

# Highlands Newspaper

Happy Easter!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 20, Number 14

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., April 6, 2023

## Drainage issue could soon be resolved for Highlands soccer field

By Brittney Lofthouse

During an update from Macon County Schools facility Director Todd Gibbs during

the March meeting, the board of education learned that a local geologist inspected the Highlands soccer field and believes that ad-

ressing "muck" build up in the drainage system beneath the field would return the field to a playable

• See **SOCCER** page 7

## The living cross: a sign of renewal



The flowered cross at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street has become a symbol of Easter in Highlands. Check the ads in this issue for services at local churches.

## Town Board finalizes outstanding issues

At the March Town Board meeting, some issues looming for months were finalized and new issues were introduced.

The board finally put to rest lease agreements with the HAM amateur radio club and Charisma Radio Corp., known to most as WHLC radio whose lease has been in limbo for 1 1/2 years.

The 10-year leases clarify specifications for leasing space on the town's Big Bear Pen tower and outlines responsibilities for both the Lessor (the town) and the Lessee (HAM radio and WHLC).

Though both leases were approved, there is a 30-day waiting period during which time the public must be notified of the leases. After 30 days, the leases can be signed by all parties and then go into effect.

• See **TOWN BOARD** page 4

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## Drivers escape car just in time



Friday morning, Highlands Fire & Rescue was called about a vehicle fire on US 64 west at Bust Your Butt Falls. The occupants of the vehicle pulled over and got out of the vehicle just before it burst into flames. No one was injured. - Photos by Josh Ward and Ryan Gearhart

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# • THE PLATEAU's POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Coffee with the Mayor off to a good start

Last Friday marked the resumption of the "Community Coffee with the Mayor" at the Hudson Library. These coffee sessions are usually held on the last Friday of the month, from March to October.

I want to thank the staff and board of the Hudson Library for coordinating and sponsoring these sessions between the residents and the mayor. Our Hudson Library is a legacy community institution that we must all support. It has always been a place to obtain knowledge and information and has open dialogues.

I did an overview presentation about the impending new town budget and the priorities that town staff have identified. After my presentation, I opened the floor up for questions. Let me highlight the ideas and information that some of the questions brought up.

One resident asked about sewer connections. About half of the town is connected to the sewer, and the other half is not. Heavy rock formations have deterred



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

the development of the sewer system throughout the entire town. Nevertheless, I do believe the town needs to revisit this issue and determine how much it would cost to extend the sewer system throughout the entire town. I know the price tag would be high. Given the investment, the board would have to consider making it mandatory that residents connect to any new extensions.

Another question was whether the town received room occupancy tax funds to offset the increasing costs associated with expanded tourism. My response was no; the town does not directly receive those funds. The Macon County Commission and the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) control the funds and allocate a substantial portion to the Highlands Visitors Center. Under the 1985 state enabling legislation that the county operates under, these tax revenues can only be used for tourist promotion.

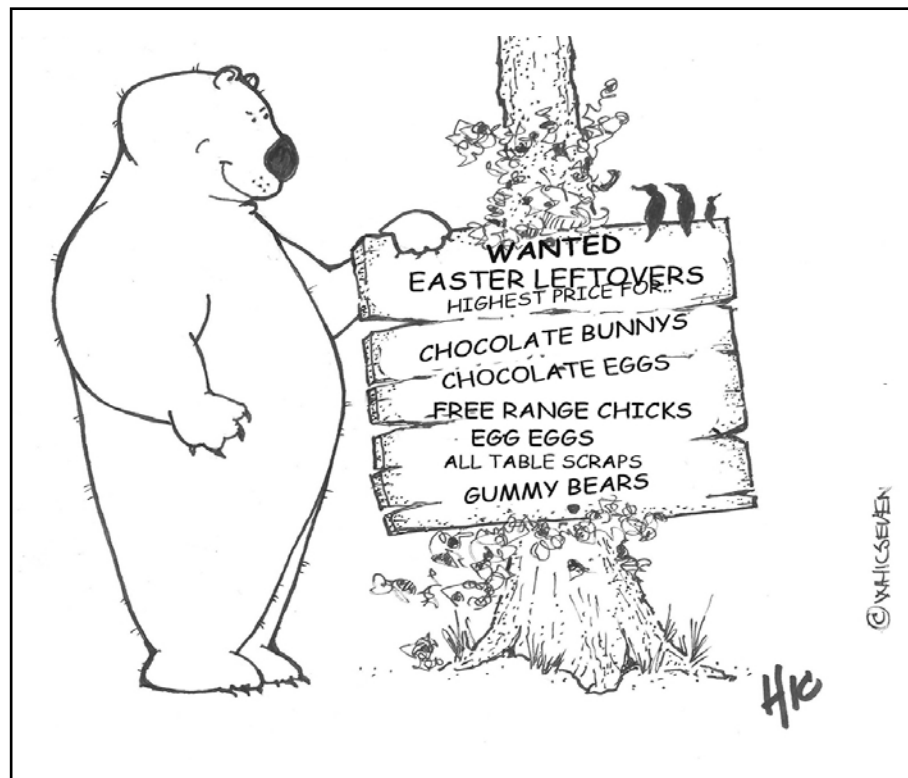
A new piece of legislation passed in 1997 permitted one-third of the room tax revenue to be used for tourist infrastructure initiatives and two-thirds for tourist promotion. The county would have to request to be put under the 1997 enabling legislation for room tax revenues to support anything other than tourist promotion.

The Magellan Strategy Group published a comprehensive report in 2022 that covers all aspects of how room occupancy taxes are allocated in the state. This report identifies several options for managing and allocating occupancy taxes.





Another question was raised about motorists speeding as they pass through Highlands. The question was asked if cameras could be installed to issue speeding tickets. Tallulah Gorge and Sky Valley are already doing so. My position on the ticket cameras is very clear. I am against them.

While we have security and tourist cameras located in limited places in town, I do not want to see us rely on some "robot" police camera to enforce traffic laws. People have the right to face their accusers. On the other hand, I favor using more radar speed

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 6-Apr	Fri, 7-Apr	Sat, 8-Apr	Sun, 9-Apr
			
70°F 55°F	58°F 43°F	45°F 38°F	51°F 38°F
Cloudy with a thunderstorm	Cooler with a t-storm or two	Colder with heavy rain	Partly sunny
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Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

[www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

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Highlands, N.C 28741

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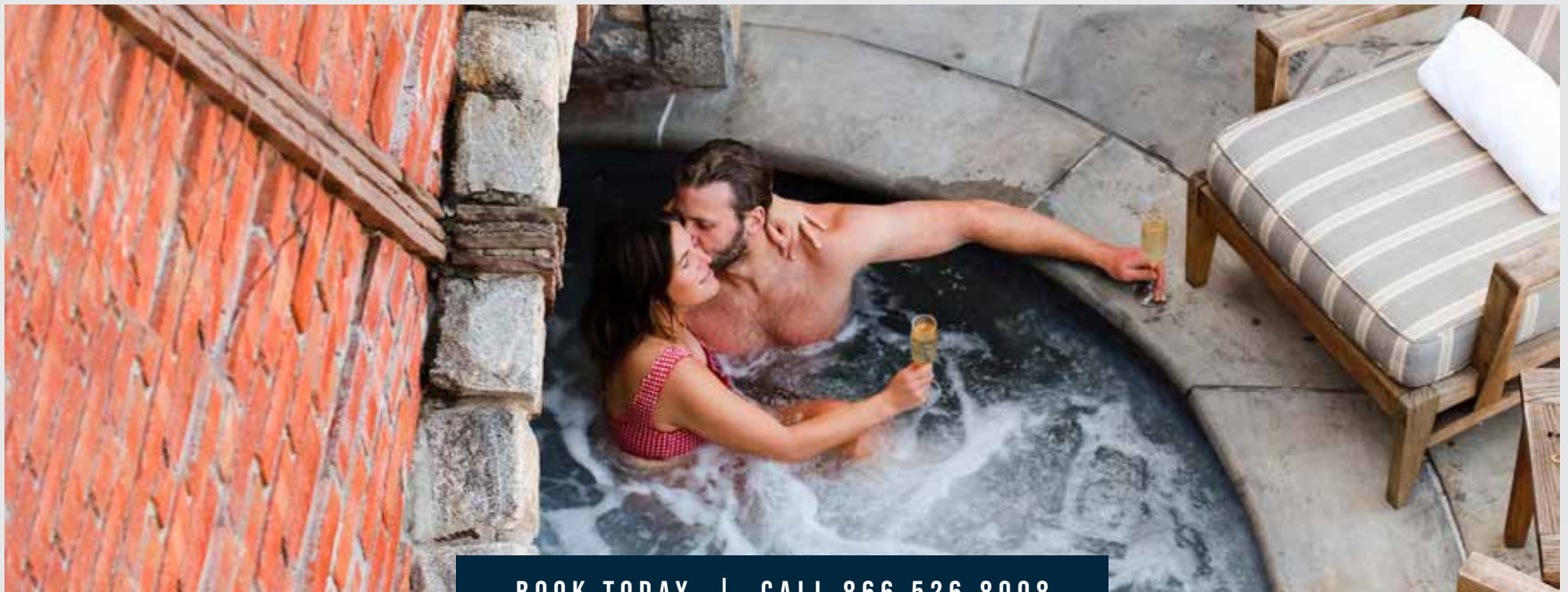
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## ...TOWN BOARD continued from page 1

HAM radio will pay \$750 per month with a 3% increase per year. WHLC will pay \$650 a month with a 2% increase per year.

The vote was unanimous for the HAM radio lease, but it was 4-1 for the WHLC lease with Commissioner Marc Hehn dissenting.

### Highlands Greenway

Sonja Carpenter with the Highlands Greenway requested permission to erect new way-finding signage on posts throughout town. Trail directions will be placed on 5-inch square, 4-ft. high posts in five greenway areas throughout town – Big Bear Pen, Mill Creek, Biological Station, Sunset Rock, Satulah Mountain and downtown starting at KH Founders Park -- which will direct walkers to paved, gravel or foot trails across the plateau.

Though Commissioner John Dotson has expressed concern about sign clutter in Highlands throughout the years, the board unanimously approved the project which will be not cost the town anything. In the end 34 posts will be erected.

### NC 106 sidewalk

Though property owners along the east side of NC 106 have all talked positively about the project, and in fact want it to happen, Shelby Place property owners want to know exactly how the walkway will sit on the property, and how the varied geography of the area will be handled.

Consequently, the board approved \$5,500 to survey the portion of the proposed NC 106 sidewalk that would be located on the Shelby Place Homeowners' property. The homeowners are requesting a specific location for the walkway prior to making a final decision. The survey is likely



About 34 posts will be erected in five greenway areas throughout town.

the final step in the town securing an easement and building the sidewalk with the help of anonymous donors and grants.

### ABC Store

Final approval was given to the ABC Board to begin the conversion of the old fire station to a new ABC Store facility.

Over the years, the ABC Board has saved enough money to make the conversion and begin operations at the new location. Steve Mehder on the ABC Board said since the board no longer has to save money for the future, once the store is expanded, the town will likely receive

about \$400,000 a year from ABC proceeds.

The board gave Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart the go-ahead to begin staffing the fire department with full-time personnel. Gearhart is looking to hire six full-time people. The staffing can be accomplished without raising the fire tax.

### Center for Life Enrichment

The Center for Life Enrichment, like the Literacy Council, is still recovering from the December weather bomb that caused pipes to freeze and break and ultimately damage the facilities.

The Literacy & Learning Center has moved temporarily to the Highlands United Methodist Church while repairs are being made to their facility on NC 28 south.

With the season about to start, CLE got the go ahead to temporarily move to the Playhouse until their space in the Peggy Crosby Center is repaired. Once the Mountain Theatre Company vacates the Playhouse the end of May or the beginning of June, it will take up residence in the Performing Arts Center.

- Kim Lewicki

## Sign up for Plateau Pickup set for April 15

The annual Plateau Pickup is Sat. April 15 at 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Volunteers will begin at KH Founders Park on Pine Street, where they will receive their geographic assignment. 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 Highlands. To participate, send an email to [events@highlandschamber.org](mailto:events@highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-2112.





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4  
BR

3  
BA

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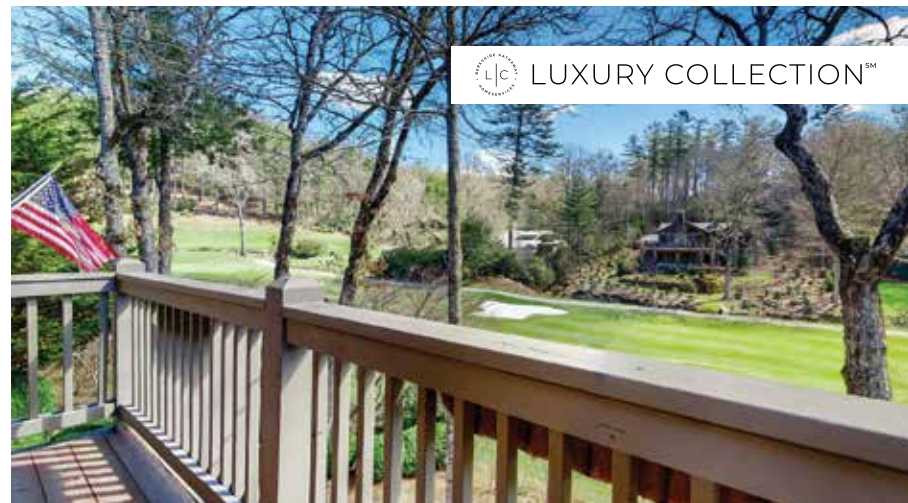
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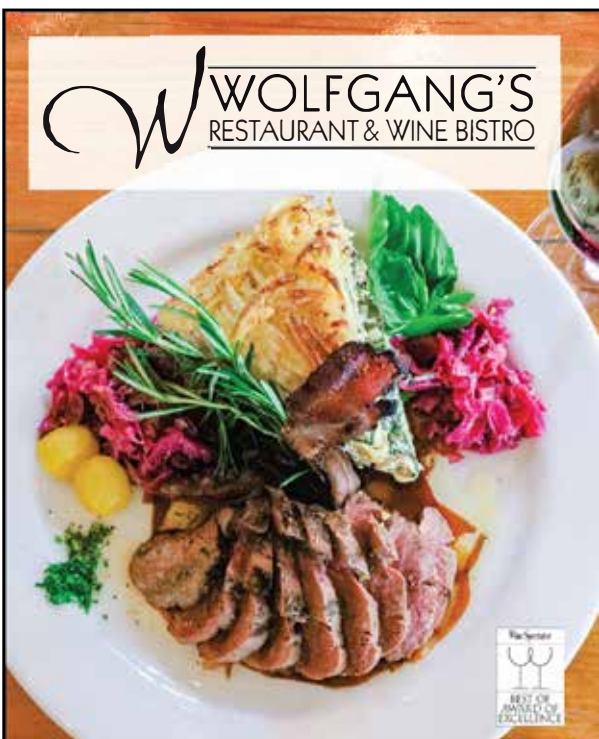
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# • LETTERS •

## Public libraries need to be open to all

Dear Editor,

I have lived in Highlands for over 30 years and have always been a supporter of the Hudson Library, part of the Fontana Regional Library System. I am appalled at the suggestion that Macon County leave the system for one of its own making.

My mother was a librarian and I was fortunate enough to have spent my formative years surrounded by books. To this day, I have heard from former classmates in elementary school how much my mother helped them and encouraged their exploration. Now I look at all the services available to patrons of the Fontana Regional Library System and wonder what might happen to that person for whom the library

has become a haven - a place of community as well as individual growth.

A PUBLIC library has always been a place for thinking and open-mindedness, leading to lively informed discussions. A PUBLIC library is just that: for the public, not only for like-minded individuals.

Please let's keep our libraries open to all people, no matter their political or social beliefs. I hope our Macon County Commissioners will support freedom of speech and allow for peaceful, informed discussion prior to making decisions that affect all residents of Macon County.

**Jenny King**  
Highlands

## ...SOCCER continued from page 1

condition.

The field has faced considerable environmental issues since its inaugural 2009 season, however the past season was virtually non-existent for home matches as the field's condition was too poor and unsafe for athletes to utilize.

When it rains, the water must go somewhere, and if the soccer field lacks proper drainage, the water will accumulate on the surface of the field, causing significant damage over time. Excessive water buildup can cause the field to become muddy, slippery, and unplayable. For Highlands, that has meant the creation of standing water on the field, which can take several days to dry out.

Last fall, Highlands community members asked the county to address the issue by outfitting the soccer field with turf, which was estimated to cost just under \$1 million. At the request of county leadership, stakeholders met at the school too take an in-depth look at the soccer field to determine the primary cause of the water build up and determine if a turf field would even be feasible.

Gibbs said he, along with Highlands School administration, Macon County Commissioner John Shearl, and former soccer coach and local architect Jeff Weller met at the

school to evaluate the soil and area around the field.

The Plateau sees anywhere between 100 to 150 inches of rain a year and while the field has always retained more water than ideal for a soccer field, it wasn't until this past year when Highlands reported nearly 10 inches in one month that the issue essentially stopped the soccer season.

When the field was constructed in 2009, it was built near a site that used to house a pond, and developers knew drainage would be a challenge, however there wasn't a more feasible option for the field. According to the local geologist, the "herringbone" drainage system which was constructed under the entire field to mitigate water issues has become overwhelmed over the last 13 years and essentially has ceased to function.

According to Gibbs, the geologist and his team are working over the Spring Break holiday to take soil boring samples to determine which drainage system will best serve the area. Gibbs said the geologist referenced the possibility of horizontal or vertical drainage systems, something not previously discussed.

Horizontal and vertical drainage systems can address certain problems that a herringbone drainage system may not be able to resolve.

Horizontal drainage systems are typically installed at a shallow depth and are used to remove excess surface water from low-lying areas, such as lawns, sports fields, and golf courses. They consist of perforated pipes or channels that are installed parallel to the ground surface and are typically placed in a gravel bed or surrounded by sand to allow for efficient water flow. Horizontal drainage systems are effective at removing excess water from the surface of the soil, preventing pooling and waterlogging, and promoting healthy plant growth.

Vertical drainage systems, on the other hand, are used to remove excess groundwater from deeper soil layers. They consist of deep boreholes or wellpoints that are installed vertically into the ground and are typically connected to a network of pipes or pumps that can draw water to the surface or redirect it away from an area. Vertical drainage systems are effective at lowering the water table and preventing waterlogging, particularly in areas with high groundwater levels.

• See SOCCER page 30



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## Renewal and Restoration

I have always felt that Easter is our most significant holiday. When darkness had overtaken the world with the crucifixion of Jesus and hope was lost for a better world, His resurrection brought new life to a forsaken world and faith was restored and souls could be saved.

And when spring comes after winter's wrath and sends forth a mixture of lovely flowers that lay dormant in the cold, dark ground, it gives us reasons to smile again.

This makes me think of our lovely little town that has seen a resurgence of restoration of older homes being turned into beautiful residences.

Many buyers want to be in town with a short walk to their favorite restaurant, bar of choice, coffee shop for morning cappuccino, or breakfast, fabulous boutique shopping, a performance at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, hiking the Kelsey Hutchinson Trail, or grabbing a blanket and sitting atop Sunset Rock and viewing glorious sunsets with an array of colors that



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mimic nature's kaleidoscope. You can feel excitement in the air as we anticipate upcoming events and the return of the second homeowners.

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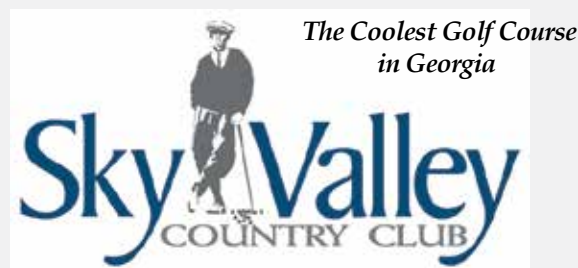
All of us at Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group wish you a joyous spring filled with love and eternal hope.

• *Pat Allen is broker-in-charge of Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group in the downtown office at 295 Dillard Road. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, consistent award-winner, and a top producer every year during her real estate career of 19 years. You may reach her at 828-200-9179 or email her at pat.allen@allentate.com*

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From left: Jim Chance, Rotary President Chris Wilkes and Rotarian Brian Egler.

The Rotary Club of Highlands welcomed guest speaker Jim Chance at the meeting held on March 28. Chance spoke to the club about the potential Blue Ridge Community Connector, a hiking route designed to connect the communities of Cashiers, Highlands, and Clayton, GA, through a regional trail system.



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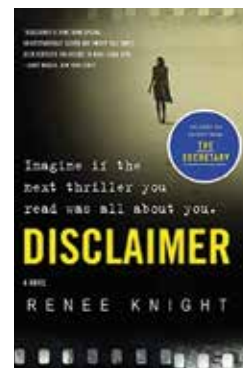
### • INK PENN •

## Two mysteries that will keep you guessing

There are so many authors whose new books I eagerly anticipate, it's often difficult for me to squeeze in someone new. Returning to a tried and true favorite ensures an enjoyable read. Taking a chance on someone new can result in a book I set aside and don't finish. Color me picky.

Because I don't review books that disappoint me, you never hear about them in my columns. My default position on reviews is that there's someone out there who will like a book whether I do or not. A good example is "Gone Girl." I thought all of the characters in that one were unlikable, but the book was a smash hit.

In the case of author Renee Knight's book "Disclaimer," I'm glad I branched out. Once again, I have no clue where I read about the book, but the write-up must have intrigued me because I added it to my library hold list.



**Disclaimer**  
 by Renee Knight

The blurb on the inside flap would horrify anyone: "What if you realized the terrifying book you were reading was all about you?" Imagine settling in to read a book you find on your nightstand. It sounds familiar and suddenly you see it isn't fiction. It's a horrible chapter in your life, a chapter you thought was known only to you.

The story paints a distasteful picture of Catherine, the main character, and as I read, I kept thinking I'd figured out what she had done. There are hints, but her transgression



Kathy Manos Penn

is left to your imagination for most of the book. You will think you know what it was. As Lee Child says, it is "sensationally good psychological suspense ... exactly what a great thriller should be." I predict you'll be as bamboozled as I was.

**The Paris Apartment**  
 by Lucy Foley

Both this book and Foley's "The Guest Book" are editors' picks on Amazon, and now I've read them both. They're equally disturbing, and both kept me guessing.

A twenty-something girl from England shows up at her older brother's apartment in Paris only to discover he's missing. She texted with him, and he told her how to get there from the train and that he'd be waiting for her. The mysterious neighbors in the building are less than forthcoming, even the one who purports to be a friend of her brother's from their university days in England.

As the blurb says, "Everyone's a neighbor. Everyone's a suspect. And everyone knows something they're not telling." Once again, I never saw the twist coming.

If you enjoy "keep you guessing until the very end" mysteries, then these two books are for you.



• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at Shakespeare & Company in Highlands, Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and on Amazon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](https://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).



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Newly renovated and updated, this house is about 12 minutes from downtown Highlands and very close to usfs. With a great open living/dining and kitchen area on the main level and two bedrooms on the upper level and two on the lower level. A large covered deck and fireplace, perfect for outdoor entertaining and another deck overlooks a small creek which can be turned into a pond. Offered at \$599,000. mls #101154



This 2BR/2BA vacation rental has deeded Mirror Lake access across Hicks Road. Includes town water, sewer and garbage pickup. Recently renovated. Full unfinished basement plumbed for 3rd bath. Sold furnished with few exceptions. Single car garage and paved circular driveway. Fenced backyard. Offered at \$775,000. mls #101169



Incredible view from this three bedroom, two bath, walk in level condo. Open kitchen to living area with nice wood burning fireplace, covered back deck to enjoy the view. Separate laundry, plus outdoor storage room. Owners cannot move until July. Offered at \$650,000. mls #101546



Located about 5 miles from town. This home 4BD/3BA home has a 2-car carport, main room has a pellet wood stove, updated kitchen with room for expansion. 2 bed/2 ba, suite upstairs has a primary bedroom, laundry, office-den and bath. The lower level has a huge unfinished room with a laundry, work area and is stubbed for a bath. Storage building has 2 levels on an acre of land. Offered at \$599,000. mls #100826



3bd/3ba. 2 main bedrooms - one upstairs and one on the main level. Living room has 18' vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace with gas logs but could be converted to wood burning. 2-car detached garage with workshop space and second story, ready to make your own. Fire pit behind the garage. Less than 1/2 mile to town from the Holt Knob neighborhood. Offered at \$775,000. mls #101251



Located close to town, this starter cottage features 2 bedrooms and 3 baths. One car garage could be converted to a family room. 3 levels that house a living room/kitchen/dining on main, bedroom and bath on 2nd level. Primary bedroom, bath, den with tv, office, and full bath, outdoors has a patio-deck that enjoys the rushing water of the Cullasaja river overflow from Mirror Lake. Offered at \$499,000. mls #101709



Long mountain and golf course views from this three bedroom, three bath unit. Original owners, unit has never been rented or had pets. Kitchen is fully equipped with Corian countertops and all appliances. Dining opens into living room with stone gas fireplace, screened porch with gas fireplace, back deck to enjoy the views. Primary has nice walk-in closet, two guest suites and nice laundry. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$1,195,000. mls #101714



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



This home is over 100 years old and is ready to be brought back to the condition it deserves. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an office. close to town and great location, walk to great food. nice usable yard. Offered at \$1,500,000. mls #100745



Located close to town, This 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath sits high upon a knoll and overlooks the shimmering water of Lake Sequoyah. Enter the main level into a large living room - dining room. Kitchen has a breakfast nook and pass through to the living-dining area. Powder room in the hall, which leads to the owners bedroom and spacious bath, stairwell to the lower-level family room-game room with full bath. Upstairs has two large bedrooms with a hall bath. This house has a rental history also. Offered at \$825,000. mls #100924



Eastside Duck Mountain. This 3 bedroom 2 bath is located in Four States Subdivision and has a spectacular view of Winfield Farm, Blue Valley and vistas to the south. Main floor living plan has living room with fireplace, kitchen, dining room/Sunroom with loads of windows. 2 guest bedrooms with a hall bath, upstairs has a huge master suite with fireplace and ensuite bath. Offered at \$650,000. mls #101529



2 Bedroom 2 bath with loft. Located on Buck Creek Road. Main level living with additional loft area. Stone, wood burning fireplace in the living room. Private setting with just over 3 acres of land. Additional workshop. Offered at \$450,000. mls #100577



Do not miss this move in condition, spectacular house located off Buck Creek Road on Western Rhodes Road. 3 bedrooms, plus additional flex spaces. Multiple fireplaces. Open Great room concept with custom kitchen, plank wood floors, stone fireplace in the Great room that flows onto a covered porch with hot tub spa. Masters on main and upper floors, plus guestrooms complete with baths. Outbuilding. Trails lend to your privacy and to explore your own kingdom. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #100481



**HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB** 5 bedrooms, 5 baths. Usable lot with lovely landscaping. Walk paths through the lower yard. Whole house generator. Life pine shake roof. Do not miss seeing this one! Offered at \$2,100,000. mls #101317



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# • FINANCIAL MATTERS •

## Bank failures - Did we just drive onto the shoulder?

In February of 2022 I wrote in this paper:

"We did have something new last year that looks like it will be with us a bit longer than first expected - inflation. To put it simply, there is too much money chasing too few goods. Sprinkle in a little pent-up demand from the pandemic, and voila, prices go up. The only question is - will the Fed run the economy into the ditch trying to tamp down inflation?"

### Federal Reserve Rate Hikes

Jerome Powell and the Federal Open Market Committee have been on a tear, raising rates in an attempt to get inflation under control. So far, they've managed to lower the rate of inflation somewhat, but they still aren't satisfied with the results. I attended a meeting in December where the keynote was the number two person at the Atlanta Fed. He was very clear that they were much more concerned about inflation becoming imbedded in our economy than they were about damaging the economy. The question now is, with the recent bank failures, did they just drive onto the shoulder, and did it wake them up?

### We're not in a ditch...yet.

Keep in mind, the Federal Reserve has two economic mandates. One is full employment, the other is inflation below 2%. But with just about any large-scale Federal Program, there are going to be "unintended consequences." We know, "when interest rates go up, bond prices go down", and aggressive rates hikes are beginning to cause consequences - intended or otherwise.

2022 was the worst year for bonds in history. Yep, you read that right, and you likely saw it play out if you own bonds or bond mutual funds. The Barclays Bond Aggregate Index - which is a widely used index to measure bond returns - was down a whopping 15% in 2022.

In some ways, normalizing interest rates is a good thing. Fixed



Michael P Henderson,  
CFP® CKA®  
Founder/Wealth Advisor  
Crossover Point Advisors

income investors are now able to obtain returns on low-risk assets that are more consistent with historical norms. But it's difficult for a bank, or any institution - to take a 15% reduction in the value of their fixed income portfolios (that aren't supposed to go down that much) and not have a ripple effect. As Mohamed El-Erian, Chief Economic Advisor at Allianz recently said, "This is what happens when you slam on the brakes".

Which brings me to the failure of Silicon Valley Bank or SVB. Apparently, a while back, SVB decided to purchase bonds that didn't mature for many years because, at the time, they were able to earn enough on those bonds to support higher interest rates for their customers - which attracted new business. Their customers aren't your average everyday Americans, but venture capital firms that raise money for brand new companies also known as start-ups. This worked for a while, but in September when rates really started to climb, SVB was apparently caught flat footed and ended up selling the bonds at a huge discount/loss to raise money. Then the online rumor mill in Silicon Valley started and there was a run on the bank.

Now what? Since then, there have been 3 banks to fail in some way in the US and Credit Suisse had to be purchased by UBS in

Switzerland. On the American side, shortly after SVB was Signature Bank - which ironically happens to have Bernie Frank on their Board - failed at least in part because of losses in Crypto. The great irony is that Bernie Frank co-wrote the bill known as "Dodd-Frank" which raised financial requirements for banks after the Great Financial Crisis. In my opinion, both are likely isolated cases.

One thing you may find interesting is that this was the first "digital" run on a bank in history. Remember the movie It's a Wonderful Life when George and Mary were leaving on their honeymoon and there were lines of people waiting in the rain to get their money, including from The Building and Loan. This time, there were no lines or waiting in the rain. Customers of SVB simply wired their money out to another institution.

I'm not certain, but it seems to me now that the Federal Government has back-stopped depositors, we should be ok. However, much depends on whether the Federal Reserve continues to aggressively raise interest rates. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) seems to have backed off a bit by only raising by .25% in March, but for now Chair Powell still has not signaled when they might stop.

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# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Mountain Life Properties opens 'stand alone' firm

After prospering as a brokerage team affiliated with Landmark Realty Group for several years, the REALTORS of Mountain Life Properties are excited to serve clients within their new standalone firm.

In sync with the firm's passion for promoting a mountain lifestyle, a large and beautiful log cabin at the corner of Highway 64 and Maple Street in downtown Highlands was acquired to be the firm's new office building. The office is set to open the first week of April. Look for an open house "at the cabin" in the near future!

"Luxury real estate in the Highlands Plateau and Cashiers Valley is both our profession and our passion. We will continue to elevate the standard of luxury real estate services through our compassion, expertise, and unequalled services." - Doug Treadwell Broker/Owner of Mountain Life Properties

What does Mountain Life mean to you? We recognize we are not just finding you a home, but we are delivering on the lifestyle, whether that is golfing in private gated communities, outdoor concerts during the cool summer nights, fly fishing in the beautiful Tuckasegee River, or hiking the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, the Team



From left: Doug Treadwell – Broker/Owner; Heather Ball – Broker/Office Manager; Jimi Lopez-Isa – Broker; John Sheehan – Broker; Carrie Sheehan – Personal Assistant

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at Mountain Life Properties works with you to find the perfect balance in your new home.

Our experienced team at Mountain Life Properties will find your dream estate home amongst the woods and wild-life of Cashiers, a lakefront lodge in Lake Glenville, a mountain modern house in Lake Toxaway, or a quaint cottage in neighborly Highlands that you will love for years to come.

Mountain Life Properties, along with its sister firms Blue Ocean Real Estate of Florida and Elevated Life Real Estate of Colorado, expertly serves the needs of discerning real estate clientele within the US luxury market and has an accumulation of over 100 years of real estate experience and sells \$100's of millions of real estate each year.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Don't hesitate to visit us "at the cabin." We look forward to helping you with your real estate needs!

If you are interested in joining our team, come by our Maple Street cabin or call us at 828-482-2800. Office Location 134 Maple St Highlands NC 28741

## Mountain Findings is taking college and vocational \ scholarship applications until April 7th

Mountain Findings, a local non-profit community thrift store dedicated to giving back to its community, has been around for 54 years and is proud to announce its scholarship and vocational award program.

This program offers funding to support several local graduating Highlands High School Seniors, who would otherwise have difficulty accessing quality education and training, in achieving their educational goals.

This is a great opportunity for students who wish to pursue a two or four-year college degree, become certified in a trade, or pursue other forms of technical training.

For more information regarding this program, its deadline, and its application process, please contact Nicole Lui, Highlands High School Counselor. To learn about Mountain Findings, visit [www.MountainFindings.org](http://www.MountainFindings.org).



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## Holy Week Schedule 2023



*Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church  
Highlands*

**April 6th - Holy Thursday Mass**

6pm • St. Jude Sapphire Valley

**April 7th - Good Friday Liturgy**

3pm • St. Jude Sapphire Valley

**April 8th - Easter Vigil Mass**

8:30pm • St. Jude Sapphire Valley

**April 9th - Easter Sunday Mass**

9:30am at St. Jude Sapphire Valley

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## • THEN AND NOW •

### The morning of the Cardinal

I don't like watching breaking or really much news at all these days, almost always depressing and seemingly worsening. Bad news seems endless because it is.

In fact, perhaps as much as 85-90% of all news comes across as negative, so much so that if, for example, you watch David Muir on ABC evening news, he always ends with a short, uplifting segment on a topic like "Made in America," just a little good news.

Whether flag waving or promoting some act of goodness or heroism, other mass media platforms do the same. No matter how much Americans supposedly want to hear "good news," they really don't. But why?

Psychologists, academics, and scientists point to an "Availability Heuristic," a sort of cognitive bias we somehow acquire or just a tendency to be drawn to more negative, sensationalist, or graphic images and news. When a news anchor warns that the "following images might be graphic and disturbing," most Americans lean in and watch more closely. The same holds true for natural disasters, either watching or visiting devastated towns, homes, or war-ravaged areas.

Supposedly our negativity bias comes through evolution, our natural instinct to survive storms, politics, and healthy food. Now it's enhanced by villainous media moguls like the one in the James Bond movie, Tomorrow Never Dies.

My own bias inevitably involves sports, namely why bad decisions by referees and coaches doom my teams to lose. Except Georgia, my alma mater, which always deserves to win.

In high school, I perennially wondered why some students, obviously not as smart or motivated, forever got awards and accolades while I didn't. My brilliant, over-achieving children suffered the same bias. Or why the charming,



**Milton Ready**

intelligent, good-looking, back-slapping, and too-socially-adept colleague always got promoted and I didn't. Or why and who to blame for the moral decay, lack of motivation, and slackness of the present generation compared to the virtues of my own. BTW, I had no part in their upbringing.

Yet unlike negativity, its opposite, hopefulness, mindfulness, and optimism seemingly are not hardwired into our systems. Instead, they must be acquired, something most of us too-suspiciously resist.

It's far easier being a contrarian like the Cynic, Diogenes of ancient Greece, who went around with a lantern in daytime looking for an honest man. Or a Marxist like Groucho who philosophized "Whatever it is, I'm against it."

Supposedly it takes 30 days to acquire a new habit like hopefulness and twice or more to break a bad one like gloominess. Or a lifetime.

Still, there's no better time to begin than this Easter season. Why? It's perennially the morning of the cardinal, a time to embrace hope, joy, love, positivity, and resurrection of our emotional and spiritual selves.

Instead of withdrawing and becoming more bitter like Joe Bt-fsplt in the comic strip, Lil' Abner, who forever went around with a small, dark, rain cloud hovering

over him, become the opposite, namely someone who laughs, lives, and embraces joyfulness in life.

Here are a few of myriad ways to try. Practice daily gratitude. Spend more time outside in our beautiful mountains, forests, and valleys. Engage in acts of random kindness and helpfulness. Donate a piece of clothing you really like. Give your time and effort as well as money. Be less critical and more thankful. Call or contact someone like a loved one or friend who's been important in your life. Exercise just a little more. Sing out loud. Change your environment by being around positive people like those who congregate in churches every Sunday and not just at Christmas or Easter. Crucially, don't watch bad news and get off social media, perhaps the most difficult habit to break.

America leads the world in three significant categories, namely those imprisoned, gun violence, and, most importantly, in our belief in angels.

Cardinals appear when angels are near. They come in the spring of every year after seasons of distress, tribulation, and misfortune.

Look for them and you will know that they represent those we have lost, who watch over us, and that they will live forever as long as we keep their memories alive in our hearts and souls.

As an old Texas Baptist, I am reminded that my sainted Mother believed as such, that our lives were part of a larger process and plan, that we should embrace the Pauline dilemma of how to do and be good in a world that is intent on doing evil, and that, along with my Savior, she still watches over me.

Look for a cardinal this Easter season and, if you do not see one, then become one.



# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Local agents honored by Weichert Real Estate for outstanding real estate performance

Highlands Properties is proud to announce that multiple agents from its brokerage were honored by the national franchise organization, Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., for their outstanding real estate performance in 2022. The following agents were recognized for their sales achievements in 2022, based on gross commission income or units closed.

- Myrna Moore - Executive

Club

- Shepard King - Sales Achievement

"We are very proud of all our affiliates and their agents for everything they were able to accomplish this past year," said Bill Scavone, president of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. and Weichert, Realtors®. "We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable agents who went above and beyond

to offer exceptional service to their clients."

Highlands Properties is an independently owned and operated Weichert® affiliate.

For more information about Weichert, Realtors® Highlands Properties, please contact Kyle McKim at (828) 526-5522 or [kyle@highlandsproperties.com](mailto:kyle@highlandsproperties.com).

For more information about franchise opportunities, visit [WeichertFranchise.com](http://WeichertFranchise.com).

## Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation announces 2023 grant cycle

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) has announced the opening of its grant cycle for 2023. The Health Foundation is pleased to provide one grant cycle this year, beginning March 31, with initial inquiries that address one or more of their three strategic priorities: Health, Access to Healthcare, and Behavioral and Mental Health.

"The Foundation is in its fifth year of our mission to improve the health and well-being of Highlands, Cashiers, and our surrounding communities," said Dr. Barbara Corcoran, Health Foundation Board Chair. "We are excited to continue our commitment to meaningful solutions that address health issues across our communities and make a real difference in people's lives."

Grants are at the core of the mission of Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation. Since

its inception on February 1, 2019, the Health Foundation has provided over 90 grants that delivered almost \$9 million to more than 70 organizations throughout our communities. Recent-funded initiatives include a recreational therapist at the Boys and Girls Club, funding for The Plateau Behavioral Health Collaborative, a Highlands School nurse, and a behavioral health therapist at Blue Ridge Health-Highlands Cashiers. The 2023 grant cycle will continue to fund transformational programs that fit within the mission of lifting health and well-being, together.

"Grants are our most prolific way to impact our community," said Robin Tindall, Health Foundation CEO and Executive Director. "Our Foundation strives to partner with organizations that demonstrate measurable improvements in our community. One

of our key interests this year will be collaborative opportunities to work with like-minded organizations that align programs and projects with shared goals and a common vision to work collectively together."

The Organizational Inquiry period of the grant cycle ends on April 28 at 5 pm. Invitations to complete pre and full applications will follow, with grant awards anticipated in October. Additionally, the Health Foundation will be hosting a 2023 Grant Cycle Information Webinar on April 11 at 3:00 p.m. For more information about the full grant process and schedule, to sign up for the 2023 Grant Cycle Information Webinar, or if your organization has an interest in submitting an Organizational Inquiry to start the grant process, please visit the Health Foundation's grant website at [www.hchealthfnd.org/grants/](http://www.hchealthfnd.org/grants/).

## Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC announce Leadership Highlands Jr. program

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC is launching a free educational program aimed at Highlands School students who will be in

grades 10-12 during the 2023/24 school year.

Leadership Highlands Jr. will focus on developing young lead-

ers, preparing them for next steps after high school, and encouraging community involvement and civic engagement.



From left: Patricia Smith, NP; Miguel Santos, former volunteer interpreter; Cathy Hermanson, Jerry Hermanson, Michael Greene, Behavioral Counselor; Faviola Olvera, Sandy Carlton, book keeper; Scott Thurman, former volunteer Diabetic Educator.

## Hermanson of the Community Care Clinic, retires

Jerry Hermanson, the founding Director of the Community Care Clinic for Highlands-Cashiers, was honored Friday March 31 by his employees, volunteers, patients, and friends at a retirement party.

Jerry had 17 years of dedicated service and will surely be missed. Faviola Olvera, director of Clinical Services, has taken over as Interim Executive Director beginning April 1st.

The Community Care Clinic serves Highlands-Cashiers and

surrounding areas with free medical care and counseling to the low income, uninsured population.

Thanks to Jerry's leadership and the support of a generous community and dedicated volunteers, the clinic has served the medical needs of those less fortunate among us.

If you interested in making a tax deductible donation, volunteering, or learning more about the clinic please check out our web sight: [highlandscashiersclinic.org](http://highlandscashiersclinic.org)



From left: Sandy Freeman, Clinical Coordinator; Mary Ann Cresswell, former board member; Jerry Hermanson; Jason Macaulay, Chairman Emeritus; standing, Carol Hunter, board member.



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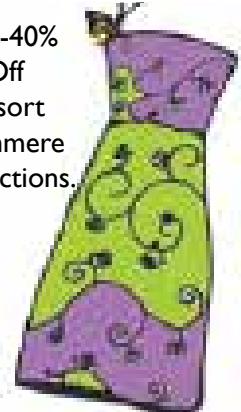
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# Spring Home Improvement 2023

## Integrate nature into your home design

(StatePoint) This spring home improvement season,



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get inspired by the outdoors with biophilic design.

“Biophilic design – the concept of integrating nature into interior design – is not only gorgeous, it fosters a healthy living environment, promotes happiness and comfort, and reduces stress,” says Jennifer Kline, multimedia graphic artist at ProVia. “There are many ways to reap these wellness benefits while adding vitality to your living spaces.”

To connect to the natural world within your home, consider these ideas:

**Foster Tranquility**

Taking a stroll through the forest can summon feelings of tranquility. Capture this inner peace at home from

the moment you step inside with a fiberglass woodgrain entry door. Those from ProVia provide authentic-looking woodgrain textures, such as oak, cherry, mahogany, knotty alder and fir, and can accommodate various door glass enhancements. Engineered for energy efficiency, they’re also a sustainable choice, helping you protect the natural world as you embrace its splendor. Other design choices, such as exposed rustic ceiling timbers, rich hardwood furniture, warm hardwood floors and vinyl woodgrain windows can help you carry the forest motif throughout the home, while imbuing interiors with richness and warmth.

**Let Light in**

“If you’re lacking natural light, it’s time to open those blinds and drapes and let the sunlight stream through your windows. It may also be time to consider a few enhancements that will help you enjoy more sunshine and observe your natural surroundings, even when you can’t be outdoors,” says Kline.

For kitchens and breakfast nooks, bathrooms and dens, consider vinyl garden windows, which invite more light into your space and include shelves ideal for housing indoor plants, such as fragrant herbs. Their three-dimensional design helps give rooms an airy, spacious feel. Family rooms and bedrooms are great locations for vinyl picture windows, which let in large amounts of light while providing unobstructed views of outdoor scenery. Need inspiration? Visit ProVia’s Window Photo Gallery at [www.provia.com/windows](http://www.provia.com/windows).

To brighten your foyer, add an entry door with glass. Energy efficient sliding glass patio doors also let in sunlight, and give you the option to invite fresh air into your home or enjoy the melodies of singing birds on nice days. Skylights can flood small or closed-off spaces such as walk-in closets or bathrooms with light and give you views of blue skies.

**Let it Grow**

To give your home a welcoming, fresh feel, add various houseplants and indulge in fresh-cut flowers. A windowsill with small plants of varying shades of green can add texture, while larger potted plants near doorways help guests feel welcome. Fill dark, underutilized spaces with taller plants and place bright, lightly-scented garden flowers

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# Spring Home Improvement 2023

in such spots as the kitchen island and coffee tables. Use earthen or wood-carved vases for additional warmth.

## Create Drama

From the warm brown tones of a picturesque southwestern mesa to the cool, earthy feel of quarried rock, manufactured stone veneer adds rugged texture, intriguing patterns and shapes, and a variety of hues straight from Earth's natural color palette.

Whether you're creating a focal point in a bedroom with an accent wall, adding character to your kitchen with a stone veneer backsplash, surrounding a tub with stone veneer for a spa-like bathroom, or highlighting your fireplace, different stone profiles and grout colors can help you customize the look. Experiment with combinations using ProVia's visualizer tool found at [provia.com/stone/grout-visualizer](https://provia.com/stone/grout-visualizer).

"Incorporating biophilic elements into your interior design can transform your home into a warm respite from your busy life," says Kline.

• See **SPRING HOME IMP** page 20



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# Spring Home Improvement 2023

## Benjamin Moore's 'Color of the Year 2023' packs a dramatic, saturated punch

By Lauren Phillips

Better Homes and Gardens

The newly crowned Color of the Year 2023 selection Raspberry Blush is a bold shade that might finally get you outside your color comfort zone.

It's official: Next year is looking peachy. Regardless of your outlook on the future, it's becoming increasingly clear that various

shades of red are going to be everywhere in design and decor in 2023. The announcement that the Benjamin Moore Color of the Year 2023 is Raspberry Blush, a bold red-orange hue, is just further proof that we're leaning into warm colors.

Color of the Year 2023 announcements have included a few fresh shades of red, with Dunn-Edwards, Sherwin-Williams,

and more announcing reddish predictions. Still, Benjamin Moore's Color of the Year 2023 stands apart: Raspberry Blush 2008-30 is dramatic and punchy, with electric undertones that channel vibrant energy. Compared to the Sherwin-Williams pick, a grounded blush-beige called Redend Point, and the Better Homes & Garden Color of the Year, Canyon Ridge, Raspberry Blush is splashier and more daring, great for those craving louder decor in their space (though it's worth noting that color this bold isn't for everyone).

"People are ready to bring color back into the home, taking a step outside their color comfort zones," says Andrea Magno, color marketing and development director at Benjamin Moore, in a statement accompanying the color announcement on October 12.

Playful and saturated—Benjamin Moore describes it as "charismatic"—Raspberry Blush feels like one of those colors that can be described any number of ways. Its rich hues are a combination of coral, pink, red, orange, and (of course) raspberry and blush tones. This is a color you could easily go big with: Paint your living room walls with it for a statement-making room. On smaller scales, Raspberry Blush is still an eye-grabber. Use it on wall paneling, your front door, or even your stairs for a bold look that conveys excitement and energy.

The announcement of Raspberry Blush as Benjamin Moore's Color of the Year 2023 comes with the launch of the brand's annual Color Trends palette. This collection of eight shades—including

Raspberry Blush—is all about big transformations and confident (maybe even unexpected) application of color. The palette includes Conch Shell, Wenge, Cinnamon, New Age, Starry Night Blue, North Sea Green, and Savannah Green in addition to Raspberry Blush, and all have the same focus on saturated, bold color. Used on their own or even together in some combination, if you dare, each of these colors has the power to completely reshape any space.

"Raspberry Blush 2008-30 and the Color Trends 2023 palette empower the use of statement colors that deliver delight and personality, while transforming rooms for incredible results," Magno says.

To celebrate the Color of the Year 2023 announcement, Benjamin Moore has partnered with electro-funk duo Chromo to launch a new song—also named Raspberry Blush, appropriately. The new song and eight curated playlists inspired by 2023's Color of the Year and Color Palette are available on Spotify.

Regardless of whether you prefer more grounded hues or you're drawn to loud colors like Benjamin Moore's 2023 Color of the Year pick Raspberry Blush, if you've ever thought about incorporating red into your space, 2023 is certainly looking like the time to do it.

• Lauren Phillips is the Associate Director of Special Projects at Better Homes & Gardens. She has worked at The Spruce, Real Simple, and Coastal Living, among other publications, and has more than 5 years of experience working in print and digital media as a writer, editor, researcher, and fact-checker.



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Photo courtesy of Benjamin Moore



# Dear Franklin and Highlands Neighbors:

Someone once said, "It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults."

Highlanders for Good Government believes building strong children will ensure a strong and free America.

So, why has the current Macon County Commission defunded our children by indefinitely delaying the Highlands School Project?

The Franklin area has 5 locations and 9 publicly funded classrooms for Pre-K.

Highlands has no public classrooms for pre-kindergarten. We were led to believe that was changing.

But, shockingly, without notice or explanation, the Macon County Commission revoked a \$329k contract for the plans for the 5-million-dollar project approved and budgeted by the previous commission, killing:

- A pre-K in Highlands with two classrooms, and an outdoor area for 36 children
- Four new classrooms for older students
- Additional meeting and office space
- Renovated space for Career and Technical Education with project-based learning
- An expanded and upgraded media center with secure outdoor education space.

For now, the long needed \$100 million Franklin High School is still alive, something we strongly support.

But, after the commission defunded the approved Highlands Pre-K project, **how do we know they won't defund the promised Franklin High School?**

Please call or email our commissioners. Tell them to build strong children, not defund them. Restore Highlands School Project and keep the Franklin High School Project.

## **AFTER ALL, SUPPORTING EDUCATION TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN IS THE AMERICAN WAY!**

COMMISSIONERS' EMAILS:

gshields@maconnc.org • paul.higdon@maconnc.org • joshua.young@maconnc.org  
danny.antoine@maconnc.org • john.shearl@maconnc.org



# CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6 at 6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7 at 12 Noon

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

April 8 at 8:00 PM

EASTER DAY

April 9 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**520 Main Street, Highlands, NC**  
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## • 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 anyone 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

### 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 more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at [budandlynn@me.com](mailto: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 Recreation 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 VAYA 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 issues of particular interest to them. The February 1 program is PTSD: Healing the Emotional Wound.

### Wednesdays



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• 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.maconncliteracy.org](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call 828-526 – 0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.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 Ramey 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 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. Some examples of activity include walking, running, gardening, cooking, cleaning, and much more. Participants will be feeding both the body and mind with this Challenge. 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. & Sun. 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. Along the way, you'll learn tips for identifying them and a little about their unique characteristics. These programs are free and open to the public, no registration is necessary. For more information, visit [highlandsbiological.org](http://highlandsbiological.org). The Highlands Nature Center & Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

## Fri.-Sun., April 7-9

• At Half-Mile Farm an Easter Celebration and Hosted Weekend at Half-Mile Farm with Chef Craig Richards. Stay at Half-Mile Farm for a grown-up Easter weekend. The Weekends Events: Friday, Fresh Pasta demo and tasting with Executive Chef Craig Richards in the Woodland View Room from 5-6 pm during Social Hour with additional complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music until 8 pm. Craft beverages are available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern. Saturday, Special Breakfast Creations from 8-10:30 am. Social Hour from 5-6 pm will feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and live music from 5-8 pm. Craft beverages are available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern. Grown-up Easter Egg Hunt (outside weather permitting) from 4-6 pm with prizes including J. Henry Farmhouse

Tavern cocktails Half-Mile Farm merchandise, an overnight stay, and more! Hosted events are for Half-Mile Farm guests only. To book your stay <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm/#/booking/step-1>

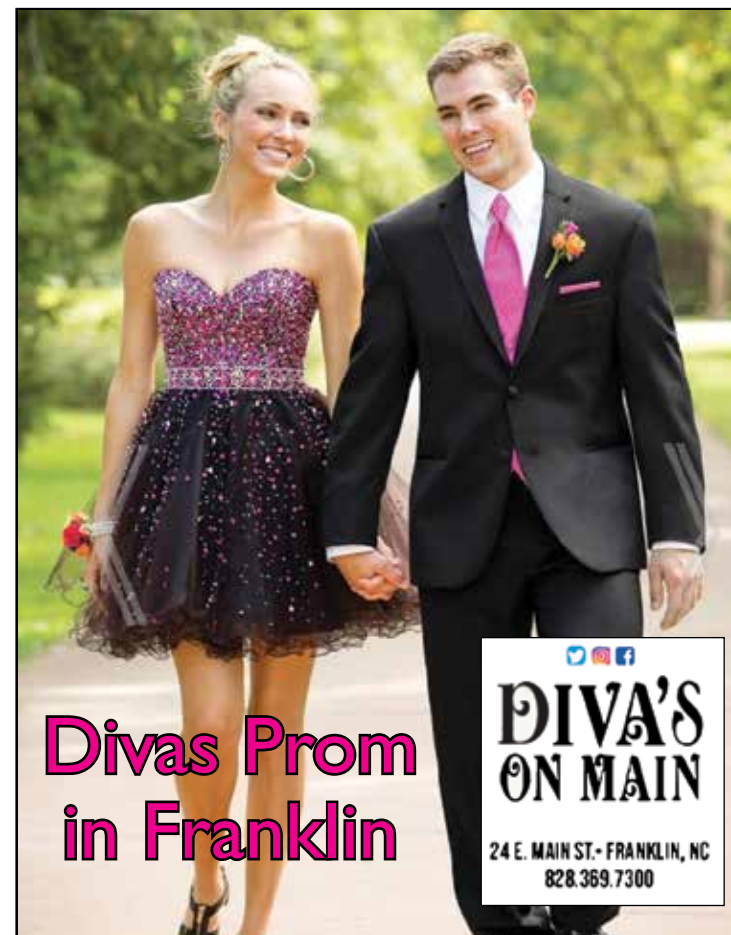
## Sat., April 8

• The town's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday at 10am at the Rec Dept for ages 0-9.

## 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 pos-

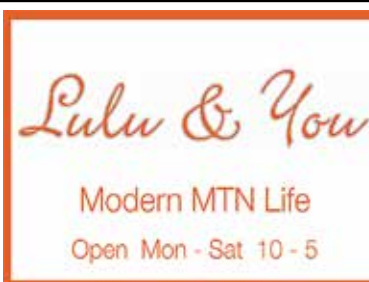
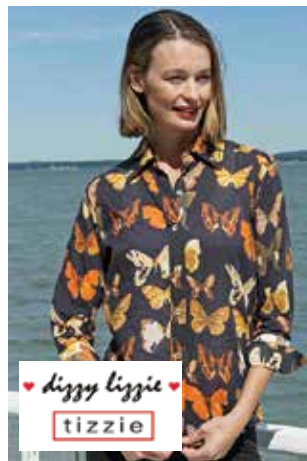
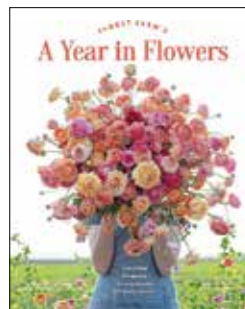
• See EVENTS page 24



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## Holy Week at FPC Highlands

April 2 - Palm Sunday - 11AM

*Service of Scripture & Song*

April 6 - Maundy Thursday - 6PM

*Service & Dinner*

April 7 - Good Friday - 10AM to 2PM

*Self-Guided Prayer Stations in our Sanctuary  
All are welcome!*

April 9 - Easter Sunday - 11AM

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## ...EVENTS continued from page 23

sibly, 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 Highlands. Plateau Pickup is part of Litter Sweep, the N.C. Department of Transportation's biannual statewide roadside litter removal initiative traditionally held the last two weeks of April and September. To participate, send an email to [events@highlandschamber.org](mailto:events@highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-2112.

- The Macon County Democratic Party will hold its annual convention on Saturday April 15 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. He recently co-authored "Dirt Road Revival- How to Rebuild Rural Politics and Why Our Future Depends On It." We will be electing party officers (chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, third vice chair and secretary) as well as delegates to the North Carolina Democratic Party District 11 convention set for May 20. And we'll begin our preparations for the 2024 election.

All persons who are 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. The international 2023 Earth Day theme, "Invest in Our Planet," offers a delicious opportunity for you to do your part. Instead of meat, eat a potato - with all the fixings -- 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 Celebrate the beauty of springtime in Highlands with the return of the live concert series - Orchard Sessions. In the magical surroundings of The Orchard, enjoy light bites, a cash bar, and an enchanting evening. 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.simplix.com/e/mike-kinnebrew-orchard-sessions-at-the-far-tickets-124433>

### Sat., April 22

- Celebrate the beauty and wonders of Earth at the Highlands 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. Hosted events are for Half-Mile Farm guests only. To attend these complimentary events at Half-Mile Farm from May 5-7, book your stay today. Book Online: <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking/step-1>



# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Grant enables TL&LC to expand

The Literacy & Learning Center is thrilled to announce several organizational changes as of 2023, made possible by a capacity building grant from the WNC Bridge Foundation.

This three-year grant provides TL&LC with funding for a new position to support their fundraising efforts to continue the growth and expansion of the organization.

Previously the Marketing Manager, Jenni Edwards has moved into the Development Officer position.

Anna Norton has transitioned from Senior Programs Manager to the Marketing Manager position.

And finally, the TL&LC is pleased to welcome its newest member of their full-time staff, Caroline Cox. Cox is the newly appointed Program Manager and has taken over the responsibility of the free programs The Literacy & Learning Center offers, including their after-school programs, which have been temporarily relocated to the Highlands United Methodist Church.

"I'm passionate about providing everyone with access to quality education, and I believe that TL&LC is meeting that need in Macon County," said Cox.

With years of experience in the classroom, both in public and private schools, she is excited to create fun and immersive educational experiences, and to see children grow in all aspects of who they are. Cox's favorite part of teaching is creating engaging hands-on lessons, which she has already incorporated into TL&LC's after-school programs. She is also a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in foster care.

TL&LC has also welcomed a prior and current after-school tutor as its new

ESL teacher. Kara Long has 22 years of teaching experience in both Ohio and Georgia in elementary education. She has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education from Ohio State University, and a certification in ESL education from the State of Georgia.

"One thing I'm most excited about being at TL&LC is being a part of a team to support the families in this community," said Long. "I'm thrilled to work with children again in a tutoring capacity, and happy to have the opportunity to teach ESL to adults while making connections and learning more about the needs of those in our community."

Long that being able to communicate in English, both verbally and in writing, provides opportunities for growth and success for non-native speakers and she's excited to help others in this way.

cited to help others in this way.

"We are so grateful to the WNC Bridge Foundation for providing the means to hire new employees," said Bonnie Potts, Executive Director of The Literacy & Learning

Center. "Our strategic plan is to continue to expand and grow our programs, and I am so proud of our staff and volunteers, and all of the wonderful work they do."

## Million \$\$\$ View in gated community of Wildcat Cliffs Country Club



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## An Easter Prayer

**Pastor Randy Lucas**  
Highlands United  
Methodist Church

Dear God,  
during this holy week  
we gather our hearts in prayer.

As the story of Jesus  
unfolds before us,  
from waving palm branches  
to a twisted crown of thorns,  
from loving cheers to cruel jeers,  
from "Hosanna" to "Crucify him,"  
from a meal with friends  
to the betrayer's kiss,  
from a humble kingly procession  
to a Roman Cross,  
we remember  
and we confess.

We grieve our complicity  
in your suffering,  
we confess our role  
in rejecting the love  
you offer to all.

And we marvel  
at so great a love  
that refuses to let us go,  
suffering love in solidarity with  
humanity's deepest suffering.  
Again and again  
you invite us,  
you welcome us,  
you accept us.

As we journey with you  
this Holy Week,  
from Palm Sunday  
to Maundy Thursday  
and Good Friday,  
as we wait in silence  
on Holy Saturday,  
prepare us again to  
receive the message  
of Easter Sunday with  
glad and joyful hearts.

• 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

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717  
www.christanglicancashiers.com

9:30am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship Service. Mon. Night  
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

### 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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)  
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am  
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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

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

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741  
Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.  
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### 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 a.m. Choir: 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.  
Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church  
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.  
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418  
Tues. - 9:30am Latin; Thurs. - 9:30am English; Sun. - 11am English

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212  
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;  
Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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schedules of activities both virtual and in-person.

Bazaar Barn is open Fri. & Sat. 10a -2p.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers  
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

## March 16

• At 8:50 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 and Laurel Street.

## March 27

• At 2:06 p.m., Miguel angel-Lopez Hernandez, 30, of Glenville, was arrested for outstanding warrants – a misdemeanor DV Protective Order Violation. No bond was issued. His court date is April 6.

• At 8:12 p.m., officers were called about a verbal argument at a

location on Chestnut Street.

## March 28

• At 12:30 p.m., officers received a call of stalking at a location on Carolina Way.

## March 29

• At 5:40 p.m., Edgar Olvera, 33, of Highlands was issued a summons citation for misdemeanor possession of Schedule VI and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

• At 9:13 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Helen's Barn parking lot.

## March 30

• At 9:20 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Cobb Road.

• At 9:30 p.m., Connor Christian Sim, 32, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI when he was stopped on US

64 west. There was no bond issued. His court date is May 10.

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

## March 30

• At 1:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on US 64 east.

• At 7:45 p.m., the dept. conducted a search off Rich Gap Road.

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Cobb Road.

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurel Street.

• At 9:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurelwood Ridge.

## March 31

• At 7:51 a.m., the dept. responded to the call of a vehicle fire at Bust Your Butt Falls on US 64 west.

• At 3 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

## April 1

• At 11:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Little Scaly Road.

• At 8:12 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on US 64 west.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

Call us forth into resurrection life,  
grant us a renewed hope,  
strengthen our faith,  
fill our hearts with love.

As Spring brings new life,  
new growth, new vitality,  
new hope, new possibilities,  
help us to join in creation's joyful song.

Empower us with love,  
grace, mercy and compassion  
so that our lives may be  
perpetual witnesses  
to the good news of Easter.

The Lord is risen!  
He is risen indeed!  
Thanks be to God!

Amen.

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

signs that let motorists know when they exceed the speed limit at a certain level.

Another question was about limiting growth in the town. My response is that we have zoning and related development ordinances. If a property owner can meet these requirements, then the town has no authority to tell the owner they cannot develop their private property.

Finally, a reporter asked how the town determines road paving priorities. The answer had two parts. The town has been aggressively paving unpaved roads for a number of years. Paving these roads actually curtails maintenance costs. Paving unpaved roads also helps mitigate erosion and sedimentation issues. For resurfacing paved roads, the town engineer maintains a schedule list of roads to be resurfaced. Depending on the deterioration severity of any particular road, this list may see changes in priority.

There will be a slight change in the time for the April Community Coffee, it has been moved up to Friday, April 21.

## Highlands United Methodist Church

[www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org)

### Service of Healing

*April 5th - 6pm in the Faith & Fellowship Center*

### Holy Thursday Service

*April 6th at 5:30pm in the sanctuary*

### Good Friday Service

*April 7th at 5:30pm in the sanctuary*

### Easter Sunday

*Sunday, April 9th*

*Sunrise Service at the Easter Cross on the front lawn  
at 7am*

*Easter Worship Services ~ 9:09 & 11am*

*Potluck Easter Brunch ~ 10am*

*in the Faith & Fellowship Center*

*Easter Egg Hunt ~ 10am on the front lawn*



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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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## **HELP WANTED**

**MASSAGE THERAPIST/ESTETICIAN** wanted at Taylor Spa. Full- or Part-Time. Contact Sharon at 828-526-4192. (st. 3/16)

**HOTWIRE COMUNICATIONS IS HIRING!** LOCAL Highlands opportunities. FULL-TIME, year-round, customer facing, Field Service Technicians & Fiber Splicer jobs available. Excellent pay & benefits. Forward your resume to samantha.baker@hotwirecommunication.com. (st. 9/15)

**SWEETREATS AND HIGHLANDS DELI IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT** and is hiring full and part time staff for the season. Competitive starting wage, great tips, and reasonable hours (not too early, not too late). Pick up an application in store at 115 S. 4th Street or apply on Sweettreatshighlands.com. (st. 5/19)

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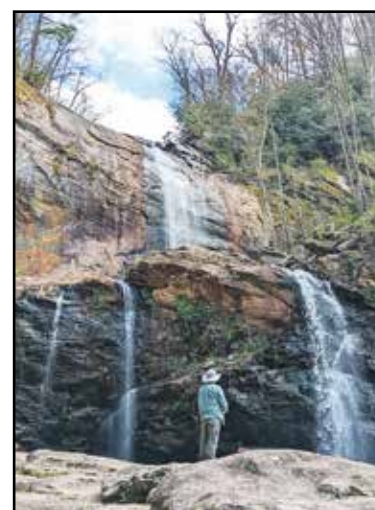
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# High Falls EcoTour with Bill Jacobs

Are you ready to embark on a prehistoric adventure, traveling through 500 million years, to the creation of these ancient Southern Appalachian mountains, while seeing 100-foot waterfalls along the way? Then Join the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) on a special EcoTour led by not one, but two local legends in geology, botany, historical and geological history, Bill Jacobs and HCLT's very own Dr. Gary Wein!



This guided hike will view two beautiful waterfalls that flow into the West Fork of the Tuckasegee Gorge. The excursion will begin at the Shoal Creek Road trail entrance and include stops at Rough Run Falls and High Falls.

Leading the hike will be renowned local geologist and historian, Bill Jacobs, author of "Whence These Special Places?: The Geology of Cashiers, Highlands, and Panthertown Valley," who will take hikers on a journey dating back 500 million years. Bill's knowledge base focuses on processes that make the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau unique, including intrusions and erosion patterns that have shaped the modern landscape, as well as the underlying geology of High and Rough Run Falls that make them unique.

Additionally, HCLT's Dr. Gary Wein, a renowned botanist, will teach hikers about the rare and endemic ecosystems, forest types, and botanicals that they will see along



the way. This unique rich cove forest type is abundant with special spring ephemerals, wildflowers, flowering trees, and other rare features.

High Falls, the grand finale of the tour, is a 120-foot drop waterfall surrounded by water pools and large boulders. The hike is a unique opportunity to not only see these spectacular views, but to gain valuable knowledge about these special

mountains from two of the most renowned local legends the Plateau has to offer.

This EcoTour will take place on April 14th. Space is limited, and you don't want to miss this rare opportunity to learn from two local legends, Bill Jacobs and HCLT's own, Dr. Gary Wein. This will be a moderate 3.9 mile hike with muddy spots, creek crossings, logs and boulders that need to be

walked over. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust EcoTours are open to HCLT members with a suggested \$50 donation per person. Not a member? No problem! Just join at any level at sign-up. To reserve your spot, contact the Land Trust at [info@hcltnc.org](mailto:info@hcltnc.org) or 828-526-1111. To learn how Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, a nationally accredited nonprofit organization, is conserving valuable land resources for all generations, visit [www.hicashlt.org](http://www.hicashlt.org). Together, we are saving our most treasured places.

## ...SOCCER continued from page 7

Herringbone drainage systems, which are typically used for agricultural drainage, consist of a network of interlocking pipes or channels that are installed in a zigzag pattern. While herringbone drainage systems can be effective at removing excess surface water and improving soil structure, they may not be suitable for all situations. For example, they may not be as effective at removing excess groundwater or preventing waterlogging in areas with high water tables. In these cases, horizontal or vertical drainage systems may be more appropriate.

Once the ideal drainage system is deter-

mined, Gibbs said the field should be salvageable and could be restored using grass or be a candidate for turf.

Board member Hilary Wilkes noted that touring the area above the soccer field also confirmed Commissioner John Shear's comments and concerns regarding a spring that sits above the property, which drains entirely down to the field below. Gibbs said moving forward, the school, Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor and the county will work together to address runoff from the spring and any solution to rerouting the water would further benefit the soccer field.



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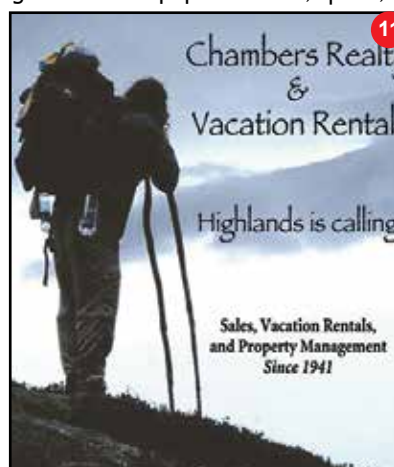
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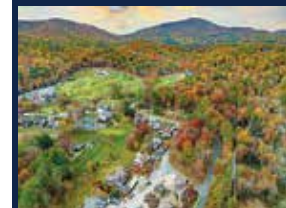
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