 1927. The rich diversity of the region attracted researchers from across the US and from the international community working on so many different ecosystems. This led to the growing support from the State of North Carolina.

Few regions outside the tropics offer such opportunities as the southern Blue Ridge for analytical and experimental work in ecology, systematics, and evolution. Part of the area from Highlands to Cashiers in 1940 was virgin forests until it was sold by Beatrice Ravenel to the Champion Paper Company.

Just imagine if Highlands was in the middle of the largest stand of virgin forest in the country with more wildflowers in Macon County than all of western Europe combined! I would hope that it could have been a place where conservation and science would have flourished instead of the shopping mecca, it has become.

I hope that I will not be accosted by a storm of readers telling me that I am a heretic! It is just that this town is not only my home it is my heart -- my reason for living. Much of my photography is centered around this region and this plateau because my heart is entwined in the history and nature and science that lives here.

My only hope is that when you see an image of mine that something stirs inside you that connects you to act. I know that I can't stop what is happening here in Highlands; to turn back the clock; but for as long as I have breath, I will try to make people here know what could have been and maybe though my images they will act by making this town and community what it should be.

**Keven Fitzpatrick
Highlands**

Income inequality is slavery; it has to stop

Dear Editor,

Increasing income inequality is like blowing up a balloon; it can't go on forever.

Slavery is not dead. It is the third most profitable enterprise of organized crime, after drugs and weapons sales.

The current minimum wage, in most places, is a form

• See LETTERS page 19



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• OBITUARY •

Mary S. Thompson



Beloved long-time Highlands resident Mary S. Thompson (fondly known as "Nanny," not only by her own grandchildren but by many other children) passed away Thursday, June 11, at her home after a brief illness.

Mary Grace Smith Cleaveland Thompson was born in Westminster, SC on June 28, 1924 to Mary Elizabeth Harbin Smith and John Henry Smith. She was the 6th of 8 children.

Her father was a sharecropper and she began picking cotton at the age of 5. At the age of 12, Mary came to Highlands and began working at Hotel Edwards to help support her family in South Carolina.

She remained in Highlands

and at age 16 she married Wendall (Buck) Cleaveland. During the war, they moved to Vancouver, WA with their young son John, where Buck led an electrical crew helping construct battleships for the war effort. Mary herself worked in the shipyards pulling wires through the

bellies of battleships during their construction.

Near the end of the war, they returned to Highlands, which was in a state of economic despair. Soon after, they moved to Virginia where there was ample work available in the construction industry. Shortly after their arrival in Virginia, Buck was tragically killed in a construction accident. Mary returned to Highlands with her son John and began working at the Tar Heel Restaurant, which was located in the current Masonic Lodge building on West Main Street.

In 1950 she married Magnus (Bud) Stribling Meriweather Thompson, Buck's half-brother. They had three children. In 1954, they moved for a time to Oconee County, SC to be near Mary's elderly parents.

In 1966 Mary and her son John Cleaveland bought the Highlander Restaurant on Main Street Highlands from W.C. Newton. In 1969, the business was expanded with the addition of Big John's Sirloin Room on Oak Street. The business was operated by the family until it was sold in November 1981.

Following that venture, Mary, along with her son Mike and his wife Dale, operated a business on the hill known as the Sunny Day Bakery and Deli until the fall of 1986.

Following her retirement in 1986, Mary served as a regular volunteer at Mountain Findings for over 21 years. She also continued serving others and visiting the elderly at the Eckerd Living Center until the age of 93.

Mary was a longtime member of the Presbyterian Church in

Highlands where she served as an elder for many years.

She also served on various town committees.

She was awarded the Robert B. Dupree Citizenship Award through the Highlands Rotary Club in the early 2000s.

To the delight of many, she continued baking her wonderful breads, chocolate cakes, and caramel cakes, as well as her infamous buttermilk pies, until she hung up her apron at the age of 90.

She is preceded in death by her son John W. Cleaveland.

She is survived by: daughter-in-law Edwina Goode Cleaveland and grandchildren Mary Kristina (Kristy) Cleaveland, Marty Caye Smith, and John Caye; daughter Pamela Thompson-Duke and husband Michael Duke of Lilburn, GA, and grandchildren Matthew Reese and Jennifer Reese; daughter Mary Lee Billingsley and husband Lamar of Scaly Mountain, NC, and grandchildren Tracy Roman, and David, John, and Andrew Billingsley; son Michael (Mike) Stribling Thompson of Highlands, and grandchildren, McKenzie and Sayward Thompson.

She is also survived by 11 great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, and an assortment of loving dogs, cats, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, and birds of all kinds, which she fed faithfully.

From her home overlooking Harris Lake, she loved to watch the clouds as they rose from the west.

In addition to all of the family who attended to our mother, thanks to her faithful caregivers Sherry, Delores, and C.J.

In honor of her wishes, a private family service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the John W. Cleaveland Benevolent Fund at Community Bible Church, Four Seasons Hospice, and Highlands Child Care Development Center at First Presbyterian Church.

We will all miss her so! Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Thompson family.

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...SCHOOL continued from page 1

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REOPENING PLANS for EDUCATION CONTINUITY

COVID-19 REOPENING PLANS	School Facilities and Students	Health Precautions *	Teaching and Learning	Scheduling Options
REOPENING PLAN A <i>Minimal Social Distancing</i>	Open All students in school at same time	Enhanced health protocols See NCDHHS requirements and recommendations	Traditional with preparation for Blended Learning	Change within day, see below
REOPENING PLAN B <i>Moderate Social Distancing</i>	Open Limit density in facilities to no greater than 50% maximum occupancy	Enhanced health protocols See NCDHHS requirements and recommendations Increased requirements in addition to Plan A	Blended Learning for all	Multiple options, see below
REOPENING PLAN C <i>Remote Learning</i>	Closed No students in school facilities	N/A All at home	Remote Learning for all	Full change to Remote Learning

*Refer to NCDHHS StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) from June 8, 2020

"I have shared the NCHSAA information with the board," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "I will be seeking to answer any questions that they may have regarding the reopening guidelines. We will be seeking input from the individual schools regarding specific needs and concerns from staff."

The announcement will end a 94-day dead period for high school sports caused by the pandemic and comes as the NCHSAA releases strict guidelines for returning to play.

The NCHSAA Staff worked closely with the NCHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) on recommendations for member schools regarding summer activities that align with NC DHHS directives. The guidance utilizes a phased approach for NCHSAA athletes and is intended to help school administrators, coaches, parents, students, and communities navigate a gradual reopening of high school athletic activities.

The guidance utilizes a three-phase plan intended to

help schools and athletic administrators navigate the gradual reopening of high school sports. Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said that Highlands sports will not resume June 15, and rather will wait for further direction from the school board. The school board is scheduled to meet June 29 in Franklin.

Nantahala High School also said they would be waiting for more guidance from the school board. However, Macon County's largest High School, Franklin High, began summer sports on Monday.

"On June 15th, Franklin High will resume summer workouts for athletics. Due to the increased traffic because of the Wayah Street closure, Panther Drive and McCollum will be closed during practices for the safety of our coaches and athletes," announced Blair King, Athletic Director and Assistant Principal of Franklin High School said. "Please note per the North Carolina High School Athletic Association policy under Phase 1 for Athletics, parents and spectators are not permitted to attend

practice sessions and practices will be closed to the public. Facilities such as the track, football field, soccer field, and so on will be strictly off limits during practice sessions in order to comply with the NCHSAA guidelines."

Although sports are resuming this week – the decision for school this fall is still up in the air. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper released guidelines for the coming school year and what it would look like if schools were to open as scheduled in August.

Gov. Cooper's guidelines include three opening options, which will be based on how the virus is spreading as it gets closer to the new school year.

"This is a living document," said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson in a press release. "It's not set in stone. Our goal is to provide a roadmap that supports reopening schools to make this enormous task less difficult for our districts, schools and communities."

On Monday, DHHS released guidelines instructing schools to design three reopening plans

• See SCHOOL page 10

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Plant against food insecurity this summer

By Kat Ford

The Food Pantry of Highlands, Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, and the Many Hands Peace Farm invite members of the Highlands-Cashiers community to **PLANT FOR THE PLATEAU** this summer.

On the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, numerous families face food insecurity. Many people struggle to make ends meet with our area's slower economy during the winter months and when unexpected events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, arise.

During the summer months planting fresh vegetables to donate to the food pantries allow these organizations to allocate those needed dollars toward other products.

This year, to create a synergistic community effort to plant, these organizations are encouraging everyone to **PLEDGE, PLANT, EMAIL, HARVEST**. Marty Rosenfield, Director of the Food Pantry of Highlands, encourages all community members to participate.

"In Macon County 20% of the population faces food scarcity 365 days of the year and you would be making a difference," he said.

The idea is simple, pledge and plant one or more of the following needed crops: tomatoes, squash, peppers, corn, onions, potatoes, carrots, and beans. Then email PlantForThePlateau@gmail.com with a list of the vegetables you pledge to grow, date planted, expected harvest date, and whether you plan to donate

PLANT FOR THE PLATEAU

THESE CROPS ARE NEEDED:

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- Corn
- Onions
- Potatoes
- Carrots
- Beans

PLANT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY

Join neighbors and friends to help fill the food pantries with fresh veggies this summer and fall.

PLEDGE, PLANT, EMAIL, HARVEST

Join our Facebook Group for gardening tips and drop off harvested veggies to the plateau's food pantries. It's that easy!

SEND AN EMAIL TO:

PlantForThePlateau@gmail.com with a list of crops you pledge to grow, which food pantry you are pledging for, the date planted, and the expected harvest date. This will help the food pantry with projected inventory and budgeting.

Peace Farm (MHPF) has field space to plant but needs your help!

Located at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, MHPF is an educational farm dedicated to teaching apprentices and guests about the concepts and techniques of regenerative agriculture.

Members of the plateau eager to lend an extra hand can contact the MHPF at 828.526.5838.

"We're excited to join in this effort to share some of the abundance

we have in our community. And it's a great opportunity to come together as growers and share any tips, experiences, and inspiration," says Joey Kyle, Manager of Many Hands Peace Farm.

Don't like the idea of dirt underneath your fingernails? There are still plenty of ways to help. Both the Food Pantry of Highlands and Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry are always in need of volunteers and donor dollars. If you don't have either the time or money to spare, share information from the **PLANT FOR THE PLATEAU** Facebook Group or from the Facebook page of either food pantry or the MHPF to spread awareness about this community effort.

On the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, fighting food insecurity requires both the seeds of love and nutrients. Help us plant both this season.

to the food pantry in Highlands or Cashiers. This information will then be added to a live Google Document for both pantries to access so they can keep an eye on projected inventory and consider this while budgeting. Then, harvest and deliver your crops. It is that easy.

"The biggest challenge we face is providing healthy, fresh items. We can assure everyone involved, the produce will help these families through this difficult time," says Bill Fehrs of Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry in Cashiers.

To encourage community gardening, a Facebook Group named **PLANT FOR THE PLATEAU** is available, where local farmers and gardeners, including the farmers of the Many Hands Peace Farm, can share tips and tricks.

If you would like to join the effort but don't have room to plant a garden, the Many Hands

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• WORD MATTER •

Conventional Wisdom

Sometimes you hear something, and it triggers an almost instinctive, Swiftian-kind of reaction. At least, that's what happens to someone quarantined in splendid isolation here on the edge of the forest.

Apparently, our two major political parties, both now with pointy heads and a total absence of reason, are proceeding in some fashion

or another with their quadrennial self-love fests, better known as their presidential nominating conventions. We all know what these orgies of 'we love us, we hate them' are all about.

Therein, in the time of Covid-19, lies the issue at hand; everyone knows what they're all about. And, it doesn't take an Einstein to figure out, as was the case with the recent rash of protests, that putting that many people in a relatively tight indoor space, will result in a rash of new infections, more hospitalizations, more death, but hey, they only come around every four years, so, lighten up, you know?

North Carolina's governor, Roy Cooper, in an obvious moment of clarity, decided that he could not promise the Republican National Committee, or its standard-bearer, that their desire for a "no masks, no social distancing, let's put 20,000 screaming acolytes inside the Spectrum Center in Charlotte" kind of event really wasn't in the best public health interest of either the attendees or the 850,000 residents of the Queen City. Good call, governor.

Nothing from the guy up in Wisconsin, where the Democrats are planning to coronate former Vice President Joe Biden and whomsoever he decides will be his ticket tag-along. Milwaukee has one of those 20,000 seat arenas, the Fiserv Forum, and as we all know, they are as capable of dumb decisions as their pals across the aisle. They can scream with the best of 'em, and they can spread a virus pretty darned well. Two words ... New York.

I'd ask what these folks are thinking but I already know the answer; they're not. They don't think. They never think. They're political parties. If ever there was an oxymoron in the American version of the English language, "thoughtful politics" ranks right up there. Um, folks? Pandemic anyone? Vulnerable population, anyone?

I won't speak for anyone else, but I can't imagine ANY of these thousands of



Bud Katz

Republicans or Democrats will knowingly bring ANY kind of virus with them up to Milwaukee, or down to Jacksonville, or wherever, from ANY of those places they live. They wouldn't do that. Would they?

Besides, we know Covid-19 only really kills old people, right? Pretty sure there aren't many of those making the trip to either one of these conventions, right? Right?

Now, since these are political parties we're talking about, it's both possible and probable that, if the Republicans want no masks, no social distancing, no acknowledgement at all of the threat to their attendees and their host city's population from this virus, that Democrats will opt to go in the entirely opposite direction. Newton's third law. Google it.

Television cameras at the Fiserv Forum (not sure what that even means) will feast on thousands and thousands of masked Democrat faces, gloved hands, buckets of sanitizer, muffled voices, gurneys with PPE-clad healthcare workers strategically placed throughout the arena ... thinking about it is giving me the vapors. I don't know what that is, either.

Look, we're still a couple of months out from the, let's call them what they are, parties, that our two political parties are going to throw for the singular purpose of self-glorification.

For the record, by mid- to end of August, when these two events are scheduled to occur, Covid-19 could likely have infected upwards of three million Americans and may have claimed up to 200,000 lives. I'm just sayin' ...

Do either of you two parties really think your membership, and the media, and everyone else clamoring for their moment "in the room" is going to come out of this process unscathed? Do you take even a single moment of pause with regard to who you might be exposing to infection, or serious illness, or death?

Come on, partisan party people. Come on, Mr. President. Come on, Joe. Have your blankety-blank party parties in 2024. Covid-19 should be in the dust bin of ugly American history by then.

We all already know who's running. We all have pretty much made up our minds who we're going to vote for. Do we, or do you, really need to hold these silly conventions during a virus pandemic?

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...SANITIZER continued from page 1

counties helped make it happen.

Branded with the Foundation logo, along with the individual sponsoring chamber logo, the stands will be placed at the front entrance of participating restaurants as well as high traffic areas to raise awareness of the need for customer safety while also affirming the Foundation's commitment to supporting their community's health and well-being.

The four partnering chambers, Cashiers Area Chamber, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Franklin Chamber of Commerce represent about 1500 businesses and non-profits in Macon and Jackson Counties.

The Centers for Disease Control guidelines suggest that when hand sanitizers are used in place of soap and water, that the sanitizer contain at least 60% alcohol. Each sanitizer stand will be delivered with a gallon of 80% alcohol medical-grade sanitizer. Recommendations are to put enough sanitizer on hands to cover all surfaces and rub hands together until they feel dry (approximately 20 seconds). Users should not wipe off or rinse hands before sanitizer is dry.

"Now that businesses are open again, it's imperative that everyone understand the importance of staying safe and staying well," said Robin Tindall, CEO and Executive Director of Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation. "One of the best ways to do that is through good hand washing and sanitizing. Having these stands at the entrance of our area restaurants is a great way to keep this practice top of mind."

...LOANS continued from page 1

months and have suffered a loss of revenue of 25% or more due to COVID-19.

"COVID-19 has greatly impacted Macon County's economy and the recovery will take time," said Jim Tate, Chairman of the Macon County Board of Commissioners. "Providing financial resources for local businesses will play an essential part in reopening our economy."

Additional partners supporting the fund include the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Southwestern Community College's Small Business Center and Western Carolina University's Small Business and Technology Development Center.

According to Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner Vice-Chair, "The

Reopening Macon Fund will provide much needed assistance to our small business community. Many do not have the resources to weather a long-term recovery. A loan of \$2500 or \$5000 could make the difference in surviving or being forced to close."

Mountain BizWorks, a non-profit community financial institution based out of Asheville, will be the administrator of the Reopening Fund, providing loan processing and underwriting services.

Locals businesses can apply online at mountainbizworks.org/reopeningmaconfund or contact the Macon County Economic Development Commission at 828.369.2306 for further information.

...SCHOOL continued from page 7

phases. Plans A and B require that temperatures are taken for each person – staff, parent, student – entering the school each day.

Plan A would incorporate minimal social distancing.

Plan B calls for moderate social distancing and limiting building, classroom and school buses to 50% of capacity.

Plan C calls for students to remain home for remote learning.

School districts across the state, including Macon County, are now tasked with developing instructional plans for Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C. While the DHHS provided recommendations as well as requirements, it will be up to local districts to develop plans that will meet the state requirements for each plan.

State officials are watching the trends surrounding coronavirus as it decides when to reopen schools and it all depends on how severe the pandemic is come August.

The three options on the table are

minimal social distancing (if cases are stable), moderate social distancing (if the numbers get worse), and remote learning (if the outbreak is so bad that schools would have to close).

The state board of education chair gave an example of that moderate social distancing plan, saying it would require limiting school occupancy to 50 percent.

For Macon County – meeting the requirements may be easier for schools like Highlands and Nantahala, where the student population is considerably less compared to Franklin area schools, but classroom space is still an issue.

Because of the varying demographics at each school in Macon County – officials may need to develop different versions of each of the three phases.

State officials plan to announce which of three phases are most likely by July 1 to give local districts a better idea how to focus planning efforts.

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NC Courts Reopen; Governor Issues Temporary Moratorium on Evictions

Pisgah Legal Services assists people in WNC who are facing homelessness, other crises during COVID-19

As courts reopen to limited capacity throughout North Carolina, evictions have been paused. On May 30, NC Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No. 142 to extend the prohibition of utility shutoffs and implement a moratorium on evictions. The evictions moratorium is in effect for 21 days. Read more about Order 142 here.

Pisgah Legal Services Managing Attorney Robin Merrell, who oversees the organization's housing work, says, "While the Governor's order is good news for people who cannot pay their rent during this pandemic, this moratorium is only a short-term solution. People need to under-

stand that it does not mean that rent, or back rent, is being forgiven. We are encouraging folks who are behind on their rent to work with their landlords to at least make partial payments if possible, and to apply for help with Pisgah Legal Services."

Pisgah Legal Services, a non-profit that provides free, civil legal aid in Western North Carolina, continues to assist people with low incomes during COVID-19. Staff and volunteer attorneys are helping clients and taking new applications for assistance with critical needs that include:

- evictions and foreclosures;
- domestic violence;
- coping with debts and avoiding scams;

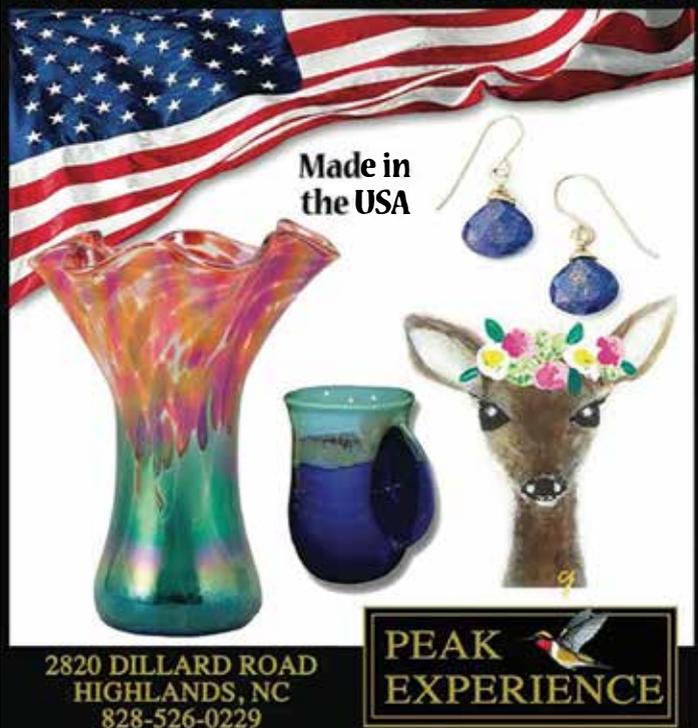
• unemployment and other government benefits and health care.

Applying for Help/Other Resources

If you or someone you know needs help, call Pisgah Legal's main phone lines at 828-253-0406, or 800-489-6144. Online applications are also being accepted: www.pisgahlegal.org/free-legal-assistance. Pisgah Legal staff and volunteer attorneys continue to work remotely, and will be in touch via phone and/or email.

Pisgah Legal's website (www.pisgahlegal.org) also offers helpful information including resources, and frequently asked questions during COVID-19.

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Laurel Garden Club awards six grants

The Laurel Garden Club recently awarded six grants totaling \$15,447 to non-profit organizations in Highlands. These grants are given to promote community beautification and to protect and conserve Highlands' natural resources and scenic mountain landscapes.

The club has offered these grants every year since 2002 and has given a total of \$188,312 to community organizations. The funds are raised from sales of their cookbook Celebrate Highlands (now out of print) and moneys raised from their bi-annual Kitchen Tours.

Following are this year's grant recipients: Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM); Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; Highlands Historical

Society; Peggy Crosby Center; The Bascom; The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

Organizations wishing to receive a grant from the Laurel Garden Club must have reached agreement as to the specific project for which the grant would be given.

Once the purpose of the grant is determined, plans for the project must be made with sufficient specificity to obtain bids or quotes from providers, including but not limited to landscape architects and plant nurseries.

The next grant deadline is January 31, 2021. For more information on the grant process, please visit the Laurel Garden Club website at www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com.

**Mountain Findings Thrift Store
will be open Fri. & Sat. 10a to 4p**



COVID-19 correct are from left: Ruthie Oliver, Brenda Manning (Club President), Pegsie Payne, Lila Howland

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Why Highlands? Why Not?

Can you believe the number of people in town? In our annual license plate visual survey, we have seen them from all over the place, with maybe even more than usual from the northern states. I guess we should have seen it coming since people are restricting their air travel and choosing to go to places within easy reach.

As of June 16, Macon County had 231 cases of the Coronavirus, 19 of those showing as recovered, and 1 death. We knew as the states opened, there would be more community spread as well as from “the outside world.”

For the next couple of weeks, we will remain in Phase II, (a.k.a Safer at Home) Along with our new mantra “Remember the 3 Ws - Wear, Wait, Wash,” we should follow the guidelines from the CDC, including 1) avoiding sick people, practice social distancing, 2) use a cloth cover over our nose and mouth when we can't be 6 feet apart, 3) Wash our hands with soap/water for at least 20 seconds, 4) Avoid touching our eyes, nose and mouth with our hands, 5) cover our coughs with a tissue and then dispose of the tissue, 6) clean and disinfect surfaces according to the label instructions, and never mix chemicals. Clean all surfaces that are recently touched.

Note: all but the second one is standard for any time of year, but especially during cold and flu season. Oh yeah, a pandemic. Maybe, just maybe with all these precautions, our “normal” cold and flu season won't be bad.

Real estate in Highlands hasn't really slowed down be-



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
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cause of the Coronavirus. Maybe one reason is when it started. Living in a seasonal town, we're sort of used to slowing down, staying home more during the winter. However, the people who normally fly south, or travel to other countries, or have an active social life were certainly affected.

Our office had several closings during January-May, and all of them were subject to bank loans, which could have gone awry at any moment with the ups and downs of the market, but they didn't.

Banks and mortgage companies have incredibly low-interest rates right now, and one of the things that slowed the process a little was that the banks were overloaded with people refinancing their homes.

Vacation rentals have been a little like watching an old episode of Demolition Derby, really hit or miss.

We had cancelations and gave full refunds, then we had others seemingly standing in line to take their place, then we had some of the early cancelers call us back to rebook.

Our June rentals (with half the month to go yet) are up over 25% of nights rented from last year. These do not include annual leases, owners, or their guests.

Of course, we hope the rest of the season pans out this way as well, but a lot of the final picture depends on residents and visitors following the guidelines of whatever Phase is prevalent.

There are plenty of properties on the real estate market right now, but at the rate they are selling, we will need more to take their place. There have been more closings in 2020 to date than in 2019. Some buyers and sellers may be concerned about looking at properties

or having their properties shown during a pandemic. If everyone follows the guidelines, everyone should be safe and remain healthy.

Most Realtors are using safe practice protocols to protect the

buyers, sellers, and themselves. One thing suggested is to do the preliminary house hunting online. Most people have pretty much mastered Facebook live, or FaceTime, but emailing still shots or

videos work well, too. Buyers can make offers sight-unseen based on what they have seen in a video and with their Broker's commentary, and before or after their

• See INVESTING page 15

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...CHURCHES continued from page 1

quiring that all attendees wear masks during services.

Ford also said that the church is aware of the public perception of opening up the church sooner rather than later.

"We don't want to look irresponsible," Ford said. "Last week, I was going to open up. But then the numbers spiked."

Just across the street at Highlands United Methodist Church, Rev. Randy Lucas is looking to the ecclesial authority of the Methodist Church as well as the needs of his immediate community.

"We certainly wouldn't go back sooner than it was recommended by the larger Church, but we will ultimately make our own decision, working within those guidelines," Lucas said.

According to Lucas, the church is considering outdoor seating for services when they are able to safely reconvene. In the meantime, the church is offering a variety of virtual events and ways to remain active in the church, such as virtual vacation bible study, virtual holy communion and the continued online streaming of worship services.

"As far as when we'll come back, there's just no way of knowing. The most important thing for us is the health and safety of our parishioners, and that will guide us throughout this whole process," Lucas said.

At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Rev. Bentley Manning also said that the church has not set an official reopening date at this time. Manning said that once the state enters the third phase of reopening, if the church decides that they can reunite safely, they will meet with no more than 25 people inside at one time. The bishop of the Church has also required that congregations wear masks if they worship together. Singing will also likely not be a part of the initial services upon reopening.

The church vestry is discussing some of the specifics of reopening and the necessary precautions to keep the staff and parishioners safe.

Ruth Claiborne, a member of the vestry at the Church of the Incarnation, said that no one expected this hiatus to last for as long as it has, but that the church has adapted to meet the needs of its parishioners. The church offers live-streamed services and weekday morning prayer and produces a podcast called Empty Pews with Rev. Manning and Assistant Rector,

Rev. Kellan Day.

According to Claiborne, one silver lining to come out of the shift to virtual services is a significant spike in attendance of livestreamed services.

"[The livestreamed Sunday services] were always done at the church, but mostly people who couldn't come to church 'attended' that, but now lots and lots and lots of people are attending," Claiborne said.

While Claiborne says that she is emotionally ready to reunite with her congregation, she would not feel safe doing so at this time.

"The sign on [the church's] door says, 'out of love for each other and our community the church is closed now,' and I think that applies to our services too," Claiborne said.

At First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Emily Wilmarth said that as of right now, the church is planning to continue the virtual meetings they put in place earlier this year. Book clubs, bible studies, Sunday school and meetings of the session (the church's governing body) will continue to meet remotely for the foreseeable future.

"We are continuing to take in the wisdom of the CDC and are being cautious about keeping people safe," Wilmarth said.

Highlands Central Baptist Church took a brief hiatus from the end of March to the beginning of April. They have been meeting as a congregation since Easter Sunday, though with a maximum capacity of 10 people, including the pastor, Dan Robinson, until the federal judge overruled the governor's decision to limit gatherings to 10 people last month.

"We just wanted to worship. We wanted to be together. This is why we're here in Highlands," Robinson said.

The church maintains a limited seating capacity, social distancing measures and disinfecting protocol before each Sunday morning service.

"Our [summer] plans have not really changed," Robinson said.

At Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers, Rev. Jim Murphy said that they are planning to maintain the same safety measures that they have had in place since they reconvened as a congregation several weeks ago. These measures include limiting the number of people gathered together by offering two services, removing hymnals and Bibles from the pews and replacing them with freshly printed lessons

• See CHURCHES page 19

The story behind the COVID-19 test results

Every day by 5 p.m., Dr. Jimmy Villiard with the MC Health Dept. publishes the COVID-19 results as they pertain to the state and the county.

This number reflects all the COVID-19 tests performed in Macon County that have been reported to Macon County Public Health by private physicians, hospitals, and other area health facilities performing COVID-19 testing

Included in the daily update are the current number of people tested by the MC Public Health Dept.; pending results, the total of cases, the recovered cases and the number of deaths in the county.

Also included are the number of cases in the U.S. and the state as well as the number of deaths in each.

As of press time, Wednesday, there are 231 cases in the Macon County; 211 active cases, 19 recovered and 1 death. There are 157 pending results.

The state also has a dashboard that

lists the number of cases per county and per zip code.

Though it is usually a day behind the update delivered by Dr. Villiard, it offers the zip code component.

For Highlands and the Highlands Township that zip code is 28741. As of press time, the number of cases in the 28741 zip code is 44.

The question many have asked, however, is does the zip code designation only apply to those who live in the Highlands area full-time, permanently, or does it also include the hundreds of second-home owners who call Highlands home 4-8 months a year who are getting tested while here in Highlands?

Are their testing results included in the 28741 tally or in their home-state zip code?

According to the Director of the Macon County Health Department, Kathy MaGaha, they are not included in the

28741 zip code tally.

“Reportable communicable disease cases are reported to the individuals state and county of their permanent residence. If a second-home owner has not established permanent residence here by obtaining a NC driver’s license, registered to vote, etc., their positive case will be reported to their home state and county,” she said.

MaGaha said of the people that MCPH has tested and were positive, 5 were reported to Jackson County and 1 was reported to Clay County.

“Initially, we reported a couple of positive cases that were reported to New York and Maryland. Both of these cases were tested by another agency/hospital,” she said.

Any provider conducting COVID-19 testing must report positive results to NC DHHS, including health departments, hospitals, and private providers.

Kim Lewicki

...INVESTING continued from page 13

offer has been accepted, they can make a personal visit to the property.

This will not work for everyone, but there are cases it could, like a property the buyer has seen before recently or years prior, or if the buyer is planning a total renovation and is mainly interested in the location, and knows the location, and I’m sure there are other opportunities as well. Part of their due diligence would be a visual inspection.

We have learned many things in 2020, and one of them is the need to be flexible. Flexible with our routine, our family, and our business model.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners/brokers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals, located at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. We hope wherever you are, you’re safe and healthy. Contact us to help you find your place in Highlands. info@HighlandsIsCalling.com or 828-526-3717

• REC PARK NEWS •

Refurbished tennis courts stand out at Rec Park



The tennis courts next to the skate park have been completely resurfaced and are ready to go. The old asphalt was removed, replaced and repainted.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

Rec Park Pool Schedule

Monday-Friday

- 6am-12pm Lap Swim Only (18 years and older)
- Only 6 patrons in pool area at a time.
- 3 lanes will be reservations only (reservations available 1 day ahead of time, reserved lanes will be given away if more than 10 minutes late)
- 3 lanes are first come first serve. (will have a waiting list if full)

Restrictions:

No Bathrooms, Changing Rooms, Showers available. No Equipment available for use. Pool Entrance is now at back wall next to front parking lot. For reservations, call 828-526-1595.

• BIZ NEWS •

Meet the heroine of the Dickens & Christie cozy mystery series

Hey there. I’m Leta Petkas Parker, and you can probably tell from my name that I’m Greek. Greek families love food and cooking. Since I’ve retired to the Cotswolds from the States, my new friends have come to expect my Greek salad whenever they eat at my cottage — that and the occasional pan of pastitsio or spanakopita.

How did I get to England from my

home in Atlanta? Tragically, my husband Henry died in an accident nearly two years ago. I threw myself back into my corporate career, thinking the long hours and weekly business trips would chase the pain away. All that did was exhaust me. What did the trick was my spur of the moment decision to retire to the Cotswolds, something I’d

• See BIZ NEWS page 17

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• LORD BANJO & PRINCESS PUDDIN' •

Life with Dad

Cozy mystery author Kathy Manos Penn interviews her four-legged kids about their dad.

Q: Puddin', let's start with you. What's your dad's most outstanding quality?

A: Oooh! He has quite a few, but #1 has to be his comfy lap. I mean, admit it, Mum, you're jealous I always choose Dad's lap over yours. No offense, but his is wider. And I hope he won't take this the

wrong way, but it's softer too. I could just knead his tummy all day long if I weren't such a busy kitty.

Q: OK, let's give Banjo a chance to respond. Banjo, do you agree or disagree with Puddin's assessment?

A: Of course, I disagree! I weigh 70 pounds so laps are not my thing. Dad's #1 talent in my book is how he can touch me when he's relaxing in his



Lord Banjo

recliner. Unlike you, Mum, he can reach his arm all the way to the floor and rub my belly or scratch my head. I do love to be touched — just a light touch will do. And he's very observant. When his hand hovers and doesn't quite reach me, all I have to do is lift my paw, and he gets the hint.

I must admit, he gets a bit impatient with me when I stand up and nudge his arm, but he's OK with me raising my paw from the floor to point out he's neglecting me.

Q: Back to you Puddin'. You mentioned your dad has lots of great qualities. What else comes to mind?

A: While Dad's lap is #1, a close second would be the role he plays in ensuring I get plenty of treats. My routine is to run to your office in the mornings, Mum. I leap on top of the desk. You open the desk drawer, grab the baggy of treats, and put a

few in my dish — never enough, mind you.

Dad's treat talent lies in visiting the office all day long. That's the signal for me to return over and over again. I'll even get up from a nap — and I take lots of those — to run in, leap on the desk and get treats whenever Dad visits Mum. Dad loves this trick. He sits there and encourages me. "Don't you need another treat?" And he laughs when I hop up again. We've got you trained, Mum.

Q: Yes, I know, Puddin', but I'll soon be calling you Tubby Cat if this keeps up. Now back to Banjo.

A: Thanks. Not sure why the silly cat always gets to go first, but I agree Dad is good about treats. He gives me my glucosamine treat every morning like clockwork, and for lunch, he shares three — always three — chunks of ham when he makes



Princess Puddin'

his sandwich.

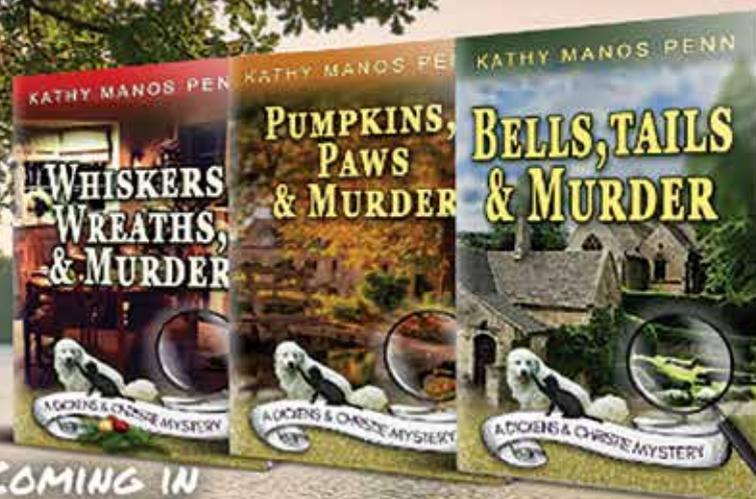
So, all in all, it sounds like you guys think your dad is a great guy. I'd say he's darned lucky to have such adoring four-legged kids. And, I'm lucky to have you as the models for the furry sidekicks in my books. Christie has Puddin's feisty personality, and Dickens is a laid-back, happy go lucky dog, just like Banjo. Happy Dad's Day!

• Puddin' & Banjo reside in Georgia with their mum and dad. Please send comments and questions to the four-legged kids at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and visit kathymanospenn.com for blogs, pet pics, and book news. The Dickens & Christie cozy mystery series is available on Amazon. Find Banjo's book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," at Books Unlimited and Mountain Paws.

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COMING IN
AUGUST

...BIZ NEWS from page 15

always dreamed of.

I love writing, and my readers tell me they enjoy hearing about life in the picturesque village of Astonbury. Back home, I wrote about the deer in the yard, fall festivals, trips to the mountains — whatever struck my fancy. Here, it's trips to quaint villages, overnights to Oxford, and the joy of walking country lanes.

Dickens and I walk almost every day, and our favorite destination is the pasture where we feed carrots to Martha and Dylan, the donkeys. For a longer walk, we continue to the Olde Mill Inn, where I visit with my friends Libby and Gavin, and Dickens romps with their cat Paddington. Dickens says his favorite pastime is diving in the pile of dirty linens with Paddington as the rooms are being changed out.

Did I mention that Dickens talks to me? And I understand him? Odd, I know, but I've been able to talk to the animals since I was a child. I also converse with my black cat, Christie — and my friends' pets. Dickens is a happy go lucky little fellow. His feline sister? She's sassy and persnickety, but I still love her. I've successfully kept my Dr. Dolittle talent to myself — can't have my friends thinking I'm a crazy woman. Even Henry didn't know about my strange ability.

Yes, I was living the dream . . . until Dickens and I stumbled across a dead body . . . of a friend.

Who knew I had an inner Nancy Drew? In a flash, my friends and I had embarked on solving a murder mystery. And, believe it or not, we solved it! Even we were surprised.

But that was a one-time thing — not some-

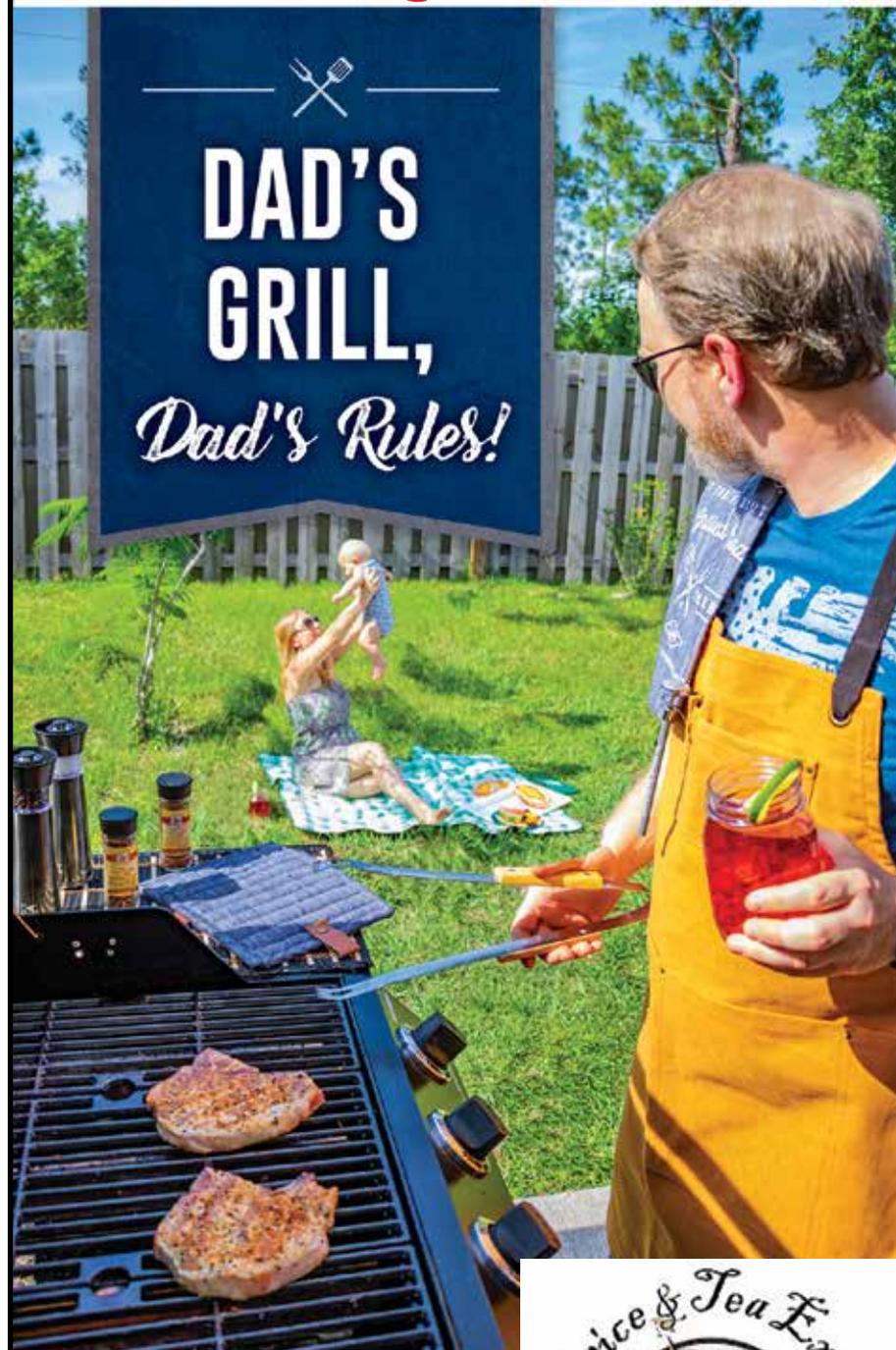
• See BIZ NEWS page 22

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Who Trusts in the Lord



Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian
Church, Cashiers

"Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in the darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God."

— Isaiah 50:10

In this time of such uncertainty, we need to stop and remember the basics of our faith. Let me share with you some words of help.

Even as believers we tend to give an undue importance to the articles that bring comfort and give place to feelings, and when they vanish all comfort seems to be removed from our hearts.

In other words, we have the tendency to trust in emotions that are always changing.

The true Christian knows that grace is the true strength of our faith. Yes! Grace is at times held at bay by our sins, but it never really leaves the true believer.

It is true at times even the true believer may find their faith clouded but the principles of faith are never removed from our hearts.

Consider your Lord as He hung upon the cross. Has there ever been another that suffered as he suffered? Has there ever been sorrow like His sorrow? Has another ever been deserted like He was? There were no springs of consolation for Him to go to. All joy was withdrawn from his soul. It was like His human soul underwent an eclipse. Yet, His faith hung upon God and you can hear that in His exclamation "My God! My God!"

He was declaring that his hope rested in the strong one, His strong one. He was caught in the storm, but he declares his anchor to be His heavenly Father. He had no consolation, no comfort. He faced a darkness unbelievably filled with horror, producing the greatest sorrow man could ever imagine. Yet, in the face of all of this terror He stayed His soul on God.

As we face this pandemic and the unknown terrors that it harbors, we but need remember who created this world and thus this virus. Hold to Jesus and all He did for you. Let your comfort come from His words of hope that all who look to Him will be safe when it comes to the last day.

No pandemic, no battle, no war can come between you and your Lord. We of all people know that at the darkest hour, at the coldest moment we have a hope no man can thwart. We have a comfort won on Calvary's cross. We have a joy perfected in His resurrection. We have a hope that will be secured in His return. Take note of all of these things and stand in faith before the cruelties of this world and you will be filled with love, joy and hope.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
9:30a Early Service; 11a Worship Service;

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd
Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

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Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968
Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am
Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy
Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; 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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814
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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
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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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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.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

June 2

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a report of someone not returning a vehicle when they were supposed to.

June 4

• At 2:12 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on NC 106 and Buttermilk Lane.

• At 2:49 p.m., William John Araujo, 24, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI at the site of an accident. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Aug. 3,

June 10

• At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Farmers Market parking lot at Main Street and NC 106.

June 5

• At 4:31 p.m., officers received a report of someone driving a vehicle with a fictitious and obscured tag.

• At 4:50 p.m., Matthew Michel Huante, 24, of Highlands was arrested for resisting arrest, driving with a fictitious tag and operating a vehicle without insurance. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is July 14.

June 7

• At 11:20 p.m., Scott Joseph Shaffer, 26, of Seneca, SC, was arrested for DUI and driving with an open container of alcohol. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is July 27.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 9.

June 9

• At 8:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a tree on a power line on Harris Drive.

June 10

• At 9:26 a.m., the dept. was first-

responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road.

• At 12:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a bicycle accident on Buck Creek Road.

June 12

• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Owl Gap Lane.

• At 4:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

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

June 13

• At 3:16 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

June 15

• At 1:06 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Foreman Road.

...LETTERS continued from page 5

of slavery.

Inadequate education and health care is a form of slavery.

Underpaying illegal immigrants is a form of slavery.

If you are concerned about slavery, worry more about what is going on today than what went on in the past.

More detail is at davidsautobio.org/TOC/Ch30/Economic System.

Support leaders who care more about the people they lead, than their own agendas. Read up on how the Icelandic people, the Norwegians, and the Swedish people reformed their economic and political systems. If enough of us join together, we can make our society more equitable for all.

David Stearns

Otto

dspvbf1@gmail.com

...CHURCHES continued from page 14

and liturgy and spacing people apart in the pews.

“There has been about 38 people in a church that can really seat about 140, so they can be pretty well spaced apart,” Murphy said.

The Church continues to offer virtual Zoom services to those who are not comfortable worshipping in person at this time and will continue to implement the necessary safety precautions at least through the month of June, according to Murphy.

The largest church in the community, Community Bible Church, is taking things two weeks at a time, according to Pastor

Gary Hewins. As of right now, the church is continuing to offer an online service each week at 10:45 a.m. as well as an outdoor service at 9 a.m. This Sunday the church will offer a 10:45 a.m. outdoor service for the first time.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church is currently streaming mass via YouTube and is not offering in-person services at this time. The church, led by Fr. Jason Barone, is taking things on a week-by-week basis as they monitor the spread of the virus. The church is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and sacraments are available by appointment.

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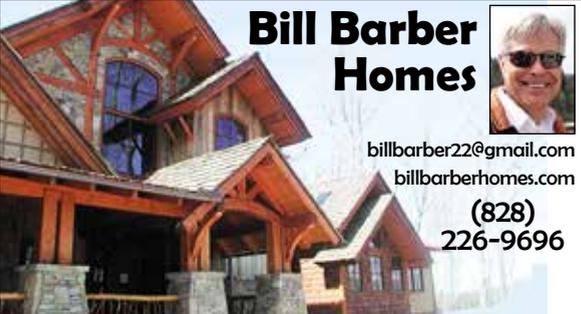
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SOLOFLEX HOME GYM with butterfly, and leg attachments. List price is \$3380, asking \$1000 OBO. 434-242-1174 (st. 5/21)

HOSPITAL BED AND 7FT RAMP, could be used at home or as a boat ramp. Call 828 743 5543. (st. 5/21)

E-Z UP 10X10 VENDOR TENT with sidewalls & weights. Excellent condition. \$170. 828-526-1031 (st. 1/30)

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Call or text Matt at 706-239-0880. (st. 9/26)

WANTED

FULL HOUSE GALLERY in Highlands Plaza is now open and accepting CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE. Please call or text Susan at 828-526-6004. (st. 3/19)

WANTED TO BUY: US & Foreign COINS & CURRENCY. Top prices paid, free appraisals, call Dan at 828-421-1616 or email danhazazer@gmail.com (8/13)

HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE MEMORABILIA. Call Sandra La Jeunesse at 828-371-2214.

HELP WANTED

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)

NEEDED AN EXPERIENCED HEALTH CARETAKER for a very sweet female Alzheimer's patient for limited time each day not during normal working hours in exchange for free lodging and utilities in a fully furnished cottage located in Highlands Country Club. For additional information call 828 526-0469. (st. 5/21)

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)

NOW HIRING PART- AND FULL-TIME ASSOCIATES FOR RETAIL STORE. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays. Call Shannon at 526-8864 or email Shannon@dutchmansdesigns.com (st. 6/4)

NOW HIRING AT WILD THYME. We are looking for bussers 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)

WOLFGANGS is looking for a Sous Chef with a solid track record. for dinner prep and service. Need to be creative. Also waitstaff, backer. Best award of Wine Spectator. Please email mindygreen@me.com for either position. (st. 5/28)

OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY currently has the following positions available: Cosmetologist, Certified Massage Therapist, Spa Attendant, Pool Attendant, Madison's Server, Asst. Pastry Chef, Pastry Cook, Cook, Dishwasher, Four65 Server, Hostess, Cook and Dishwasher, Half Mile Farm Server, Old Edwards Club Cook, Server, Night Auditor, Housekeepers, Part-time Marketing Assistant. Please apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com. (st. 5/21)

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, Med Techs, Wait Staff and Housekeeping. Send resume to Lindabtifff@aol.com or call 828-526-5251.

(st. 2/13)

RANDEVU now hiring line cooks, hostess, and waitstaff. Call 828-743-0190. (st. 2/27)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE. Hiring line cooks, and front of the house. Commitment to excellence in food quality and guest service. We are proud of the products and service we provide, we create experiences not just sell food. Offering defined, sane schedules and healthy work environment allowing for a balanced life. Very cooperative pay. Food service experience preferred. Tobacco free workplace. Contact us at Smokehouse recruiting@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC. Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

SERVICES

HOUSEKEEPING BY ZAMANTHA. Please text or leave a voicemail at 828-347-3771. (st. 5/28)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (6/11)

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GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 6/27/19)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 6/4)

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4 UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL CULLASAJA RIVERFRONT LOTS in Eco community located between Franklin and Highlands on Hwy 28 N. \$79K to \$99K. (828) 371-7940. (7/2)

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2/2 CLAYTON HOME IN LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 1+acre, Private. View. \$118,000. Call 706.782.9728 (st. 9/5)

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS BEAUTIFUL RIDGE TOP HOUSE. Atop Mirror Lake. 3BR/2.5BA, covered porches, upgrades. Available now. Yearly lease, \$1,650/month. Call Mark at 678-576-8312. (st. 6/11)

HOUSE FOR RENT two miles from downtown on Dillard Rd available July 1: Upper Level: well furnished 2BR (queen & single bed) 1BA, AC, gas heat, full laundry, upper level parking, no smoking. Includes electricity and propane allowance, water/sewer \$1350 per month.

LOWER LEVEL: Available July 1 well furnished suite, AC, gas heat, with compact kitchen, full laundry, queen bed. Lower level drive for parking, no smoking. Includes electricity and propane, water/sewer \$795 per month.

Will consider leasing entire home if lower level mother.in.law suite is needed however may not be subleased. \$1850. Call 828-342-4819 (st. 6/4)

...BIZ NEWS continued from page 17

thing we planned to ever do again. And we meant it, really . . . until another dead body appeared . . . in our peaceful little village. Everyone thinks I'm the instigator, but honestly, all my friends are hellbent to get involved, at the risk of once again irritating the heck out of Gemma, our local Detective-Sergeant.

Want to know the whole story? Grab "Bells, Tails & Murder" at Dunwoody's Enchanted Forest or order a copy from Amazon. Dickens & Christie can't wait to hear what you think!

• Author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries on Amazon. Locally, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at ink-penn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

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