

Highlands Newspaper

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

Thurs., April 25, 2024

Housing is in Macon County's sights

By Kim Lewicki

The Housing Needs Assessment surveys commissioned by Macon County are now live online and ready for input from Macon County's residents, employers and stakeholders.

Through grant funding from Dogwood Health Trust, Bowen National Research has been hired to develop the surveys to get the perspective of each group. The

survey for the "Community" is for residents of the county, the one for "Employers" is for those who hire in the county and the one for Stakeholders is meant for community leaders and organizations.

Each survey has questions pertinent to each category so some people will fill out all three, some two and some one. There isn't a specific survey for the citizens of Franklin or Highlands.

The county sees this as the first step toward coming up with solutions in regards to the lack of, and cost of housing in the county and its municipalities.

At the April 18 Highlands Town Board meeting, President of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center Kaye McHan said the survey is just the beginning of the process.

• See HOUSING page 14

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Public comment initiates talk about STRs, and committee formations

By Kim Lewicki

During the Public Comment period at the start of the April 18 Town Board meeting, Cathy Hensen, president of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition (HNC) announced she was celebrating being a 20-year second-homeowner in Highlands and her

3rd year as president of HNC, which is the group working hard to get Short-term Rentals curtailed and eventually amortized in Highlands.

"We had a meeting of our supporters, approximately 15 people representing neighbor-

• See TALK page 4

Pedestrian is bitten by run-away monkey

By Sergeant Tim Broughton
HPD

Officers from the Highlands Police Department responded to a peculiar incident over the weekend when a monkey, belonging to a visitor to the Highlands area, escaped and bit a pedestrian on Lower Lake Road.

According to statements, the bite victim was not attempting to interact with the monkey. Statements from the victim/witnesses

say that the bite victim and partner were walking with their dog on Lower Lake Road when the monkey ran up behind them, jumped up, bit the victim in the back of the leg, then ran into the woods.

Officers spoke with the monkey's handler who told them that the monkey had slipped from his harness and was currently loose in the woods. The

• See MONKEY page 19

HighlandsVal and Sal Class of 2024



Pictured with Highlands School Principal Holbrooks on the left is Salutatorian Brooke Fogarty and on the right are Valedictorian Olivia Cole and Asst. Principal Alyssa DeBois. Both students will be attending UNC at Chapel Hill.
-Photo by the Sunset staff

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Be 'Bear Wise'

It is spring, and wildlife, like humans, are out and moving about. We should all be vigilant and wise in our encounters with wild creatures. Although they may look cute and cuddly, wild creatures are not our friends and certainly not our pets.

A recent event illustrates the problem of humans interacting with wild animals. The wildlife officer who worked with Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor on NBC BearWise program was on NBC Nightly News this past weekend, addressing the dangerous situation that occurred in Asheville.

A group of people saw several very young bear cubs in a tree. Instead of just leaving the cubs alone, these folks took them out of the tree to take photographs with them. That action was irresponsible on two fronts. Young cubs in the wild do not need to be held by humans. They can live and survive with their mother bear, provider, and defender. Second, it was fortunate for those reckless humans that the cubs' mother was not in the area. If she had



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

been, those folks could have been seriously injured or even killed. And if that had been the tragic case, no one could have blamed the mother bear; she would have been doing what she instinctively does to protect her young. As Forrest Gump would say, "Stupid is as stupid does."

If anyone sees someone interacting with wildlife like this incident, please call 911 so law enforcement and wildlife officials can intervene to protect both the animals and the people involved.

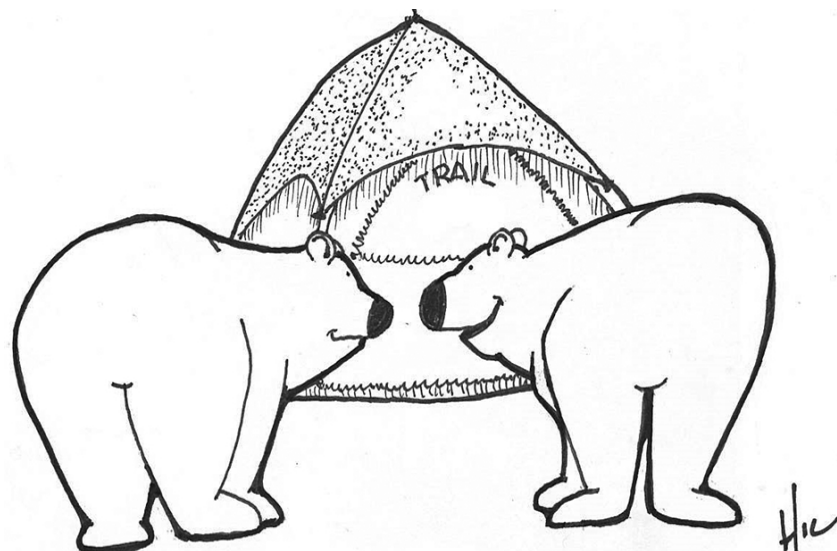
We have had a BearWise program in place in Highlands for several years. In fact, we were the first community in the region to adopt the programs and its bear protocols. Without BearWise, I can't imagine what our garbage and sanitation situation would be like at this time. While the town still has breaches of bear-resistant containers, the program has successfully curbed bears from coming through the town and eating the garbage we generate.

Very soon, the town will pass an ordinance requiring restaurants to secure large tanks that contain several hundred gallons of grease. This past week, bears turned over two grease tanks at a local shopping center. Our fire department had to go into hazmat mode to prevent the grease from running into a stream that flows into our drinking water system. The new ordinance will require these tanks to be secured in such a manner that large bears cannot turn them over.

Let me also remind folks to keep a safe distance from any bear you may encounter. While large bears appear to be slow and lumbering, they can charge a person with amazing speed. If you are looking to take a photo of a cute bear, and you are 30 feet away from the bear, and if that animal charges, there is a high likelihood that your escape would not be possible. Everyone is encouraged this time of year not to put out bird feeders or at least take the feeders inside at night. Bears love seeds; they are a magnet to hungry bears.





If a homeowner is having trouble with bear interactions on their property, please call the Highlands Police Department at (828) 526-9431. The department has a code enforcement officer who can assist in addressing the problem. The town website also has a link to BearWise information.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"I don't know about you but I'm tired of trail mix. Hope it's pizza night"

• WEATHER •

Thu, 25-Apr	Fri, 26-Apr	Sat, 27-Apr	Sun, 28-Apr
 64°F 44°F	 55°F 50°F	 62°F 52°F	 66°F 52°F
Partly sunny	Partly sunny and cooler	Cloudy, rain, mainly early	A couple of showers
RealFeel® High: 70° Low: 45°	RealFeel® High: 59° Low: 50°	RealFeel® High: 62° Low: 50°	RealFeel® High: 70° Low: 55°

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Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

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Letter Policy:

There is a 500-word limit. 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.

Obituary Policy:

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

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...TALK continued from page 1

hoods and some comments bubbled up about STRs and many of the attendees asked the question about enforcement. To quote the old Ghost Buster movie, 'Who you gonna call?'

"They don't know what the process is when they have a problematic STR next door. They are loathe to call 911 because these are nuisance calls not emergency calls. So, I am here to ask the board to make it more public, on its website, what the process should be, and it reminded me that the board had talked about purchasing the Granicus software and putting a reporting option on the town website but it isn't there. An easier and more open way of notifying a homeowner how to report a problem if they have a STR next door or in their neighborhood is needed.

"Also, there still is no information about how many and where existing STRs are allowed to operate. So, if all of a sudden one pops up in their neighborhood they don't know if it's an approved one or if that one should be challenged and there is no easy way to find out how to challenge or find out if it is an approved STR.

"If you had something on the website where people could report a problem that would be appreciated," she said.

Town Manger Josh Ward said there have been problems with the Granicus software's hotline component, so the town is looking at another company.

"Meanwhile, I encourage you to call 9-1-1 and the police will respond to your call and during the week you can also call Planning Director Michael Mathis at Town Hall if you have a question about whether an STR is approved," he said.

Resident/Neighborhood/Government Relations Committee

During her comment, Hensen also asked that the town initiate a Resident/Neighborhood/Government Relations Committee similar to the Business/Government Relations Committee which is currently in the works.

She repeated the request made during the Public Comment period at the March Town Board meeting by Lila Howland, also of HNC.

"I just wanted to restate what our best Highlands ambassador and board member Lila Howland requested after the business workshop that when most of our seasonal and second-homeowners are here you have a workshop for them – local residents, part-time residents, seasonal residents - to come to the board and share whatever issues they are having as homeowners and residents in Highlands."

As a part-time, seasonal resident Hensen later said she spends 30%-40% in Highlands when not at home in Atlanta.

Later in the Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor said he, too, wanted to get a Resident/Neighborhood/Government

• See TALK page 13

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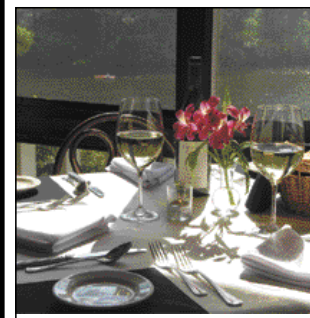
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• OBITUARIES •

Woodrow Warren Wilson

Mr. Woodrow Warren Wilson, 82, passed away Friday, April 19, 2024. Mr. Wilson was born January 19, 1942, in Rabun County, GA to the late Warren and Lela Johnson Wilson.

Woodrow was a lifelong resident of Highlands, NC. He was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church since 1953 where he has served as an usher, deacon, and many other committees. He worked many years as Woodrow Wilson Land Surveying. He loved being outdoors and he fed the ducks, fish, and other animals on Mirror Lake for more than 50 years. He was a U.S. Army Veteran during the Vietnam War Era. He served in the United States Special Forces as a green beret. Mr. Wilson's greatest love was the Lord, his wife, children, and grandsons.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Melinda Wilson of



the home; daughter, Mendy Hickman of Waxhaw, NC; a son, Timothy Wilson (Andrew Cheng) of Chicago, IL; four grandchildren, Ashton Hickman, Drake Hickman, Tyler Hickman, and Max Gilbert; six siblings, Jack Wilson (Julie), Leroy Wilson, Kenneth Wilson (Nancy), Clyde Wilson (Ada), Betty Morgan, and Barbara Rice (Oliver); and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Wilson is preceded in death by a son, Mark Wilson and a brother, Scotty Wilson.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at Highlands First Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Mark Ford, Rev. Donnie Seagle, and Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial followed at Highlands Memorial Park.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory was honored to serve the Wilson family.

• See OBITUARIES page 13

Jo Carol Law Durham

Jo Carol Law Durham, 90, of Highlands, NC, died April 2, 2024, at home after a courageous battle with cancer. Jo was born on December 14, 1933, in Brooksville, FL to John D. and Carolyn Johnston Law, in the family home that her grandfather built in 1895. She graduated from Hernando High School in 1951 and then went on to study political science and history at Florida State University where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. After college, Jo worked for American Express in New York City and then moved to Atlanta where she worked as a medical librarian at Emory University and then at SunTrust Bank.

In 1964 in Cashiers, NC, Jo married Henry Durham, her long-time sweetheart, and the son of her mother's best friend. After they married, they lived in Lexington, KY in a small cottage behind the stone house on the Keeneland Racetrack grounds. They also lived in McLean, VA, Greensburg, KY, and Brooksville, FL before finally landing full-time in her beloved Highlands, NC where she had spent her summers growing up. During these formative years, Jo's parents purchased a small farm on Cheney Lane. This homestead became The Cheney Lane Tree Farm and the Durham family home.

Jo and Henry had two children: Martha Law Durham Schweitz and John Thomas Durham.

Mama Jo, as her grandkids lovingly referred to her, told the best stories and often broke out in giggles during the telling. She will be remembered for her infectious laugh, smart wit, generous gifts, and the unconditional love and acceptance with which she graced us all. Mama Jo was a rare light that made everyone feel special when in her presence.

Jo was predeceased by her parents John and Carolyn Johnston Law. She is survived by her husband, Henry, her children, Martha and Thomas, her son-in-law, Eric, her daughter-in-law, Cathi, and her grandchildren, Carolyn, Elizabeth, and Diana Schweitz, and William and Nathaniel Durham.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Highlands Biological Foundation (501-C). <https://highlandsbiological.app.neon-crm.com/forms/jdurham>

A celebration of life will be held later in the summer with family and friends. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



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The 'foreverness' of Highlands

Most days I get asked about how the market in Highlands is doing? My experience tells me we are blessed with a healthy market in Highlands, and as long as people want to get out of the heat, it will always stay that way.

Highlands is unique, I've lived here all my life, I was born here, I graduated from Highlands School, and have worked in real estate since 1982.

The last few years during COVID our area became even more desirable for people wanting to get away from city life. Building costs have escalated and our lot sales seem to be increasing. As history has shown, Highlands has always been a good investment.

But the other question I hear about is a NAR lawsuit that has been in the news lately.

News outlets were reporting that some large real estate firms colluded to set commissions high. The argument was that the commission of 6 percent was too high because online real estate outlets such as Zillow, Trulia, and Realtor.com made it sound like it was less work for agents, and that the 6 percent commission was too high.

My experience with commissions is they have never been a set fee in North Carolina,



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my fee has always been the same rate since 1982, although I have negotiated it when I deemed it necessary to make a deal.

The listing agent does the marketing and promotion, then puts the property on MLS to widen the pool of buyers for the seller, and the fee is divided to get the transaction done.

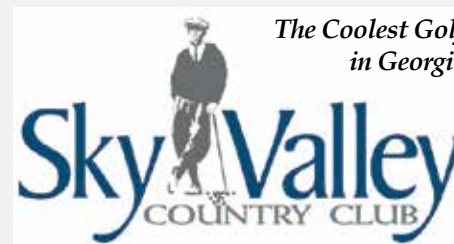
Juries have always sided with what they think saves money, even if it is not in the best interest for the public.

The online outlets are convenient for people to shop from their easy chair, but in most cases, after they

come and view properties in person, what they saw wasn't what they thought, so you end up showing them other properties anyway.

The online companies are not doing this as a service for us either, Realtor.com is a privately owned company, as is Zillow and Trulia, and they charge us to represent our own listings.

All in all, we are blessed to live and work in Highlands, I have heard Highlands called the "Aspen of the east" and as a 5th generation Highlander I prefer it the way that it's always been - a small town that we all love the way it is.



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Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club This lovely condo features easy access directly Off of Highlands Cove Drive and is close to the clubhouse, swimming, tennis courts, and Golf course. Three bedrooms, three baths, all on the main level, Coffered High ceilings, move in condition. Lovely decks and porches to enjoy the cool summer air. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$999,000. mls #101007



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



Need a great storage building for cars or an office with a half bath and storage? This lower-level storage condo is just what the doctor ordered. Will hold several cars. Offered at \$300,000. mls #103900



Located off Buck Knob Road, this one-of-a-kind log cabin of which the logs were selected each one by the Owner and used to construct his dream cabin on top of the knoll with a lovely yard and view. 2 bedrooms and 2 baths on the upper level, main level has living room, dining room, kitchen, bath and two large porches. Lower level has a garage, family room and bath. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #102878



Located about 5 miles from town. This home consists of 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and is perfect for year round or a summer rental. Drive up to a 2 car carport, the main room has a pellet wood stove, updated kitchen with room for expansion. 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, a huge suite upstairs has a primary bedroom, laundry, office-den and bath. The lower level has a huge unfinished room with a laundry, work area and is stubbed for a bath. Additional storage building has 2 levels for a potting room or workshop and storage. All on an acre of land with great winter views and a usable yard. Offered at \$499,000. mls #100826



All you need are clothes and a toothbrush to move into this completely furnished home. Two bedrooms, two baths on a secluded hill in town. Gas fireplace for those chilly nights. Full kitchen, nice covered and open deck to enjoy. Covered carport and ample parking. All for only \$615,000. mls #103492



Catawba Trail. Located at the end of the lane, this one needs someone to rebuild and restore it. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an attic in the roofline. There is a carport and storage above. The lot is wonderful, with end of the road privacy and a grassy usable lot. It has loads of potential and has city water and power. Offered at \$425,000. mls #103136



This authentic Highlands charmer is located close to town near Mirror Lake on all paved roads. Level entryway and has a side yard with a firepit. The cottage has a kitchen/dining room, primary bedroom and bath on the main level and it opens out to a lovely porch for outdoor living. The terrace level has a living room that opens to the side yard, 2 bedrooms and a bath. This one is a grandfathered Short-Term Rental. Ready to use and bring back some income. furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$749,999. mls #1040147



Dillard Road This home is over 100 years old and is ready to be brought back to the condition it deserves. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an office. close to town and great location, walk to great food. nice usable yard. Offered at \$1,300,000. mls #102847



Located close to town, this Starter cottage features 2 bedrooms and 3 baths. One car garage could be converted to a family room. 3 levels that house a livingroom/kitchen/dining on main, bedroom and bath on 2nd level. Primary bedroom, bath, den with tv, office, and full bath, outdoors has a patio-deck that enjoys the rushing water of the Cullasaja river overflow from Mirror Lake. Offered at \$499,000. mls #103969



A single-story retreat has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, with approximately 2,140 square feet of living space. The main living room and kitchen have high ceilings. The spacious primary suite includes a large walk-in closet and ensuite bath. Two additional guest bedrooms are generously sized. A cozy screened porch, grilling deck and firepit. This 1+ acre wooded property is surrounded by ridgeline views of Shortoff Mountain and other mountain ridges. Large two-car garage and storage shed. Offered at \$799,000 mls #103868



Commercial Building West Main Street Wright Square. Invest in Real Property that doesn't evaporate. Excellent rental property, lower level has 2 commercial shops with 3 rental offices upstairs. Offered at \$1,595,000. mls #103984



Located off Bartram Ridge Road, in the Scaly Mountain community, this 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath features a vaulted Great Room that opens onto a covered porch and open deck. There is a main floor bedroom with ensuite bath, upper level has a loft and guest bedroom and bath. There is a lower unfinished level and a single car garage. Usable yard and in excellent condition. A great respite and could be income producing. Offered at \$495,000. mls #102545



Upgraded and renovated, this house is a gem. Relax on your private covered porch and take in the long mountain views of Whiteside and Big Bear Pen. This IN TOWN property includes the lot below for view protection, build on it, or sell with sewer access. 2BR/2BA, wood floors, heated tile in bathrooms, wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceiling in living room and a large loft. Landscaped yard with circular driveway, parking pad and firepit. Fenced side yard. Close to Main Street, Mirror Lake & Lake Sequoyah. Offered at \$950,000 mls #103067



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MOJO and The Bayou Gypsies coming to PAC

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present live in concert MOJO and The Bayou Gypsies on Saturday, May 4 at 7:30pm.

“This Bayou Man, Mister MOJO, and his troupe of near-mad musical provocateurs, have poured Louisiana Fire on audiences across the planet since 1985.” Syndicated News Network.

Thrilling audiences Worldwide, MOJO & The Bayou Gypsies have made millions of people happy and served many through Arts Outreach. Mojo has performed on PBS, ABC, CBS, NBC, Superstation WGN, FOX, and CMT TV Networks, put out 23 albums of original Music certified by the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.

Mister MOJO's life and career are the subject of the feature film, “The Magic Behind the MOJO” by Gallo Films; currently on the international film festival circuit.

MOJO Music “contains many traditional elements from early rural Cajun music best exemplified by Dennis McGee from the 1920s and 1930s. To these traditional elements, have been added others such as country fiddle and blues. I consider the songs and the style unique in the same way that I consider the style of The Black Keys unique, even though they have borrowed heavily from early rock and blues traditional elements. It is the combination of elements that make both of these groups unique.” Sandy Wilbur, Forensic Musicologist.

Tickets are available online: Highland-sPerformingArts.com 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

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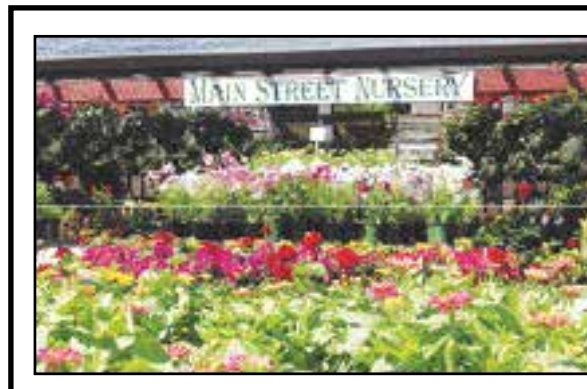


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Window and door replacement have aesthetic, practical and financial benefits.

Knowing which renovations pay off in the resale market is important, especially if you're planning on selling your home in a few years.

Windows

- Top real estate agents in the U.S. estimate that homeowners recoup more than 80% of their window replacement investments at resale.

- The Return on Investment (ROI) for a vinyl window replacement in cold weather areas at 72.3%, meaning that a \$15,000 project will bring in a return of \$10,845.

Garage Doors

- Another door to consider replacing for increasing your home's value is a new garage door. A garage door takes up a large portion of your home's facade. It shouldn't be neglected when evaluating the curb appeal and considering value-adding projects. According to the NAR's report, has an ROI of 95%.

- Energy Efficiency and Impact Resistance Add Value

- The prospect of higher comfort and lower energy bills is irresistible to many buyers. Modern, aesthetically pleasing, energy efficient windows and doors can help your home stand out in a crowded real estate market and get you a higher selling price.

- The performance of energy efficient windows stems from a combination of features, including high-quality frames, multi-paned glass, gas-filled panes, low-glass (special coating) and warm edge spacers.

- Another added value of energy efficient windows is potential savings resulting from reduced wear and tear of heating and cooling equipment.

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...TALK continued from page 4

Relations Committee going to which the board agreed but Commissioner Jeff Weller said he would want to hear from "the other side" meaning also from the Save Highlands group which is working hard to protect homeowners' rights to have STRs in Highlands.

"It should be a broad-reaching group not just the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition (HNC) or Save Highlands," he said. "There should be an HNC member, a Save Highlands member as well as members not part of either group," he said.

Weller said Commissioner Stiehler agreed to put together a concept.

"I plan to discuss ideas with him as well. I have no idea what the 'organization' plan will be at this point," said Weller.

Business/Government Relations Committee

As to the Business/Government Relations Committee formation, after the Business Workshop meeting in March, Commissioner Weller suggested a committee be formed as soon as possible. So, Commissioner Brian Stiehler and he were assigned the task so common goals can be identified and relations between the Town Board and the business community can be improved.

Those interested in being part of the committee requested an application from the town.

According to President of the Chamber Kaye McHan, the Business committee is a Chamber committee whose initial members were gleaned from the applications.

"We started with the applications the town had on file and asked other business owners that had expressed an interest to come forward. We now have representatives from government [Commissioners Stiehler and Weller] and from the various business sectors."

At the March Business Workshop attendees made it

...OBITUARIES from page 7

Nita Myers White

Nita Myers White, 89, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus

Christ, Tuesday, April 9, 2024. She was born July 21, 1934, in Samson, Alabama. She attended Samson Elementary School and later graduated from Talladega Alabama School for the Deaf at Talladega, AL. After graduating she married David Earl Donaldson and they had three daughters. In 2002 Nita moved to Clayton, GA to be cared for by her middle daughter, Debra Rogers and lived there 21 years. She was a member of Blue Valley Baptist Church in Highlands, NC.

Nita was a typist for the Washington Post and Birmingham News. She was an excellent seamstress, enjoyed gardening, cross stitch, jigsaw puzzles and spending time with her friends and family.

Nita was preceded in death by her second husband Clifford "Roy" White, her parents, O.G. Myers and Lennye Davis Myers, one brother and one sister. She is survived by one brother, Neil Myers (Anne) of Aiken, SC, three daughters: Dani Velke (John) of Samson, AL, Debra Rogers (Tommy) of Clayton, GA, Davie Cox (Paul) of Columbiana, AL, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held at Pittman Funeral Home in Samson, AL on Monday April 15, 2024 and followed by a grave-site service at Traveler's Rest Cemetery.

To offer condolences, visit www.pittmanfuneral.com

clear what they wanted - more lenient ordinances regarding signage and lighting, parking concerns, help with housing and an understanding of the importance of visitors to sustain a vibrant town.

McHan said the Business committee will address all of that together.

"If we look at all these issues holistically from different viewpoints it will provide all parties with an opportunity to explore the needs and potential solutions," she said.

Weller said they are still working on the longer-term plan for committee members; it's still a work in progress with logistics hopefully finalized early May.

So far, the committee has considered the best spectrum of businesses categories for the committee - retail, lodging, restaurant, construction development, real estate, Chamber administration, Chamber board members and Chamber services - to best represent Highlands' business community.

"Once organized, every meeting will be advertised every other month in even number months and will be open to any business person who wants to come. The meetings won't be closed to anyone," he said.



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...HOUSING continued from page 1

“The survey responses are just one piece of the overall assessment. There will be lots of data to support an assessment specific to Franklin and Highlands even if there is not a survey version written specifically for those residents,” said McHan.

The lack of housing options for employees was a topic brought up by employers during Highlands’ Business Workshop meeting in March. Business owners said since there are few affordable housing options in Highlands they were having a hard time filling positions.

“This assessment will help paint a picture of how Highlands fits into the larger housing, transportation, and service framework of Macon County and identify opportunities with which the Highlands community may be strengthened within the context of conditions in Macon County,” said McHan. “Highlands is an outlier, but it is not completely insulated.”

For instance, there is a question in the Community Survey about where people want to live, that includes Highlands as an option.

“We then ask about the type of product people are seeking and what they can

afford in terms of pricing,” she said.

The size of the population within the municipalities determined the formation of the Community Survey.

McHan said the reason the survey doesn’t ask about people currently living in Highlands is because of the size of Highlands.

“With roughly 1,100 people and less than 700 households, we were concerned that given the small number of households with only one survey requested per household - that there wouldn’t be enough survey results to have a valid survey of Highlands.”

She said while the survey asks questions about preferences of housing, including whether people in the county want to live in Highlands, there isn’t a question about the current location of respondents’ residences.

“Beyond the surveys, we will have data from our research shown for the Highlands submarket – the Town of Highlands, the Highlands Township and Flats Township - which will include demographic data, economic data and housing supply data,” she said.

The surveys are on the chamber website in the Live Work section and it’s expect-

ed to be on the town website, as well.

McHan said some people may be eligible to complete multiple (if not all) surveys, based on who they are or how they are involved in the county.

McHan said everyone’s voice matters.

“By sharing the issues and challenges you are facing, you can help us gain a deeper understanding of the housing needs in our area. By completing this survey, you are taking an active role in forming the decisions on housing in Macon County and its municipalities.”

Public Survey:

Live or work in Macon County? We want to hear from you about your housing needs/challenges. This survey will be communicated to all residents and employees in the county.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MaconPublic>

Employer Survey:

How is housing impacting your business and staff? This survey will be communicated to employers of all sizes in the county.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MaconEmployer>

Currently all surveys are set to close at 11:45 pm on May 17th.

“We can extend the survey cutoff, if needed, based on responses (or lack of),” McHan said. “We need to hear from everyone! Full- and part-time residents, business owners and anyone who works in Macon County whether it be Franklin or Highlands.”

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- Housing Needs/Challenges
- Current Housing Situation
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Town of Highlands Police Department
U.S. Forest Service
and Nearly 100 Volunteers**

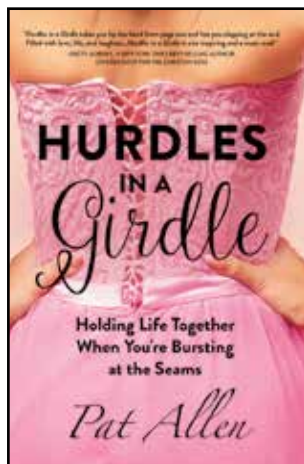
The Plateau Pickup is organized and hosted by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Allen publishes inspiring new book

Local Realtor Pat Allen's book *Hurdles in a Girdle...Holding Life Together When You're Bursting at the Seams* launches today on Amazon. It is written to inspire women who feel stuck in a bad relationship/marriage or unfulfilling job to move on to a life of joy and happiness and find their purpose in life.

"I am excited to help others with my memoir," said Allen. "You will laugh and cry and be motivated to jump hurdles as I did!"



The book was endorsed by Jack Canfield, author of the Chicken Soup for the Soul Series and The Success Principles!



Pat Allen

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Fri.-Sun., April 26-28

• PAC Educational Theatre presents Oliver. Opening Night Gala 6p, show at 7p; Sat, a7 p.m. and Sun., 3 p.m. For tickets go to www.

highlandsp Performingarts.com.

Wed., May 1

Spring Uncorked! on The Secret Garden patio in Village Square. A patio-pairing of wine an cheese with

Sommelier Jennifer & Chef Rachel, 5:30-7:30p. \$40 per person. Reservations preferred. 828-305-7509. 208 N. 5th Street.

•The Bascom has a Call for En-

tries for the Dazzling Dahlia Festival 2024 in partnership with the Highlands Historical Society. Open to any age or experience level. 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.

• At PAC Main Stage, Mojo & The Bayou Gypsies, 7:30 p.m. For tickets go to www.highlandsp Performingarts.com.

Sun., May 5

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

Fri., May 10

• At the Hudson Library, NC author Diane Kelly, who has several cozy mystery series to her credit, will give a talk about her books and The Appeal of Appalachia on Friday at 11 AM. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

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. 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,

Save the Date! Wed., May 1 • 5:30-7:30p Spring Uncorked!

A Patio Pairing with Sommelier Jennifer & Chef Rachel on The Secret Garden patio.

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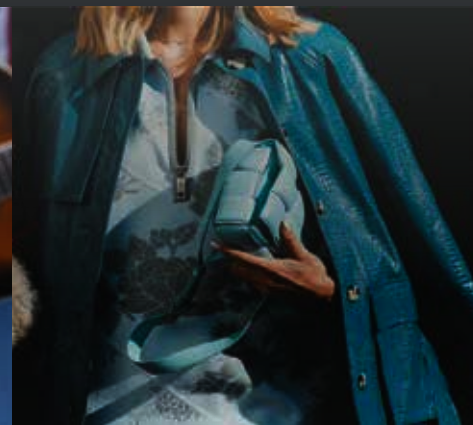
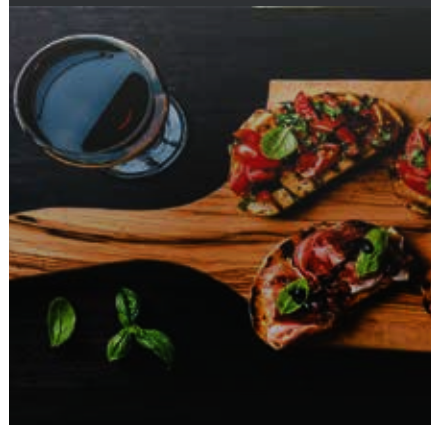
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ELEV. 4118



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.* \$25 VIP 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

- Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau ribbon cutting ceremony at its Highlands location on the HC Hospital campus - 171 Hospital Drive. Refreshments, outdoor activities and optional self-guided tour following the ceremony.

- 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@HCA-Healthcare.com.

- Democratic Women of Macon County will have its monthly meeting at Hudson Library, Tuesday at 5 PM. Men are members and welcomed to attend. The speaker will be Hilary Wilkes, who is the Board of Education member from Highlands. Please come out and support her and enjoy the camaraderie. You are also requested to bring either wine or an hors d'oeuvres to share.

Fri., May 24

- Hudson Library welcomes Alabama author Terah Shelton Harris on Friday at 12:30 PM for Books & Bites to talk about her new novel "Long After We are Gone." Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event.

- Friday Night Live in Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – McClain Family Band.

Sat., May 25

- Saturdays on Pine at KH Founders Park features Southside Station 6-8:30 p.m.

Thurs., May 30

- OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Highbeams, a trio of brothers and best friends who offer a high-energy performances and rich three-part harmonies. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/highbeams-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-149352>

Sun., May 31

- Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Byrds & Crows

Sat., June 1

- Pop-Up Bag Pipers are scheduled from

4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

- Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – High 5

Sun., June 2

- The Literacy & Learning Center's spring fundraiser at The Farm at OEI, 336 Arnold Road in Highlands, from 6 - 9 pm. Open Bar. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, dancing. Free shuttle service looping from 200 Main. Tickets are \$150 per person.

Thurs., June 6

- Highlands Motoring: "One Lap of the Mountains- Grande"- Driving Tour 8:30am-4pm

Fri., June 7

- Highlands Motoring: "One Lap of the Mountains - Speciale" Driving Tour 9:30am to 4pm. Main Street Parade of Classic Cars 5:30pm to 6:30pm

- Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – The Foxfire Boys

Sat., June 8

- Highlands Motoring: "Classics in the Park" Invitational Judged Car Show in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park 9:30am to 4pm "Celebration Gala" 6pm to 9pm

- Saturdays on Pine features Bill Mattocks 6-8:30 p.m.

Sun., June 9

- Highlands Motoring: "High Octane" Social and Car Gathering in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. 8:30am to 11am.

Fri., June 14

- With CLE, Award-winning Appalachian author Ron Rash will be joining us at High Country Wine and Provisions on Friday from 2-4pm for an exclusive reading and Q&A for his new novel, The Caretaker. Wine and charcuterie will be provided, and City Lights Bookstore (Sylva) will be in attendance to sell copies of his book for signing.

- Friday Night Live in Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

Sat., June 15

- Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit KH Founders Park. Doors open at 5. Dinner at 6. \$85 per ticket. Includes dinner, dessert and 3 drinks. Live music - Back Porch Orchestra. Tickets available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

- Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Back Porch Orchestra

Thurs., June 20

- OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Andrew Wooten and Caroline's Roost. Ear-catching vocals and genuine lyrics. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. www.olderwardshospitality.com/orchardsessions.

Fri., June 21

- Friday Night Live s on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Curtis Blackwell

Band

Sat., June 22

- Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – The HC Oakes Band

Fri., June 28

- Friday Night Live son Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Johnny Webb Band
- OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. Chef to be announced. Book Online at OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners



LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP BOIL

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Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

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SATURDAY, JUNE 15th, 2024

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Live Music by Back Porch Orchestra

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Hosted by Friends of Founders Park, a 501(c)3 organization, www.foundersparkhighlands.org

Thursday, May 30

Orchard Session

with Highbeams



purchase tickets



THE FARM
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

April 14

• At 8:24 p.m., officers responded to a report of a the Spinx gas station on N. 4th Street in possession of a schedule II controlled substance and in possession of drug paraphernalia.

April 21

• At 6:29 p.m., officers responded to a report of a bite from an unrestrained pet monkey at a residence on Lower Lake Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 10.

April 17

• At 1:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on the Franklin Road.

• At 10:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on a powerline on Choctaw Ridge Trail.

April 19

• A little after midnight, the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Woods Drive.

• At 9:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a call at a location on Church Street regarding an "odor."

April 20

• At 5:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Hill Road.

April 21

• At 12:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on the Cashiers Road.

• At 2:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crescent Trail.

• At 6:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.

• At 6:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Lower Lake Road.

April 22

• At 1:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on the Franklin Road.

April 23

• At 7:10 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on the Franklin Road.

Medics from Macon County EMS assessed the wound before releasing the patient who advised they would visit the hospital for further treatment.

Macon County Animal Control responded to the scene to help investigate the incident and ensure public safety.

No charges have been filed at this time, but the investigation is still underway.

Highlands Police Department would like to thank Macon County EMS and Macon County Animal Control for their assistance in this matter. We would also like to thank our community for their continued support.

...MONKEY continued from page 1

monkey's handler was able to use some food provided by one of the officers to encourage the monkey to return and safely capture it without further incident.

It is unknown the time frame from when the monkey escaped from the harness to when the bite was.

At approximately 6:30 pm on Sunday, April 21, the Highlands Police Department received a call from the bite victim requesting assistance. When officers and medical personnel arrived at the scene, the bite victim was provided with firstaid.



Photo by Brian O'Shea

L'Artiste has come to Franklin

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

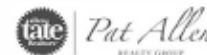
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Bear Shadow Music Festival honors NC firefighters and teachers ahead of Wildfire Preparedness Month and Teacher Appreciation Week

ALL North Carolina teachers and firefighters offered BOGO tickets

In honor of Wildfire Preparedness Month and Teacher Appreciation Week in May, Bear Shadow is excited to announce a special Buy One, Get One (BOGO) promotion exclusively for NC-based firefighters and teachers for this year's spring music festival - May 11 & 12. This initiative is inspired by the festival's deep appreciation for the dedication and service to our communities provided by firefighters and teachers.

The BOGO promotion offers firefighters and teachers the opportunity to receive a free ticket of equal or lesser value with every ticket purchased. This promotion is applicable to all ticket types, including single and two-day passes. Eligible participants can take advantage of this by using code BearShadowHero24 when purchasing tickets online. Discounted ticket holders will be asked to present their NC department ID badges or proof of employment at the festival's gates.

"We are thrilled to announce our BOGO promotion as a gesture of appreciation for North Carolina's firefighters and teachers. Their dedication and service are invaluable to



our communities, and we want to express our gratitude by offering them this special opportunity to enjoy music, mountains, and revelry with friends and family," shared Casey Reid, Festival Director of Bear Shadow.

In its fourth year, Bear Shadow music festival is set to be held May 11-12 in Scaly Mountain, at Winfield Farms, just a short drive from downtown Highlands. The two-day festival will feature head-

lining performances by seven-time GRAMMY®-nominated duo Black Pumas and JJ Grey & Mofro. The full lineup will also feature performances by American Aquarium, Futurebirds, Grace Bowers, North Mississippi Allstars, The Record Company, and White Denim.

As part of its commitment to community engagement, Bear Shadow encourages residents and attendees to participate in wildfire preparedness initiatives and show appreciation for teachers and firefighters at the festival. Every year, Bear Shadow proudly commits to the environmental conservation and preservation of the Highlands Plateau, and a portion of the proceeds collected from ticket sales this year will be donated to the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, supporting their efforts in wildfire prevention and community safety.

For more information about Bear Shadow or the BOGO promotion, please visit <http://www.bearshadownc.com/>.

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