

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 14

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Thurs., April 4, 2024

MC BOC approves budget amendment for Highlands School Expansion Project

By Brittney Lofthouse

During a special-called meeting on March 25, the Macon County Board of Commis-

sioners voted 4-1 to approve a \$10,000 budget amendment for the Highlands School Expansion project. The additional funds are

necessary for further geotechnical exploration and consulting services -- crucial steps in the de-

• See **SCHOOL** page 9



Sunset at Sunset Rock.

- Photo by Jessica Blackburn

Sunset Rock eclipse rally set for April 8

By Jessica Blackburn

AmeriCorps Member for HCLT Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) for the 2024 solar eclipse on April 8th up on Sunset Rock! This year the Plateau will be experiencing 84% totality during the eclipse. HCLT will be celebrating with a self-paced hike, crafts, educational talks, and light

refreshments on Sunset Rock.

Members of HCLT and The International Friendship Center will give various talks ranging from the cultural history of Ravenel Park, the geology of Sunset Rock, and different cultural legends about eclipses. HCLT will have a limited amount of solar glasses but feel free to bring your

own! This event is free and open to children, adults, and families.

No reservations are necessary, just hike up to the summit anytime between 1-4:30 pm with talks at 1:30 pm, 2:15 pm, and 3 pm.

Please walk up. Sunset Rock; parking is located across from Highlands Nature Center.

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Now is the time to apply for TL&LC's Pre-K program

By Anna Norton

The much-awaited application period for pre-enrollment in The Literacy & Learning Center's new Pre-K program is finally here!

TL&LC will provide a nurturing and comprehensive learning environment for children needing Pre-K education. Through a play-based and child-centered approach, young learners will engage in activities that enhance their

language and literacy skills, develop mathematical and scientific thinking, nurture social-emotional well-being, and promote physical growth all of which will ready them for kindergarten.

"I am thrilled to be moving toward putting all of our planning into action to help meet the community's needs. I can't wait to meet our newest and youngest

• See **PRE-K** page 9

Pine Grove schoolhouse may be sold but would be restored and preserved

By Brittney Lofthouse and Kim Lewicki

The Macon County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, April 9 to get input on whether to sell one of the last remaining one-room schoolhouses in Macon County and WNC.

But all may not be lost.

During the March meeting of the Board of Commissioners, county leaders were presented with an offer to purchase the county property located at 38 Peeks Creek Road known as the old Pine Grove School building. The Roger Soderstrom Sr. family from Florida has offered \$100,000

• See **PINE GROVE** page 7



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Development woes are everywhere

Sallie and I have been on the road this Easter week, traveling and visiting our children who work in Washington, DC. As I have said before, when we visit other communities, I frequently compare them to Highlands. Sometimes, I get insights into how the town can do things differently and better. Sometimes what I observe in our travels confirms that what our town does and how it operates is very good, just as it is.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Our children work in Washington but live in the Shenandoah Valley, some 70 miles from Washington. As a result of isolation brought on by COVID-19, and the resulting shift to remote working, their jobs allowed them to do a lot of remote work, so they purchased a house for a much lower price than paying rent in DC.

The Shenandoah region is still a beautiful, bucolic land primarily of farms with rolling pastures and hardwood forests. We think we have historical sites in Highlands, but everywhere one goes in the Shenandoah region is really historic. If a building or village in the

Shenandoah was built in the 1800s, it is considered to be rather new.

Now, our children illustrate the problem that longtime residents in the Shenandoah Valley face: a growing influx of Washington Beltway folks.

Western Carolina has been confronted with similar pressures since COVID-19, with a surge in people from places like Florida seeking high ground and cool temperatures. Climate and technological innovation are drivers of dynamic migration patterns in many

areas of the country, like Western Carolina and Colorado. The ironic state to me is Florida. People continue to move there while there is an exodus of Floridians escaping sweltering temperatures, hurricanes, unsustainable insurance rates, bugs, pythons, and rising water levels.

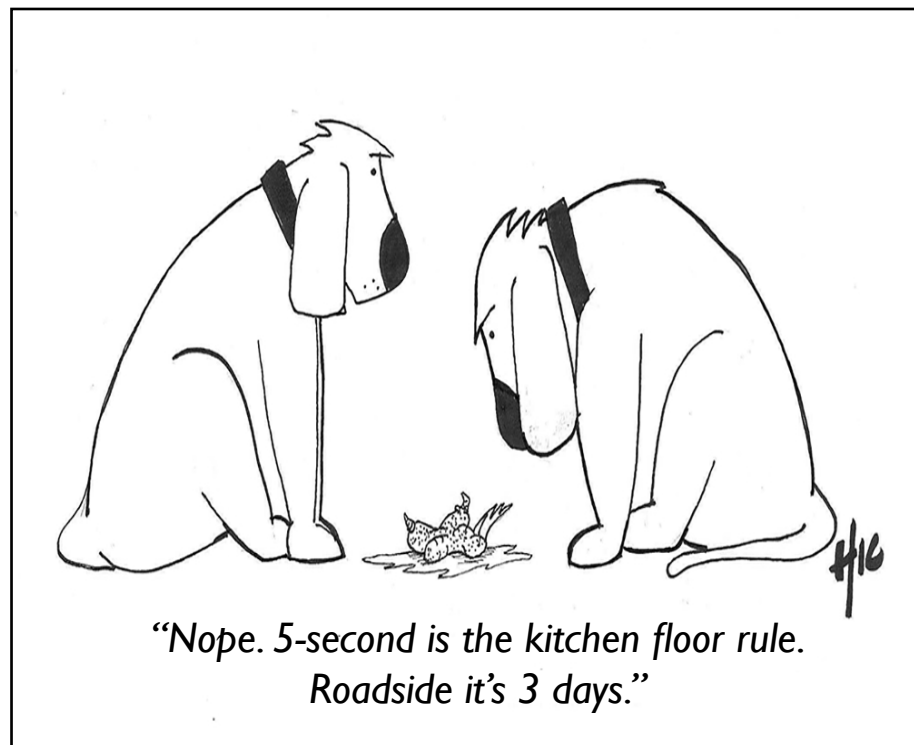
In some counties in the Shenandoah area, there has been intense growth, while in other counties, development has been very limited. A number of counties have retained their beautiful farmland and agricultural economy to some extent. The difference in the growth seems to be county zoning regulations. Some counties have strict zoning and historic preservation regulations, like the one where our kids live, while others do not.

Here lies the conflict: the need to preserve land and nature and also provide spaces for people to live and have their basic needs met. This conflict is the great issue of the day everywhere. I don't have the answer for the Shenandoah area or for Western Carolina, but I do know towns and counties in both regions will face this growing pressure.

I do have a concern for our Western Carolina region. A number of our counties and unincorporated communities have no zoning. Macon County is a prime example. It seems to me that zoning should be a basic stepping-stone in addressing the pressures of growing demand and development. I know that some may see zoning as a terrible curse while others see it as a blessing. But with no zoning regulations in place, we see a "Wild West" scenario on the horizon.

Do we manage growth or not? In Highlands, we have had zoning since the 1970s. Zoning has served as a tool to help the town manage development. The big question is how counties and unincorporated communities with no zoning will fare as development pressures persist.

• HIC'S VIEW •



*"Nope. 5-second is the kitchen floor rule.
Roadside it's 3 days."*

• WEATHER •

Thu, 4-Apr	Fri, 5-Apr	Sat, 6-Apr	Sun, 7-Apr
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Highlands Newspaper

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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

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We do not charge for obituaries at this time, but we reserve the right to edit as needed for space.

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Time for Spring Cleaning: Sell, keep or toss?

As real estate brokers, we are experienced and trained to deal with land and the improvements thereon considered "real property." As a residential real estate broker selling homes in this resort community, another type of property surfaces in most transactions: personal property. Personal property is defined as: goods, chattels and other articles of value. In other words, our "stuff" that we purchase to fill our homes including furniture, accessories, rugs, lamps, dishes, etc. Some of my most tense negotiations have turned on whether "the plate on the wall" was included in the deal. My advice in these situations to both buyers and sellers is to keep your eye on the prize-the house-and not to haggle over a replaceable item.

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

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

1. Mountain Findings Thrift Store accepts donations and will pick up: 828.526.9429;

2. The Emergency Council accepts donations: 828.526.4357;

3. Church of the Good Shepherd Bazaar accepts donations: 828.226.2588;

4. Goodwill in Franklin accepts donations: 828.349.7494;

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

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

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

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

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

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

May you truly enjoy the process of sharing items that become someone else's treasure as you lighten your load this Spring. Thank you for your support and friendship.

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• OBITUARY •

Gail Dianne Morris Brennan

Gail Dianne Morris Brennan, 81, of Pittsboro, NC, passed away Sunday, March 31, 2024. Mrs. Brennan was born February 11, 1943, to the late Robert and Louise Stansel Morris.

She had worked in the medical field as a record technician. Mrs. Brennan was a loving wife, mother, and sister. She was also a member of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

She is survived by two sons, Michael Brennan and William Brennan; two daughters,



Kimberly Paoletti and Dawn Joyner; a sister, Anne Robinson and a brother, John Morris. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William Brennan.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 11am at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery.

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

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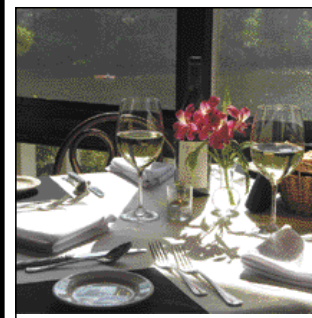
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...PINE GROVE from page 1

for the property.

Soderstrom said they arrived at the price based on the recent tax revaluation.

Before entertaining the offer, commissioners wanted to seek public input so the offer to purchase was tabled and a public hearing was set for the April meeting.

In addition to seeking to buy the Pine Grove School property, the Soderstrom family has purchased the 4.5 acres across the street – the property along the river that currently houses the red-roofed barn and a foundation of a building that was never finished.

The family is currently working with Mountain Soils and an engineer to layout wells and septic fields while adhering to the setbacks along the river and also plans on restoring the barn.

Soderstrom said they plan to build a four-home family compound on the parcel and want to make sure the Pine Grove schoolhouse next door is restored and preserved to sustain the neighborhood feel.

“We aren’t sure what we will do with it, whether it will just be for family use or perhaps used for events, but we are very interested in saving historical structures,” he said.

Soderstrom said if the purchase goes through, he anticipates investing \$60,000-\$70,000 in the building starting with a new roof.

The original Pine Grove School on the Gorge Road in Franklin, operated across the street from the current location from 1855 to 1900s until a fire destroyed the schoolhouse.

The current Pine Grove schoolhouse has a rich history that dates back to the early 1900s. Originally built in 1912 to replace an older schoolhouse, the Pine Grove School served as a vital educational center for the surrounding community until its closure in 1949. The school, like many others of its time, featured two rooms — one large and one small — along with a wood stove, an outhouse, and spring water brought in from outside.

After its closure, the Pine Grove schoolhouse continued to serve as a polling place for the Sugarfork area. However, by the early 2000s, the building had fallen into disrepair and was considered unsafe for public use. In response,



The Pine Grove schoolhouse at Peeks Creek and The Gorge Road.

the Macon County Preservation Society took ownership of the building in 2003 and formed the Pine Grove School Restoration Society, comprised of volunteers and former students, to restore the school to its former glory.

The restoration effort was a community-driven initiative, with the society raising funds and organizing labor to renovate the building. The county provided \$15,000 to get the restoration project started with a pledge to match up to \$25,000 of the funds raised. The project drew strength from the community’s desire to memorialize the victims of the 2004 Peeks Creek disaster, which had a profound impact on the area.

The renovated building was opened as a neighborhood center in 2006. The structure now known as The Pine Grove School Community Club, boasts modern amenities such as a kitchen, restrooms, and a small stage, while still retaining its historic charm. The classroom has been recreated with vintage schoolbooks, a chalkboard, and old-fashioned desks bearing donor plaques honoring former students.

It has served as a gathering place for the community, hosting events such as student field trips, plays, reunions, and music events. It is also used as a voting station and is available for rent for private events.

After nearly two decades, and after COVID, the Pine Grove Community Club disbanded and the county took back ownership of the property in 2021.

If the county were to accept private offers to off-load the property – some commissioners believe the county owns too many buildings – since the building is being used as the Sugarfork polling place, arrangements would have to be made for a new polling location.

According to Macon County Board of Elections Director Melanie Thibault, there are currently 487 registered voters in the Sugarfork Precinct who use the building each election.

If the Pine Grove building was no longer available, the Sugarfork precinct would have to be combined into another, likely Sugarfork into Elizay. Both precincts are in District One so a combination wouldn’t affect representation.

If sold, the board of elections would have to unanimously agree on a plan to combine polling places, which would have to be sent to the state board for approval. If approved, Thibault and her staff would notify those in the Sugarfork precinct of the change and of the new polling location.

The public is invited to attend and provide comment about the potential sale at the April 9 BOC meeting. Soderstrom said a family representative will be at the meeting to read a letter from the family to explain their intentions for the property.

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• INK PENN •

British mysteries at their best

If you follow my columns, you had to know it wouldn't be long before I returned to British mysteries. I don't consciously say to myself, "It's time to return to England," but somehow that's what happens. Once again, I can't recall where I heard about these two, but I'm delighted I discovered them. One was written during the Golden Age between the two world wars, the other is set in that era. Both were immensely enjoyable.

Mystery in White

by J. Jefferson Farjeon

Originally published in 1937, this novel was republished as a British Library Crime Classic in 2014. Farjeon was as well known in the Golden Age as authors like Dorothy Sayers and Agatha Christie. Sayers described him as "quite unsurpassed for creepy skill in mysterious adventures."

The setup is eerily reminiscent to that of Christie's "Death on the Orient Express," which was published three years pri-

or, but a train encountering a blizzard is the only similarity. The action quickly moves beyond the train when a group of passengers venture out and trudge through the snow to a deserted house. There, they find the fires laid and food in the pantry—as though the occupants stepped out for a brief moment.

Red herrings are masterfully strewn among the clues, and witty dialogue abounds. Only a very careful reader is likely to solve the entire mystery before the end. I say "entire" because there are several components to the "Mystery in White." If you like classic Golden Age mysteries, this is the book for you.

Death in Focus

by Anne Perry

Set between the World Wars, this is the first in what is now the five-book Elena



Kathy Manos Penn

Standish series. Anne Perry is well known for three series: William Monk, Charlotte and Thomas Pitt, and Daniel Pitt—all set in Victorian England.

Her newest series features a twenty-eight-year-old British heroine who is visiting the Amalfi Coast as a photographer. In the blink of an eye, she discovers a dead body and is off to Berlin with a man she's just met. This spontaneity is not only out of character for Elena, but also dangerous. Berlin in 1933 is not the place to be.

Add in her grandfather as a former head of MI6, and the result is a thriller / mystery combo. Elena is witness to the book burning in Berlin, where the "works of Jewish authors like Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud went up in flames alongside blacklisted American authors such as

Ernest Hemingway and Helen Keller, while students gave the Nazi salute."

For me, the bonus in a novel like this is the opportunity to see historical events described so well that I feel like I am witnessing them firsthand. I can see the books going up in flames. Read "Death in Focus" for the intrigue, the strong heroine, and the added benefit of a history lesson. I'll be adding "A Question of Betrayal" to my TBR list so I can get to know Elena Standish better.

The good news for me is that my husband gave me a Barnes & Noble gift certificate for Christmas. The bad news is I will have the devil of a time deciding which books to buy. Odds are they'll be set in England.

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



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



The Easter Bunny comes a calling at HCCDC

The Easter Bunny recently made a visit to the Highlands Community Child Development Center. Earlier in the day the children had an Easter egg hunt. Above are a few of the staff and students with the Easter Bunny.

...Pre-K continued from page 1

students, to learn all about them, and to jump into the program,” said Carolyn Middlebrooks, Pre-K Director. “Highly qualified and dedicated educators will guide students through their learning journeys, fostering a love for learning and creating a solid foundation for future academic achievements with inclusive space that fosters each child’s holistic development.”

The center’s state-of-the-art facility has been intentionally designed to create a safe and stimulating learning environment. Classrooms have age-appropriate resources, technology, and materials that encourage exploration, creativity, and critical thinking.

There are 18 spots available for the free program and the schedule will follow the Macon County Schools schedule.

General requirements for application and enrollment include: must be age four by Sept. 1, 2024; Must be toilet-trained; Immunized with proof; a parent/guardian and child must attend a play-based assessment at TL&LC (days/times TBD); parent/guardian must attend at least one short

parenting workshop at TL&LC (days/times TBD); parent/guardian must provide proof of income; parent/guardian must agree to TL&LC policies; parent/guardian agrees to read to child at least 15 minutes per day; students must bring their lunch and snacks each day

To apply, visit TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org/Programs. It will be necessary to create a free account. Application does not guarantee enrollment. Guardians will be notified of acceptance at a later date (TBD).

TL&LC plans to begin the program in the fall of 2024. Licensing is pending, so exact dates will follow. Meanwhile, the staff looks forward to paving the way with the application process.

For more information about The Literacy & Learning Center’s pre-K program, please visit www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org or contact Caroline Cox at ccox@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org, Carolyn Middlebrooks at cmiddlebrooks@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org or 828-526-0863.

...SCHOOL continued from page 1

velopment of the school’s first preschool classroom.

County Manager Derek Roland explained that the budget amendment includes \$6,850 for soil boring and testing, \$1,400 for utilities relocation, and the remainder as contingency. The soil boring will serve multiple purposes, including determining if there has been a leak from a propane tank on the property and evaluating the soils underneath the expansion footprint to identify any necessary remediation.

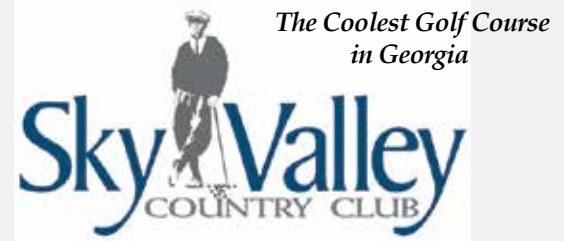
Commissioner Paul Higdon cast the lone opposing vote. However, the majority of the board supported the amendment, recognizing the importance of thorough exploration and planning in such a significant project.

In addition to the budget amendment, the commissioners approved the project’s construction manager at-risk contract with Vannoy Construction for \$28,528. Part of this amount, \$7,132, will be paid from the

Repair and Renovation Fund from the state, with the remaining \$21,396 coming from the county’s fund balance.

Roland highlighted that using the Construction Manager at Risk method, which is a new process for the county, will involve two phases: pre-construction and construction. During the pre-construction phase, Vannoy Construction will fine-tune the budgets and schedules for the project, looking for opportunities for savings. This method allows the county to have access to all information regarding the construction bids and the pricing process, leading to a guaranteed maximum price for the project.

“If the commissioners agree on the guaranteed maximum prices for the projects, the next step would be entering into the construction contract,” stated Roland. The board expects to receive a report on the anticipated total cost and timeline for construction from Vannoy by Sept. 1.



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Step 1: Consider the age and condition of the wood

The age and condition of the wood plays an important role when you are choosing a stain. For example, solid opacity stain covers imperfections and is a great choice for older wood.

Evaluating the approximate age and wear-and-tear level of your deck, fence or other exterior wood project is an important first step.

Step 2: Determine your wood staining goals

Answer these three questions to determine your wood staining goals:

1. Do you want your stain to enhance the natural appearance of your wood or transform the wood's existing color?
2. Do you want to make a color statement or stay as close as possible to your wood's natural hue?
3. How much of the wood's natural grain do you want to show through?

Step 3: Take the surroundings into account

When choosing a wood stain color, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Consider your home's exterior siding color.

Blend in? If you want your deck to blend in with your existing exterior color scheme, choose a stain that is the same color as your home's siding or trim but a shade lighter or darker.

Stand out? If you want your deck to stand out, consider using a complementary color for an energizing look. Complementary colors are opposite each other on the color wheel. Learn more about complementary colors in the Color Handbook video.

Testing a sample of the stain color and opacity before you buy the full amount needed for your project will get you on the right track to selecting the wood stain that's right for you.

- Assess your home's landscaping.

Softer colors highlight colorful landscaping and draw less attention to decks, railings and fences. Neutral color stains, like Maritime White OC-5 or Beige Gray ES-51, keep the visual focus on colorful flora and fauna, and less on your deck and railings. Red-toned stains, like Boston Brick 2092-30 or Beaujolais 1259, will bring out the greenery. The same rules apply for fence colors.

- Think about your home's climate and natural light.

Many homeowners living in warmer states prefer a lighter deck color, as it absorbs less heat in direct sunlight. Lighter colors like Maritime White OC-5 or Beige Gray ES-51, mentioned above, are great for creating a light, airy look, as are Arbor

White ES-01 and Cliffside Gray HC-180.

Step 4: Choose your opacity

Stains come in a variety of different opacity levels.

Translucent Best for: New or younger wood decks in good condition—ideal for hardwoods like mahogany, teak and ipe.

- What is Translucent opacity? Translucent stain allows the full beauty of the wood to show through. Woodlux Translucent Stain available in seven ready-mix colors.

- What it does: Highlights the wood's natural appearance.

Semi-Transparent: Best for: Decks that are a few years old and in need of a new stain. Ideal for softwoods like cedar and pine.

- What is Semi-Transparent opacity? Semi-transparent stain allows most of the grain pattern and texture of the wood to show through. Woodlux Semi-Transparent Stain is available in 75 colors.

- What it does: Enhances the beauty of the wood with color, while still allowing most of the wood's natural grain and texture to show through.

Semi-Solid: Best for: An older deck or wood that needs a slight touch-up to its natural color and appearance. Ideal for softwoods like cedar and pine.

- What is Semi-Solid opacity? Semi-Solid stain allows the texture and some of the grain pattern of the wood to show through. Woodlux Semi-Solid Stain is available in 75 colors.

- What it does: Covers most imperfections, while allowing some of the wood's natural grain and texture to show through.

Solid Best for: Old decks and wood that isn't in great condition or if you simply want a change in deck color.

Suitable for all wood types, including pressure-treated lumber, cedar and redwood. Perfect for painting wood furniture too!

- What is Solid opacity? Solid stain allows the texture of the wood to show through. Woodlux Solid Stain is available in all 3,500+ Benjamin Moore colors.

- What it does: Covers the majority of imperfections, while allowing a bit of the wood texture to show through.

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...WOOD STAIN continued from page 10

Download the Woodluxe brochure for more information or pick one up at your locally owned Benjamin Moore store.

Step 5: Explore your stain color options

A stain color can either enhance or transform the natural hue of wood. If you want your stain to enhance the natural appearance of your wood, choose a color that's close to its natural hue.

Most homeowners opt for Translucent to allow the wood's grain and texture to show through. Translucent Woodluxe Exterior Stain offer just a hint of color, each aligning with a specific wood type:

Step 6: Synch color choices with wood undertones

All wood has a natural undertone. Here are some ideas for choosing stain colors based on undertones and wood types. Note that all stain color suggestions below are shown in Semi-Transparent opacity.

Step 7: Sample, sample, sample

It is essential to test the stain on wood before you commit.

- Let the stain to dry completely before making your decision on color and opacity, as the stain's appearance can change as it dries.

- Especially with lower opacities, keep in mind that there will be variations in color. Just as natural wood has different textures and grains, your stained wood will likely have lighter and darker spots.

You can buy Woodluxe Exterior Stain samples online and have them shipped directly to your home or pick them up from your locally owned Benjamin Moore store.

Step 8: Start your wood staining project

You've chosen a wood stain opacity and color, and you've tested a sample on different pieces of wood—and most important, you're happy with the results. Now it's time to start your wood staining project!

Preparation is key: Check out how to prep a deck for staining. Then see our guide to how to stain a deck. As always, your local Benjamin Moore store can help with any questions you have, from choosing a stain color to using a product.



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Spring Home Improvement 2024



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Building a Custom Home? Read These Tips First

(StatePoint) Many people dream of building a custom home in a beautiful location. However, the journey of building a home from scratch is not always smooth.

“As a builder in sunny Southwest Florida, we work with all kinds of clients. Whether they are drawn to the timeless appeal of Naples, the coastal charm of Bonita Springs, the urban energy of Tampa, or the peaceful embrace of Sanibel, our job is to help them create their dream home and tell their unique story,” says Glen Harris III, regional partner of Alair Florida, an industry leader.

To help you navigate the intricate world of custom home-building, Alair Florida is shedding light on some common challenges prospective homeowners face and offering solutions based on their expertise.

Creating a custom home is an exciting journey with both triumphs and trials. Here are some common concerns:

1. Balancing Vision and Budget:

Challenge: Juggling expansive design ideas with realistic budget constraints.

Solution: Overall project costs can be unpredictable with a standard cost-plus contract, particularly if you have an expansive vision. That’s why it’s important to work with a builder who encourages a pre-construction phase, whereby specifications and line-item costs are fixed. This process allows you to make design adjustments on paper before construction begins, and in turn, your builder will present you with a fixed cost-plus contract. As the project moves forward, be sure to request regular updates and clear project timelines.



2. Navigating Regulatory Terrain:

Challenge: Dealing with the complex world of permits and regulations often causes delays.

Solution: Work with a builder who possesses local knowledge. Doing so can streamline the process as they will understand and adhere to specific requirements.

3. Timing the Sourcing of Materials:

Challenge: Excitement of hand-selecting materials tempered by potential supply chain disruptions.

Solution: If your builder is experienced in material sourcing and high-quality craftsmanship, this will help them navigate such challenges to avoid delays while ensuring your new home is built to the highest standards.

4. Adapting to Evolving Design:

Challenge: The temptation of design changes impacting the project timeline.

Solution: Striking a balance between innovation and sticking to the timeline is crucial for success. Your builder should act as your trusted advisor, connecting you with savvy designers, architects and other experts who understand the local market and the range of other factors that can affect your timeline.

5. Unforeseen Costs and Delays:

Challenge: Unexpected challenges despite meticulous planning.

Solution: Establishing a contingency fund and maintaining open communication with your builder is prudent. To that end, your builder should take a client-driven approach and actively involve you in the decision-making process.

Experts say “Your builder should be committed to cultivating a collaborative partnership with homeowners. Every decision, whether it’s a change order or intricate detail, should be a result of thoughtful and shared deliberation.”

With careful attention and industry expertise, guided by a trusted custom home builder, you can transform your vision into reality, backed by the assurance of transparency, fixed-price contracts, quality craftsmanship, professional design services, and a client-driven approach.

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Home Improvement 2024

Cozy or Cramped? Americans Reveal How They Feel About Living in Small Spaces

(StatePoint) When it comes to the home, bigger doesn't always mean better.

A new survey from Duck brand, which offers products that provide simple, imaginative and helpful solutions for a variety of tasks around the home, discovers that more than half of Americans living in a small space say they feel cozy and comfortable as opposed to cramped.

"We often assume that a larger home is the most desirable, but that's not always the case," says Chaffy Assad, product manager at Shurtape Technologies, LLC, the company that markets the Duck brand. "In fact, nearly half of the survey respondents enjoy living in a small space, which most defined as a two-bedroom home or smaller."

A more intimate space offers many benefits: 61% say it's easier to clean, 54% say it costs less and helps save money and 52% say it's easier to maintain. Additionally, 57% plan to continue living in their home for the foreseeable future.

While there are many benefits to tinier homes, there are some challenges to living with less space. Fifty-nine percent of Americans say the biggest downside is the lack of storage, with 48% of people feeling it's harder to keep small spaces clean and organized compared to larger spaces.

Which areas prove to create the biggest cleaning conundrums? The kitchen ranks number one as the hardest room to keep neat and tidy, with the living room a close second, followed by the bedroom in third. The belongings that are the most difficult to make space for are cookware, bags, shoes and gym equipment.

That being said, Americans are good at finding ways to make the most of their home by keeping clutter to a minimum and getting creative with organizing, the survey finds. Duck brand offers a variety of organizing ideas and solutions that help people tidy up, from the EasyMounts Mounting System that can transform a disorganized entry-

way, closet or garage, to the versatile EasyLiner Brand Shelf Liner that can make surfaces stylish and mess-free.

"No matter how limited your space is, there is always a way to maximize it," Assad adds. "Making minor and affordable changes, like mounting removable hooks on the wall, easily adds extra storage to hang such items as cooking utensils or a purse, while installing shelf liner on kitchen shelves or in bathroom drawers protects surfaces and makes it simple to wipe up spills or messes."



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When deciding on dining room paint colors, let your entertaining style be your guide.

Bold & Beautiful: Dining Room Wall Ideas

When you want to make an impact, you can't go wrong with designing for drama. The dining room isn't a space you settle into for long periods of time, so it's an opportunity to use a strong color that is both elegant and dramatic. Rich, warm reds and corals, like Color of the Year 2023 Raspberry Blush 2008-30, create lush, indulgent spaces. For an even bolder look, try using it on the ceiling to create a sumptuous space perfect for hosting a dinner party or a candlelit date night.

If you want a dramatic look with a little less saturation, try a metallic-inspired hue like Marblehead Gold HC-11 or silvery Violet Mist 1437, which will work with lighting to create a glowing effect.

Dining Room Wall Décor, Art, & More

When choosing a paint color for a dining room—or any room—consider your wall décor. Many elements can inspire you, from the furniture that's front and center, to the décor you choose to display. For a pulled-together look, let your accents be your guide: wood tones, fabrics, and other accessories can be a huge help when deciding on color.

Here, Capri Coast OC-87 acts as a neutral backdrop, while the vintage mirror, ornate chandelier, and flowering bouquet take center stage, creating an elegant dining area. Jewel tones, like the green fabric on the chair, make for an eye-catching pop of color that will have your guests talking.

Be A Good Neighbor: Dining Room Color Flow

To create design flow in the main living areas of your home, consider rooms that are adjacent to the dining room when picking a paint color. Though you don't have to match the colors of neighboring spaces exactly, your home may flow better visually if the colors relate. Here, a serene dining room in White Drifts OC-138 is framed by White Drifts trim and hallway walls in Mineral Alloy 1622, creating a peaceful transition from room to room for guests and inhabitants alike.

Some of our favorite dining room color combinations for optimal color flow are:

- Chippendale Rosetone HC-58 & Pink Damask OC-72
- Shaker Beige HC-45 & Coriander Seed AF-110
- Great Barrington Green HC-122 & Edgecomb Gray HC-173
- Luxe AF-580 & Distant Gray OC-68

For ultimate color depth and richness that lasts, look no further than Aura® Interior paint. Ultra-premium Aura offers an advanced formula that is more beautiful and durable than ever, creating a fortress of color that continues to redefine luxury paint.

Dining Room Accent Walls

Unlike kitchens or living rooms, dining rooms pres-

ent a unique design opportunity thanks to their singular purpose: To provide a beautiful space in which to gather, nurture, and indulge. No matter how often or formally a dining room is used, an accent wall—or color—can add dimension and drama to a room that may frequently be in the background.

In a southwestern-inspired space, sunny York Harbor Yellow 2154-40 pops against Atrium White OC-145—a fresh white paint color with a touch of pink. Textured furniture, yellow wall décor and natural accents further tie everything together, evoking the region's warm, grounded energy.

Dining Room Color Ideas: Delineating Space

If you live in an open concept space, especially a small one like a loft or apartment, delineating a space exclusively for dining can be difficult. We suggest using different paint colors to designate a dining nook, allowing you to create a space that lends itself to meals and gatherings of all kinds, whether it be dinner, your morning coffee, or a midnight snack.

To achieve this look, using a bold hue to break up otherwise neutral spaces is key. In this dining area, a wall painted in homeowner-favorite White Heron OC-57 is elevated by a band of Wenge AF-180, a deep chocolate standout from the Color Trends 2023 palette. Wooden accents and a retro tablecloth further add to the charm.



Home Improvement Spring 2024

4 Trends to Take Muted Interiors from Drab to Dreamy in 2024

(StatePoint) While neutral tones continue to be popular this year among home DIYers, bold and colorful surroundings also are trending right now.

From adding dramatic style to the kitchen to giving an unexpected space a splash of color, these ideas will make areas around your home pop in 2024.

Colorful Kitchens.

Make the kitchen a focal point by painting the cabinets or panels on the island a vivid color. Calming blue will ensure a relaxed and laid-back feeling, while fuchsia will energize the design. Use FrogTape Delicate Surface Painter's Tape to prevent paint bleed and achieve crisp paint lines. The low-adhesion tape is designed to prevent damage on surfaces like cabinets, freshly painted walls, wallpaper and more.

Dynamic Décor.

If painting projects aren't in the plan for this year, revive a living room or bedroom by adding a collection of brightly colored pillows and throws, bohemian-style macramé, wall art and a rug with geometric

patterns. As long as the colors are complementary to each other, the blend of styles and textures will catch the eye and make the room feel refreshed with little effort.

Nourishing Green.

A simple, but effective, way to boost the mood of a space is to fill it with large blooms. Place a modern plant stand in an empty corner or between rooms as a divider, and layer in green houseplants or ones with colorful leaves on the shelves. Accentuate the greenery with pops of the same color throughout the room to create a sense of cohesion.

Elevated Exteriors.

It's not just the interiors of the home that should speak to personal style, the outside should, too! Give the front door a face-lift by painting it a daring color. Don't be afraid to choose one hue for the outside of the door and another for the inside.

Whether you choose one or all of these trends, they can be tackled by DIYers with a range of skillsets to transform dull living spaces into the home of your dreams.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

For more information call Lester Norris or Janice Mathis at 828-526-3556.

Mon.-Fri.

Pickle Ball will be played inside the Recreation Center Mon.-Fri., 10am-1pm for the winter.

POOL SCHEDULE

The Pool is closed for cleaning. Will reopen April 8.

Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6-9:45a, and

Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10 -11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18 years old+, Mon.-Thurs 11a-3:30p and Fri., 11a-1:30p. Public Swim Mon.- Thurs. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

MEETINGS ALL WEEK

Highlands/ Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays @ 12:00 noon. Open in person meetings are held in Cashiers @ the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sunday at 5:00 pm, on Tuesday @ 7:00 pm, on Friday at 5:00 pm and on Saturday at 9:00 am. Cashiers Open ZOOM Meetings are on Wednesday @ 700 pm. ZOOM ROOM 921 817 2966 PASSWORD CVG2020. For more information please visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. 24/7 call our HELP Line 828 349-4357.

Mon.-Fri.

Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed-Fri

Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.

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

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

Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

2nd Tuesdays

Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings, For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031

At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers - Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration required - just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Wednesdays

Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appointments are required - all are welcome.

Pickle Ball inside and outside at the Rec Park. 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-6p.

Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

2nd & 4th Thursdays

Hudson Library is hosting a new program for dementia caregivers. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, you are invited to join the Dementia Caregivers Support Group, a welcoming group of people that understand what you are going through. They come together to offer each other support, resources, and a listening ear. Moderators Chris and Fred ensure that the group is a safe place for judgement-free discussion. The next meeting of the Dementia Caregivers Support Group is February 22 at 10:15 AM at Hudson Library. For more information about the group, contact Chris at 772-473-1088.

Thursdays

Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Learn the proper form and technique to execute jabs, hooks, uppercuts, and front and side roundhouse kicks in a non-contact setting. No martial arts background necessary. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

• 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.

Saturdays

• Story Ballet - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm. 828-421-6720

• Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

2nd Saturdays

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

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpst370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

Thurs. – Sun., April 4-7

• Highlands-Cashiers Players presents the comedy "Squabbles" at PAC's ML Theater on Chestnut Street at 7:30 p.m., 2 p.m. Sunday. Cabaret seating \$35. For tickets go to HighlandsCashiersPlay-ers.com or call 828-526-9047.

Fri., April 5

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. CHEFs NICOLA FEDELI and CALVISIUS CAVIAR. Book Online at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/ChefDinners

Mon., April 8

• Sunset Rock Star Party from 1-4:30 p.m. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is hosting an eclipse viewing for all ages. Hike, learn and engage. Learning about the cultural and geological history of Ravenel Park. Light refreshments provided. Parking is across the street from the Highlands Nature Center.

Thurs., April 11

• "Survival Tricks of the Trail" is presented by award-winning author and survivor, Mark Warren at MC Public Library on Siler Road at 6pm. He reached national

a nature educator and wilderness athlete. Mark teaches nature classes and primitive survival skills at the nationally renowned wilderness school in southern Appalachia, Medicine Bow. Come join us to have a few tricks and a fun time. All are welcome to attend and open to the general public. A free raffle will be given at the program.

Fri. April 12

• Great Art on Screen Titian, the empire of color, at PAC at 5:30 p.m. For tickets visit www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

Sat., April 13

• Plateau Pickup 8:30a-noon. Meet in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street for a light breakfast and lunch will be provided after. Participants receive a free t-shirt. To participate send an email to events@highlandschamber.org.

April 15-19

• The Town of Highlands will conduct its annual white goods pickup. During this week, the town will come to a residence and pick up any used appliances such as washing machines, stoves, or other appliances. Please call Town Hall at (828) 526-2118 for more information. The town will recycle the metal of these defunct machines. Money from the recycling effort will help defray some of the program's costs.

Thurs., April 18

• OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Mike Kinnebrew at The Farm. Indie folk fueled by soulful inspiration. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/mike-kinnebrew-orchard-sessions-at-the-far-tickets-149347>

Fri., April 19

• Senior Lunch will be Friday at 12:00noon at the Rec Dept in the Meeting Room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Janice Mathis at 828-526-3556.

Wed., May 1

• The Bascom has a Call for Entries for the Dazzling Dahlia Festival 2024 in partnership with the Highlands Historical Society. Open to any age or experience level. The winner will become the featured artist of 2024 and receive a \$500 prize. Also introducing a Youth Poster category for children 17 and under! The youth winner will receive a \$50 Bascom program gift certificate. Please indicate age with submission. Entry Deadline: May 1st For more info, call (828) 526-4949.

Sat., May 4

• Pop-Up Bag Pipers are scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sat.,

Sun., May 5

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. Dinner with James Beard Winner Chef Terry Koval Book Online at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/ChefDinners

Sat.-Sun., May 11-12

• The 4th annual Bear Shadow will be

held again at Winfield Farm in Scaly Mountain. Visit <https://bearshadownc.com/> for information about how to purchase tickets.

Sat., May 11

• 3rd Annual FREE Highlands Dog Show in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. Registration 1-1:30. Judging begins at 1:30 p.m. Award ceremony 2:30-3:30 p.m. Categories: Best in Show, Best Trick, Happiest Dog, Best Behavior, Looks Like Owner.

Fri., May 17

• High Style Meet & Greet in Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park on Pine Street 5-6:30 p.m. Kick off the inaugural High Style event in style with our meet and greet reception at Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park. Join us for an evening of mingling, sipping, and savoring. Music by Zorki. Food, beer and wine included in the ticket price. \$45

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Silly Ridge (High Style event weekend)

Sat., May 18

• High Style Fashion Show in Town Square at 341 Main St. from 9:30-11 a.m. Whether you are a fashion enthusiast, a trendsetter, or simply looking for entertainment, the High Style Fashion Show promises an unforgettable experience for all. Price includes seating, beverage and swag bag. * We encourage guests to embrace their personal style and dress to impress.* \$25VIP seating

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Continental Divide (High Style event weekend)

Tues., May 21

• Free Sports Physicals at Highlands School at 2 p.m. Rising 5th-12 graders who will be participating in NCHSAA sanctioned

sports. A state-mandated sports physical is required prior to trying out for any sport. Parents or guardians should plan to attend the sports physical to answer questions the medical team may have during the exam. For more information contact Highlands School's Mission Sports Medicine Athletic Trainer Will Mathiowdis at William.Mathiowdis@HCAHealthcare.com.

Fri., May 24

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – McClain Family Band.

Sat., May 25

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Southside Station

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• **BIZ/ORG NEWS** •

Is Biblical Christianity a joke?



**Sr. Pastor
Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

Easter came early this year! Reflecting on Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ can get interesting.

All of the credibility of Christianity rests on the bodily resurrection of Christ. Is Christ really risen from the dead? If Christ is not a risen Lord, then Christianity is a sham and Christians are the most mislead, deceived, goofy, false prophets walking the face of the earth today. The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth that had all kinds of dysfunction and doubt at their start. "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead." (1 Cor. 15:14-15).

If Christ hasn't been raised, then why would anyone else be raised? If each of us is believing in a God that hasn't overcome death, Hell and the grave, not to mention the ever-present sin in the world, then who or what is one really entrusting with their eternity? I need more than a spiritual concept or set of principles to place my faith. Don't you? I need forgiveness from One who paid my sin debt in a manner I couldn't have done. Christ is the only one I know, or have ever heard of, that provides such an accounting.

I haven't always believed. My life was once a joke, but not a very funny one. Actually, my life was deeply concerning. Now I base my entire life, calling/vocation, resources, thoughts, and actions on the reality that Christ was resurrected from the dead and is actively involved in my life, thoughts, dreams, actions and future.

If he died and never came back to life, then how can one pray to Him? How can one "access" Him in their heart? How can He listen to our burdens? Who wants to worship and dedicate their lives to a dead concept rather than a living Lord? I guess some do but think about the emptiness in that. What is there to celebrate?

Faith in His resurrection grants us access into heaven. He is "The Way," no one comes unto the Father but through Christ (John 14:6).

What evidence is there of a resurrected Christ today? What can one say to another to convey the importance of asking Christ to personally reveal Himself to them in a meaningful and enduring manner?

Well, here are a few things that pale in comparison to personal experience, but nonetheless, think about the fol-

• 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

Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector
464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 28717
CAC@christanglicancashiers.org & 828-743-1701
Sundays: 9:30 am Adult Christian Formation;
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Worship

Wednesdays: 6 pm Bible Study, Prayer, Potluck
Thursdays: 11:30 am Healing Eucharist

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Jacob Tedder jacob@cashiers.church • 743-5470
www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am.; Wed. 5:15 pm supper and teaching.
Contact Ellen@cashiers.church for add'l programming

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: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morn-
ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am 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; Women's 10:30 am

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

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4673 Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729
Pastor Jeremy Queen
Sunday: Worship 11a & 6p. Sun. School 5 p.m.
Wed. 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
Highlandscentralbaptist.org • 828-526-0774
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a & 6p. Wed. Worship is 6p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor & Rev. Christine Murphy
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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Rev. Ken Langsdorf
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Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

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Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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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; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sun. - 11am
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: Sun. 9a; Mon. 9:30a (Latin); Wed. 9:30a

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Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a
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schedules of activities.

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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 26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

March 26

• At 8:13 p.m., Fabiana Da Cunha, 46, of Johns Creek, GA, was arrested for DUI when pulled over on Woodland Hill Drive. She was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. Her trial date is May 22.

March 31

• At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Sunset Park Road where the driver of the vehicle hit a large protruding boulder in the roadway.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 26.

March 26

• At 10:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

March 27

• At 4:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Cashiers Road (US 64 east).

• At 11:06 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

• At 1:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Knut Gap.

• At 2:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on the Franklin Road (US 64 west).

March 28

• At 6:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rocky Ridge Road.

March 29

• At 2:05 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke at a residence on Highgate Road.

• At 5:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a location on the Franklin Road (US 64 west).

March 30

• At 8:24 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Birchwood Dr.

• At 4:36 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the Cashiers FD for a brush fire.

March 31

• At 10:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Johnwood Road.

• At 6:29 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

April 1

• At 9:09 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Owl Gap Road.

April 2

• At 6:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hudson Road.

• At 11:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire at a residence on Watkins Road.

Bear Shadow Ticket Giveaway for Locals

Highlands and Scaly Mountain residents may enter to win General Admission tickets

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC is pleased to offer residents of Highlands and Scaly Mountain, NC an opportunity to win two FREE Saturday and Sunday general admission tickets to the Bear Shadow music festival being held May 11-12. General Admission tickets include complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and shuttles to and from downtown Highlands.

Bear Shadow, hosted by Highlands Festivals Inc., is an annual spring music festival that brings highly anticipated, world-class music acts to the Highlands Plateau for a weekend of music, mountains and revelry. This year's lineup features the Black Pumas, JJ Grey & Mofro, The Record Company, Futurebirds and many more.

"As a sponsor of Bear Shadow, we wanted to provide an avenue for our residents to partake in the festivities and experience the atmosphere firsthand," says Kaye McHan, Executive Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "It's not just about attending a music festival; it's about celebrating our community's spirit and ensuring that everyone has the chance to be a part of it."

Entry rules are as follows: Only one entry allowed per person over the age of

18. You must enter by 12 a.m. on April 22. Winners will be chosen at random and will be contacted by email on or before April 26. Upon winning, you will be required to pick up your tickets in person and present a government issued ID with your name and a Highlands (28741) or Scaly Mountain (28775) zip code. Tickets are not eligible for resale. Go to www.highlandschamber.org/bear-shadow to enter.

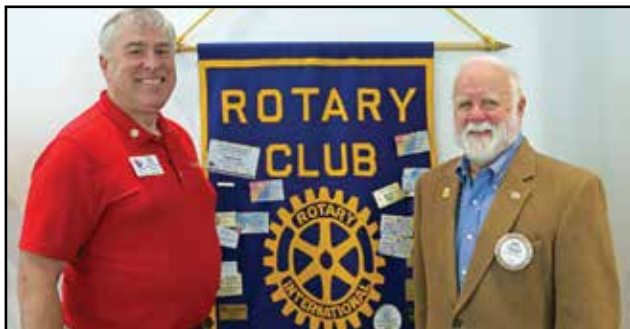
For more information about the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC call 828-526-2112 or log on to www.highlandschamber.org. For more information about Bear Shadow visit their website, www.bearshadow.com.

• *About the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC: Formed in 1931 to serve as the voice of business, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce has grown to provide services and support to businesses, residents and visitors. Hosting various events and programs throughout the year, including the Plateau Pick-Up, Leadership Highlands, Business After Hours, Outdoor Concert Series, and July 4th Fireworks and an array of holiday and winter festivities, the Chamber aims to enrich the community.*

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

District Governor address Rotary

Rotary District 7670 Assistant Governor Bill Swift visited the Rotary Club of Highlands this week and was our guest speaker. Bill spent his time with the club explaining all the workings of the Rotary Foundation, how clubs and members participate, and more importantly how those funds are utilized. The money we send to Rotary International Comes back to our club



Assistant Governor Bill Swift and Rotary President Dave O'Harra.

and is then used for local and international philanthropy. The beneficial influence of Rotary is felt around the world fulfilling the moto of "Service Above Self!"

April 13-14, 2024 9AM - 3PM

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

FOR SALE

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SEASONED FIREWOOD - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

LAND FOR SALE - 3 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) \$140,000; 3.99 acres with southern exposure, \$70,000. 828-974-1137. (5/16)

TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE. \$30k-\$55k/ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (st. 11/22)

RV SITE - class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. Reduced \$192,500. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

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COMPLETELY FURNISHED 2 Bedroom Cottage. StarLink, Water, Movies Included. Immediate Occupancy \$2,000. p/m text 828-222-9319. (st. 4/1)

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available. \$5,500/month long-term. Call Deborah at (352) 422-7200. (st. 3/21)

NEW 1/BED APT. downtown Highlands in Village Square. Walk-in closet and balcony. One year minimum lease. Unfurnished. \$3,500/mth. Call Robin at 828-200-0044. (st. 3/21)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS - Retail with office space upstairs. Aprox. 1,700 sf. Good storage and parking on 1/2 acre at 255 Spring Street. David King 727-644-9544 (2/15)

APT. WITH MOUNTAIN VIEW 2 1/2 minutes from Main Street. Furnished, no pets, smokers, or children. Spacious 2 Bdrm/1 Bth. \$2200/month. Year lease. Bobbygrace@icloud.com. Cell/Text 727-458-0787 (st. 11/30)

BRAND NEW TRAILERS FOR RENT. 2 bedrooms/2 baths \$1700/month and 3 bedrooms/2 baths \$2250/month. Between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy -(706) 982-0444. (st. 5/4)

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THE HIGHLANDS HATTER is seeking Part-time Help. Contact Aubrey at 828-482-1920. (st. 3/21)

LUPOLI CONSTRUCTION is hiring an office manager/executive assistant and a bookkeeper. Full-time, compensation based on experience.
• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22



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...CLASSIFIED continued from page 21

ence. Please contact Regina@Lupoliinc.com, 770.757.5004 for more information. (st. 11/2)

WANTED PARTNER/INVESTOR FOR A DOG KENNEL BUSINESS on my property south of Highlands. If interested and to learn more, please email Brian Grace at gracebrian907@gmail.com. (st. 1/18)

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828-421-2655. (3/28)

DOG SITTING - overnight, or daily checkins/walks. Call Lisa. References available. Call or text 828-424-4637. (st. 12/21)

ANYTHING GOES CLEAN-UP SERVICE Complete property cleanup - house, garage, property, etc. Call at 828-200-2855. (st. 9/28)

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.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary hears about Dogwood Trust

At the Rotary Club of Highlands recently, the presenter was Cory Blankenship, Economic Opportunity Officer for the Dogwood Health Trust. Mr. Blankenship is a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and has various positions within the Treasury Division-Office of Budget and Finance. His presentation to the club covered a myriad of community building and community sustaining programs aided by the Dogwood Health Trust. The trust serves 18 counties in WNC and in 2023, invested 87 million dollars across those counties. The focus of the trust centers on housing, education, economic opportunity, and health and wellness.



The trust partners with and help fund many organizations which

promotes all the other core issues that the fund addresses.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

lowing. There are over 2.38 billion people on earth who claim to believe in Christ. Let's keep it real though, I doubt that all of those people truly know Christ. Many likely associate with Him via nationality or whatever, but still, that's a significant part of the world population.

Consider the work going on around the globe in the name of Christ. There are hospitals, orphanages, counseling and addiction centers, safe houses for battered

women, training and educational institutions, worldwide youth training programs and churches that feed hungry people spiritually and tangibly every day of every week of every year and have been doing so for over 2,000 years. All this work in the Name of Christ despite opposition, persecution and martyrdom. Are these people motivated, funded, and as devoted as they are over a dead God? I think not.

Consider those physically and mentally healed, radically transformed, called into service. Think of the restored and reconciled relationships, the changed hearts and those now clean and sober.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised (Matt. 16:21).

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