

# Highlands Newspaper

**HAPPY EASTER!**

**FREE Every Thursday**

Volume 18, Number 13      Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com      Thurs., April 1, 2021

## Balancing the good and bad of STRs

Nationwide the vacation rental industry has been under attack and Highlands is no different.

Citizens claim the industry has transformed their quiet neighborhoods into noisy vacation districts

with more vehicular traffic, excessive noise and even trash being left out on the street.

Mayor Pat Taylor and the Town Board have discussed the subject on multiple occasions, mostly address-

ing problems they can do something about, like noise and trash, by using the police department, which by all accounts has been able to keep problems at bay.

• See STRs page 12

**• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •**

|                            |   |                        |       |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|-------|
| Mayor on Duty .....        | 2 | On the Sunny Side..... | 10    |
| Weather.....               | 2 | Ink Penn.....          | 11    |
| Dining.....                | 4 | Shopping Pullout.....  | 12-13 |
| Obituary.....              | 5 | Police & Fire.....     | 19    |
| DogSpeak.....              | 7 | Classifieds.....       | 22    |
| Investing at 4,118 ft..... | 8 |                        |       |

## Land Use Committee tweaks ordinances

The March Land Use Committee meeting agenda was extensive discussing everything from outdoor lighting, to building codes, to plastic wrap being used for temporary enclosures, to subdivision compliance and more.

Much of what was discussed has been addressed over the years, but with planning directors coming and going, in some cases the enforcement of ordinances has slipped through the cracks. In addition, since the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is a "living" document, verbiage is often tweaked as issues come up.

Lighting was discussed at length.

"Doing things and asking for forgiveness doesn't work with me," said Commissioner Amy Patterson in regards to the use

• See LAND USE page 17

## These days call for a little whimsy!



Though many churches are still closed to in-person services or offering pared down services, and annual Easter egg hunts are cancelled, Easter is still coming with all its sacred and secular trappings that represent new life, new beginnings and rebirth. After the year that was, we all need a little whimsy. Above left is an Easter Egg Tree at Park on Main. Right, at the old jail is JB (short for Jail Bird) dressed and ready for Easter. Happy Easter to all!

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

## NC may join others and expand Medicaid

By Brittney Lofthouse

With millions in federal funding now available for states who expanded Medicaid under the COVID19 relief bill, the 12 states, including North Carolina, that have not already done so have begun to revisit discussions.

Expanding Medicaid first became an option to states in 2014 through the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare, yet North Carolina and 11 other states have not yet expanded Medicaid within their states. About 2.2 million people, who earn too much for Medicaid and too little for Obamacare subsidies, fall in that coverage gap nationwide, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Funding from the COV-

• See MEDICAID page 5

Congratulations, Gary Garren!  
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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Stay alert while driving, walking and bicycling

Anyone driving in Highlands is encountering the extensive road paving. In addition, we should all be concerned about traffic safety as we cruise down newly paved roads while Highlands opens for the impending post pandemic season.

I recently attended a meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission. The guest speaker was Brian Murphy, a NCDOT traffic safety specialist. He presented some very interesting statistics concerning traffic safety.

Brian pointed out that while travel miles in the state decreased in the year of the pandemic, fatal car crashes across the state went up from 1,470 in 2019 to 1,649 in 2020. The good news for the surrounding 7-county area was that the number of fatal crashes went down significantly, from 34 in 2019 to 17 in 2020. The puzzling thing about the state's increase in fatalities during this period was that there was a dramatic decrease in total miles traveled by the motoring public. Reported car crashes also de-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

creased during this period from 316,955 in 2019 to 271,887 in 2020. Experts continue to analyze what caused the increase in fatalities.

Bringing these numbers down to the local level is informative. Brian showed a slide of crashes and fatalities for Macon County and Jackson County for the ten-year period from 2010 to 2020. Macon County has 7,730 crashes and 67 fatalities during the 10-year period. Jackson County had 8,412 crashes and 61 fatalities.

In Highlands we had 518 crashes for the 10-year period. That averages about one car crash per week. The good news is that we had no fatalities in the last 10 years which is truly good news. Nevertheless, we all need to be vigilant in our driving to make sure that statistic does not change.

Basic driving practices can help, such as not driving while impaired and not texting. There is no need to drive anywhere in the town limits at a speed over 35 mph. Our smaller neighborhood streets mostly have posted limits of 20 or less. Stopping at stop signs, like the newly installed ones at NC 28, Satulah and South Streets is also critical.

Another area of concern for me is the safety of our pedestrians and bicycling community. Accidents involving these two groups were up statewide during the pandemic period. It might be because more people were walking and biking while staying at home. Nevertheless, we need to be aware of walkers and cyclists in Highlands, especially in the downtown area. There is no reason to be driving down Main Street over 15 mph, especially where there is parking in the center of the street.

Local walkers also have a responsibility to be alert concerning vehicles. While more sidewalks are desirable, sidewalks on every and on both sides of the street is not going to happen. Folks need to remember that small town streets are primarily vehicular roadways.

Let's continue to keep Highlands safe, by being responsible, alert and patient. No need to rush.

### Highlands Newspaper

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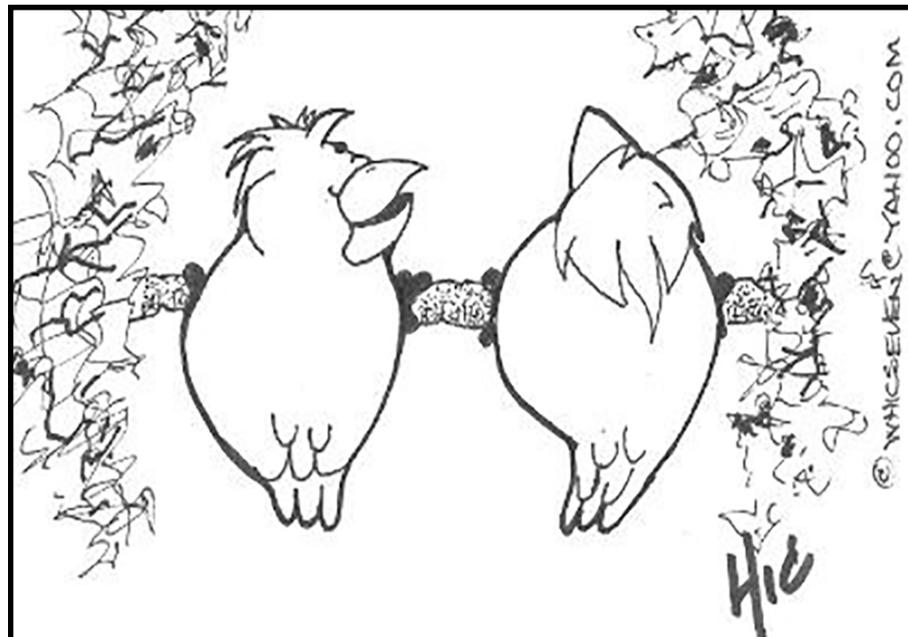
Highlands, N.C., 28•• 741

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#### Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



"We are not going to make the same mess like last year, right Flap. You can't sit on chocolate eggs for two weeks and expect chocolate chicks."

## • WEATHER •

| Thu, 1-Apr  | Fri, 2-Apr   | Sat, 3-Apr   | Sun, 4-Apr   |
|---|--|--|--|
|  36°F<br>20°F |  45°F<br>27°F |  54°F<br>32°F |  61°F<br>37°F |
| Mostly sunny and much colder  | Sunny, but chilly  | Plenty of sunshine   | Plenty of sunshine   |
| RealFeel®<br>High: 34° Low: 18°   | RealFeel®<br>High: 48° Low: 18°  | RealFeel®<br>High: 61° Low: 34°  | RealFeel®<br>High: 70° Low: 35°  |

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

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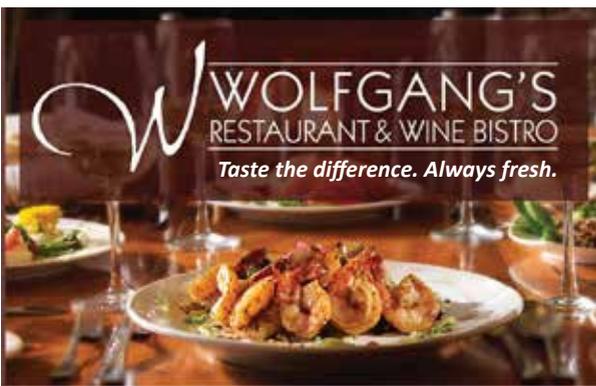
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# • OBITUARY •

## Lucille Nix Wilson



church.

Survivors include her daughter, Lisa Wilson Norris (Lester); two grandchildren by heart, Haley and Gavin Small; a sister, Christine Lowe (Bill) of Highlands; a very special friend, Clara Nix. In addition to her parents and husband, Lucille is preceded in death by her stepmother Gladys Neely Nix and a brother, Bruce Nix.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 26, 2021 at the Highlands First Baptist Church with the Rev. Andy Cloer officiating. Burial followed at the Clear Creek Community Cemetery. Pallbearers were Yogi McCall, Roger Wilson, Doc Wilson, Bryan Hopps, Dennis Francis and Bud Wilson. Honorary pallbearers were Bert McCall, Jerry Nix, Gavin Small, Jeffery Britt and Kevin Nix.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Clear Creek Community Cemetery, C/O Joan Hicks, 288 Persimmon Road, Highlands, NC 28741 or The Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, 200 Gable Drive, Sapphire, NC 28744.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Wilson family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

## ...MEDICAID from page 1

ID19 relief bill has been increased over the next two years to encourage states to adopt expansion for the first time. Under the federal legislation, states will be reimbursed 90 percent of the cost of expanding Medicaid.

Last week, leaders from across Western North Carolina participated in a Town Hall listening session hosted by the North Carolina Rural Center, Care4Carolina Business Development Council, and the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority which focused on the economic impact of closing the healthcare coverage gap in North Carolina.

Senator Kevin Corbin said estimates suggest expanding Medicaid in North Carolina could provide health insurance to over 600,000 people in the state. Consequently, he has been working with fellow Republican Senator Jim Burgin to introduce a bill in the Senate to expand Medicaid.

Senator Corbin previously sponsored a bill in the House, House Bill 655, which would have expanded Medicaid last year, however the bill did not get the needed support to make it through the House of Representatives.

Senator Corbin said that much of the holdout around Medicaid Expansion is political and believes that voters in the state however will support a fiscally responsible approach.

"We had a primary election and a general election that we won handily. It did not hurt me. And I've got one of the most conservative districts in the state. So, I don't buy that argument," said Corbin on Friday.

Senator Corbin said that he and Senator Burgin will be filing a bill in the Senate that looks at expanding Medicaid, but also provides working families in North Carolina the resources they need to be successful.

Graham County Commissioner Dale Wiggins, a Republican, has been a longtime advocate for Medicaid expansion. Wiggins served as a panelist and shared that while working on Governor Roy Cooper's Council for Healthcare Coverage, one of the main reasons he supports expanding

• See MEDICAID page 6

# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Dr. Starnes addresses Rotary

Dr. Richard Starnes, Provost at Western Carolina University, was the speaker at the Rotary Club of Highlands on Tuesday, March 16. Despite the challenges and restrictions posed by Covid-19, student enrollment is at an all-time high, and student retention and graduation rates are very positive. These metrics result in a ranking of one of the leading Universities in terms of curriculum and affordability by U.S. News and World Report. Additionally, capital additions to the campus include a new science facility, dormitories and steam plant.



# • HIGHLANDS DINING •

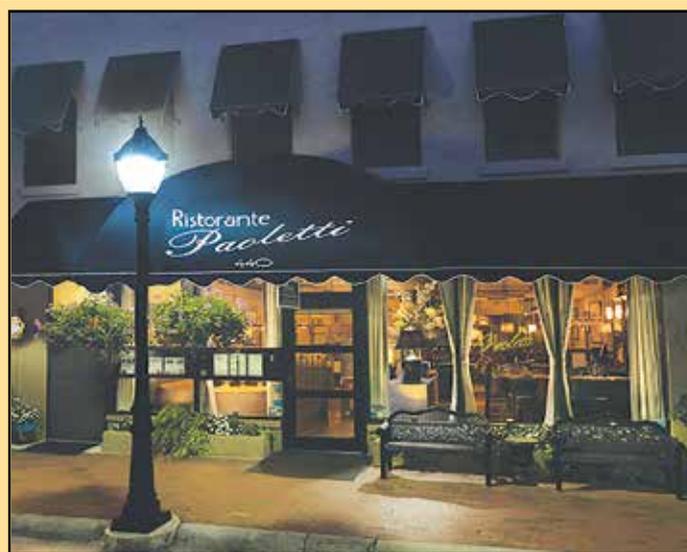


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## ...MEDICAID continued from page 5



Senator Kevin Corbin and other leaders from across WNC participated in a Town Hall meeting held at Southwestern Community College which focused on the economic impact of closing the healthcare coverage gap in North Carolina.

healthcare is looking at what he believes the Bible teaches.

“Do you see Jesus walking over to someone who is sick and saying ‘Do you have a job?’” asked Wiggins.

Dogwood Health Trust President Dr. Susan Mims, Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority CEO Casey Cooper, Vice Chair of

Macon County Commissioners Ronnie Beale, NC Rural Center President Patrick Woodie, and Care4Carolina Business Advisory Council Board Chair Peg O’Connell were also panelists.

Cooper explained that expanding Medicaid would prevent a financial bleed currently experienced by the Eastern Band of

the Cherokee Indians and would be vital to keeping rural hospitals open during a time so many across the country are closing their doors.

Macon County Commissioner Beale noted that expanding Medicaid in North Carolina would save county governments millions of dollars each year if only due to the amount of money they spend to provide healthcare for inmates.

Currently, local governments cover the medical expenses for inmates – under Medicaid Expansion, more inmates would be eligible for Medicaid, taking the financial burden off of county governments.

Macon County is on track to spending more than \$500,000 on healthcare for inmates this year. Just one inmate over the last year cost the county \$50,000 a month in medical expenses.

NC House of Representatives Mike Clampitt and Karl Gillespie spoke at the event and noted that with Western North Carolina’s current mental health crisis paired with opioid abuse – considering Medicaid Expansion now may be the best route to go to get needed resources in WNC.

North Carolina Republicans aren’t alone in considering Medicaid Expansion seriously for the first time; last week Republicans in Wyoming and Texas introduced legislation that would take up the issue in their states.

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Highlands Falls Country Club. 2 bedroom, 2 bath Chestnut cove unit will not last long. good condition and can be customized to your standards. Offered at \$295,000. mls #95255



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On the corner of 1st and Oak St. protected by a hedge of rhododendron and laurels, sitting on a little knoll is this cute, cozy 3BR/3BA "old highlands" cottage. The in-town location is convenient to everything! The home exudes rustic mountain charm with knotty pine paneling, exposed rafters with vaulted ceilings throughout, hardwood floors and wood burning fireplace create a casual ambiance. The 3rd bedroom is downstairs with an outside entrance making it perfect for long term guest or airbnb. With a little TLC this home could be your forever home. Zoned residential or commercial. The home is currently used as residential and grandfathered in as such. Offered at \$875,000. mls #95998



Horse Cove. First time on the market longtime family vacation home. Open deck and screened porch to enjoy the stream below and view of the neighboring pond. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 2 - 1/2 baths. Basement with laundry room and 1/2 bath. Lots of storage. Offered at \$799,000. mls #95668



2,700 SF+- Commercial building located near Highlands Falls Country Club. Great exposure and wonderful setting over looks a bold creek and room for dwelling or addition. Offered at \$575,000.00. mls #95919



Great House at Highlands Falls Country Club. Recently renovated and move-in condition, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, great decks offer wooded and ridgeline views. Inside features an open plan with vaulted ceilings and a custom kitchen. A wonderful getaway home. Offered at \$625,000. mls #94842



Located in HFCC, this Craftsman style home has a great screen porch with fireplace and open deck. Great room features Heart pine floors and 2 stone fireplaces. Custom kitchen. Bar, powder room, and master suite complete with gas fireplace. Upper level has kids playroom, 2 bedrooms with an adjoining bath. Lower level has laundry, huge storage room that doubles as a kennel. Family room has pool table, sitting room with fireplace. 2 bedrooms each with ensuite baths. A two-car garage and a view of Whiteside mountain round out this wonderful package. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #95669



This immaculate home, has granite counters and custom cabinets in the kitchen, updated tiled bathrooms, large sunroom, hot tub room, double garage, lots of special touches throughout. A lush green lawn and landscaping with creeks, fences, fire pits and so much more, a 30X36 Morton barn complete with workshop. Offered at \$679,500 mls # 93385



Come see this completely renovated cottage on .85 acres with Big Creek running in the back yard off the deck. Vaulted ceilings, wood floors, lots of privacy with all the living on the main level. Fire pit, carport and workshop. Offered at \$475,000. mls # 95095.



Located in the beautiful Hickory ridge Road area off 106 in Scaly Mountain community. This Mountain farm features a 3-bedroom dwelling with exercise and mancave. Vaulted ceilings, fireplaces, huge Carolina room porch with fireplace. The property is over 8 acres with pond, barn, and a huge garage with lift. Could be horse friendly with some fencing. Offered at \$850,000. mls #95334



Turn of the Century 480 Winfield Farm has 4.7 acres and borders USFS land. View, frog pond, awesome perennials, fenced garden plot, fire-pit, porches, room for yard games, dogs, kids, horses? Main house has 3+BR/2.5Bath with 1 car attached garage, Stone wood burning fireplace, wood floors and Large master suite on Main. Guest house is perfectly placed on property and has 1 BR/1Bath with 2 car garage, a canning basement with keeping room. All has been renovated, updated, and made neat as a pin. Offered at \$679,000. mls #94617



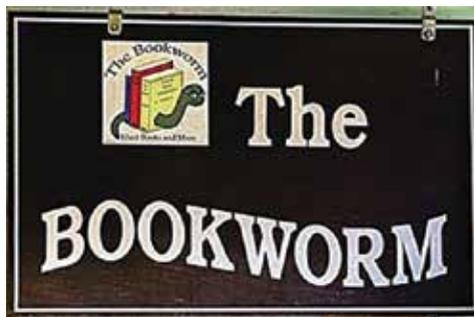
23.06+/- acres with a 1 BR 1 BA home that was started in 1972 and completed around 1995, additional 3 BR 1 BA farmhouse on the property built in early 1900's. Property has been in the Cash family since 1930. Great views. Property adjoins USFS lands. Offered at \$850,000. mls #95443



Now here is an opportunity you may not see again in Highlands! This beautiful, quiet parcel is 36-39+/- unrestricted acres backed by USFS. All of it above 4,000 ft. Comes complete w/ 3 bedroom, 3 bath solidly built home and a pretty pond. Living area/great room/loft layout with lots of glass. Parcel begins on left a good ways before pond (see survey tape) and runs toward end of Shortoff Road. Old road bed on property provides walking access through land up Shortoff Mountain to USFS lands. Offered at \$1,700,000 mls #93768



Apple Mountain Shoppes is investment property that doesn't fade away in these volatile times. Great high traffic location on Highway 64 near all of the Country Clubs and the Briar Patch Shop is this great complex for you to own and operate or just rent out for a steady income. Offered at \$1,199,000. mls #92678



## Now open Thurs.-Sat

The Bookworm will be open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in April from 11-3. Please come visit to see what is new!

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## The two most important words in the world

*"Good mannnwill open doors that the best education cannot"*  
(Clarence Thomas).

I think my Mom said it best when she reminded all five Gleeson kids each night at the dinner table..."the two most important words in the world are Please and Thank You," (I know, it's actually 3 words).

These are demanding times in the Real Estate business. No matter where you live, property is flying off the shelf. There are more Buyers circling than ever, and less inventory than ever. Buyers want it NOW. Oftentimes, they buy a house before they see the house. Sellers want top dollar, tending to price their properties aspirationally instead of realistically. This puts pressure on a real estate transaction. Trust your Broker to bring some much-needed civility to the process.

In addition, there's an undeniable shift in today's culture brought on by the pressures of the pandemic, and simply not being able to see someone's smile. It seems as though individual behavior is much less civilized than it used to be. Just take a look at our leadership in Washington and you'll see what I mean. As Franklin Graham said last Sunday "we need a little more Cocker Spaniel on the front porch, and a little less Pit Bull in the back yard" in society! I agree. Back to those two most important words in the world, please and thank you.

Let's begin with thank you. Thank you Lord, for creating a place like Highlands and Cashiers, North Carolina, a place where people truly want to visit, to be, and to live. Thank you for the Champions in



**Pat Gleeson**  
Owner, BIC  
White Oak Realty  
Group  
828-782-0472

our Government and in our Community who protect these lands, for people like Mayor Pat Taylor who "gets it" and Julie Schott (Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust); and Charlotte Muir (Highlands Biological Station), and Matt Canter (Brookings Fly Shop, and Trout Unlimited). In many ways, our water, woods, and fields of clover are in their hands. Thank you for the little guy, the unseen hero. You know her and him. The one that bought your cup of coffee anonymously,

the one that picked up trash for a mile along the roadside, the one that stopped their car as that group of seasoned citizens crossed Main Street. Thank you to my fellow Real Estate Brokers who serve their Clients with excellence and who use please and thank you with ease and genuineness.

As for the word please, may it frequently become the word that starts our sentences, the one that breaks through your mask and puts a sparkle in your eye. An old friend gave me sage advice one time. He said "remember Pat, you are your word."

In closing, please enjoy your Easter weekend and thank you for reading.

• Pat Gleeson, Bee, Tom, Christal, Michael, Susie and their dog Gemma are Helpers and Brokers of White Oak Realty Group, in downtown Highlands (4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn). Since 2009, White Oak Realty Group remains one of the leading boutique brokerage firms on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach all of us at 828.526.8118.

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### 107 Hemlock Lane

Extensive gardens with lush landscaping, a view that looks over the 17th hole of the golf course, & a floor plan that invites entertaining in both indoor & outdoor spaces will have you calling this Wildcat Cliffs CC home your own. Offered furnished, this home also boasts a generator & an elevator. Membership to Wildcat Cliffs CC is appurtenant to the property.

**Offered for \$650,000, MLS 95336.**



Drone Shot

### Lot 10 Cotswold Way

A +/-2.6 acre parcel located in The Cotswolds, with several potential building sites that offer coveted southern exposure, is sure to have you beckoning your dream home. Hike through native rhododendron forests in spring, summer, & fall. Enjoy serene surroundings while only a few minutes' drive to Main Street in Highlands.

**Offered for \$199,000. MLS 94789.**



### 272 Azalea Lane

Overlooking the 12th fairway of the coveted Wildcat Cliffs CC golf course, this villa also features views of the lake & long-range views of Whiteside Mountain. Add that to the sounds of the babbling stream below, & you have the makings of pure relaxation. Let go of stress & enjoy all the comforts of this home & the amenities of Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Membership to Wildcat Cliffs CC is appurtenant to the property.

**Offered for \$475,000 furnished! MLS 95689.**



### TBD Birchwood Dr, Lot 2

Combining luxury living with nature makes The Birches one of the most desirable areas in Highlands. Underway is this one level luxury, free-standing 3BR/3BA cottage, with the option of finishing the upper level for 2 additional bedrooms & baths. High-end finishes, 2 fireplaces, screened porch, 2-car garage & completion date of summer 2021 add to the mountain bliss! Membership to Wildcat Cliffs CC is appurtenant to the property.

**Offered for \$1,275,000. MLS 95664.**



### TBD Birchwood Dr, Lot 1

This underway luxurious free-standing cottage in The Birches, behind the gates of Wildcat Cliffs CC, is adjacent to Secret Falls. This 3BR/3.5BA cottage will spotlight high-end appliances, luxury finishes, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, two-car garage, an elevator option & option to finish out the bonus area above the garage with an additional BR & BA. Membership to Wildcat Cliffs CC is appurtenant to the property.

**Offered for \$1,175,000. MLS 95663.**



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# Mountain Findings

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## • ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

### The History of Easter

**E**aster is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection occurred three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans. The holiday concludes the "Passion of Christ," a series of events and holidays that begins with Lent - a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice. It ends with Holy Week, which includes the celebration of Jesus' Last Supper with his 12 Apostles. Palm Sunday begins the week before Easter and represents the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem.

The English word "Easter" takes its name from Eostre. Eostre is a goddess from Anglo-Saxon England. Eostre is the Goddess of Spring or renewal (new life). The Apostles believed that the death of Jesus and His resurrection gave us "the gift of eternal and new life," meaning that those of faith will be welcomed into the "Kingdom of Heaven."

How did eggs and rabbits become associated with Easter? The fact is that eggs, like the rabbit, have long been an ancient symbol of fertility and new life - all things associated with the springtime celebration of Easter.



**Kenny Youmans**

The rabbit was a symbol of new life and fertility in pre-Christian times. Its association as an Easter symbol is said to have originated in Germany, as early as the 16th century. German children believed if they were good, the Easter Bunny would leave them treats, sweets and colored eggs. That was the beginning of the Easter baskets. When the Germans settled in Pennsylvania in the 18th century, they introduced the Easter Bunny to the United States.

Germany also gets credit for the custom of the Easter egg hunt. Its origins date back to the late 16th century when the Protestant reformer Martin Luther organized egg hunts for his congregation. Easter Egg Hunt's later became a

tradition in England in the 19th century. England was the first to introduce chocolate eggs.

"Here comes Peter Cottontail

Hopping down the Bunny trail

Hippity hoppity, hippity hoppity

Easter is on its way  
Bringing every girl and boy  
Baskets full of Joy  
Hippity, hoppity  
Happy Easter Day"

I remember as a young kid, my mother would always have new Easter outfits for my sisters and me for Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday at church was always special. After church there would be an Easter Egg hunt with all the families participating.

"May every cloud above you  
Give way to skies of blue  
And on Easter morning  
Let only Joys shine through."

Happy Easter!

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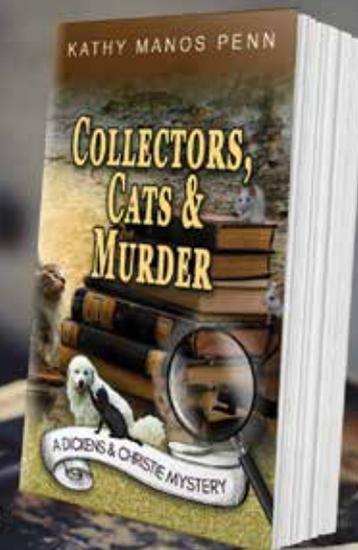
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## ALL ABOUT BOOKS

## • INK PENN •

## Another hodgepodge of books

It's time once again for me to share my reviews of books I've read lately. Perhaps you'll find one or several among them to add to your TBR list.

### The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Stalwart Companions (H. Paul Jeffers)

When a reader enjoyed a column I wrote about the many Sherlock Holmes books I'd read, he sent me this title as a suggestion. I found it of particular interest right now in our turbulent political times for its historical reference to the contested election that resulted in Rutherford B. Hayes becoming our 19th President. I had no idea, and I love learning tidbits like that.

Parts of the book are told in the first person by Teddy Roosevelt as he embarks on an adventure with Sherlock Holmes in NYC. This is a tale of Sherlock Holmes pre-Dr. Watson, and we get glimpses of the man he would become.

It's a short book, running only 170 something pages for the main story. After the adventure ends, the last section drags a bit. It supplies the historical details that gave birth to the story and make its premise plausible. It was simply more information than I wanted but didn't make the main story any less enjoyable.

### Good Sam (Dete Meserve)

Romance is a genre I don't often read, but this one stole my heart. It made me smile, and who doesn't need a good smile these days.

Kate Bradley is a television reporter assigned to a feel-good story, not her standard fare. She's known for reporting tragedy, horrific accidents, that sort of thing. She's a smart character, successful because of her drive and reporting chops, and she too is intrigued by the story of Good Sam, someone who is giving away money to seemingly random strangers. And doing it anonymously.

It's a mystery, a romance, and feel-good story all mixed together. I'm smiling



Kathy Manos Penn

just thinking back on it.

### Death by Dark Roast: A Charleton House Mystery (Kate P. Adams)

Coffee, Gin & Tonic, a cat? All are huge parts of Sophie Lockwood's life. As cafe manager of Charleton House's several cafes, she's one busy lady, but not too busy to investigate the appearance of a dead body at a festival on the grounds of the stately home.

I'm a mystery fiend, and this mystery is right up my alley for three reasons -- it includes a cat, a bit of history, and witty dialogue. #1 A plump cat named Pumpkin lives with Sophie. #2 A costumed actor gives a talk as Samuel Pepys and provides interesting tidbits I'd not heard before. #3 The entire book is filled with witty banter.

### Aspire to Die: An Oxford Murder Mystery (M.S. Morris)

I must admit I was drawn to this book because of its Oxford setting, and I was not disappointed.

The author paints a vivid picture of the college town I was fortunate enough to visit in 2018. Detective Inspector Bridget Hart is the main character, the single mom of a teenager. She's realistically drawn, a middle-aged woman who worries about getting enough exercise, eating less junk food, taking care of her daughter, and building her career all at the same time.

The mystery about the murder of a popular and promising Oxford co-ed is well-plotted. I was happy to follow the red herrings to several erroneous conclusions until all was revealed.

Perhaps one or more of these books will resonate with you. Happy reading!

- Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries locally at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](https://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).



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## ...STRs continued from page 1

While some people see no problem with the short-term rental market (STR) – only seeing the economic gain – Mayor Taylor said he has concerns about the long-term impact on Highlands.

Nationwide, STRs have been blamed for housing shortages and rising home prices and that's going on in Highlands, too.

But homeowners, especially second-home owners, say they have the right to earn money off their investment. Obviously, the per night rate is more lucrative than the monthly rate of a long-term or year-round rental.

Highlands has had a robust STR industry long before AirBnB and VRBO hit the scene. Second-home owners like the flexibility of using their homes when they want to and earning extra income when they don't – they get to have their cake and eat it, too.

“While Highlands has a long history of vacation rentals, the new trend toward STRs is different,” said Mayor Taylor. “There is the proliferation of VRBO and AirBnB rentals that have constant turnover of renters. In a way, we have extended our limited hotel capacity into the neighborhoods where there are a large number of homes that are rented throughout the year without the owner ever living in the residence. These homes become in many respects “mini motels” in residential zones.”

He said that boils down to the STR market impacting Highlands' traditional seasonal residential population.

“A concern I have is the loss of a permanent core community base composed of full-time and seasonal residents. I have had feedback from some neighborhoods that they are losing seasonal neighbors who would live in Highlands for part of a year. Instead, many neighborhood houses are becoming VRBO and AirBnB units.

In addition, Mayor Taylor said the new STR phenomenon has changed the make-up of available real estate in the area.

“The long-term rental market has almost vanished. People wanting to work and rent in Highlands find it difficult to find available units,” he

said.

Unfortunately, because of its prolific vacation rental market, Highlands' affordable long-term rental housing shortage has been discussed for decades with no solution in sight.

Negative aspects aside, Mayor

**FY '19-'20 Room Tax  
(online booking amount)  
Total: \$755,964.54  
(\$136,938.36)**

July – \$111,189.04 (\$9,093.53)  
Aug – \$107,345.6 (\$9,204.82)  
Sept – \$85,398.18 (\$10,152.95)  
Oct – \$100,907.91 (\$11,334.23)  
Nov – \$70,672.61 (\$8,316.69)  
Dec – \$62,961.42 (\$12,142.09)  
Jan – \$37,151.73 (\$10,375.23)  
Feb – \$37,213.11 (\$9,695.21)  
March – \$17,809.36 (\$3,928.73)  
April – \$748.82 (\$559.36)  
May – \$32,591.63 (\$16,531.44)  
June – \$91,975.13 (\$35,604.08)

**FY '20-'21 Room Tax  
(online booking amount)  
Total: \$844,595.57  
(\$267,618)**

July – \$157,172.81 (\$47,309.08)  
Aug – \$149,867.73 (\$44,629.51)  
Sept – \$119,051.34 (\$37,593.96)  
Oct – \$154,174.93 (\$48,352.81)  
Nov – \$116,644.29 (\$32,494.1)  
Dec – \$81,018.47 (\$31,731.28)  
Jan – \$66,666 (\$25,507.26)

Taylor said the STR market may be helping younger folks buy homes in Highlands and continuous short-term rental of the property helps pay the mortgage.

“But, if we have an economic setback like the Great Recession, the fall out in the STR market could be severe,” he said.

One up-side, at least for municipalities and their chambers of commerce and visitor centers, is the occupancy tax STRs bring in. So, Mayor Taylor said there are economic positives in having STRs.

“The room occupancy tax grows as STRs proliferate as does sales tax revenues. For many Realtors and

homeowners, the STR market is good income. Restaurants and entertainment venues benefit also,” he said.

The occupancy tax in Macon County is 3% of the accommodation rate whether a STR, hotel, motel or even a campground.

In North Carolina, the money is sent to the county, in Highlands' case Macon, which keeps track of funds generated. After it takes a handling fee, the money is sent back to where the funds were generated and distributed to the chambers of commerce and visitor centers through the local Tourism Development Authority.

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the visitor center renamed Visit Highlands NC, depend on occupancy tax money to function.

Since 1983, local occupancy taxes enacted via legislation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly have been a popular and effective means of growing the visitor economy in North Carolina communities and Highlands is no exception. In fact, recessions aside, in Highlands, occupancy tax money has increased steadily year after year.

From July 1, 2020 through January 30, 2021 the amount has been astronomical.

During the Highlands Town Board retreat in March, Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Kaye McHan said though throughout the nation, the hardest hit enterprise during COVID 2020 has been tourism, Highlands totally missed the bullet. “We really lucked out,” she said.

And 2021 is already looking good.

“As occupancy tax proceeds can attest, 2021 is opening up. We have had more traffic during our slower months,” said McHan.

Like the town's, the chamber's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30.

Occupancy tax proceeds from July 1, 2020 through January 30, 2021 have already surpassed the total amount of occupancy tax dollars for the previous fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 and FY '19-'20 clocked in 14% higher than FY '18-'19.

The total occupancy tax proceeds for FY 2019-2020 were 755,964.54; the total for July 1, 2020 through Jan. 2021

• See STRs page 16

# S...Hop Around

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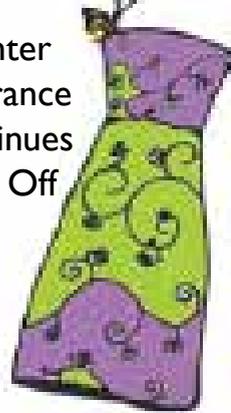


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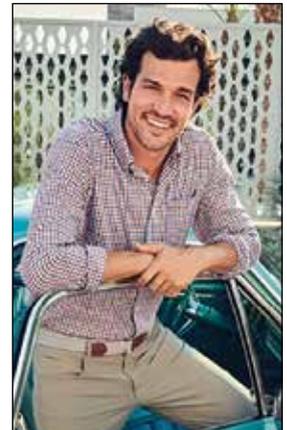
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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



## It's Spring Cleanup time at the Highlands Playhouse

**Jeannie Mullen**  
Boardmember

On Thursday, March 18th, the exterior grounds of the Highlands Playhouse were given a much needed freshening up by a seven person grounds crew on loan from Highlands Falls Country Club (HFCC). Fred Gehrisch, Golf Course Superintendent and a full-time resident of Highlands, was gracious enough to loan a small contingent of workers for a morning of pruning, shaping and weeding at the Playhouse. "We have been doing these types of projects for over 15 years now. The members and management at Highlands Falls are honored to be a part of the Highlands Community and we hope that this small donation continues to improve our town," said Gehrisch.

The idea for the partnership came from Sandie Trevathan, a member of HFCC since 1996 and Vice President for the Playhouse. "When the subject of a spring cleanup arose after the first of this year, I remembered that Highlands Falls did a "community project" each year. Asking Fred seemed like a logical first step in getting an overall landscape project started," Trevathan explained.

At this time of year, the HFCC crew would normally be focused on fine tuning a comprehensive golf course renovation project at Highlands Falls. "Due to the rain, we experienced that particular day it was just too wet to do any construction or

maintenance on our own golf course. We were able to send our crew, headed up by my assistant, Chris Cowan, over to the Playhouse. With the Playhouse being high on a hill, it was actually a reasonably dry place to work. We sent over a small crew, headed up by my assistant, Chris Cowan. They were able to put in about 28 manhours and took two loads of debris to the dump," Gehrisch explained.

Jason Macaulay, General Manager at HFCC put the spotlight squarely on Gehrisch and his crew. "Highlands Falls Country Club applauds the efforts of Fred and his crew to donate time to benefit this special community that so many of us call home. Many of our members and some staff have served on local Boards in their desire to give back. Fred has found an excellent way to give back and to fulfill his desire to help our community despite his busy schedule."

The Playhouse is preparing to reopen after a lengthy shutdown due to the pandemic and will soon be announcing its planned summer stock theatre schedule. In advance of reopening, many such sprucing efforts are underway both inside and out. Playhouse President, Dave Healy, remarked recently "We greatly appreciate the willingness of the management and grounds crew at Highlands Falls Country Club to donate their time to help the Playhouse look it's best when we announce the start of our 83rd season."

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## ...STRs continued from page 12

is already \$844,595.57.

As it turns out in those seven months of FY '20-'21, STRs through multiple online rental agencies (AirBnB, HomeAway, VRBO and others) were responsible for about one-third of occupancy tax proceeds - \$267,618.

The highest occupancy rate months for FY '19-'20 and so far for '20-'21, were both in July, 111,189.04 and \$157,172.81, respectively. But the highest occupancy tax proceeds from on-line rental agencies didn't match up.

In FY '19-'20, the highest on-line rental month was June at \$35,604.08 and so far, for FY '20-'21 it is October at \$48,352.81.

As McHan said, obviously occupancy tax in general – whether from hotels and motels or from on-line rental agencies -- translates into

people spending money in Highlands' dining establishments, shops and venues.

"We need to be careful if considering cur-tailing this industry," she said.

So far, in FY '20-'21, occupancy tax pro-ceeds from on-line rental agencies jumped from being between 1/5 and 1/6 of the year's total to accounting for about 1/3 of proceeds.

With all that occupancy tax money coming to Highlands, the mayor and most of the Town Board wants to use some of it to offset infrastruc-ture expenses to roads, bathrooms, sidewalks, parks, etc.

"Tourists use our infrastructure," said Mayor Taylor.

Verbiage in current legislature is ambigu-ous when it comes to exactly what occupancy

tax funds can be used for, though some mun-icipalities across the state have been able to garner some of it for performing arts centers and parks.

Other than the tree lighting, the fireworks and plantings which the chamber pays for with occupancy tax money, Mayor Taylor and staff are working up a list of items it would like the Chamber to consider funding with occupancy tax funds on a consistent basis.

Meanwhile, concerning STRs several towns have set up standards and regulations.

"I do not want to ban STRs, but I do think we need some regulation which establishes ac-countability and responsibility," said the mayor.

"Most rentals go very smoothly, but there have been problems and issues of overcrowding of units, parking, trash collection, and safety issues

which should be reviewed."

Mayor Taylor said one community requires periodic inspections of STRs that are operated year-round. Such inspections are similar to in-spections of fully operational bed and breakfast units and hotels.

"Maybe there should be a distinction be-tween a fully operational STR and an occasional rental by a primary homeowner."

Questions about STRs were on the High-lands Community Plan questionnaire and the is-sue is expected to be addressed when the Com-munity Plan is presented this summer.

Mayor Taylor said he has no problem with STRs in commercial zones because they fall un-der normal business operations but it's a balan-cing act in residential zones.

– Kim Lewicki

## Plateau Pickup April 10 & 17 this year

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Plateau Pickup in April. After considerable discussion about safety of volunteers and the amount of trash needed to be picked up, the Chamber has decided to extend the 2021 Plateau Pickup to two days: April 10 and April 17.

On April 10 pickup assignments will be the US Highways 64, 106 and 28. April 17 will be the downtown area. Families are encouraged to participate. For safety, younger children will be assigned with

parents in the downtown area.

Volunteers will meet both dates at 8:30 a.m. at Kelsey Hutchinson Park. Social distancing will be practiced during the pickup. Bagged breakfast and lunch will be served by Fressers Courtyard Café to volunteers, and everyone will be supplied with gloves, pick up tools, safety vests, garbage bags, and a "thank you" tee shirt.

For more information or to sign up contact the Chamber at (828) 526-2112 or [visitor@highlandschamber.org](mailto:visitor@highlandschamber.org).



### *Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church*

*Highlands, NC*

#### **Holy Week Schedule 2021**

**The Triduum will be held at St. Jude's Catholic Church**

**(3011 US-64 Sapphire, NC 28774)**

**Holy Thursday Mass 6 pm**

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12 pm**

**Good Friday Liturgy 3 pm**

**Holy Saturday Liturgy 8 pm**

#### **Easter Sunday Mass**

**St. Jude's 9 am**

**Our Lady of the Mountains 11 am**

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**Wednesday:    Decision Making In A Crisis**

**Emotion Is NOT The Enemy**

**Friday:    Managing Yourself In A Crisis**

## ...LAND USE continued from page 1

of string lights around town. "There aren't supposed to be string lights over parking areas, point blank. It makes the place look like a used car lot."

Years ago, exterior lighting in the commercial district revolved around the Dark Sky Initiative – pole lighting is to be directed down, lighting for sidewalks and alleys is supposed to be level with the walkways not "10 feet in the air and everywhere."

"The job of lighting is to illuminate walkways not to attract business," said Commissioners Donnie Calloway and John Dotson. "It's not supposed to act like an advertisement or draw attention to a business or a building."

Dotson said excellent "normal" lighting can be an attractant of its own.

Commissioners suggested in the future the Planning Board should be more careful when looking at building plans, so the issue of lighting doesn't come back after the project is built out. They also

suggested showing the Planning Board examples of good (allowed) and bad (not allowed) lighting.

For instance, they suggested low lights inserted along exterior walls to light walkways or alleys which would eliminate the need for lights to be strung up later.

As per the current code "Access lighting may be used only in dining areas and private property walkways."

### Subdivision issues

A request from the Shelby Association for approval to sell the Shelby Place Clubhouse 0.82 acre lot which is part of the common area greenspace, brought up the issue of the number of lots allowed in the cluster subdivision.

There were 100 potential lots approved for the 3-phased Shelby Place cluster subdivision in 1984. Though sold, not all of the lots have been developed and were bought just as buffers. Currently, there are 43 homes -- 19 sit on a one-lot parcel, 14 homes sit on

a 1.5-lot parcel, 9 homes sit on a 2-lot parcel and one home sits on a 2.5-lot parcel. Collectively, 43 homes sit on 60.5 lots.

The committee concluded that it would be OK to sell the clubhouse, since watershed requirements and greenspace allocation appear to be in compliance, but what came to light is that in many cases, the lots where one home straddled either two lots, 2.5 lots or 1.5 lots have not been combined and recorded as legally required.

"Legally, they have to be combined," said Town Manager Josh Ward. "If the lots aren't combined into one, theoretically the owner could come back later and build another house which would put the subdivision out of compliance."

Commissioner Patterson agreed.

"We need an official recorded lot, not people splitting lots in half or building over the line. And not just a gentlemen's agreement."

Commissioner Calloway said the UDO

has to be amended to address the combination of lots so it's clear it has to be legal in every case even outside of Shelby Place.

Asst. Planner Michael Mathis said the UDO also has to be amended to include an ordinance requiring all commercial buildings to comply with the North Carolina Building Code. Evidently, the UDO has an ordinance requiring residential buildings comply but not commercial buildings.

Mathis also suggested amending the UDO to require all streets in subdivisions be paved as follows:

"In private residential subdivisions, hard surface paving such as asphalt or concrete is required for all private, single-family residential subdivision streets requiring a right-of-way designation. They must in all other respects meet the requirements of Town Ordinances."

Also addressed was plastic wrap being used during the cold months for out-

• See LAND USE page 21

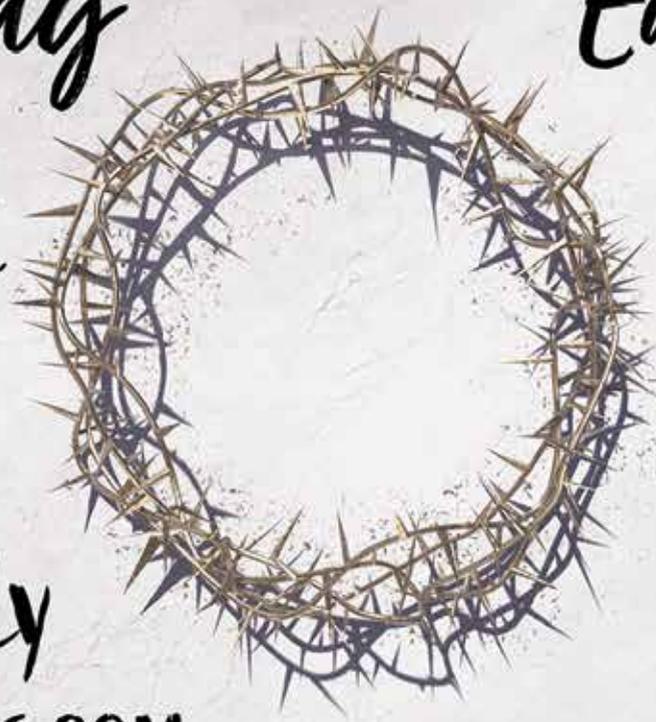
# Good Friday

## April 2nd

## 6:00pm

## Online only

## at [cbchighlands.com](http://cbchighlands.com)



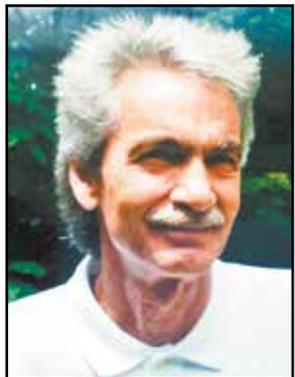
# Easter Sunday

## April 4th

## 11:15am

## Outdoor Service

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Pastor Dan Robinson  
Highlands Central Baptist  
Church

## He gives us hope that cannot die

I cannot imagine a more hopeless situation, feeling or emotion which must have consumed the women on their way to the Lord's tomb on that first Resurrection morning.

At first glance it seems to be a rather nondescript expectation. Namely: What do you do when someone is buried? You visit the grave. You have no expectations beyond that. Only memories of what preceded.

I submit that on no other morning in the history of the world has hopelessness hung in the air so thickly. The darkest cloud would scarcely have been as dark as their own emotional midnight.

After all: Isn't hopelessness warranted when God dies?

Jesus had claimed to be God. And now: He was dead!

Hopelessness is usually found in any diagnosis of depression. It can be the cause or the result. And death can come in many forms. There can be death emotionally, domestically, financially, socially, vocationally or spiritually.

A person can easily believe there is no hope; death has consumed it.

But when the women arrived at the tomb, they encountered an angel. This angel explained to them that Jesus had in fact risen from the dead! Just as He had indeed said! (Matthew 28:5-7). This announcement filled the women with joy (Verse 8).

Then (almost unbelievably so) the very One who had died was standing before them and greeting them with warmth and compassion just as He always had.

Jesus was alive!

Ever since, this Good News has changed the whole world!

Jesus Christ Himself is the Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13).

I assure you dear friend, that Jesus overcomes hopelessness as easily as He overcame death.

Pursue a relationship with Him today. Talk to Him. Don't concern yourself with religious sounding, churchy words. Talk to Him from your heart. Better still, pour your heart out to Him. He is not in a hurry. He will listen until you're finished.

Get to know this Resurrected Savior. He is alive today and will be alive forever more (Revelation 1:17).

And this Easter Sunday be sure and go to Church

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

## 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. Aryan Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30am Sunday School; 11:30am Worship Service; 6pm Mon.

### 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

Sundays: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; 9:45am (masks

required) Early Worship Service; 11:15am (masks optional)

Worship Service; Sundays 10:45am-Children's Program,

Sunday Youth-4:30pm - 6:30pm Dinner provided

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd. Sunday

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Sunday Services Live-Stream at 10:30 a.m.,

Morning Prayer Weekdays on Facebook live at 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist at noon in the garden on Mon and Wed

### 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

526-31 • 75 • 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

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

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

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

relocating and will be sharing the facilities of the

Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Morning 9AM

Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

In-Person Indoor Worship with limited seating, and an allow-

able capacity up to 30% pending appropriate social distancing.

9:09 and 10:50 worshipservices.

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin), Thurs. noon, Fri. 9a, Sun., 11a

### 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.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from March 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## March 16

• At 11:32 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106 at Talley Road.

• At 12:06 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on North 5th Street.

## March 24

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a call of a burglary and breaking & entering at a residence on Sequoyah Drive where two TVs valued at \$300 were stolen.

## March 25

• At 3:55 p.m., officers responded

ed to a call of some communicating threats and defrauding an innkeeper at El Azteca Restaurant in Highlands Plaza where a patron threaten the owner and walked away without paying.

## March 29

• At 8:53 a.m., Matthew Devon Perkins, 28, of Franklin, was arrested for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine and possessing drug paraphernalia and failure to appear for a warrant on extradition/fugitive from another state. He was issued a \$20,500 bond. His trial date is April 12, 2021.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 25.**

## March 25

• At 1:54 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Mountain Shadows Road.

• At 2:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 2:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hicks Road.

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept.

## March 26

• At 2:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a location on Church Street.

• At 3:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke in a residence on 4 1/2 street.

• 4:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 7:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence Satulah Ridge road.

• At 11:20 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

## March 27

• At 7:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.

• At 7:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a power line down on Smallwood Drive.

## March 28

• At 9:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Oak Street.

## MCPH scheduling evening appointments; getting J&J and Moderna

April 6th through the 12th, Macon County Public Health (MCPH) will receive an additional shipment of vaccine (in addition to the 600 Moderna, sent weekly), which will include 700 doses of the Johnson and Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Macon County will be hosting a vaccine clinic into the evening hours, to accommodate those who are unable to come during the normal clinic hours. Thursday, April 8th and Monday, April 12th, MCPH will be giving the Johnson and Johnson vaccine from 3:00pm to 8:00pm. The Moderna vaccine will be administered at all other clinics this week.

Macon County Public Health has begun to vaccinate all individuals who are 18 years of age or older, regardless of health status or employment. Macon County Public Health has worked through a ma-

majority of the existing waitlist, including those who previously qualified for their vaccine.

Appointments are available to all who qualify and want the vaccine.

Macon County Public Health would also like to remind the public that the best vaccine to receive is the first one that you are offered. Each vaccine currently available in the United States are shown to be effective at preventing severe COVID-19 infections, which lead to hospitalization and potentially death. The sooner more are vaccinated, the quicker we will begin to return to a sense of normalcy.

Individuals that want to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, must call Macon County's Vaccine Call Center at 828-524-1500 to register and schedule an appointment. The Macon County Vaccine Call Center is open Monday – Friday, from 8am to 5pm.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

and worship the One who now lives. He died on the Cross for your sins. He has paid the penalty. He did this for you because He loves you.

The great hymn writer Charles Wesley put it like this:

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia  
Sing ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia  
Indeed; He gives us Hope that cannot die!



## First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2021

We are currently working to safely reopen. Until we do, prerecorded online services can be viewed on YouTube by searching **“First Presbyterian Church of Highlands NC”**



**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CHANNEL!**

## Happy Easter!

Visit [www.fpchighlands.com](http://www.fpchighlands.com) for more information.



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Rev. Curtis Fussell & Rev. Emily Wilmarth, Pastors



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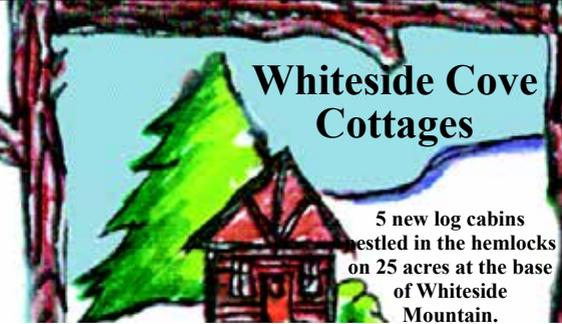


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## ...LAND USE continued from page 17

door dining around town.

Commissioners agreed that during the pandemic things were overlooked, but before the town can OK plastic wrap to enclose outdoor dining, outdoor dining has to be allowed in the first place and then a Special Use Permit must be obtained for wrap to be used for a specific amount of time.

They also suggested using something other than plastic wrap – maybe glass panels instead – but those too, would only be temporary.

No action was taken regarding these issues. Typically, the Land Use Committee submits its report to the Planning Board for its consideration.

– Kim Lewicki

## Chamber of Commerce Events slated for 2021

- Plateau Pick Up – April 10 & April 17
- Highlands is Blooming- May 9
- Meander in May – May 22
- Fri. & Sat. Outdoor Concerts May 22 – Oct. 31
- July 4th Fireworks and Concert – July 4
- Halloween On Main – Oct. 31
- Lighting of the Park and Main – Nov. 27
- Trim Our Town – Nov. 27
- Olde Mountain Christmas Parade – Dec. 4
- Santa in the Park- Nov 27th – Dec 24th
- New Snow Event coming Jan 2022

## The Highlands Barbershop



446 Oak Street  
across from the park.

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10a to 5p

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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

## ITEMS FOR SALE

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD

**SHEPHERD BAZAAR BARN** is open Friday and Saturday from 10-2. Offering gently used home furnishings. Near the crossroads at 118 HWY 64 W, Cashiers. Donations also accepted - call Skip at 828-226-2588. Look for the sign! (st. 3/25)

## HELP WANTED

### THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT AND LEARNING CENTER

- Are you looking for a summer job? We are still looking to fill the following positions: Kitchen Staff, Cabin Counselor, Health Center Coordinator (must be 21+, EMT certified or higher), CIT Mentor (21+), ASCENDER Mentor (21+) You can find more details about these positions and apply on our website: TheMountainRLC.org. Please reach out with any questions or concerns at youthcamp@themountainrlc.org. I look forward to seeing your application! (st. 4/1)

### HIGHLANDS ABC STORE

- **IS TAKING APPLICATIONS** for a full time clerk. Full benefits. Lifting up to 55lbs, standing for long periods, good customer communication, and some computer experience necessary. Apply at ABC store in Highlands Plaza. 828-526-5470 (st. 4/1)

### LANDSCAPE BACKGROUND

**INDIVIDUAL** - Three-quarters acre needs restoration and creative ideas. Between Highlands and Cashiers off Hwy 64. 864-423-9623. (st. 3/25)

### THE DRY SINK ON MAIN STREET

is taking applications for immediate full or part-time employment. Please inquire online at [www.thedrysink.com/job-openings/](http://www.thedrysink.com/job-openings/) (st. 3/18)

### OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA,

**HIGHLANDS NC** - Now recruiting for Houseman, Turndown Attendants, Overnight Housekeeper, 2nd Shift Laundry, Bartender, Host, Server, Busser, Club Server, PT Banquet Server, F&B MIT, F&B Asst. Mgr, Line Cook, Baker, Pastry and Bread Cook, Spa Concierge, Spa Attendant, Cosmetologist, Massage Therapist, Fitness Manager, Reservation Specialist, Front Desk, PT Warehouse Asst., PT Retail Sales, Seasonal Culinary Gardens Crew. Benefits offered after 90 days employment. Apply online: [www.olderwardsinn.com/careers](http://www.olderwardsinn.com/careers)

### AT DON LEON'S.

Call 828-200-0388.

### PART OR FULL TIME SALES

**ASSOCIATE** needed. - Retail experience preferred. Please call 828-371-2582. (st. 2/18)

### WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT

Now open for the season. Looking for full-time hostess (great pay) dishwasher, prep cook, pantry and waitstaff. PM shift only. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/4)

### LOOKING FOR A MATURE

### CAREGIVER/HOUSEKEEPER

to care for elderly woman 3 mornings a week. Duties include house cleaning, and caring for elderly mom, including driving to appointments, etc. Decent car required. Experience necessary. Medical knowledge a plus. Please send inquiries/resumes to builtinl@aol.com. (st. 3/25)

### CASTING CALL!

The Highlands Playhouse is reopening and we are looking for talented and committed team members in a variety of roles. Leadership and box office staff positions are available (both full and part-time). Experience in business management/customer service and an interest in the arts is a must! The Highlands Playhouse is an 83 year old institution offering movies year-round and live entertainment in the Summer and Fall. Please send resumes and inquiries to [HighlandsPlayhouse@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandsPlayhouse@gmail.com) (st. 2/18)

### LUXURY LODGE MANAGER

### NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION.

-- Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email [mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com](mailto:mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com). (st. 2/11)

### THE SUMMER HOUSE BY

### REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN

**HIGHLANDS** is looking for full and part time sales and administrative positions. Sales — must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and customer service experience preferred. Design Assistant — must be attentive to detail, have computer and organizational skills. Duties include placing and following up

on Purchase Orders, managing accounts, and working closely with our in-house Designer and design clients. Apply in person at 2089 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 2874. (2/25)

### AT POSH PAWS

Posh Paws Pet Spa in Highlands, NC is now hiring full-time, part-time, and seasonal dog bathers. Our business hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 9a-5p, and we will be doing open interviews Tuesday-Friday from 10a-3p. We are not open in the evenings or on holidays, so you can expect to be able to enjoy those times with loved ones.

Have you ever been interested in working with animals or trying something new but weren't sure how to get into the animal care industry? Working as a dog bather may be the job for you! This is an entry level position that requires no prior experience. Fast advancement opportunities are available through our self-paced, paid, one-on-one apprenticeship. This is a great opportunity to learn a trade skill without accumulating educational debt! All of our employees (including the owners of the business) have started their dog grooming careers as a bather.

Dog bathers must be willing to learn and take constructive criticism. We currently employ a wonderful group of people that works well as a team, so being a team player is a must. Drama will not be tolerated. A love for dogs and a high level of patience is also required. Attention to detail is a necessity as we never want to send home a dog that isn't 100% clean.

This job does require standing for long periods of time and heavy lifting with help. The bather must be able to wash, rinse, and dry up to 8 large dogs per day plus small dogs.

Daily duties will include bathing and blow drying the dogs, assisting the groomers when needed, and completing daily as well as weekly cleaning routines to keep our salon looking and smelling nice.

Still not sure if this would be the right job for you? Please give us a call at 828-526-9581 with any additional questions about the position or come by to take a quick no-obligation tour before applying. We look forward to hearing from you!

### 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

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### HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN

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