

Highlands Newspaper

First Day of Spring!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 12 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thursday, March 19, 2020

Case of COVID-19 is in Highlands

As of press time, of the 1,100 tests and 1,000 samples taken for COVID-19, there are 40 confirmed cases in North Carolina spanning 16 counties. A woman who was initially in

self-isolation at Highlands Country Club, and who has subsequently tested positive with COVID-19, is now quarantined at the club. Interestingly, however, she does not count as one of North

Carolina's 40 confirmed cases. According to Kathy McGaha with the Macon County Public Health Center, it's a matter of statistics when tracking communi-

• See CASE page 15

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County passes resolution supporting constitutions

2nd Amendment rights seen as part of constitutions

By Brittney Lofthouse

While counties across the country are passing resolutions affirming their support of the Second Amendment of the Constitution and the right to bear arms, Macon County Commissioners took it a step further by passing a resolution in support of the entire Constitution.

Over the last three months, citizens have petitioned commissioners to take a stand for the 2nd amendment. Donnie Holden, who lead the charge, urged commissioners to pass a resolution similar to that of Cherokee County, declaring Macon County a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County.

Holden presented a 2nd Amendment sanctuary resolution on which he worked with Commissioners Karl Gillespie and Paul Higdon for the board to consider just a few days prior to last week's meeting. Holden spoke to

commissioners and stated that while he has worked tirelessly on the resolution, he did not trust the board to support it.

"From what I have seen some of the commissioners and the sheriff never had any intention of putting forward a resolution from the people," said Holden, who presented a petition for the resolution that he says has 1,957 signatures.

While commissioners considered Holden's resolution, and offered a compromise that included a few legal alterations made by County Attorney Chester Jones, Holden and the other supporters would not entertain the compromise and said they either wanted their resolution or none at all.

Without Holden and others wanting to consider Jones' changes, the county instead took a vote on a resolution crafted en-

• See CONSTITUTIONS page 10



A sign of the times. Shoppers have raided Bryson's Food Store for paper products and hand sanitizer.

COVID-19 has affected all aspects of life in NC, the county and Highlands

North Carolina could see 110 people testing positive or presumptive positive for coronavirus by the end of the week, with cases reaching 4,000 by April 2, an epidemiologist at UNC-Chapel Hill said Monday.

On Tuesday, there were 40 cases in the state across 16 coun-

ties, 1,100 tests given and 1,000 samples collected.

NC Governor Roy Cooper has declared a state of emergency and through an executive order banned mass gatherings to no more than 100 people, directed K-12 public schools across North Carolina to close for students for

at least two weeks and on Tuesday he also ordered all restaurants and bars shuttered for dine-in service and to limit operations to delivery or curbside pickup only.

Due the potential spread of COVID-19, Macon County and the towns of Highlands and

• See COVID-19 page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

State of Emergency and COVID-19

The Town of Highlands was placed under a state of emergency Tuesday afternoon by the town board adopting an emergency resolution. The emergency proclamation I have signed allows the mayor and board to make responses and decisions addressing COVID 19 immediately, without following standard procedures which could delay critical decisions. We will remain under a state of emergency until the state and county rescinds their existing declarations.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

There is a chain of authority for dealing with the corona virus crisis. At the federal level, President Trump has declared a national state of emergency. This declaration was very important for state and county public health departments and hospitals. The federal declaration allows these agencies to suspend standard rules and regulations in order to immediately treat patients and address the spread of the virus. The state emergency order by Governor Cooper reinforces the federal order and enables state officials to mobilize resources without delays.

Our town state of emergency mirrors state and federal proclamations. For instance, we have the police powers to disperse and gatherings that exceed federal and state requirements. We can issue citations to those violating emergency orders. I am certain that our citizens and merchants will cooperate with all declarations, and enforcement will not be needed.

Let me emphasize the town is not the health agency tracking and managing the virus. We are working with the Macon County Department of Public Health, the lead agency at the local level. They are coordinating efforts with hospitals and federal and state health organizations in combating the spread of COVID 19.

The town manager and I are in continuous contact with Macon County Emergency Services and the Macon County Health Department. We will respond immediately to any requests or advisories. Accordingly, we have postponed all town meetings until further notice.

The town is also working to keep residents informed. I encourage everyone to visit the town website were there are county and state links to information about the COVID 19 virus. While we want to keep residents informed, any inquires about specific cases or infected individuals cannot be divulged. There are privacy protocols that authorities must maintain, especially in emergency situations where rumors and panic reactions can occur.

For instance, there are rumors in town that an infected person has been moving throughout the town infecting others. The Macon County Public Health Department follows a protocol for known cases. A person infected with the virus will be visited by public health officials. That person will be required to self-isolate in their home until their ability to spread the virus has passed. A public health official will monitor the situation with daily visits to the residence.

I have been receiving numerous calls about what one should do in this emergency situation. My response is to stay at home as much as possible, avoid gatherings, and practice the recommended personal hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing.

This emergency will be a major challenge. We must all work together in a calm and supportive effort to address this crisis. Rumor mongering and wild speculation is not helpful. In a past time of dark crisis President Franklin Roosevelt put it aptly, "The only fear we have to fear is . . . fear itself."

• HIC'S VIEW •



whicseven@yahoo.com

• WEATHER •

Thu, 19-Mar	Fri, 20-Mar	Sat, 21-Mar	Sun, 22-Mar
65°F 56°F	65°F 48°F	63°F 39°F	51°F 40°F
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High: 68° Low: 57°	High: 68° Low: 53°	High: 67° Low: 50°	High: 53° Low: 41°

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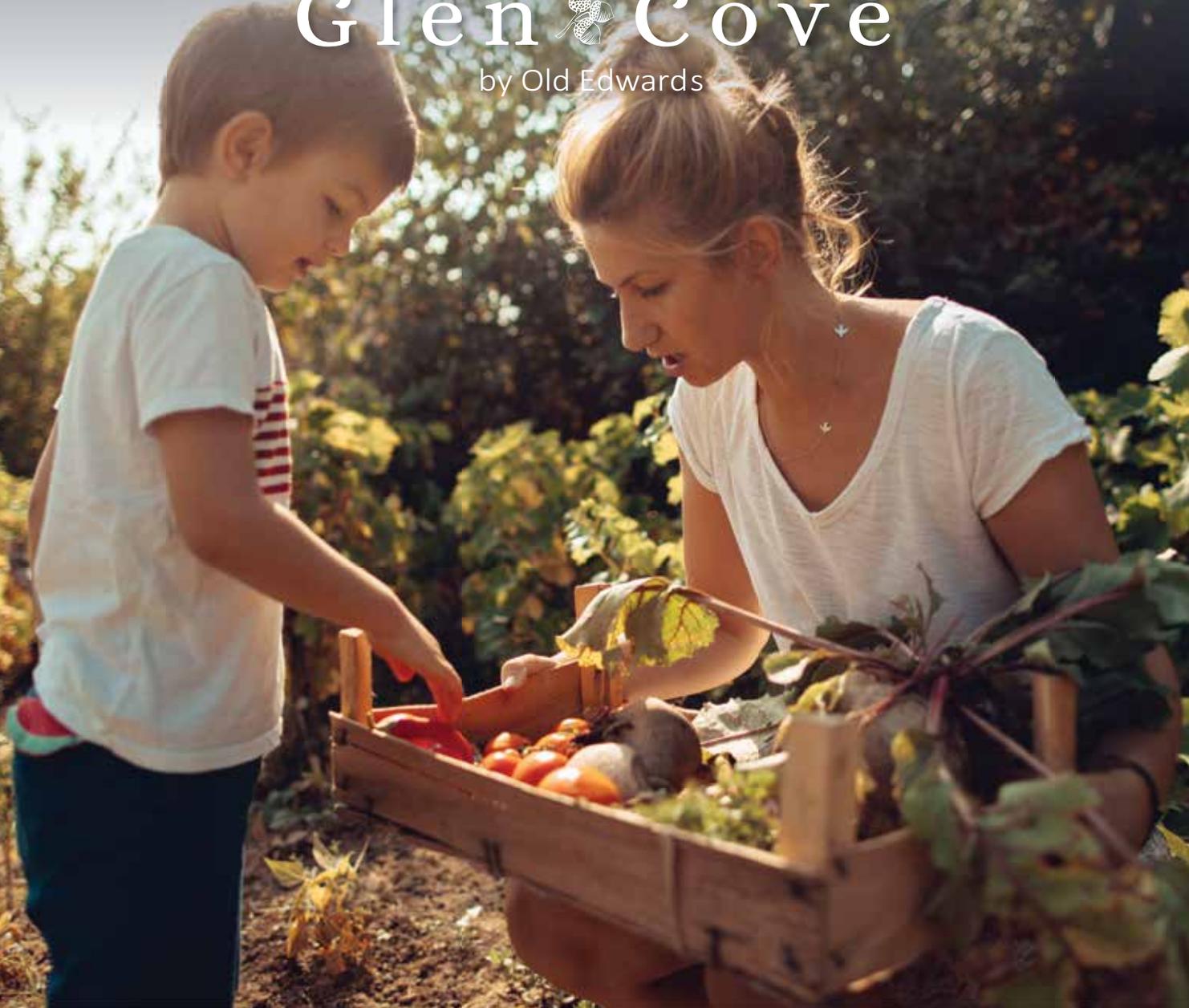
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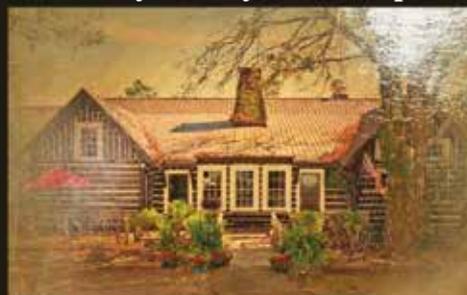
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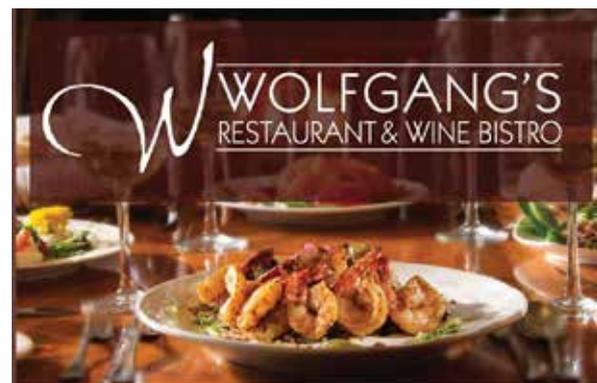
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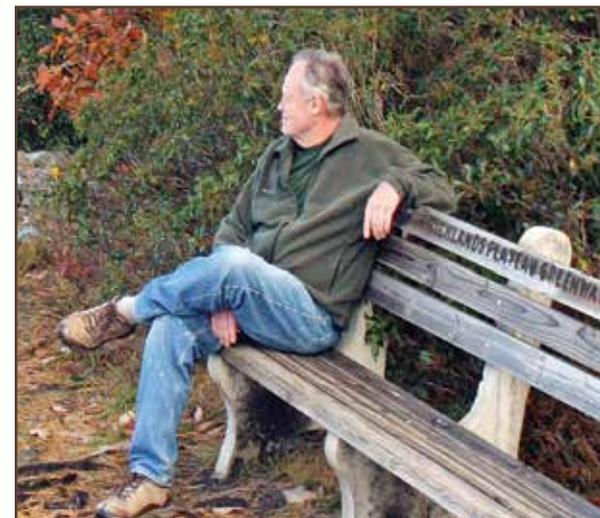
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• OBITUARY •

Hillrie Marshall Quin, Jr.



Hillrie Marshall Quin, Jr, age 76, passed away at home on March 12, 2020.

Hillrie was born in Texarkana, AR to Vera Wilson Quin and Hillrie Marshall Quin. Hillrie grew up on Army bases in Texarkana, Atlanta, Okinawa, Arlington and Petersburg, VA and Germany. He received Bachelors and Masters degrees from Georgia State University. He worked for Southern Bell, then Bell South, handling a variety of positions in the company. He retired from Bell South and went to work the next day for the Conservation Fund. He later worked for the National Wildlife Federation as the Regional Organizer for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. In 2003, Hillrie and his wife, Beverly Cook Quin, moved to Highlands full time.

Hillrie was an active conservationist and community member throughout his life. In addition to his career work, he was a dynamic member of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, the Audubon Society, the Macon Beekeepers Association, the Highlands Biological Station, the Wharton Conservation Center in Tate City, Georgia, and board member of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. He was the founding president of the Highlands Plateau Greenway. He belonged to the Rotary Club, and was president of the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary (2013-2014). Hillrie was an active member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. With the church's mission ministry, he helped build clean water systems in five small communities in Bolivia. He later served on the board of the Highlands Bolivian Mission.

Hillrie is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, his sister, Ann Quin Sutherland, his daughter, Amanda Lynn Quin, his son, Hillrie Marshall Quin, III (Estella Chen Quin), and his grandson, Peter Robert Quin. He is also survived by a host of other loving relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands on a date to be determined.



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Playhouse

Here at the Playhouse we put the health and safety of our community first, therefore we closed our doors on Tuesday 3/17.

Check back with us for updates.

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...COVID-19 continued from page 1

Franklin have also declared a state of emergency. Declaring a state of emergency gives entities the authority to impose curfews, order traffic off the street, mandate quarantines and be eligible for federal or state funding. Dare County has used its authority to close its borders to all except residents.

Particulars concerning various entities follows:

MACON COUNTY

During its emergency meeting Tuesday, the MC Board of Commission enacted a state of emergency.

Macon County Commissioners approved \$150,000 from the fund balance to be moved to a disaster relief fund in case any department needs emergency funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All county recreational facilities – parks, bathrooms, buildings – veterans services, senior services (with the exception of adult daycare and meal deliveries), are closed and will re-open no earlier than Wednesday, April 1.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office will temporarily suspend the issuing of concealed carry gun permits due to person-to-person interaction of fingerprinting.

Offices such as the Register of Deeds and Clerks office will remain open but the county asks people to limit in-person interaction.

Regular scheduling practices regarding congregate meals remain in place. Please call the Macon County Senior Center for details.

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

At an emergency meeting Tuesday, the town declared a state of emergency.

Mayor Pat Taylor said the town will react its Facebook page to keep the public up-to-date about how COVID-19 is affecting the town.

Staff and commissioners will encourage employees to stay home if they, their spouse or children are sick.

Also, the town will be looking at the

next utility cycle and will be considering making the billing process more flexible.

In addition, Town Hall is closed to the public until further notice. All residents can make utility payments with the town utilizing its online feature at www.highlandsc.org, then select Bill Pay or they can deposit payments in the Town Hall utilities payment drop box located outside Town Hall or in Highlands Plaza.

All residents are encouraged to conduct other business with the town, by calling the Town offices at (828) 526-2118 during normal business hours Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At an emergency meeting Monday, staff and commissioners decided to close all town recreation facilities until at least Monday, March 30. That includes the Rec Park, the Civic Center, the pool, and the Community Building. Full-time employees are encouraged to go to work as usual to help, sanitize and clean the town facilities while the public is away.

The Town Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for Thursday night, March 19, along with all other town boards and committee meetings are canceled until further notice.

The Community Coffee with the mayor at Hudson Library scheduled for Friday, March 27, has been cancelled.

MC PUBLIC HEALTH

At the county's emergency meeting Tuesday, the Health Dept. reported that 32 people have been tested for the virus; five tests came back negative and they are waiting on results for the others. Those 25 waiting for results are self-quarantined with their families.

Furthermore, though the Health Dept. has a handful of tests, they are waiting on more. They said some private physicians and emergency facilities in Macon County have their own test kits.

With the ongoing concerns over COV-

ID-19, Macon County Public Health will be limiting non-essential services until further notice. This action is to allow staff to focus more time on the COVID-19 response.

MCPH will be providing the following services: Maternal Health, including pregnancy testing and prenatal services; Symptomatic STD; Communicable Disease and TB; Family Planning, problem visits only; Primary Care, sick visits only; Vaccinations; all children vaccinations will be provided; adult, flu and pneumonia only; no Travel Immunizations; Dental – Adult Dental, Normal Services, Child Dental Emergency Care Only; WIC; Lab, by appointment only, and the NC State WIC Program has waived the physical presence requirement to ensure no interruptions in benefits.

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has protocols in place to care for patients with infectious diseases, and are preparing for the surge of COVID-19. However, during the commissioner emergency meeting Tuesday, H-C CEO Tom Neal said over speaker phone that HC Hospital doesn't have ICU capacity, so those with serious cases such as COVID-19 would be transferred to Mission.

In addition to the restrictions already in place, all Mission Health hospitals are limiting visitation at all its facilities. Until further notice, only one adult (age 18 or older) visitor at a time per patient during the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Exceptions to this will be Pediatrics, NICU, Laboring Advocates, Pre- and post-surgery and end of life services. In these cases only, one person may remain overnight. Preparedness efforts include reinforcing appropriate infection prevention protocols and guidance from the CDC, ensuring there are necessary supplies and equipment, and emergency planning.

In addition, as during heavy influenza outbreaks, visitor restrictions have been instituted in patient care areas. Starting last week, visitors and patients are being directed to use specific entrances to allow visitors to be screened. Supplies are at points of entry,

so that any potential symptomatic patient who arrives can be properly masked and immediately isolated to protect hospital staff and other patients.

Visitors are not allowed at the Eckerd Living Center.

H-C Hospital is working with Macon County and the North Carolina Health Department and the CDC and will provide updates to the hospital and medical staff as necessary.

LOCAL RESTAURANTS ARE STILL COOKING

Gov. Cooper shuttered all restaurants and bars, but most restaurants in Highlands are still open for Take-out and Curbside business. Menus are on their websites. See details in ads on pages 4 and 5.

Highlands Smokehouse says to call for Take-Out or use the ChowNow Online Ordering from www.highlandssmokehouse.com

In addition, ...on the Verandah and Lakeside Restaurant are offering Take-out, Curb-side and Delivery; Wolfgang's Bistro and Restaurant, Wild Thyme Gourmet, The Log Cabin and Randevu in Cashiers are all offering Take-out and Curbside Delivery.

HIGHLANDS ENTERTAINMENT

Due to the health concerns going around, Highlands-Cashiers Players and the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center have postponed scheduled events like HCP's dinner theatre, and PAC's Live via Satellite showings until further notice. On Tuesday, Highlands Playhouse announced it would be closed until further notice.

Highlands Festivals, Inc., is working closely with local officials to monitor the circumstances as it relates to its Spring Event – an evening with Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors with Special Guests, currently scheduled for May 9. Currently, the event is still happening as announced and tickets remain on sale at HighlandsFestivals.com. In the event of a date-change due to COVID-19, Highlands Festivals, Inc. will honor all ticket purchases upon rescheduling the event.

MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS

All public school districts across the state are closed to students through Monday, March 30.

School food distribution sites have been set up for those who would like a meal each day. The sites are Franklin High School, Mountain View Intermediate School, South Macon Elementary School, Highlands School and Nantahala School. Parents and students may pick up food from 11 am to 1 pm Monday through Fri-

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We're All in This Together

"...and do not forget to do good, and to share with others"
(The Apostle Paul).

In these unprecedented times, we're all getting an unexpected dose of a new kind of reality. A common greeting we all use so often is "how are you doing?", which has taken on a whole new meaning. I begin by saying that it is our heartfelt thought and prayer that you and yours are well.

Across the world cities & towns, churches & schools, gatherings, concerts, sports, and retailers have shut down. In Highlands & Cashiers, Family, Friends, Community, Getting Outdoors, Reading, Singing, Laughter, and Hope... have not shut down and are in fact, 100% open. We are choosing to embrace what we HAVE, rather than focusing on what we don't. The local grocery store (Bryson's) still has food, (but the toiletry isle is a little beat up). Restaurants and Retail are open for warmth,



Pat Gleeson
Owner, BIC
White Oak RG
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conversation, and a pint. Conversely, a friend of mine in Atlanta told me he went to Target to buy toilet paper, and a fight broke out.

I believe I speak for the entire Real Estate Community when I say, "we are open to serve." In our humble office here in downtown Highlands the coffee is fresh, Bee's homemade cookies are being served, a big hug is optional, the music is on, and yes...we have Clorox wipes. Stop by for some conversation and a helping hand

with anything you may require...real estate or otherwise! Several of our Clients have called or emailed today to ask, "hey, school is out and we're wondering if we should head for Highlands, What's it like up there?"; to which I say what I always say...C'MON UP!

Yesterday was declared a "National Day of Prayer," and we met with a small group of friends for our weekly "Virtual Church" which airs from NorthPoint Church in Atlanta. I was struck by two important things.

The last words from the Pastor (Andy Stanley) were these: "Love One Another," and the closing song lyrics were these; "it is well, it is well, with my soul." I truly wish both of these things for you, your family, and your friends.

Take care of yourself...deliberate and with emphasis!

• Pat Gleeson, Bee, Tom, Christal, Duffy, and their dog Gemma are Owners and Brokers of White Oak Realty Group, in downtown Highlands. You can reach all of us at 828.526.8118.

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17 Highway 64 East, Cashiers, NC 28717

...COVID-19 continued from page 6

day while schools are closed. In addition, buses will be running regular routes during the hours of 11 am to 1 pm to deliver meals to those who cannot pick them up. These meals will be free of charge.

A total of 4,282 meals were served Tuesday – the first at-home learning day. Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said people don't need to let the school know if they want a meal.

"They can just come pick them up, however, they cannot eat at the school. It's pick-up only; they are made up in advance and ready to go," he said.

Highlands School served 30 breakfasts and 30 lunches the first day, Tuesday.

At-Home Learning has begun for students with details available from the principal or school office. In Highlands call 526-2147 and information regarding your At-Home Learning experience will be explained. Do not hesitate to contact your teacher or your

principal if you have questions.

On Monday, teachers had school work ready for the 2-week at-home period and they are communicating with their classes via email and UTube.

In addition, wireless access at all Macon County Schools locations will be available for students. District-provided student devices will automatically connect when in range. If you have questions or need assistance with technology during your At-Home Learning, Macon County Schools Tech Support can be reached at 828-524-3314 ext. 1044 or email at support@macon.k12.nc.us

According to Highlands Principal Brian Jetter there are no changes in the calendar at this time. Spring Break is still on as scheduled

SCHOOL & COUNTY SPORTS

Due to the threat from COVID-19, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors suspended interscholastic athletics through April 6.

The NCHSAA Board of Directors will assess this situation regularly over the next few weeks. This includes all workouts, skill development, practices, and contests.

The NCHSAA has also made the decision to postpone the 2020 Men's and Women's Basketball State Championships indefinitely.

In addition, all county league sports practices and games have also been cancelled until further notice.

LIBRARIES

All Fontana Regional Library locations in Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties – including Hudson Library in Highlands and Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers – will be closed to the public through March 31, although phone calls will be answered.

The library website and Facebook page feature information links to COVID-19 resources and detailed instructions on how to access electronic resources.

There will be curbside pickup of materials that have been placed on hold. For more information and details, please call your local branch. You can reach Hudson

Library at 828-526-3031.

ACCOMMODATION PRECAUTIONS OEI

With word of coronavirus becoming more pervasive in the U.S., Old Edwards Hospitality Group has been taking strong preventive measures to help protect the health of employees and guests against the threat of Covid-19.

The entire company has an action and training plan that exceeds the recommendations of the CDC. OEI is in ongoing conversations with its purveyors and vendors, ensuring the strictest deliveries precautions in writing.

However, given the state of emergency mandated by the governor, the county and the town of Highlands, OEI management has decided to shut down for a minimum of five days.

"All facilities will be shut down and employees will be sent home with full pay beginning Wednesday at noon," said CEO Richard Delany.

Guests have been notified and were given a breakfast to go when they checked out in the Wednesday morning.

"We will be conducting a rolling evaluation as this proceeds," he said.

Though the other restaurants in town opted to participate in the Take-Out and Curbside scenario for their customers, Delany said OEI will not be doing that.

"All OEI facilities will be temporarily closed," he said. "For the safety of our guests, employees, members and community, we have closed all Old Edwards Hospitality Group businesses until further notice, including hotels, spa, restaurants and retail."

Reservations are being automatically canceled on a rolling one-week-out basis with full refund of deposit, and affected guests will receive a cancellation notice via email.

"We are currently accepting reservations beginning April 1 and will continue to evaluate that," said Delany.

He said this decision basically comes down to family.

"We think of employees and guests like family, and we had to ask ourselves, what is the right thing to do to protect them – and do our part to protect the community and society at large. There's no roadmap here, and our colleagues in the industry said they were pondering the same decisions. In the end, we just did what felt right," he said.

Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

According to co-owner Jeanie Chambers, they haven't had any renters yet because of COVID-19.

However, one owner cancelled Highlands plans due to their compromised health concerns, and other owners are opening their homes earlier than normal because they or guests will be using their Highlands home, she said.

"We have available homes, and welcome renters," she said. "We've notified our rental owners that Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals will give full refunds to anyone that needs to cancel due to the Corona virus. This obviously includes renters that can't get here due to travel bans."

• See COVID-19 page 15

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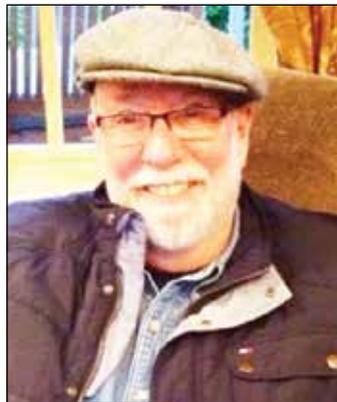
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•WORD MATTER•

Beyond Coronavirus



Bud Katz

dia. Maybe we won't fall into the trap of only believing that which conforms to our current personal worldview. This should apply to everything, but especially information when our health is at stake. CDC.gov, Hopkinsmedicine.org, and who.int are, in my opinion, trustworthy sources right now. Fox News and MSNBC? Not so much.

I don't know of a less blunt way to say this, but maybe we can try harder not to be either stubborn or, forgive me, stupid. Maybe we'll avoid letting opinions and preconceptions blind us to evidence-based information. I've mentioned this often: too many of us let our closely held beliefs get in the way of contrary facts or evidence. Perhaps, after the Coronavirus is way behind us, we'll realize that just because we want to believe something doesn't mean we should. I subscribe to the notion that the mind is like a parachute; it doesn't work unless it's open. And, new, evidence-based information is the key that unlocks open-mindedness. Can't speak for anyone else, but I'd rather be safe and healthy, even if it means I was wrong in what I previously chose to believe.

What we're in the midst of right now is unlike anything we've experienced before. This bug moves fast and, until this week, testing has been slow in getting up to speed. Unlike epidemics of the past, we don't yet know how to prevent it or cure it. Once we do, we won't feel as vulnerable or as confused as we do right now.

It's a sad, frustrating truth, but we Americans don't take kindly to inconvenience. We don't like having our lives or our

plans disrupted, even when it's a bad idea to do some 'ready, fire, aim,' sort of thing, and simply charge ahead in the face of possibly dire consequences.

Frankly, many of us are more risk averse than others. This, I'm sure, is a function of age and acquired wisdom. I'm aware of young people – that's anyone younger than me – who, until they're all canceled, are still considering attending events in huge venues. I know of others who are still flying or cruising to exotic destinations because fares and room rates are lower. I'm sure some of these folks – mostly Millennials – are intelligent and well-educated. But they're also clearly not behaving responsibly.

Perhaps moving forward, they and we will have learned enough from this, I hope, once in a lifetime experience to tamp down those impulses.



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...CONSTITUTIONS continued from page 1

tirely by Jones. The resolution, titled “Resolution fully supporting and maintaining the 2nd amendment to the United States constitution as well as the entire United States constitution and the last of the United States and the entire North Carolina constitution and the last of the state of North Carolina which are not inconsistent therewith,” was passed with a 4-1 vote, with Higdon voting against it.

Holden spoke against Jones’ resolution saying “That resolution is not worth the paper it was printed on for the people of this county.”

Commissioner Gillespie asked Jones to explain his concerns with the resolution provided by Holden. Jones explained he was concerned about any resolution protecting constitutional rights since ultimately the judicial system in the United States declares what is constitutional.

“I do believe that there are some potential issues for the county under this ordinance,” said Jones. “And the resolution that I prepared for the consideration of the county commissioners provides the most protection for the county.”

Macon County’s Second Amendment resolution covers six pages and goes into details of Macon County’s rich past defending the constitution and fighting in wars to uphold therein – while it contained the support Holden and others were petitioning for, the one thing it lacked was a promise of enforcement in the event something occurred on the state level to infringe on the rights of citizens.

Holden’s resolution included verbiage saying county leaders would not use local funds to enforce any new law or requirement set forth on the state or federal level that would infringe on the constitutional right to bear arms.

Under the advisement of Jones, there is no legal precedent or definition for what is deemed to be constitutional outside of a court ruling, therefore to avoid a potential law suit in the future, that verbiage was eliminated.

Before the county could vote on the resolution proposed by Jones, Holden and dozens of other supporters left the meeting in protest.

My Auntie Mame

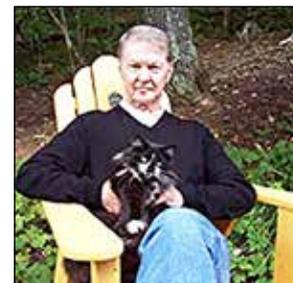
It seems that many Chinese, mostly young, aspiring entrepreneurial women, worship Ivanka Trump as a goddess, as someone who embodies “Have it all feminism.” Charmingly called Yi Wan Ka in pidgin Chinese I can understand, Ivanka’s lifestyle, independence, business acumen, beauty, and obvious influential power made her more than just admirable. Her daughter also sings in Chinese. You can’t trump that.

Yet I defer to more shockable, eccentric, bourgeois, nonconformist, way-out women like Rosalind Russell in the 1958 movie, Auntie Mame, or to my aunt Frenchy from New Orleans. I cheered her loucheness or slightly disreputable behavior and rakish manner even as my Texas Baptist mother warned me I would go straight to hell if I listened to her. We probably need more bad examples like Frenchy today.

You just don’t find a lot of suitable Bohemian types anymore who throw up their hands and scream, “Live! Live! Live!” like Rosalind and not “Buy! Buy! Buy!” like Ivanka or who wear gaudy boas around their necks and keep real live snakes under their beds like Frenchy. Nope. Yet I suspect that, here in the South, we have several Auntie Mames and Captain Fantastic all around us, some probably even more adventurous and avant garde. In fact, I know several that, like Donald Trump’s taxes, I will disclose after I’m no longer audited or relevant.

Frenchy taught me all about romantic love, reading from decadent poets like Byron who talked about things almost as bad as in the Biblical Song of Solomon. Did you know she once ransomed a young girl from a cat-house on Bourbon Street, enlightening to me as a youngster since I already knew that men had to pay a lot to get out of a dog-house. Frenchy told me I only needed to know a few words to understand women, especially Oui, and crucially, Je suis tellement desole, mon amour, (I am so very sorry, my love.) To this day I still mispronounce them. Yet they didn’t help very much when I excitedly repeated them to impress incredulous, bovine-eyed but pretty Texas girls from places like Luckenback and Cut ‘n Shoot. Later I found I couldn’t understand women using any known language. Oui!

Frenchy dressed in post-brothel chic and proudly slashed the brightest red lipstick across her face like the red letter “A,”



Milton Ready, Professor Emeritus of History at UNC Asheville, lives and writes amidst the beauty of western North Carolina.

sometimes even managing to get some on her lips. After a stroke, Frenchy had to use a walker when she went to the grocery store but still dressed in stylish, fancy dresses cut up the side to show her withered legs encased in silk stockings. Burly Texans in trucks bigger than a mobile home screeched to a stop when she crossed the street, several even jumping out of their cabs to assist her. They gleefully would have run me down.

When she died, Frenchy had on more bling and ropes of pearls than Cleopatra, all of it faux, I’m sure, but, as in life, on her it looked tres natural. Her husband, my Uncle Bryant who looked a lot like a taller Clark Gable in Gone With the Wind and equally charming, slipped a pint of Jack Daniels under her folded hands in the casket, thinking, I’m sure, that the passage to the next life might be a bit rough for her. When he died 12 years later, Uncle Bryant still had all Frenchy’s clothes and shoes, all neatly dry cleaned and hanging in their cellophane garment bags in her closet ready for use.

Another I knew, Alice V, hiked the Appalachian Trail, sailed away on a chartered yacht to the South Pacific with a “a perfect specimen of a man,” probably swarthy at that, and, at 87, wore the slinkiest, sexiest red dress I’ve seen to a cocktail party. She was mobbed. Alice complained that all her husbands inconveniently died, one in a train wreck on her honeymoon. I don’t think it was deliberate on his part.

I also met Eve, a prophetic name for a temptress, who gave the most wonderful eulogy to her lover, a decorated naval aviator, after his death, all in front of his wife and family who tearfully embraced her afterward. A shameless flirt, Eve received a letter of reprimand from the ladies social committee at the retirement community in Florida where she moved. She proudly framed it.

Yet here on the plateau and elsewhere, we’ve got a lot of irresistible, charming, rousing Auntie Mames and Rhett Butler’s, some named Rosemary, Virginia, Connie, Juanita, Marys from A to Z, Jim, Bill, Don, Mark, and . . . ? Their lives make what we consider adventurous today seem pretty darned tame. We should treasure them all and follow their bad examples more. Oui!

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Thursday—Saturday, March 26, 27, 28
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• REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO •

Ask Lord Banjo part 2

Thank you for your response to my first Q&A. We love answering questions, so here's our second installment. And yes, I'm using the Royal "We."

Q: Your're such a smart dog. Do you have any favorite websites?

A: Oh yes, I do! "It's Dog or Nothing" is all about three beautiful Great Pyrenees and their kittie friend, Indie, and it has tons of interesting information about my breed.

Q: Does Puddin' have a favorite website?

A: Honestly, Puddin' mostly loves the cat videos on Facebook. She and Mum also get a laugh out of Simon's Cat cartoon videos on Facebook.

Q: Are you a good swimmer?

A: Yes, I am. I'd love it if we had a house with a creek or a lake in the backyard.

Q: Since GPs are bred to take care of sheep or goats, are you going to get some?

A: Hmm. I'd never thought of that. Marvelous idea.

Q: Do you like to read?

A: I much prefer for Mum to read to me. Bedtime stories or parts of the morning paper are great.

Q: You have such big paws; how do you sign your books?

A: Mum came up with a cool purple stamp and stamps my name and a paw print in my books whenever we do a book signing.

Q: How much do full-blooded GPs weigh?

A: They can weigh as much as 140



The Royal Pooch
Lord Banjo

pounds.

Q: Why is it you haven't gotten a puppy yet? I know you asked for one at the end of your book and you even asked Santa for one.

A: Your guess is as good as mine, but I think it may have something to do with how much energy puppies have. Mum and especially Dad don't seem too excited about throwing balls and some of the other responsibilities that come

with having a puppy.

Q: Who gets more treats, you or Puddin'?

A: No contest; it's Puddin' paws down. Dad regularly gives me my glucosamine treat in the morning, and Mum gives me a dental chewie when we first go to her of-

fice. After that, I may get two or three itty bitty biscuits during the day, but Puddin' gets treats in the office all day long. She hops up on the desk and stares at Mum and begs, and Mum puts tiny kitty treats in a dish for her . . . over and over again.

Q: Do you plan to write another book? I sure hope so.

A: Writing a book is hard work. I've decided it's time for me to retire and let Mum do all the writing. You may have heard she's writing cozy mysteries now. Look for her book – "Bells, Tails & Murder" – on Amazon,

• *Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find more stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available on Amazon and locally at Highland Mountain Paws. To contact him, please email inkpenn119@gmail.com.*



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• Ice Skating at K-H Founders Park – Thurs., 1-8p; Fri. & Sat 1-10p; Sun. 1-5p..

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

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

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

First Mondays

• New Guided Botanical Garden Tours: A Garden in Every Season. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center Free, All ages welcome.

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

Mondays

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

• Rotary Club of Highlands Mountaintop meet every Monday at the Episcopal Church of the

Incarnation on Main Street, across from Mountain Fresh Grocery at 5:30pm.

Mon.-Wed.

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

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Kristy Lewis at 526-3376.

Mon. & Fri.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Tuesdays

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

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

• The Humanist Discussion

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

Third Tuesday

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

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30 at the Rec Park. A combo class with different styles.

Wednesdays

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

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

First Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-

526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Wed. & Fri.

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

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

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

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Outreach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita (828) 526-9510.

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

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• American Legion Post 370 meets in the 9:09 Chapel of the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in Highlands for Breakfast at 9AM followed by the meeting at 10AM.

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474.

• Highlands Town Board meeting at 7p in the Community Building on US 64 east and Poplar Street.

4th Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM

skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

3rd Saturday

• Highlands American Legion Post 370 meets every month (weather permitting) at 9AM for breakfast followed by the meeting starting at 10 AM. at the Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their 909 Chapel.

Sat., March 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike, elevation change 900 ft., from Long Branch to Rock Gap in the Standing Indian Recreational Area, starting at the backcountry parking area, hiking up Long Branch to the Appalachian Trail at Glassmine Gap, then north to Rock Gap, returning by the Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 11 am, drive 32 miles round trip. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sun., March 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls, despite its name, a beautiful waterfall in Sky Valley, GA. Follow an old logging road with a small incline along Mud Creek to a picnic area at the falls. Meet at Smoky Mountain Visitors Center at 2 pm, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 526-6480, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Wed., March 25

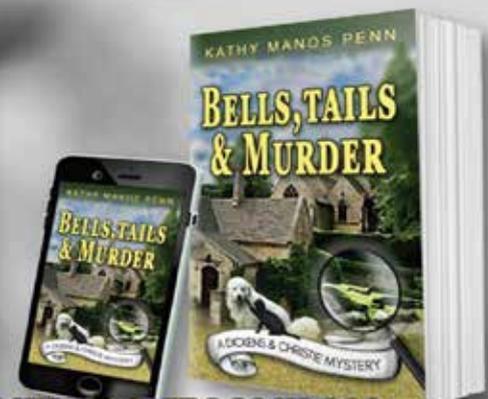
• The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Frida: Viva La Vida at 5:30. Live via Satellite. Tickets available: www.highlandspac.org or www.highlandspacperformingarts.com or at the door. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Sat., March 28

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, elevation change 400 ft., from Jones Gap to White Rock on the NC Bartram Trail, a leisurely hike with interpretive signs along the way and spectacular views from White Rock of the Nantahala Mountains and Tennesse Valley. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 9 am, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

I knew they did it from the start, but no one listens to the cat!

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-Christie

Highlands MS girls soccer team defends home turf against Summit

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands Kenzie Woods and Summit Chloe Crawford running down the ball a week ago Wednesday.

Highlands Middle School girls soccer team hosted Summit on Wednesday and won 7-1.

Highlands Coach Caleb Brown said the girls did a great job on the field.

"The girls played wonderful, they all clearly knew their positions and were adamant about getting to and winning the ball," said Brown. "Highlands moved around the field and passed the ball effectively. They took good shots on goal and followed up their shots so that they scored more goals."

Summit Coach Scott Whitman said this is a learning process, but he sees good things on the horizon.

"I believe the girls played well," said Whitman. "They fought hard though the entire game. We have a rather inexperienced team with great potential. That was our first game of the season and many of our girls first soccer game."

Whitman added that he's excited to see the Lady Bears grow and improve throughout the season.

Brown said he's looking forward to seeing some good things from the Lady Highlanders.

"Moving forward in the season, I think these girls will develop as strong players and continue to grow their passion for the sport," he said. "The girls always want to be competitive in games, but what is most important to them is giving their all on the field."

Stay tuned as information becomes available about the sports suspension currently in effect until April 6.



Highlands Layla Babac sends the ball up field against Summit.



Highlands Kenzie Woods and Summit Chloe Crawford running down the ball on Wednesday.

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Highlands Pre-K students get sneak peek at new school



By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Over a dozen up-and-coming Kindergarten students visited Highlands School on Wednesday and were given a tour by Principal Brian Jetter to check out their future classrooms and meet their teachers.

Kindergarten Teacher Bonnylin Covey said students are always nervous going to a new school, primary concerns being avoiding getting in trouble and making friends.

"Kindergarten is going to be fun and I want the room to look inviting, when we're in here we're all a big family and we take care of each other," said Covey. "We want the students to enjoy coming to school and not be scared."

However, the transition from Pre-K into the big leagues comes with more re-

sponsibility.

"They can get books from the school library," said Covey. "Plus, they have more accountability and have to keep up with their homework folder, and they are expected to come in and unpack and get ready by themselves."

Kindergarten Teacher Margie Potts gave parents a breakdown of a typical week that includes reading lessons, learning sessions in groups and one-on-one work, P.E., music, art, recess, and time in the computer lab.

Potts added that students begin Kindergarten at different levels and the more letters and sounds they know the better and writing their name and being able to count to 20 is a good start this August.



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...COVID-19 continued from page 8

In addition, Chambers said they are doing everything they can to ensure their homes remain clean and cleaning crews take pre-

...CASE continued from page 1

cable diseases.

“It is consistent with statistic policy to document all communicable disease carriers from the state they reside in. Communicable diseases are recorded by county of residence,” she said.

At the county commission emergency meeting Tuesday, McGaha reported that the individual in isolation in Macon County with the COVID-19 travelled via rental car on Friday, March 13 from Asheville to Highlands. Positive test results from the state lab in Buncombe County were issued on Sunday, March 15. The public was notified on Sunday. The individual had very little, to no contact with the public between being tested in Buncombe County and travelling to Macon County.

The woman 20-30 years of age, flew from New York to Asheville to visit her brother and his wife. While in Asheville, she developed symptoms and immediately sought care at Buncombe County Health & Human Services where she was tested for COVID-19.

She was instructed to go to where she could self-isolate until the test came back. Since she didn't want to further jeopardize her brother's family in Asheville, she allegedly traveled by Uber to Highlands where her family has a home at Highlands Country Club.

According to MaGaha, Buncombe notified Macon of the situation and the health departments have been backtracking her interaction since leaving New York and Asheville. MaGaha said she has had limited exposure to anyone since being tested in Buncombe County. Her brother's family and the Uber driver are under observation.

According to Highlands Country Club General Manager Greg Crawford, she had a key to the residence and didn't and hasn't come in contact with anyone at the club.

“She immediately self-isolated in the residence and had food delivered to the front porch. Aside from the residence, she hasn't been on the property or used any of the club facilities,” he said.

Sunday night, March 15, she was told that her test came back positive for COVID-19 and was told she was now in quarantine.

Crawford said she is being monitored by the Macon County Health Department which is handling the case.

When there is an absence of fever (without use of fever-reducing medication), improvement in respiratory symptoms, and two negative test results conducted on specimens collected at least 24 hours apart, she will be free to go.

At that point, the health department will thoroughly clean and disinfect the residence.

Crawford said letters have been sent to all the members notifying them of the situation.

In response to COVID-19 in general, all the club facilities have been closed.

“Given the dynamic and nature of the club and the age profile of members, we felt it was important not to take any chances,” said Crawford.

The club closing took place after the woman's arrival.

“There was already a Board of Governors meeting scheduled for Monday morning to discuss the potential action of closing the club. The confirmation of the confirmed coronavirus person on campus just made it a much more palatable decision,” he said.

MaGaha said there is no treatment for COVID-19. Patients are instructed to quarantine for 14 days, to take fever reducing meds and to hydrate until in a recovered state.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.

– Kim Lewicki

ventative measures to be sure they are protected.

GROCERY STORES

By now everyone knows that area stores – Dollar Stores, Walmart, food stores – have been running low or are out of hand sanitizer and paper products.

At Bryson's Food Store, Manager Terry Watson said they are experiencing what everyone else is experiencing across the country – a run on certain items and the inability to readily restock shelves.

He said they can't keep paper products like toilet paper and paper towels on the shelves and orders for hand sanitizer come in only partially filled.

He said he has signs up limiting amounts and will do that with other items if necessary.

CHURCHES

Many churches in the area have suspended public worship services and activities. Some are offering virtual services. Call your church for more information.

To get up-to-date information about COVID-19 from reliable sources like Macon County Public Health, CDC, and NCDHHS.

For more information, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS' website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in NC.

– Kim Lewicki

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Silver Needle White Tea scented with
fresh Jasmine flower.
Each bloom can make 6-8 cups of tea.

North Carolina school sports are suspended

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Due to the threat from COVID-19, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors suspended interscholastic athletics beginning at 11:59 p.m. today through April 6.

Pictured at the top of the article is the Highlands girls varsity soccer team shortly after hearing the news that interscholastic athletics have been suspended.

"As much as we would like this opportunity for our student-athletes, coaches, and their communities, we know that ultimately any decision we make must err on the side of caution," said Commissioner Que Tucker.

The NCHSAA Board of Directors will assess this situation regularly over the next few weeks. This includes all workouts, skill development, practices, and contests.

The NCHSAA has also made the decision to postpone the 2020 Men's and Women's Basketball State Championships indefinitely.

Highlands Athletic Director Brett Lamb said the NCHSAA will have to set some guidelines for all the teams and conferences to follow moving forward. For a sport like track, Highlands would have 3 or 4 meets left if the suspension is lifted on April 6. With sports like soccer, it would be tougher with games being cancelled and having to play head to head competitions to determine a conference champion.

"The NCHSAA has the values of putting the safety of the student athletes

first and foremost," said Lamb. "So, I agree with their decision under the guidelines they set for our student athletes. I know that it is a tough maybe the toughest decision our board of directors has had to make but the wellbeing and safety comes first."

Blue Ridge Early College Athletic Director Tim Mayse said spring sports will be salvageable if the ban doesn't extend into May.

"The decision to suspend spring sports was a tough decision to be made," said Mayse. "I understand why the state wants to be cautious concerning the issue at hand."

He added it is especially tough on seniors.

"Memories to be made are currently at a loss," said Mayse. "However, I would imagine everyone understands what's at stake in the world and our area right now. Sports are extracurricular activities, and we can always come back to them when the time is right."

Summit Charter School Athletic Director Jeremy Robinson said it's difficult to predict how this will play out in terms of spring sports.

"If the suspension were to only last until April 6, we'd still have an opportunity to get some games in, but we haven't had that discussion yet," said Robinson. "The kids are really disappointed, they were looking forward to their spring sports seasons in golf, girl's soccer, and track and field."



Sad athletes at Highlands School.

• TAX MATTERS •

Charitable Gift



Robbin Brophy, EA

Face it, you've been putting it off for some time. Maybe you have to turn sideways to get in the storage room or have given up on parking your car in the garage. Well, it's time to clean out all that stuff! You could get a tax deduction for it.

If you itemize your deductions (use Schedule A), Uncle Sam will give you a bonus – a deduction on your tax return for donating

all that stuff to a charity. This could result in a larger refund for you, but there are a few simple rules you must follow to benefit from this tax break.

First, the charity must be recognized as an exempt charitable entity. Qualifying are churches, schools, Red Cross, Amvets, Scouts, Salvation Army, Disabled American Vets, public libraries, etc. If in doubt, ask the organization or check the IRS website at IRS.gov.

Second, make sure you get a receipt from the charity for the donation. You'll need it as proof of your donation. If your total non-cash donations are less than \$500, you can list the amount on Schedule A. If more than \$500, you are required to attach Form 8283 with the following information:

Make a list of the items you are donating to attach to your receipt. (Keep this receipt with your records – do not send in). Form 8283 asks for date of purchase (can be various) and the date of the gift, the name of the charity and a list of the items donated. Additionally, you must in-

dicating how you determined fair market value. Cost is what you originally paid for the items and value is what you could have sold it for at a thrift shop or garage sale.

The value of a non-cash donation is often difficult to determine. The Salvation Army has a donation value guide on their website at satruck.org/Home/DonationValueGuide. Goodwill also has a valuation guide on their website at goodwill.org.

These helpful tools will assist in making sure you are using price ranges for items commonly sold in these thrift stores.

Think of all those kitchen appliances no longer used; old toys the kids have outgrown; clothes that don't fit or are out of date; books, tools, games, furniture and anything else you no longer want. It is fairly easy to rack up \$1000 in fair market value resulting in an additional refund of \$250 if you are in the 25% tax bracket. Remember that clothing must be in above average condition – no old socks, underwear and soiled clothes you used for painting! So, get busy – get rid of the extra stuff, simplify your life and enjoy that larger refund!

• *Robbin Brophy, EA is an enrolled agent, licensed by the US Department of the Treasury to represent taxpayers before the IRS for audits, collections and appeals. Only enrolled agents are federally licensed and have unlimited rights of representation. To attain the enrolled agent designation, candidates must demonstrate expertise in taxation, fulfill continuing education credits and adhere to a stringent code of ethics. She is currently accepting new clients at 828-558-4300.*

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Community Forum Thursday, March 19 • 5:30-6:30p

To help prevent the spread of the coronavirus in our community and practice social distancing according to the latest CDC Guidance, the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Community Forum will now be held via telephone Thurs., March 19 from 5:30-6:30p.

Using the toll-free number and access code below Tom Neal, H-C Hospital CEO/CNO, and William R. Hathaway, MD, Chief Medical Officer Mission Hospital will update all on our hospital's coronavirus preparations, share initial observations from his first three months leading the hospital, as well as his vision for the future. Time will be available for your questions.

To join the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Community Forum, dial 877-228-2184. When prompted, enter PIN number 19449.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What Will This Reality Teach Us?



Sr. Pastor Dr. Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

The current trial before this nation and this world is difficult and deeply painful for many. To others it will remain a temporary “new normal” not without its inconveniences, fears and unknowns. Whatever the level of intensity and personal impact, this season of adversity will likely alter the way we perceive faith and one another. What we collectively and individually experience now, will be recounted and discussed for generations around dinner tables, campfires and pulpits. We have officially entered into a historic event whether we realize it or not.

Reality is a great teacher. The following themes, from a pastor’s perspective, are hopefully themes that we can glean from this current cultural moment that shape and prepare us for the next inevitable challenge. How much will this trial change us individually, nationally and globally? What will stick?

In this election year, this nation was recklessly speeding toward a political, head-on collision that would no doubt thrust us into a new pinnacle of polarization. Adversity has a way of unifying Americans. Maybe our divisiveness and rock throwing will at least subside just long enough for us to realize that we are all on the same side. Maybe, being on the same side for a season will make some sort of difference?

Quality leadership in a crisis is crucial. Many local, state and national public servants are now governing purely for the people without posturing themselves politically. It has to feel good for a governor or a mayor to seek counsel and make decisions that, though unpopular, will help the people they swore an oath to serve and protect. There is now a parenthetical purity in governing that will hope-

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 19

Looking for a church home?

Wayfarers Unity Chapel is a non denominational, inclusive church located at 182 Wayfarer Lane, off Highway 246 in Dillard, GA, just 1.7 miles from Highway 441

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

Proverbs 3:5

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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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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.

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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: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

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Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; 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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School:10 am,Worship Service:11 am

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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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

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School:10 am,Worship Service:11 am

• BUSINESS/ORG NEWS •

Rotary Bingo benefits HS PTO



From left: Rotary President Sherry Holt with Carolyn Raby and her grandson Jase Raby and Rotary member and Bingo caller Brian McClellan. Carolyn

On Thursday, March 12, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands School Parents & Teachers Organization to sponsor Bingo. All net proceeds will benefit our local PTO.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

fully minimize political game playing later. Maybe reality can teach us a lasting lesson?

If in this cultural moment, we need to learn something concerning personal entitlements, we now collectively own an opportunity to recalibrate our opinions of what we each think we deserve. We might just get what we need far more now than what we want. This is a silver lining in a very dark cloud. Our younger generation is getting but a hint of what it means to face uncertainty and fear. Our younger generation can benefit from enduring the unexpected and the unwanted.

Who hasn't let their mind race forward 6, 9 or 24 months? Who hasn't thought about their retirement account or their payroll or their employees with concern? Our "security" is threatened. In what or whom are we trusting? Some trust in chariots, some in horses...who is trusting in the name of the Lord our God?

Our frenetic lives have been slowed down a bit. Life is becoming more challenging but increasingly simpler as well. Maybe now is the time to take notice of those around us lying in need along the Samaritan road. Perhaps now they are more noticeable and more audible? Who in your

God-given sphere of influence is highly vulnerable, overwhelmed and in need of someone to make a grocery run or fill a prescription? Who needs you to rise even higher in the midst of calamity?

A.W. Tozer said many profound things, one such quote goes something like this: "A scared world needs a fearless church". The opposite of fear is often thought to be "faith"; perhaps this is only partly true. Consider the opposite of fear being "love" for "perfect love cast out fear" (1 John 4:18). This nation needs healing and love for we have hurt and disdained one another for far too long. A virus out flanked us when we were most distracted and self-absorbed. Will the church rise up and make sure people both see and hear the glorious, good news of Jesus the Christ? Will the church serve hurting and confused people a taste of what it means to live a life with far greater hope and security than this fallen world can offer? Withholding good news and good deeds in the midst of a bad calamity seems like an even greater tragedy. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13).

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

March 3

- At 3:55 p.m., officers were called about possible drug paraphernalia found on South Street.

March 4

- At 5:45 p.m., officers were called about someone trespassing on property when they removed utility cable for TV/Internet from the house.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 6

March 6

- At 4:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to N. 4th Street.

March 12

- At 10:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident with one injury on Bowery Road.

March 13

- At 3:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Old Edwards Lane.

- At 1:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lyman Zachary Road.

March 14

- At 8:59 a.m., the dept. went to Brooks Road to investigate an electrical smell.

- At 1:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

March 16

- At 11:55 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on the Franklin Road.

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Nectar Juice Bar (located inside Whole Life Market) is now hiring! Are you looking for a fun, healthy-

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT CHESTNUT HILL ASSISTED LIVING - COURTESY OFFICER 6 pm to Midnight, 5 nights a week; Part-Time Housekeeper; Chef/Cook. Call 828-526-8400. (st. 2/13)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS needs nursery help on Wednesday nights; 1-2 hours; \$15 per hour; background check and interview required; must be at least 16 years old. (st. 2/13)

NOW HIRING PART AND FULL TIME ASSOCIATES FOR RETAIL STORE. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays. Call Shannon 526-8864 or email shannon@dutchmansdesigns.com (st. 1/23)

RANDEVU now hiring full- & part-time waitstaff. Call 828-743-0190. (st. 2/27)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE. Hiring all positions. 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

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

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (12/31)

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. 4/25)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

38.92 ACRES IN GATED COMMUNITY IN HIGHLANDS. Small private development with paved streets, community water, community lake and pavilion, underground power and street lights. Gentle building sites with mountain

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ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS: Looking for employee housing? We've got several options! Close to town and affordable! Call Christal at White Oak Realty Group. 828-200-9699. (st. 9/19)

SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843-460-8015. (st. 5/30)

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

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm ... open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmars15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

COMMERCIAL SPACE at 640 Carolina Way, Highlands. +/- 1340 sq.ft. \$1,650/mo. 404-210-7979. (st. 12/12)

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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4BD 3.5 BA, 1 CAR GARAGE W/STORAGE, large yard with backyard fenced, dogs negotiable. On the Atlanta side of Highlands, 5 minutes from the Post Office. \$2500 month. Offered unfurnished, one year minimum lease, references, credit check and deposit required. Call House in Order 828-484-1571. (st. 1/14)

LUXURY APARTMENT IN TOWN. Walk to Main Street. 1BR 1BA. \$3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)

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