

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 13, 2023

## MC BOC ratifies motion to approve purchase of \$1.3 million Franklin property

By Brittney Lofthouse

With the real estate market moving quickly in today's time, the Macon County Board of Commissioners entered into a contract

to purchase an 11-acre tract of land in Franklin after a closed session discussion.

According to Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon, the

decision was made to move forward with securing the contract without discussing the purchase in a public session or with public

• See **PROPERTY** page 19

## Two MC rescue pups are learning to help disabled Vets

By Kristin Fox

Two local dogs have started on a unique journey to become two lucky people's loyal best friends. Locally known as Santiago and Camilo, these two dogs were selected from the Macon County Animal Services to participate in the K9s for Warriors Service Dogs for Disabled Veterans training program for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Santiago and Camilo started their new adventure as transports from the MC shelter to the Humane Society of Charlotte (HSC) and are now called Patronus and Lumos, were selected for the K9s for Warriors program – the first dogs to be rescued by HSC and

• See **PUPS** page 4



Highlands Middle School Track Team from left are Roman Carnes, Blain Dendy, Stephen Pierson, Timmy McDowell, Isaac Wardwell, Tucker Wilson, and Elmer Hernandez. Highlands does not have a girls track team this year.

- Photo by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

## Highlands MS track team placed 3rd at Tues. meet

Highlands Middle School boys track team competed in Rabun Gap on Tuesday and ended up placing third.

"I thought we did well especially after coming off spring break," said Highlands Coach Brett Lamb.

Other schools competing include Summit, Rabun Gap Nacoochee (1st-place), Tallulah Falls (2nd-place), and Carolina Day.

Highlands Timmy McDowell tied his personal record in the high jump at 5'1".

• See **TRACK** page 19

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## MC BOC says they will stay in Fontana Library System, with conditions

Brittney Lofthouse

The April meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners lasted until midnight on Tuesday with 45 people signed up to address commissioners during the public comment period.

Due to the number of people signed up to speak, paired with the lengthy agenda, Macon County Commissioner Chairman Paul Higdon announced at the beginning of the meeting that the public comment period would be limited to 45 minutes, with speakers being allowed 5 minutes each to speak.

At the end of the 45 minutes, regardless of how many people were afforded the opportunity to address the board, public comment period ended and commissioners moved to take up the night's agenda items.

Commissioner Higdon initially said that anyone who had

signed up to speak during public comment and were not able to, would be moved to next month's board meeting and given an opportunity to speak then. However, Commissioner Josh Young made a motion to move the remaining public comment period to the end of the agenda business items, and anyone who remained at the meeting at the conclusion of scheduled business could address the board then. Commissioners unanimously agreed with Commissioner Young.

Between the two public comment periods, dozens of people addressed the board over a myriad of issues with the majority of comments revolving around the more than two-year long debate regarding the Macon County Public Library.

Last month, Commissioner Danny Antoine addressed commissioners and said after the li-

• See **LIBRARY** page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Saving the earth one step at a time

I was at an inaugural Earth Day convocation 53 years ago this month, and it will be celebrated again this year on Saturday, April 22.

I had a little longer hair back in April 1970 and was probably sporting a set of bell-bottom blue jeans, which were the standard in those days. When I attended the convocation, I had both a concern for the environment and as well as myself, as I was also worried about a draft physical and that I was over my head on both accounts.

In spite of my concern for myself and my future, I still recall a statement I heard that day. The speaker recounted what he had read by Barry Commoner, who was an environmental scientist and writer of that period.

He likened this issue of preserving the environment to an airplane in flight as if it were the planet's environment. He stated that passengers and pilots could remove a few rivets from the plane's wings and fuselage with no apparent impact on the plane's performance. But eventually, removing too



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

many rivets would fatally doom the plane's flight. The point made was that we were removing natural rivets that held the ecosystem together without noticing the immediate impact.

Climate change was not mentioned at that first Earth Day convocation; that environmental problem would not be realized until some 30 years later. But we affluent Baby Boomers who took the pledge to save the planet that day in 1970 have some "explaining to do."

Our idealism back then did not translate into a societal commitment to preserving the environment once we took control. While some progress was made with the clean air and water legislation that followed in the early 70s, huge initiatives to address climate change — the overarching environmental issue remains to be confronted.

The looming question for humanity is how many more environmental rivets are we willing to remove in the name of progress?

Undeterred by a lack global progress, local volunteers for the annual Highlands Plateau Cleanup will make a small contribution toward preserving and "re-riveting" the environment this Saturday, April 15.

Everyone will gather at Founders Park for a catered breakfast at 8:30. Afterward, volunteers will get their equipment, instructions, and assignments, and then together, we will collect trash on all the corridors and throughout the neighborhoods. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center sponsors the pickup and coordinates the breakfast, work, and picnic lunch afterward. Please call (828) 526-2112 to volunteer.





Fortunately, we are making systemic progress here as the trash on the corridors is not as bad this year as in the past because our voiced concerns for the environment are making an impact on the community, and we have had a number of volunteer groups and individuals coordinating pickups throughout the year. But this massive volunteer effort will help thoroughly clean the roadsides of the Plateau.

This trash sweep event is one "small rivet" we reposition — so to speak — each

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 13-Apr	Fri, 14-Apr	Sat, 15-Apr	Sun, 16-Apr
			
63°F 50°F	59°F 46°F	70°F 50°F	60°F 36°F
Sunny to partly cloudy	Cloudy, a shower and t-storm	Warmer with sunny intervals	A shower and thunderstorm
RealFeel® High: 70° Low: 48°	RealFeel® High: 61° Low: 52°	RealFeel® High: 77° Low: 52°	RealFeel® High: 64° Low: 46°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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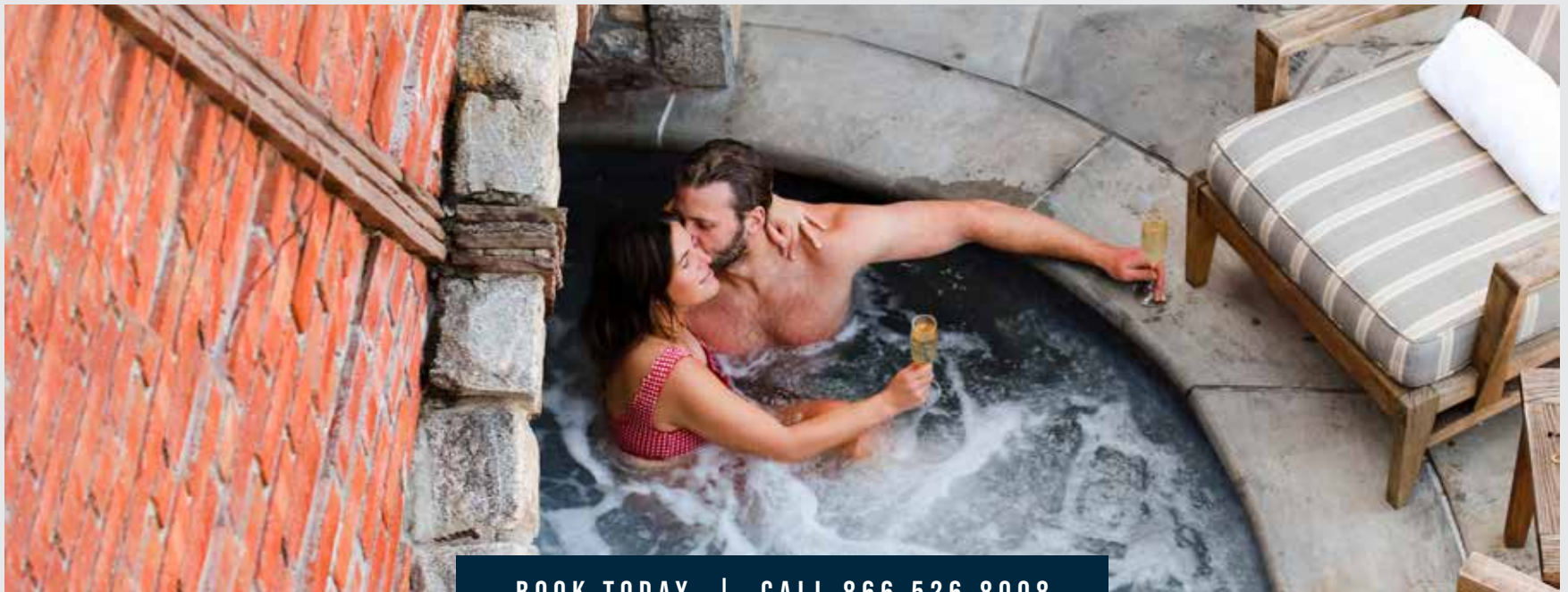
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## ...PUPS continued from page 1

Patronus and Lumos with their handlers in the K9s for Warriors program.



the first ever from Macon County for the program.

HSC works with shelters and rescue organizations, such as the Macon County Animal Services, across the Southeast to procure dogs that fit into the K9s for Warriors program. Once selected for the program, the dogs are trained to become Service Dogs for military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma.

“To be a Service Dog candidate, the dogs need to have a certain temperament and be a certain height and weight to be able to perform tasks for veterans in need,” said Dani Bozzini, Senior Public Relations Manager for K9s for Warriors. “They need to be at least 22 inches tall (from the floor to the top of the shoulders) and weigh at least 50 pounds.”

“We test for sociability, trainability, confidence and a willingness to work – and if we see potential like we did with Patronus and Lumos, they get a second chance and come back to K9s for Warriors to start their new journey,” she added.

Determined to end veteran suicide, K9s for Warriors is the nation’s largest provider of trained Service Dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD and/or military sexual trauma. With most dogs coming from high-kill rescue shelters, this innovative program allows the K9/Warrior team to build an unwavering bond that facilitates their collective healing and recovery.

This treatment method is backed by scientific research from Purdue University’s OHAIRE Lab, demonstrating Service Dogs’ ability to help mitigate Veteran’s symptoms of PTSD while simultaneously restoring their confidence and independence.

Founded in 2011 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, K9s for Warriors remains committed to bringing widespread awareness to veterans’ mental health and contributing to policy-level reform. The organization’s facilities include: K9s for War-

riors National Headquarters and Davis Family Mega Kennel in Ponte Vedra, FL; Gold Family Campus in Alachua, FL; and the Petco Love K9 Center in San Antonio, TX.

Recently, long-time Carolina Panthers Head Coach and current Washington Commanders Head Coach Ron Rivera and his wife Stephanie joined HSC and K9s for Warriors to help get more service dogs in the hands of veterans in need.

The Riveras donated \$20,000 to go toward HSC’s efforts to procure dogs eligible for K9s for Warriors’ Service Dog program. The couple recently visited HSC and got to meet Patronus and Lumos.

“K9s for Warriors simply would not exist without the support of incredible people like the Riveras,” said K9s for Warriors CEO Carl Cricco. “Their generous donation will enable us to save more dogs and get them in the hands of veterans in need. Their commitment to veterans and rescue dogs allows us to save lives at both ends of the leash.”

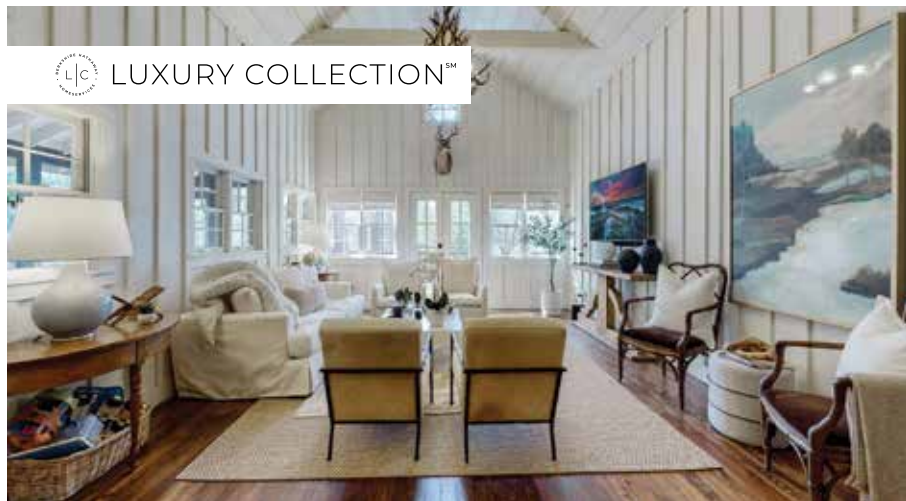
Roughly 20 veterans die by suicide each day and with the help of donations as well as the work of animal shelters, K9s for Warriors is determined to change that through the healing power of highly trained Service Dogs.

With the majority of dogs coming from rescue shelters, the innovative program allows the K9/veteran team to build an unwavering bond that facilitates their collective healing and recovery.

There are more than three million dogs in shelters in the United States, many of whom are euthanized because they are not adopted. Rescue centers, such as the Macon County Animal Services and HSC are committed to saving as many dogs and cats as possible through its partnerships with other agencies.

To learn more about K9s for Warriors and to support the nonprofit’s programs, visit [www.k9sforwarriors.org](http://www.k9sforwarriors.org).



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## HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN

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3  
BR3  
BA1  
HBA

It's easy to fall in love with this home, which is a combination of 100 years-old Highlands history and pleasing updates for today's discerning buyer. Two bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths are on the main level, along with a loft for extra room. The living room has beautiful light and the well-equipped kitchen has everything you need. The newly renovated downstairs contains one bedroom and bath, additional sleeping quarters, a sitting room, and a breakfast bar. Fire pit in the back yard. The home comes mostly furnished, with a small list of exceptions. It can be used as a rental if rentals are 30 days or more.

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4  
BR3  
BA

This contemporary home is located at the end of a cul de sac, offering complete privacy and an ample yard that's perfect for kids and pets. The main level boasts an open, welcoming floor plan with a split bedroom design, and a kitchen that would satisfy the most passionate cook. The great room features hardwood floors, a stone fireplace, and clerestory windows. Additionally, two of the three bedrooms on the main level provide direct access to the deck. The lower level has a mother-in-law suite with a private bath and kitchenette, as well as a family room with another fireplace and a second deck. Offered partially furnished.



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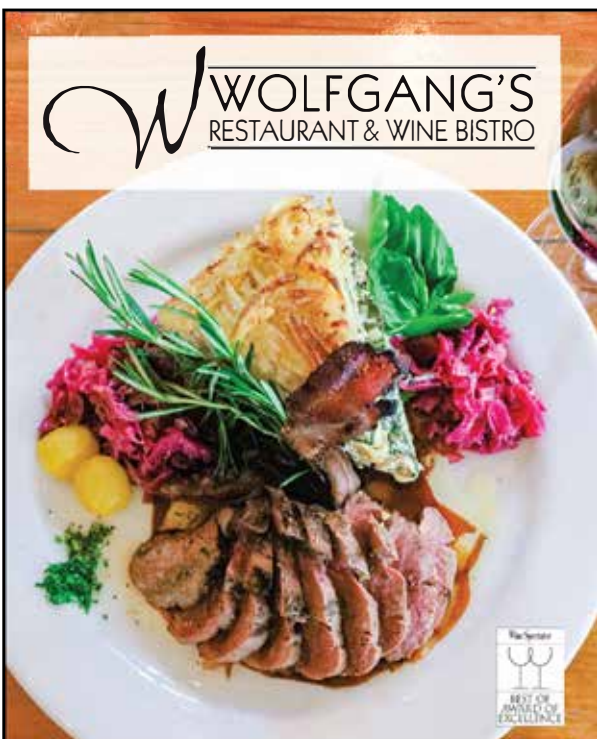
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# • OBITUARIES •

## Harry Mordecai Binkow

Harry Mordecai Binkow, 68, of Highlands, NC, passed away Saturday, April 1, 2023.

Harry was born in Miami, FL, to the late Charles E. and Ruth Long Binkow. He was a previous judge at the American Kennel Club and loved all animals.

Harry is survived by his brother, Phil Binkow (Nancy) of Atlanta, GA, and sister, Amanda Wittenberg of Bridgeton, MO. Numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, 200 Gable Dr, Sapphire, NC 28774.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

## Ellen Cathey Fagan

Ellen Cathey Fagan, 69, of Highlands and Asheville, NC passed away on April 3, 2023 after a courageous battle with anaplastic thyroid cancer.

Ellen was born December 18, 1953 in Greenville, SC to the late Joseph Clifford Fagan and Rose Greene Fagan.

She is survived by her wife of 23 years, Joan Ellen Pedersen, her sister, Lauren Fagan Borders (Charles Borders), two nephews, Daniel Hilyer and Christopher Williams, two nieces Leah Pedersen Thomas and Caitlin Bowers, brothers-in-law, John Pedersen, Richard Pedersen and Robert Pedersen, and sister-in-law, Elizabeth Pedersen Bowers.

In 2020 Ellen retired from the American Speech Language Association (ASHA) in Rockville, MD, where she most recently served as the Director of Continuing Education (CE). A speech-language pathologist, Ellen joined ASHA in 1988 working in the CE division. She received an MS in speech language pathology from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL and an EdD in Special Education (concentrator in augmentative communication and assistive technology) from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

Prior to working at ASHA, Ellen was a clinical educa-



tor and assistant professor at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, and a speech-language pathologist in the public school system in South Carolina. She also had a private practice in Columbia and provided professional management services to the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Ellen's legacy extends to volunteer and professional service to the International Association of Continuing Educational and Training (ACET) where she held multiple leadership roles including President and the American National Standard & Institute's (ANSI) Certificate Program Accreditation Committee that she chaired for several years.

Ellen was a natural facilitator and took the initiative to develop a Facilitates Training Program for staff in the ASHA National Office. Throughout her career she welcomed the privilege of mentoring newcomers to the profession, so many of whom have become lifelong friends.

Ellen had a great affection for her mountain community in Highlands where she served on the HOA Board at VZ Top. She loved bird watching, reading, photography, technology, movies, socializing with her wonderful neighbors, nature walks, and relishing the beautiful mountain vistas, particularly the brilliant fall leaves. And we would be remiss not to mention her ultimate devotion to women's March Madness where she kept her brackets close in hand even while ill.

A lover of theatre who volunteered at many a local production in her SC hometown, Ellen was delighted to have been "cast" in a bit part in the funeral cortege of the 2020 movie Hillbilly Elegy, filmed in northern Georgia. When the assistant director requested that she arrive early to the set to get fitted for a "frumpy outfit", she laughed and said, "I already own one, I'll just wear it."

Ellen also thoroughly enjoyed traveling abroad with Joan, always on the outlook for varied and engaging locales to explore, where she so appreciated learning about new cultures, customs, foods, people and history.

There will be no public memorial. Online condolences can be expressed at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ellenstory>. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society. Mountain View Cremation & Funeral Care, Arden, NC assisted the family.



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## Time for Spring cleaning: Sell, keep or toss?

As real estate brokers, we are experienced and trained to deal with land and the improvements thereon

considered "real property." As a residential real estate broker selling homes in this resort community, another type of property

surfaces in most transactions: personal property.

Personal property is defined as: goods, chattels and other articles of value. In other words, our "stuff" that we purchase to fill our homes including furniture, accessories, rugs, lamps, dishes, etc. Some of my most tense negotiations have turned on whether "the plate on the wall" was included in the deal. My advice in these situations to both buyers and sellers is to keep your eye on the prize - the house - and not to haggle over a replaceable item.

At this time of the year, it is a perfect opportunity for all of us, whether selling or not, to focus on our "stuff" and possibly do a purging of unused and unwanted items. I read a book recently titled: "Sell, Keep or Toss" which is a guide to dealing with personal property during life's transitions such as downsizing to a smaller home or disposing of the content of an estate. This book found on Amazon serves as a guide to simplify the process.

In order to assist you in the process, here are several charitable organizations, thrift shops or consignment shops on The Plateau:

1. Mountain Findings Thrift Store accepts donations and will pick up: 828.526.9429;
2. The Emergency Council accepts donations: 828.526.4357;
3. Church of the Good Shepherd Ba-



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zaar Barn accepts donations: 828.226.2588;

4. Good Will in Franklin accepts donations: 828.349.7494;

5. Fibber Magee's in Highlands accepts clothing donations: 828.526.2599;

6. Victoria's Closet in Cashiers accepts clothing on consignment: 828.743.9575;

7. Blue Elephant on the Dillard Road accepts furniture on consignment: 828.526.9948;

8. Full House Gallery in Highlands accepts furniture on consignment: 828.526.6004;

9. The Consignment Market in Cashiers accepts furniture on consignment: 828.507.3325;

10. Nearly New Furniture Consignment in Cashiers accepts furniture on consignment: 828.743.4033.

May you truly enjoy the process of sharing items that become someone else's treasure as you lighten your load this Spring. We hope you and your loved ones had a blessed and joyous Easter! Thank you for your support and friendship.

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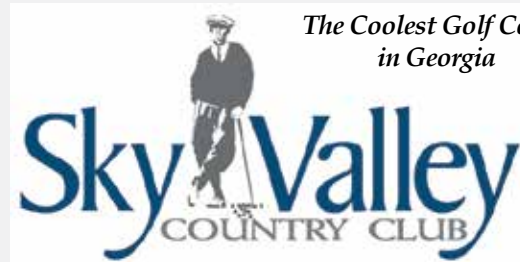
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**THURSDAY, APRIL 20**

*Orchard Session*

with **Mike Kinnebrew**

*purchase tickets*



at **THE FARM** 

## ...LIBRARY continued from page 1

library limited public input during a meeting, he was “100% in support” of ending the agreement with the Fontana Regional System saying he believed other commissioners were agreeable to leaving the regional system, too. However, they needed time to iron out the details as to how to make that happen. During Tuesday night’s meeting, Commissioner Antoine clarified that as an individual he supported leaving the library, however he was not speaking on behalf of the entire board of commissioners.

At the beginning of the meeting, Commissioner Higdon announced that before the board adjourned, the commissioners would be releasing a joint public statement regarding their current stance on the library. Although the statement was prepared and ready at the beginning of the commissioners meeting when nearly 200 people were in attendance, Commissioner Higdon elected not to share the public statement until close to midnight after the board met during closed session.

The statement read following the closed session discussion stated, “The Fontana Regional Library Agreement entered into in 2013 requires that the three participating counties, Jackson, Macon, and Swain revisit the structure of the FRL every 10 years. In compliance with that agreement, the three

managers met on Thursday, April 6, and discussed what was working and what needed improvement. It was unanimously agreed that the Regional Agreement is beneficial to all three counties and their citizens, but improvement is needed in the areas of parental empowerment and governance of the FRL system.”

According to the statement, Higdon said that while Macon County will remain in the Regional Library System, they are working with the other counties to look into:

1. Provisions which will give parents greater ability to set restrictions over what materials their minor children may check out while still remaining in compliance with the law and;

2. The structure and authority of the respective local county library boards and the Regional board.

“Because the structure of each of the libraries affected is different, this will take a little time to enable each county to evaluate the structure that it has in place,” read the prepared statement from the Macon County Board of Commissioners. “The hope is that we will be able to present these proposed revisions to the local agreement to the three Commissioner Boards by mid-to late-August.”



# HIGHLANDS

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PROPERTIES



# Spring Home Improvement 2023

## The Essential Guide to Spring Home Improvement

By **Manasa Reddigari**  
BobVila.com.

Whatever household features you need to refresh, repair, or replace this season, one company can help you get the job done efficiently and affordably!

Spring brings blooming flowers and budding trees, but it also brings a long list of home improvement chores that accumulated over the winter. Now is the time to tackle cleaning projects, exterior maintenance, and routine HVAC checkups in preparation for the sweltering months ahead.

### CLEANING

Don't consider your spring cleaning done and dusted until you have attended to hardworking surfaces and fixtures both indoors and out. Deep cleaning the oft-neglected — but vital — elements of your home like window sashes, exterior siding, and bathroom fixtures not only preserves, but also prolongs the life of these features.

- Wash windows: Giving windows a thorough cleaning requires more than polishing the panes. Inspect your windowsills, jambs, and sashes once a year for rot and

mold, and replace the windows or casings as necessary. If your windows have seen better days, consider replacement windows, which can really boost curb appeal. As well, new window insulation technology affords more comfortable indoor temperatures, keeping warm air out in the summer and inside during the winter. And remember that even newer windows have to be maintained, and this task takes conscientious effort. To save time and elbow grease, consider purchasing no- or low-maintenance windows. Moisture-resistant vinyl windows, are a good bet. Because the frame is made of vinyl instead of wood, there's no need for paint and the frame is not prone to rot. Plus, easy-to-access tilt-in sashes make cleaning the exterior panes a breeze.

- Hose down exterior siding: A fresh-faced house begins with clean siding. No matter what kind of siding you have—wood, brick, or vinyl—you can start by giving your home exterior a quick hose-down. To banish destructive mold, mildew, and discoloration, however, you may need to employ an effective cleanser and a bit of elbow grease. For wood siding, use mild soap and water, then scrub with a gentle brush to remove spots and stains. If your home has brick siding, try a mixture of bleach and water to eliminate mold or mildew. And if you're looking for the lowest-maintenance siding material, consider vinyl. No matter what

kind of siding you have, make sure you put a good cleaning toward the top of your springtime to-do list. Sparkling siding boosts curb appeal and keeps your admiring neighbors happy.

- Give faucets and sinks a facelift: Over recent years, numerous sink and faucet design trends have emerged, including deep basin sinks and faucets with detachable sprayers. But one trend has never been in vogue—mold and mildew-lined faucets and sinks. If your kitchen or bathroom sinks are less than fresh, clean them with a non-damaging solution like vinegar, lemons, or mild detergent. While a good cleaning can solve many sink problems, some issues—such as chipped enamel or stubborn rust stains—might call for a full replacement.

### HOME EXTERIOR CARE

If Old Man Winter pummeled your home with snowstorms, deep freezes, and fallen trees last season, it may now have the damaged roof, gutters, doors, and walkways to prove it. Inspect exterior features for damage or deformity, replacing or refreshing them so they can continue doing the work they were designed to do, protecting your home from wind, rain, and other dangers.

- Check the roof and gutters: If, during your spring roof inspection, you observe broken, buckling, or missing

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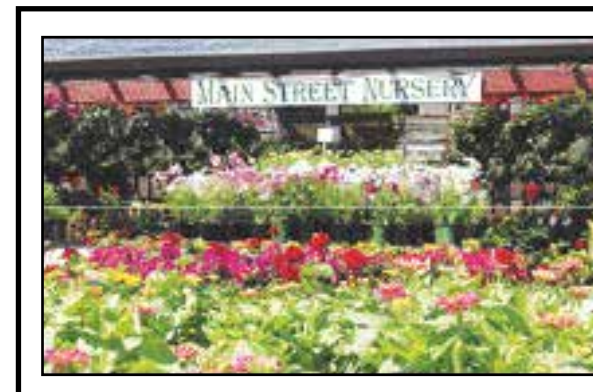
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# Home Improvement 2023

shingles, you should either repair or replace the damaged sections to keep water and pests from entering your home. Likewise, replace cracked or sagging gutters so that water channels away from the foundation, where it can lead to flooded basements or worse.

- **Update the front door, or more:** A weatherworn entry door that bears no other signs of distress, such as cracks, dents, or a sagging frame, may just need a fresh coat of paint. In fact, paint can be a great solution for a tired exterior. If your whole house could benefit from an updated paint job, begin by choosing a paint color and prepping the exterior surfaces. Hose off dirt, scrape flaking paint, and caulk cracks and gaps before you get started to make your new paint job last longer.

- **Replace chipped walkways or patios:** Winter weather is hard on concrete walkways and patios. Fluctuations in temperature—repeated freezing and thawing—can cause these hard surfaces to crack and chip. Spring is the perfect time to repair this damage. First, purchase a concrete repair mix from your local home center. Once you've gathered the necessary tools and materials, use a chisel and hammer to chip away loose pieces of concrete, then rinse the area before applying the repair compound with a putty knife. Pick a rain-free weekend for the fix to allow the patch enough time to set.

## HVAC

Soaring temperatures will be here before you know it, and by then it will be too late to perform preventive maintenance on your HVAC system. Now is the time to inspect your HVAC units and prepare them to handle the blistering summer. So, eyeball your air conditioner, attic fan, and ductwork for signs of trouble, replacing them if needed to ensure that fresh, cool air circulates throughout your home no matter how hot it gets outside.

- **Inspect the air conditioner:** Power on your AC unit to make sure it's still providing clean, cool air to your home. If yours isn't quite cutting it anymore—if you have to endure poor indoor air quality, excessive noise, or uneven cooling—it's time to consider repairing or replacing it. Before you opt for a repair, take the unit's age into account; repairing an

older model may not be worth it.

- **Test the attic fan:** An attic fan keeps your home cool and your energy bills low. The downside of a whole-house fan, however, is that the fan motor frequently burns out. Test your attic fan motor by switching it on. Replace it if it won't run—most new motors cost between \$50 and \$100 and take little effort to replace. If you have an older model, though, consider the benefits of replacing the whole fan rather than just the motor. Newer fans boast greater energy efficiency, resulting in lower utility bills.

- **Check ductwork for efficiency:** Ducts that channel air from the HVAC system to your home's interior spaces can cause airborne annoyances in the home, causing poor indoor air quality.



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# Spring Home Improvement 2023

## Now is the Time to Prep Your Lawn and Garden for Warm Weather

(StatePoint) It may feel like warm weather is still a way's off, but you should already be getting your lawn and garden spring-ready, according to experts.

"One thing I don't think people realize is that to get your grass, shrubs and other plants looking good in the spring... all that preparation starts right now," says Major League Fishing bass pro, Brian Latimer, or "Blat" as he is known by fans.

To help homeowners prep for spring, Latimer has partnered with lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark, to offer his four, go-to tips:

### 1. Pull Those Weeds.

According to Latimer, the most important step in prepping your lawn and garden for spring is weeding. "I have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to weeds," he says. "Watch those sneaky weeds growing in your shrubs and ground covers, because those are going to be the first ones that show their heads in the spring."

While weeding isn't the most fun you can have in your yard, it's worth the effort. Latimer also recommends putting a pre-emergent out now while cool-season

weeds germinate. This is especially important if you have warm-season grass. While you can use pre-emergent on your planting beds as well, he recommends hand-pulling them if you can.

### 2. Tidy up with Selective.

Pruning. Pruning will make your shrubs look nice and tidy, however Latimer recommends being careful in your efforts, avoiding plants that are budding. Pruning buds will keep your flowers from being as prolific in the springtime. You can check for buds by combing your hands through the foliage.

### 3. Get Rid of Pests.

Certain spring pests should be treated for in the colder months. Latimer is especially wary of fire ants, as they're one of the most active lawn pests in spring. Treating them early will minimize their activity and mitigate potential problems they cause when the weather warms up. "I can promise you they are going to be everywhere in warm weather, so treat them now," he says.

### 4. Get Those Leaves up.

Latimer knows that leaf blowing or raking is time-consuming, but he says that

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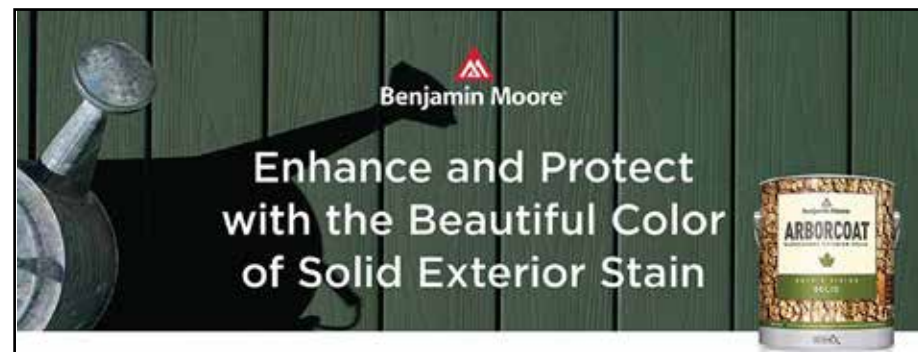
# Home Improvement

getting fallen leaves off the ground is essential. Not only are leaves on your lawn an eyesore, but they can also keep a lot of excess moisture from winter rain, snow and ice stuck in your soil. This creates the potential for root rot, active pests and germinating weeds.

Latimer offers more insights in "4 Tips to Prep Your Backyard for Spring," a recent video from Exmark. To watch the

video, visit Backyard Life, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners make the most of outdoor spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark videos.

There's no time like the present to plan for the future. With these great tips in mind, it's time to brave the brisk weather and get your lawn and garden prepped for spring.



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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## THE POOL IS OPEN

• **Public Swim:** Mon.-Wed. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p; Sun. 1-6p.  
**Adult Swim:** Mon.-Wed. 11a-3:30p and Thurs. and Fri., 11a-2p. **Lap Swim:** Mon-Fri 6a-9:45a and Sat. 10-11a. **Water Aerobics:** Mon.-Fri. 10-11a. 828-526-1595.

**Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, & Sun**

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for any-

more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

## Tuesdays

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

## Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recre-

ation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.  
 • Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.  
**Mon., Tues., Thurs.**  
 • The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.  
**Mon. & Wed.**  
 • 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, 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 w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.  
**Tues. & Thurs.**  
 • New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.  
 • Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information  
**First Wednesdays**  
 Hudson Library, in partnership with YAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, at 11:00 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health

## Second Mondays

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

## 1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

## 2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings held on the second or third Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Members receive weekly notification regarding when and how the group will assemble. For

one who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817 2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

issues of particular interest to them. The February 1 program is PTSD: Healing the Emotional Wound.

## Wednesdays

• 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.maconnc literacy.org](http://www.maconnc literacy.org), call 828-526 – 0863 or email [info@maconnc literacy.org](mailto:info@maconnc literacy.org)

## Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

## 3rd Fridays

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramsey at 828-526-3556.

## 2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

## 3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/909 Chapel. We serve breakfast

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

at 9am and hold our monthly meeting at 10am. We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

## Through May 31

• The Fontana Regional Library system, including Hudson Library in Highlands, is starting an Active Audio Challenge that will run from March 1st through May 31st. Participants who listen to 25 hours of audiobooks, while being active, will receive a prize. To register for the Challenge, come by Hudson Library and pick up the logbook used to record entries. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.

## Fri., March 31

• Community Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library at 11a in the Hudson Library Meeting Room. Mayor Taylor will discuss Highlands Budget Priorities for this coming Year

## Wed. & Sat. in April

• Spring is in the air! The Highlands Botanical Garden is waking up, and with it, an abundance of wildflowers is beginning to display. Join the Highlands Nature Center for an easy stroll through the Botanical Garden each Wednesday & Saturday this April between 4 and 5 PM to explore what spring ephemerals are blooming. These programs are free and open to the public, no registration is necessary. For more information, visit [highlands-biological.org](http://highlands-biological.org). The Highlands Nature Center & Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

## April 13

• NHC's own, Victor Treutel gives us poignant insights about his newly released book, *When the Dogwoods Bloom* at 6pm, in the Macon County Library, on 149 Siler Farm Rd, in Franklin. While on a local photography shoot, he discovered the story of Tsali who was born in the Smokies in the late 1700s. Tsali saved the Cherokee Nation. Victor retraced Tsali's life as much as possible and then fictionalized the details in the writing of this historical fiction

novel that will invoke laughter, tears, and possibly, change your life. This free program is co-sponsored by the Macon Co. Library, NHC and FATCC. Come learn, get inspired and win the free raffle! <https://fontanalib.org/events/walking-spring-victor-treutel>

## Sat., April 15

• Plateau Pickup 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Volunteers will begin at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park on Pine Street, where they will receive their geographic assignment. Groups, individuals, and families are welcome! A light breakfast and lunch will be provided, and participants will receive a free t-shirt. Volunteers will also receive gloves, pick up tools, safety vests and garbage bags. The project includes parts of U.S. 64, N.C. 28, N.C. 106 and streets in downtown. To participate, send an email to [events@highlandschamber.org](mailto:events@highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-2112.

• Workday on the Highlands Greenway meet at the REC Park back parking lot at 9am and will finish at noon when we will go to lunch at 4118. We will be on installing new signage. Come join the effort. Please bring your gloves. Please let Jim Chance know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly. [jamesallen-chance@gmail.com](mailto:jamesallen-chance@gmail.com)

• The Macon County Democratic Party will hold its annual convention on Saturday at noon at the Robert C. Carpenter Building located at 1288 Georgia Road in Franklin. The guest speaker will be Canyon Woodward, a native of Macon County and an author, political strategist and legendary trail runner. All persons registered to vote in Macon County as a Democrat or unaffiliated are welcome to attend this convention. Please call 421-2791 should you have any questions.

## Thurs., April 20

• Macon County Democratic Women lead the charge to save our planet for future generations again this year by hosting a community Potato Supper at Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Road, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eat in or take out a baked potato, your choice of toppings, a

dessert and a drink for \$12. Cost for children 12 and under is just \$6. Tickets may be purchased from members of Democratic Women of Macon County or by leaving a message at (678) 357-7718 to pick up tickets at the supper.

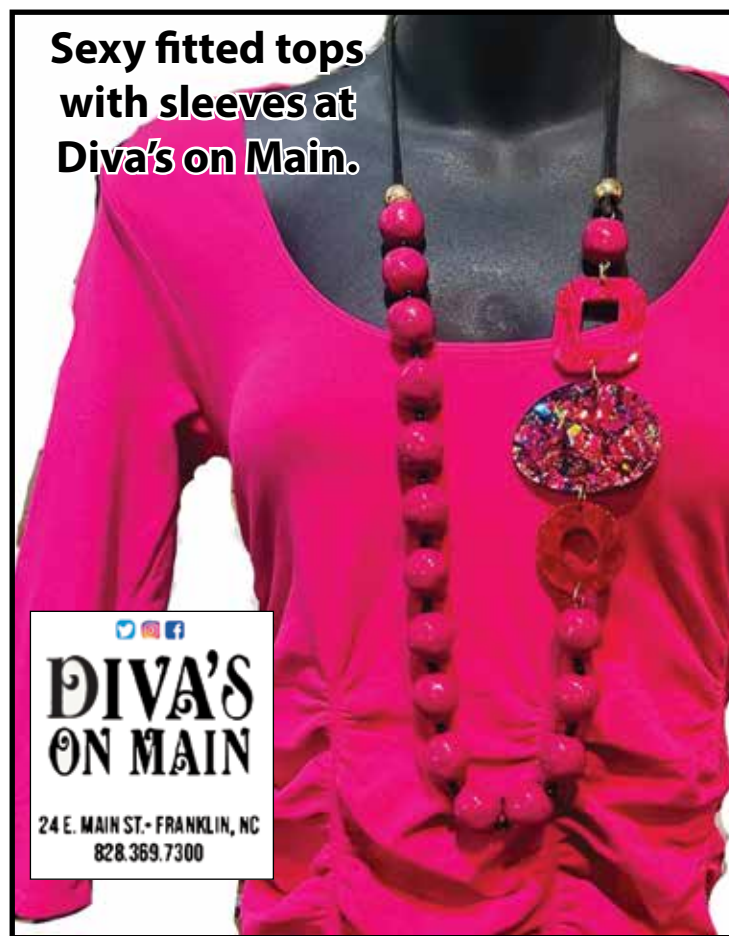
• OEI's Orchard Series. 6 - 8 pm. The sessions kick off Thursday with the return of Atlanta native Mike Kinnebrew. The Orchard Sessions are held at The Farm at Old Edwards at 336 Arnold Road in Highlands. Tickets are \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/mike-kinnebrew-orchard-sessions-at-the-far-tickets-124433>

## Friday April 21

• Community Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library at 11 AM in the Hudson Library Meeting Room for Community Coffee with the Mayor. Mayor Patrick Taylor will recognize Dr. Gary Wien, the retiring Executive Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. The topic will be: A Dialogue with Dr. Gary Wien: Highlands Future for Conservation and Land Man-

• See EVENTS page 22

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



**Fr. Jason Barone**  
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In 2017, I made my annual retreat at a monastery in Flavigny, France, where in the cloister (inner courtyard) stood a large crucifix bearing an inscription at its foot reading "crux stat dum volvitur orbi," meaning: "the cross stands while the world turns."

This phrase, while actually the motto of another monastic order, the Carthusians, perfectly reflects monastic life and, in a broader context, Christian life in general.

While the world seems to progress into each sequential century and offering novelties and changes, the faith survives and remains...or stands.

With each new century, epoch, or revolution, fulfillment seems to be just beyond the horizon, yet it never comes. Only the Faith, for those who have eyes to see, stands to quench our deepest thirsts.

This world-turning process definitely is true today and, if anything, the world seems to be turning faster and faster. Consider someone born in 1890 and died in 1970...a normal lifespan of 80 years. They came into the world traveling on horses and buggies and departed the world watching men traveling to the moon.

The current informational revolution, as impactful as its industrial predecessor, provides instant communication across time zones and the entire world, thus making the world now turn even faster.

The last few years, the dizzying events of a pandemic, war, and economic uncertainty have made more governmental acknowledgements of the JFK assassination and UFO encounters not even above-the-fold stories.

And now we stare into a coming artificial intelligence abyss in which we will soon be fully immersed. In other words, unless you are the eternal optimist, the world seems to be whirling and teetering just prior to being unhinged from its axis and sent flying.

Yet, the cross stands. It has been standing for two millennia. It watched empires and revolutions and all their promises and sense of inevitability come and go. Despite the march of secularism especially in cities, Jerusalem is still filled to the brim with those seeking to know and serve God. Despite church scandals and the jeering of secular crowds, people are still being called to Christ and even to the seminary, which is now burst-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (828) 421-1315

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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Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGELICAN CHURCH

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www.christanglicancashiers.com

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

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am. S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &

Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

### 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

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

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

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

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

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

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### 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

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Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am



## ...PROPERTY continued from page 1

input due to how competitive the real estate market is currently and to be able to gain access to the property for engineers to look at the property to determine if it was even useful to the county.

Because the board of commissioners had already entered into the contract prior to a public vote, during the April Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Josh Young made a motion to ratify the board's vote — which procedurally meant the board re-emphasized or announced the action that was taken during closed session — during an open meeting.

Known locally as the Higdon Estates, the property located at 195 Way Street in Franklin, across from Franklin High School, boasts 11 acres and the building sitting on the property is described as an estate consisting of a 4-bedroom Georgian-style main house, a 2-bedroom car-

riage house, and a large multipurpose barn. The property is located on rolling pasture lands and is located in Franklin's Neighborhood mixed-use zone.

Although the property has been vacant for a decade, Higdon said there was another buyer interested in the property, which is why commissioners moved quickly to get it under contract. In the event the county decides not to purchase the property, the county would be out \$10,000 in earnest money.

"Essentially we are paying \$10,000 to take it off the market for 90 days while we look at it and decide if we want to move forward with it," Commissioner Higdon said Tuesday night.

After voting to deem a county-owned parcel of land on Bethel Church as surplus property, allowing it to be sold, Higdon noted that "the county isn't in and shouldn't be in the real estate business" which is why they sold the tract

on Bethel Church Rd. However, immediately after that, Commissioner Higdon stated that although the county does not have a current plan or use for the Higdon Estates Property, it was a good business move for the county to purchase the property and hold on to it for potential future needs.

Commissioners Gary Shields and Danny Antoine offered their support for the purchase of the property with the idea that because of the close proximity to Franklin High School, the property would be good to incorporate into the ongoing Franklin High School new construction build.

While commissioners expressed interest in the property being part of the existing project, they also said in the event that engineers did not think it should be included in Phase 2 of the project, the property could be beneficial for future use in some other capacity.

• See PROPERTY page 22

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

spring. Efforts by volunteers ensure that large amounts of plastics, metals, and other trash will not end up in our critical watershed areas.

As we approach this next Earth Day, the big challenges remain as to how to implement green energy initiatives, such as conversion to electric vehicles and the generation of carbon-free energy. We must address these challenges not just to save the earth but rather to save ourselves as a species.

selves as a species.

This beautiful Highlands' mountain plateau lies in the crosshairs of these decisions about the environment, conservation, and sustainability. How much do we develop? How much population density is acceptable? What level of opulent living can we embrace without removing more ecological rivets?

There's a generation of young people out there in our educational

institutions that are ready for environmental change and justice. I hope they do better than my generation did.

At the community coffee on Friday, April 21, the day before Earth Day, we will recognize Dr. Gary Wien, the retiring Executive Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. The conversation will continue about how do we conserve this unique mountain environment and land.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

ing in numbers. Why? Because the cross still stands but stands empty. The Man once affixed to it on an April day 1,990 years ago died, was removed, and buried.

But then He rose. This one simple fact changes the entire world and how we understand it. Our entire faith rests on this one historical fact.

As St. Paul said, "if Christ has not been raised...your faith is void" (1 Cor 15:14).

To that end, it does not matter how fast the world turns, for ultimately it spins on the axis of the cross and is governed by the God who created it and set it in motion. The cross still stands because the incarnate God chose it as His instrument of torture and redemption.

We must let the historical fact of the resurrection settle in our bones and thus unsettle our spiritual complacency or reliance on the world.

Jesus of Nazareth is God in the flesh. Period. The historical fact of the resurrection bears witness to the historical fact of our Faith. We should therefore not let this Easter season pass by as so many others...as a mere excuse to wear pastels. Allow the fact of the resurrection to stand, along with the cross, in the center of your heart, and let the world outside turn.

# • FIRE REPORTS •

## The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 30.

### April 4

• At 2:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

• At 8:17 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashier Fire Dept.

• At 9:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Persimmon Lodge Road.

### April 6

## ...TRACK continued from page 1

On his last attempt, McDowell went for the Highlands Middle School record of 5'3" set by Isaiah Vilardo last year.

McDowell almost cleared

• At 4:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a residence on Cypress Lane.

### April 7

• At 11:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

### April 8

• At 4:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

At 10:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

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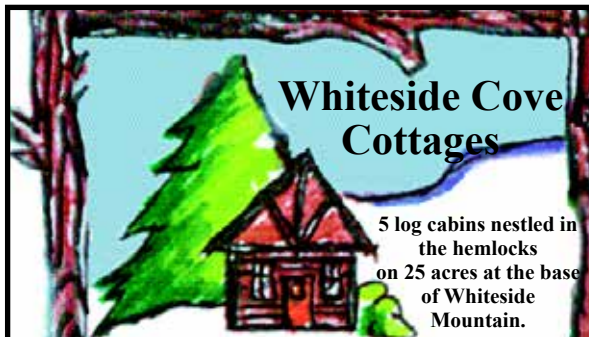
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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# ...PROPERTY continued from page 19

ity by the county.

As it stands, the Franklin High School Project, which entails constructing an entirely new facility on the existing campus, has a price tag of \$110 million. While that process continues to move forward, commissioners have yet to secure funding for it and according to the county's financial advisors, a tax increase is essentially unavoidable in order to complete the project.

Macon County Board of Education members Hilary Wilkes and Stephanie Laseter addressed commissioners during the meeting and said while they support any investment the county is willing to make into the school system, they were not comfortable providing input from the board as a whole, because they had not been made previously aware of the county's desire to purchase that property nor had they had any discussion as a board to that effect.

Wilkes, who represents the Highlands District, expressed frustration of being asked by the county to prioritize capitol needs of the school system — none of which included spending \$1.3 million to purchase that property, but did include comparable funding for the renovation of Highlands School to include PreK classrooms— and yet commissioners ignored the board's priority list and instead decided to purchase property without consulting the school board and for an intended use also not discussed with the school board.

School board members were confused as to why commissioners cited the lack of funding for the Highlands Project as the reason for stopping the project, with Commissioner Higdon turning around the very next month and specifically mentioning the county's large and excessive fund

balance as being the very reason to spend \$1.3 million to purchase a property for "future use" even without an intended use or function.

With the Highlands Project being estimated to cost around the same as the purchase of the Wayah Street property, the question was raised as to why the county was willing to use the fund balance to justify the purchase of a property never before discussed in Franklin, but weren't willing to use the fund balance to complete the Highlands renovation project that citizens have been advocating for, for more than a year.

Commissioners unanimously voted to ratify the motion to purchase the property and also voted to move \$1,350,000 from the county's general fund balance to pay for the property in the event the county moves forward with closing on the property.

# • EVENTS •

agement.

## Sat., April 22

• Nature Center's Earth Day Extravaganza on April 22 from 12 to 3p.! Grab your family and get ready to explore and appreciate the natural world with a scavenger hunt that will have you searching high and low for Earth's treasures in the Highlands Botanical Garden. Then, tap into your creative side with nature art and DIY crafts that will inspire you to use recycled materials to make beautiful, eco-friendly creations.

## Fri.-Sun, April 28-30

• Bear Shadow Music Festival, a weekend of celebration that highlights world-class music acts and outdoor experiences as we emerge from winter's hibernation. Brought to you by Highlands Festivals, Inc., the 3-day festival is at Winfield Farm. Bear Shadow is a sister event of the bespoke Highlands Food & Wine Festival. For more information and tickets, visit [bearshadownc.com](http://bearshadownc.com) or email [info@bearshadownc.com](mailto:info@bearshadownc.com).

## Sat., April 29

• Macon County Academic

Foundation Auction at South Macon Elementary at 11 a.m.,

## Fri. - Sun., May 5 - 7

• At Half-Mile Farm, live fire cooking with Old Edwards Executive Chef Chris Huerta & Half-Mile Farm Chef Jason Tardo featuring locally grown Providence Farmstead protein. Social Hour Friday and Saturday evenings from 5-6 pm with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music from 5-8 pm. Craft beverages also are available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern. Book Online: <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking/step-1>

## Fri- Sat. May 5-6

• There is a Cowee Valley Quilt & Fiber Celebration at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center from 10a to 4p. There will be workshops, demonstrations, kids activities, vendors, a fashion show and more. To register for workshops and find more info go to [www.coweeschool.org](http://www.coweeschool.org)

## Sat., May 6

• Join us in a cozy, Appalachian tavern for an intimate performance with one of country

music's most respected artists, Charlie Worsham at The Ruffed Grouse Tavern at Highlander Mountain House, 270 Main Street. 8:30 - 10:30 pm

## Sun., May 14

• At PAC, Steep Canyon Rangers. For tickets, email [highlandspacnc@gmail.com](mailto:highlandspacnc@gmail.com).

## Wed., May 17

• At Acorn's a book signing from 2-4 pm, with Chef Steven Satterfield of Miller Union in Atlanta who will be signing copies of his book, "Root to Leaf: A Southern Chef Cooks Through the Seasons."

## Thurs – Sat, May 18-20

• "Nightwatch" with the Highlands-Cashiers Players at PAC at 7:30 p.m. Unable to sleep, Elaine Wheeler paces the living room of her Manhattan townhouse, troubled by unsettling memories and vague fears. Her husband tries to comfort her, but when he steps away for a moment, Elaine screams as she sees (or believes she sees) the body of a dead man in the window across the way.



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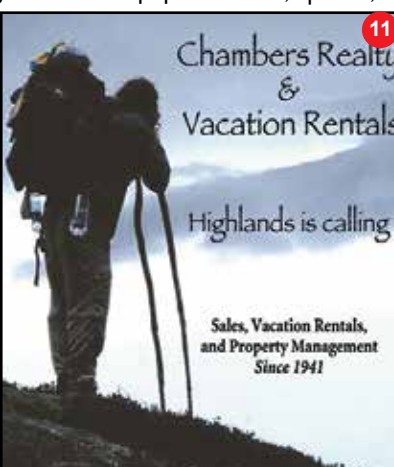
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