

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Highlands opens back up ... softly

The Town of Highlands opened slowly this past Mother's Day weekend and by all accounts it was worth it.

"I would characterize our opening of businesses this past

weekend as a soft opening because a number of business remained closed, and we have several business doing major renovations," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "But my feedback from medical profession-

als was that merchants did a very good job in creating safe shopping spaces. I expect volume to pick up as Memorial Day approaches."

Though encouraged to con-

• See HIGHLANDS page 16

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Relief loans for small MC businesses a maybe

By Brittney Lofthouse

Macon County vice-chair Commissioner Ronnie Beale and Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins asked commissioners to consider establishing a Small Business Relief fund to help local businesses adversely affected by COVID-19.

"A lot of these businesses have fallen between the cracks when it comes to other state and federal assistance programs," Jenkins told commissioners at the Macon County Commission meeting Tuesday night. "Other counties like Jackson County have established similar funds to help these businesses get through these tough times."

Commissioner Beale, who pitched the idea to county com-

• See LOANS page 8

Garden club says thanks to H-C Hospital nurses and aids



Last week, in honor of Nurses Week which is celebrated May 6-12, the Mountain Garden Club made 98 floral arrangements for the nurses and nurses aids at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The arrangements were made by garden club members in conjunction with a very generous gift from Richard P. Cole of Miami, FL. Historically nurses have received the highest rating for being America's most trusted profession in terms of honesty and ethical standards and they are very worthy of recognition. Mayor Pat Taylor joined the group while they were creating.

• See HARRELL page 6

HPD Chief Harrell's last day is June 1

After more than 14 years at the helm, Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell will be leaving to become the Town of Franklin's police chief.

Last Wednesday morning, he announced his plan to Mayor Pat Taylor and Town Manger Josh Ward.

He had thrown his hat in the ring and had been notified of the offer to become the next Franklin police chief late Tuesday.

Chief Harrell turned the Highlands Police Department into something very different from years past.

During his tenure, the department's face changed to include men and women, school resource officers, bicycle cops, canine officers and officers edu-

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Saying good-bye to PD Chief Bill Harrell

Tuesday before last I was at home eating a sandwich for lunch. Chief Harrell called me and said he needed to meet with me and the Town Manager at my office as soon as possible. I finished my sandwich and drove back to the office. On the way, I was thinking we must have a problem concerning the state of emergency, or something to that effect.



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

When I arrived the chief and Town Manager were waiting for me in the office. I took a deep breath and asked what was this about. The chief began the meeting by immediately saying he had accepted the police chief position in Franklin.

I was surprised by not shocked. Bill Harrell is an outstanding law enforcement officer with extensive experience, several certifications and a masters degree in criminal justice administration. He has been our police chief for 14 years, and I have suspected for some time that another municipality like Franklin would want him

to lead their police department.

Bill has led our Highlands Police Department to a high level of effectiveness by recruiting, developing and retaining an outstanding police force. We have one of the most highly trained and professional police departments in Western Carolina. Eighty percent of our officers hold a 2- or 4-year college degree, and almost all hold law enforcement certifications beyond the basic requirements.

The chief explained in an apologetic manner that Franklin had made him an offer that he could not refuse. I responded that we understood his decision, and that he had to consider his career and family. I congratulated Bill for his service to Highlands and for his new position.

The process for finding a new police chief will get underway as soon as possible. The town will go through thorough search process in finding a leader who can move our police department forward.

I have been tracking the problems that NCDOT is having, especially now in this state-of-emergency that has severely curtailed the driving of the public. The motor fuel tax that funds road projects has all but dried up. Also, the yearly audit reveals that NCDOT overspent their budget by 12.5% last year. They are now essentially broke. State statutes require that DOT maintain a \$300 million dollar reserve fund. DOT funds are below the reserve requirements, therefore all planned, even some existing projects, have been stopped in compliance with the state statute. The leaders are working to find a way to avoid mass layoffs and continue to do basic maintenance on state roads. So, scheduled area projects like bridge replacements, resurfacing of existing highways, and paving of gravel roads are now on hold until further notice. I will keep you posted, but I suspect it will take some time for the highway department of recover.

Please remember that we are not out of the coronavirus "woods" yet. Social distancing, the wearing of face coverings, avoiding large groups and unnecessary travel are all important Phase 1 behaviors for stopping the spread.

• HIC'S VIEW •



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HIC

• WEATHER •

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Intervals of clouds and sun	Nice with sunny intervals	Partly sunny and pleasant	Pleasant with clouds and sun
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High: 78° Low: 53°	High: 79° Low: 56°	High: 84° Low: 61°	High: 83° Low: 62°

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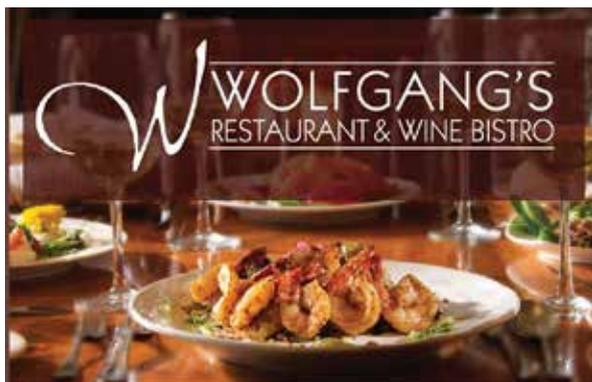
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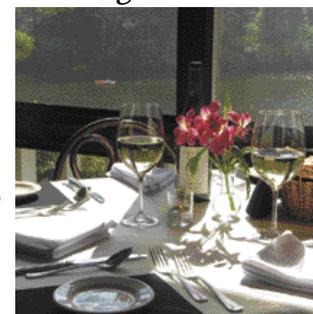
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• OBITUARY •

Donald Beauchamp Fisher



before he finally reconciled himself to becoming a Highlands “local.” He “grieved” over giving up his Virginia driver’s license, but he would always refer to Highlands as home. He loved the countless friends he made throughout the years. If he knew you, you were likely his friend.

Loving, compassionate, caring, Don Fisher was a devoted husband, providing well for

the livelihood of the family which would welcome with total love their daughter Caroline born to the couple in 1970. Don’s face always beamed a bright smile at the sight and sound of his precious daughter

who forever brought him joy, pride and happiness. In 2003 he and Betty welcomed to the family son-in-law Neil McCown. Great joy was the family’s when Caroline and Neil presented Connor Zachary McCown to his newly appointed grandparents, Grammy and Gramps. Don always provided entertainment for Connor during visits, most recently sharing archery and a train table project. Among other gifts, Don was a teacher, always using an opportunity to share his skills. He was highly disciplined and a perfectionist. Never boastful, never pretentious, he quietly went about doing projects that left every situation more complete and better than he found it.

Not one to be idle, Don took time to engage in various community activities. While supervising the construction of a house in Lawrenceville, Virginia, as well as one in Highlands, he served his churches faithfully as active deacon and elder. As Worship Elder at Franklin, Virginia Presbyterian Church, he helped to guide the church through a transition of pastors. At First Presbyterian of Highlands, he served as Property Elder during the 3-phase construction of the HCCDC and church educational building, as well as renovation of the sanctuary. He also served as head usher at FPCH. He further participated actively for 14 years in Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society. He enjoyed square and round dancing, making many excellent dance friends over the years. His travel ranged from canoe trips on the Cullasaja and Tuckaseegee Rivers to ocean and river cruises to explore the world with auto and bus trips in between. Don Fisher lived life fully and taught others how to enjoy life.

Grateful for every kindness rendered him, Don especially appreciated his doctors and numerous others who cared for him, including caregivers, nurses, CNAs, pastors, family, friends and church members.

A graveside service will be held 3:00 P.M. Monday, May 11, 2020 at Highlands Memorial Park with the Rev. Curtis Fussell and Rev. Emily Wilmarth officiating. The family will greet friends following the service.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Fisher family.

If Heaven has farms and forests, Don will be happily at home. If not, he will enjoy tending the flower gardens while listening to the angelic music. By his own admission he would not be a part of the choir!

Donald Beauchamp Fisher of Highlands, North Carolina, born on September 22, 1941, entered the Church Triumphant on May 9, 2020. Don had faced life valiantly while experiencing both Hodgkin’s lymphoma and metastatic adenocarcinoma.

A native Virginian, son of Lee Washington and Violet Beauchamp Fisher (both deceased), Don loved his parents, his three brothers who survive—Lee, Jr. (Nancy), Bobby (Sharon) and Albert (Brenda),—and life on the family farms in Northumberland County, Virginia. Always intrigued with various forms of nature, Don would cultivate his many interests of the land while assisting his dad and brothers on the farms. Later he would grow beautiful vegetable and flower gardens. He would further his knowledge of the farms’ timberlands through his studies in forestry at LSU, his beloved Alma Mater. There was never a doubt about who would win the National College Football game in 2019. “Geaux, Tigers!” he cheered from the recliner.

Busy on the farm as a youngster and teenager, Don had never considered going to college. However, at the last hour he enrolled in Ferrum College in southwest Virginia. He always credited the college with giving him the excellent background he had not achieved as a high school student.

His beloved professors at LSU, most of whom he spoke fondly, inspired him to always do his best in his field. As a forester, he rendered tremendous service to Union Bag Corporation/ Union Camp, and finally International Paper, working primarily out of Brunswick and Southampton Counties, Virginia, as well as eastern North Carolina. His services included wood procurement and land management, eventually in real estate sales of land and timber. He looked forward to every 10-hour day working in the forests for 36 years. Later, with his wife Betty, he pursued his real estate license, practicing for several years before retiring again in 2018.

While at LSU, Don participated in ROTC which led to his enlistment in the United States Marine Corps. He endured basic training at Parris Island, SC, and Camp Lejeune, NC. He spent the following five years attaining the rank of Sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserve First 105MM Howitzer Battery, Force Troops, at Richmond and Quantico, Virginia. A loyal Marine, Don loved his country and always remained a man of integrity.

Most important to Don Fisher was his family. He is survived by his wife, Betty, a Highlands native whom he met in 1962 while working a summer student job with the US Forest Service in Highlands. Following a long-distance relationship primarily through countless letters, Don and Betty were married in 1965. After taking early retirements from their respective jobs, the couple moved back to Highlands in 2001. Don referred to himself as a “come here”

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• LETTER •

My Rhododendron Branch and Sign

Dear Editor,

I am the white haired old man with the bent back and a pony tail.

When out in public now, I will be seen wearing a white mask and black gloves. A practice I started in early March.

Recent events in the post office and a large local grocery

store, plus excellent coverage in your newspaper have prompted me to put forth my thoughts.

Three days ago, I witnessed four men separately enter the post office minus mask and gloves.

Another man (with a cloth mask) leaned across the center counter with his face no more than two feet from mine.

As he was not using a white cane or stick, I assumed he should be able, by looking at the black and yellow tape on the post office floor, to determine that he was not even close to six feet away.

However, I decided to help him by verbally offering that we were not six feet apart.

He did not say thank you for the information, but did move away.

In the grocery store I encountered quite a few fellow customers with no mask and apparently not mindful of the need to maintain the recommended social distancing of six feet.

Possibly this practice should be described as 'anti-social distancing'.

Now comes the bit about my rhododendron branch and the sign hung around my neck.

I know it will make me look weird, but it may help me to live longer.

I normally walk using a cane which is about three feet long.

I am considering replacing the cane with a six feet long rhododendron branch with a couple of modifications.

One end will be rather pointy and on the other end may be placed a plastic skull.

Either end may serve to cause a person too near to me to consider keeping at least six feet separation.

Now the sign, top line in medium size font will be "Please Enjoy Highlands"

Next line in bold large font will be "NOW STAY AWAY!"

Followed (in the same bold

large font) "AT LEAST SIX FEET"

Then to complete the sign, an offer of advice or assistance.

"If you are not wearing a mask and don't care to stay six feet away from me and others,

I can offer you a small map for use by you and your loved ones (should you have any still alive) that will lead you to the nearest emergency room or mortuary.

Have a nice day, you may not have very many left to enjoy Highlands."

**Larry Brannan
Highlands**

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...HARRELL continued from page 1

cated in criminal justice beyond the required BLET certification.

"Highlands Police Chief, Bill Harrell has led the department in becoming one of the best trained and professional law enforcement organizations in Western Carolina," said Mayor Taylor. "He has acquired many grants and recognitions for the department. Under

his guidance, the department has state-of-the-art equipment and has built strong community police relationships."

Harrell is a law enforcement administrator with a long list of professional accomplishments and credentials and he has a strong professional and personal

• See HARRELL page 19



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• WORD MATTER •

Two Kinds of People

Covid-19 still dominates our world. Even as the virus continues to spread and cause fear, many of us are more than ready for movement towards “back to normal.” It causes me to reflect on how we sometimes begin sentences with, “There are two kinds of people...”

The phrase itself is separatist. It denotes a difference between individuals and groups; an “us,” and a “them.” It speaks to bigotry, class distinction, culture battles involving race, gender, ethnicity, and religion, and, it’s at the center of every argument, anywhere, ever.

In benign usage, “two kinds of people” is a way of framing an opinion. It can even inject humor into a conversation. For example, “There are two kinds of people; those who put pineapple on pizza, and normal people.” Or, “There are two kinds of people, those who root for the N.Y. Yankees, and those who root for whoever they’re playing.” There are Coke people and Pepsi people, Chevy people and Ford people, dog people and cat people.

These distinctions have something in common: they’re choices.

I recently referenced the unfortunate situation on social media involving people drawing lines between property owners who live here full-time and those who are part-time residents. There are, to be sure, some superficial differences between these groups. I might classify them as those who live here all the time and those who wish they did. But, that would trivialize the na-

ture of the discourse. While both these groups are trying their best to come to terms with Covid-19, the accusations, defensiveness, finger-pointing, even name-calling is disheartening. It’s “us and them,” writ angry.

Frankly, I’m losing patience with people who sit in the safety of their privacy and hurl digital rocks at others without facing the objects of their disdain and, for just a moment, listening and hearing what he or she on the other side of the conversation has to say.

Many of us who’ve lived for a while and are willing to admit it, understand that these attitudes are part of who we are. We’re hardwired to express certain “this or that” binary preferences so as to either distance ourselves from things we don’t care for, or to more closely connect ourselves to things we do.

I started making a “two kinds of people” list but began shaking my head at the banality of it all. In my opinion, and I’ve felt this way for a long time, we would all be better served if we clung to the things we have in common rather than the things that set us apart. I mean, when it comes down to it, what’s the point?

It seems everything these days has become political, including current conversations involving matters of life and death. I’ve written before about my disdain for both major political parties. I genuinely



Bud Katz

don’t understand what they provide to the American people. Yet, if we’re honest, tens of millions of us either strongly or very strongly identify with one party or the other. I can’t fathom why this is the case, but there it is. There are two kinds of people...

If the Coronavirus pandemic has taught me anything it’s that, at our essence, there is no material distinction between us. We’re all just people. Sure, there are sick people and there are healthy people, but that changes. And, that’s not a conscious choice. Sick people can surely get healthy and healthy people can and do get sick. The political left and right seldom choose to switch sides.

I guess the message is, maybe it’s bet-

ter for everyone if we don’t get caught up in the “two kinds of people” thing. The distinctions seldom matter but the hurt feelings and the damage to relationships can last a long time.

As for Covid-19, though it pains me to say it, there are, it seems, two kinds of people. Those who accept the threat it poses and behave accordingly, and those who are convinced it’s no big thing, it’s been overblown, and want to go about living life as it was last year.

I can’t speak for anyone else, but I’m clear which of these two kinds of people I am. I believe this pandemic is real, it’s going to be in our lives for a while, and we’re going to come out of it fundamentally changed as Americans.

That said, and for the record, I’m also the kind of person who would never eat pizza topped with pineapple.

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• H-C HOSPITAL NEWS •

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is Well-Prepared for COVID-19, Thanks to a Stellar Team

Our community – like communities around the world – is reeling in response to the impact of COVID-19 and all the changes it has brought to how we live. There are many unanswered questions, too: How should we best maintain our physical and mental health as we also experience the physical separation that social distancing and sheltering in place require? What will our “new normal” look like when we come out of this pandemic?

It's easy to craft questions pertaining to this virus, about which we learn new things virtually every day, but one group of people doesn't have the luxury to simply ponder these issues: the exceptional staff here at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and the Eckerd Living Center (ELC). The dedicated professionals from every department of our facility pivoted quickly to adapt to great change, yet they've remained steadfast in their devotion to our patients and each other.

Early on, my leadership team and I united around one goal: to keep our staff safe throughout this time while we realize our mission of caring for our patients and community with competence and compassion. We're fortunate because to our knowledge, there has not been a significant volume of suspected or established COVID-19 patients in our community. How-



Tom Neal, CNO/CFO
H-C Hospital

ever, this doesn't mean the risk doesn't still exist. In order to address our risk level, no matter where it settles on any given day, it's critical that our staff is educated and prepared for treating COVID-19 patients, and they are.

I want our community to know that everything they're experiencing out in the world, we're experiencing here at the hospital. For example, social

distancing has impacted all of us emotionally. Our caregivers miss having patients' families visit, especially at the ELC, and can't wait until the time that they can return. Since our facility includes both the hospital and one of the hardest hit types of care centers during this pandemic – long term care facilities – we're especially vigilant about maintaining stringent safety practices.

It's timely also that this month we celebrate our caregiver heroes and heroines during National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week, from May 6-12 and May 10-16, respectively. Our doctors, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, technologists, technicians, and aides who care for our patients are extraordinary and selfless in the best of times, but this year they've outdone themselves.

I also want to acknowledge the work of all of multiple departments in the hospital whose support personnel may not

directly care for patients, but who nevertheless sustain the care we deliver. For example, our Food Services staff continues to prepare and deliver meals to patients and staff, and our dedicated Environmental Services staff ensures that every space and surface of our hospital is scrupulously clean and safe. Every team member deserves praise for continuing to come to work, despite knowing the risks related to COVID-19. All of the staff have risked coming into harm's way — thereby putting their families at higher risk too. They are dedicated and deserve our thanks.

Our local leaders and the community have also stepped up to follow the practices we know are keeping us safer, and I'm very appreciative of this as well. As the saying goes, it takes a village.

I'm a positive thinker, but we must adopt a troubleshooting mentality in this situation; I call this approach “productive paranoia,” and there's never a better time for it than strategizing response to a pandemic. Preparation is key to keeping our hospital and community safe. Some primary responses include diligently screening everyone who walks through our doors – patients and staff alike – to minimize exposure, and ensuring that we have ample personal protective equipment (PPE).

Our staff has also engaged in cross-training efforts so if it becomes necessary, they can perform a job in another area of

HCH, like the Emergency Department. Our plans also included the addition of a tent to add auxiliary space for the ED. Given we did not see the surge in COVID-19 in our community, we've taken down the tent. However, we can quickly stand it back up in case our ED was to experience a surge.

Finally, from Day One, HCA Healthcare's leadership and support has been outstanding and we're fortunate to be part of this network. We've learned much about treating COVID-19 patients from HCA Healthcare markets that were hit hard by the virus, like our hospitals on the West Coast, and being an HCA Healthcare hospital meant that we were ahead of the curve with implementing practices and assuring access to key supplies.

Please remember that I feel a deep responsibility to make our community and our staff feel safe and cared for, especially during these exceptional times. We will weather this storm, learn a tremendous amount from it, and grow together. I'm grateful to every one of our team members for their fortitude, commitment, and selflessness. Thank you for allowing us to care for you.

• Tom Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Neal is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive healthcare experience.

... LOANS continued from page 1

missioners asked that Macon County establish a plan similar to Jackson County – which provided the funds for a third party – Mountain Bizworks – to distribute the loans.

“It would take any county bias out of the equation and all we would be doing is providing the funding for the loan,” said Beale. “I suggested \$350,000, but Tommy [Jenkins] was more comfortable with \$250,000 so that is what we are proposing.”

Beale suggested the funds come from the county's existing economic development budget, which currently has just under \$1 million. The funds would target businesses between 1 and 49 employees who have been in business in Macon County for at least year.

The proposal suggests that loans are

available for up to \$10,000, based on the business's pre-COVID-19 revenue. The suggested loan agreement structure would be six months of no payments required at 4% (interest accruing), followed by 36 months of principal and interest payments at 5.5% interest with no prepayment penalties and defaulted loans being subject to collections.

“Most banks won't loan \$2,500 or even \$5,000, but for many of our small businesses, our mom and pops, our local restaurants, even a loan of that size could mean the difference in staying open or closing for good,” said Beale. “And when these businesses stay open, they keep people employed and the collect sales tax for the county.”

• See LOANS page 22

Highlands CC



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c 828.200.6742 o 828.526.8300
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The only constant in life is change! (Heraclitus)

As I started my real estate career, we Agents used the MLS Book with all available listings, pending listings and listings sold.

This Real Estate Bible, with its top secret agent information, which I kept with me at all times was reprinted every 30 days.

I needed this magic tool with its nuggets of gold to answer buyer and seller questions about the current market. At the time, we didn't have the World Wide Web at the touch of our fingertips. We relied on printed ads and signs to alert buyers to homes for sale.

Soon we were to be introduced to an internet-based listing service. The safety of that old reliable tool, which I held so dearly in my possession, was being replaced! My comfort zone was changing right in front of my eyes!

As I navigated this new technology, I became aware how wonderful this was for my buyers, my sellers and for me! I had real-time information, luxurious photos and more data to share with buyers and sellers!

As great as this was, more was on the horizon – 3-dimensional floorplans, maps, virtual tours, drones, facetime walk throughs and electronic signatures!

Today, these tools provide the highest levels of information technology, a win-win for the Agents and our clients!

Our next evolution introduces us to unconventional tools. These new tools aren't designed to wow our clients or make us appear to be the Agent you can't live without.

These tools are for safety!

Safety of our community, our buyers, sellers and ourselves. Covid-19 is a fluid condition and as real estate professionals, our community and clients, are our first priority.

As I began to use these new tools, I was concerned I couldn't effectively perform my trade. How can I possibly connect with



Teresa Seay

my customers wearing a face covering and gloves? What will my clients think? Nonetheless, I heard the relief in their voices when I told them I would be wearing a mask and gloves!

Additionally, our office observes social distancing, controlled points of entry, meeting clients by appointment only, asking clients to wear face coverings and traveling in separate vehicles.

Currently the Highlands Cashiers Multiple Listing Service has 733 homes and condos offered for purchase.

As professionals tour these homes with clients we are being respectful of the home owners safety. We ask clients not to touch items inside the home, agents open and close doors and operate lighting. As in the past, shoes are removed at the owner's request.

Currently, 90 homes and condos are pending sale or in due-diligence. We've closed 117 homes and condos in the last 90 days.

As our market responds to this latest curve in the road, we continue to "change". Our ability to adapt is the key to our success. We must look ahead and embrace new ways to stay safe while living productively on the Highlands Plateau – it's like nothing on Earth!

• Teresa Seay is a Broker-Associate with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Meadows Mountain Realty. 488 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741. Teresa is a Macon County native and has practiced real estate for the past 18 years. She is a Member of the Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors, Carolina-Smokies Association of Realtors, Resort & Second Home Specialist and Member of the Institute for Luxury Home Marketing. You can contact Teresa at 828-421-1514.

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- Vaulted ceilings

Contact Nina at 828-482-2480



Senior Spotlight: Highlands School Class of 2020



Jeslyn Head

Jeslyn has been a member of SGA all 4 years, the Interact Club for 3 years, FCA for 3 years, a member of the Prom Committee, played volleyball 4 years, played basketball 3 years, played soccer 3 years, ran track 1 year, and cheered 1 year.

She plans to attend Western Carolina University to study Integrated Health Sciences, segueing to Pharmaceutical Studies and hopes to become a pharmacist.

Her Shout Out goes to Mrs. Reed who never failed to put a smile on her face! "I will miss seeing her in the halls and trying to get out the words, 'Happy Wednesday,' or whatever day of the week it was, before she could. She is a constant ray of energy at Highlands School, and I will forever be grateful to have had her be such a positive person in my life."

Her favorite Covid-19 activity has been being outside, and spending more time with her family "Which has been nice!"



Lilly Deal

Lilly has been involved with Interact Club, Music Club, and served as a soccer manager.

She is going to Southwestern Community College where she plans on majoring in Criminal Justice.

She gave a shoutout to Mrs. Cashions.

"Every time that I needed to talk she was there to give me advice with a clear level head; also I liked when we joked around with each other and shared a good laugh"

Her favorite COVID activity has been reading online and hard cover books.

Congrats, Lilly! Good luck in all that you do.



Taj Roman

Taj has been involved with basketball from 2015-2020.

He is attending Appalachian State University to major in Creative Writing

He gave a shoutout to Coach Page. "Even though he doesn't work at the school anymore, Coach P was my all time favorite teacher, as well as my greatest influence and inspiration to pursue writing as a career. Thank you Coach P, love you always."

His Covid-19 activity admission: "I have done nothing interesting in the slightest"

The Highlands Town Board voted unanimously to accept the Scholarship Committee's recommendation for Class of 2020 scholarships in the amount of \$28,100.

Recipients are as follows:

Graduating Seniors	Amount
Dalton, Camren (Valedictorian)	\$2,500
Roman, Sayla (Valedictorian)	\$2,500
Olvera, Morgan (Salutatorian)	\$1,850
McCall, Kedra	\$1,750
Tucci-Caselli, Isaiah	\$1,750
Jimenez-Estrada, Pablo	\$1,750
Head, Jeslyn	\$1,500
Woods, Patrick	\$1,500
Weller, Emma	\$1,500
Roman, Taj	\$1,500
Norris, Brianna	\$1,500
Nguyen, Sophia	\$1,500
Valerio, Marilyn	\$1,250
Miller, Jonathan	\$1,250
Sanborn, Erin	\$1,250
Schmitt, Dillon	\$1,250
Talbert, Ryan	\$1,000
Ingate, Reid	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$28,100

Members of the town's Scholarship committee are Town Attorney J. K. Coward, Jeff Weller, Hilary Wilkes, Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter, Calab Bowers and Town Manager Josh Ward.



Matthew Barnes

Matthew plans to go to Southwestern Community College for Outdoor Leadership AAS. Then he wants to get a job that requires that degree.

His Shout Out goes to Ms. Hedden for putting up with him for so many years.

His favorite Covid-19 activity has been hiking up Whiteside with his Rottweiler, Zeus.

Good luck, Matthew! You have come a long way. We are so proud of you.



Pablo Jimenez

Pablo has played basketball 3 years, soccer 4 years, been part of the track team 4 years, and a member of the Beta Club for 3 years.

He will be attending Appalachian State University to major in Computer Science.

He offers a big Shout Out to Mr. A and to all the janitorial staff for what they do.

His favorite Covid-19 activity has been playing his guitar.



Patrick Woods

Patrick has been involved with soccer, cross country, basketball, and track.

His college plans have changed due to the current situation, but he still plans to go to college to study computer science.

His favorite school memory is when he came out of his shell after Spring Break and started talking a bit more.

"One day I was talking even more than usual and Coach Green asked the class if I had always been this talkative. At the time he laughed with all of us, but he probably hopes I

would be more quiet."

His favorite COVID 19 activity is able to sleep in, play video games with some old friends, and learn a bunch of random stuff he never needed to know on YouTube at 2 in the morning.

"Also just being able to make food whenever, and cooking muffins whenever I get bored."



Community COVID-19 Outreach Community Resources at hand

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation 2020 Funding Focus Includes COVID-19 Initiatives

Prospective Grantees Must Submit Letter of Interest by June 10, 2020

In what has been described as “an exceptional year of need,” Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation has announced its funding focus for 2020 will include assistance for needs relating to the coronavirus pandemic as well as collaborative and transformative solutions that will improve the health and well-being of our Highlands Cashiers and neighboring communities.

Letters of Interest are due before June 10, 2020 and the application can be downloaded from www.hchealthfnd.org.

The Foundation's board has outlined the following funding focus areas:

1. Covid-19 Initiatives – Providing financial support to immediate relief needs, as well as emerging and long-term solutions for COVID-19 related issues.

2. Health and Access to Healthcare Initiatives – Connecting our communities to sustainable and affordable health care services.

3. Education Initiatives – Expanding and improving

education.

4. Transformative, Innovative and Collaborative Solutions – Providing lasting improvement to our communities' overall health and well-being.

“We know that unprecedented circumstances are affecting families, homes, businesses and every aspect of life in our mountains. Acting on this, our Board has agreed to allocate significant funding to help our communities,” said Board Chair, Dr. Walter Clark. Robin Tindall, the Foundation's CEO and Executive Director adds, “Given the magnitude of the coronavirus' impact, the Foundation is committed to helping those most vulnerable in our area, and investing in emerging solutions designed to assist the transition to health and economic recovery of the plateau and our extended region.”

Interested applicants may submit Letters of Interest beginning May 11 at www.hchealthfnd.org/grants. Deadline for submission is June 10.

• *Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to providing leadership and funding to lift the health and well-being of Highlands, Cashiers and neighboring communities. The founda-*

tion awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants to non-profits in 2019, its inaugural year. For more information, visit www.hchealthfnd.org.

• *About Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation was established on February 1, 2019 as a 501 (c) 3 public charity with a purpose to improve the health and well-being of Highlands, Cashiers, and surrounding communities. As the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital conversion foundation we are committed to continuing a several-decade legacy of generosity and vision to ensure vibrant and healthy living for our year-round, seasonal and visiting families and individuals. Through partnerships with organizations, key stakeholders and caring donors, the Foundation aims to make positive and lasting change through investing in projects and programs that advance innovative solutions and improvements in peoples' health and well-being. The Foundation also includes collaborative partnerships that serve the health and well-being of all people in western North Carolina, with particular emphasis on Macon, Jackson, Swain, Graham, Clay and Cherokee Counties. For more information please visit the website: www.hchealthfnd.org or call 828-482-6510.*



Even in this time of social distancing, the Rotary Club of Highlands Mountaintop has been serving the local community. First, due to mounting needs during the stay at home orders, a \$2,500 grant was given to REACH. Then members, delivered a check for \$1,300 to the Food Pantry and helped distribute much needed food to those wanting in this coronavirus pandemic. The funds came from a District 7670 grant of \$1,000 and were augmented by additional donations from members.

CLE revises its 2020 schedule

The Center for Life Enrichment has been an integral part of the Highlands-Cashiers area since it began offering seminars and events in the summer of 1994. As the world has discovered recently, life as we know it can change drastically overnight. The regulations and restrictions that have been put in place to keep us safe from the pandemic have forced us to review our calendar for 2020.

Due to current government regulations regarding Covid-19, the Board of Directors of the CLE made the decision to cancel all events and classes that were scheduled for May and June. We will work towards rescheduling them later in the season. If the town/government regulations allow, we will begin our season on July 1, 2020.

Keep up with the changes by checking our website, www.clehighlands.com, or by calling the office at 828-526-8811 to be added to our email list.

Popcorn at The Playhouse

Starting this week, the Highlands Playhouse will be selling our famously fresh popcorn on our patio! Stop in for a small bag to-go between 1 - 4 pm this Thursday, and Friday. We'll also have cold Coke products and concession candy available, all right from the patio. Cash only, please and thank you. We look forward to seeing all our friends again here at the Playhouse!"



Phase 1 reopening and Mother's Day

Making the most of life during modified, sta



Brooke made her mom at Mother's Day lunch.



On Mother's Day families visited through the windows at ELC.



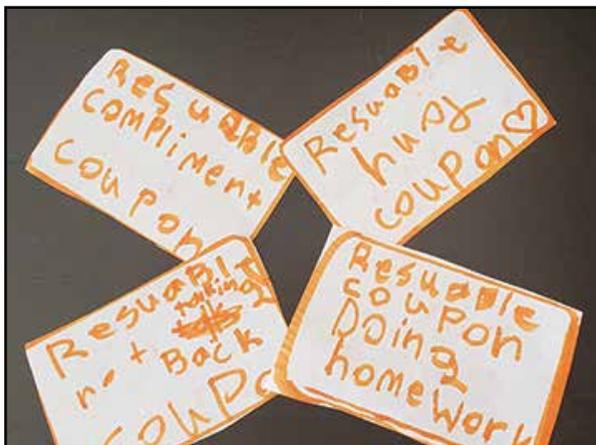
With inside take-out pickup, Four65 jumped on board.



Nicole had a Gender Reveal party this Mother's Day weekend and it's a boy! Congratulations, Nicole!



Wit's End Shop welcomed shoppers with safety precautions.



Mother's Day heartfelt resuable coupons!

In an unsettling reversal of my teenage years, I am now yelling at my parents for going out.

Senior's Day during the COVID-19

Shopping-at-home & social distancing in Phase 1

Sheltering in Place at My Parents' House in Haikus

By Caroline Lazar

Sorry to wake you,
I was just thinking about
How you're not married.

Let's take a long walk
And talk about it all, plus
Why you're not married.

We love PBS.
"Jamestown." Have you heard of it?
It's on PBS!

(Seven days later)
French Stewart!!! I just remembered!!!
What is he up to?

We're not mad that you
Broke the toilet, we just want
To know what happened.

Apologies, but
I went through your diary.
Bad poetry! Sad!

We're having cocktails!
Does alcohol sanitize?
Ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!

May I wash your sheets?
I know you're still in bed but
It's time to get up.

Susan from tennis?
Her son? A podiatrist.
You'll hear from him soon.

Cool niece said she'd make
Us TikTok famous—trap or
Opportunity?

Do you pay mortgage
On this pantry? Don't think so.
SkinnyPop is mine.

Can I play bocce
If I wear gloves, hold breath, stay
Far from coughing Gayle?

Hulu, Quibi, Sling,
Philo, Tubi, Roku. Help!
We can't miss "Blue Bloods!"

It's not my business,
But you've worn that top six times
In ten days. No more.

No Zumba? But, dear,
Everyone we know is at
The Y. Everyone.

You may not social-
Distance from me. I'm your mom.
You were inside me.

Who are you dating?
Tell us, who are you dating?
Also, tell us who.

We're happy you're here,
And love you so very much . . .
Why aren't you married?

Call your grandmother.
She has some notes on your hair.
(Spoiler: fix it now.)

I see you're busy
Texting. Could I please dip your
phone in bleach to clean?

Who's that guy, the one
from the show with the one who's
the dad in "Footloose?"

Caroline, darling,
Can you help me with e-mail?
Want to send huge files.



The Toy Store has laid out a plan.



At Dry Sink there is sanitizer, masks and helpful directions.



At Southern Way, traffic routes are encouraged and sanitizer is offered.



Wild Thyme Gourmet is happily offering take-out orders.

Community COVID-19 Outreach

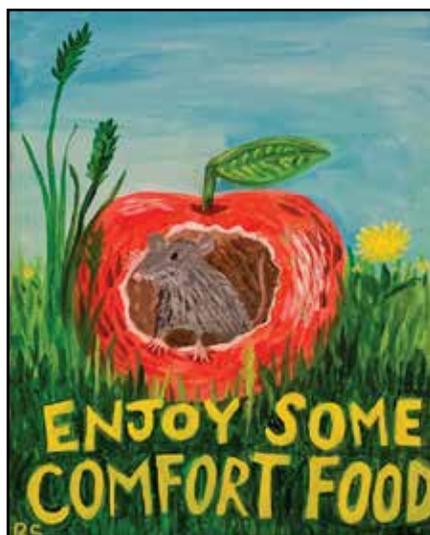
Daily Mouse Musings!

According to an anonymous tip Highlands Newspaper received this week, the mice that mysteriously appeared in Highlands are the brainchild of New Yorker Rae Stang.

"All my life I've liked making things. If a life is like a tapestry, then most lives have at least one strong central thread that creates the pattern. In my tapestry - it's creativity. My brain gets an idea, and then it's actually hard put to stop it from becoming reality... it's a mixed blessing."

The retired Chocolatier (founder, Luckys Chocolates, Saugerties, New York) started painting her "Daily Mouse" series in late March. Her sheltering in place musings scampered across the

Facebook and Instagram landscape at a fast pace. When others posted gorgeous pictures of gourmet meals, Daily Mouse peered out of an apple. That day Stang observed "Staying home and cooking seems to be the general state of affairs right now. The Mouse enjoys eating his way through an apple and then taking a nap in his deliciously scented



bed. Comfort food indeed! Hope everyone is staying safe & feeling well!"

Compassionate and empathetic, Daily Mouse has identified with the lonely, the volunteers-at-home, children and even parents.

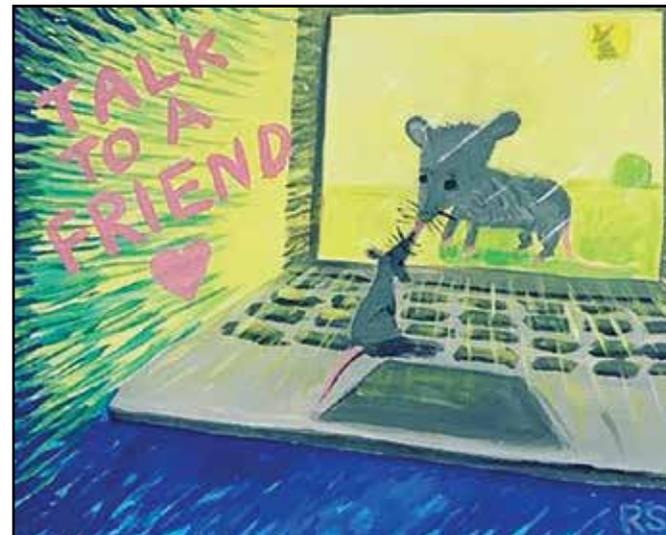
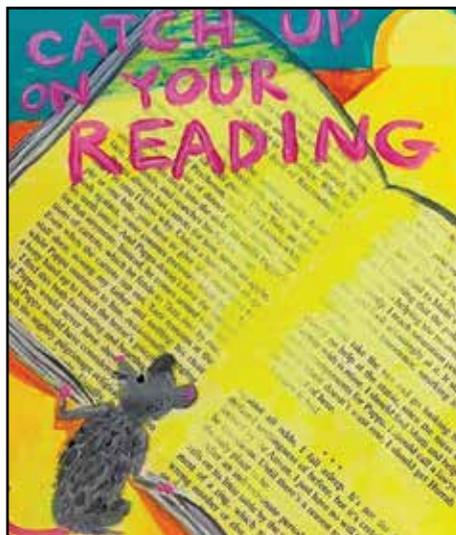
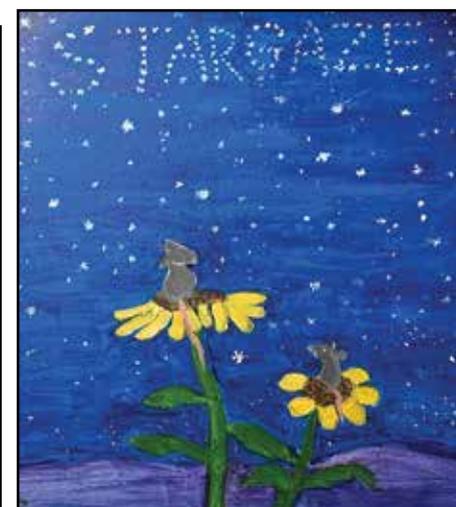
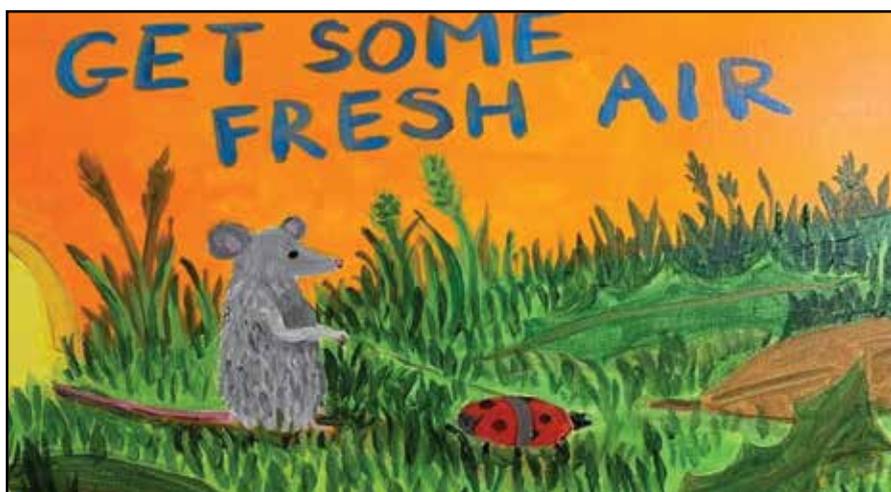
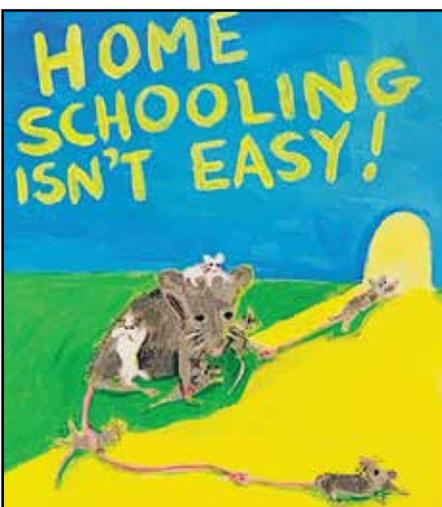
"Homeschooling isn't easy! This mamma mouse has all she can do to homeschool her brood! It's completely understandable to

have 'Covid Fatigue' at times! Hang in & stay safe."

This week 30 different Daily Mouse messages appeared in Highlands. Why Highlands?

"I was touched by Leela Chrestman's April 30 Letter to the Editor," Stang's friend said. "Leela took the time to identify with the stress everyone is feeling and expressed her desire to spread joy and make our community stronger. Bringing Daily Mouse to Highlands seemed like a joyful way to help spread Leela's message."

While cautiously move about town, see if you can find some of Stang's Daily Mouse musings.



• INK PENN •

Do you read cozy mysteries?

Before I wrote my first cozy, I wasn't familiar with the term. Perhaps I'd heard it but hadn't given it much thought. Now, of course, I'm well acquainted with the genre. As I explained in a recent column, a cozy mystery contains "no cursing, no sex, and no blood and gore. Think Jessica Fletcher and Miss Marple."

When a friend asked me to name some cozy mystery authors so she could better understand the genre, I could think of only one or two. Finding myself at a loss to name more than that, I came home and googled "cozy mystery authors." I was surprised to learn I'd been reading cozies off and on for years without knowing it. I found several different lists of cozy mysteries, and one titled "25 of the Absolute Best Cozy Mystery Series."

I've by no means read all twenty-five on the list, but I have read quite a few. Here in no particular order are a few I've enjoyed:

Rita Mae Brown Mrs. Murphy mysteries: Mrs. Murphy is Mary Minor "Har-

ry" Haristeen's cat. Together with Harry's Welsh Corgi Tucker, Mrs. Murphy unearths clues and solve mysteries in the fictional Virginia town of Crozet. There are thirty books in this series that started with "Wish You Were Here" in 1991.

Lillian Jackson Braun and the "Cat Who" books: Braun has passed away, but her "Cat Who" books were hugely popular in her day. I recently picked up the first in this twenty-nine book series, "The Cat Who Could Read Backwards." I enjoyed it anew and was struck by the absence of cell phones and the internet. How quickly we forget.

Louise Penny and Inspector Gamache: One of my favorite authors, she published her first Inspector Gamache book in 2005, "Still Life." The fourteenth in the series came out last year, and another is on the way. I heard Penny speak in North Carolina last year and thoroughly enjoyed the



Kathy Manos Penn

experience. Somehow, I'd never thought of her as a cozy mystery writer, perhaps because there's cursing aplenty in her books, something that's taboo in cozies.

Agatha Christie's Miss Marple series: Many consider Christie the Queen of the cozies. I've read a few Miss Marple books, but I've mostly seen BBC television shows which eventually show up on PBS or PBA here in Atlanta. All are enjoyable. My

husband and I even watched an old black and white movie starring Margaret Rutherford, but I prefer the BBC versions. "Murder at the Vicarage" is the first in the series and came out in 1930.

Dorothy Sayers and Lord Peter Wimsey: Sayers didn't appear on the list of 25 referenced above but I found her mentioned on several others. As a died in the wool Anglophile, I fell in love with Sayers the moment I discovered her Peter Wimsey stories. The first book in her series

of twelve is "Whose Body?" and is set in England between the first and second World Wars. The Wimsey books were published from 1923 to 1939, after which Sayers turned to other writing projects. Jill Paton Walsh continued the series in 1998 with four more books. I found them to be as enjoyable as the originals.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, so expect another installment about cozy mystery authors and books to add to your TBR (To Be Read) list. And, of course, I sincerely hope you've already added my Dickens & Christie mystery series to that list. The first two books are "Bells, Tails & Murder" and "Pumpkins, Paws & Murder," and you can expect the third book soon. Happy reading!

• 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 inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.



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... HIGHLANDS continued from page 1

tinue, the 14-day quarantine if coming to stay in Highlands from another state was lifted, accommodations were allowed to open to more than just essential workers; restaurants were allowed to offer inside take-out instead of just curbside take-out and shops and businesses were allowed to open their doors to customers at 50% capacity.

Other safety stipulations were also in place.

Governor Cooper encouraged people to continue to shelter-in-place for the most part, but if venturing out whether to non-essential or essential business to wear a mask. Social distancing six-feet apart is still required and people have been reminded to wash their hands and use sanitizer.

Non-essential stores were allowed to open at 5 p.m. Friday night.

The Molly Grace started the weekend by opening Friday night from 5-8 and was open Saturday.

Owner Stephanie McCall said she was very pleased with the turnout.

"Friday night and Saturday we had a

tremendous number of locals come out to support our business. We had the shop professionally cleaned beforehand and then we had hand sanitizer at the door and sanitized and cleaned after every shift. We were happy to be open and see our local and second-home clients!"

Desperate for business most Highlands shop owners did what was required and even went above and beyond. Many erected plexiglass barriers at check-out stations, offered sanitizer and masks upon entry, six-foot spaces were taped on floors and many set up traffic lanes inside their stores.

For instance, The Dry Sink asked people to enter through one door and exit through the other rather than to use them interchangeably.

Inside The Toy Store and Southern Way, patrons were encouraged to move to the right when entering and to the left when exiting.

Such practices helped shop owners sanitize throughout the day in an organized manner.

Alan Mayer, owner of The Dry Sink,

said they were open on Saturday and were busier than he expected.

"We had a very good day and look forward to a busy summer. Customers were very understanding and helpful regarding our health guidelines," he said.

Owner of The Toy Store/The Book Nook, Michele Bears said Saturday went well and about 20% of the customers wore masks and used the sanitizer they offered, and most paid attention to the traffic lanes they set up.

"Parents told their kids to just look and not to touch, which was great because it meant less cleaning after," she said. "In general, everything went really well. It was worth opening and I was able to pay a bill or two!"

Owner Susan Young, of Wits End, said they were surprisingly busy on Saturday with many more customers than expected.

"People were genuinely happy to see us open and almost all maintained social distancing and were respectful of others."

Though not all patrons throughout the business district wore masks inside or on

the streets, Young said about 85% of her customers wore masks.

She said they placed hands-free sanitizers at the entrance and throughout the store and increased cleaning and the sanitizing of surfaces throughout the day.

"We sanitized dressing rooms with Lysol spray throughout the day, too, and requested customers to wear masks or face coverings," she said. "These are some of the things we are doing to try to keep our customers and staff safe."

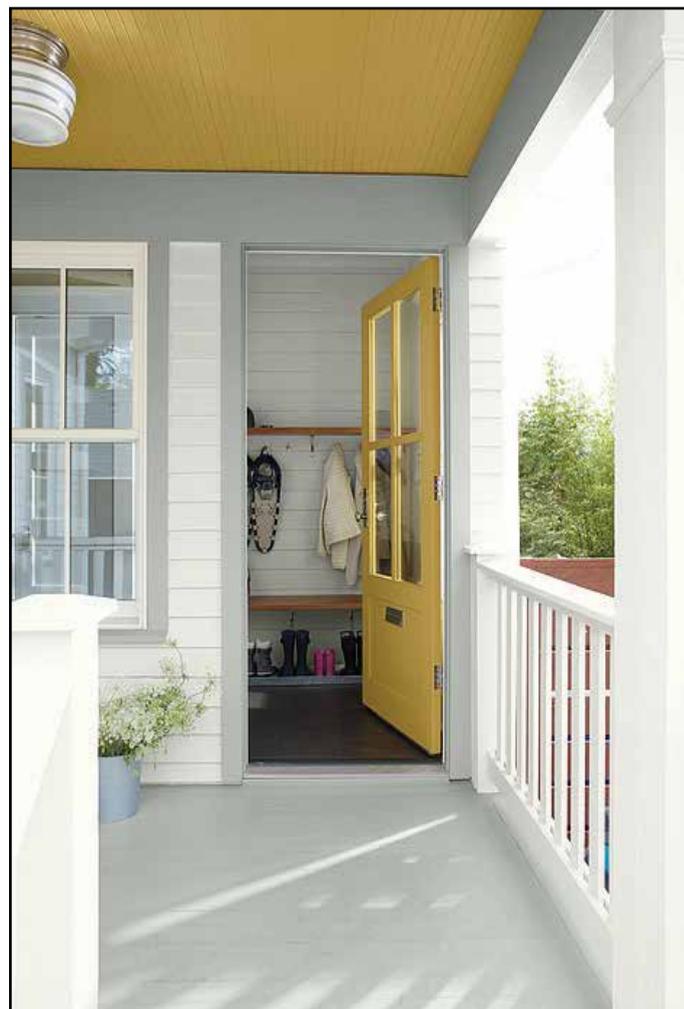
Understandably, sales didn't match Mother's Day weekend last year, but Manager of The Spice & Tea Exchange Rachel Lewicki said lots of locals came in to show their support.

"We allowed 10 people in at a time and provided gloves at the door and made hand-sanitizer available," she said.

Though known for their "open the jars and smell" motto Lewicki said due to COVID-19 there is no longer an "open jar" policy.

In addition, all blending of spices is

• See HIGHLANDS page 21



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Blessings Upon Blessings

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

– A.A. Milne (Winnie-the-Pooh)

My Dear Highlands Family,

It is said all good things must come to an end.

I just wish the endings didn't sneak up on me quite so quickly.

After 13+ years of ministry here at Holy Family Lutheran Church, I am retiring. I was hoping to stay another couple of years, but family needs and other things have changed my path. They say if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans!

It seems like yesterday Jon and I pulled the U-Haul into the parsonage driveway and unloaded everything. As a second career person, (I was a teacher for 20+ years) Highlands was my first pastoral call and a solo one at that and I admit I was a bit nervous. Now all these years later, I thank the Holy Spirit and a wonderful congregation for the most spiritually rewarding time of my life.

I have been so blessed by your love friendship, especially from the various clergy in our town. Never have I had the pleasure of working with such a diverse but close-knit group of colleagues. I will sorely miss all the times we gather as a community --Stations of the Cross, Easter Sunrise Service, Blessing of the Animals, the Baccalaureate Service and the Taize services y'all attended so faithfully. It has been heavenly.

I will miss playing at weddings, having dinner with friends and the occasional sip at the Dog. I will miss walking into town and feeling so very much at home. I will miss stepping out on a cold evening to walk "Sweetie" and savor the clean, brisk air and the silence. I will miss watching the "critters" – birds, squirrels and chipmunks – who come to my bird feeder.

The beauty and magic of this place, and books on CD from the Hudson Library and my wonderful congregation made the 4-hour-commute from Charlotte each week bearable. But, now I guess it is time to move on to the next adventure.

This damnable pandemic has meant I was stuck in Charlotte and haven't been able to spend my last weeks with the folks I love. We have "Zoomed" our church services but it's just not the same. Weddings were canceled, milestones missed. Life has pulled the rug out from under us as we look to an unknown future and prepare to reinvent what "normal" will be.

We might be wandering in the wilderness right now, but we will, by the grace of God, get through it, and I hope and pray, be together again someday. Every time I think of you, I thank God for the many blessings bestowed on me. These years in Highlands have indeed been the happiest and best of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

"Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul there is no such thing as separation."

– Rumi

Go with God, my dear friends.

Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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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Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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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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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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

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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

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Worship/Communion: 10:30; Early-Bird Christmas Eve service of
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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S., Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from April 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 25

• At 10:20 a.m., officers received a report of someone trespassing and a burglary and breaking & entering at a residence on Cobb Road.

April 30

• At 3:47 p.m., officers received a

report of a stolen U-Haul van and the possession of methamphetamine.

• At 5 p.m., Joan Beck Hobbs, 51, of Highlands, was arrested at a residence on Laurel Street for larceny of a motor vehicle, failure to return a hired motor vehicle and possession on methamphetamine. She was issued a \$6,000 secured bond. Her court date is July 14.

May 4

• At 1:33 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Cullasaja Drive and Mirror Lake Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 7.

May 7

• At 10:03 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence in Highlands Mountain Club.

May 8

• At 2:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face Road.

• At 4:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire caused by a piece of

clothing on a heater at a residence on Highlands View Road.

May 9

• At 8:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Bob Zahner Road.

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. responded to provide mutual assistance at Cullasaja Falls.

May 10

• At 11:46 a.m., a mutual aid call from Cashiers FD was cancelled en route.

... HARRELL continued from page 6



Chief Bill Harrell

character that makes him a leader, said Taylor.

Town Manager Josh Ward concurred with Mayor Taylor.

“During his tenure, Chief Harrell has presented strong leadership and has elevated the Highlands Police Department to a high level of professionalism. His education and training requirements for his staff have led HPD to become one of the most proficient departments in Western North Carolina,” he said.

Ward said Chief Harrell’s last day will be June 1st and the town will soon post the vacancy and begin the search for a replacement as soon as possible.

Chief Harrell gave a shout out to the Town of Highlands for its leadership support.

“It has been an incredible journey that I do not take for granted and I am forever grateful in its role of shaping me for my service there and this next chapter in my career,” said Harrell. “I am also eternally thankful for the comradery of my colleagues, HPD officers and staff, the Town

of Highlands staff and last but certainly not least, the Town of Highlands community. It has been a blessing beyond measure for the friendships developed and fostered by the loving hearts of the community and they will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.”

Harrell said he looks forward to getting to know and serve with the Town of Franklin leadership, police department, and other Town of Franklin departments.

“I would be remiss if I didn’t say that I am anxiously optimistic to continue to raise the bar for the police department for the betterment of public safety for everyone and I look forward to sharpening the strong talents, abilities and potential that I have recognized FPD officers and staff possess,” he said.

Chief Harrell replaces Chief David Adams who left in January to take the position of chief with the Waynesville Police Department.

– Kim Lewicki


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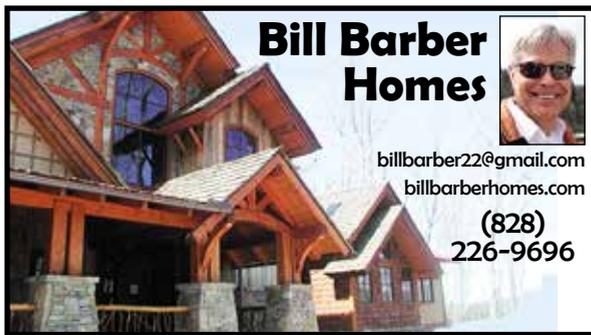
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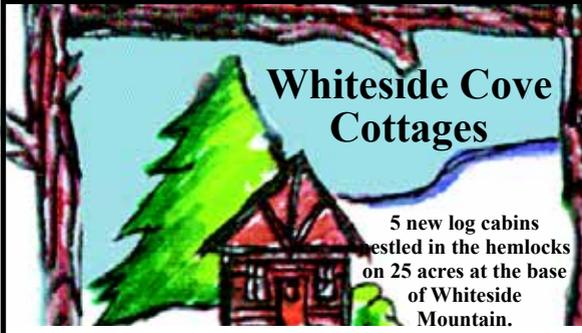
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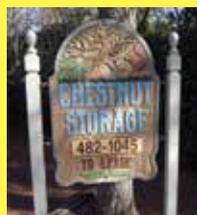
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**Sample Books Available****... HIGHLANDS continued from page 16**

now done after store hours.

Harry Bears, owner of The Southern Way said business was about what he expected.

"The public was very happy about the reopening and people appeared to be much more at ease than they were in early March," he said.

When people entered the store, he provided sneeze guards and hand-sanitizer which most folks accepted.

"We were constantly wiping down counters, dressing rooms, doorknobs; and we left doors open for better air circulation," said Bears. "We are wearing masks and I'd say about 50% of customers wore masks."

Throughout the lockdown, Highlands Smokehouse has had a busy curb-side, take-out business, but co-owner Tom Goldacker said inside take-out made for an uptick in business for sure.

"Business was good this week. There was an increase in business of about 20 percent. And there are definitely new faces in town," he said.

Accommodations and short-term rentals were allowed to open this weekend, too, with strict operations regarding sanitation including but not limited to, registration and concierge, point of sale, guest services, public spaces, food and beverage, housekeeping, occupancy limits, and internal operations.

Richard Delany, president/managing director of Old Edwards Hospitality Group said everything went really well with the soft opening Saturday and Sunday.

OEI booked 10 rooms Friday and about 20 rooms Saturday, which represents 25% capacity – OEI has about 100 rooms throughout its multi-building complex.

As per the strict sanitary requirements, employees welcomed guests with masks on but they wore a lanyard with their picture on it so guests could see their faces, said Delany.

"Guests didn't mind the masks and all the other things we are required to do. They said it made them feel safe," he said.

Guests were called ahead of check-in so they knew in advance what was being done regarding COVID-19.

The OEI staff is required to wear masks at all times and Delany said guests are asked to wear them in all the public areas.

"The bellmen wear gloves and masks and guests can choose to let the bellmen take their luggage or they can carry it themselves. Also, if patrons are staying more than one night, we offer the stay-over service but about 50% said they would take care of their rooms themselves," said Delany.

Necessarily, other changes were implemented throughout the complex.

"We used to offer a glass of champagne upon check-in but since we can't do that now, we provided a bottle of champagne in their room. Also, since our amenities aren't open, we hosted hikes around town while keeping to the 10-person limit to feature Highlands' natural amenities. The pool isn't open, but we offered outdoor fitness classes around the pool that went over really well. Weather permitting, we soon hope to offer movies on the lawn at The Lodge since theaters aren't allowed to open yet."

• See HIGHLANDS page 22

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT IN HIGHLANDS FALLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Maintenance Department wanted. Please Call 828-526-2203 or 828-200-9763. (st. 4/23)

PART-TIME MARKETING ADMINISTRATIVE AND PRINT PRODUCTION POSITION – 25 hours per week Marketing administrative and production assistant needed to oversee invoice coding and tracking and bookkeeping; manage in-house print production and inventory of all marketing collateral and external print ordering and vendor relationships; distribute collateral around Old Edwards properties and in town; lay out banquet menu cards for

the special events department; and other administrative duties. Skill requirements include Excel proficiency; Microsoft Word and Outlook, knowledge of print production and print industry terminology, print-ready specs, paper types, color processes; experience in hands-on print production of materials such as brochures and newsletters, some experience in InDesign. More extensive experience in layout and design a plus and could be considered for a full-time position. Must be a stickler for high quality and details, work extremely well as part of a close-knit team and bring a consistently positive attitude, trustworthiness and integrity. References required. Apply online at www.olderedwardsinn.com

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...HIGHLANDS continued from page 21

Early on, OEI decided not to open their Four65 bistro or Madison's Restaurant to curbside takeout but once inside takeout was permitted, and accommodations were allowed to open they jumped on board.

"This weekend we had a lot of to-go orders from locals and from guests. We had menus printed on brown paper bags to adjust and come up with fun ways to do things. Meals were left outside rooms for guests who ordered in from Four65 and Madison's."

Delany said right now OEI is in a holding pattern waiting for Phase 2 to begin – hopefully May 22 – and they will open with whatever restrictions are put into place.

Delany said future bookings look really good and strong and hopefully in June

all their employees will be back.

"We are so close to millions of people who will have cancelled their flights to other countries or places but will drive 3-4 hours to get to us," he said. "They will adjust, and they are still going to go on vacation. The Highlands Cashiers plateau is a natural attraction for a driving destination."

Meanwhile, since Old Edwards Hospitality Group has been closed, all full- and part-time employees have been paid.

"We have continued to pay all our employees and will continue to do so as long as they agree to come back to work when called," said Delany. "We expect to have 80% to 90% of our employees back to work by the beginning of June."

– Kim Lewicki

...LOANS continued from page 8

Jenkins explained that the county could work with Mountain Bizworks or even the Sequoyah Fund to establish what will basically function as a trust fund for businesses. Whichever agency the county partnered with would be responsible for the application process and would handle the distribution and collections.

Commissioner Jim Tate expressed concerns about the county getting into the banking business and requested additional information about the legalities and the process the county would pursue.

"What we are talking about is the definition of economic development, and if we can't do this now, then we might as well not have an economic development program,"

said Beale.

Commissioner Paul Higdon noted that the hardworking business community doesn't want a handout, they just want to get back to work.

"The best thing we can do for these business owners is to let them open back up," said Higdon.

Commissioner Beale agreed but said that isn't up to the county and is a decision that has to be made on the state level.

Commissioners directed Jenkins to get additional information about a proposed COVID19 relief fund and present a plan at the June meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners for official consideration.

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