

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Healthcare options are expanding for Highlands and Cashiers

By Brittney Lofthouse

Despite its geographical isolation, the Highlands and Cashiers

area is seeing growth in the health-care options available to local residents. There are now two health-

care options with a third on its way. The three are Highlands Cashiers

•See HEALTHCARE page 10



Hurricane members display their trophies.

Hurricanes win at All Stars: next stop Junior Olympics in Houston, TX

Last Saturday, July 24, the Highlands Hurricanes traveled to Sylva for the Mountain Swim League (MSL) Allstar meet with Jackson County Swim Team (JCST), Cherokee County Aquatics Club (CCAC), and Franklin Amateur Swim Team (FAST).

Highlands Hurricanes scored 456 pts finishing 1st;

FAST scored 420.5 pts; JCST scored 92.5 pts; and CCAC scored 60 points,

The Hurricanes won six of 10 MVP trophies for different age groups. Those winners were Matti Cohen, Aniah McKim, Chase Kenter, sisters Sofia and Lilliana Jandera Chambless and Blake Kenter.

• See HURRICANES page 7

For now, masks to be optional for MC students this Fall

By Brittney Lofthouse

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin announced last week that face coverings for students will be an option this coming school year.

However, per CDC order, masks will still be required on school buses.

Dr. Baldwin referenced the updated Strong Schools N C Public Health Toolkit, which states that face coverings SHOULD be required – ultimately leaving it up to the district to decide.

Once the current Executive Order expires on July 30th, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, said that face covering mandates will become a local decision state-wide.

“Basically the guidance we’ve

•See MASKS page 16

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Volunteers work to extend Kelsey Trail loop

By Brian O’Shea
Plateau Daily News

Volunteers have been working diligently since late 2020 to build the Kelsey Trail into a hikeable loop. Kelsey Trail is owned and maintained by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and is located at the end of 5th Street in High-

lands.

The existing Kelsey Trail begins on 5th Street and extends to Sherwood Forest Road. Volunteers from the HCLT and Highlands Plateau Greenway are in the process of building a quarter mile of additional trail stretching from

•See KELSEY page 17



Peers honor their own

Cathy MacIntyre-Ross (left) long-time Highlands high school English teacher was named Teacher-of-the-Year for 2020-’21 and Highlands School Media Specialist Terry Stamey (right) was named Support-Per-son-of-the-Year by their peers. Both retired this year.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

This isn't about politics, it's about public safety. Please get vaccinated

Last week I contacted a governor's representative before Governor Cooper's afternoon press conference. I asked if the governor planned to increase mask requirements given that the COVID Delta variant is spreading across the country. It turns out the governor hasn't increased mask requirements, but rather eased them for resumption of school.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The Delta variant's potential impact on Highlands concerns me. Our community had a wonderful volunteer response in setting up vaccination clinics for everyone. Our residents have cooperated with town and state COVID emergency orders. I am grateful for all these efforts. The last thing I want to see is a regression to those dark days of lockdowns and quarantines.

The large number of our citizens who have not taken the vaccine truly concerns me. Sallie and I stepped forward, like so many of you, and took the vaccine. This spring we saw a loosening of restrictions at the state level. I was ecstatic by the pros-

pect of Highlands returning to normal. I, along with the Town Board, had not relished the burdensome responsibility of issuing emergency measures. I hoped we had crossed the Rubicon, so to speak, in abating the spread of the virus. Over a period of months our policies merged and conformed with the governor's state emergency orders, and we followed the state lead again in easing restrictions.

The governor had previously allowed businesses to reopen provided masks were worn. Also, in crowded areas, such as on business district sidewalks, Highlands required the same. Our police enforced the state orders which were supported by NC statute law. In late spring, the governor rescinded these emergency orders, so we adjusted our signs downtown to read, "masks suggested in crowded areas."

I hope we do not go back to mandatory masking requirements, but if the state makes that decision, Highlands will comply. For the town to pass a local masking ordinance at this time would be premature and probably counter-productive. First, it could slow the resurgence in the local economy. Second, a local mask ordinance would be hard to enforce and problematic to defend in state court where judges are dealing with what they view as serious cases such as domestic violence and drug violations. Third, a local ordinance would be at this time based on conflicting scientific information, especially for those who have been vaccinated. Information might have changed by this publication date.

In summary, I will be following the emerging information from medical experts on whether to reinstate mask requirements, or not. If the state health director and the governor issue new orders concerning masking, the town will follow. If not, we will continue to urge everyone to get a vaccination. Medical experts stress that the vaccines offer good protection from severe COVID infections requiring hospitalization.

Everyone eligible needs to be vaccinated, if not for the sake of love ones

and the community, at least in respect to the medical heroes who treat those unvaccinated who become infected. For me, it

is an issue of fairness, and a line between personal choice and what is good for the community.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 29-Jul	Fri, 30-Jul	Sat, 31-Jul	Sun, 1-Aug
85°F 67°F	84°F 64°F	82°F 63°F	77°F 59°F
Times of clouds and sun	Times of clouds and sun	Humid with a t-storm or two	Clouds and sun with a t-storm
RealFeel® High: 91° Low: 68°	RealFeel® High: 91° Low: 70°	RealFeel® High: 89° Low: 71°	RealFeel® High: 80° Low: 67°

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Rise in COVID restricts visitation in Mission hospitals

ASHEVILLE – July 26, 2021 To protect our patients and staff, Mission Health will be elevating our visitor restrictions due to the rise in COVID-19 positives both across the state and in our hospitals effective Tuesday, July 27. Mission Health will now allow only one visitor per patient per day in our hospitals; we will continue to allow one visitor to stay overnight. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, there is no visitation for the COVID unit.

“The health and safety of our patients and team members is our top priority and we are taking the rising number of COVID cases very seriously,” said Nancy Lindell, Mission Health spokesperson. “We realize this may be difficult for some patients and wish the situation were different, but we are taking every precaution to protect those in our care and our colleagues by reducing the risk of exposure to the virus.”

Mission Health continues to have a universal masking policy for all of our facilities and continues to strongly encourage everyone to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For a list of area location to receive the vaccine and other CO-



Highlands Cashiers Hospital.

VID-19 information, visit [Missionhealth.org/COVID](https://missionhealth.org/COVID)

All Mission Health facilities continue to use established protocols to care for patients with infectious diseases and follows CDC guidelines related to COVID-19 cases, including isolating the patients and taking steps to ensure the safety of our patients, employees and visitors.

To further protect our patients and colleagues, the hospital will continue restrict and monitor the entrances for Mission Hospital. The entrance hours are:

- Entrance 1: Emergency Department – open 24/7 to patients only
- Entrance 2: For surgery and procedural patients – open Monday – Friday, 4:30am – 5pm
- Entrance 4: Open 7 days a week, for patients 6am – 8 pm; for visitors 9am – 8pm

- Entrance 9: Labor and Delivery – accessible 24/7, for expecting mothers only with one significant other and a trained doula, if requested.
- Entrance 10: For cardiac and vascular patients – open Monday – Friday, 5am – 5pm
- St. Joseph Main Entrance – open to visitors 8am – 8pm

“These updates are meant to keep our colleagues and patients healthy. We want to ensure that we remain a continual resource for the communities we serve and that our community is assured that all Mission Health facilities remain safe,” said Lindell.

As a reminder to protect yourself and prevent the spread of illnesses follow the 3 Ws: Wear a mask, Wait 6 feet apart, Wash your hands frequently.

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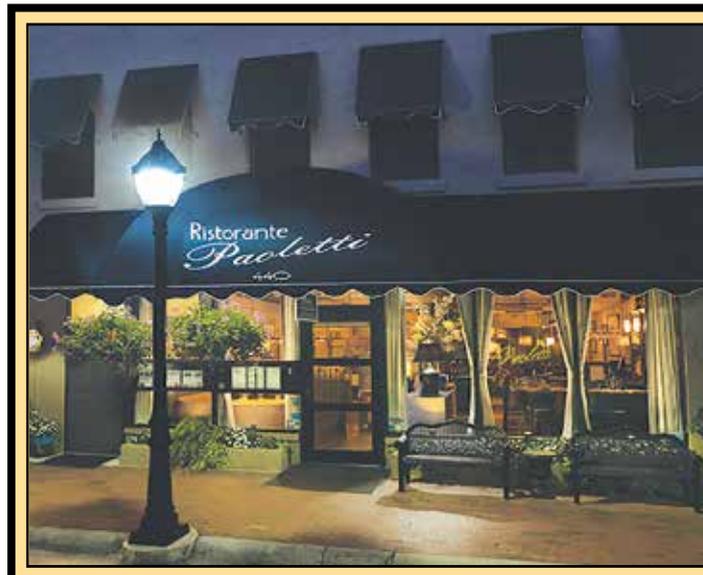


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• INK PENN •

Summertime and the readin' is easy

That was the subject line for the last email I sent my newsletter subscribers, followed by the line "With apolo-

gies to Ella Fitzgerald and Sam Cooke." For me, there's something special about sitting on the screened porch with a book. My pre-

ferred spot is on my glider with the dog and the cat sprawled on the bamboo rug and the birds chirping. The occasional buzz of hummingbird wings is a bonus.

Check out my latest reading selections. Perhaps you'll choose to escape to England or Greece via books as I recently did. So, as we say in the South, "Come sit a spell."



Kathy Manos Penn

"that carries the connotation of the underdog?" In England it means "untidy or poorly organized."

This book may become as vital to me as my thesaurus!!

Mykonos after midnight

By Jeffrey Siger

I've long been a Jeffrey Siger fan, and I picked up the first in this series years ago before a visit to the Greek islands.

The descriptions of the scenery are very true to life and set beside the descriptions of the politics and machinations of the government, sometimes jarring. Such is Greece.

Because I've sailed the islands twice, I always enjoy seeing scenes set on the ones I visited. Siger's descriptions of Delos, Syros, and Mykonos, for example, are well done. And, he always sprinkles in bits of history which I appreciate. Siger lives on Mykonos, so he knows his stuff.

I have noticed that as the series has evolved, there are more sex scenes. I suppose that helps the books sell to a certain audience, though I read them more for the mystery and action and the familiar characters. And of course the chance to see Greece again, if only in my mind. (So, if a bit of graphic sex is a bridge too far for you, these books will not appeal.) All of that said, I will continue to read this series, especially as I've booked a Greek cruise for next year.

There are eleven books in the series, and the first one, also set on Mykonos, is "Murder in Mykonos."

Now, I'm leaving Greece to return to upstate New York in "A Fountain Filled with Blood," book two in the eight-book Julia Spencer-Fleming mystery series.

• 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, follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/, and/or visit her website www.kathymanospenn.com to read her blogs and sign up to receive her newsletter.

That's Not English

By Erin Moore

As an American who writes cozy mysteries set in England, I picked up this book in the hopes I would find some new Britishisms to use in my books. I found that and so much more. I laughed aloud at many of the explanations of what words mean in England vs. here in the USA.

It was perfect timing that I discovered Brits call personal trainers fitness coaches, as I was using that term in the book I was writing. The oddest thing I learned was that gingers--or red-heads as Americans call them--are bullied and taunted in England. A journalist once asked, "Should ginger-bashing be considered a hate crime?"

Fun facts:

--In England, homely describes something that's cozy and comfortable.

--In America, scrappy is a compliment



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...HURRICANES continued from page 1

The team brought home 32 of 60 gold medals awarded at the meet. The Hurricanes also brought home five of the 10 runner-up MVP trophies and five of 10 3rd-place trophies. All told, Highlands won 16 of 30 trophies that were awarded at the Allstar meet.

Highlands was led by Jr. Olympians Chase Kenter, sisters Sofia and Lilliana Jandera Chambless all who won gold medals in all four of their events enroute to scoring 28 pts each. Lilliana broke a team record in the 100 IM.

Blake Kenter and Jr. Olympic qualifier Justin Powell both brought home three gold medals, finishing with a silver medal in another while scoring 26 pts.

Jr. Olympians Matti Cohen and Aniah McKim also scored gold in three events each and scored 25. Both also won a bronze medal.

Jr. Olympian Jack Sumner and Jr. Olympic qualifier Jasmine Abranyi each brought home a gold medal and three silvers enroute to 22 pts.

Timmy McDowell, Jr. Olympian Finneaus Garner, and Jr. Olympic qualifier Corena Dearth all scored 21 pts. Garner won two gold medals, McDowell and Dearth got one. Dearth and McDowell also received two silver medals and one bronze, Garner got one silver. Jr. Olympian Layla Babac won one gold, one silver and two bronze medals and scored 20 pts.

Cassie McDowell scored 17 pts and two silver and one bronze medal; JoJo Co-

hen also won two silver medals, a bronze and scored 16.5 pts.

Jr. Olympian Jelehna McKim broke a team record in the 100-butterfly and brought home a silver and a bronze medal and scored 14.5 pts.

Jr. Olympians Elias McKim and Connor Hughes both scored 14 pts. McKim earned three bronze medals, Hughes a gold and a silver.

Emilina Hernandez brought home a silver and two bronze medals on the way to scoring 13 pts. Asa Garner scored 11 pts and got two bronze medals. Bella Batista and Jr. Olympic qualifier Paolo McRae both scored 10 pts. Batista won two bronze medals, McRae one. Older brother Ian Batista scored a silver and a bronze medal and 9 pts.

Tate Wilson set a team record in the 100 back-stroke while scoring 7 pts. Alex Lopez and Max Jestin both scored 3 pts, and Jordan Powell, 1.

The Hurricanes next stop is the 2021 AAU Jr. Olympics in Houston, TX, July 29-Aug 1 with 13 members of the team have qualifying.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Age Group Swim Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool in the evenings. The only requirement to join is that a swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (one length of the pool) unassisted. For further information please call Head Coach Steve Hott at 828.421.4121.



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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Has the Seller's Market Started to Turn?

I recently read an article in the Wall Street Journal stating that the U.S. Housing Market is losing some of its "frenzy", as more homes list for sale. It went on to say that "an uptick in inventory, especially at the high end is bringing the crazy seller's market back to earth." In this column, there have been numerous articles regarding the extreme market activity over the past year, but I always like to see what the numbers actually show. Are sales on the plateau starting to plateau?



Carl Romberg, BIC
Landmark Realty

Let's first look at the number of active listings. The WSJ article looked at the past 15 months and had the highest number of listing in April, 2020, with the lowest number in April 2021, but increasing each month since. Historically, there were around 900 single family homes active at June 30th on the plateau. In 2020 that number dropped to 570, then to 299 on December 31st. Currently there are 262 active listings, so it does not appear the

number of active listings has bottomed out just yet.

Next, we should look at the number of new listings. The WSJ article showed the lowest number in December, 2020 and the highest in June, 2020, which was higher than pre-pandemic new listings. On the plateau our lowest quarter was the 1st quarter of 2020 with only 215 new listings, keeping in mind that most of that quarter was pre-pandemic. The highest quarter was the 3rd quarter of 2020 with 603 new listings. Typically, the trend on the plateau is that we have more new listings during the third quarter of the year than other quarters. Last year, this was compounded by the lack of new listings in the second quarter, due to shutdowns. New listings in the first and second quarters of 2021 have exceeded those of 2019 and 2020, keeping activity high. This shows that demand is still outpacing the new supply of homes coming on the market.



Other items to consider include the median listing price. A recent low was \$575,000 in the 1st quarter of 2020, with a high of \$779,000 in the first quarter of 2021, a 35% increase in one year. It has since had a slight decline to \$749,000. We are seeing a number of sellers testing the

waters at a higher than market price, and seeing that many buyers are becoming realistic about what they are willing to pay. It is also noteworthy that 42% of the active listings are priced over a million dollars, supporting the national trend regarding high-end properties being listed.

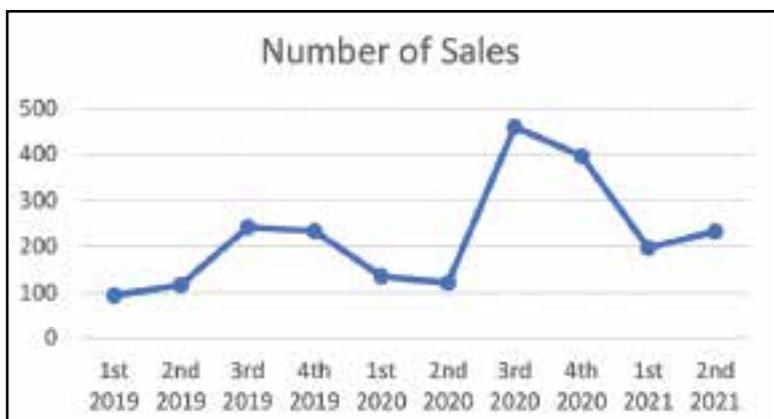
• See INVESTING page 9

...INVESTING continued from page 8



The WSJ article did not look at the number of sales, but doing so can give us some additional insight. It makes sense that the peak was in the 3rd quarter of 2020, when much of the inventory was ab-

sorbed and the market changed to a seller's market. Every quarter since has surpassed the prior 2 years, even with the lower quantity of inventory to sell.



We have also seen increases in the median sales price and the sales to list price ratio, which is currently 97.8%! We are also experiencing a decrease in the days on market, all of which support a seller's market.

In the past, the plateau has lagged behind the national trends. We were slow to enter the downturn as well as to come out of it. The third and fourth quarters will give us more information to determine if

the market turns, but according to the most recent numbers sales are not yet plateauing. Based on this, it is still a good opportunity to sell, but you must be realistic in your price if you want a sale.

• All data is from the Highlands-Cashiers MLS. Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com.

Tonight at The Farm

Thurs., July 29, at OEI's The Farm, Laurent-Perrier Champagne Dinner at The Farm at Old Edwards, 6:30p cocktails, 7p dinner. Old Edwards Inn and Spa welcomes Champagne Laurent-Perrier's Executive Vice President of Sales Camille Cox back to the mountains for a summertime soiree and Champagne dinner at The Farm on Thursday evening. The Midsummer Night's Dream pink and white themed evening will include an array of fine Champagne poured from special large format bottles alongside a menu featuring the height of season produce from the Garden at Old Edwards and the ever delightful talents of Chef Chris Huerta and his team. \$185 per person including Champagne throughout the evening. Plus tax and gratuity. Limited seating. Book online today. <https://www.olderwardshospitality.com/calendar-of-events/food-dining/champagnedinner>. Event is for guests 21 and older.

Friday Night Live

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6pm

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AUGUST 20
Sycamore Flats

AUGUST 13
Chatham Rabbits

AUGUST 27
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AUGUST 21
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...HEALTHCARE continued from page 1

Hospital, Blue Ridge Health and soon to be Mountain Lakes Medical Center out of Clayton, GA.

At the July Town Board meeting Tom Neal, CNO/CEO of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital said they aim to be the primary provider in the area.

To do so, and with competition clearly in the mix now, the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, owned and operated by HCA — which took over Mission Health — is in the process of resurrecting services such as endoscopy and orthopedic services that have been unavailable for some time.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital offers 24/7 emergency care, acute inpatient care, rehabilitation, as well as long-term care through Eckerd Living Center.

The hospital has 24 beds for acute care services and 80 beds in the Eckerd Living Center. Ambulatory services are also available, including therapy services and primary care practices serving both Highlands and Cashiers.

Leading the newly available orthopedic services is Dr. Gregory

Crawley who has obtained surgical privileges at both Angel Medical Center in Franklin and at the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Dr. Crawley is an orthopedic surgeon who takes special interest in personalized state-of-the-art care for all of his patients. He has been practicing Orthopedic Surgery in the northern Atlanta suburbs for many years and is excited to bring his expertise to Western North Carolina. Dr. Crawley is a resident of Franklin and has been serving Highlands and Cashiers since February.

In addition to resurrecting services due to staffing, last Fall, the Highlands-Cashiers hospital received a capital funds infusion for the hospital of nearly \$5 million from HCA Healthcare. This investment was intended to bring advanced imaging technology to the area and strengthen existing infrastructure.

As part of the hospital's expanded services, 3D mammography (tomosynthesis) is also now available at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. With traditional mammography, the image is flat. During a 3D mammogram, multiple images are obtained in seconds as the x-ray machine sweeps across the breast. Images are displayed as a series of thin slices that allow our team to view the breast tissue one thin layer at a time. Cancers can be detected that otherwise would be hidden by overlapping breast tissue.

The Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation has continued its efforts to expand services to the area and with the recent addition of new providers at Blue Ridge Health services residents have another healthcare option.

As a community-based, patient centered organization, Blue Ridge Health (BRH) hold themselves to the highest standard of care saying dedication and commitment to quality ensures patients receive the best quality of care possible.

Blue Ridge Health

Since 1963, Blue Ridge Health has provided high-quality healthcare in a safe, caring environment that's accessible and affordable for all.

BRH's Patient-Centered approach involves total well-being: medical, emotional, dental and nutrition. By supporting more people

to lead healthier lives, their approach makes the entire community healthier.

In April, the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation announced they found the perfect addition to the Blue Ridge Health team in Ann Davis, MD and Kristy Fincher, DO.

Though not part of Highlands Cashiers Hospital, they began seeing patients last month at the new Blue Ridge Health — Highlands Cashiers location on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in the Jane Woodruff Clinic.

As a Board-Certified Family Medicine physician, Dr. Davis brings 10 years of experience in outpatient family medicine, comprehensive primary care for patients of all ages, and chronic disease management.

Dr. Fincher is a graduate of Erskine College, and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg, SC. She completed her residency at AnMed Health Family Medicine Residency Program in Anderson, SC. Dr. Fincher comes to us with extensive experience in Family Medicine with proficiencies in women's health, lifestyle and nutritional medicine, sports medicine and osteopathic manipulative treatments.

Mountain Lakes Medical Center

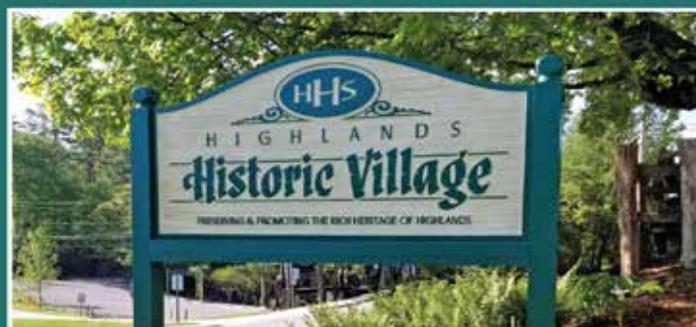
The third healthcare option for Highlands and Cashiers is at Mountain Lake Medical Center's new facility in the complex on NC 106 across from Dusty's.

Come January 2022 several options will be available including a daily primary care physician, a nurse practitioner five days a week and rotating specialty services. The primary care presence will be split between MDs and CRNPs.

Specialty services include ENT, Gynecology and orthopedics, with cardiology expected to be added to the mix, soon. Dr. Julie Farrow, who people know from her stint with Mission in Highlands, will be the gynecologist on staff. There will also be outpatient physical therapy full time, as well.

According to Jessica Potts, in the marketing department, renovations of the building are in the works with local contractors being eyed for the job.

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KIDS Place request for emergency funding from the county is met with mixed reviews

By Brittney Lofthouse

KIDS Place is a private non-profit, nationally accredited child advocacy center serving children in Macon County and it needs help.

Before there was KIDS Place, child abuse victims in Macon County were often bounced from one place to another. Although there were caring professionals working in those agencies, families were forced to go from agency to agency in order to meet the informational needs of those agencies. The places that professionals were meeting to talk with children were not always the best places for children to feel secure enough to tell the truth. They were certainly not child-friendly settings.

KIDS Place exists to make the investigative and judicial process easier for children and to ensure that all child abuse victims in Macon County have access to evidence-based therapy, at no cost to the family.

Although KIDS Place receives funding from the county as part of the county's annual community funding pool grant process, Director Alisha Ashe told the Macon County Board of Commissioners last week in the facilities 30-year history, they have never had to ask commissioners for emergency funds before, but due to factors beyond their control, they are now left with no other choice.

"We were notified last fall that we would be getting a cut of about 30-35% percent from our base funding," said Ashe. "Our base funding comes from the Victims of Crime Act — that is not tax-payer funding, rather it is funding that comes through white-collar federal crimes and is put into a pot of funding national and must be spent to serve victims of crimes. That money has been dwindling over the last four to give years."

Victim services agencies, including those offered at KIDS Place, are funded primarily by money from the Victims of Crime Act Fund passed in 1984. VOCA is funded by fines from federal convictions and provides significant, core financial resources for victim services agencies to assist and support victims of human trafficking, sexual violence, fraud, DUI crashes, domestic violence and homicide.

During the past four years, fines previously directed to VOCA have decreased significantly due to the Department of Justice's increasing reliance on deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements. Unlike the monetary penalties associated with criminal convictions, the penalties associated with deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements are deposited into the General Fund of the Treasury, not the Crime Victims Fund. As a result, the VOCA fund is at an all-time low.

While Ashe has been bracing for a 30-35% cut in funding at KIDS Place, when the facility received the grant a few weeks ago, they found out the funding cut was actually 67%.

For KIDS Place, that meant their base funding of just over \$315,000 was cut to be around \$100,000. At the same time KIDS Place experienced a drastic cut in their base funding, they also lost a competitive grant of over \$100,000 which allowed the center to provide mental health services

to children.

During the COVID19 pandemic, KIDS Place has experienced the agency's service numbers double — all while available funds have decreased.

Ashe said that legislators are working to address the funding cut and impact to VOCA nationally — however that will take two to three years to be corrected for individual agencies like KIDS Place — which is why the emergency help is needed from the county in the interim.

After cutting the center's budget down to what she referred to as a "bare bones", Ashe said KIDS Place was \$110,000 short to cover operating costs, even at significantly reduced levels.

"I think KIDS Place can safely raise \$35,000 through some local foundations and just through our local donors," said Ashe. "So, I am asking the county to consider giving us \$75,000 to help us meet this bare-bones budget."

KIDS Place, although it operates as a private non-profit, partners with both the town of Franklin and the county to provide services not otherwise available. For example, the sheriff's office and the police departments in Macon County work with KIDS Place to provide services to children when needed — if KIDS Place did not exist, it would be the responsibility of those agencies to provide the services.

From January through June — KIDS Place has conducted 43 interviews at the request of child protective services and law enforcement — cost estimates are around \$1,200 to conduct an interview and fund a position with the training required. KIDS Place has also completed 21 medical exams — which would have otherwise cost around \$2,000 each to complete.

Just a week after KIDS Place Director Alisha Ashe spoke to Macon County Commissioners regarding the need for emergency funding, due to cuts to the agency's federal funding source, the Senate passed the VOCA Fix Act in a 100-0 vote and sent it to President Joe Biden for his signature.

"This bill is going to allow us to make sure that all the fines and penalties that are from federal cases go to the victims, the Crime Victims Fund, to rebuild this fund, because it's badly needed," Biden told those gathered in the East Room of the White House. "This is going to enable us to provide more help and support to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking and other crimes all across America."

In 2018, North Carolina victim support agencies received more than \$100 million from the VOCA fund. As of 2020, the VOCA fund balance stood at more than \$6 billion. But in 2021, the state's VOCA funding dropped nearly 80% to \$22 million, and more cuts are anticipated for 2022.

KIDS Place was one of the many organizations struggling to balance their budgets after the unexpected funding cut this year. The Macon County Board of County Commissioners voted in a split 3-2 vote to approve \$75,000 in emergency funding for KIDS Place last week — which will help the agency continue operating while the federal government

• See KIDS PLACE page 19

2021 Upcoming Events



at the

Center for Life Enrichment

July Schedule

- **The Fiction We Call Reality**
Monday, Aug. 2 and Friday, Aug. 6 Time: 5:30-8:30 Cost: \$100/110
Presenter: Mimi Fenton
- **Poetry Reading Workshop: If You Could Teach Your Soul to Speak**
Tuesday, August 3 Time: 10-3 Cost: \$85/95
Presenter: Mimi Fenton
- **The Legacy and Lasting Impact of Ancient Greek Authors**
Wednesday, August 4 Time: 10-12
Presenter: Vicki Sazbo, WCU
- **The Political Conflicts, Nationalist Rituals, and Symbolic Meanings of Notre Dame Cathedral**
Monday, August 9 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Lloyd Kramer of UNC Chapel Hill
- **Medieval Monuments and Historical Memory in French Culture and Literature**
Tuesday, August 10 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Lloyd Kramer of UNC Chapel Hill
- **The 1964 Presidential Campaign and the Birth of Modern America**
Wednesday, August 11 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Kent Germany, UVA
- **Inside the Civil Rights Movement: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Moral Arc of the Universe**
Thursday, August 12 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Kent Germany, UVA
- **Sip 'N Stroke**
Thursday, August 12 Time: 3-5 Time: 3-5 Cost: \$45/55
Instructor: Jeanie Edwards
- **Native America Today**
Friday, August 13 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Daniel Cobb of UNC Chapel Hill
- **The Ancient Art of Encaustic Painting - Live DEMO**
Friday, August 13 Time: 1:00-4:00 Cost: \$35/\$45
Presenter: Penny Pollock

Register online at <http://www.clehighlands.com>
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

August 4 Interlude Concert Features Stell Huie, Baritone



At 2pm on Wednesday, August 4, the Interlude Concert series will feature Stell Huie, Baritone; accompanied by Pianist Angie Jenkins. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church. Songs will include "Danny Boy," "All the Things You Are," "Younger Than Springtime," "This Nearly Was Mine," "At the River," "Were You There," "Old Man River," "God Bless America," and more. Featured during intermission will be trumpeter Larry Black and Jenkins at the pipe organ.

Huie is an active musician in the Highlands area. Although he and his late wife, Madaline, have had a home in Highlands for more than 40 years, they became full-time residents in 1995 when they moved here from Atlanta, where Huie practiced law. During college and law school at Emory, Huie sang with the Emory Glee Club and was baritone soloist at Trinity Presbyterian Church and sang with a men's group known as the Huff 'n Puff's, but gave up music for his law practice. Upon their move to Highlands, Huie renewed his interest in singing. He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir and the Highlands Men's Chorus. Huie studied voice with Margaret Hecht and Irene Harrower of Atlanta.

Jenkins is a seventh generation Highlander and has been musically involved at Highlands First Presbyterian Church since the age of nine. She has served as principal Organist/Pianist since 1976. She also serves as Director of the Music Ministry at the church. Jenkins was a co-founder of the Highlands Men's Chorus in 2004, serving as Accompanist/Coordinator until 2012. She teaches weekly music classes at the Gordon Center for Children and Highlands Community Child Development Center.

Black joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 1970 as third trumpet and continued with the symphony for 33 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master of Music in Applied Trumpet from Northwestern University. Black has performed throughout the United States and Europe. He has taught trumpet for 43 years, teaching at Agnes Scott College, West Georgia College, Kennesaw State University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Western Carolina University, and Furman University. Upon retirement, he and his wife moved to Brevard, NC, and he has become a very active musician in Western North Carolina.

The Interlude concerts which constitute a ministry in music to the community is free. Dress is casual-come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Sun. thru Sept. 5

• The Church in the Wild-wood, Horsecove Road, is open for Sunday night hymn singing from 7-8 pm each Sunday through Sept 5. Anyone entering the church should have had the Covid. 19 vaccine, have a natural immunity or wear a mask. Non-vaccinated guests may sit on the porch. Call Mary Bean if questions at 1-828-506-0125.

Thurs.-Sat.

• The Bookworm at 555 Main Street is now open Thursday-Saturday 11a to 3p. For more information, call 828-526-3031.

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store at 432 Spruce Street is open Thursday & Friday 10a to 1p. Saturday 10a to 4p. The store will only be open during business hours.

Fri.-Sun.

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse Friday-Sunday, Fri. & Sat., 4 & 7 p.m., Sun. 1 & 4 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Thursdays thru Sept. 9

• Zahner Thursday Night Lectures: These free lectures

serve to educate and inspire the public through a series of talks from well-known regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers. This summer, the Highlands Biological Foundation will host nine lectures focusing on a wide array of topics. The lectures will be held on Thursday evenings at 6pm between and they will be hosted through a mix of in-person and virtual formats. For a full schedule of lectures and how to participate in each (registration required for virtual lectures), please visit www.highlandsbiological.org or call the Highlands

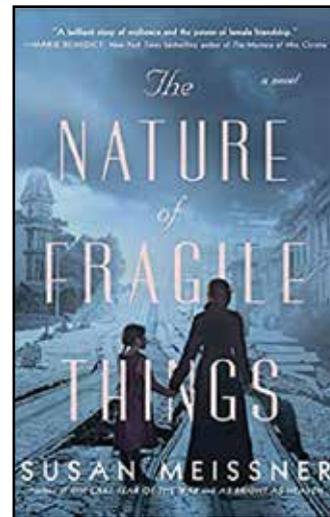
Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.

Thursday Evenings

• Free ESL classes at the Presbyterian Church 5:30-6:30 p.m. There is no registration required; students can just show up and participate. Set at a time that is convenient for students to attend after work, TL&LC also provides snacks for this kid-friendly event. The classes are for all ages, and anyone who wishes to learn English is encouraged to participate. For any questions, visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call (828) 526 - 0863 or email

Author Meissner at 'Books & Bites' July 31

Best-selling author Susan Meissner will appear at Hudson Library on Saturday July 31 at 12:30 PM to talk about her new novel *The Nature of Fragile Things*. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event, and snacks will be served. Books & Bites



programs are sponsored by the Hudson Library Board of Trustees.

Attendance at this event is limited and reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

April 18, 1906: A massive earthquake rocks San Francisco just before daybreak, igniting a devouring inferno. Lives are lost, lives are shattered, but some rise from the ashes forever changed.

The fates of three women intertwine on the eve of the devastating earthquake, thrusting them onto a perilous journey that will test their resiliency and resolve and, ultimately,

their belief that love can overcome fear. *The Nature of Fragile Things* is a gripping novel about the bonds of friendship and mother love, and the power of female solidarity. Susan Meissner is an author, speaker and writing workshop leader with a background

in community journalism. Her novels include *The Last Year of the War*, *As Bright as Heaven*, *Secrets of a Charmed Life*, and *A Fall of Marigolds*. A California native, she attended Point Loma Nazarene University and is also a writing workshop volunteer for Words Alive, a San Diego non-profit dedicated to helping at-risk youth foster a love for reading and writing.

For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031. Hudson Library, 554 Main Street in Highlands, is open 10:00 am-5:30 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10:00 am-4:00 pm on Saturday.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

info@maconncliteracy.org

Every Saturday

• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Park on Pine Street. 8a to 12:30p.

Third Saturday

• American Legion 370 meets every 3rd Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

Thurs., July 29

• At OEI's The Farm, Laurent-Perrier Champagne Dinner at The Farm at Old Edwards, 6:30p cocktails, 7p dinner. Old Edwards Inn and Spa welcomes Champagne Laurent-Perrier's Executive Vice President of Sales Camille Cox back to the mountains for a summertime soiree and Champagne dinner at The Farm on Thursday evening. The Midsummer Night's Dream pink and white themed evening will include an array of fine Champagne poured from special large format bottles alongside a menu featuring the height of season produce from the Garden at Old Edwards and the ever delightful talents of Chef Chris Huerta and his team. \$185 per person including Champagne throughout the evening. Plus tax and gratuity. Limited seating. Book online today. <https://www.olderwardshospitality.com/calendar-of-events/food-dining/champagnedinner>. Event is for guests 21 and older.

Fri., July 30

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Byrds & Crow

Sat., July 31

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Phillip Curcuru Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Philip Curcuru, artist and owner of Upland Nature Lab, focuses on celebrating natural specimens by dramatizing objects through isolation, light, and backdrop. All specimens are found in the southern Appalachian Mountains, and photographed at a home studio in Highlands, NC. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

• The Glenville Area Historical Society (GAHS) annual

Ice Cream Social planning is well underway for Saturday, July 31st at the historic Glenville Wesleyan Church. Each year this event kicks off the year for the Society where attendees enjoy, usually, a beautiful sunny "Carolina blue" day, tasty toppings on delicious ice cream at a historical site. Attendees, a combination of GAHS members, prospective members

and guests enjoy the treat and will hear Pastor Ralph Campbell tell about the 100-year history of the Glenville Wesleyan Church. For more info about the Society and the Museum call the Glenville Area Historical Society at 828 850.7022 or email historicalsocietyglenvillearea@yahoo.com.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. The Wobblers

Sat., Aug. 1

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Carolyn Goldsmith Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Carolyn Goldsmith is a renowned Birmingham AL artist known for her figurative and abstract paintings. Her vibrant and dynamic work is primarily in mixed media on canvas. The freedom and balance are greatly influenced by the artists of the Abstract Expressionist movement. For more info: call

(828) 787-1877.

Fri., Aug. 6

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Foxfire Boys

Sat., Aug. 7

• At Acorn's on S. 4th Street, Carolyn Goldsmith Art Trunk Show. 10a to 5p.

• Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House. Free Hot Dogs and Fire Truck Rides. 11a to 3p at the station at 322 Oak Street.

• See EVENTS page 14

Quercus Circus Comes to Town

It has been almost 100 years ago since the first circus came to town. The Mighty Haag Circus first paraded down 5th Street with elephants and clowns in 1923. No elephants or clowns for the one coming on Wednesday, August 11, at 1p.m., however.

So, what is a Quercus Circus you may ask? Quercus is the botanical name for large number of Oak species, and "Quercus Circus" is the title of a seminar by Dr. Paul Manos of Duke University concerning the biodiversity and ecological role of Oaks and other native trees for the home landscape and garden.

Dr. Manos will present the basic biology of oaks and their ecologically beneficial interactions with animals and fungi, including research designed to understand the importance of oak conservation from backyard to forest.

The seminar will be held at the Community Building (beside the ball park) on 4th Street. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the natural heritage of the Highlands Plateau and how to protect it. Admission is free, but registration is requested at: <https://highlandsbiological.org/about/upcoming-events/>.

His talk will be followed by a field trip to Dixon Park at 2:30 p.m. for a walk to identify trees and to explain and demonstrate the importance of controlling invasive plant species on the Highlands Plateau. Dixon Park is located on the corner of Bowery

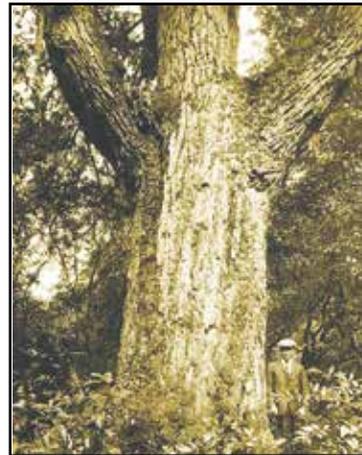


Photo from Highlands Historical Society of the Richardson Oak in 1929 of local botanist Henry Wright; taken by photographer and conservationist George Masa

Road and Split Rail Road. The property is owned by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust where a native plant meadow is being established.

This seminar and field trip are sponsored by the Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) whose members include the Town of Highlands, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau/Laurel Garden Club, Highlands Plateau Greenway, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society and the Highlands Historical Society.

To quote an African proverb, "The best time to plant an oak tree was 25 years ago. The second-best time is TODAY"! Please join us for an interesting and informative afternoon.

HCMF celebrates week 5



There's an additional vibrancy to a chamber music performance by brothers and sisters playing in harmony (and sometimes in contrast) that cannot help but be felt by an audience.

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival celebrates that very specific dynamic with its Week Five Performance – "Sibling Rivalry."

The production, set for Friday, July 30, and Saturday, July 31, will feature the talents of cellist Zuill Bailey, and his sister, violinist Allison Bailey; violinist Helen Kim, violin and her brother, pianist Michael Kim; and violinist Kate Ransom, and her brother, pianist (and Festival Artistic Director) William Ransom.

All of the artists have acquired international reputations, and each is a veteran of previous seasons of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival.

On Sunday, August 1, and Monday, August 2, the Chamber Music Festival will offer Concerto Nights.

This performance will once



more feature the talents of Zuill Bailey and Helen Kim, and they'll be joined by pianist Jasmin Arakawa.

Highlands concerts are staged Fridays at 6:00 P.M. and Sundays at 5:00 P.M. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center at

507 Chestnut Street.

Cashiers performances are staged Saturdays and Mondays at 5:00 P.M. at the Village Green Commons on Frank Allen Road.

Masks will not be required for any concert attendees who provide at the door proof of being fully vaccinated for Covid-19. Anyone who cannot provide such proof will be required to wear a mask. Masks will be available at the door for anyone requiring a mask who did not bring one. Vaccinated attendees who prefer to wear a mask are welcome to do so.

For a full listing of performances and artists and special events, visit hcmusicfestival.org

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...EVENTS continued from page 13

Celebrating 68 years of service.
 • At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at Oak & 5th streets, Discussion and book signing with Dr. Jean Benedict Raffa, author of "The Soul's Twins: Emancipate Your Feminine and Masculine Archetypes" at 3 p.m. Free and refreshments will be served.
 • Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. High Five
Sun.-Tues., Aug 8-10
 • At OEI's Half Mile Farm, 214 Half Mile Dr, Highlands, Southern Writers Series. With its storied history and constantly evolving present, the South continuously produces award-winning writers. We are pleased to present four Southern stars for our first-ever Southern Writers Series at Half-Mile Farm. Contemporary authors Wiley Cash, Cassandra King and Ron Rash, along with Cele and Lynn Seldon, will be in residence at Half-Mile Farm for a few fun days. Book Your Stay at [ernwriters.
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 13-15
 • At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Elizabeth Locke Jewelry Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Elizabeth Locke travels the world in pursuit of the uncommon elements to make up her designs. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold. For more info: call \(828\) 787-1877.
Fri., Aug. 13
 • "Bells in the Night" by Richard Betz booksigning at Shakespeare and Company from 4-6 p.m.. It is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at Shakespeare and Company.
 • Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Ben and Marce
Sat., Aug. 14
 • Scaly Mountain Community Assn. Pancake Breakfast at the Scaly Mountain Volunteer fire and Rescue Community Room. 169 Hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mountain. 8-10:30 a. \\$6 per person, \\$20 for families of 4 or more.
 • Twilight K Run at 6 p.m.](https://www.olderwardhospitality.com/calendar-of-events/south-</p>
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• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. TBA
Sun., Aug. 15
 • Dinner with Steven Satterfield & Joseph Lenn at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30 p.m. Please join us in celebrating the height of the summer season in the mountains with James Beard Foundation award-winning chefs Steven Satterfield of Miller Union in Atlanta, and Joseph Lenn of JC Holdway in Knoxville, TN. This dynamic duo, who also happen to be great friends, will present a multi-course menu full of summer's most delicious flavors alongside pairings from the Old Edwards sommeliers in the beautiful setting of The Farm. \$185 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online today: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/dinner-with-steven-satterfield-joseph-lenn-tickets-67065> or call 828-787-2525 to book.
Aug. 16
 • HCHC Open House at 209 Hospital Drive, Level 2, #204 from 10-11:30a. Aug. 20-22.
 • At Acorn's on S. 4th Street, Michael Hoffman Pottery Trunk Show. 10a to 5p.
Fri., Aug. 20
 • Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Sycamore Flats
Sat., Aug. 21
 • Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. ZuZu Welch
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 27-29
 • At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Simon Pearce Trees Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Hand-crafted in Vermont, Simon Pearce believes in simplicity, quality and artisanship are tenets of a better way of life. Each piece of Simon Pearce's lead-free glassware carries a story that lends meaning, authenticity and grace to every use. From sapling-sized to stunningly stately; brilliantly clear or dusted with snow; wrapped, dappled or silvered: Simon Pearce signature glass trees come in many forms, and are a joy to collect, give and display – all year round. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

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• ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

A random act of kindness

This happened in the rural South a number of years ago.

A bus is bumping along a back road among the cotton fields near mostly tenant farmers homes in Georgia.

In one seat an elderly gentleman sat holding a bunch of fresh flowers very carefully. Sitting across the aisle was a shy young girl whose eyes came back again and again to the man's flowers.

The time came for the elderly gentleman to get off. He could see the young girl continue to look at the flowers. He impulsively handed her the flowers and said, "I can see you love the flowers. I think my wife would like for you to have them. I will tell her I gave them to you." The young girl accepted the flowers, then watched the elderly gentleman get off the bus and walk through the gate of a small cemetery.

I'm sure that made a positive difference in her life. I'm also sure it made a positive difference in his life. It's positive little things that we do that make us feel good about ourselves. When we feel good about ourselves, life is better.



Kenny Youmans

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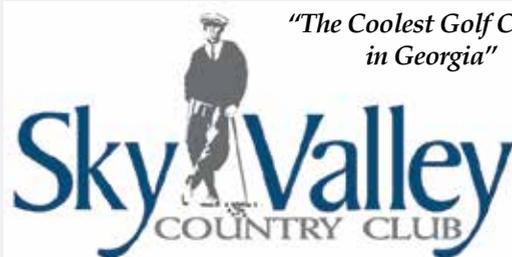
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注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-828-586-7000。

...MASKS continued from page 1

received at this point, is that face coverings will be a local option for school year 2021-'22," said Baldwin." "I have had several conversations with Kathy McGaha, the Macon County Health Director. Based on the current level of COVID-19 transmission in our community, she does not recommend starting the school year off requiring face coverings."

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt supported the move to allow districts across the state to make decisions locally.

"Today's guidance is critically important as school leaders are busy preparing for, or are already in the midst of, a new school year. I'm also pleased to see that local-level decision-making will be restored and flexibility provided to local officials. As a proponent of local control, I've felt the decision on mask mandates should be made by those most in tune with their student population and know that Superintendents, parents, and school boards will act in the best interest of their students," said Superintendent Catherine Truitt

While the intent is to begin the school year with face coverings optional, Dr. Baldwin said the school system could potentially establish a temporary face-covering mandate, depending on COVID progression.

"Parameters and thresholds regarding levels of transmission within the community and schools might lead us to have a temporary face covering requirement at some point," said Dr. Baldwin. "We're going to watch the parameters very carefully, and we're hopeful that we'll begin school without a face-covering mandate."

After months of decline, the NC De-

partment of Health and Human Services announced that North Carolina is currently experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 among those who are unvaccinated.

DHHS reported that on July 21, 1,998 new cases were reported to the NC Department of Health and Human Services and 817 people are hospitalized with 132 admitted in the past 24 hours.

There were 9,053 cases reported over a seven-day period compared to 5,441 cases in the preceding seven days – a 66% increase – and hospitalizations doubled since July 9 and are at the highest rate they have been since the May 11.

The state's other key metrics are also increasing, including the number of people going to the emergency department with COVID-like symptoms and the percent of tests that are positive – which has been over 6% for the past week.

In addition, this week's updated County Alert System has one red county with critical viral and spread and 12 orange counties with substantial spread, up from one two weeks ago. Richmond County is red, and Cherokee, Chowan, Cleveland, Cumberland, Graham, Hoke, Lee, Onslow, Pitt, Rutherford and Sampson counties are orange.

To be safe, at Monday night's Jackson County School Board meeting, the board voted to start school requiring masks.

More than 94% of recent North Carolina cases are in people who are not fully vaccinated. People who are unvaccinated are at risk for infection by the more contagious and potentially more dangerous Delta variant.







...KELSEY continued from page 1

Sherwood Forest Road and connecting to the existing trail. The loop is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

HPG Jim Chance has been out working on the trail almost weekly and often brings volunteer students from Western Carolina University. Chance said the HPG first established an agreement with the HCLT last year and then mapped out an exact route for the trail addition; that's when the real work began.

Chance said they had to choose a route that won't erode too badly or stay muddy. Then they cut a hole through the woods big enough for workers to access the site. After that, volunteers cleared brush, blowdowns, logs, etc. Chance said he enjoys the work.

"I like it," he said. "It is pleasant work with pleasant people in a pleasant environment. It is also healthy as you get plenty of both aerobic and strength exercise."

HCLT Stewardship Coordinator Kyle Pursel said they utilized as much of an old roadway as possible to minimize what needed to be removed, only dead trees were cut down, and they are using rocks to mitigate erosion. HPG President Sonya Carpenter said they are also being mindful of the watershed.

"We're trying to put in a trail as gently as possible using volunteer labor," said Carpenter. "We really want to encourage the community to become more invested in this piece of property and realize it's value."

Carpenter and Pursel said this project would not be possible without volunteers like Chance.

"Thank you for your service to our community," said Carpenter. "It is so wonderful to have such dedicated volunteers who are willing to put the hard work in to make Highlands more accessible."

To volunteer on Greenway Trail projects contact trail supervisor Jim Chance at (337) 344-8004 or email him at jamesallenchance@gmail.com for more information.



View of the beginning of the Kelsey Trail at the end of 5th Street.



WCU student and volunteer Stephanie Dillingham removes debris from the new trail.



From left are Jim Chance and Travis Shelley working on building the Kelsey Trail loop.

How did the '96 Olympics change Atlanta forever?

Attorney who spearheaded the bid for Atlanta to host '96 Olympics comes to CLE to answer the question: How did the '96 Olympics change Atlanta forever?

In the summer of 1996, Atlanta was the center of the sports world, still almost 25 years later, its impact on the city is apparent.

When Atlanta became the first Southern U.S. city to host the Olympics, the attention from around the globe brought lasting impacts on the city.

On Friday July 30th from 2-4 p.m., the Center For Life Enrichment will host presenter, Charlie Battle who was one of the original nine members of the bid committee that helped bring the Olympics to Atlanta and will tell the inside story – what does it take to win the votes of the International Olympic community? What were the



Charlie Battle

biggest obstacles facing Atlanta? Who persuaded Muhammad Ali to light the Olympic torch? How did the 1996 Olympics change Atlanta forever?

Charlie Battle's expertise has led him to consult with numerous cities bidding to host the Olympic Games, including Van-

couver, PyeongChang, Beijing and more. Battle has served as president of Central Atlanta Progress, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and strengthening the economic vitality of downtown Atlanta. Currently, he works in an of-counsel role with Miller & Martin PLLC, an Atlanta law firm.

Pre-register to attend CLE's Atlanta and the 1996 Olympic Games lecture, in the CLE lecture hall in the Peggy Crosby Center on Friday, July 30th from 2-4 pm. \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Call (828)526-8811.

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Christ our Lord healed many people over the course of His three-year public ministry. While many such healings were physical, they were often coupled with spiritual and moral healings, e.g. the forgiveness of sins.

As is all too clear, humanity's woundedness continued beyond the pages of Scripture and persists today for all members of this fallen human race as we continue to traverse this vale of tears.

As our bodies and souls are so tightly bound, human woundedness can often overlap both our psyches (as part of our material nature) and souls (our immaterial nature).

Father Chad Ripperger, whose background includes psychology, philosophy, theology, and deliverance ministry (exorcisms), is uniquely suited to help us draw proper psychological-spiritual distinctions. This article will focus on specifically spiritual healing.

Father Ripperger emphasizes the importance and various facets of grace. God's grace of forgiveness and healing is simply more powerful than any sin or wound. When we sin, we wound ourselves. So, when we receive God's sanctifying grace of forgiveness, that itself is fundamental in healing. However, sometimes a feeling of woundedness remains. In that case, asking for the grace of forgetfulness can help.

Wounds received from others can be particularly difficult to heal. Several practices may help, though. Turning our gaze away from ourselves and towards Christ is central. The prophet Isaiah wrote: "by His stripes, we were healed" (Is53). We can add, "by meditating on His stripes, the effects of our sins/wounds are healed."

If we meditate on Him, His innocence, His suffering for our sins, and ultimately the forgiveness He offers, perhaps we will be quicker to forgive and thus be healed.

Our focus on Christ will also engender in us a spirit of sacrifice, of "offering it up" in reparation for our own past sins and the sins of the world. Lastly, the charity of Christ will become our own. In short, we will desire to forgive others; it will become a habit; and we will play our part in ending the perpetuating cycle of woundedness.

Lastly, Fr. Ripperger as exorcist advises the reality of spiritual warfare. To be clear, not every wound finds its origin in the supernatural; however, it would be foolish to think the opposite as St. Paul teaches: "we war not with the flesh, but principalities and powers" (Eph 6:12).

Whether we struggle with an overactive imagination or those around us not letting some wounds go, devotion to our guardian angel can assist us in any possible spiritual warfare.

Proverbs 3:5

PLACES TO WORSHIP

John 3:16

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

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

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Rev. Arlyn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298

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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

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1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children's Program, Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:

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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

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828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from June 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 28

- At 1:30 p.m., officers were called about a shoplifting incident at Potpourri on Main Street where fashion jewelry was taken from the store.

July 16

- At 12:50 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Laurel Street.

July 19

- At 2:40 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on the Bowery Road.

July 24

- At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a call of vandalism on S. 4th Street where eggs were thrown at two vehicles.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 19.

July 19

- At 2:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Bowery Road.

- At 4:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Vinca Lane.

- At 5:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to

a residence on Zermatt Circle.

July 21

- At 8:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Arnold Road.

- At 12:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on View Point Road.

July 22

- At 2:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

- At 4:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Cashiers Road.

July 23

- At 5:25 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke in the vicinity of Pierson and Satulah roads.

- At 5:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence in Fairway Condos.

July 25

- At 2:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.

- At 4:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

July 27

- At 6:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Brookside Lane.

...KIDS PLACE from page 11

resolves the funding deficit. Commissioners Josh Young and Paul Higdon voted against the funding.

Although KIDS Place partners with the county to provide required services, Commissioner Josh Young expressed concern over providing tax-payer funds to the non-profit. Young, who noted he was unaware of all KIDS Place did until Ashe made the request last week, said he would like to see the community help fundraise and get the money the organization needs.

Commissioner Paul Higdon also noted that while the services are worthy, "as a manager of county taxpayer dollars, how do I put a vote on this?"

Commissioner Ronnie Beale made the motion to provide KIDS Place with a one-time allocation of \$75,000 due to the emergency need. Commissioner Gary Shields seconded the motion.

Commissioner Higdon and Young supported providing the funding through the county's community funding pool — and providing KIDS Place with \$75,000 from the community funding pool — and eliminating funding to any other non-profits this fiscal year. However, Beale's motion was to provide the funding out of the county's fund balance.

• BIZ NEWS •

Rotarians of the year

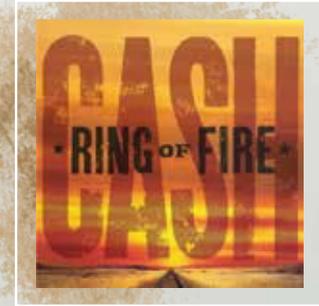


At a recent Rotary Club of Highlands meeting, past president for the 2020-2021 Zach Claxton year announced his Rotarians of the Year for the 2020-'21 year for their outstanding service in creating and managing the Covid Vaccine Initiative for the plateau. Service Above Self to be sure. Pictured from left are Mike Murphy, Tom Neal, Jerry Moore, Zach Claxton.

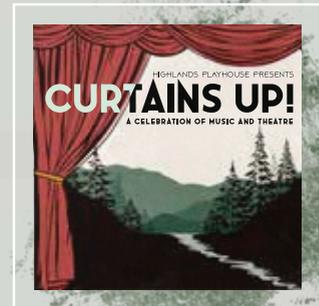


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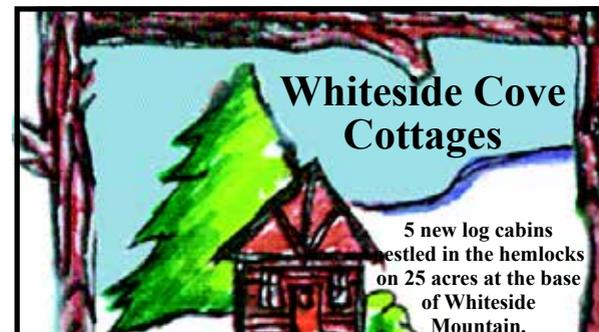
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puter skills necessary. Monday through Friday 8:30 TO 5:00. Please call 828-526-1700 to ask for Sheri or send a resume to sobrien.baker@gmail.com. (st. 7/15)

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40-HOURS GUARANTEED PER WEEK. Potential for year-round position. Grounds maintenance at Highlands Falls Country Club. Please call 828-526-2203. (st. 7/8)

GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED positions open at Caffe Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Kevin at 841-763-5539. Need ASAP. (st. 6/24)

HOSPITALITY MINDSET: Highlands Country Club is looking for a few individuals for food service, bartending and housekeeping, who have a heart for service, want to be respected as professionals and know how to earn to your ability. Competitive pay, tips for F & B staff, uniform provided, and meals per shift provided to all. Golfing privileges are available. Wonderful, busy working atmosphere. Appreciative management to work with each person. Go to www.highlandscountryclub.com, select the Career tab at the top of the tool bar to fill out an application. Or, call 828-787-2782 and leave a message for Greg. See the Club's reviews on Indeed. (st. 6/24)

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER NEEDED for local business. Most work can be done from home. Call or text Tim Sharp 256-683-5885. (st. 6/24)

THE HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking a part-time employee to work in the Welcome Center on Saturday and Sunday. The ideal candidate should have excellent knowledge of the Highlands and Plateau areas and enjoy greeting visitors to our town. Hours are Saturday 10a.m. - 4p.m. and Sunday 11a.m. - 3p.m. For consideration, please send resume to visitor@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112. (st. 5/27)

POSH PAWS PET SPA IN HIGHLANDS, NC is now hiring dog bathers. No experience necessary. Fast advancement opportunities. Please call 828-526-9581 to inquire about position. (st. 7/29)

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)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindab-tiff@aol.com.

JOIN OUR TEAM! Whole Life Market is now hiring for full/part time positions. Are you a fun, healthy minded individual looking for a positive work environment? We are an organic health food store/ juice bar. Experience is not necessary but any grocery store, barista skills are a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th. St, Highlands.

FULL AND PART TIME RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES WANTED. Contact Potpourri at 828-200-0044 to schedule an interview. Eye-wear experience is a plus. (st. 5/13)

DO YOU LIKE TO CLEAN AND ORGANIZE? Private club seeking a few energetic individuals with a happy state of mind to join our staff in the housekeeping department. Early hours, routine schedule, competitive pay, benefits, one daily meal provided, and uniforms provided. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Country Club at 828-526-2181. (st. 5/13)

CALLING ALL MERMAIDS! Spartina 449 now hiring part time key and sales position. Apply in person. 394 Main St, Highlands. 828-787-1178 (st. 4/29)

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC - Graphic Design & Layout Professional, P/T Marketing Asst/Print Production, Catering Manager, Sales Manager, Assistant F&B

Manager, Banquet Captain, Banquet Supervisor, Host, Server, Breakfast Server, Server Assistant, Bartender, AM Sous Chef, Breakfast Cook, Cook, Assistant Pastry Chef, Dishwasher, Reservations Specialist, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk Agent, Bellman, Room Attendant, Houseman, 2nd Shift Laundry, Retail Associate, Fitness Manager, Spa Concierge, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor. SPECIAL RETENTION BONUS, \$1,000 Full Time/\$500 Part-time, FOR THESE LICENSED POSITIONS: COSMETOLOGIST • HAIR STYLIST • MAKEUP ARTIST • NAIL TECH. Benefits and PTO for FULL TIME. Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT 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)

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. (st. 2/11)

THE SUMMER HOUSE BY REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN HIGHLANDS is looking for full and part time positions in sales and warehouse & delivery personnel. Must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and/or customer service experience preferred. Competitive starting pay. Generous benefits for full-time positions. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands. (st. 5/20)

RE FOR SALE 4/BD, 2 BA HOME ON 2 BEAUTIFUL ACRES located between Highlands and Cashiers in a nice residential area. Property borders

a creek and includes a storage house with cellar. Garden area and beautiful lawns, too. \$650k. Contact Tina @ 828-342-9312. (St. 7/29)

BIG BEAR PEN MTN LOT, Corner of Paul Walden/Upper Lake Rd, 1/3 acre, 100k\$. 770-339-7002 (st 7/29)

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SERVICES MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - Interior & Exterior painting, sheetrock repair, wallpaper removal, log homes, decks. Insured/ free estimates. (9/16)

CALL 828-524-1391 OR 828-332-0525 HANDIMAN - Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry. Call Al Edgar: 828-332-7271. 828-369-6245. (4.1)

HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Will also monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-5984. (5/27)

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GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 9/17/20)

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

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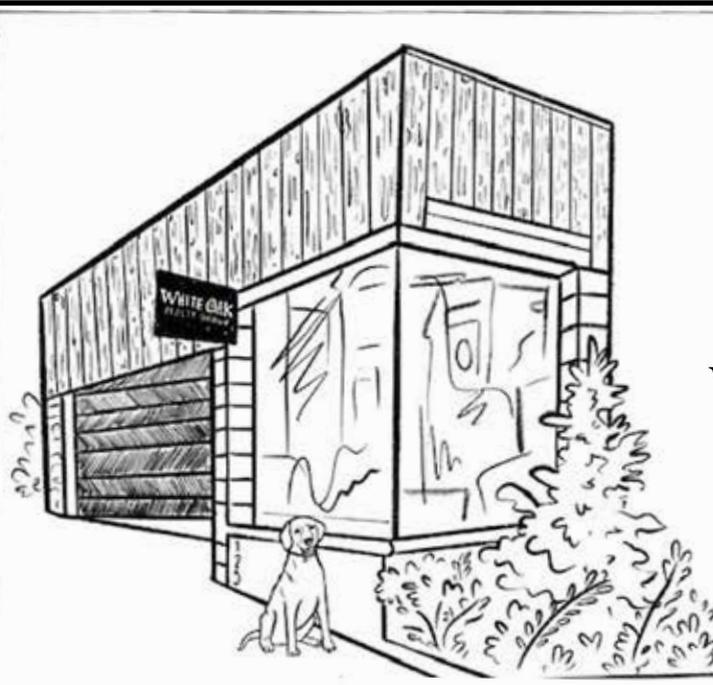
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