

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 20, Number 8

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

Thurs., Feb. 26, 2023

A Highlands STR map may be in the works

The short-term rental issue was briefly discussed by Commissioner Amy Patterson at the February Town Board meeting when she mentioned the creation of a map to show the location of the Short-term Rentals in Highlands.

She said though the town wasn't sure how much they could legally share, she and Planning Director Michael Mathis were working on a map.

Sharing the STR information that the town has gleaned from the

Grancius software was mentioned at the January Town Board meeting by Cathy Henson, president of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, who spoke during the public comment period.

• See MAP page 16

• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •		
Mayor on Duty	2	Events..... 10-11
Investing at 4118 Ft.	4	Ink Penn..... 15
Dining	6	Spiritually Speaking..... 18
Obituaries	7	Police & Fire Reports..... 19
Letters.....	7	Classifieds..... 21
HS BBall.....	8-9	



The old Crane Family home at 65 Oak Street was the site of a controlled burn on Sat., Feb. 18. - Photo by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

Controlled burn takes down Crane house

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

The old Crane family home across from The Bascom at 65

Oak Street has been a part of Highlands history since the early 1900s, but on Saturday that remnant of the past was burned to

make room for a new residential development.

The 2 1/2 acre-tract is now

• See CRANE page 12

Lady Highlanders head to 2nd round of state playoffs

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands girls varsity basketball team heads to the second round of the NC High School Athletic Association State Playoffs after defeating Hiwassee Dam 43-36 at home on Tuesday.

The game was neck and neck for the first three quarters, but Highlands pulled away in the fourth and scored a solid victory.

"We did what needed to be done," said Highlands Coach Brett Lamb. "We missed some

• See PLAYOFFS page 9

TB considers Chamber issues

The Chamber of Commerce/VisitHighlandsNC lease with the town has been hanging in the balance since the 10-year lease ran out, so it's been month-to-month since November 2022.

The past lease required the chamber to pay for all maintenance of the building and pay the town \$1 a year.

However, over the past 10 years, tourism has increased exponentially as has the use of the town bathrooms in Town Square on Main Street.

To maintain the bathrooms –

clean and supply them – it costs about \$30,000 a year and since the Chamber of Commerce/VisitHighlandsNC is likely the reason the town has more visitors than ever before, commissioners want the chamber to foot the bill.

The chamber operates on membership dues and VisitHighlandsNC operates using room tax money. With millions of dollars of room tax money at their disposal, commissioners thought some of it could be used to pay for the public bathrooms upkeep

• See CHAMBER page 16

SOLD

Highlands | Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

39 Crescent Trail | Cullasaja Club

List Price \$4,950,000

Listed and Sold by Highlands Sotheby's International Realty

114 N. 4th Street | (828) 526.8300 • 1371 Cullasaja Club Drive | (828) 526.4104

M^cCULLEY'S

The largest selection of
Scottish cashmere in the U.S.A.

In Highlands ...on the hill

242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407

Open 7 days a week

www.mcculleys.com

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Pre-clarifier tank replacement looms large

I was optimistic, and the staff was too, that the town would receive a state grant to replace the aging pre-clarifier tank at the water tank. The town had resubmitted the grant we applied for last year. The project is a big-ticket item, somewhere around 3 million dollars.

Our Town Manager gave the bad news at the Town Board meeting last Thursday night that we did not get the grant. In fact, our application scored so low that the state folks managing the grant process told us we need not apply again.

So, where are we in the process now that this grant source is not available? The town public works and financial staff will do an in-depth update to the board at the March 9 town retreat.

But I believe I already know where we are heading. Like the old Buck Horn water tank that was replaced on Satulah a number of years ago, we can continue to use the current pre-clarifier tank as we begin the process of replacing it. As in the case of the Buck Horn water tank, it remained



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

in service, albeit leaking, until the new tank was completed. We may be able to implement a similar procedure for the pre-clarifier tank.

I foresee the town staff and expert engineers beginning an extensive design process for the new pre-clarifier tank this coming fiscal year. The critical first stage in such a major waterworks project is to develop and test a design plan before construction begins. It will take time for the engineering of this new tank to be completed. We did a similar process with replacing the Buck Horn water tank. One year was pretty much devoted to the design/engineering phase, followed in the next year of the actual construction phase.

The engineering phase of this new project will give the town a more exact cost estimate for building the new pre-clarifier tank. Inflation has changed our previous estimates. There are several design and construction options that will have to be carefully considered.

In the meantime, town staff will explore financing options for the project. There may be other grant sources, or we may have to consider a low-interest revolving loan. Several financial options must be considered. Do we tap into town reserve funds to build the tank? Do we use some reserves and finance the rest? Or do we finance what entire project with a low-interest loan. Right now, financing a project like this using conventional loan sources would not be desirable. But, maybe in a year, the rates may be lower.

At the all-day town retreat Lamar Nix, our public works director, will present a more detailed report assessing the situation with the pre-clarifier tank and how to proceed. Lamar will also present an overview of public works projects that are on the schedule for the next fiscal year. We will also hear reports from directors of the recreation, IT, police, and fire departments.

There will also be a review of utility rates. I anticipate, like last year, that electric, water/sewer, and garbage rates will remain the same despite the inflationary pressures we all have experienced.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 23-Feb	Fri, 24-Feb	Sat, 25-Feb	Sun, 26-Feb
 70°F 54°F	 61°F 43°F	 51°F 47°F	 61°F 49°F
Warm with variable clouds RealFeel® High. 69 Low. 57°	A couple of showers RealFeel® High. 66° Low. 50°	Cloudy, a shower, cooler RealFeel® High. 51° Low. 40°	Warmer with a shower or two RealFeel® High. 61° Low. 44°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

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

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

HIGHLANDER ROOFING SERVICES, INC.

New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773
info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com

Old Edwards CHEF DINNERS 2023

at THE FARM 

**CHEF CRAIG
RICHARDS DINNER**

Saturday, April 8

**CHEF STEVEN
SATTERFIELD DINNER**

Thursday, May 18

**LAURENT-PERRIER
CHAMPAGNE
DINNER** *Friday, July 14*

2ND ANNUAL SUNDAY SUPPER

with **CHEFS DAVID BANCROFT &
ROB MCDANIEL**

Sunday, August 27

**5TH ANNUAL OYSTER &
SEAFOOD FEST**

Sunday, September 24

**FARM HARVEST DINNER &
BARN DANCE**

Friday, November 10

SUE ZEMANICK JAZZ SUPPER

Saturday, November 11

Half-Mile Farm

with **LIVE MUSIC | HIGHLANDS, NC**

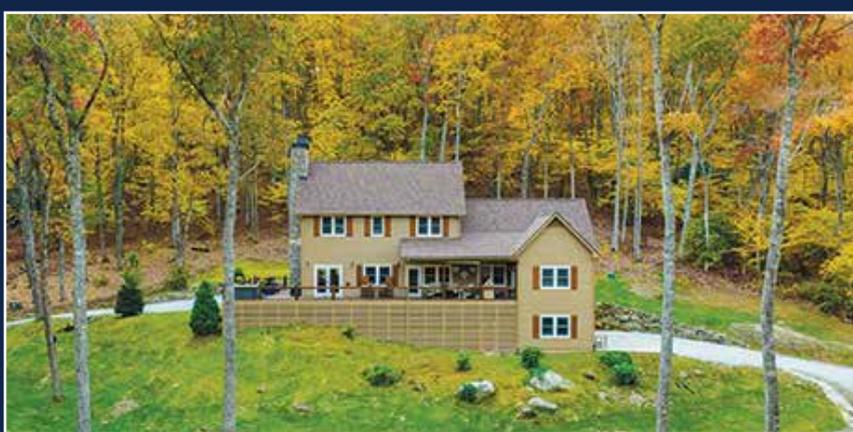


view details & book online

EXCEPTIONAL LISTING SERVICE



JOHN SHEEHAN | Broker
 225 Main Street | 404.790.9716
 john@highlandsandcashiers.com



**16 ACRES with WATERFALL, STREAM, TROUT POND
 AND BARN (Horses Allowed)**

191 N. Hollow, Cashiers
 In GlenCove - membership not required
 Offered for \$3,999,999



Highlands
 Sotheby's
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Andrea Gabbard
 Top 5% of the MLS in 2022
 (HCBOR)
 c: 828.200.6742
 AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

Consider the positive side of the reval

By now property owners have received their new revaluations and assessments. Many are shocked to learn that their properties are valued much higher than they anticipated. I have had so many calls regarding such. The issue is that the county evaluates properties every four years so the numbers may seem extreme. Given what has happened in the last three years the culprit Covid has changed our lives in many ways – even impacting real estate.

With the advent of Covid, the demand to be in our area increased dramatically with buyers almost in “panic mode” to buy a second home or move to the plateau. Our average days on market went from 425 to 4! People were buying anything they could find and paying full price or more. We had more bidding wars than we have ever seen in our area.

As far as those wanting to build a home, add the shortage of building materials created by Covid, and an increase in supply prices, builders’ quotes increased from around \$400 a square foot to approximately \$700 to \$1,000 a square foot to build. The time it took to build a home jumped to approximately two years.

After conversations with the Macon County tax office to get clarity, I’m told Macon County uses appraisals of recent sales, property characteristics, and market values based on our competitive market to determine their property values. They also use a certified appraiser.

When the Board of Tax Assessors changes the value of a property from the value in place for the preceding years or from the value they sent the taxpayer for the current year, a notice of change must be sent to the property owner and the taxpayer then has the right to appeal.

Upon receipt of this notice, the property owner desiring to appeal the change in value must do so within 45 days of the date of the notice. The appeal is filed with the Board of Tax Assessors, which reviews the appeal filed and informs the taxpayer of its decision.

If the Board of Tax Assessors makes no changes, the appeal is automatically forwarded to the County Board of Equalization. A hearing is scheduled, conducted and



Pat Allen BIC
 Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group.

the Board of Equalization renders its decision. If the taxpayer is still dissatisfied with the decision, an appeal to the Superior Court may be made.

In lieu of an administrative appeal with the Board of Equalization, an arbitration method of appeal is also available to the taxpayer. The Board of Tax Assessors can provide details regarding this procedure.

The assessment appeal may be made based on taxability of the property, the value placed upon the property, or the uniformity of that

value when compared to other similar properties in the county.

The appeal must be filed within the applicable time period and cannot be filed after that time. Additionally, the appeal should not be based on any complaint regarding the amount of taxes levied on the property.

The millage rate will be determined by the Macon County commissioners in July. By state law it must be revenue neutral so there is a chance the rate will decrease due to the increased property values.

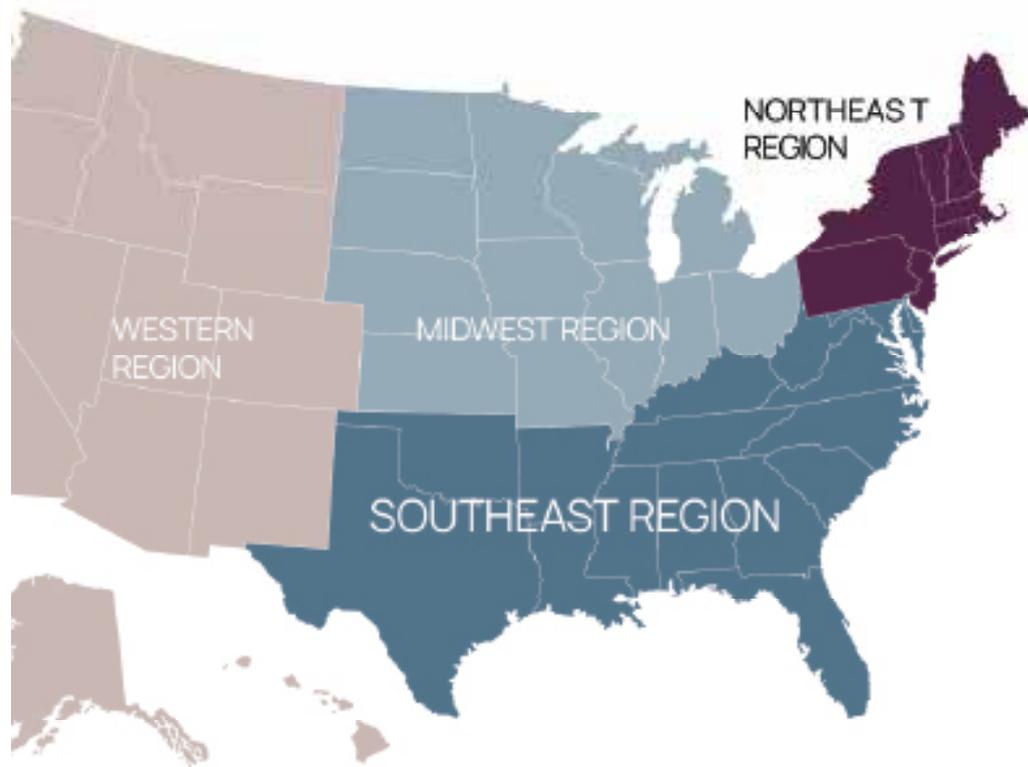
If you are going to appeal the assessment you received, the deadline for that appeal is March 13, 2023.

To read more about this read the Dec. 29, 2022 edition of Highlands Newspaper at <https://www.highlandsinfo.com/PDFs/22dec29.pdf>. See the front page article: “A real estate snapshot of 2022 -- January 1, 2023, Reval for Highlands and Scaly area explained.”

I have received many calls from homeowners questioning their increased values since the latest tax revaluations were mailed to them. Based on my knowledge of our market, if I feel I can sell your home for the amount you were assessed, then you are being assessed the fair market value.

It is the same if you had your home appraised today and it increased due to cost replacement value. You could not build it today given the current per square foot cost. In the next four years, with another new assessment, it could change but right now we are at an all-time high like we have never seen due to all of these variables.

I think with the desirability of life on the plateau, the demand will stay strong, and values won’t decline.



If you want an award-winning real estate experience, list with an award-winning agency.

Out of a global network of 55,000+ agents, our agents earned the following awards in 2022:



BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty ranks in the TOP 3 SMALL OFFICES in the entire U.S. Southeast region



TOP 1/2 of 1%: The Michaud/Rauers Group



TOP 2%:
4 Agents

TOP 6%:
3 Agents

TOP 10%:
3 Agents

TOP 16%:
2 Agents

WWW.MEADOWSMOUNTAINREALTY.COM | (828) 526-1717 | 488 MAIN ST, HIGHLANDS | 2334 CASHIERS RD, HIGHLANDS | 196 BURNS ST, CASHIERS



HIGHLANDS
MLS# 10I539 | \$1,895,000

THE MICHAUD/RAUERS GROUP



JUDY MICHAUD: (828) 371-0730
MITZI RAUERS: (404) 218-9123
TOM GOLDBACKER: (828) 200-9045
JOHN MUIR: (404) 245-7027
BROOKS KITTRELL: (828) 230-4453

Built with the latest design and construction techniques ensuring that it is both beautiful and functional, the interior of this wonderful home is designed for an easy flow throughout. The living room is filled with natural light and provides ample space for entertaining guests. The kitchen is a chef's dream with upscale appliances, ample counter space, and plenty of storage. The main floor master suite has a vaulted, beamed ceiling and boasts a private bath with a double vanity, a large, tiled shower, and outfitted closet. With its comfortable seating and dining areas, the screened porch is sure to become the favorite place to gather.

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES

MEADOWS MOUNTAIN
REALTY

HIGHLANDS DINING

WOLFGANG'S
RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO



Celebrating 28 years

**American Cuisine with a
German Twist and Creole Flair**

NOW OPEN
for our 29th season.

474 Main Street | 828.526.3807
wolfgangs.net

Asia House

Japanese • Asian • Thai Cuisine

CLOSED
until March

Lunch 12-3p • Dinner 4:30 - 9:30p

Closed Wednesdays

828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900

151 Helen's Barn Avenue



Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p

Closed Tuesdays

828.526.3554

595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC



Highlands Oldest Family Grocery
70 years of making hungry people smile!

Wonderful Steaks cut—to— order
Prepared ready to heat sides and dinners
Fresh produce, specialty foods and wine, homemade deli
salads, sandwiches and salads homemade pies, cakes,
cookies and so much more!

OPEN

Wed.—Frid.: 9:30a—5:30p

Sat.: 9:30a—4p

493 Dillard Road 828-526-2762

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern & Highlander Mountain House



BREAKFAST:

Complimentary
muffins & coffee
for hotel guests

LUNCH:

Friday • 11:30a - 2:30p

DINNER:

Thurs.-Sat. • 5:30-9p

BRUNCH:

Sat & Sun 10a - 3p

290 Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-2590
highlandermountainhouse.com

**Read Highlands
Newspaper for free from
everywhere ... on the
street or on the web.**

Go to www.highlandsinfo.com.

Click on Local News.

**Delivered and uploaded
every Thursday AM**

To advertise, email

highlandseditor@aol.com



BURRITOS & MORE

228 SOUTH 4TH STREET HIGHLANDS NC
828.526.9313

visit highlandsburritos.com

Hours

Open Mon-Sat: 11a-3p

Closed Sundays

Online Ordering Available and
NOW SERVING MARGARITAS!



**Craft Ice Cream &
Hand-Crafted
Sandwiches**

For Hours and to order on line go to:
SweetTreatsHighlands.com

Corner of 4th & Main • 115 S. 4th Street | 828-526-9632

Fast & Fresh Family Food

DINING •



The Secret Garden
Modern Fast Food &
Courtyard Market

The Secret Garden is in The Village Square
behind K-H Founders Park.
Offering hot & cold sandwiches, a variety of
salads, bakery items, and
SECRET daily specials.

Wine, beer, ciders, seltzers, hard teas, hard Kombuchas
and Delta 8 & Delta 9 cannabis beverages are available!

HOURS

Monday-Friday • 11a to 5p

Saturday • noon to 5p

Saturday deliveries to businesses on Main & 4th st.
No delivery fee ... BUT \$3 minimum tip

208 N. 5th St. • Village Square
Highlands • (828) 305-7509



828-526-4035

WILD THYME GOURMET
RESTAURANT

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round
Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands



Open
6 days a week
(Closed Wed and
for dinner on Sunday)
Lunch: 11a-3:30p
Dinner:
5:30p - until

• OBITUARIES •

Katherine Willoughby

Katherine Willoughby, longtime seasonal resident of Highlands and founder of Shakespeare & Co. Booksellers in Highlands Village Square, died peacefully at home in West Palm Beach, Fla., on December 19, 2022.

Katherine was born in Detroit, MI, and raised in Bloomfield Hills by parents Dr. Russell and Dorothy Wright. The youngest of three children, she attended high school in Italy, which sparked a lifelong talent for cooking with lots of garlic and olive oil. Katherine majored in art history and social work at the University of Michigan, where she met former husband Jan Willoughby, with whom she had two sons.

She raised her boys in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and worked at the Red Cross and Salvation Army. She attended First Lutheran Church of Ft Lauderdale. Katherine earned a Master of Social Work degree at Barry University and served as a mental health counselor for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities at Whispering Pines School.

A lifelong advocate for the environment, immigrants, the homeless, and underserved, Katherine fostered Ti, a young Vietnamese immigrant, and treated her as family. Katherine was an introvert yet wasn't afraid to speak her mind; she never used paper towels or sponges in her kitchen and chastised those who dared bring them into her home. She would frequent the McDonald's drive thru for cheese-



burgers for her 80-pound dog Rugby (Rugby ate better in Highlands, where he lounged on Oak Street, begging tasty scraps from Wolfgang's kitchen). Among Katherine's hobbies were tennis, swimming, backgammon, thrift-store shopping, hiking and voracious reading.

She started her bookstore here in 1999 to share her love of books with others. Katherine had spent many happy months in Paris in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, work-

ing at the Shakespeare and Co. overlooking the Seine, a descendant of the 1919 business founded by Sylvia Beach. There Katherine became great friends with its then-owner George Whitman and shared an apartment with him above his bookstore. Katherine also knew Ken Kesey, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Tennessee Williams.

Katherine was preceded in death by her brother Richard, and her former husband Jan. She is survived by her two sons David (Becky) and Brian (Erin), her grandchildren George, Ogden, and Sarah, her sister Gay and her children Luis, Dodie, and Meg.

Her funeral service was held at Memorial Presbyterian Church there on Dec. 30th, and she was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Shakespeare & Co will host a gathering in Katherine's honor later this summer, to which all are invited.

Leigh Anne Wilson

The memorial for Leigh Anne Wilson will be held February 25th at 3 pm at Clear Creek Baptist Church.

• LETTERS •

Our firefighters should be commended

Dear Editor,

I am a resident of Sagee Woods Drive in Highlands where on Feb. 4, one of my neighbors suffered a devastating fire. The fire totally engulfed the house within 45 minutes, and it was a total loss. The fire was a big one as the house was 7,000 sq. ft.

I, along with several neighbors who were here, witnessed the fire department response to the alarm and I want to share with the community how impressed I was with the professionalism displayed. Because of the size of the fire, our department called on neighboring fire units to assist in fighting the blaze and seven departments responded within a very short time. In total 51 fire and rescue personnel were on the scene with at least eight fire trucks ready to battle the fire. The level of cooperation was marvelous to see. Unfortunately, the house could not be saved but the fire was contained preventing spread to woods and adjoining homes.

We are indeed fortunate to have dedicated men and women who train regularly for events such as this and we must never forget that they are all volunteers. I hope that with our new fire facility there will be in the near future some paid full-time fire personnel on site which will make response times even better. Kudos to our firefighters.

Jack L. Sapolsky
Highlands

Say Hello to the future

Dear Editor,

Last week I had an up-close look at the emerging future of Highlands and while I can see how it might please the local real estate industry and the Chamber of Commerce, it makes me sad. My husband and I walked around the beautiful old Crane house behind the new fire station.

The surrounding land had already been stripped of its trees, including some really fine old apple trees, and the house was scheduled to undergo a "controlled burn" by the fire department the following weekend. In its place, new oversized houses will be built on under-sized parcels of land,

• See LETTERS page 14

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •



Highlands Aniah McKim makes a quick save against Hiwassee.



**Photos by
Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News**



Highlands Bryan Juarquin attacks Hiwassee's offense.



Right: Highlands Isaiah Vilardo dives to make the save against Hiwassee.



Left: Highlands JD Head drives along the baseline to score a layup



Left: Highlands Nathan Keener puts 2 point on the board against Hiwassee.



Right: Highlands Luke Ramos drains a long jump shot against Hiwassee Dam during the championship game of the LSMC Tournament on Feb. 16

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

...PLAYOFFS continued from page 1

easy shots and had some turnovers that hurt us, but we also made some big shots and some huge plays when it counted to get the win.”

Tuesday’s win against Hiwassee comes shortly after winning the Little Smoky Mountain Tournament championship on Feb. 16, also against Hiwassee and hosted by Nantahala. The Lady Highlanders defeated Nantahala in round 1 of the tournament to move on to the championship.

Hiwassee knocked out Blue Ridge Early College of the LSMC tournament in round 1 and lost to Highlands by 2 points, 49-47 in the LSMC championship.

After some close wins against Hiwassee lately, Lamb said he knew Tuesday’s game was going to be a battle.

“We did really well going up against Hiwassee several times in the past couple of days,” he said. “They’re a really tough team with some serious threats, but we rose to the occasion.”

Lamb added that the winning streak the Lady Highlanders have been on is the result of working together as a unit.

“The beauty with us is that it’s never just one person winning the game, it’s a team effort with

everyone doing their job and contributing to achieve success.”

The second round of the state playoffs is scheduled for Thursday. Lamb said if the lower seed teams wins, round 2 will be played at home. If the higher seed wins, Highlands will play round 2 on the road.

As of press time it was still TBD.

Highlands boys varsity takes a tough loss in LSMC championship

Highlands boys varsity made it to the championship round of the Little Smoky Mountain Conference Championship against Hiwassee Dam on Feb. 16 in Nantahala, but lost 76-52.

Highlands defeated Blue Ridge Early College in round 1 of the tournament on Feb. 14 in Nantahala with a final of 76-52.

The Highlanders did not make the NC High School Athletic Association’s State Playoffs.

Highlands boys junior varsity lose to Hiwassee Dam in LSMC Championship

Highlands boys junior varsity faced off against Hiwassee Dam in the LSMC Championship on Feb. 16 in Nantahala but lost 54-40.

JV teams did not play a first round of the tournament.



Highlands varsity girls basketball team holding the Little Smoky Mountain Tournament Championship trophy on Feb. 16 after defeating Hiwassee Dam in the final round.



Above Left: Highlands Mac Woods shoots a free throw against Hiwassee at home.

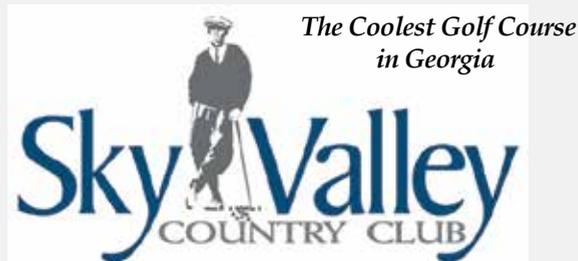
Above: Highlands B Bryson scores a layup and draws a foul against Hiwassee Dam in Round 1 of the NCHSAA State Playoffs on Tuesday at home.



Highlands Ezra Branham makes her move and drives to the basket.



Left: Highlands Riley Conner drives through the paint to score 2.



- Incredible Views
- Par 72 Championship Course stretching 6,900 yards of Peaks and Valleys
- Open Daily, • Year-Round • Public Golf

2 hrs. northeast of Atlanta • 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC

For Tee Times, Membership Information or Event Rentals, please call 706-746-5302
www.skyvalleycountryclub.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

ITALIAN
Easter
 DINNER

with **CHEF CRAIG RICHARDS**
 and **LIVE MUSIC**
 at **THE FARM**



book online

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

ICE RINK SCHEDULE (Through March 5)

- Thursday: 3:30-8 p.m.; Friday 3:30-10pm; Saturday 1-10pm; Sunday 1-5pm. \$5 for skate rental & skating

THE POOL IS OPEN

Rec Pool Hours EXTENDED

- 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.

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

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 Chappin 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

- 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, call 828-526-0863 or email 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.

2nd Saturdays

- The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

• 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.

Thurs., Feb. 16

• African Drumming at Macon County Public Library on Siler Road. Celebrate Black History Month with an evening of interactive West African drumming Thursday, at 6:30 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Great Room. Music educator Fonziba Koster, who has presented drumming and culture workshops to thousands over the last 25 years, brings 30 authentic West African Jembe drums for a hands-on drumming experience. Attendees are invited to bring a drum if they have one. People of all ages are welcome. The event is free; donations will be accepted to support Artists-in-the-Schools. The Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, with lighted parking and wheelchair access. This program is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for information phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Fri., & Sat., Feb. 17 & 18

• Early Bird Strolls" from 9-10 a.m. Birders of all skill levels can meet at the North Campus of the Highlands Biological Station (111 Lower Lake Road) for an introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count before taking a walk around campus to find our feathered friends. Binoculars will be provided.

Sat., Feb. 18

• At the Nature Center, Great Backyard Bird Count 3-5 p.m. Borrow child-sized binoculars to spot birds around Lindenwood Lake, go on a scavenger hunt in the Botanical Garden, and learn how scientists need our help to count the birds in our backyards. Free.

Wed., Feb. 22

• African Drumming at Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library. Celebrate Black History Month with an evening of interactive West African drumming 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Fonziba Koster, who has presented drumming and culture workshops to thousands over the last 25 years, brings 30 authentic West African Jembe drums for a hands-on drumming experience. Attendees are invited to bring a drum if they have one. People of all ages are welcome. The event is free; donations will be accepted to support Artists-in-the-Schools. This program is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for information phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Thurs. - Sat., Feb. 23-25

• She Kills Monsters is to be presented in University Auditorium at WCU at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are available for purchase at \$10, adults at \$20, and Seniors (65+) at \$15. More information and tickets can be found through the Bardo Arts Center Box Office by visiting arts.wcu.edu/tickets, or you can purchase tickets by calling the Box Office by calling 828-227-ARTS.

Thurs., Feb. 23

• BINGO for the Love of Learning will take place Thursday, February 23 at the Highlands Community Building at 869 N 4th Street, next to the ball field. The tournament will begin at 6:30 and run until 8:30 pm. Each game card can be purchased for \$1, with 15 games being held during the evening, culminating in the final SUPER BINGO round.

• At The Bascom at 5 p.m., free Winter Exhibition Reception.

Sat., Feb. 25

• Girl Scout cookies are available for sale at Highlands Wine Shoppe at Main and 3rd streets from 12-4p.

• At Hudson Library, In partnership with Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, they will be staging "An Evening of Murder, Mystery, & Dinner" on Saturday. Using their best detective skills, participants will be asked to solve a spine-chilling mystery while they share a pot-luck meal (along with clues and gossip) at 5 p.m. Everyone will come onto the scene in character and in costume. The case should be closed in 3 hours. Space is limited and

places will be available on a first-come/first-served basis. This special event is open to the public and free of charge.

• At the Highlander Mountain House on Main and 3rd streets, A family style dinner experience by notable Chef, Julia Jaksic, followed by an intimate music performance by songstress, Jessie Baylin. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dinner-and-a-show-tickets-520874879787?aff=ebsdoporgprofile> for tickets.

Sun. Feb. 26

• She Kills Monsters is to be presented in University Auditorium at WCU at 3 p.m. Student tickets are available for purchase at \$10, adults at \$20, and Seniors (65+) at \$15. More information and tickets can be found through the Bardo Arts Center Box Office by visiting arts.wcu.edu/tickets, or you can purchase tickets by calling the Box Office by calling 828-227-ARTS.

Thurs., March 2

• Join us for a very special Kids Zone at Hudson Library. Music educator Fonziba Koster, who has presented drumming and culture workshops to thousands over the last 25 years, brings 30 authentic West African Jembe drums to Hudson Library on Thursday March 2 at 3:30 PM for a hands-on drumming experience. Attendees will learn about West African home life, view a video including a West African drum circle, and participate in a drum circle. The pro-

• See **EVENTS** page 19

COREY JAMES GALLERY & Estate Consignments

Yard Art
Open for pickup & delivery



(828) 526-4818

On the corner of 3rd & Spring

WHOLE LIFE MARKET

Natural Products Store

Summer Hours: 9am-5pm
Mon-Sat
828-526-5999
Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS

NECTAR Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market
Juice Bar



Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning
Facials • Massages
Walk-ins Welcome!

Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Villardo

Stylists: Heahter Escandon
Maggie Barden and Desiray Schmitt
Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt
Massage Therapist: Brenda Lopez

Upstairs and Across the Walkway at
Falls on Main Highlands
Open at 9a Tues.-Sat. • 828-526-3939

Cabin Couture

~Home Decor
~Gifts
~Jewelry
~Original Art Work

468 Carolina Way • Highlands
(Between N. 4th & N. 5th)
828-526-3909

...CRANE continued from page 1

part of the gated 5-acre Sanctuary at 1st subdivision which will feature nine homes on 1/2-acre tracts accessed via the subdivision road running down the center from First to Oak streets.

Area firefighters used its burning as a training event, but since the home had fallen into complete disrepair even burning it as a training exercise required a number of safety steps.

Those steps included asbestos removal, approval from multiple health agencies, and permission from the NC Department of Air Quality.

“You don’t just go and burn something like that down to use for training,” said Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart. “You have to go through all the

proper channels and get permissions for safety. This makes the fire as realistic as possible but not a health hazard.”

Burning a house down gives firefighters a chance to work on skills such as forced entry, searching, and extinguishing fires.

“It’s a good training opportunity for the guys inside, and for everyone outside as well,” said Gearhart.

Departments that participated on Saturday, Feb. 18, included Highlands Fire & Rescue, Cashiers-Glenville Fire Department, Rabun County Station 8, and Macon County Squad 4.

The burn started around 9 a.m. and was basically finished at noon.



Firefighters from Highlands Fire & Rescue, Cashiers-Glenville Fire Department, Rabun County Station 8, and Macon County Squad 4 participated in a training exercise at a controlled burn at the Crane House on Sat., Feb. 18.



Firefighters cleared the ground outside the immediate structure to keep the fire contained.



Crews gathered on the grounds now cleared for the burn.



The new subdivision roadway snakes in front of the structure. The Bascom complex is in the distance to the left.

...CRANE continued from page 12



Firefighters who volunteered for interior training went into the burning building to practice forced entry search and extinguishing fires.



The front entrance off the porch with the house ablazed.

Photos by Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News



1982 photo of the Crane House at 65 Oak Street from the HHS archives. Jack Eberton and Lawrence Eaton were the carpenters.

A Brief History of the Crane Family in Highlands

By Ran Shaffner
Historian

Levi B. Crane moved to Highlands in the early 1900s from Pine Mountain, GA. He arrived with his second wife, Janie Morgan, in 1906 but returned to Pine Mountain before settling permanently in Highlands around 1911.

They lived in a large house where the recently closed Scudder's Gallery was on Main Street.

In 1926 Levi built a barn and a two-story residence at the current address of 65 Oak Street. The home had upstairs rooms named after each of their five children: Lass, Pline, Phil, Frank, and Blanche.

After the children were grown and during the depression, Janie turned the family home into a boarding house and took in lodgers for much needed income. She washed and ironed for some of the seasonal homeowners in town. Levi and his son Phil ran a freight line hauling produce and building materials between Dillard and Highlands.

In 1928 Levi's son Frank, the only child to be born in Highlands and now a policeman who would run a home patrol service for the next 25 years, built his home nearby on the family property on Oak Street.

In 1932 he and Levi built Crane's Riding Stables on the knoll near the family home, but in 1960 they moved it too across the street, continuing to operate it until the end of the century.

It had become so popular it was expanded when two more barns were built, one on Chestnut Street for rides up the Kelsey Trail and another where the Highlands Country Club caddy shack exists on the Dillard Road for rides to Glen Falls and into Blue Valley.

For the equestrians of Highlands, Crane's Stables served the town's riding needs for more than 65 years.

After the Stables closed, the Bascom-Louise Gallery purchased the five acres of Crane property west of Oak Street. Frank and Effie Crane's Crane's Stables soon gave way to a new ten-million-dollar, 20,000-square-foot complex, centered around the barn, that would become the Bascom Fine Art Center in 2006.

All that remained of the original Crane property was the old family home that Levi and Janie had built on the knoll on Oak Street. Frank's son Oscar occupied it until his death in 2015. In 2023 it falls just three years short of having stood as a venerated family home in Highlands for almost a century.



**OPEN YEAR ROUND - FRIDAY & SATURDAY 10AM-2PM
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH!**

WINTER CLEARANCE
60% OFF FURNITURE & RUGS
25% OFF LIGHTING & ART

Church of the Good Shepherd Bazaar Barn
GoodShepherd_BazaarBarn

Shoppes on the Green | 94 US HWY 64 W | Right behind the Crossroads
Skip Ryan: 828-226-2588

...LETTERS continued from page 7

small pieces of ground, and the new occupants of these houses will be able to enjoy the sights and sounds of two gas stations, the Post Office and especially the new fire station.

Then my husband and I drove over to Gibson Street to check out the location for yet another subdivision in the planning stages. It was a heart-sinking sight to see the ravaged and desecrated - strong words, I know - landscape, also to be chopped up into small little pieces of ground so more out-sized houses can be put there, cheek by jowl, just like in any big city. And then there's the Bryson property on 5th street ready to be developed.

It saddens some of us to see Highlands and its surroundings being chopped up into small city-fied lots. Why anyone would come from a jammed up city and spend a ridiculous amount of money to live in a jammed up place just like what they came from is beyond me. But what's even more be-

yond me is why we give it to them; meaning, why our local boards that govern and determine these things seem to say, sure, why not? You want it, you got it, no problem.

You want a town crowded with postage stamp sized lots bulging with large, bloated houses on them, okay. But it's too bad. Some would say it's Paradise Lost. Others would say it's money in the bank, and they have the louder voice.

Highlands proclaims itself a Tree City and a Bird Sanctuary city. There are signs around town that say so. It is time to remove those signs because they are not true anymore. The trees and the native woods of Rhododendron, Laurel, Doghobble, etc. are being abolished at a rate that makes my head spin. As for being a bird sanctuary, where do birds live and nest if not in trees and shrubs? The loss of habitat, besides birds, includes all the other creatures and critters that live outdoors, but not in subdivisions. Where are they to live? And where are all the "climate loss"

people? Trees cool the planet, absorb harmful carbon dioxide and provide you and me with life sustaining oxygen.

Yes, where are all the climate people? Instead of the almost forced guilting people into believing electric vehicles are the answer and will save the planet, I beg to disagree and offer the suggestion that stopping the wholesale cutting down of trees is a significantly more important factor in what affects the climate. Consider the Brazilian rain forests; is replacing them with electric vehicles the answer?

One last point...when was the last time any of your readers have been to the land fill on Rich Gap road? That is where all of Highlands' trees and undergrowth shrubs are ignominiously ending their days, in a mountainous heap high enough to rival the pyramids of Giza. It is a breath-stopping sight to behold.

**Alice Nelson
Highlands**

Nancy's & The Exchange for Men

We are taking a little time off after an awesome 2022 ... thanks to you, our customers! We will be closed through mid-April when we will reopen. See you then!



**...on Nancy's side • 828-526-5029
...on Bob's side • 828-526-1029**

**2060 Dillard Rd, Highlands
2 miles south of Main**

Bingo... for the Love of Learning!

Bingo is returning to the plateau! This year, Highlands Rotary Club has selected The Literacy & Learning Center as the beneficiary for the first Rotary bingo night for 2023.

BINGO for the Love of Learning will take place Thursday, February 23 at the Highlands Community Building at 869 N 4th Street, next to the ball field. The tournament will begin at 6:30 and run until 8:30 pm. Each game card can be purchased for \$1, with 15 games being held during the evening,

culminating in the final SUPER BINGO round.

In compliance with NC law, 50% of the funds raised in each game go to the winners, so don't miss this opportunity to mingle, play, and pocket some spending money all the while as you contribute to a local non-profit.

Beyond the fun of participating, there is also the opportunity to support TL&LC by becoming a table sponsor. For only \$100, your generosity will be displayed through table sponsorship signs and related marketing campaigns.

To become a sponsor, simply contact Jenni Edwards, Development Officer at jedwards@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org.

Whether you play, sponsor, or both, don't miss this fun-filled event for a good cause, and for the Bingo aficionados, feel free to bring along your personal dauber. Snacks will be provided by The Literacy & Learning Center.

This event is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Highlands and is licensed by the State of NC.
- Anna Norton

Movies are returning to Highlands this summer!

The Highlands Performing Arts Center (HPAC) and the Mountain Theatre Company (MTC) announce the reinstatement of MOVIES in Highlands. Movies will be shown in the Martin Lipscomb Theater (MLT). MTC will transfer the movie pro-

jector over to HPAC. In order to be certified by the movie studios to show first run movies HPAC has ordered and purchased a larger screen and upgraded speakers and sound system. HPAC will reconfigure the MLT tech booth to accommodate the new equipment.

And, yes, the popcorn machine is coming over also. It is anticipated that movies will begin sometime in the early summer. Please be patient while we install the new equipment and work out the logistics.

- Mary Adair Trumley

ALL ABOUT BOOKS**• INK PENN •****A new series and an old favorite**

I've been waiting for the most recent book in The Thursday Murder Club series to become available at my library. Only in Atlanta could a parking issue keep you from getting a library book. Seriously!

I put the book on hold when it was first published in 2022, and I was delighted to get the email in October that said I could pick it up. I never would have imagined that early voting at the library would mean that the parking lot was destined to be full on the last day I could pick it up.

I have on a few occasions called the library to ask if they could hold a book for an extra day, and they've always been happy to oblige. This time, however, I couldn't even get through on the phone. That meant I had to re-up my hold request, and I didn't make it to the top of the list until February. The good news is that it was well worth the wait.

In the meantime, I indulged in a new-to-me series that was easy to get. Heaven forbid I do without reading material.

Death in the Off-Season

by Francine Matthews

I love it when I discover a new mystery series. I read a review of the seventh book in the Merry Folger series and immediately picked up the first one, "Death in the Off-Season." What a treat. Publishers Weekly said it well: "Spunky but inexperienced, third-generation Nantucket cop Meredith Folger investigates murder in this spare, atmospheric debut."

She's the daughter of the local police chief and has recently been promoted to Detective when she's assigned her first murder case. Not only does she need to solve the case, Merry has to deal with an all-male department that questions her competence.

This mystery checked all



Kathy Manos Penn

my boxes. A strong female lead, a well-plotted story, and writing that brings the setting to life. I've always wanted to visit Nantucket, and this series may do the trick for me.

It's September on the island, and the fog and the chill provide an eerie setting for a murder that has its roots in the family dynamics of one of Nantucket's oldest and wealthiest families. The extra treat was learning about cranberry harvesting. I'd never heard of a cranberry bog.

The Bullet that Missed

by Richard Osman

This may only be the third book in The Thursday Murder Club series, but the characters already feel like old friends. The four amateur sleuths return to solve another murder. All in their seventies, the four friends are as different as can be but they get along famously.

They live in the luxurious Coopers Chase Retirement Village in Kent, England and meet every Thursday to work on murder cases, most often cold cases. It's appropriate that they meet in the Jigsaw room in the clubhouse. Aren't all mysteries puzzles where you have to move pieces around to make sense of them? One way or another, the cold cases wind up involving the friends in a more recent murder. Sometimes, they stir up something that results in yet another

murder, and of course, puts one or several of the friends in danger. The plot is filled with twists and turns, even a Russian spy.

I am happy to report that book four in the series is due out in September 2023.

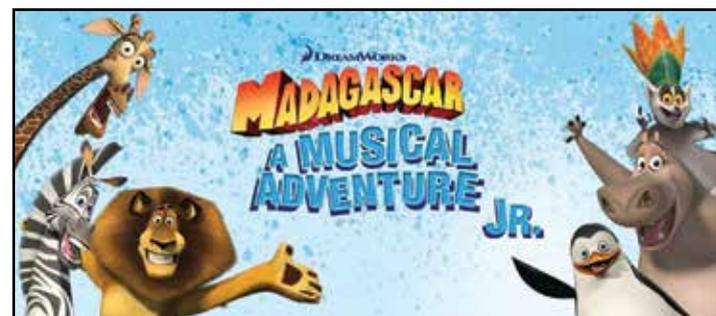
Next up, I have the second Merry Folger book, "The Maid," and countless other mysteries to keep me entertained. When you read at least two books a week, it's critical to keep your hold shelf at the library well stocked.

• 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, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

**Highlands Mercantile is OPEN!**

Fine goods for your family and home.

Books • Chocolates • Coffee • Gifts • Linens • Skincare



PAC's Youth Theatre's next performance is March 14 & 15

Last Fall's middle school production of Fame Jr. was a tremendous success and paved the way for the elementary school students to get excited about being in Madagascar Jr. A Musical Adventure.

Going through a bit of a mid-life crisis, Marty, the zebra, wishes that he could be out in the wild. After meeting a bunch of crazy penguins who also want to escape from the zoo, Marty follows them and breaks free. Discovering that their friend has gone, Alex the lion, Melman the "hypocon-giraffe" and Gloria the hippo, go on a mission to find him and bring him back to the zoo.

March 14 and 15. at 7 PM

Both show are in Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

Tickets are FREE, but please "purchase" them so we know the count.

THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



828.200.3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com
www.firewoodcompany.net

...MAP continued from page 1

"Using the Granicus software, properties for rent can be found, hosts can be educated on how to stay compliant and though Highlands isn't a beneficiary of the room tax, it will show how much room tax is/should be collected," she said.

Henson suggested the town make available to the public the STR data that it has obtained through the use of the software which it uses to keep track of STRs in Highlands.

"By now, the town should have some fairly accurate data on the number and location of STRs in Highlands," read Henson from a prepared statement. "Making this data available to the public serves several purposes."

Henson said the data will show homeowners the location of STRs in their neighborhoods; help STR owners self-report if they haven't been identified by Granicus; identify STRs operating illegally; and show potential homebuyers the location of STRs in case they want to buy one or avoid being near one.

The mention of a map got people wondering if making the information gleaned from Grani-

cus was legal or would using the information be an invasion of privacy?

However, according to Bob Hagemann with Poyner Spruill which represents Highlands in STR matters, the information is a matter of public record.

"According to our attorneys, the information we obtain through Granicus is public record and can be legally shared," said Town Manager Josh Ward.

As to the map, Ward said they are seeing what can be extracted for map purposes.

"We are working with Granicus to see what information can be extracted to produce a map or list of properties that are short-term rented," said Ward. "We will let everyone know once we figure out what document is produced and where it will be located."

When initially asked, Mayor Pat Taylor said in his view the town couldn't make a map public due to privacy issues, but has walked back that comment now that the attorneys have made the position clear.

"They said it's public record, so the public has a right to see it," he said. "We are reviewing the best

way to meet the public access issue. We want to comply with the statute but don't want to share information deemed private."

Meanwhile, the mention of a map and making public Granicus information has owners of STRs questioning the purpose.

Giving a list of homes or a map showing operating STRs out to individuals to "monitor the program" is not at all going to accomplish monitoring," said one citizen after the Town Board meeting. "What these people will be doing is looking to find a problem, perhaps where one does not exist. Are these people now going to be wandering the streets looking for violations, peering into windows, counting cars in the driveway, pitting neighbor against neighbor? This will only serve to further divide an already divided town."

Mayor Taylor said the town has the "Open Records" statute over its head.

"We haven't made any final decisions on how the data will be made public," he said. "I anticipate the board reviewing the this before making a final decision."

- Kim Lewicki

...CHAMBER continued from page 1

in Town Square.

However, room tax money can only be used to promote tourism and according to the Macon County attorney, maintaining public bathrooms doesn't fit in that category.

That got Director of the Chamber of Commerce Kaye McHan and her board thinking about ways to pay for the bathrooms without technically "paying for them."

At the February Town Board meeting last Thursday, discussed at length was a usage fee for K-H Founders Park where most of the VisitHighlandsNC events take place - Music in the Park, the Town Lighting, Santa in the Park - a total of 51 events per year.

McHan suggested VisitHighlandsNC pay \$500 per event - a

total of \$25,500 -- which the town could then use to finance the upkeep of the bathrooms.

Then commissioners discussed charging different 501 entities who use the park a different fee basing the charge on how much space they use in the park - just the patio area, or just the green area next to the patio, or the entire park - and how often.

However, Commissioners Amy Patterson and John Dotson want to keep it simple by having the chamber pay \$30,000 a year in rent.

But McHan said the chamber can't afford to pay rent because its only income is from membership dues. The two entities share the building with the chamber using between 20% to 30% and VisitHighlands NC using 70% to

80%.

With that in mind, a scenario is being worked up so that the \$30,000 can be paid by VisitHighlandsNC based on their percentage of building use.

"Let's just have VisitHighlands pay the rent," said Commissioner Dotson.

McHan said she believed room tax funds could be used to pay that rent but will contact the county attorney to make sure.

Meanwhile, the board will consider both scenarios - charging a park usage fee and reworking its fee schedule or charging VisitHighlandsNC rent. The two scenarios will be discussed at the board retreat in March or at the March Town Board meeting.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Visit Highlands, NC awards grants and a sponsorship to three local organizations

Visit Highlands, NC today announced its latest round of grants and a sponsorship – \$72,150 to support three local, nonprofit organizations.

Each year, Visit Highlands, NC supports local nonprofit organizations through its Tourism Grant and Sponsorship Programs. The grants are funded by occupancy taxes collected from guests staying in Highlands' accommodations. A committee comprised of volunteers and staff reviews the grant applications and recommends approval to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC Board of Directors.

On Feb. 10, the organization announced a new grant and two sponsorships.

- \$12,150 to Mountaintop Rotary Club to support and promote its Mountaintop Arts and Crafts Shows,

- \$50,000 to Highlands Festival Inc. to support and promote the Bear Shadow Music Festival, and

- \$10,000 to support the 2023 season performances at the Highlands Performing Arts Center (PAC).

"It's an honor to invest these funds back into our community," said Kaye McHan, executive director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "Our grant and sponsorship recipients provide our residents and visitors with educational and cultural experiences

that are vital to a thriving, healthy community.

"Together, we share the goal of making Highlands a great place to live, work, do business and visit."

Since July 1, 2022, Visit Highlands, NC has awarded more than \$160,150 to local nonprofit organizations through its Tourism Grant Program and sponsorships. The organization awarded more than \$250,000 during its last fiscal year.

Representatives from the recipient organizations say the funding is appreciated.

"The Highlands Festivals, Inc. Board of Directors and the crew of Bear Shadow are tremendously grateful for the support from the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC," said David Bock, chairman of Highlands Festivals, Inc. "The monies received from the grant will assist us in year-round marketing and public relations efforts for Bear Shadow and the promotion of Highlands as a premiere, year-round destination. We look forward to welcoming the visitors and residents to the third annual Bear Shadow weekend of music, mountains and revelry."

Michael Lanzilotta, president of Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands, agreed.

"Many thanks to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC for their financial support, which is used to attract a wide area population to come to



Mary Adair Trumbly of the Highlands Performing Arts Center accepts a check from Visit Highlands NC.



Michael Lanzilotta, president of Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands.

the Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands Arts and Crafts Show. Our event attracts a couple of thousand visitors over the weekend of the show, which results in increased revenue for Highlands' businesses."

The sponsorship funds will help the PAC bring a special production to Highlands.

"This sponsorship from Visit Highlands will enable the Highlands Performing Arts Center to bring an incredible concert, 'Rhythm of the Dance,' to the plateau, said Mary Adair Trumbly, executive director of the PAC. "This troupe is the National Dance Company of Ireland. Just imagine 30 dancers on stage with singers and fiddlers. The new, state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center now has a stage large enough to have this troupe here on March 24, just in time to continue your St. Patrick's Day celebration. We thank Visit Highlands for making this possible!"

For more information about the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC or its Tourism Grant and Sponsorship Programs, call 828-526-5841 or visit highlandschamber.org.



Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices
Meadows Mountain Realty

Want an award-winning real estate experience?
Use an award winning real estate expert.



Teresa ranks in the top 3% of BHHS global network agents!



TERESA SEAY BROKER
(828) 421-1514
www.TeresaSeay.com
488 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

LENT: The journey of life adjustments



Rev'd Jim Murphy,
Christ Anglican Church,
Highlands-Cashiers, NC

As a child growing up in a liturgically oriented denomination, the church season of Lent was an annual occurrence. Be that as it may, the meaning, beauty and call of Lent was kind of lost on me. I neither appreciated the idea of self-denial and dietary adjustments, nor cared for it.

However, as I aged and after I had dedicated my life to Jesus Christ, I noticed a gradual change in my appreciation for Lent. A mild disdain for the 40-day season began to morph into a suspicious curiosity. Like a valuable diamond is cut with many beautiful facets, I began to realize that there were actually a myriad of holy purposes and benefits to the faithful observance of said season. Lent was not the simplistic thing I had theretofore imagined it to be, but a fascinating opportunity to undertake an inventory of my relationship to God.

The fact that a goodly number of biblical personalities went through a 40-day season of self-denial and examination served to captivate my imagination. Both Moses and Jesus experienced a lent-like seasons. If it was beneficial for those spiritual giants to deny their personal appetites so as to work on their relationship with our heavenly Father, other folks, and the world, it could only serve to help me.

Jesus spent a 40-day period of fasting, self-awareness, and relationship strengthening immediately following his baptism. We don't know many of the details of his time in the wilderness but our Lord came through his period of testing near the end of his Lent, stronger in Spirit and with a heightened sense of his call and purpose.

Moses did too. He spent his 40 days (twice) on Mount Sinai with the God of all creation who, in a manner of speaking, downloaded reams of information to him pertaining to his call and purpose. The Ten Commandments, along with the entire Torah and the Father's assurance that he would never have to lead Israel alone, i.e., that El Shaddai (God Almighty), would be with him every step of the way amplifications and encouragement for his life and ministry that lay ahead of him.

I have experienced many Lents since becoming a Christian. I have fasted either completely or partially during them, from foods, pleasures and ease. I can confidently say that there has not been a single Lent wherein I did not feel that I gained ground (clarity, strength) in terms of the call, purpose, and understanding of Jesus and his creation in my life. Indeed, during Lent of 2004, my self-denial took the form of my resignation from a very successful and lucra-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

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
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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
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
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

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)
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S., Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a
Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for
schedules of activities both virtual and in-person.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Mayor Pat Taylor with Rotary President Chris Wilkes.

Dedicated town employees maintain utilities during Dec. 2022 'Big Freeze'

Mayor Patrick Taylor recently detailed the extraordinary efforts of town employees to keep up with unprecedented demand for electricity and water during the Christmas freeze, when he addressed the Rotary Club of Highlands. The Mayor expressed his deep appreciation to the many people – water plant operators, electrical crews, front desk employees and others – for working above and beyond the call of duty. Highlands is fortunate to have dedicated and experienced employees who were willing to work long hours, often in subzero temperatures.

- Jane Jerry

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Feb. 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Feb. 14

• At 3:48 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106.

Feb. 15

• At 2:35 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Feb. 16

• At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Feb. 8

Feb. 14

• At 9:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

• At 9:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ridge Lane.

• At 11:30 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cobb Road.

• At 1:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hutchinson Court.

Feb. 15

• At 8:12 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about smoke at a residence on Blue Valley Road.

Feb. 16

• At 1:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on S. Old Walhalla Road.

Feb. 18

• At 6:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about smoke in the Mirror Lake area.

• At 10:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a residence on Big Bearpen Road.

Feb. 19

• At 9:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Kettle Rock Road.

• At 11:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a location on Main Street.

• At 3:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

Feb. 20

• At 5:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wyanoak Road.



From left: Ronnie Waller, Gary Wein, President Chris Wilkes.

Rotary highlights Wein's career

The Rotary Club of Highlands welcomed as its guest speaker this week, Gary Wein, Executive Director of the Highlands Land Trust. Gary got his undergrad degree in Biology at Niagara University and his PhD in Botany at Rutgers University. He has served as a professor at both Memphis State and the University of Mississippi, is adjunct at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well as on the graduate faculty at Western Carolina University.

He is the first full-time Executive Director of the Land Trust and has served in that capacity for 16 years. What began as the Highlands Improvement Association in 1883 as a group created to “protect, preserve, and promote the natural beauty of Highlands” became The Highlands Land Trust in 1987 after merging with the Ravenel Park Association.

The finances needed for such projects as the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park and Ravenel Park were provided by the Highlands Land Trust. Gary's work with The Land Trust and its contribution to the preservation of the natural beauty of the plateau cannot overstated. His contribution to our environment has been immense, and under his stewardship, The Highlands Land Trust has become Macon County largest landowner. Gary will be retiring in June of this year, and he feels his greatest accomplishment is not just the preservation and protection of lands, but that he has built an organization that can sustain itself.

- Ricky Siegel

...EVENTS continued from page 11

gram is open to everyone, but is especially geared towards children 5 and up. Hudson Library is grateful to the Arts Council of Macon County for co-sponsoring this special free event. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.

Sat., March 4

• Girl Scout cookies are available for sale at 4118 Kitchen in Highlands Plaza from 12-4p.

Thurs., March 9

• Chamber Chats at the Highlands

Community Building on Poplar Street from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Light breakfast with coffee and tea. To RSVP contact Colleen Kerrigan at businessservices@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

Sun. March 12

• David LaMotte at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, at 2:30 at 89 Sierra Drive, Franklin. Suggested donation \$20, \$15 with advance reservation at robby.concerts@gmail.com. Pay at the door. Coffee and snacks sold during the break. Vaccination & masks required.



8.64 acres
7 miles south of Highlands
\$200K
828-974-1137



Highlands | Sotheby's
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY
GARY GARREN
 Cell: (828) 482-2370
 gsgarren@gmail.com
 Downtown Office **33**
 114 N. 4th Street, Highlands, NC
 Highlandssothebysrealty.com

Call Raul
706-982-3803
706-970-7638
828-347-0255



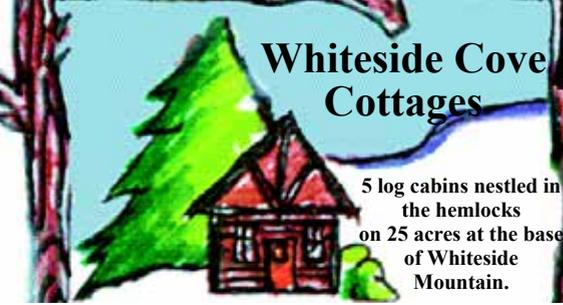
VALENCIA
 GRADING, INC.
 valenciagrading@gmail.com
 Grading • Lot Clearing • Retaining Wall
 Driveways • Septic Placement

Ryan M. Bears
 Branch Leader
 Cell: 803-271-5426
 Office: 828-526-8784
 ryan.bears@allentate.com





Pat Allen, Broker in Charge



Whiteside Cove Cottages
 5 log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.
800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

Mendoza Tree Expert & Crane Service
 Quality Tree Care & Removal
 18+ years
828-200-9217 • fully insured
 estimates@mendozatreecare.com
 www.mendozatreecare.com
 We accept all credit cards



ALLAN DEARTH GENERATORS AND SONS

▶ **828-526-9325** ◀

Generators aren't just a "thing" we do, generators are all we do!





Highlands Automotive
 Service & Repair
 NC Inspection Station





828-787-2360
 2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com

BE STILL ... MEDITATION
 Vanessa L. Steele
 Certified Primordial Sound Meditation
 Private Instruction



302-588-3603



CAROL L. KING & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

- Tax-Smart Investing
- Certified Public Accountants
- Personal Financial Specialist

434 Carolina Way
 Highlands, NC
828-258-2323
 clkcpa.com

Securities offered through Avantax Investment ServicesSM. Member FINRA. SIPC.
 Investment advisory services offered through Avantax Advisory ServicesSM.



COUNSELING CENTER
 HIGHLANDS, NC

HIGHLANDS AUTO DETAILING



706-782-2972
 Owner **JASON WOODS**
 Only the finest in automotive cleaning
 Autos • Boats • Bikes • Golf Carts

JUNK
WE HAUL IT AWAY
House / Garage / Yard
Call for free estimate
828 - 421 - 5188

Counseling Center strives to strengthen families and individuals by providing access to quality mental health services regardless of financial ability.

348 S Fifth St, Highlands, NC
 Peggy Crosby Center
 (864) 481-0598
 info@counselingcenter.org

COUNSELINGCENTER.ORG



- Grading
- Excavating
- Driveways
- Build sites
- Hauling
- Septic Systems

Edwin Wilson
 Cell (828) 421-3643
 Office/fax (828) 526-4758
 wilsongrading@yahoo.com



Cody Hervey • 828-200-6926



CBD HEALS

50 mg CBD 30 Pressed Tabs • 50 mg CBD 30 Gel Caps
100 mg CBD 30 Gel Caps • CBD cream and balm

Highlands
Outdoor
Lighting

AESTHETICS & SECURITY
Providing beauty and safety throughout your property

828.482.0801

Jason Woods
OWNER

The
Highlands
Barbershop
HAS MOVED!

to CASHIERS
224 107 S.

Make a right at the
Crossroads. It's on the
right past the light.

(828) 482-9374

Classifieds:

\$6 for 10 words, 20 cents for each additional word
\$2 for color block
\$5 for graphic.

Business Service ads

\$20 for BW
\$25 for color

• CLASSIFIEDS •

LOST

Lost Jan. 29, 2020 - 2 gold bangle bracelets - one thin and one wider. Reward offered. Contact Carol Haughes at 706-982-2658.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE BY OWNER. new 2-story house with 2 bed/2 1/2 baths. Office with separate entrance. 3.14 acres. Beautifully developed land. Big garage. Shed. Paved road. Cul-de-sac. Email brainrenew99@icloud.com. (st.2/9)

2000 LINCOLN CARTIER

CHESTNUT STORAGE

Storage Units Available

Secure 24 Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms
Call today to find out why we're
"Highland's Premier Facility"
828-482-1045



Look for our sign!

10890 Buck Creek Rd. - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Rd near the hospital



- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Pressure Washing
- House Maintenance
- Drywall Repair
- Deck Repair

Quality Work • Fully Insured

Lupe Gonzales

avpintura@gmail.com

828-332-1539 or 678-873-2927

TOWN CAR. Excellent condition. Call 828-371-2579 for details. (st. 11/3)

3 RV CLASSA SITES at Wildflower Creek RV Resort. A small, secluded, mature luxury resort. Call for more information. 828-421-1709. (st. 10/13)

WANTED

SENIOR COUPLE from Highlands seeking a small yearly rental home and will pay advanced rent for 6 months. Please contact Lynn Kimball at 828-421-8193 or 828-526-4912. (st. 2/23)

FOR LEASE

FURNISHED 2BR 2BA COTTAGE FOR RENT, \$3,500/mth on Lake Glenville with views and access. New Renovation, AC, Long term 3-6 mo, Couple preferred, off Rt 107, 10 min to Cashiers, private lane, avail Spring thru Fall, flexible. Call 267-374-0446. (st. 1/19)

COZY LAKEFRONT COTTAGE AVAILABLE AS OF APRIL 16. Fully furnished, one bedroom, one bath. Easy access from Highlands Road in Franklin. Ideal corporate or seasonal rental between Highlands and Franklin. Call Sarah Miller at 770-757-7500 or email sarahmilleratl@aol.com (st. 11/23)

HELP WANTED

DONLEON'S is searching for that one last lucky, happy person to fill out our Team. We offer the best pay...the best hours...the best food (for you) and the opportunity to work with the craziest old man in Highlands. We sing...we dance...we eat...we have a great time working hard to serve our neighbors a wonderful lunch. Come be part of this team....guaranteed to be the most FUN

• CLASSIFIEDS •

you will get paid for. Drop by DonLeon's at 462 Dillard Rd (across from Dusty's grocery) or call us at 828-200-9333. (st. 2/23)

HOTWIRE COMMUNICATIONS 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)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility currently hiring CNAs and Dietary Staff. Flexible Schedule, Competitive Pay, Great Atmosphere. Call 828-526-5251 or stop by for an application. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email

to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

SERVICES

MURPHY'S PAINT CO.
= interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600 (3/30)

I INSTALL TILE! Eco-Friendly & Non-Toxic, Specializing in Shower/Bathroom, Kitchen/ Backsplash, Entrance Ways/Patios/Flooring. 25yrs experience. Also offer grout cleaning. Licensed & Insured. Mike Bertone/Owner of Bertone Tile Design & Flooring LLC. Home: 828-526-4943 or Text: 321-303-7560. (12/29)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Chatlos Contruction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. Insured. 828-200-4071. (6/29)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? I can do it. Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (3/30)

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

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

News from the Mountain Theatre Company

2023 is our 85th Season! We will kick off the big move to the Performing Arts Center this spring and be ready to open Jersey Boys, our first show of the season, in June on the Highlands PAC stage.

We are overwhelmingly excited about this move to the beautiful new space at the Highlands PAC. While the new theater is moderately larger, it is still an intimate performance space, which we know our audiences will value. They will also appreciate comfortable new seats, ample parking, a large lobby which will be comfortable no matter the weather or season, and a state-of-the-art performance space.

This move will allow us to grow and improve our productions, our staff, and our organization in all sorts of exciting new ways. We know the best is yet to come for Mountain Theatre Company, and this move is just the beginning!

As you can see, we have a lot to celebrate this year, and we hope you'll join us.

...CHAMBER continued from page 16

If they decide on rent and if over the next 10 years room tax proceeds substantially decrease, the lease could be renegotiated.

EV Charging Stations

It looks like EV Charging Stations in four parking spots – two on 3rd Street and two on Oak Street - is a go. One is also planned at the Chamber of Commerce location on 1st Street but its unclear if the town has to be involved with that setup.

At February's Town Board meeting, McHan said the chamber had \$23,000 in grant funding to finance what's necessary for the two street stations.

The money will pay for the six transformers needed – three for each town location – as well as new, higher utility poles. If Enviro Spark can't connect to the chamber utilities, then nine transformers will be necessary.

Our ROCKIN' 2023 season is gonna be a good time! See you there!

Timeline of Move

Winter:

MTC will launch our national audition tour to cast our 2023 Season! MTC staff will be on the road through much of February and early March.

Spring:

The move to the Highlands PAC begins! All MTC equipment will begin moving to the PAC.

Late Spring:

MTC Administration offices expected to be up and running at the Highlands PAC.

June 6:

Rehearsals for Jersey Boys, our first production of 2023, begin.

June 23:

Opening night of Jersey Boys will open at the Highlands PAC, kicking off our 2023 Mainstage Season!

essary.

The town has transformers in stock, but commissioners asked that the six needed transformers be ordered and delivered before work begins on the 3rd and Oak streets sites.

Public Works Director Lamar Nix said he will know soon how long it will take for the transformers to come in.

Maintenance of the transformers was another issue. If one blows, who would be responsible for the replacement?

Nix said that scenario is no different than any of the town's other services.

"It's town equipment so the town would maintain them at that point," he said.

Once the sites are readied, Enviro Spark can do their part.

- Kim Lewicki

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

tive pastoral position when the denomination in which I served began the wholesale repudiation of Christ. With a young family for which to provide, we stepped into an unknown desert like (unemployed) experience. Scary, to be sure. But as God walked with his Son and Moses, he walked with us. His grace, Spirit and presence with us in that Lenten experience was well worth the desert time.

Lent can be so for each of us as it is undertaken faithfully and at the direction of Holy Spirit. If you would like to really get to know the Lord of all creation at a deeper level, I encourage you to the "observance of a holy Lent," a life adjustment journey with God. Dedicate, sanctify this season unto the God who is love and he guarantees manifold benefits for you.

SILVER EAGLE
Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery

349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com

Country Club Properties
Your local hometown
Real Estate professionals.
3 Offices 828-526-2520
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com

Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern
highlandermountainhouse.com

Weichert
REALTORS
Highlands Properties
450 N. 4th St. Highlands, NC
828-526-5522
www.highlandsproperties.com

Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals
Highlands is calling
Sales, Vacation Rentals,
and Property Management
Since 1941

401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-3717 www.highlandscalling.com
info@highlandscalling.com
https://www.facebook.com/CRVRHighlandscalling/
https://Twitter.com/RealtyRentals

Top 5% of Brokers on MLS in 2022 (HCBOR)

Andrea Gabbard

Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP
STRONGER TOGETHER

MOUNTAIN LUXURY
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.

DARLENE CONLEY
404.427.2448

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
Meadows Mountain Realty
MITZI RAUERS
Broker / Luxury Collection Specialist
(404) 218-9123
mitzi@bhhsmmr.com

Landmarks on map: Dog Park, Civic Center Rec Park, Historic Village, EMS, Play House, Newspaper, Post Office, K-H Park, Post Hospital, Hudson Library, Mrs Fresh Market, Highlands Plaza, Blyssom, The Blacorn Covered Bridge, Dry Falls, Olden Lake, Blue Year But Falls, College Falls, Spring St, Church St, South St, Main St, Oak St, Pine St, Spruce St, Laurel St, Chestnut St, Gas, Maple St, 4th St, 5th St, 6th St, 7th St, 8th St, 9th St, 10th St, 11th St, 12th St, 13th St, 33rd St, 40th St, Smallwood Rd, E Main St, Hwy 64a, Hwy 106, Hwy 108, Hwy 109, Hwy 110, Hwy 111, Hwy 112, Hwy 113, Hwy 114, Hwy 115, Hwy 116, Hwy 117, Hwy 118, Hwy 119, Hwy 120.

191 N Hollow, Cashiers
In GlenCove
(membership is not required)
16 Acres with
Waterfall, Stream,
Trout Pond and Barn
(Horses Allowed)
Offered for \$3,999,999

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
114 N. 4th Street
Highlands, NC

Ace is the Place,

Reebs Hardware

At Main & 3rd streets
Highlands 526-2157

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC
Local Expertise, Global Connections.

Licensed in NC and GA
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706
Sheryl Wilson sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

Team RickSteve
"The Power of 2"

Trusted advisors
providing impeccable
personalized service

We are home.

PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP/ALLEN TATE REALTORS
(404) 219-1349 • HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS NC

LANDMARK
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS
A RE/MAX COMPANY

5 Offices across the plateau!
HIGHLANDS OFFICE 225 MAIN STREET

PAM NELLIS CELL: 828-787-1895
BROKER PAMELLA.NELLIS@YAHOO.COM

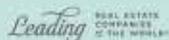


Pat Allen
Broker in Charge
 pat@patallenrealtygroup.co
 m 828.200.9179

Main Office
 295 Dillard Road
 Highlands, NC 28741
 828.526.8784

Julie Osborn
Broker in Charge
 julie@patallenrealtygroup.co
 m 828.200.6165

Wildcat Cliffs Office
 5121 Cashiers Road
 Highlands, NC 28741
 828.526.4525



patallenrealtygroup.com

#1 in the Carolinas

#1 in the Country for Independent Firms

#1 Sales Team in Highlands 2020!

Stronger together!

Source HCMLS & RealTrends



COLE FUHRMAN
 BROKER

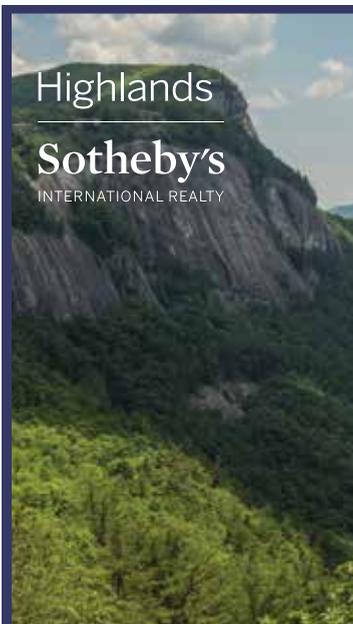
6

LANDMARK
 REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS
A Real Estate Company

5 Offices across the plateau!

HIGHLANDS OFFICE 225 MAIN STREET

CELL:843-576-9653
 COLE@LANDMARKRG.COM
 @HIGHLANDSNCREALSTATE



It was a privilege
 to work with you.

#1 REAL ESTATE
 FIRM
 ON THE PLATEAU

\$291 MILLION
 SALES VOLUME 2021

276
 TRANSACTIONS

\$1M
 AVERAGE SALE PRICE

114 N. 4th Street
 (828) 526.8300

1371 Cullasaja Club Drive
 (828) 526.4104

Per Highlands/Cashiers MLS

WILD THYME GOURMET
 RESTAURANT

Open Year-Round • 6 days a week
 343-D Main Street • 526-4035

Closed
 Wednesday
 and for
 dinner on
 Sunday
 11a-3:30p &

www.wildthymegourmet.com

WOLFGANG'S
 RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO
Taste the difference, Always fresh.

NOW OPEN
 for our
29th season

474 Main Street
 828.526.3807 | wolfgang.net

DAVID
BOCK
BUILDERS

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240

Highlands | **Sotheby's**
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY



BEE GLEESON
 (404) 307.1415

PAT GLEESON
 (828) 782.0472

Luxury is a level
 of service, not a
 price point.

Nothing compares.

OTV ...on the Verandah
 Restaurant
 on Lake Sequoyah
 828-526-2338

40 Years of Fine Dining

Closed until
 mid-March

www.ontheverandah.com

M'CULLEY'S
CASHMERE
 Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week
 526-4407
 242 S. 4th St. & Pop up
 on Main Street