

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 19, Number 3 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., Jan. 20, 2022

Izzy makes Highlands a wonderland

Weather forecasts predicting 12-18 inches of snow destined for Highlands late Saturday, Jan. 15 through Sunday, Jan. 16, shifted Macon County Emergency Services, Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, Police Chief Andrea Holland

and Duke Energy representatives into high gear.

People flocked to area grocery stores in anticipation of pending Winter Storm Izzy stocking up in case getting out became impossible. All four entities broadcasted

warnings.

“Forecast snow amounts vary greatly, but there is potential for significant snowfall unlike any we have seen in Macon County in several years,” said EMS Director

• See **IZZY** page 16

MC Schools working on offering Pre-K in Highlands

AHEC study proves there is a need

By **Brittney Lofthouse**

Over the last few months, the Macon County Board of Education and school district staff have been working on ways to expand educational opportunities in Highlands through the addition of a preschool classroom.

Macon County Schools Preschool Director Brooke Keener gave an overview of Pre-K throughout Macon County Schools in November and informed the board then that there was a great need for a preschool program at Highlands School.

At the time, the Advance

• See **Pre-K** page 10



Highlands School Varsity swimmers, Finneas Garner and Bria Taylor.

HS varsity swim team swims well in Franklin

Steve Hott, Head Coach

Highlands School Swimming and Diving

On Saturday, January 22, the Highlands School varsity swim

team traveled to Franklin to swim against Franklin, Smoky Mountain, Tri-County Early College, and Hayesville.

• See **SWIMS** page 7

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Public input sought about allowing bear hunting in Panthertown

Groups against change urge the public to say 'no.'

By **Brittney Lofthouse**

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has proposed a rule change that would allow bear hunting by permit in the Panthertown-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has the authority, granted by the Legislature, to create regulations called “rules” which although not state law, have the force of law.

NCWRC estimates that if the current rules are changed, 521 permits would be issued for the sanctuary in 2022 at a cost of \$8 each.

In August 2018, the Nantahala Ranger District formally requested that the Commission allow permit bear hunting on Panthertown Bear Sanctuary due to the increase and severity of bear conflicts. This is

part of an integrative management approach in which regulated hunting and food storage would be implemented to manage bear populations and bear conflicts.

The proposal to open permit hunt opportunities on three of the Bear Sanctuaries in the Mountain Bear Management Unit (MBMU) meets several objectives in the 2012-2022 Black Bear Management Plan, including the use of regulated hunting to manage the bear population. This proposal also meets the objective for bear sanctuaries. The proposal may also assist in addressing local human-bear conflicts by locally managing bear densities, removing problem bears, and reversing human-conditioned behavior being observed in local bears.

• See **BEAR HUNTING** page 22

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

It's better to be safe than sorry

Let me give you an account of the worries of a mayor. Recent worries started at the first of last week with a vague forecast of an impending winter storm. National forecasters were talking about a low-pressure area in the Pacific that would cross the US dumping large amounts of snow in the South and Northeast.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

At first, I thought those projections were exaggerations, but as the week progressed I, along with town staff, grew concerned. Nevertheless, Lamar Nix, our Public Works Director, started preparations for a winter storm. By Friday plowing equipment was attached to the trucks. Electric crews had chains on line trucks and were ready to respond to outages. Our fire department had chained up too, and the police had secured hotel rooms so officers could maintain shifts around the clock.

On Friday morning my worries increased after meeting with our Town Manager, Josh Ward, and Lamar Nix. They informed me that weather forecasters for Duke Energy were predicting heavy snow for all of Western Carolina. Duke fore-

casters were predicting as much as 18 to 20 inches in areas at or above 4,000 feet. Since Highlands is 4,118, I became very worried.

If Highlands got 20 inches, the town would be in a disastrous shutdown similar to the blizzard of 1993. We all worried about potential risks to the health and safety of many residents. I worried that nothing could mitigate such a disastrous event.

I began going on the radio warning folks. I declared a state of emergency, a declaration that is essential for getting outside help and assistance. I started posting updates as events developed on my askmayor-pat.com website.

The storm was to begin on Saturday night, but I didn't sleep well Friday night. I had worries about what was facing Highlanders in the coming hours. I really worried about massive power outages where utility poles would snap under the heavy snow loads. Lamar was concerned about that prospect, too. If poles were destroyed, power restoration would take much longer.

On Saturday I continued to communicate with Josh and Lamar about preparations and the latest forecasts. I saw a Saturday forecast calling for 5 to 8 inches. It sparked my optimism that the storm would not be that bad. But then I looked further, that was the forecast for Saturday night, the forecast called for another 5 to 8 inches on Sunday. I went back to worry mode. My hope for this being a "weather nothing burger" faded.

Saturday night I waited for the power to fail. On Sunday morning with the snow continuing, I waited for that massive power failure. I worried about the power all Sunday and into the night. On Monday I worried about the power, but Josh and Lamar continued to report nothing more than minor spot outages.

We were all amazed by the good fortune Highlands had, at least 11 inches of snow yet the power grid held. We were lucky this time.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the storm. Plowing roads and cleanup will continue for

some time. I now have other worries, like more snow tomorrow. I am also now free to worry about the 7 pm ZOOM Town Board meeting tonight.

One thing I do not worry about is our town workers. They are fully committed to keeping the town operating. I can't say enough about their dedication and support.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 20-Jan	Fri, 21-Jan	Sat, 22-Jan	Sun, 23-Jan
39°F 27°F	28°F 19°F	33°F 15°F	34°F 16°F
Colder; rain in the morning	Very cold with 1-3" of snow	Partly sunny and cold	Partly sunny and chilly
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High: 37° Low: 30°	High: 28° Low: 21°	High: 34° Low: 18°	High: 36° Low: 9°

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WINTER HOURS

Monday-Friday
11a to 6p

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Leslie's Gobbler – Turkey, Havarti dill, shredded lettuce, cucumber, mayo on sub roll. \$12

Raw & Flawless – Spring Mix, avocado, hummus, red pepper, red onion, cucumber, Fermenti pickled carrots on wheat bread. \$14

The Godfather – Sopressa salami, shaved ham, pepperoni, red onion, smoked provolone, tomato, 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

This Week's Soup Specials

This week all of my soups will be veggie-based and filled with herbs and spices and packed with antioxidants and fresh ingredients to nourish your body.

Thursday

Coconut Milk-based Curry Chickpea Soup with mushrooms and sweet potatoes, lemongrass, tumeric and fresh cilantro. (Vegan)

Friday

Mediterranean Green Lentil Soup. This is a broth based soup loaded with kale, veggies, herbs and spices. (Vegan)

This Week's Side Specials

Street Corn Pasta Salad, Broccoli Slaw, Brussel Sprouts w/Pancetta

Follow me on Instagram for specials and any changes to the schedule
@thesecretgarden_market

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• LETTERS •

Imagine if you weren't allowed to vote...

Dear Editor,

Let's talk about the upcoming elections – not the candidates, but the voting. Regardless of your political leaning, there are a lot that we can agree on that is critical to our democracy. For example:

All citizens who meet eligibility requirements should be able to register to vote.

Each voter should have access to voting whether they live in the mountains of WNC or the cities of Raleigh and Durham.

All voters should be able to vote by mail or vote at convenient early voting times.

Voters should not be intimidated or threatened at any point.

Each eligible voter should be able to cast one ballot; it should be counted the same as every other ballot and reported accurately.

Big businesses and big money should not influence a politician more than an individual's vote.

Voting districts should be created using neutral standards (not Democratic, not Republican).

Voter registration should be available at each state's motor vehicle agency.

Imagine, if you go to the polls to vote next November and you are denied the right to vote. How would you feel? Depending on your answer, then the Voting Rights bill deserves your support.

Jean Wright
Franklin

STRs benefit far more than just the 'wedding industry'

Dear editor,

Mr. Willard's statement, "we are trying to bend to meet the needs of the wedding industry in our town," quoted in the Jan 13th edition of the Highlander and noted in Highlands Newspaper with the following statement: "Member Wendell Willard repeatedly suggested they [STRs] were mainly in existence for the wedding industry," is unfair and reflects bias in the process of trying to come to a solution for short term rentals that, I hope, will be put aside as this difficult issue is being processed through our town government.

Short-term rentals would have grown in Highlands regardless, as shown by short-term rental growth across the nation in tourist areas. It should come as no surprise that Highlands is and has been in the tourism/accommodations industry since its founding.

Many of our families, friends and neighbors are supported by tourism in Highlands. Appreciatively, most of our tourists, renters, and second homeowners are people who contribute to our community through our economy,



Judy Michaud & Mitzi Rauer

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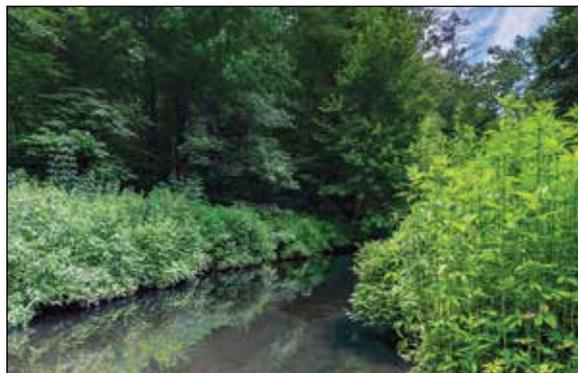
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BRUSHY FACE ACREAGE
\$3,500,000 | MLS# 97269

This property has a massive view into Blue Valley and is just a couple of miles from Main Street. It is a very tranquil, private setting with two ponds, a carport, a storage shed, and the foundation in the ground for a home. House plans were drawn by Mountainworks and are included in the sale. Can be subdivided; all sites will have spectacular views. Two great hiking trails on site that are maintained by the Highlands Land Trust. 10.01 acres.

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RIVERWALK ACREAGE
\$1,500,000 | MLS# 96959

10.44 acres on the Cullasaja River in gated Riverwalk community. Unrestricted and only a few minutes to downtown Highlands for shopping, dining, and entertainment. The property fronts Highway 64 for easy access in and out. There is a utility easement on file for access to town utilities with town approval. Don't miss this opportunity to build your mountain dream home on river front property in Highlands!

Faye Wurm: (828) 200-1345
John Bynum: (828) 200-0144



HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB
\$58,000 | MLS# 95792

Nice, gentle, 1.18 acre lot on Falls Drive West in Highlands Falls Country Club. This above-the-road lot can have some view of the mountains and of Eyebrow Ridge. The driveway is partially in. Community water and sewer are available at the road. The lot would lend itself to a two story home with a main level and lower level. Membership in Highlands Falls Country Club is available with club approval but optional.

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...SWIM continued from page 1

The team of just two freshmen, Finneas Garner and Bria Taylor finished 4th!

Both swimmers swam the 50 and 100 Freestyle and had best times in both. Garner scored 14 points and Taylor 6.

AAU Jr. Olympian Garner's times were both consideration times for regionals with his 50 free time (25.01) being 0.02 seconds away from the automatic time.

The next meet will be a last chance qualifying meet for Garner in Buncombe County January 29.

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...LETTERS continued from page 4

philanthropy, friendship, and cultural exchange.

Many members of our community were originally introduced to Highlands by a visit, and then decided to purchase a home at some point because of our unique and tight knit community.

Watching the growth over the years, it has been a mixture of different businesses and development that has made Highlands the town we are now. Regardless of whether you believe short-term rentals should be allowed at all, left unregulated, or something in between; the accelerated demand for this

type of business is the real underlying issue.

Let's please keep perspective and refrain from placing blame on any person, business, industry, government, or organization for the current growing pains. The STR issue has developed slowly over the years as a natural result of technological changes in our society.

Our town government should steer the process of regulating these rentals in an unbiased and fair manner. Thank you, to the members of the Town Board and planning board, for volunteering your time.

**Derek Taylor
Highlands**

• See LETTERS page 10

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• INK PENN •

Are you ready to relax with a good book?

I may write every day, but I read every night. Check out my recent reads. If you want intriguing and comfortable, go for the books that are parts of series I return to over and over. If you want disturbing and unsettling, then pick up the standalone novel. To each his own.

“The Dinner”

by Herman Koch

This is not a book for the faint of heart. It's about families, relationships, and bad decisions. I was riveted as those decisions and their consequences unfolded and shocked at the ending. It is a disturbing tale. Two brothers and their spouses meet for dinner, and what led to the dinner is revealed through flashbacks. The brothers' relationship is fraught with jealousy that has intensified through the years, but that is merely an underlying theme in a plot that focuses on recent happenings. I was engrossed in the tale, but this is not a book I want to revisit. The mark of a good book can be that its story stays with you, that it is haunting. In that regard, this was an excellent book. I'll say no more, lest I spoil it for you. Just know that I had to read several lighthearted mysteries to get this saga out of mind--to cleanse my palate, so to speak.

“Just One Damned Thing After Another” by Jodi Taylor

One of my newsletter subscribers recommended *The Chronicles of St. Mary's* to me last year, and this is the first in the series. I am now officially addicted and have read the first four books. I am trying to pace myself and read other books in between! What does that tell you?

St. Mary's is an organization loosely connected to a university in England--think something like Oxford. Their mission is to travel in time to document historical events, sometimes to check for accuracy in the historical record and sometimes to set the record straight. Max and Leon are the characters I root for, though I find myself completely engaged in the friendships, the professional competition, and yes, the nefarious deeds of villains.

I haven't been this hooked on a series since Harry Potter, BUT this is so much



Kathy Manos Penn

more than a fantasy world, with its depiction of historical events and people. It is set sometime in the 70s, maybe 80s--which I figured out only from musical references--like *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*. The dialogue is exceptionally witty. I sometimes find myself reading a sentence and not laughing until a sentence or two later, as the underlying wit creeps up on me! I strongly recommend you

give it a try!!

“Luck and Judgment”

by Peter Grainger

This is the third book in the DC Smith series. That I keep returning to this series set in the UK when I have way too many books on my TBR list should tell you how much I enjoy it. I find it comfortable, like sitting down with an old friend.

Smith is a widowed detective inspector--the letters DC are his initials, not his rank. He is a natural leader and coach, beloved by his team--a character I enjoy getting to know. The author does an excellent job of revealing additional bits about him as the series progresses. Smith is also a smart and dogged investigator. Does he always get his man or woman? No, and he's haunted by those that get away, though he's more often successful than not.

The blurb says, “Perfect for fans of Colin Dexter, Ruth Rendell, P D James, R D Wingfield or even John le Carre.” I'm not sure I'd go as far as le Carre, but I agree with the comparison to the other authors. If you like mysteries set in the UK, mysteries populated with characters you'd like to know better, then this is a series to pick up. Start with Book I, “An Accidental Death.”

There you go, three choices for a cold winter's night. Enjoy!

• 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/.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

In 2022, may your 'ship' come in!

I love January in Highlands when the bears leave town for a little nap, and the locals come back to town because they can finally get into a restaurant.

It's also a great time for renewal and to set some goals.

For 2022 I tried to keep my goals simple, and they're not very real estate like. I call them "The Four Fs" (Faith, Family, Friends, and Fly Fishing). If I keep my thoughts, words, and actions centered around The Four Fs, I believe 2022 will be a great year in the real estate business.

As I focused on The Four Fs, I could not help but think about how blessed we are to live in Highlands, NC which led me into a sense of profound thankfulness for our town and the people we've met since moving here.

My 2022 wish (or goal) for you and yours is to share with you for a minute that your "ship will come in" during 2022, and Highlands is the place to find your ship; Relationship, Friendship, Stewardship, and Craftsmanship.

Relationship: My wife says it all the time, "God created us to be in relationship with others." Highlands is the flagship for relationship! The arts, music festivals, restaurant scene, and hiking trails are where relationships happen. Need an example? Have cocktails and eats around the bar at Wolfgang's one night and you'll see what I mean. All you need to do is show up!

Sportsmanship: There's a priority you will embrace in the mountains, and that's to spend more time outside than you spend inside. Whether you're into fly fishing, hiking, golf, pickle-ball, birding, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, paddle boarding, star-gazing ... or just sitting outside by the fire watching a football game ... sportsmanship abounds in Highlands.

Stewardship: Highlands is all about stewardship which Merriam Webster defines as "the responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Our Town of Highlands leadership, incredible



Pat Gleeson, BIC
White Oak Realty Group

public/private partnerships, and good old-fashioned love for the environment combine to provide you a lifestyle haven in Highlands.

The Highlands Greenway trail System, the Highlands Performing Arts Center, the post office, the rec center pool, the ice skating rink, the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the new fire department, and the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust all exist because someone cared enough to make a difference.

Craftsmanship: It's all about the architects, designers, builders, carpenters, and their chosen support vendors to envision, draw, craft, shape and finish the palate of our town. All these professional resources are yours to create a personal lifestyle expressly for you. You see it in the hotels like Old Edwards Inn and Highlands Inn; you see it in the establishments like Oak Steakhouse and The Ugly Dog; and you'll see it as you view a Jim Fox designed home or a David Bock built property at Highlands Cove. Find your "Haven," it's Heaven without the "e!"

Hopefully, your ship will come in in 2022. It's a ship built around having a plan and embracing a lifestyle.

Perhaps Ownership is another one of the "ships" in your life. If you own property now, congratulations, you've made an excellent investment choice. I'll make one shameless real estate plug. If Ownership in Highlands or Cashiers is on your radar in 2022, there are 312 professional real estate brokers who embrace Partnership, Salesmanship, and Friendship to help you figure it out. I'm off to practice The Four Fs!

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



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...LETTERS continued from page 8

In Appreciation

Dear Editor,

Bravo to Carol Gable of the Dog Mountain Property Owners Association. Her recent letter in the local newspapers was right on the money. I read the same Investing at 4,118 Ft. column she referred to in the December 30th issue of Highlands Newspaper, entitled "Sense and Sensibility" in which she pointed out Ms. Pat Allen's misinformation about short-term rentals in Highlands, specifically in our residential neighborhoods. I don't think Ms. Allen has ever tried to conceal her personal position on this subject, being the successful Realtor that she is, so we must take her comments with that knowledge in mind.

There have been plenty of erroneous claims trying to justify the existence of STRs in our town, trying to convince people that they are necessary, even vital, to our town's survival. Funny how Highlands has managed to thrive for decades without them. But there is one frequently repeated claim that particularly astonishes me. You know how you've just taken a sip of water or coffee or soda and at the same time you see or read something so unbelievable or bizarre that you do a double take and the coffee or whatever goes up into your nose and back out again? That's the feeling I get every time I read that the people who own these short-term rental properties need to rent them in

order to pay for them. What? You mean they couldn't afford those properties in the first place unless they could rent them? In this affluent town? Is that sound financial planning? If you can't afford something, you don't buy it, right? Or is that whole argument really just a ruse to disguise plain old-fashioned greed?

Anyway, that's my own particular pet peeve, among many, in this quarrel. But again, I'd like to commend Carol Gable for her informative, succinct, well constructed letter, unlike this loosely rambling one of mine.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

...Pre-K continued from page 1

Highlands Education Committee (AHEC) was in the midst of an Advanced Planning Study to determine the feasibility of establishing a preschool program in Highlands.

By December, Keener updated the board on AHEC's findings, which validated the need for an additional education offerings at Highlands School.

"AHEC and Macon County Schools are working to provide for two Pre-K classrooms at Highlands School," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "Currently, a lack of classroom space at Highlands School is prohibiting the school system from serving the student population. AHEC is working with NOVUS Architecture to consider options for creating a space Pre-K space at Highlands School. Macon County Schools is working to secure the funding for the staff needed for the two classrooms."

In order to accommodate the preschool classroom, a building addition would be needed at Highlands School. With available COVID19 relief funding, Macon

County Schools is looking at adding six classrooms to East Franklin Elementary, which will also include preschool space. Similar funding opportunities may be available to serve the Highlands area.

Blue Ridge School located in Cashiers was approved for grant funding last round to add a preschool program to their facility. The \$115,240 grant from the Blue Ridge School Education Foundation will provide funding for the startup costs for the additional classroom.

"We have long recognized the importance of early childhood education," BRSEF President Carl Hyde said. "We are pleased to exclusively fund the JCPS request for the initial funding of a second PreK classroom at Blue Ridge School for next school year."

Preschool programs and early childhood literacy are top priorities for Jackson County Superintendent Dr. Dana Ayers and Elementary Education Director Laura Dills.

"Dr. Ayers and I have been discussing the potential to expand our PreK programs, and now we

have this unique opportunity to serve even more students at Blue Ridge," Dills said.

The Jackson County district announced in December that it will add new preschool classrooms at Cullowhee Valley and Scotts Creek School for the 2022-'23 school year. Those two schools plus the addition at Blue Ridge will double the district's preschool classrooms from three to six.

However, Blue Ridge is unique because it will be the only school in the district to offer a classroom specifically for three-year-olds.

"It's a pilot program because it's our first in Jackson County Public Schools where we're intentionally seeking out three-year-olds," Dills said. "The idea is for students to get two years of structured preschool experience before they enter Kindergarten because the sooner you can close learning gaps, the more likely it is that they will be proficient throughout their academic years."

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• ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

Coach Bear Bryant

One of the most successful college coaches of all time was Coach Bear Bryant. He was a legend. People still talk about him today. Many Alabama fans love to wear a Bear Bryant hat. Everyone I know that ever played for him feels like it was the high light of their life. They all loved him. If you read Joe Nameth's biography, you will see Joe loved and respected Coach Bryant.

Steve Sloan, all-American quarterback played for Alabama 1962 to 1965. I asked Steve that when he was playing if players were getting into trouble and sometimes arrested like they do today. Steve said "if someone got arrested that played for Alabama, the cops would take them straight to Coach Bryant's house. They would rather go to jail."

A few years ago, I was getting a new set of tires from Greg Tires, a place not far from Franklin. While in the waiting room, I started talking with a guy that once played for Coach Bryant. He was now an assistant track coach at the Franklin High School.



Kenny Youmans

After he left Alabama, he later took a job selling sporting equipment, specializing in heavy weights. The first coach he called was Coach Bryant. Coach Bryant always took care of his boys. He took pride in helping his former players. Well, after a short polite conversation, Coach Bryant asked him how he could help. He told Coach Bryant why he was calling. Coach Bryant was very nice and said he would help him anyway he could, however, he was not a believer in weightlifting.

At the end of that season,

Alabama was playing Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. Nebraska was ranked # 1 in the country and Alabama was ranked # 2. Nebraska brought all their weights to Miami and arrive a week before Alabama. Nebraska was big into weightlifting. The Miami Herald even wrote about Nebraska and their obsession with lifting weights. After they arrived in Miami, they set up their weights in one of the high school gyms. Hundreds of Nebraska fans watched the players lift weights. It was a big deal.

That was 1972 and Nebraska beat Alabama 38 to 6. The best Alabama could do was to score 2 field goals. It was a good old country butt whipping. Coach Bryant was embarrassed to say the least.

The next week Coach Bryant calls this guy and said "Son, how about coming back down to Tuscaloosa. You and me, we need to talk."

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Andy Chmar, Dr. Milner, and Tom Graham, Rotary President

Rotarian Andy Chmar introduced Dr. Wesley Milner as the speaker for the Highlands Rotary January 11th meeting. Dr. Milner is the Director of the Office of International Programs and Services at Western Carolina University and spoke about the importance of connecting from a globalization standpoint.

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Winter Storm Izzy paved the way for fun in the snow



People of all ages headed for Monkey Hill on Hickory Street to snowboard and sled ride.

Photos by Kim Lewicki and Bob Sutton

Highlands became a winter wonderland for man & beast



Snow began falling in the wee hours of Sunday, Jan 16 and when it stopped about 8 inches had fallen. A wintry mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain came next but once it stopped snow fell again Sunday night. In the end, Izzy dropped 11 inches. With snow covering a layer of sleet-produced ice on area roads, Highlands hunkered down and came to a standstill. School was closed Tuesday and Wednesday due to impassable roads in the district. Regardless, people ventured out to enjoy the aftermath.



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ice Rink Schedule

• Thursdays 1-8pm, Fridays and Saturdays 1-10pm and Sundays 1-5pm., Cost is \$5 per skater.

Rec Pool Schedule:

• Adult Swim: M-F 6:30a-1:30p AND Mon-Thurs. until 6:30a-7p.. Call ahead for Public Swim Weekend schedule due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

Mondays

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.ma

concliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconcliteracy.org

• **American Legion** meets Mondays at 9 AM Highlands United Methodist Church. All veterans invited

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-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11am.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p,

Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, & Thurs,

• Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 pm \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call 828.349.2081.

Mon, Wed, Thurs

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 am-1 pm.

Mon, Wed, Fri

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 am.

• 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 Mon. at 5:30 pm and on Wed. & Fri. 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.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas

• New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30,. A combination class with many different types of exercise.

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

First Wednesdays

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring "Walk-in Wednesdays" Hiring Event. Interviewing for RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals and Support Services Professionals, 1-3:30 pm. 190 Hospital Drive, front entrance. On the spot offers, Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions, Bring updated resume. Casual wear.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

• Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 am to 5pm at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Location subject to change. please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19> or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

• AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience,

• See **EVENTS** page 13

Single event tickets to Bear Shadow are on sale now

Single Day Tickets for 2nd Annual Bear Shadow spring music festival are now on sale

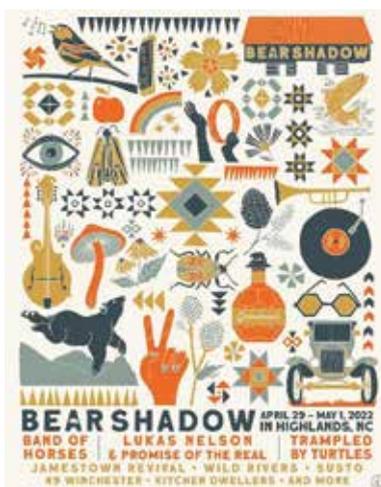
The Bear Shadow spring music festival, will be April 29-May 1 at Winfield Farms on NC 106. Three-day tickets are also available.

Headliners for the weekend-long event include Grammy-nominated Band of Horses, Grammy-award winning Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real and Billboard chart-topper Trampled by Turtles.

Tickets for Bear Shadow Base Camp will be available at <https://bearshadownc.com/>.

Single-day General Admission tickets will be available for \$125 (\$300 for a three-day pass), and single-day VIP tickets will be available for \$250 (\$750 for a three-day pass). Platinum VIP tickets for groups of six have sold out.

Bear Shadow, produced by Highlands Festivals, Inc. and Eleven Events, is a music festival named in honor of the bear-like shadow that appears behind



the region's Whiteside Mountain in the fall and spring. The festival features a variety of live musical acts for nearly any musical taste, from bluegrass and indie rock to country rock and soul. The music main stage, called "Base Camp," will be held at Winfield Farm in Scaly Mountain, about 7 miles from Main Street in Highlands.

Base Camp shows are scheduled for Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 from 5 – 10:30 p.m. and on Sunday, May 1 from 12 noon – 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the three-day lineup of musical headliners, exclusive excursion activities and additional musical performances will be added to the weekend activities. More information to come.

All events are rain or shine. However, in the event of severe inclement weather, event organizers reserve the right to cancel individual performances or events in order to maintain optimal safety for all attendees, staff, talent, and vendors. For more information, visit <https://bearshadownc.com/information/>.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

strength, and hope to solve their common problems. An In-Person meeting is held each Thurs, noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member call 828-342-6866.

2nd Thurs. thru - May

• Story Telling & Listening at Shakespeare & Co. in Village Square from 2-4 p.m.

Fri. Jan 21

• Due to increasing demand for testing, Optum has agreed to offer Covid-19 testing offer additional testing at the Highlands Community Building.

Sun., Jan. 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3 mile hike on Sunday in Warwoman Dell. We

will meet in the north end of Ingle's parking lot in Clayton, GA, at 1pm and carpool to Warwoman Dell, about 5 miles from Hwy 441. Bring food and fluids as needed. Call hike leader David Stearns, 828-349-7361, for more information or in case of foul weather. There is no charge. Reservations are not needed. Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome. Current Covid protocols will be observed.

Mon., Jan. 24 - Wed., Jan. 26

• Emergency Council 2nd Fuel Sign Up from 10am - 2pm at Highlands Emergency Council 71 Poplar St Highlands, NC. Highlands Must be a Highlands Resident and Must Bring Proof Of Income.

Fri., Jan 28

• Due to increasing demand for testing, Optum has agreed to offer Covid-19 testing offer additional

testing at the Highlands Community Building.

Sat. Jan. 29

• The Franklin Amateur Radio Club will participate in the annual Winter Field Day, which is an exercise in emergency radio communications in a winter environment in order to maintain operating skills in amateur radio. This is an annual, national event. The event begins at noon at the East Franklin Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 2057 Lakeside Drive. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to visit the occasion. Several stations will be operating inside the fellowship hall and weather permitting, portable stations will operate on the church grounds on solar or batteries—off the grid. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in becoming a “ham” to

explore the opportunity to learn how to become licensed to take part in this hobby, which has 780,000 hams in the United States. World wide there is an estimated 2 million licensed hams.

Mountain Findings will be closed the month of January due to concern for its volunteers and for customers in regards to COVID.

“With the rapidly increasing rate of the Omicron variant in our community, we think this is best for all concerned.”

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Nicole Lui, Highlands School Counselor; Brooke Gibbs; Axel Mendoza Tentle; Seth Staffelbach; and Tom Graham, Rotary President

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the Highlands School Students of the Month at their January 11th meeting.

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...IZZY continued from page 1



Once the weather stabilized, town crews were out plowing parking areas on town streets.
— Photo by Kim Lewicki

Warren Cabe. “Residents should prepare now and anticipate road and business closures, travel difficulties, and possibly utility outages. Make sure you and your neighbors are prepared.”

Mayor Pat Taylor declared a state of emergency, as did the county and NC Governor Roy Cooper.

“This major winter storm will cause loss of power and dangerous road conditions. Town crews are prepared, on standby and ready to respond to any disruption of services,” he said. “Forecasters from Duke Energy predict ice formations, high winds and an accumulation of snow between 12 to 18 inches at elevations of 4,000 feet or above. The town is in this zone where severe winter conditions could begin Saturday evening and continue through Sunday.”

Police Chief Andrea Holland voiced her own concerns.

“We are asking everyone to stay home. Highlands typically has greater accumulations of snow and ice than surrounding areas,” she said. “This can make the roads treacherous. If drivers are out in these conditions and slide into the ditches, they need to be prepared to stay there for an extended time. Wreckers will not be able to respond quickly, if at all. Therefore, we are asking people from out of town to avoid visiting this weekend as this places them

at risk.”

It appears, citizens and visitors listened and even Izzy cooperated dropping 8-11 inches over the 2-day period instead of 12 to 18 inches

In fact, according to Don Debat and Sara Benson of Mirror Lake, the Chicago Tribune weather map noted that “Highlands hit the charts with the most snow in NC at 11 inches.”

Mayor Taylor said given the 11 inches of snow, the town utility system held up very well.

“Amazingly there were no widespread power outages, although there were isolated spot outages due to falling limbs, ice and snow,” he said. “Our road crews started plowing operations early Sunday morning. The plowing equipment held up very well given the huge amounts of snow that was removed from the roads. Crews will continue to clear the roads and open up private roadways as soon as possible.”

The mayor said there will be large snow mounds in the downtown area for some time and some parking spaces will be temporarily lost due to the piles.

Garbage service will resume when it is safe to do so without damaging the trucks which cost a lot to repair.

Public Service Director Lamar Nix said all things considered everything is good.

“There were a limited amount

of outages; none of which broke poles,” he said.

Assistant Fire Chief Robbie Forrester said given the road conditions of snow on top of ice none of the calls during the storm were

storm related.

Mayor Taylor said he appreciated the cooperation and understanding of the public during this winter emergency.

“I also want to thank all the

town employees who have been on duty for long, long shifts while working to restore normal operations.

— Kim Lewicki

• PAST & PRESENT •

On accents, stereotypes, and prejudices therefrom

Psst! Did you know that Floridians talk funny? Yup. They surely do. But why? First, Floridians aren’t natives or even locals. In fact, most probably aren’t even originally from Florida. Using the late President Lyndon Johnson’s definition, they’re “foreigners” who just aren’t like “most folks I know” here in the mountains, a critical distinction culturally and linguistically.

Really now, how many Floridians have big ol’ trucks, dogs that aren’t Fruh Fruh-ish, believe they can hike the Appalachian Trail in flip flops, actually wear socks with loafers, and don’t think their tanned legs are a national treasure?

Yet perhaps a defining difference, even conceit of “foreigners” lies in the idea that they genuinely think the English language is “reg’lar,” and that they somehow know how to speak it correctly. No one does. It’s as “ear-reg’lar” and as chaotic as local dialects and speech patterns are charming and informative. Then, too, a lot of Floridians probably are hard of hearing because they talk too loudly and much. Or maybe, like Benjamin Button and Willie Nelson, they were just born old and stayed that way in their “villages.”

For example, don’t you think it weird that we say drink,drank, and drunk but not think, thank, and thank? I’ve think about that a lot as has Joe Biden. He talks funny, too, doesn’t he? Then, too, why don’t new and sew rhyme?

Say it ain’t so, sockless ones. And why do Floridians say around here instead of ‘round here? And anything round at all, especially roundabout intersections or curvy mountain roads, astonishingly confuses them? Or why just seeing a



Milton Ready

bear seemingly transfixes and endlessly thrills them yet they cannot pronounce its name correctly, not bear but ‘bar? That’s one of several underlying patterns of mountain dialects called -ire and -ear sequences, but Floridians seem roundly and soundly mystified by them. Think tire as tar and fire as far but never tire heels. Got it now?

Moreover, why do Floridians and others who come to the mountains pointlessly want to pronounce every syllable and parse entire sentences? Why not occasionally drop a consonant on a word like cold and just say col? Or just glide over a consonant or vowel every now and then? Really now, do you want to drag out tobacco, hollow, or re-frigerator instead of ‘backer, holler, ‘frigerator, and yellor? And why not use a gen-u-wine intensifying adverb like right or plumb or ‘bout to describe how cold it is or how a task is progressing? Ok, OK, I’m ‘bout done here.

Finally, Floridians really don’t “talk funny” no matter their ori-

gins. No one does. Yet some reading this will find the suggestion upsetting, even insulting. The very idea reverses the terms of exoticism where mountaineers, called Appalachians by outsiders, are somehow considered backward, poorly educated, impoverished, and a tad rough at the edges while “foreigners” like Floridians think themselves culturally superior. That’s still the stereotype you see in movies like Winter’s Bone or a miniseries such as Mare of Easttown.

Mountaineers personify unique, intertwined communities with a blended culture and closeness that should be envied by an increasingly less cohesive society. Think Andy Griffith and idyllic Mayberry here. Mountain music, folklore, and storytelling skills, all infused with dialectical and cultural patterns along with a historical store of knowledge, exemplify that appeal of family values and close-knit community.

Yet why do outsiders delight in and extoll mountain music and storytelling but not mountaineers themselves or how they speak? Be assured mountaineers have a stock of Florida jokes as “foreigners” do about them.

Finally, that rough-hewn mountaineer with a thick accent you come across today might be another stuttering, stammering Thomas Jefferson and that tanned, smooth talking Floridian, Pat Boone, perhaps is a distant cousin of Daniel Boone who once roamed our mountains and also “resorted” in Florida. You know ‘ol Daniel likely killed a ‘bar or two in Florida as well as in North Carolina.

Lady Highlanders take down Swain at home on Jan. 14 with a win 58-37.

The Lady Highlanders also hosted Nantahala on Jan. 13 and won 70-15. Photos by Brian O'Shea



Highlands Julia May Schmitt spots an open teammate down the court and gets rid of the ball.



Highlands B Bryson launches to catch a coast-to-coast pass against Swain.

Highlands varsity boys lose tough game at home on Jan. 14 against Swain with 17-68



Highlands Kaden Mitchell makes his move to the hoop against Swain



Highlands Jeffrey Olvera on a fast break against Swain.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

— (John 1:5)

Pastor Angie Ballard

Holy Family Lutheran Church
ELCA

In addition to serving as the part-time interim pastor at Holy Family Lutheran Church, I am a full-time RN case manager for the pulmonary step-down unit, now the primary COVID unit at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

As you can imagine, the past few weeks have been increasingly stressful as the number of patients testing positive for COVID is once again rising. And with this rise there's a marked increase in the number of hospitalizations. And while most if not all of these cases can be attributed to the omicron variant, make no mistake, the patients on my unit are very sick with far too many never leaving the hospital.

The nurses, CNAs, doctors, and support staff are exhausted, working far too many hours in an effort to cover shifts left open due to a critical shortage of staff, primarily nurses, who have left the profession, many because of burnout.

If all of this weren't enough, our colleagues are also becoming infected by the virus leading many staff to return to work before they have fully recovered. Needless to say, it can be overwhelming at best and, on the worst days, it can feel downright hopeless.

This is why John's words have brought me so much comfort recently, becoming my mantra as I engage with families, patients and colleagues.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

It is in these words that we hear the echoes of Genesis; the story of creation; "In the beginning God created; God moved over the chaos and darkness and said, 'Let there be light.'" God brought light into the darkness, substance into emptiness, life from nothingness. The same God who was from the beginning and who spoke that Word is the One who became flesh and blood and dwelt among us. In John's prologue, we once again hear the proclamation that the world has been forever changed; it will never be the same, and neither will humankind.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

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.

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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

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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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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.

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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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.

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

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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.

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

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. noon; Sun. 11a

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Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Jan. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Jan 9

• At 5:47 p.m., officers received a call about an unattended death of a 81-year-old woman at a residence on Third Street.

Jan 11

• At 2:10 p.m., officers received a report of a simple assault on a female at Highlands School where someone put hands around her neck.

Jan. 12

• At 3 p.m., officers received a report of destruction of property and break and entering at a residence on Many Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 5

Jan. 11

• At 2:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Rich Gap Road.

Jan. 12

• At 9:54 a.m., the dept. was

first-responders to a residence on Shelby Court.

Jan. 13

• At 8:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

Jan. 14

• At 3:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurel Branch Road.

• At 2:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 5:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a Co2 alarm at a residence on East View Way.

• At 7:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 6:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

• At 11:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Jan. 17

• At 9:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a residence on Half Mile Drive.



COVID vaccinations and testing updates

By Tom Neal
CEO/CNO

Highlands Cashiers Hospital

Recently, revised protocols from NCDHHS regarding Pfizer were issued following new CDC guidance.

The Optum vaccination site at the Highlands Recreation center has adopted these guidelines. The vaccination site is offering pediatric and adult Pfizer every Thursday from 9-5. No appointment is necessary or accepted.

First, booster shots interval reduction.

The interval recommended between the completion of primary vaccination of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and use of a booster dose has been shortened from six months to five months.

Moderately or severely immunocompromised children ages 5-11 are allowed to receive an additional primary dose of vaccine 28 days after their second shot. Please note: Only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children ages 5-11. At this time, fully vaccinated children ages 5-11 who are not immunocompromised do not need a third dose.

Administration of a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster dose to 12-to 15-year-olds. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech

COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for the use of a single booster dose for administration to individuals 12-to-15 years of age at least five months after completion of primary vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Testing

Optum will provide testing from 9a-5p on the following days through the end of January:

Tuesdays at the Village Green in Cashiers

Wednesday and Friday at the Highlands Community Building

Scheduling an appointment is the best option to ensure you can get your test. You can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

Also, PCR testing is always available.

There is a surge of testing demand at the North Carolina sites, and we were advised the manufacturer of CareStart depleted their inventory of rapid tests. Therefore, for the week of Jan 10th staff will ONLY give rapid tests to the patients who pre-registered for a rapid. If a patient didn't pre-register for a rapid then they can ONLY receive a PCR test.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 1

As children of God, we have the opportunity to see with our own eyes how God continues to love and care for us. The birth of Jesus means that we encounter God not just in "smart" theology, but also in our daily lives; in our vocations and in our free time; in our relationships and in brief interactions with strangers; in the miracle of creation and in death. He is that Word spoken in the midst of our confu-

sion and darkness, creating hope when in all seems lost and hopeless.

As we move forward in this new year, I pray that we as individuals and as the church, will be bold enough to believe in the light of Christ shining in the darkness. And perhaps eventually, we will begin to see ourselves as children of that light, burning bright for all the world to see.

Blessings+ and Happy New Year.

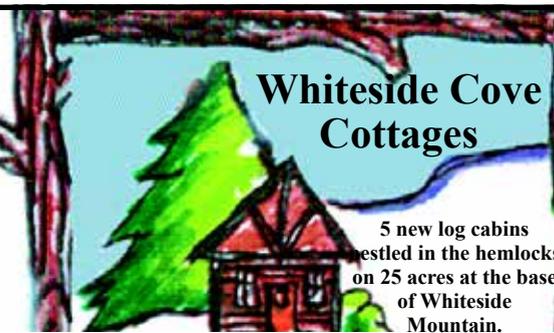


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MASON & HAMLIN UPRIGHT PIANO AND BENCH, mahogany, fully restored by Ward Piano Co. three years ago. \$2500. Call 828-506-7025, Highlands. (st. Jan 6)

HELP WANTED

Cashiers Color Center is looking to hire a full-time individual to assist in the paint department. Duties will include mixing paint, assisting customers with color selections and sundry items, stocking shelves and daily cleaning. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. This individual must be dependable, self-motivated, have great customer service skills and be willing to learn. We will offer on-the-job training, so experience is not necessary. For more information, call Derek Taylor @ 828-200-9226, or stop by Cashiers Color Center to fill out an application. (Jan 20-Feb 10)

HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE DINING ROOM SUPERVISOR - HMH is seeking a full time shift supervisor to coordinate reservations and oversee all aspects of service in the front of the house at TRG. This role will act as Maitre' D to the dining room, work service for lunch, dinner and brunch and be responsible for the proper execution of each service period. This position will begin as an hourly position and has the potential to grow into a salaried position based upon performance. This candidate should be positive, reliable, hard working, have a love of people, service and have aspirations to lead and grow with the company. (st. 12/16)

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GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED positions open at Caffe Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Rebecca Long at 828-507-1487 and leave a message. Need ASAP. (st. 8/26)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper 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 lindabtiff@aol.com.

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...BEAR HUNTING continued from page 1

In 1971, the Commission established 28 black bear sanctuaries totaling over 800,000 acres. North Carolina was among the first states to establish such a system of protected areas. The original objective of the bear sanctuary system was to protect a breeding nucleus of female bears and to produce a dispersing surplus of bears that could be harvested without detriment to the population.

Currently there are approximately 490,000 acres of designated bear sanctuaries in North Carolina. North Carolina remains one of the only states that still has a system of designated sanctuaries.

With the decrease in huntable areas, the recovery and restoration of the bear population, and the increase in human-bear interactions and the severity of these interactions (e.g., breaking into occupied homes).

“Bear Sanctuaries are delineated areas where hunting mortality can be adjusted independently from that of the surrounding area to address local bear densities and to meet population goals for BMUs,” says the NCWRC. “Adjustment of mortality is achieved by regulating harvest pressure, which can range from no hunting to a hunting season consistent with that of the local bear season.”

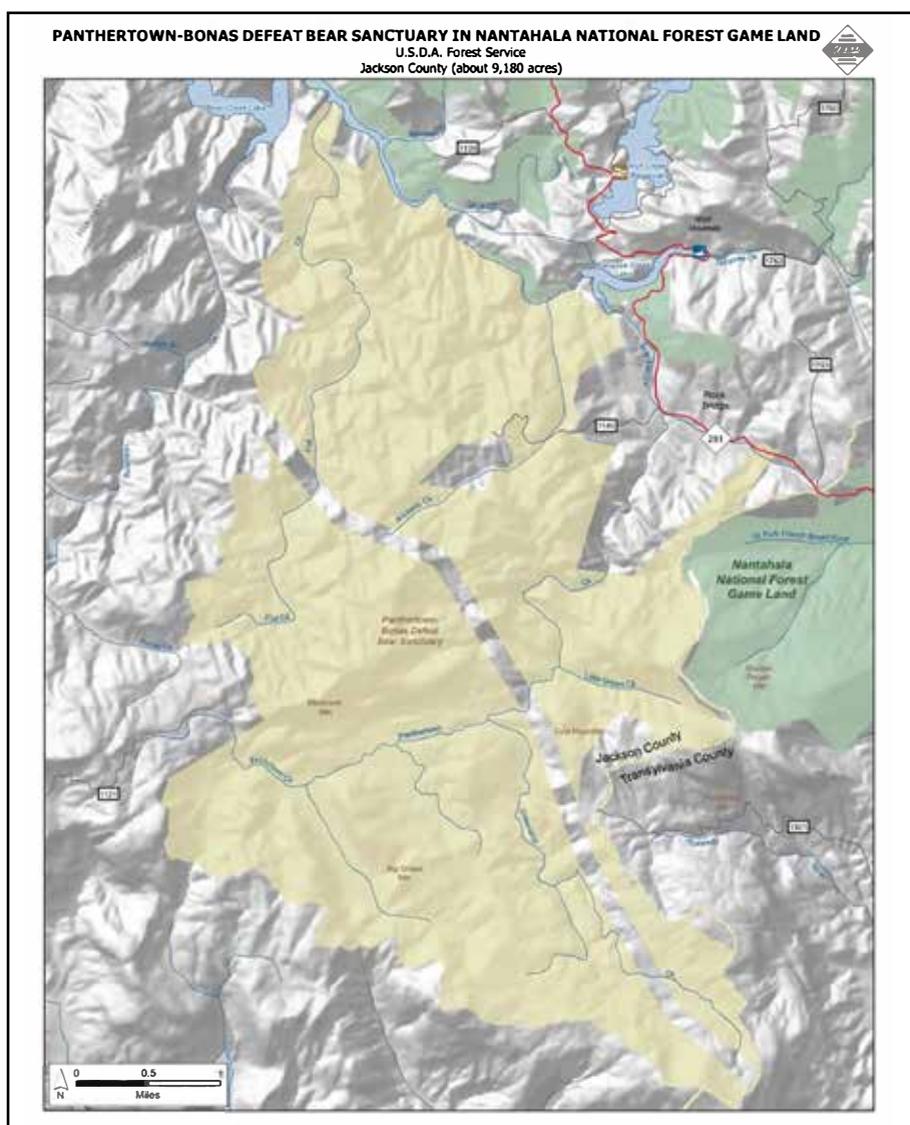
Two of the state’s bear sanctuaries, Daniel Boone Bear Sanctuary and Mt. Mitchell Bear Sanctuary both have permit hunt opportunities and have done so since 2009 and 2016, respectively.

The three bear sanctuaries in the proposal would not be completely opened up to bear hunting. A permit will be required, as is required on Daniel Boone and Mt. Mitchell. Commission staff will determine the number of permits available, number of hunting days, and maximum party size for these permit hunts on a site-by-site basis.

The permit hunts will follow statewide regulations (e.g., bear e-stamp needed to hunt, reporting harvested bear is required, mandatory tooth submission, bag limit=1, minimum weight to take a bear is 75 lbs., cannot take a female with cubs).

Friends of Panthertown Valley is against allowing bear hunting in what they say is a bear sanctuary.

“This is another way to allow more hunters. The bears need a sanctuary. More hunters means more dangers to passive users who respect the natural beauty,



peace and respite of the Valley. I am truly disturbed by this turn of events and the short time in which we have to respond,” said Mallory Lykes. “We are in support of continuing to protect the black bears in the Panthertown Valley and Bonas Defeat areas of Nantahala National Forest in Jackson County.”

Their platform follows:

- We do not support bear hunting in the Panthertown-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary
- We do not support the NCWRC proposed rule change to allow bear hunting by permit in the Panthertown-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary
- We do not believe in allowing bear hunts in the sanctuary will solve human-bear interaction concerns or is an appropriate solution given Panthertown’s traditional and current recreational uses.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has the authority, granted by the Legislature, to create regulations called “rules” which although not state law, have the force of law. The complete set of rules under the jurisdiction of the Commission can be found online from Proposal to Regulation describes the Commission’s rule-making procedures.

All in-person public hearings have been cancelled. A pre-recorded presentation of the proposed regulations will be posted online to: ncwildlife.org/proposed-regulations.

The NCWRC has scheduled an online virtual public hearing tonight, Thursday, January 20 at 7 p.m. with comments encouraged. Public comments will be accepted through January 31.

To participate in the Virtual Hearing, register online. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing info about joining the webinar. Or, join by phone toll free at 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247 using webinar ID: 160 983 2165.

People can submit comments online at ncwildlife.org/proposed-regulations or by email at regulations@ncwildlife.org or by mail addressing comments to Rule-making Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1701.

NCWRC Commissioners will be considering the proposed rule changes during their February 2022 meeting. If adopted, the new rules would take effect August 1 and be in place for the 2022-2023 seasons.

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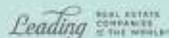


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