

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 14, 2022

Closed session centers on Marc Hehn

Before getting into the nitty gritty of the FY 2022-'23 budget at the April 7 budget workshop, Mayor Pat Taylor announced there would be a closed session to discuss the lawsuit Commission

Marc Hehn has filed against Town Manager Josh Ward regarding the draft, red-line fiber contract documents as well as issues now developing concerning Hehn's Power-line Removal request made at the

March Town Board meeting. However, since the closed session wasn't on the budget workshop agenda it couldn't take place – instead it was set for Tuesday, **• See HEHN page 30**

Child dies when swept over Whitewater Falls

On Sunday, April 10 at 5:50pm the Jackson County Emergency Management 911 Center received a call reporting a 3-year-old child, visiting Whitewater Falls with her family, had been swept away in the water at the top of the falls and the current had carried the child over the falls.

Whitewater Falls is in the Jackson County area of Nantahala National Forest.

Emergency responders from Jackson, Transylvania, Haywood, Henderson, and Oconee counties were dispatched to the falls and rescue operations to locate the child were initiated.

Just prior to night fall on Sunday rescuers located the child deceased and entrapped in an area

• See CHILD page 21

It's official: Easter is coming!



The flowered cross at the Highlands United Methodist Church has become a symbol of Easter in Highlands. Check the ads in this issue for Easter egg hunts and services at local churches. There is an Easter egg hunt at the Village Green in Cashiers, too.

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Primary Candidate Forum – part 1 Meet the Republican primary candidates

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Macon County Board of Commissioners has three seats up for election. Two seats in District II, which covers the Franklin Area, and one seat in District I which serves Ellijay, Flats, Highlands and Sugarfork.

The May 17 primary ballots will feature Republican candidates for office, with the top vote getters being placed on the November

ballot to face Democrat challenger or an independent challenger who meets the deadline to secure enough signatures to be placed on the ballot.

Early voting across North Carolina begins April 28 with the Primary voting day scheduled for May 17.

Leading up to the Primary, Candidate Profiles will be coming. **• See PRIMARY page 24**

Cawthorn races from reckless to a possible reckoning

By Tom Fiedler
Asheville Watchdog

It seems only yesterday that Congressman Madison Cawthorn's most newsworthy achievements were his citations for re-

peatedly violating motor-vehicle laws, including "extreme speeding" while driving his father's car with a revoked license.

Since the traffic citations **• See CAWTHORN page 10**

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• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Help us build the Town Scholarship fund

We are getting close to the end of school and the graduation season. Highlands School usually has a senior graduation class of about 25 to 30 students. Being one of only three K through 12 schools in the state, our whole town celebrates the accomplishments of our hometown seniors.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Every graduating senior at the Highlands School is eligible to receive a Town of Highlands Scholarship if they will be attending a college, university or vocational school. Students who submit scholarship applications receive some level of support. If a student remains in school, he or she can reapply for a scholarship each year until their schooling is complete.

Highlands community leaders established the town scholarship program for students graduating from the Highlands School. These educational grants are intended to assist students in their educational pursuits beyond high school.

Special legislation was passed in Raleigh in 1977 in order to establish the town scholarship program. This special legislation authorized the town finance department to administer the program. There are no administration fees from the town, so every dollar goes di-

rectly to supporting scholarships.

The town has a scholarship committee consisting of citizens and educators that review all scholarship applications. The amount for individual scholarships is determined by this committee. I announce and present the scholarships to seniors on Highlands School Honors Day in May. Again, every graduating senior that is accepted into an advanced educational program receives a scholarship. Awards

can range from around \$800 to over \$2,000. Over a 4-year period of study a student may receive as much as \$4,000 or \$6,000. Forty or more students actually receive support in a given year.

The endowment for the scholarship program is now more than \$880,000. Major gifts to the scholarship endowment will and have had a lasting impact on the educational endeavors of young Highlanders.

As we approach the 50th year of the program, it would be wonderful to receive new major gifts that would propel the endowment to over a million dollars. The growth of the endowment will further increase support for students.

In recent years, the town has sponsored a golf tournament to raise money of scholarships. Also, proceeds from the Three River Fly Fishing Festival go directly to the scholarship program. These fundraising initiatives, and sometimes interest from the endowment, help fund yearly scholarships and preserve the endowment's principal.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the golf tournament will not take place this year. I hope Highlanders will consider making a contribution to the scholarship program so the town can continue to provide scholarships at past levels.

This scholarship program is a great investment in our young people, as well as for the future of Highlands. As mayor, I am asking for your support for this wonderful and unique program. Please send a check to the Town of Highlands at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. Be sure to mark the check for the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. All donations are tax deductible.

On Honors Day, many additional scholarships are awarded to seniors by civic organizations and area businesses. That community support is an important way to encourage our seniors to strive for new levels of achievements.

• HIC'S VIEW •



Where Easter eggs come from HIC

• WEATHER •

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The Godfather – Sopressa salami, shaved ham, pepperoni, red onion, smoked provolone, shredded lettuce, banana peppers, onions with Italian dressing on baguette. \$13

The Muff – Turkey, Sopressa salami, ham, cream cheese olive spread, smoked provolone cheese and shredded lettuce on sub roll. \$13

The Porker – Shaved ham, Jarlsberg cheese, DJs pickles with homemade honey mustard on ciabatta. \$12

The Hudson – Turkey, Provolone cheese (Have it your way - cucumber, lettuce, onion, banana peppers, black olives, DJs pickles). \$13



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• OBITUARIES •

John Daugherty McKey, Jr

John Daugherty McKey, Jr., 78, of Highlands, NC, passed away Monday, March 28, 2022. Mr. McKey was born in Atlanta, GA September 10, 1943 to the late Dr. John Daugherty McKey, Sr. and Joyce Roper McKey.



The family moved to Orlando, where John spent his childhood days. He developed a fondness for golf spending time with his father, a pediatrician, at the Orlando Country Club and vacationing at the Highlands Golf Resort.

He expanded his golf experience with friends through high school. John decided to follow his father's footsteps to take courses leading to medical school at Duke University. This lasted one year when the call of the golf course intervened as he was awarded a Golf Scholarship at University of Georgia and became a Golf Team letterman. The team won the SCC Championship in 1965.

He graduated in 1965, also achieving honors in Business Finance. John, then proceeded to earn a law degree at University of Florida and practiced law for 40 years. At intervals, he served in US Army Reserves and later in US Navy Legal Division.

Over his civilian career Mr. McKey was a developer of several golf courses in Palm Beach, FL area. During this period, he played on the Amateur Golf Tour. He was inducted into the Southern Golf Association, later serving on the Board of Directors and as President from 1999-2000. This prestigious organization is instrumental in promoting amateur golf. They Sponsor and officiate the Southern Armature Championship annually, from which the champion qualifies to play in the Walker Cup.

He enjoyed membership in two top ranked golf courses: Seminole Golf Club and Pine Valley Golf Club. Always keen to golf news, when the Highlands Golf Resort was advertised for sale, he co-founded the Highlands Country Club in 1980 with his law partner Jim Mackie. He served on the Golf Committee fostering tournament play many years.

The annual Bobby Jones Invitational gave him an opportunity to enhance the program by bringing in Walker Cup Players and Golf Pros from near and far. John McKey called Highlands Country Club his fondest achievement and claimed Highlands, NC as home in his retirement. It was during this time that he found a new challenge - the game of croquet. He enjoyed dual sports with friends in his later years. And he was a devoted member of the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Kathryn Robinson McKey; daughter, Allison McKey Nichols (Justin); stepdaughters, Rev. Caroline Unzaga (Rev. Jay), Laura Zimmerman (Daniel); grandchildren, Maddy Nichols, Walter Nichols, Henry Nichols, Isabel Unzaga, Sebastian Unzaga, Micah Zimmerman; sister Joy McKey; nieces Carrie Grote (Tom), Erin Elliott (Andy), and Ashley Behm (Aaron); brother-in-law, Dr. Newell Robinson (Victoria); nieces, Ruth Robinson, and Sarah Salzer (Benjamin); nephews, Dr. Bryce Robinson (Katie), and Hunter Robinson.

A graveside service was held Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Highlands Memorial Park, with Rev. Randy Lucas officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the McKey family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



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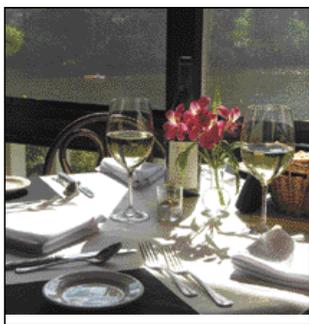
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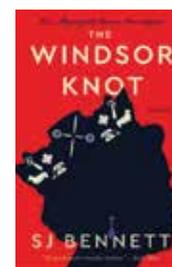
• **INK PENN** •**Kick back with two very different mysteries**

I adore mysteries, and my two recent finds were a delight. If you live in or are visiting Highlands, North Carolina, you are sure to get a kick out of spotting familiar sights in the first book. I'm not very familiar with Cashiers, which is also part of the setting, but I know Highlands pretty well. I especially enjoyed an action scene set in Highlands' Hudson Library.

And, if you are even a tiny bit of an Anglophile, you'll love reading about the inner workings of Windsor Castle in England in the second book.



Kathy Manos Penn

**The Windsor Knot**
by SJ Bennett

What a delight! How did the author come up with the concept of Queen Elizabeth as a woman who solves mysteries? Set right before the Queen turns 90, Prince Phillip is still a part of her life and there are sweet glimpses into their lives and interesting insights into the Queen's perspective on her children and grandchildren, all very nicely done.

Who knows whether all this is accurate or not and who cares? I love reading about her day to day and seeing her portrayed as a smart, savvy, curious woman! I'll be looking for book two shortly. Here's a bit of the book description to whet your appetite:

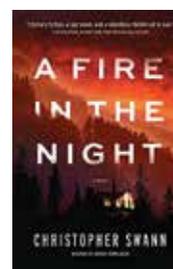
"The bestselling first book in a highly original and delightfully clever crime series in which Queen Elizabeth II secretly solves crimes while carrying out her royal duties.

It is the early spring of 2016 and Queen Elizabeth is at Windsor Castle in advance of her 90th birthday celebrations. But the preparations are interrupted by the shocking and untimely death of a guest in one of the Castle bedrooms. The scene leads some to think the young Russian pianist strangled himself, yet a badly tied knot leads MI5 to suspect foul play. When they begin to question the Household's most loyal servants, Her Majesty knows they're looking in the wrong place.

For the Queen has been living an extraordinary double life ever since her teenage years as 'Lilibet.' Away from the public eye and unbeknownst to her closest friends and advisers, she has the most brilliant skill for solving crimes."

Here's to happy reading!

• *Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries in Franklin at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts and Books Unlimited, and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.*

**A Fire in the Night**
by Christopher Swann

Ever since I read Christopher Swann's first book "In the Shadow of the Lions," I've been hooked, and I eagerly await every new release. This is his third book, and it did not disappoint. Set in the mountains of North Carolina in the Cashiers/Highlands area, I loved it for the familiar territory – I live in Atlanta, just a 2-hour drive away – and for the plot.

His words bring both the setting and the emotions alive. Check out the book blurb below and grab a copy!

Acclaimed Southern mystery master Christopher Swann delivers 'a book that's literary fiction, a spy novel, and a relentless thriller all in one' (Lee Goldberg, New York Times bestselling author), perfect for fans of Linwood Barclay and Michael Farris Smith.

Nick Anthony has retreated to the North Carolina mountains to mourn the untimely death of his wife. Once a popular professor, Nick just wants to be left alone with his grief. But when his estranged brother and sister-in-law die in a house fire, a stunned Nick learns he has a niece, Annalise, who is missing.

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...CAWTHORN continued from page 1

came to light last month, the 26-year-old Republican from Hendersonville earned bipartisan rebukes in Congress for calling Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a “thug” and Ukraine “incredibly evil” — charges that won him accolades on Russian state television.

He then told a right-wing YouTube channel host that unnamed Republican lawmakers in Washington “in their 60s and 70s” had invited him to “orgies” and that he had witnessed them snorting cocaine.

And on April 4, he took to the House floor to lecture Speaker Nancy Pelosi — a grandmother of nine — on biology. “I never imagined that one of my sacred duties in this hallowed chamber would be explaining to the House Speaker the difference between a man and a woman,” Cawthorn announced. “Take notes, Madam Speaker, I’m about to define what a woman is for you: XX chromosomes, no tallywacker.”

But while each outrageous comment gains him publicity and aids his fundraising for re-election, his traffic citations might actually land him in jail.

They are just the latest examples of a decade-long and growing record of law-breaking, rules flouting, accountability evasion, and questionable behavior. But a reckoning may be at hand.

Blames Media, Democrats for His Words

Not only does Cawthorn face a series of court dates for reckless driving and other charges, he has been pointedly ostracized by Republican Party leadership in Congress and within North Carolina who want to see him ousted in the May 17 primary election.

“On any given day, he’s an embarrassment,” U.S. Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) said of Cawthorn.

“Unfortunately, Madison Cawthorn has fallen well short of the most basic standards Western North Carolina expects from their representatives,” fellow Republican Sen. Thom Tillis said, citing what he said was Cawthorn’s “consistent pattern of juvenile behavior, outlandish statements, and untruthfulness.”

Cawthorn’s assertion that unnamed GOP colleagues snorted cocaine and invited him to an orgy drew a closed-door reprimand from fellow House Republicans and a 30-minute tongue lashing from an outraged Kevin McCarthy, the Republican minority leader.

Cawthorn emerged red-faced from the scolding and, through his press secretary, admitted that he’d “exaggerated.” McCar-

thy bluntly called the stories “untrue” and said the once-rising GOP star had “lost my trust” and needed to “turn his life around.”

But Cawthorn quickly turned to social media to suggest that it was Democrats and the news media, not he, that made the allegations about cocaine use and orgies.

“My comments on a recent podcast appearance calling out corruption have been used by the left and the media to disparage my Republican colleagues and falsely insinuate their involvement in illicit activities,” Cawthorn said in statement posted to Twitter.

Hot Wheels

Whether he can coast to re-election is another question, according to Watchdog interviews with several local Republicans who backed Cawthorn in 2020.

The past month’s revelations, “combined with having a competitive field, have given the opportunity for former supporters not just to complain quietly, but to bolt,” said Western Carolina University Professor Chris Cooper, a specialist in the region’s elections.

Aside from criticism from the Republican Party leadership, Cawthorn faces a legal reckoning for the most recent motor-vehicle violations, the latest in a decade-long pattern.

Asheville Watchdog has found 12 motor-vehicle violations in North Carolina and three other states since Cawthorn became a licensed driver, most of which haven’t been reported before.

“Snake-oil Salesman”

Until now, Cawthorn has avoided serious legal and political consequences. But this may change.

The motor-vehicle violations, although misdemeanors typically satisfied with payment of a fine, are classified as criminal offenses and could carry jail sentences upon conviction. Cawthorn awaits court hearings on April 18 and May 6 stemming from two recent citations in Polk and Cleveland counties respectively, either of which could carry a 20-day jail sentence and \$1,000 fine.

Cawthorn’s brushes with the law haven’t been limited to exceeding speed limits. At least twice over the past several years he’s been ticketed for driving without a valid license or tag. And since his election to Congress from western North Carolina’s 11th District, Cawthorn has been flagged by authorities for a range of other violations not involving driving.

Among these have been four instances

• See CAWTHORN page 20



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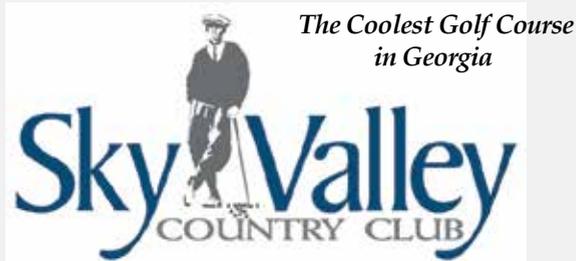
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Highlands Rotary Club's Healthy Homes Initiative Project

Rotary Club of Highlands received a grant in the amount of \$45,000 from Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and Nantahala Health Foundation for the Healthy Homes Initiative, a collaborative program with the Dogwood Health Trust to assist low-income families in need of home repairs that are negatively affecting their quality of life.

Members of the Rotary Club of Highlands circulated applications for home repairs throughout the Highlands area through various non-profits and churches, including the Highlands Emergency Council, Highlands United Methodist Church, International Friendship Center and various other entities that serve low-income individuals and families. Additionally, the availability of this opportunity was published in local papers.

To qualify for assistance, recipient had to earn 60% or less of the household Annual Median Income (AMI) for the county where the property was situated. Additionally, the property had to be owned by the occupant and the repairs had to address health and safety issues.

Since receiving the grant funds in November 2021, Rotary Club of Highlands has received 10 applications, according to

Rotary member Jerry Moore, who is leading the club's efforts.

Two of these applications did not qualify due to non-ownership or failure to meet income requirements. One application is pending and seven are active.

"This grant has created an eye-opening experience that reveals a much larger extent of need in our local communities than one would expect," said Moore. "We are glad to be able to begin to make a difference."

Damages to homes in need of repair range from failing roofs causing water leaks to deteriorating entry steps, rotten fascia, and window seals. Several homes required heating system replacements or repairs, and one dwelling was without electricity using only a propane heater and had no access to running water.

Rotary Club members are working to arrange inspections, evaluations, and construction contracts to help families struggling to sustain their health under these conditions.

If you or someone you know is in need of these services, please contact Jerry Moore, e-mail ejmoorej@ yahoo.com.

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This former in-town workshop near the Performing Arts Center has a finished basement with bedroom, full bathroom, kitchenette, and living/dining space. Beautifully maintained yard complete with pond and water feature. Two-car garage, with large storage space and attic space ready to be converted to more living space. Downstairs with a separate entrance open room with kitchenette, dining, full bathroom, living space and bed space. The yard and outdoor living is breathtaking. The pond, dock and water feature are all part of this .45+/- acre in-town Highlands lot. To be so close to town yet beautifully placed to be as private and peaceful as you like. Offered at \$749,000. mls #98281



Easy in town living with this one level contemporary ranch which features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths plus a study and large 2-car garage/workshop. Open spaces with soaring glass, screened porch that has a grill with vent and connects to a conversation deck with firepit. The living area and screen porch overlook the noisy water of Millcreek. Offered at \$1,195,000. mls #98604



Turn of the Century 480 Winfield Farm has 4.7 acres and borders USFS land. View, frog pond, 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 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 \$729,000. mls #97582



Great view in town from this 3 BD/3 1/2 BA home newly renovated. Open kitchen / living/ dining room with gas fireplace, covered front porch with stone wood burning fireplace, and powder room. Main level suite has full bath, walk in closet and private deck. Downstairs consists of two suites one with separate kitchenette. Covered parking. Priced to sell at \$1,190,000. mls #98526



What a great opportunity to own a Southern Living style home with a great view to the West. Located 1.5 miles from downtown Highlands with a 3 car garage and 2.5 acres of land. Offered at \$998,000. mls #97939



Eastside Duck Mountain This 3 bedroom 2 bath is located in Four States Subdivision and has a spectacular view of Winfield Farm, Blue Valley and vistas to the south. Main floor living plan has Living room with fireplace, kitchen, dining room/Sunroom with loads of windows to experience the 180 degree view. 2 guest bedrooms with a hall bath, upstairs has a huge master suite with fireplace and ensuite bath. Great bones and ready for your own taste. Offered at \$695,000. mls #98207



This charming, spacious family home has easy access to the golf course and has grounds with a small branch and pond. 5-6 Bedrooms, 6.5 baths, great covered porch with fireplace and space for great entertaining. Custom features throughout and a cooks kitchen. Full detached guest suite. All of this at a great value price at Highlands Country Club. Offered at \$1,650,000. mls #97428



Own a truly unique Highlands Cabin! Located less than 3 miles from Main Street and having over 19 acres of usable land, this true log cabin was added to an existing farmhouse, barn, meadow, views off the upper tier. A blank canvas to improve to your personal taste and have a family heirloom for another chapter. 4 bedrooms, stone fireplaces, retro kitchen, fantastic sleeping porch. This property has endless possibilities! Offered at \$3,575,000. mls #98048



Mirror Lake Cabin. What everyone is looking for, old house charm with new house living. Main house has 2 bedrooms 1 bath, a real stone fireplace, wood floors and usable kitchen. Guest house has 2 bedrooms 1 1/2 baths with an enclosed outside shower. Offered at \$1,600,000. mls #97457



A almost flat 3.55 acres with end of the road privacy. Enter the Home from a covered carport into a spacious den-living dining area, updated kitchen is located adjacent to the stone fireplace. Living and dining boast mountain views. Wing bedrooms floor plan with the master at the end of the hall and 2 guest bedrooms off the hall with baths. The cutest log guesthouse that you have ever seen. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #96998



Great family home has flat grassy spaces and lovely outdoor entertaining areas. View of Shortoff mountain from the historic outdoor fireplace. 3-4 BD, 3 BA, office, 2-car garage and a 2-car carport. In move in condition. Offered at \$1,174,000. mls #97458



Located in Mirror Lake, this 3-4 bedroom, 2 bath cottage is in move-in condition. Owners have improved within the last several years. Light and airy, cathedral in living room, fireplace, cooks kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath on the main level with a deck that overlooks the small pond. Lower level has a sitting room, laundry, bedroom, bath and one-car garage. A great setting with water and privacy. Offered at \$850,000. mls #98454



This remodeled 2BR/2BA Highlands Mountain Club unit is easily accessible and easy to maintain. Hardwood floors in living area, with stone gas log fireplace. Wall of double doors open onto screened porch with winter lake view. Main bedroom has a large walk in closet along with a built in granite counter top vanity space. Kitchen has been beautifully remodeled. Clubhouse pool is just a short walk from your unit. Offered at \$440,000. mls #98264

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• ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

The History of Easter

Easter 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 includes 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 concludes 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 the Goddess of Spring.

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



Kenny Youmans

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 16th century when the Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, organized egg hunts for his congregation.

Easter egg hunts later became a tradition in England in the 19th century. England was also 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 Easter Joy
Hippity, hoppity
Happy Easter Day*

“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.

The rabbit was a symbol of new life and fertility in pre-Christian times. It’s associated as an Easter symbol that 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 Easter baskets.

When the Germans settled in Pennsylvania in the 18th century,

I remember as a young kid, my mother would always have new Easter outfits for my sister and me for Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday at our church was 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*

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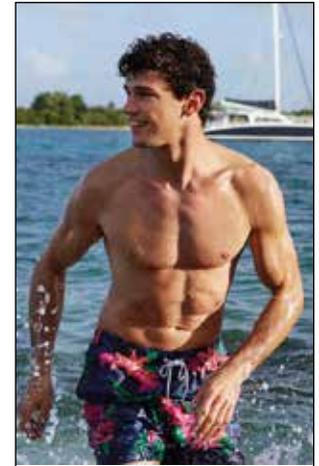


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Spring Home Improvement 2022

3 Affordable Kitchen Upgrades to Consider

(StatePoint) Is remodeling your kitchen on your wish list? Afraid of how much it'll set you back?

HomeAdvisor puts the average kitchen remodel price in the \$12,567 to \$34,962 range. However, you can buck the trend of costly, complicated updates. Consider these three renovations, all of which will improve the look and functionality of your kitchen, without costing you thousands of dollars:

Refresh Fabrics
Reupholstering just

one chair means shelling out \$150 to \$600, according to HomeGuide. If that's beyond what you're willing to pay, but you're not ready to replace a beloved set of kitchen chairs, you can update their look on a budget and in just a few minutes with stretchable seat covers. A good choice for families with kids or pets, these covers are typically machine-washable and can

be swapped out as often as you like to suit your mood. From geometric designs to citrus vibes to florals, they're offered in a range of patterns that will look great with any style.

New Granite Surfaces

Countertops are the most common feature upgraded during kitchen renovations, according to a 2022 Houzz study, which found that nine in 10 remodelers performed this update. The same survey found that 35% of homeowners are splurging to make it happen. If you've looked into granite countertops, you probably learned that it can cost thousands of dollars and take months to have them custom-made and installed.

Adding this touch of luxury to your kitchen doesn't have to bust your budget, involve contractors or mean supply chain hassles. It can actually be an easy, one-weekend DIY project. Using a LuxROCK Solid Surface Granite Countertop Kit from Daich Coatings, you can transform your countertops and island surfaces at just a fraction of the price of a professional granite countertop installation. For about \$300, a kit covers 40 square feet of space. This functional

and decorative blend of real stone with stunning mineral highlights can be used to give a smooth appearance to countertops, tables or any other surface. And because the authentic stone surface resists stains, heat and impact and is food safe, it's a great solution for the kitchen.

Each kit includes a prime coat, stone coats, clear epoxy and a clear coat finish, as well as all the tools needed. This revolutionary and exceptionally easy resurfacing project doesn't require any artistic skills to be a success. Nor does it require technical skills, as sinks, plumbing fixtures and existing countertops don't need to be removed before application.

If you're someone who likes the flexibility of changing things up every few years, it's simple to update granite surface colors using another LuxROCK kit when you're ready. Both this U.S. patent-pending kit and the brand's textured countertop kits are available online at The Home Depot and Lowe's.

Optimize Your Pantry

Pantries are often tucked away, but you can still give them an eye-catching makeover. For fresh

• See KITCHEN page 19



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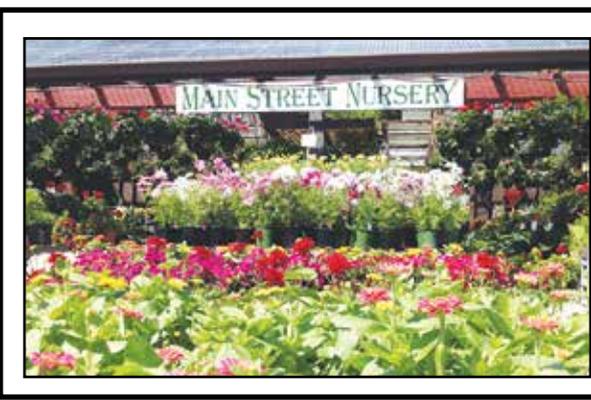


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Spring Home Improvement

Tips to Add Farmhouse-Style Elements to Your Home

(StatePoint) When farmhouse style represents a total intersection of beauty

...KITCHEN continued from 18

pops of color, paint the pantry door and wallpaper the interior. Group items by height, then use customizable shelving to stretch storage real estate. You may also wish to transfer kitchen staples to uniform containers. This will offer a tidier, more visually appealing look, while helping you make better use of limited space. Whether you opt for mason

jars, ceramic canisters, or BPA-free plastic cubes, label containers carefully.

It's the heart of the home, but that doesn't mean you need to break the bank to create your dream kitchen. With ingenuity, you can improve its look and functionality at an affordable price point and in just a weekend.

and practicality, making it no surprise that many are embracing this traditional look today. Whatever architectural style your home is, adding key design elements can help you get in on best aspects of the farmhouse trend. Here are a few renovations to consider:

- An updated porch: Adding a front porch or expanding an existing porch will not only add charming farmhouse-style curb appeal, but extend your outdoor living area as well. Be sure to take as much

care decorating your porch as you would any other room of your home. Include comfy furniture, like rocking chairs and a porch swing, complete with cushions. Add potted plants for a touch of vibrant greenery, lantern wall sconces for illumination, and outdoor rugs for coziness. Don't forget the entryway. Make it more inviting with seasonal wreaths and a cheerful welcome mat.

- Board 'n batten siding: Imparting a rustic,

• See **FARMHOUSE** page 20



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...CAWTHORN continued from page 10

of carrying a switchblade-style knife onto school properties despite warnings from two county sheriffs (potential violations of state law), an attempt to carry a handgun onto a commercial flight from Asheville (a possible violation of federal law), and failure to pay Henderson County property taxes on time. Unpaid taxes expose property to lien and foreclosure.

Former Henderson County Sheriff George Erwin, who in 2020 endorsed Cawthorn's candidacy and urged other sheriffs and law enforcement officers to do likewise, has reversed his position and now apologizes to those he may have persuaded to support the charismatic Cawthorn.

"I know law enforcement is not enamored of him now," Erwin said in an interview with Asheville Watchdog. "He says he 'backs the blue,' but the closest thing I can say to describe him now is 'snake-oil salesman.'"

Extreme Speeding

On Dec. 3, 2019, days before Cawthorn filed his candidacy for the congressional race he ultimately won, he was cited for speeding in Clayton County, Georgia, a southern suburb of Atlanta. He also was given a second citation for having an expired license tag, according to the county court clerk. He paid fines totaling \$445.

Since then, the congressman has been cited for three driving violations that fit the North Carolina definition of "extreme speeding," commonly known as reckless driving, because the speeds were more than 15 miles per hour above the legal limit.

Last Oct. 18 on Interstate 40, near Swannanoa, Cawthorn was cited by a state trooper going 89 miles per hour — 24 miles per hour over the posted limit — in a white Dodge Challenger with the license plate Maddy1. Cawthorn told the trooper that he did not have a wallet or a driver's license. "Really?" he asked when the trooper told him his car was registered to his father.

Cawthorn could have faced a 20-day jail sentence plus a fine.

However, in an out-of-court settlement on March 4, the "extreme speeding" charge was reduced to a routine speeding ticket, according to North Carolina court records.

Three months later, in Polk County, Cawthorn was cited for driving 87 miles per hour in a 70 miles-per-hour zone, legally considered reckless driving. A court hearing on that charge is set for April 18.

Then on March 3, according to another citation, North Carolina Trooper T.J. Gantt stopped Cawthorn in a Toyota

• See CAWTHORN page 21

...FARMHOUSE continued from 19

handmade quality to any home, even those built-in contemporary styles, "board 'n batten" is a centuries-old siding design that encapsulates the appeal of farmhouse-style homes. The term "batten" refers to the strip of molding placed across the joint between boards. The resulting look boasts an attractive geometry of strong vertical lines balanced by a sense of texture across the horizontal face. While the look is traditional, you can pair it with the very latest in siding technology. For example, CedarMAX Insulated Siding from ProVia comes in many styles, including board 'n batten. This complete thermal cladding system offers continuous insulation for maximum energy savings. With five times greater impact resistance than regular siding and a weather barrier shield, this is not just a charming aesthetic upgrade, but one that will improve the comfort of your home for years to come.

• Metal roofing: There's a reason metal roofing plays prominently into the design of authentic farmhouses -- they are built to last. That's truer than ever today, thanks to advances in metal roofing technology. Offering superior color retention, long-term

reliability, energy efficiency and environmental friendliness, architectural-grade metal shingle roofing is an upgrade that can add both beauty and value to your home. In the case of ProVia's Metal Slate Roofing, which is designed to look like classic quarried slate shingles, you can draw on the beauty of nature in shades of gray and brown, while enjoying proven protection from hail, wind, rain, and corrosion.

• Interior touches: Restyle your home's interior to be farmhouse-inspired with a few renovations. Classic looks include neutral walls, such as matte shades of beige, grays and creams, shabby chic furniture -- think wicker, distressed wood and reclaimed lumber -- and hardwood flooring. Consider dusting off a few hand-me-downs or visiting antique shops and estate sales for one-of-a-kind finds. Above all, be sure to prioritize comfort, warmth, and practicality.

To embrace everything that a home should be -- an inviting place to gather with friends and family -- add farmhouse-style touches to your home, indoors and out.

...CAWTHORN continued from page 20

Tacoma pick-up after seeing the vehicle swerve over a highway center line near Shelby in Cleveland County, about midway between Asheville and Charlotte. Gantt ticketed Cawthorn for driving with a revoked license, which may have been the result of prior speeding convictions. If convicted of this offense at a court appearance scheduled for May 6, the congressman again faces a misdemeanor sentence of up to 20 days in jail and a fine.

Cawthorn did not respond to Asheville Watchdog's requests to comment for this article. His spokesman, Luke Ball, also didn't return calls, although he had given a statement to Raleigh television station WRAL saying, "Our office expects the traffic matters to be resolved quickly."

First Brush With the Law

Cawthorn's first brush with the law came barely two months after his 16th birthday. On Oct. 13, 2011, the newly licensed teenager was cited for traveling 89 miles per hour in a 65 miles-per-hour zone. A judge agreed to a reduced charge of going 74 miles-per-hour in that zone, just below the reckless-driving level where Cawthorn's license could have been suspended or revoked.

Less than a year later, on Aug. 18, 2012, Cawthorn was cited on an unknown charge that has been expunged from the court record.

Cawthorn's driving citations continued even after the crippling injuries he sustained in 2014 while riding as a passenger in a car driven by a friend while returning from a Florida vacation. The friend lost control of his car on Interstate 4 near Daytona and crashed into a highway barrier.

Cawthorn, according to the accident record and subsequent testimony in a lawsuit against the driver's insurance policy, was asleep in the passenger seat. The crash left the then-18-year-old a paraplegic who uses a wheelchair and drives with hand controls.

Six of the speeding citations on his record have come since then, including two at speeds above 80 miles per hour. One of those came on April 21, 2016, in Pickens County, South Carolina, just west of Greenville.

A state trooper timed Cawthorn driving "more than 25 MPH over the speed limit," according to the citation. It was reduced in court to speeding between 10 and 15 miles per hour over the limit.

South Carolina Highway Patrol

• See CAWTHORN page 22

...CHILD continued from page 1

of the waterfall.

Recovery operations throughout the night and early morning led to the child being recovered from the waterfall around 1am on Monday, April 11.

The child has been identified as Nevaeh Jade Newswanger, age 3, of Denver, PA. The Newswanger family has been residing in Oconee County, SC while working in the area.

Jackson County Sheriff Chip Hall offered his condolences for the family and cautions others about the dangers associated with visits to scenic areas such as White-

water Falls.

"First and foremost, our prayers are with the Newswanger Family as they grieve the loss of this precious young child. With the onset of spring weather, we need to be reminded of the dangers associated with many scenic areas of the region such as waterfalls," he said. "While beautiful to view from a safe distance, venturing out closer to the falls for any reason brings tremendous danger. Always remain at a distance, follow safety precautions and warnings which are in place, and view waterfalls from designated viewing areas."



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Whitewater Falls, at more than 400 feet high, is one of the tallest waterfalls east of the Rockies, and one of the most deadly. At least 15 people have died at the waterfall since 1995, including a rescue squad member in 2020 who died during a rescue, of a 24-year-old who went over the falls the night before.



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Holy & Week & Easter

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
520 Main St. Highlands, NC

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 14
5:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY – April 15
Noon

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
April 16
8 pm

**THE FEAST OF THE
RESURRECTION:
EASTER SUNDAY – April 17**
9 am & 11:15 am

EASTER EGG HUNT
Easter Sunday
10:30 a.m.

*All Services are held in the
Main Sanctuary*

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...CAWTHORN continued from page 21

spokesman Sonny Collins said that reduction was approved by the judge during the court hearing, thus dropping the charge below reckless driving. Collins said traffic-court judges frequently “give speeders a break to reduce the number of points they get on their record” and to reduce the size of a fine.

The record for that citation also includes the FBI’s National Crime Information Center code number indicating “EXTORT-THREAT INJURE REPUTATION.” Collins said he could find no incident report or other information relating to that notation. Asheville Watchdog’s attempts to reach the trooper were unsuccessful. At the time, Cawthorn was working as a staff assistant in the local congressional office of then-Rep. Mark Meadows, a job that entailed answering constituent calls and preparing a review of local news media.

Less than six months later, on Oct. 7, 2016, the 21-year-old Cawthorn, newly enrolled as a freshman at Patrick Henry Col-

lege in Purcellville, VA., was ticketed on the charge “follow too close.”

The record in the Loudoun General District Court shows that Cawthorn was “Tried in Absentia” on January 27, 2017, after he had dropped out of the school. He paid a \$100 fine and \$96 in court costs. The ticketing officer, Purcellville Police Sgt. Paul Kakol, did not return repeated phone calls for comment.

Joy Rides and Predatory Behavior

Cawthorn’s driving habits before and while he was enrolled at Patrick Henry drew other complaints from schoolmates, mostly women. In an article in World magazine, which carries the motto “Sound journalism, grounded in facts and Biblical truth,” three women described Cawthorn as being “sexually aggressive” toward them after being invited to accompany him on a car ride.

The article ran in August 2020, after Cawthorn had won the Republican nomination in the congressional race. A few weeks later but before the general election, more than 150 alumni and Patrick Henry classmates of Cawthorn signed an on-line petition detailing their complaints featuring these car rides. The petition read:

“During his brief time at the college, Cawthorn established a reputation for predatory behavior. His modus operandi was to invite unsuspecting women on ‘joy rides’ in his white Dodge Challenger. Cawthorn would take young women to secluded areas, lock the doors, and proceed to make unwanted sexual advances. It became a regular warning in the female dorms not to be caught alone with Madison Cawthorn. Additionally, he referred to female students as ‘bitches’ and ‘sluts,’ both in private amongst his friends and often publicly. He also called our female peers these derogatory names when they refused to go for a ride in his car.”

At that time, one of the petition signers, Giovanna Lastra, was a senior and student counselor at the college in a female dorm. In

an interview with the Asheville Watchdog, Lastra said so many students complained of being victimized by Cawthorn in this manner that she warned others that, if invited by him to go on a “joy ride,” to “stay away; he’s trouble.”

Cawthorn dropped out of the conservative-Christian school in early 2017 before completing his second semester. He later attributed that decision to his having suffered a “broken heart” because his then-girlfriend had broken off their engagement.

Since his election to Congress in the state’s 11th District, Cawthorn has cultivated a national reputation for publicity seeking and backing right-wing causes. He was a featured speaker at ex-President Trump’s “Stop-the-steal” rally preceding the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, and is listed to be a featured speaker at a Trump rally in Selma, NC, on April 9.

He frequently takes to the House floor to attack President Joe Biden, all Democrats, moderate Republicans and especially House Speaker Pelosi. He recently and falsely told a gathering of his supporters and in a Twitter variation that he could personally attest that Pelosi was a drunk. Pelosi’s associates say she does not drink alcohol, and previous reports alleging her drinking have been debunked.

Embracing Conspiracy Theories

He also is quick to embrace far-right conspiracy theories, such as those emanating from the QAnon cult. At a Hendersonville GOP candidates’ forum in March, Cawthorn claimed that a hiking and bicycling trail being completed along the abandoned Ecusta railroad connecting Hendersonville and Brevard was “absolutely a communist project,” part of a Chinese government scheme to control abandoned railroad land throughout the United States.

Last month Cawthorn took credit for obtaining \$200,000 in

• See CAWTHORN page 23



Family Classes at Scaly Mountain Crafters

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Choose from 5 different pen styles. Cost: \$40-50 per person and includes laser engraving.

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Each Class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.

...CAWTHORN

continued from page 22

federal funds for the town of Sylva, spending he voted against in Congress.

The Ecusta project has been championed by state Sen. Chuck Edwards, who happens to be Cawthorn's leading challenger in the District 11 GOP primary. It has been unanimously backed by local lawmakers, most of whom are Republican, and was developed by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a national non-profit organization created during the Reagan Administration. Brandi Horton, the organization's communications director, told Asheville Watchdog that Cawthorn's allegation is false, adding that, "This is a first for us."

It echoed a charge Cawthorn leveled in his 2020 election campaign falsely claiming that thousands of American children were being kidnapped by South American drug cartels and forced into sex slavery, a trope of far-right conspiracy theorists despite being debunked by the FBI, Homeland Security and other agencies.

• See CAWTHORN page 30

Invest in our planet...



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Join us for our annual Potato Supper



Friday, April 22, 5-6:30pm
Carpenter Community Bldg, 1288 Georgia Rd. Franklin

**Baked Potato with all the fixings, drink and dessert
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April 23

8:30am - Noon

**It's time to spring clean our community!
And we need a little help from our friends.**

**We'll begin at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park,
Pine Street, Highlands.**

**A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.
Participants receive a free t-shirt.**



**To participate, send an email to
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This event is hosted by the
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For more information: highlandschamber.org or 828-526-5841
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Holy Week Schedule 2022



Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Highlands, NC
Olmhighlands.com

Holy Thursday Mass: April 14
6 pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: April 15
12 Noon

Confessions: Friday, April 15:
12:30-1 pm

Good Friday Liturgy: April 15
3 pm

Holy Saturday Liturgy: April 16
8 pm

Easter Sunday Mass - April 17

Our Lady of the Mountains at 11 am
St. Jude's (Sapphire Valley) at 9 am

...OBITUARIES continued from page 4

Romonía Imogene Picklesimer

Romonía Picklesimer, 68 of Highlands, NC went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday April 5, 2022 at Mission Hospital due to a brief illness.

She was born May 2, 1953 in Rabun County, GA to the late Lyman "Red" Talley and Minnie "Leora" Carver Talley. She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Jackson Picklesimer; sister, Revylon Carver; brothers, Ronald Talley, Russell Talley and Randolph Talley; and one grandchild, Gwen Rhoden.

Romonía worked for various businesses, but her last job was a CNA for Highlands Cashiers Hospital where she had to leave due



to a disability. She loved hunting, traveling, doing flowers, working in the flower garden, doing genealogy, cutting a rug and just being silly.

She was a member of Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Samantha K. Phillips (Anthony Benfield) of Highlands NC; a step daughter, Christy Rhoden (Thomas) of Clearwater SC; four sisters, Reba Webb of West Union SC, Rena Carver of Seneca SC, Rodean Wilson (David) of Liburn GA, Roberta Barnes of Highlands NC; two brothers, Relton Talley of GA, and Rabun Talley (Ferri) of Gastonia NC; seven grandchildren, McKenzie Vitola, Madison Baker, Catlin Rhoden, Memphis Phillip, Mitchell Phillips, Dominic Benfield and Billy Joe; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

...PRIMARY continued from page 1

pleted for all local offices including Macon County Board of Commissioners District I, District II, Clerk of Superior Court, and Macon County Sheriff.

District I:

Ellijay, Flats, Highlands and Sugarfork.

Don Willis

Don Willis' decision to run for public office first came two years ago after he retired from the

Macon County Sheriff's Office. This election marks Willis' first time seeking an elected office.

"I decided two years ago that after I retired, I would run for office and give the citizens of Macon County a full-time commissioner," said Willis. "With my 30-plus years of public service, I am very familiar with the all the departments of the county and its employees. I have the experience and the leadership to work with my fellow commissioners to bring us all into the future."

Willis has been married to his wife Robin for the last 42 years and has two adult children, Amber Wright and Justin Willis, and four grandchildren.

With three decades of public service to Macon County, Willis has served as the former Macon County Fire Marshal and is retired as a Lieutenant with the Macon County Sheriff's Office.

Willis' career in public service first began in 1988 as a volunteer firefighter with the Franklin Fire Department. By 1991 he received his certification as a firefighter Level I and Level II and by 1993



Don Willis



John Shearl

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...PRIMARY continued from page 24

was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician.

In 1995 Willis was certified as fire/arson Investigator, which opened the door to serve as Macon County's Fire Marshal prior to beginning his career in law enforcement.

In 2005 Willis was certified as a Certified Accelerant Detection Canine Handler by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Agency and began working with his partner K9 Christine.

Willis received the North Carolina Certificate of Leadership Development for Law Enforcement Managers in 2013. In 2020 prior to retirement Willis completed the North Carolina State Department of Justice Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and received the North Carolina State Department of Justice Advanced Service Award in the same year.

What do you see as the biggest issue facing Macon County? How would you address it if elected?

"Our infrastructure is in need of repair. A plan must be developed and adhered to," said Willis.

Commissioners are faced with increased requests for public education funding. What is your stance on county's role in funding public education? Do you think the current levels are adequate or do you think they should be increased/decreased? Do you support the sales tax referendum that will be placed on the ballot in November?

"The children of our county need to feel safe and have the best education that we can provide," said Willis. "Currently we are faced with overcrowding, inadequate pre-k classrooms and dated facilities. The need for a new Franklin High School is on the horizon and must be addressed as well as renovations for the Highlands and Nantahala schools. So yes, I am in favor of public funding for our children. Our current levels will need to be increased to fund those needs. Currently the commissioners have placed a sales tax referendum on the ballot in November that will help in funding these needs and I am strongly in favor of."

Macon County has completed a large space needs analysis project to address infrastructure needs. What are your thoughts on the current direction the county is taking to address these issues?

"I was a part of the Space Needs Assessment that was completed in November of 2019 by Moseley Architects. Little to no action has been taken since the study has been completed," said Willis. "We must get

back on tract and adhere to a plan for the future."

Any other issues or info you would like to include for your voters?

"I believe if we are to be good stewards of taxpayer money, Commissioners must have the time to put forth," said Willis. "As your next County Commissioner, I will be your full-time commissioner. Having been a 30-year public servant serving as commissioner would allow me the honor to continue my service to the citizens of Macon County. Vote Don Willis."

John Shearl:

John Shearl and his wife Lila have three sons, Allen, Michael, and Jared as well as two daughters-in-law Sarah Kimsey and Jenna Jasinski. Shearl's children have added grandchildren to the mix: Cameron, Weston, Ruby, and Peyton.

Shearl is a lifelong conservative Republican, a 35-year self-employed small business owner in Macon County, a NC Licensed Contractor, founder of Shearl Produce of Otto, and a retired firefighter from Highlands.

"As a 35-year small business owner in Macon County, I have signed payroll checks on the front not on the back," said Shearl. "I have been responsible for my business's budget and my family's finances as well. I know how to do more with less. I believe my past and present business experience and deep conservative values would make me a great steward of your tax dollars, adopting a budget and living inside the budget. Operating the government is like any other business."

Shearl, who has run for commissioner in the past, said he is running for office with specific issues in mind.

"To bring true conservative leadership to the District 1 County Commissioner Seat," said Shearl. "Vote for low taxes, freedom and private property rights."

What do you see as the biggest issue facing Macon County? How would you address it if elected?

"TAXES. Vote for low taxes, spend tax dollars wisely, don't overtax the taxpayers. Our citizens on a fixed income cannot afford to pay more in taxes."

Commissioners are faced with increased request for public education funding. What is your stance on county's role in funding public education? Do you think the current levels are adequate or do you think they should be increased/decreased? Do you support the sales tax referendum that will be placed on the ballot in November?

"Maintain what we have and explore

what we need," said Shearl. "How are we going to pay more? Can we pay more without raising taxes? NO!"

Macon County has completed a large space needs analysis project to address infrastructure needs. What are your thoughts on the current direction the county is taking to address these issues?

"As a conservative leader, I would need to be 100 percent convinced of the need," said Shearl. "I would want to explore any and all options of the need. I would want to know complete, factual cost and design. I would want to know how we are going to pay for it. Can we do it without raising taxes? Once all of the studies are complete, then I would recommend that we present the whole factual report to the taxpayers/citizens for their approval."

Any other issues or info you would like to include for your voters?

"I am a lifelong conservative Republican, a 35-year small business owner," said

Shearl. "I will strive to be among the best commissioners who has ever served the people of Macon County. I will be a commissioner 'Of the People, By the People and For the People.' I will vote for low taxes, freedom and private property rights. The voters of Macon County have a great opportunity to elect a true conservative businessman in District 1 that will work hard for the citizens of Macon County. Follow me on Facebook at John Shearl for Commissioner District 1. You do not have to live in District 1 to vote for John Shearl, it is a county-wide election. All Republicans and Unaffiliated voters can vote for John Shearl in District 1. Early voting starts April 28th through May 14th and election day is May 17. I humbly ask for your support and vote in the upcoming May Primary."

• Next week we will meet the Board of Commissioner candidates for District 2.



First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2022

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Maudy Thursday Service & Dinner

6PM in Coleman Hall

Come for a light dinner followed by a worship service that includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Easter Sunday

10AM: Adult Education Class

Children's Class

11AM: Easter Celebration Sunday Service

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Brass Quintet and Timpani

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Rev. Curtis Fussell & Rev. Emily Wilmarth, Pastors



May the gift of Easter find its way into your heart

Rev. Bentley Manning
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

— John 15:11

During the season of Easter, we celebrate the inexhaustible mystery of God's good future breaking into our world even now - a sure and certain hope that trusts the chains of death have been broken and the doors of Hell have not prevailed. Now is the time when we, with the rest of the Church, celebrate the beautiful, life-changing truth that the Body of Christ has claimed victory over the sting of death, the power of sin, and all the forces of wickedness.

Of course, to be a people committed - indeed united - to such a truth will mean our lives have been changed and marked in particular ways. I can imagine few characteristics more central to a life transformed by the power of the resurrection than that of joy.

Christian joy, however, should not be confused with putting on a false grin amid real pain or any dishonest cheerfulness. This is certainly not what such a virtue names or describes. Instead, Christian joy - the joy of the resurrection - is the result of a life caught up into God's own life. To be united with God will mean the resentment, anger, and conceit which so often shape our lives will give way to a love bigger than we could ever engineer on our own. To be sure, Easter breaks open our hearts and allows us to inhabit a world where mercy and grace define the way we understand ourselves, others, and everything around us.

There is so very much in our world which is ready to rob us of the gift of Easter joy - so very much that tries to deny the power of reconciliation and cross-shaped love. Yet the Easter message and the power of the empty tomb proclaims, rather surprisingly, that grief and loss, despair and hopelessness, sin and death do not have the final word. Instead, life and resurrection - indeed God alone - God alone has the last word.

May the empty tomb and the gift of Easter find its way into your heart, making joy possible in surprising and life-changing ways.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Proverbs 3:5

PLACES TO WORSHIP

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinar

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

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

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

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Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services in the Chapel: 8 am Rite I spoken, 10:30 Rite II with Choir; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in the Chapel
Ash Wed. services March 2, 12 p.m., & 5 p.m.

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

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 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

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April
mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

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; 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: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • ufranklin.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 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 28

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the parking lot of the Farmers Market gas station at NC 106 and Main.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 4

April 4

• At 11:15 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Forest Trail.

April 5

• At 8:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Walhalla Road.

• At 12:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

April 7

• At 5:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Oak Street.

April 8

• At 11:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

April 12

• At 8:17 a.m., the dept. assisted the public at a location on Fifth Street.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Thurs., April 14

• Italian Inspired Spring Fling at The Farm with Executive Chef, Craig Richards. Book online at OldEdwardsInn.com

• Winter stories will be held at the High Dive from 2-4, a casual gathering of story swapping. Come, Tell, Listen.

• Wildflower Walk at the Highlands Nature Center from noon to 1 p.m. 828.526.2623 paige@highlandsbiological.org

Fri.-Sun., April 15-17

• Movie at The Playhouse: "Everything Everywhere All at Once" 1 & 4 p.m. www.mountaintheatre.com

Fri., April 15

• At the Village Green in Cashiers, Stations of the Cross at 4 p.m. on Good Friday. This walking devotional experience with 14 readings.

Sat., April 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderately strenuous hike on Saturday from Winding Stairs Gap to Panther Gap. This is a five-mile out and back hike on the AT, with some hilly sections. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 AM, across from the Burger King, and carpool to Winding Stairs on Hwy 64 W. Bring windbreaker jacket and hat, lunch, snacks and fluids as needed. Call hike leader David Stearns at 828-349-7361 for more information or in case of bad weather.

• At the Village Green in Cashiers the 12th Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children 11 years and younger starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Children will be divided according to age in three separate areas. Please bring baskets. The Easter Bunny will be there for photos and will hand out books with the Literacy Council of Cashiers and The Albert Carlton Library.

Sun. April 17

• The Cashiers Community Sunday Sunrise Service will be at 7 a.m. with a service featuring live music by The Lost Chords. Please bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, the Cashiers Area Clergy will move the service inside Lewis Hall beside the Common's Lawn. Please bring your

own lawn chairs.

Sat. April 16

• Early Bird Stroll at the Highlands Nature Center from 8-9 a.m. 828.526.2623 paige@highlandsbiological.org

Tues., April 19

• Nature 101: Beautiful Blooms at the Highlands Nature Center from 1-2 p.m. Call 828.526.2623 or email paige@highlandsbiological.org for more information.

Wed. April 20

• Early Bird Stroll at the Highlands Nature Center from 8-9 a.m. 828.526.2623 paige@highlandsbiological.org

Thurs., April 21

• Wildflower Walk at the Highlands Nature Center from noon to 1 p.m. 828.526.2623 paige@highlandsbiological.org

Fri. April 22

• The first-ever Justice Matters Tours at our Highlands/Cashiers office to find out how you can join Pisgah Legal Services in standing for justice. This interactive in-person tour is 10-11:30 a.m. and delves into how Pisgah Legal addresses domestic violence, housing, immigration, access to healthcare, and community economic development and explains how community members can get involved. Tours take place at Pisgah Legal Services, 209 Hospital Dr., Suite 203, Highlands, NC. Limited space available. RSVP to Megan Quattlebaum at 828-575-1353 or email Megan@pisgahlegal.org.

• The Democratic Women of Macon County will hold an Earth Day Potato Supper, Friday, at the Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Road. Supper includes a baked potato, all the fixings, a dessert and a drink. \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Eat in or carry out from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Democratic candidates for the US Congressional seat will be greeting voters. Tickets may be purchased from members of Democratic Women or by calling (678) 357-7718.

Sat. April 23

• Annual Plateau Pickup 8:20a-noon. Meet at K-H Founders Park on Pine St. for a light breakfast and free T-shirt. Lunch will be provided too after the pickup. To participate, email events@highlandschamber.org.

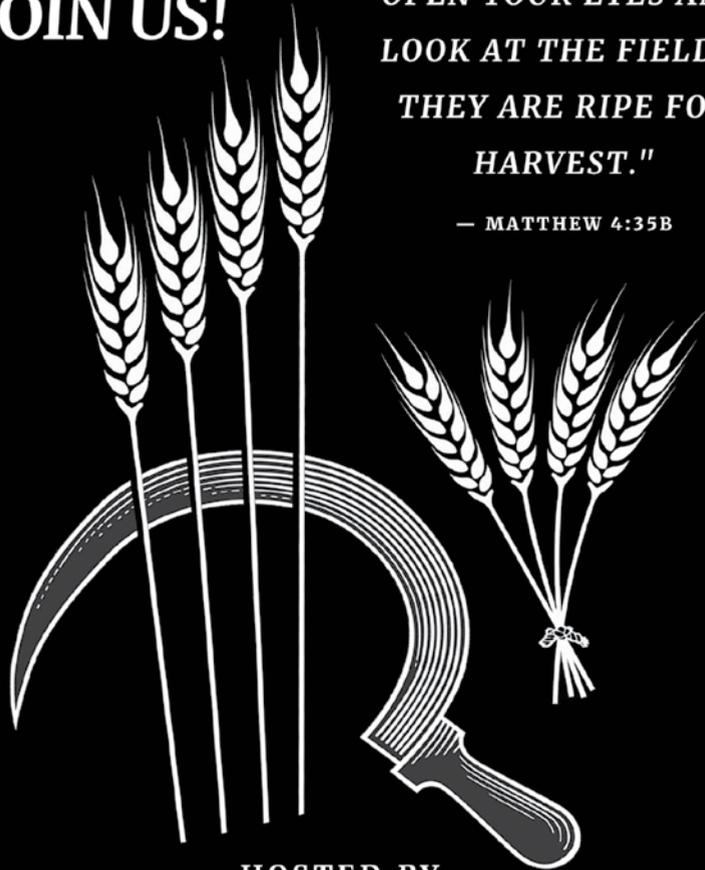
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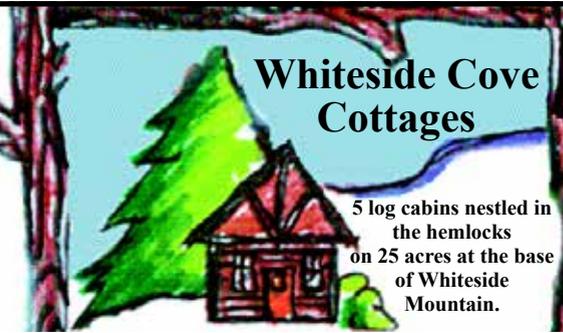
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...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 29

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...CAWTHORN continued from page 23

Whether Cawthorn will evade consequences for all of this may be determined by District 11 voters in the state's May 17 primary elections. He faces seven challengers for the GOP nomination.

Among them is Michele Woodhouse. Until recently, she was the Republican Party's District 11 chairwoman and was among Cawthorn's strongest backers. When he announced plans to abandon District 11 to seek reelection in a friendlier adjoining district, he anointed Woodhouse to be his successor and promised to deliver her the endorsement of Trump.

Based on that pledge, she jumped into the Republican race positioning herself as the Cawthorn surrogate. But in February the state Supreme Court ordered congressional district lines to be redrawn, and Cawthorn reversed course, filing to seek reelection in his original western North Carolina

home district. Woodhouse has refused to back out. She has joined the Cawthorn critics in calling him "immature" and an embarrassment to western North Carolina.

Through much of this, Cawthorn publicly appears unfazed, even embracing the controversies he fans.

"I don't mind being hated," he told students at Western Carolina University last fall. "Because if I'm hated in Washington, DC but loved at home in North Carolina and loved around the rest of the country, that means I'm doing my job."

• *This story was printed with permission from Asheville Watchdog. Asheville Watchdog is a non-profit news team producing stories that matter to Asheville and Buncombe County. Tom Fiedler is a Pulitzer Prize-winning political reporter and former executive editor of The Miami Herald. He lives in Asheville. Email tfiedler@anvwatchdog.org.*

...HEHN continued from page 1

April 12 at 4 p.m.

In closed session – which Commissioner Hehn was asked not to attend -- the Highlands Board of Commissioners reviewed a letter from Hehn's attorney requesting redline documents related to the Hotwire contract.

Though neither Town Manager Josh Ward nor Town Attorney Jay Coward have the draft documents and have said so repeatedly, the board directed the town attorney to ask the lawyers who assisted with the contract negotiations from Raleigh and Washington, DC, Jim Baller of Keller & Hickman and Gabriel Du Sablon of Cauley Pridgen, to determine if they had any draft documents from the Hotwire contract.

"If Mr. Baller and/or Mr. De Sablon have any relevant documents they are authorized to provide the documents to the town attorney who can then release them to Mr. Hehn's attorney," said Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor.

The other item discussed in closed session was another letter from Commissioner Hehn's attorney concerning his requested underground electric service removal from his property.

"The town attorney was directed to respond to the letter explaining the Town Board's position and decision on this matter," said Mayor Taylor.

At the March meeting, Commissioner John Dotson supplied a detailed account concerning the issue which led the board to vote unanimously to direct Commissioner Hehn to move the line at his expense and to take care of subsequent power to the adjoining property which would be affected by the removal.

"The plats are recorded," said Dotson. "The first was done by Woodow Wilson, the second one was done by Steve Foster. Mr. Hehn's attorney actually referenced in his deed, the survey which shows the box in existence.

"My take is that if Mr. Hehn wants the box removed more power to him at his expense. The box was there when he bought it. He knew it was there when he bought it. But if Mr. Hehn is going to move it, Mr. Hehn needs to take care of Mr. Taylor's power at Mr. Hehn's expense.

"This survey is in the deed. This is the nail in the coffin. When you take possession of something that is shown on the ground and you reference it in your deed, you're done.

"Based on that, if Mr. Hehn wants to move the box to a more appropriate location

for himself, OK. But he must take into full consideration Mr. Taylor's existing electric service which needs to start and stop exactly where it is now; unless Mr. Taylor decides he would like his service to come to another place. At which point he can dictate to Mr. Hehn what is allowable," said Dotson,

The board voted unanimously to deny the request that the town move the underground power line and to put the burden of moving or changing anything regarding power to his and Taylor's house on him.

Hehn said he the subject Lot 8 Revised, Glendale Subdivision on Nov. 20, 2019, and said he was told by his attorney Fred Jones that there were no easements recorded.

"To the best of our knowledge and belief, in 2018, the town constructed an underground power line across our lot to serve 950 Wilson Road without benefit of an easement. And, the town located a new pad mounted transformer on our lot at the same time, also without benefit of an easement. We understand the town's position is if there is no objection in seven years, the line and transformer can remain.

"We are making plans to construct a new home on our lot. Please remove the power line ... remnants and the transformer which damages our lot and restricts the location of the new home," his letter read.

Budget

During the budget part of the workshop commissioners heard Ward's numbers on capital expenses in each of the departments: Street, Sanitation, Electric, Water & Sewer, Police, MIS/GIS and Administration.

The total requested for street department needs – sidewalks, paving and equipment is \$1,011,000

The total for the sanitation department is \$165,000; the electric \$310,000; the water & sewer \$2,858,100, police \$164,500 and MIS/GIS Dept \$65,000.

The other item discussed at length was Cost of Living increases for employees. This year Ward suggested 6% – which the board agreed to with the stipulation that the salaries of all the employees be looked to make sure everyone was getting a minimum of \$15 an hour.

"But no one can even live off \$15 an hour," said Commissioner Dotson.

The board didn't vote on the issue but asked Ward to continue work on the budget and to include \$194,500 in the budget for the COLA increase.

– Kim Lewicki

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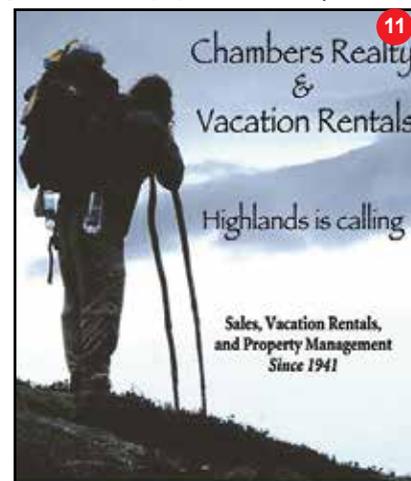
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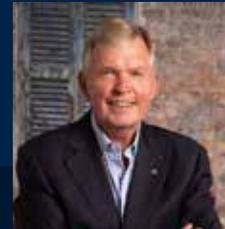
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