

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 14, 2016

Planning & zoning cases escalate with economic upswing

If the numerous projects being attended to by the town's planning department is any indication, the recession is definitely in the rear view mirror.

In this first quarter of 2016

the new Planning Director Randy Feierabend has been overseeing the development of new businesses like 4th Street Market on the corner of Laurel and N. 4th Street, a hotel destined for the

pit at Helen's Barn Alley and 2nd Street, the expansion of the Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall as well as the reconfiguring of business spaces and residential spaces in the

business district.

At a special called Planning and Zoning board meeting and workshop Monday night, together both boards discussed amend-

• See **PLANNING** page 9

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County Planner takes job in Highlands

After nearly 10 years working for the county, Macon County Planner Matt Mason submitted his letter of resignation on April 1.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say that making this decision has been very difficult because working for Macon County has been a positive experience, one for which I am grateful," said Mason. "I have gained a lot of experience here and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and all of my colleagues in the Planning, Permitting, and Development Department."

Mason's last day with the county will be April 17, and according to Macon County Manager Derek Roland, his position might not be replaced.

"Matt Mason was a great leader and a dedicated public servant," said Roland. "He was hardworking and trustworthy,

• See **JOB** page 6



Highlands School science students study the "life" of the Cartoogechaye River in Franklin.

Kids in the Creek

Students learn hands-on science lessons

Stephanie Smathers and Michelle Lane

For the past few years, Macon County students have participated in "Kids in the Creek."

This year it was hosted at Parker Meadows Rec Park in Franklin. It is a field trip where students study the hydrologic characteristics and wildlife of the Cartoogechaye River in Franklin.

On Monday, April 11, students from Highlands "played" in the creek studying stream chemistry (pH, conductivity, turbidity, temperature, and oxygen level), micro-invertebrates, fish, stream volume, discharge, and velocity.

They got in the water to test samples, catch fish and micro-invertebrates, and measure stream depth and velocity. This is a hands-on lab experience to help students understand concepts in a place other than the classroom with a lecture.

This event is hosted by Mainspring Conservation Trust from Franklin, North Carolina. Various volunteers from Coweeta Hydrologic Research Center, and Western Carolina University. This website address, <https://vimeo.com/161507104>, provides information for what goes on with these activities.

BizWeek 2016 joins biz leaders and entrepreneurs

Macon County's Economic Development Commission is gearing up for BizWeek 2016.

Slated for April 18, BizWeek 2016 is a celebration of business, industry and entrepreneurship. Events during the week are designed to show appreciation for all Macon County businesses, large

and small, that are part of the fabric of the economic community.

BizWeek will feature break-out sessions and events to help foster a strong economic and entrepreneurial community in Macon County. In partnership with the Small Business Center

• See **BIZ WEEK** page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

We all love them, Fozzie, Pooh, Smokey, Yogi, Teddy and Gentle Ben. They are our Hollywood and popular media bears. But we have real, big, wild bears in Highlands, especially this time of year. Some folks expect the town and mayor to manage the bears and control their town visits.

Now there are things that I am optimistic about managing. I have been delighted at the community response to the trash and litter problem. I anticipate a massive turnout on Saturday, April 23rd, for the Highlands Plateau and Gorge Pickup. Call the Chamber at 526-5841 to volunteer.

I also have had great satisfaction of working with the Town Board in completing the major town infrastructure projects in recent years. The park construction has been a wonderful success story. Even our recent concerns about roads are being addressed. NCDOT crews are in town this week working on road problems we all identified. All these initiatives are wonderful.

But, I am not as optimistic in managing the bear problem. They will continue to visit Highlands in large numbers unless people's behavior changes. If all of us do



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

not change, a tragic encounter with these wild creatures will happen, and that will be a disaster for the town and residents, as well as the bears.

The B.E.A.R Task Force (526-9227) has clearly identified steps that can be taken in managing and living with our bear population. For instance they recommend keeping garbage securely in the house until the day of trash pick up. They advise that bird feeders will guarantee a visit

from bears.

Here is the problem for the town in a nutshell. It takes only a handful of uncooperative people to overturn any community bear initiative. Just one or two restaurants that carelessly dispose of food will attract bears from all over the area into downtown. People who insist on having bird feeders will attract bears as well as birds.

And finally, there are a handful of folks who view our bears in the same light as the Hollywood Bears. These misguided folks believe their "bear friends" should be fed like any other guests visiting their home. I had one citizen last week even tell me "their" bear was back in the neighborhood. Uh, say what? One can have a dog for a pet, but not a bear! Bears are beautiful, wild animals, but not our personal friends. They can and will do as they please. Their behavior is driven by instinct and a desire for survival, so in an enclosed and densely populated town area, they can be very unpredictable. There lies the problem.

The bears are a concern, but more so

• See MAYOR page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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

• LETTERS •

In rain, sleet, or snow ...

Dear Editor,

How fortunate we are in Highlands to have a dedicated and friendly Post Office looking after us - with employees who frequently go out of their way to provide superb service. For example my wife and I recently received an Easter greeting from relatives in Vermont without a full address or zip code; it simply had our name and Highlands, NC. How appreciative we are that the letter found its way into our Post Office Box, and in a timely manner. Isn't it a wonderful blessing to live in Highlands, a community still capturing the best of life as we wish to remember it.

Bill Bugg,
Highlands, NC

Highlands Marketplace set to open Saturday April 16th

Dear Editor,

We look forward to seeing familiar Faces once again, and as always, delight in making new Friends, as we prepare for another hopefully successful Marketplace at Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park. It has been our pleasure to serve the wonderful people of Highlands and we thank you for your support again this past Season, without it there would be no Marketplace.

Because of your generosity and faithful attendance, we have been able to make charitable contributions to the Park Foundation, and also to the Highlands Emergency Council in the amount of \$350 each. It gives us great pleasure as a non profit Organization, to be able to do so. New market hours will be 8 a.m. to noon. We sincerely appreciate the Town Board, for their cooperation and assistance, in making this year's Marketplace possible. Hope to see you all then.

The Highlands Marketplace Committee.

Proctors needed for year-end testing

End of Grade tests for Grades 3-8 begin on Tuesday, May 17th, and second semester High School exams begin Tuesday, May 24th. The State of North Carolina requires that certain settings have proctors in addition to the administrator of the tests. Every year, we solicit volunteers to assist us with our testing schedule as proctors. Volunteers cannot proctor in their child's or a relative child's classroom. However, we have a number of test settings, so we will be able to use you somewhere.

Generally tests begin at 8a and end about 11:45a most days. Some settings require longer sessions. If you are available to proctor regular settings or longer settings, please let us know.

Please check the dates below and contact us at 828-526-2147 or by email (see email addresses below) if you are able to assist us with our testing this year.

TESTING DATES

May 17th (Tue)
May 18th (Wed)
May 19th (Thurs)
May 24th (Tues)
May 25th (Wed)
May 26th (Thurs)
May 27th (Fri)

Thank you for your help in supporting our school!

Nicole Lui (nicole.lui@macon.k12.nc.us) or Frances Beck frances.beck@macon.k12.nc.us).

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to
www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

• OBITUARY •

Evelyn Mary Byrnes

Evelyn Mary Byrnes, "Evie" age 81 of Atlanta, GA and Highlands, NC passed peacefully on April, 06, 2016 after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer.

Evie was born in Manhattan NYC and was raised in Garrison, NY. She graduated from Ladycliff College in 1956 as class valedictorian. Evie then started her work career with AT&T in White Plains, NY. She moved quickly from engineering to data processing where she held numerous pioneering positions from programmer to Division Manager.

After AT&T, she joined AMS, advancing to Southern Region Vice President. After her retirement in 2000 Evie volunteered at Atlanta's Northside Hospital.

In 2003, Evie and husband established a home in Highlands, NC. Her first involvement in Highlands was as a hospice volunteer. She served in local board leadership positions for Hospice and the International Friendship Center. Evie served as a founder and Vice President of the Hospice House Foundation of Western North Carolina. She was instrumental in bringing Four Seasons hospice to Highlands and Western NC and served on their board. Prior to her illness, Evie worked tirelessly on a capital campaign to ensure that a hospice house was built to provide compassionate end-of-life care to the residents of Western NC.

She was an active member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, Bible Study, The Rotary Club of Highlands, and a volunteer at the Bookworm and the Highlands Cashiers Hospital gift shop.

Evie is survived by her husband of



33 years Kurt Mast and step-children John (Donna) and David (Ashley) Mast and Jenifer (Michael) Dobbs, sister-in-law Debbie Mast all from Atlanta.

She was grandmother to Connor and Mary Carson Dobbs, Kurt, Will, Erika, Payton, Brady and Delaney Mast.

Known as the "matriarch" older sister of the John and Evelyn Byrnes family, she leaves behind six of her

10 siblings, Gerald (Joan) Byrnes, Lawrence (Kathleen) Byrnes, Walter (Alice) Byrnes, Sr. Ellen Byrnes, Robert (Rosemary) Byrnes, and Paul Byrnes; her sister in law Gail Byrnes, brother in law James Brady as well as countless nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her beloved siblings John, Charles and Garrett Byrnes and Margaret Brady, whom with she is now reunited. In addition, she leaves behind scores of friends in Highlands, Cashiers and Franklin, NC, St Simons, Atlanta and New York.

Evie Byrnes was a beautiful woman who possessed elegance, style and grace. She was a fine listener who made an impact on all who met her. Her abiding faith, warm smile, wise guidance and gentle demeanor are gifts she leaves to all of us. She enjoyed the company of many dear friends and devoted her time to faith, family and service.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, April 11th, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church at 315 N. 5th St., Highlands, NC. In lieu of flowers, her family kindly requests that you honor Evie's memory by supporting the Hospice House of Western North Carolina PO Box 815 Franklin, NC 28744 <http://hhfwnc.org>.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

is this obsession by some people to interact with them. Humans are the problem more than the bears. Encounters with them, whether accidental or planned, make great cocktail party talk, but heaven forbid a person is hurt or killed by a bear. That tragedy could trigger calls for drastic actions toward the bears. So please, be careful when Fozzie, Pooh, Smokey, Yogi, Teddy and Gentle Ben visit town. In an instant, they might show their "grizzly" side.

Now a follow up to last week's column. On Friday town staff and I met with Kevin O'Donald of NOVA Energy

Consultants. He represents and advises the town in all dealings with Duke Energy. He agreed with the assessment that electrical rates should remain stable for the near term. On the other hand, he believes the coal ash surcharge issue will return sooner than I had thought. He believes Duke will propose coal ash surcharges by the end of the year. Kevin advises us to wait and see before taking the next course of action. Options are to pay the proposed charges, enter negotiations, or consider litigation in concert with other wholesale suppliers.

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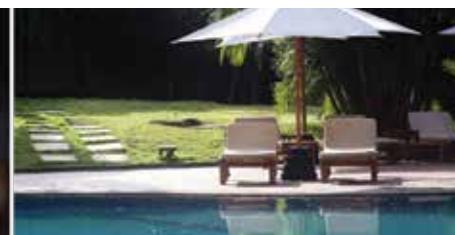
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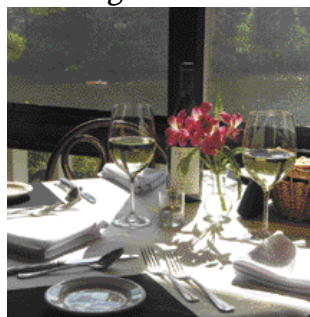
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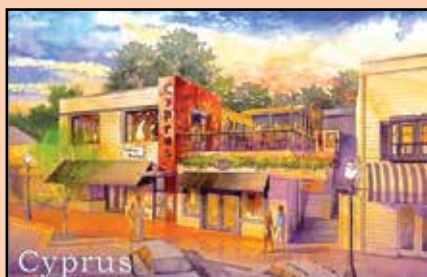


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...BIZ WEEK continued from page 1

of Southwestern Community College, BizWeek 2016 kicks off on Monday April 18 with a "Women in Business Networking Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Macon Campus of Southwestern Community College. The lunch will feature guest speaker Sharon Oxendine and will allow participants to network and share resources with fellow women entrepreneurs.

From 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. there will be a Strengthening Leadership Ability by Improving Emotional Intelligence workshop. Over the years, it's been discovered that emotional intelligence (EQ) is a crucial skill for both entrepreneurs and employees to be successful. Several studies point to just how important EQ can be to success, even trumping IQ and experience.

On Tuesday, April 19 a Supervision in the Workplace seminar will discuss the myths and best practices of supervision, as well as show you effective management techniques to supervise your employees. Learn time and task-management skills, how to effectively delegate, how to effectively relate to different generations and ways to both praise employees for good performance and correct poor performance. The class is designed for business owners and senior managers.

On Wednesday, April 20 a How to Create Your Message Map class will be held. A message map is a visual display of your idea on one page. It is a powerful tool that every company should have when communicating with audiences — whether customers, media, or employees. All companies need a message suite to consistently share the same information to anyone listening.

BizWeek 2016 will conclude on Thursday April 21 with the annual BizWeek Banquet. This year's guest speaker is John E. Skvarla, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Governor Pat McCrory named John E. Skvarla, III Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce in Dec. 2014, and he assumed those responsibilities on January 5, 2015.

Skvarla comes to Commerce after serving as Gover-

nor McCrory's Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the two previous years.

Prior to his government service, Mr. Skvarla enjoyed a successful business career, most recently serving as chief executive officer for Restoration Systems, an environmental mitigation firm based in Raleigh that helps improve and restore wetlands and waterways. He also led Wilkinson Hi-Rise, a manufacturer of waste management and automated recycling systems. Mr. Skvarla previously served as chief executive officer for Proactive Therapy, one of the largest physical therapy providers in the Southeastern United States. He also was chief operating officer of The Aviation Group, Inc., a company that emerged as the world's largest all-cargo airline during his tenure.

An attorney, Skvarla in 1978 founded and served as senior partner to the Raleigh-based Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton law firm, where he specialized in corporate and tax matters, as well as public and private capital formations.

During the evening the EDC will be naming our annual BizWeek Honorees as well as the winner of the 2016 Macon County Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

"Fifteen nominations were submitted this year, all of them excellent," said Macon County EDC Director Tommy Jenkins. "The CEC [Certified Entrepreneurial Community] Leadership Team had their work cut out for them."

The CEC narrowed down the 15 nominees to five finalist and will also be deciding the 2016 award winner.

2016 Young Entrepreneurs of the Year Nominations are:

Rodney Morris, owner and General Manager of Franklin Health and Fitness Center. Morris purchased the Franklin Health and Fitness Center in 2012 after serving as manager since 2008. The fitness center has operated in Macon County since 1988.

Brett Murphy, owner of Arrowood Construction. Murphy established Arrowood Construction in 2005 after mov-

• See BIZ WEEK page 6

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...BIZ WEEK continued from page 5

ing to Macon County after college.

Lindsay Wright, owner of MoveMore Fitness. Wright began MoveMore Fitness in 2014 to develop a business focused on small group training.

Jennifer McIntee, owner of Beyond Bending Yoga. McIntee opened Beyond Bending Yoga Studio on Main Street in Franklin

in 2014 after relocating from New York. McIntee uses her space as a yoga studio and a place to build a healthy community.

Timothy Crabtree, owner of Crabtree Family Enterprises. Crabtree Family Enterprises was started in 2013 when Crabtree purchased Motor Company Grill on main street in Franklin. The businesses

grew when he purchased Main Street Storage and then again when he opened Crabtree General Store and Coffee Vault.

The BizWeek Banquet and all of the classes and seminars provided during the week are free and seating is limited so register today at maconedc.com.

...JOB continued from page 1

honest and kind. As a Planner and Code Enforcement Officer, Matt was always willing to help builders, developers and grading contractors navigate through regulations to complete their projects. A mutual respect was developed between those folks in the private sector and Matt. Along with the mutual respect they trusted him, knowing he would do whatever he could within the laws of the county and state to make sure their projects were completed. Many times it isn't easy to tell someone why a law or regulation prohibits them from doing something. The role of government, however, especially in Code Enforcement, is to work with individuals and show them ways they can proceed. Matt was the best

in the business at doing this, and in my opinion that is public service at its finest. I would like to thank Matt for his time served in Macon County and I wish him nothing but the best in his new venture."

Mason replaced Roland as county planner in 2012, but had worked in the Planning, Permitting, and Development Department for six years prior to serving as the department's director.

According to Mason, the decision to resign will allow him to pursue other career opportunities. He will be taking a job with Tate Landscaping in Highlands.

"My career has taken a different direction and I feel it is time to move onto new opportunities and challenges that incorporate

my background in landscape architecture."

Mason has been working for the last several months to update the county Comprehensive Plan, something he plans to complete before his last day on the job.

"Matt has done an exceptional job moving the county forward," said Macon County Commission Chairman Kevin Corbin. "The planning board has been completely reformed under his leadership and the county Comprehensive Plan, a vital tool in shaping our county's future, will be updated and ready to be implemented all because of Matt's foresight and vision for our county. We wish him well on the next stage in his career."



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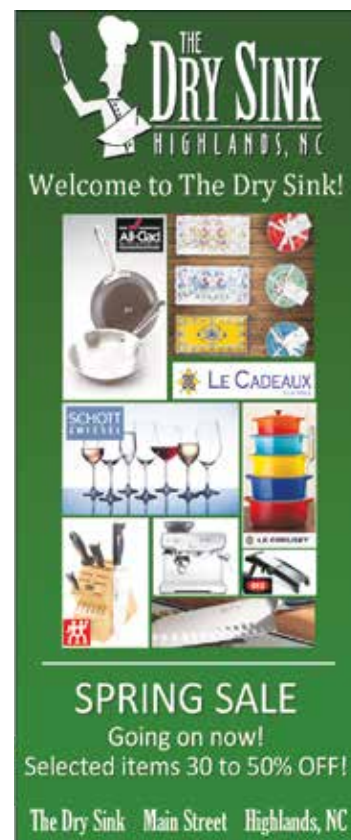
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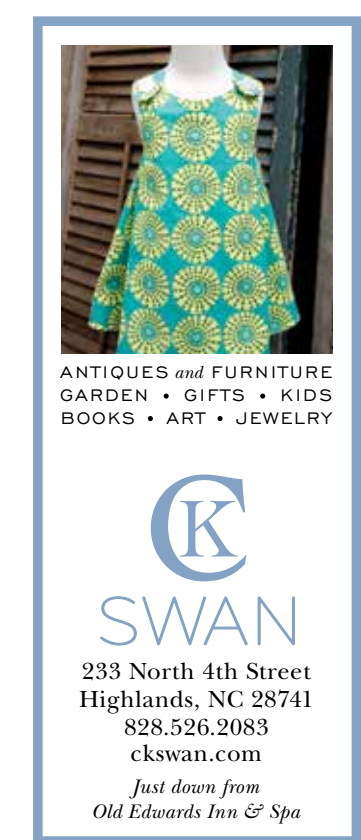
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See our website for more info.

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24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
\$20.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
\$20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
\$20.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
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Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw.
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Life is an Investment too!

Our community had a strong first quarter so far. Commercial buyers are very active, a bell weather signal of a good year usually. When commercial interests begin to move assets back into real estate, it's a positive signal to the rest of the market. And they are doing just that. Entrepreneurs are scrambling

for properties to bring their dreams to fruition. Residential buyers are active during months of tough weather and cold temperatures. A lot of us have been showing in the snow and ice! This is especially significant in a Presidential election year, where the market historically cools.

Significant appreciation has not

kicked in for our area. Though sales are strong, we continue to have a significant inventory of residential properties, over 1,060 to date. So it's a buyers' market with properties in all price ranges. The area, including Highlands, Cashiers, Glenville and Scaly, presents a wonderful financial investment for those smart enough to act now. The time to wait is clearly over!

But the area is an investment in other, perhaps more significant, ways. In 2000 I bought my first Highlands cabin which I retained through various other purchases and live full time in today. It was a cabin that begged for updating and renovation. On the first weekend after the work had been completed, I was driving up Friday afternoon with time to grab a Dusty's filet and bottle of wine. As I crossed over from I-85 onto 985, I physically felt a whoosh of tension depart – mentally and physically. I would have said moments before that I was perfectly relaxed, heading up to my bit of Heaven on Earth! I realized in that instant two things: I was living with an unhealthy baseline of tension most waking moments and buying the Highlands cabin was the best decision, the best investment in my health and overall wellbeing I had ever made! That continues



**Mal Phillips,
Twigs Realty
Group**

to be true to this day. When I became a full time resident I never looked back to my old Atlanta environs.

Our community is unique. Though change has occurred, it has more often than not been consistent with our area's fundamental, unique character. Protecting the environment; safeguarding small town values; caring for a community that is loving, giving, interesting and interested in all around; nurturing the arts; promoting inclusiveness not divisiveness; giving sanctity to all that we love and cherish that makes up this Heaven on Earth... these are the linchpins of our continued prosperity financially and spiritually. So investing, be it in Highlands, Cashiers, Glenville or Scaly, is not just a smart financial move, it is an investment in a life well worth living. I heartily recommend it!

Mal Phillips is the owner and broker in charge of Twigs Realty Group, the offices of which are located at 66 Highlands Plaza, Highlands NC. Visit the office or the web site at twigsrealtygroup.com. Or simply call 828-487-4377. Twigs Realty Group: Integrity, Hard Work, Outrageous Customer Service and Just Plain Fun (After all, you came here to have fun didn't you?)



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Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047.



...PLANNING continued from page 1

ments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to fix inconsistencies regarding verbiage, flow charts and protocol.

The UDO is a compilation of the town's previous zoning ordinance and its subdivision ordinance and was years in the making. The idea was to have one document that includes everything in one place pertaining to appearance, planning, zoning and development. Unfortunately, though streamlined, some verbiage is confusing and in addition the flow charts don't match the verbiage outlining the sequence of events leading up to the issuance of permits or the OK from either the planning board, zoning board or Town Board.

For instance, Planning Directors who handled projects through the years knew that before a case goes to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a Special Use Permit (SUP) the case went to the Planning Board for recommendations.

However, the UDO says the Zoning Board, at its discretion, may submit to the Planning Board for its recommendation.

"The flow chart shows that the Planning Board is part of the review process but the verbiage clearly states that the Planning Board is only part of the process if the Zoning Board refers a request to them," said Feierabend.

Furthermore, if an applicant is requesting a Conditional Zone – meaning specific conditions are needed in a specific zone for a project to proceed – typically, a SUP isn't required because the Town Board defines the conditions for the zone if it doesn't fit the template for the zone the property lies in. The UDO flow chart shows a different story.

This is why, yet again, the First Baptist Church project was heard by the Planning Board Monday night, with the recommendation the same as it was some months ago – that if possible, the plans include landscaping on the Oak Street side of the current Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday night, the Zoning Board heard the case, yet again, to issue a SUP, even though it's not clear if one is needed since the Conditional Zone requested was voted on by the Town Board in March.

Town Planner Feierabend said he is just dotting all the I's and crossing all the T's.

According to Commissioner Eric Pierson, until the verbiage in the UDO is amended, the boards have to follow it even though in some cases the sequence of events don't match what is typically done.

So, Wednesday night, the Zoning Board also heard a Conditional Zoning request by RLR – the owner of the Park on Main motel – who wants to build a hotel in the pit at 2nd and Helen's Barn Alley.

The B2 zone allows hotels, but there are required setbacks so RLR wants a conditional zone so they can build lot line to lot line.

In the past, the Planning Board would have heard the case first but due to inconsistencies in the UDO, the Zoning Board is hearing it and then it will go to the Planning Board and likely back to the Zoning Board who may or may not incorporate the Planning Board's recommendations and may or may not issue a SUP. Requiring a SUP in a Conditional Zoning case is a throwback to when the town had Conditional Use Zoning, something it doesn't have anymore. It is unclear as to why the SUP step is still part of the process.

Furthermore, by state law a Conditional Zoning request doesn't have to go to the Zoning Board just the Planning Board then to the Town Board for final approval. But the Town Board said the more eyes on a project the better, so in Highlands Conditional Zoning requests go to all three boards.

Traditionally, despite its name, the Zoning Board only deals with zoning in regards to a special use permit or a variance not the changing of zones.

Other planning projects in the works include residential units in the business district and the renovation of Rosenthal's.

Architect Dennis DeWolf has gone to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board and received the SUP necessary to reconfigure the upstairs unit of his office building on Carolina Way into a large one-bedroom apartment. He and his wife Jane plan on selling their home and moving into town.

Likewise, Wick and Marjorie Ashburn want to become townees and are renovating the multi-bedroom apartment above 151 Wright Square into a 1,650 sq. ft. one-bedroom apartment with a deck which will include a screened portion and a garden area extending out from the building below the deck on the alley side.

Feierabend OK'd the expansion of the building – the deck off the back along Helen's Barn Alley – without requiring a SUP – which is typically required when any building is expanded in the commercial district. But the way he read the UDO, a SUP wasn't needed.

As it reads now, "all new construction, additions to existing commercial buildings and remodeling of existing commercial buildings which would result in an increase in the number of business occupants in the buildings require a SUP."

He reasoned that the number of business occupants wasn't increasing so an SUP wasn't needed. At the meeting Monday night, board members agreed to remove the "increased number of business occupants"

• See PLANNING page 16

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

• Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department.

Last Sundays

• At The Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at 3pm. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

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AND Monday thru Thursday

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aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and

Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

3 – 5 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

6 – 8 pm

Saturday 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday 1 – 5 pm

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2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

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Call us about membership fees

Mon. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse: 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm first Mondays.

• High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-

11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more Information call 369-3916.

Last Tuesdays

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Belly Dancing 101 at 6:30 p.m. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At the Wellness Place at 6:30 p.m. donation based Art of Meditation. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center,

• See EVENTS page 15

Local Audubon Sights Spring Migrants

William McReynolds

Highlands Plateau Audubon Society

Early spring brings one of the great spectacles of nature in the Western Hemisphere: the migratory birds that wintered in Central and South America follow the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways to return to North America. These migrants range from hummingbirds to hawks and number in the millions. Those spanning the Gulf of Mexico often make landfall in the Gulf States: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

On April 3rd 12 members of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society (HPAS) traveled to Dauphin Island, Alabama, to spend three days witnessing the spring return of all the perching and shore birds that would be on this landfall island in warm Gulf waters. Their highest hope was to see an avian "fall-out" the landfall descent of thousands of birds completing a difficult migratory crossing and landing, exhausted and famished, at the first opportunity. Fall-outs can be bucket-list experiences as birders find themselves surrounded by flocks of thousands of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Prothonotary Warblers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Eastern Kingbirds or any of scores of other returning species.

This Dauphin Island trip was made possible by John and Jennie Stowers, seasonal Highlanders and HPAS members who made their home on Dauphin Island available for guests as a dormitory and central base for planning and operations. The three days of intensive bird watching were organized and led by Highlands resident Brock Hutchins, a highly experienced

birder and HPAS Board member. Brock had the assistance of Romney Bathurst, a recognized international birder.

The three days of birding started early each day with vigorous outings in the morning and also in late afternoon. Venues included the Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, the Shell Mounds and nearby "Goat Trees," an area of wetlands near the small airport and the expansive public beach.

In pursuit of shore birds, some hardy birders undertook a long trek across dunes and along shorelines. Host John Stowers took two groups by boat to Cat Island, a small island heavily populated by White Pelicans, White Ibis, Great, Reddish, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Tri-colored and Great Blue Herons and Dunlin. Each evening the group carefully updated their list of sighted birds.

What else was seen? Although there were no fall-outs, 115 avian species were seen and countless hundreds of individual birds. Among the most notable were: Blue-winged Teals, some flashing their blue speculums edged in emerald green, the males having a creamy crescent on their faces; Great Egrets in breeding plumage with lively green facial skin; Hermit Thrush; Clapper Rail, Indigo Bunting; Orchard Orioles; many Prothonotary Warblers in blooming Bottlebrush bushes; and various herons, terns, egrets, and more.

For more information on this and other spring birding trips and outings as well as speakers and activities for the spring, summer and fall, go <http://www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org>.



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Spring Home Improvement

Home-Hunting Tips in a Seller's Market

(StatePoint) Are you on a serious hunt for a new home? Whether it's your first time as a real estate buyer or you've done this many times before, you may experience a learning curve. After all, the market is forever in-flux, and experts advise that, these days, there are some distinctive challenges involved in becoming a homeowner.

“If you want to snag your dream home in a seller's market, then you'd better be on your game,” says Grant Simmons, who drives the consumer marketing strategy for Homes.com, a leading online real estate resources site, with close to three million real estate listings for sale or for rent.

Simmons is offering expert tips to give buyers a leg up in today's competitive marketplace.

- Know what you want: Make a list of the features you desire in your next home, and then separate them into wants and needs. Having your priorities in order will help you better determine whether a house truly suits your needs and where you're willing to compromise.

- Use your imagination: Buying a live-in ready home offers convenience, but you can potentially save thousands of dollars on the



front end on an ugly or tired home with great bones or personality. Choose a real estate agent with vision who can help you find the diamond in the rough in your desired location. Remember, there can be large return on small, affordable updates.

- Know the deal-breakers: In a seller's market, you may feel pressured to sign on the dotted line as soon as you find that home you really like. Before committing to a mortgage, do your due diligence. A shoddy roof, bad plumbing, foundation issues, outdated wiring and water damage are costly

headaches you may not want to take on in a new home.

- Do smart research: The Internet is your friend. So rather than cast a wide net, conduct smart searches. Sites like Homes.com make real estate searches easier by connecting buyers with timely and accurate listing information, as well as the listing agent. The site also features comprehensive, valuable data on the quality of life in local neighborhoods, including market reports, commute calculators, school scores and cost-of-living analyses. For more information, as well as such free resources as download-

able house-hunting checklists, tips and mortgage calculators, visit www.Homes.com.

- Get serious: Busy real estate agents with a tight schedule prioritize serious prospective buyers. Be first on their list. Before you discover your dream home, get your financial ducks in a row, because when competition is fierce, you can't afford to wait for mortgage approval.

It may be a seller's market, but with smart research, foresight and planning, you can make a wise purchase.

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Spring Home Improvement

Spring Cleaning: Eliminate Kitchen Counter Clutter

(StatePoint) Birds are chirping, flowers are blooming and the ever-daunting spring cleaning checklist is looming. As you take on tasks this year, make the kitchen a top priority.

In addition to a little extra deep cleaning, it could be time to rethink its organization. With a few inspired solutions, counters can be freed from clutter, allowing more space for food preparation and cooking.

Cast Off and Get Creative

The easiest way to make room in the kitchen is to clean out excess. Go through dishes, pots, pans, appliances and utensils. Consider giving away anything you haven't touched in the past year or simply don't like.

Find creative ways to clear the counter. Use a Lazy Susan to store supplies in hard-to-reach corners. Reimagine a cake stand as a shelf to elevate favorite spices, salt, pepper and olive oil, while leaving an area around the base for additional storage.

Rethink nooks and crannies, such as the top of the fridge, which could house a decorative display of cookbooks, bowls or baking canisters. Tops of



kitchen cabinets can hold stainless steel or copper pots and pans, allowing for easy access when needed.

Arrange by Use

When choosing appliances to occupy prime countertop real estate, think about how often they are used. Everyday multi-tasking tools deserve a spot on the counter.

Save space with versatile appliances like the Vitamix S55, a personal blender with four convenient pre-programmed settings that can prepare everything from smoothies and whole-food juices to soups, sauces, vinaigrettes, frozen desserts and more. Plus, because of its compact size, it leaves plenty of room for other kitchen

tasks.

You can also arrange serving ware according to how often it reaches the table. Store items such as holiday dishes and platters in the back of cabinets or open shelving. Place everyday items like bowls and salad plates in easy-to-reach cabinets and drawers. Cooking utensils should be housed in a holder close to the stove.

Work With Your Walls

The usual kitchen organization employs drawers, cabinets, shelves and countertops. However, you can also work with your walls to make your kitchen more efficient. Apply hooks to hang pot holders and aprons, ensuring they are a safe distance from the stove. Install a pot

rack, which will make room in cabinets for appliances that are not used often — just make sure your walls or ceiling are strong enough to support the extra weight.

To squeeze extra space out of your kitchen, hang magnetic strips for items like knives and kitchen scissors, freeing up drawers and removing the knife block from the counter. Spices can also be hung on the strips with the use of magnetic canisters.

If you simply minimize what's kept on countertops and reimagine everyday items, you can optimize the functionality of your kitchen, making it a more user- and guest-friendly destination.



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Spring Home Improvement

Make a Style Statement: Top Interior Design Trends on the Horizon

(StatePoint) You likely set goals to eat right and save money. But what goals do you set for your home? "Now is the perfect

time to experiment with décor trends," says Taniya Nayak, interior designer and DIY television personality. Here are six home dé-

cor trends Nayak predicts will soon be filling your Pinterest feed.

Presswork Palette

Generate conversation and set the tone for your space by incorporating text -- think monograms, family names or inspirational quotes.

"Use various fonts and sizes to create different moods," says Nayak. "Letters can be sharp and defined to create a contemporary and stylish aesthetic, or soft and casual for an elegant and timeless feel."

Nature's Patterns

For clean interior spaces with lots of detail, try simple designs inspired by nature, such as honeycombs, florals and leaves.

"Pair these with neutral colors for a soothing atmosphere, or blow them up and paint them in a bright color for a bold statement,"

says Nayak.

You can also integrate natural patterns through accent pieces, such as light fixtures that have reflective metals to mimic sparkling water, or a textured jute rug.

Digitally Defined

"Geometric shapes and angles have become associated with technology; evoking creativity and innovative design," says Nayak.

Incorporate this trend with geometric floor tiles in different colors. Or use pixelation for a modern, clean look. Pixelated artwork made up of monochromatic cubes can be simplistic and versatile.

Fresh and Fab

Multiple bright colors mixed together elevate the mood in any space. Paint a bold accent wall for an eye-catching statement. Or brightly paint a piece



of antique furniture for an unexpected combination of modern and traditional.

"When it comes to painting an accent wall or furniture, one of the most important tools you need is

a premium painter's tape, like FrogTape brand painter's tape," advises Nayak.

Treated with Paint-Block Technology, FrogTape brand Multi-Surface

• See DESIGN page 16

...HOME continued from page 11

verticals and horizontals, will give you triple weather stripping that acts as a true barrier against drafts, keeping you comfortable and helping reduce utility bills.

• Beauty: Your windows, like any exterior element on your home, should complement its architecture and add beauty to your house. While certain architectural styles, such as Colonial, once reigned, there's a new trend toward American Craftsman homes. Forward-thinking window manufacturers are responding to the call by offering grid patterns, stain and paint finishes suitable

for this growing need.

Interestingly, a new window program at ProVia offers three new series of windows at a range of price points. The series includes ecoLite, Aspect, as well as Endure windows which come with top level innovations in window performance. To learn more, and to find resources on identifying the right windows for your home, visit www.proviaproducts.com.

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• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Pinterest Fridays at 6:30p. Essential Oils, Appetizers and Crafts Night. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Every 2nd Saturday

• A group that will meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at Highlands Hudson Library at 10am. Group will have speakers, videos, recipes, health tips, and more to educate people about any health issues. Group is a non-profit. Contact Kelly Woods 828-421-3520 or live4above@aol.com

Saturdays

• At The Wellness Place Donation based 9am Yoga For Dummies at 9 a.m. Fun, Judgement Free Zone, All Levels and All Ages! 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 10 a.m.. \$5.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

Sundays through May 29

• Change Your Money, Change your Life. Applying God's word to your money... This 9-week class will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely and more. 3pm-5pm at the Highlands Rec. Park. To sign up go to: www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1017675. For more information contact Emily Chastain at [\(828\) 200-6277](mailto:eh.chastain86@gmail.com)

Thurs., April 14

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. Melanie Seeger, Volunteer Coordinator and Bereavement Coordinator of Angel Hospice will be the guest speaker. Find out how you and/or your family can benefit from this service or how you may volunteer. Free gifts and light refreshments. Everyone is welcome

Fri., April 15

• Join artist John Kenneth Melvin at The Bascom and help him erect his new sculpture.

• Macon Program for Progress's Relay for Life Team will have a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Friday from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at Macon Program for Progress in Franklin. Adult trays are \$7 and children \$5. Go to MPP main office to purchase tickets. Advance purchase only.

Starting Sat., April 16

• The Highlands Marketplace in K-H

Founders Park every Saturday 8a until noon.

Sat., April 16

• At PAC, Live via Satellite on a theater screen, Roberto Devereux at 12:55 p.m. Adults \$26, Members \$22. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day from 9a – noon this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-482-1451. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) in the Recreation Park at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

Tues., April 19

• Center for Life Enrichment offers class: SIRI, Everything You Ever Wanted to Know (for users of Mac products). 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Location: CLE Classroom, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Thurs., April 21

• Center for Life Enrichment offers class: A Life of Creativity in Fiber. 4 – 5 pm. Location: CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Tues., April 26

• Center for Life Enrichment offers hike: Rough Run Spring Wildflower Hike. 10 am – 2 pm. Location: Participants to meet @ CLE Parking lot, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information/reserve space, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Sat., April 30

• At PAC, The Met Live via satellite at 12:45 p.m.

May 6-7

• Wildflower Whimsey -- a fundraiser for the Highlands Biological Foundation -- at the Highlands Biological Station. May 6, 6:30-8p and May 7, 10a - 2p. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for nonmembers. Call (828) 526-2221.

Sat., May 7

• A choral workshop hosted by Highlands First Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir. For more details, call Nan Hunter at 828-526-1881 or 828-200-3101.

Thurs-Sun, May 19-22

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "A Game's Afoot. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Thurs.-Sun., May 19-21


• At The Bascom, Collective Spirits.

Thurs. - Sun., May 26-29

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "A Game's Afoot. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

you are invited


Celebrate With Us



**You are invited to a groundbreaking ceremony
for the new Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
emergency department.**

Tuesday, April 26 | Noon
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital campus
190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC

**Keep up with the project and learn
more at <http://progress.hchospital.org/>**



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...PLANNING continued from page 9

from the verbiage.

Though he permitted the building of the deck about two months ago, when the request came in to add a screened portion to part of the deck, he decided a SUP was needed and so the case was heard by the Planning Board Monday night and was unanimously approved.

The Zoning Board heard the SUP request Wednesday night. The outcome of the Zoning Board meeting wasn't available by press time, but it's presumed the SUP was issued.

The boards agreed to amend the UDO so it's clear that a SUP is required for any change to a commercial building and to nix the number of business occupants.

At a special meeting March 16, the Planning Board OK'd construction on Main Street so Rosenthal's which has moved to 375 Main Street could renovate the façade of the store front.

Since the UDO states that construc-

tion on Main Street is restricted to three days a week beginning April 15, Dan Chapman and Laura Rosenthal of Rosenthal's wanted to get permission to begin the work so it would be completed on time. The normal Planning Board meeting would have been March 28 which would have cut into renovation time.

Other UDO changes included requiring the Planning Board's OK before any fence along the corridors can be constructed with unconventional materials – like pallet wood

The boards also nixed the requirement for the issuance of an SUP for arts and crafts shows. They said it should be a simple permit process issued from the planning department.

Over the next several months, the Planning and Zoning boards will be going over the UDO to ferret out and correct additional inconsistencies.

– Kim Lewicki

...DESIGN continued from page 14

and Delicate Surface tapes can be used on a variety of surfaces and help deliver sharp lines, so your handiwork looks professional.

Textured Terrain

From transformed wood pallets to worn leather or tin ceilings, aged raw materials offer texture and help give a space dimension.

"Incorporate it into an application you wouldn't typically think to use the material," suggests Nayak. "For example, use concrete on a wall instead of the floor."

Home décor items can easily be made to look aged by adding paint and other fin-

ishes for a distressed look.

Global Style

Create a warm, friendly space with a parade of patterns from different cultures.

"Don't be afraid to mix multiple prints within a space," says Nayak. "Tie these patterns together by carrying a similar color throughout each element in the room."

"When trying a new trend, make sure it accurately represents your style -- and remember you don't have to go all out," adds Nayak. "Any concept can be incorporated as little or as much as you'd like."

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Easely An Artist opens on N. 4th. Street



Members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Chamber members and owner Jeannie Edwards Bozeman at the ribbon cutting last week for Easely An Artist which is on N. 4th Street across from Town Hall.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Instruments

By Chaplain Margaret Howell,
Pastor, Holy Family Lutheran Church, Highlands

How many of you took music lessons at some time in your life? When you first tried to play or sing, you may have been dismayed by the sounds you produced---nothing like you imagined it would be. I had the great pleasure to teach music for 18 years in a variety of settings. At one point I team-taught with a band director and we would travel from school to school, with me teaching the stringed instruments, and he teaching the brass, woodwinds and percussion. We taught first and second year students and I could always tell when my team-mate's kids fired up their instruments for the first time---even if they were clear across the campus. Windows would rattle; people stuck their heads out of their classrooms in disbelief, and dogs in the adjoining neighborhoods howled at the unholy din. One time we even got a fan letter from the seismograph folks up at the university.

Well, that last bit might have been a bit of an exaggeration, but if you've ever heard 75 earnest little people with band instruments in their hands blow and beat as hard as they could.....it's something you never forget! You have to give the children credit---it takes a bit of courage to be willing to sound that bad. It takes faith to believe that it CAN get better. It takes trust in one's teacher to show them the best way. And it takes faithfulness---many years of sometimes tedious practice to be able to play an instrument well.

We taught in the inner city for 10 years. Many of the children we instructed there faced obstacles that many of us have never had to deal with. Many came from single parent homes. Many lived at or below the poverty line. Many lived in less-than savory neighborhoods. Many had to live with adults who had their own share of problems and addictions. Most of the children I taught could not afford their own instruments, so they would borrow instruments in my department's inventory---Because funding for the arts is always limited, I sometimes handed out instruments old and battered with years of use, but the children loved them anyway.

Now here is the really cool part. Despite the odds against them, these children, who at the beginning of the school year couldn't even hold a violin or a clarinet properly, would play their hearts out at their final concert in the spring. Granted, it wasn't the New York Philharmonic, but they were making music!!!!

Even though I retired from teaching after 18 years, I still hear from some of my former students. For many of them, making music changed their lives.

When I read verse 15 in Acts 9 for today, it jumped out at me; "but the Lord said to him (Ananias), 'Go for he is an instrument whom I have chosen....'"

Now many folks when reading this lesson focus on Saul, about to become Paul as God's instrument. But the real hero here is Ananias. Paul might hear a flash of light and hear God's voice, but Ananias has a vision and a conversation with God! First of all, it takes courage to even answer when God calls. Talk to any seminary student and you will find that many of them resisted and even tried to flee from the task they saw being put before them. For

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy

Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music Mon.:

Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC

University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I, (chapel) 8 a.m.

Education for Adults, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (nave) 10:30 a.m.

Thursday

Healing services (chapel) 10 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided);

7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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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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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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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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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 Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 18

Ananias, just saying "Here I am. Lord," shows great courage.

Poor Ananias! His dismay and reluctance to carry out God's instructions are understandable. Saul is a persecutor and murderer of the followers of Jesus. He again shows courage as he actually makes excuses to God as to why this might not be a good idea! The Lord shows patience with Ananias, just as He did with Moses, when he tried to wriggle out of going back to Egypt. God tells Ananias why he is to heal Saul, and for what purpose. "So Ananias went and entered the house." (Acts 9:17) Can you imagine walking into a house where Saul, one of the most powerful and dangerous men in the region and some of his soldiers were residing and invoking the name of Jesus? The mere mention of Jesus could get him arrested and killed. Ananias truly trusted God!

It is with courage and trust that Ananias faithfully carries out the Lord's instructions. We never hear about Ananias again, but this one act of courage, trust and faithfulness by this one seemingly insignificant man, Saul becomes Paul, and becomes perhaps the greatest apostle of the church.

When I was music major in college, a friend of, mine a flutist, read a book called "No Where to Hide." It was about playing the piccolo. Now any of you who have heard John Phillip Sousa's march, "Stars and Stripes Forever" knows what I am talking about. The piccolo, the tiniest instrument in the band plays the most important part. That small cylinder of silver can outshine the largest tuba! Without the piccolo, "Stars and Stripes Forever" just wouldn't be complete!

Like the piccolo, there are no insignificant instruments

All of us, no matter how small, play an important part in the symphony of God's plan of salvation for all creation. We can all be instruments in the hands of God.

Without Ananias, Saul would never have become the instrument named Paul and traveled the known world spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a good example of a fallible and imperfect instrument. Nevertheless, Jesus chooses him to be the rock on which the church will be built.

All of us have different gifts and different tasks, just like different musical instruments. Without each of us, some melody of God, the great composer, goes unheard.

How are you, instrument-wise? Are you sitting in an attic, silent and un-played, or are you allowing yourself to be used to sing the greatest story ever told, touched by the Master's Hand?

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from April 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 5

• At 12:52 p.m., Anthony Michael Tiddick, 37, of Highlands, was arrested for communicating threats and misdemeanor stalking. He was issued a unsecured \$1,000 bond. His trial date is April 28.

April 7

• At 9 a.m., officers received a report of larceny by an employee by obtaining money/property by false means at J&J Lawn Service where lawn service equipment valued at more than \$4,600 was taken.

April 8

• At 2 p.m., officers received a report about appliances and sinks valued at \$6,670 being removed from a building at N. 4th Street without consent of the owner. April 9

• At 11 p.m., officers received a call about bears opening a car door and tearing up the interior at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

April 11

• At 11:30 a.m., officers received a call about someone being harassed at a building on S. 5th. Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 2.

April 2

• At 11:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse

• See POLICE & FIRE page 22

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BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital welcomes back Dr. Julie Farrow

Julie Farrow, MD, returns to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) to provide gynecological services to women in our local communities. Dr. Farrow earned her medical degree at Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia. She is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Farrow returns to HCH from Mountain Area Health Education Center OB/GYN Specialists in Asheville.

Dr. Farrow joins Mission Community Primary Care – Highlands and Cashiers. She will see patients on the Highlands-Cashiers



shiers Hospital campus in suite 304 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 209 Hospital Drive. Her office number is (828) 526-5045 and she welcomes new patients.

"We are excited to have Dr. Farrow come back to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to provide gynecological care to our communities. The physicians of Mission Community Primary Care-Highlands and Cashiers are pleased to welcome Dr. Farrow back to the Highlands-Cashiers and Mission family," said Jackie Ring, President/Chief Nursing Officer at HCH.



From left: Rotary Club of Highlands President Christy Kelly with Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society Executive Director David Stroud.

Chamber of Commerce elects new directors

Congratulations to David Bock of David Bock Builders, Hilary Wilkes, The Highland Hiker, and Brad Spaulding, Publisher of The Highlander who will be joining the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Thank you to all our members who cast ballots making the 2016 election a hotly contested race.

David, Hilary and Brad were chosen from among a slate of six outstanding candidates and their terms officially begin in July.

The other candidates were Mary Adair Leslie, Performing Arts Center, Victoria Ingate, Peak Experience, and Michael Hammond, Park on Main Hotel.

The newly elected Directors will replace outgoing directors Kyle Garner, Wayah Insurance Group and Irina Taylor, Owner of Highlands Kids.

David Bock was successful in his bid to a second term on the board. Jack Austin of Old Edwards Inn, current Chairman of the Board, will serve as Past Chair through June 2017. His gavel will pass to Tony Potts, Entegra Bank on July 1, who will assume the duties of Chairman of the Board.

The current board members are:

Jack Austin – Chairman

Kyle Garner – Past Chair

David Bock – Treasurer

Tony Potts – Membership Chair & Chair Elect

Irina Taylor – Events Committee

Marianne Vines – Events Chair

Bill Futral – Advertising Grants Chair

Amanda Sullivan – Marketing Chair

Kay Craig – Events Committee

PAWsitive News from the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society

The Rotary Club of Highlands was brought up to date on the wonderful work being done at the Humane Society by fellow Rotarian David Stroud. David has been director of the CHHS for the past four years. In that time adoptions have tripled and

the facility has acquired their new mobile medical rescue vehicle. The vehicle also transports potential adoptees to various sites such as the Library, Civic Center and Founders Park so potential forever families can be found for the animals. David's main concern is the future of animal welfare. He stressed the importance of neutering the pets and the fact that the Humane Society provides this service for the small fee of \$30. Pet therapy is now part of the community service provided. Also, CHHS now has a Canine Coach program which is led by a certified professional dog trainer and features advanced dog behavior training to increase the adoptability of the shelter pups, and also included are free after-adoption obedience training sessions to help the new CHHS Adopting Angels with the newest member of their family.

The new adoption center, which will house 40 additional animals in need, will have its Grand Opening July 23, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This much needed facility has been made possible by generous donations of the Highlands-Cashiers community. The hard working staff and many volunteers are very appreciative of all the community support. Remember, think Pawsitive!

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

ITEMS FOR SALE

RV FOR SALE. 2009 LEISURE TRAVEL "FREE SPIRIT" ON MERCEDES SPRINTER DIESEL CHASSIS. Generator, king bed, indoor and outdoor showers, Michelin tires, full kitchen. Like new condition. \$65,000 OBO. Call Nick at 828-371-2653 or view at First Citizens Bank. (st. 4/7)

HELP WANTED

BISTRO ON MAIN IS NOW HIRING EXPERIENCED KITCHEN HELP. Apply at Main Street Inn, or email info@mainstreetinn.com. (4/21)

FT POSITION AVAILABLE FOR EXPERIENCED OFFICE MANAGER. Friendly personality to greet customers and work closely with associates. Real estate experience helpful. Ability to multitask, attention to detail, organization and computer/telephone skills required. Some event planning/coordination may be required at times. Email resume & cover letter to newhirecashiers@gmail.com. (st. 4/14)

YEAR ROUND SALES ASSOCIATE NEEDED FOR SPECIALTY CLOTHING STORE, JMCLAUGHLIN. Retail experience a plus. Great work atmosphere, Clothes, incentives and Benefits. Call 828-526-0844 or apply in store, 318 Main Street, Highlands, NC. (st. 4/7)

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY NEEDED part or full time. Black Bear Construction, Highlands. (828) 200-0949. (st. 3/31)

WAITSTAFF NEEDED FOR CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS. Please apply at 24 Clubhouse trail, Highlands, NC (828)526-5251. (st. 3/31)

SCALY MOUNTAIN NURSERY & LANDSCAPING is now hiring for landscape division. Call 828-526-9269 or Matt at 828-371-2474. (st. 3/17)

POTPOURRI STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for part to full time sales people. Must be able to work weekends, retail experience with women's clothing and accessories preferred. Eyewear sales experience a plus. Stop by Potpourri 2 to apply or email your resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st. 3/10)

OPTICIAN WANTED. Part or full time position open for a NC licensed dispensing optician at Potpourri Eyewear of Highlands. Send resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st. 3/10)

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Mountain Fresh Grocery. Grill, Deli, Bakery and Pizza departments. 828-526-2400 or email jobs828@gmail.com

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced wait-staff and bartender. Please call Jacque at 828.526.3807. (st. 1/21)

THE HIGHLANDS BBQ CO. Is seeking Servers, Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, Please call 828-200-1500 or Send a Resume to HighlandsBBQCompany@Gmail.com

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC full time "with benefits. part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928. (st. 4/30)

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE LOT. 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS.

2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and Meadow Views between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is \$89,410., Quick Sale at \$49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)

WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE - MIRRORMONT AREA. Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town, Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

ACRE LOT HIGHLANDS, NC Corner Lot Highlands Glen, level with some gentle slopes excavation and foundation expenses would be reasonable, underground power installed. Stream runs year round could be configured to make a small pond, good water sources for well. Space for outbuildings or RV, boat storage. 6 Miles to downtown. \$27,000 possible owner financing 828-507-2066 (st. 7/2)

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE HIGHLANDSCOTTAGES.COM



Just 2.8 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Breaking ground this Spring. Falling Waters Community. highlandscottages.com or call 828-508-9952. (st. 3/24)

FOR SALE: 2B/R; 2 BA CHALET WITH LOFT and large scenic deck. Neat, clean and ready to move in. Elderly, long-time owner must sell before Spring season. Selling as is and fully furnished. Priced below appraisal. April price is \$136k or offer. After April, property may be listed with a realtor at a higher price accordingly. Call owner at 770-393-4597 (Atlanta) (st. 4/7)

SERVICES HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN:

Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 421-4667. (9/17)

ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS - Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Data Base Management, Administrative Services, Research Assistance, Quickbooks Set-up and Training. Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

HANDI-MAN - Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, yard work. Call Al at 828-332-7271 or 828-369-6245. (st. 4/7)

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. (st. 10/29)

MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

...POLICE & FIRE continued from page 19

Trail.

- At 11:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Highfield Drive.

- At 11:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

- A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Drive.

- At 7:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Clear Creek Road.

April 5

- At 11 a.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the Hospital.

- At 2:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to N. 4th Street.

April 6

- At 1:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear Pen Road.

- At 5:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

- At 4:39 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Creek Road.

- At 5:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

April 7

- At 2:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Woods.

- At 11:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Raoul Road.

- At 12:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheyenne Drive.

April 8

- At 8:50 a.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the Hospital.

April 9

- At 7:14 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid on the Cullasaja Gorge.

April 10

- At 5:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on White Clover Lane.

April 11

- At 2:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Little Creek Road.

- At 6:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

April 12

- At 10:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Road.

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