

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 17

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: [HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com)

Thurs., April 27, 2017

## Town agrees to close streets and allow ticketed HF&W Festival in K-H Founders Park

A chink in the wall set up to monitor uses in town parks and on public streets may be a way in for future ticketed events – if all the marks are met.

With very little fanfare or discussion, at last Thursday's Town Board meeting commissioners gave the Chamber of Commerce permission to host part of the

Highlands Food & Wine Festival set for Thursday, Nov. 9 through Sunday, Nov. 12 on town property – in K-H Founders Park and on Main Street.

Tickets are being sold ala carte – \$100 for each event except for the two Sip n' Stroll events which are \$50 each.

• See HF&W page 8

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## King and Queen for the night



Highlands School seniors Ryan Houser and Megan Vinson were selected King and Queen at the 2017 Highlands School Prom held at Old Edwards Club – The Cove, Friday, April 21. The theme for the night was "Above the City Lights." See pictures on page 6.

Photo by Sunset Yearbook Staff

## U.S. PO hears business delivery woes

Unverifiable physical addresses in the downtown business district means mail and particularly packages can't be delivered nor are those businesses recognized by various legal entities including Google Business.

• See U.S. PO page 15

## Mandate for smaller K-3 classes may be delayed

As school districts across the state were putting the finishing touches on their 2017-'18 budgets, members of the North Carolina General Assembly reached a compromise that will save school districts millions of dollars.

Tuesday night, the NC Senate approved a compromise bill

• See K-3 page 3



From left: Cory McCall, Macon EDC; Jim Tate, County Commission Chair; Sherry Owens, Mountain Fresh; Ronnie Beale, County Commission Vice-Chair; and Johnny Mira-Knippel, Macon County EDC Chair.

## Mountain Fresh honored at annual BizWeek event

Macon County's seventh annual BizWeek was held last week and for the first time since the event's inception, included events in the Highlands area. BizWeek is a celebration of business, industry and entrepreneurship in Franklin and Highlands, NC.

BizWeek 2017 kicked off on April 17 with a social media bootcamp at Southwestern Community College. The class was taught by Lady Bizness, China

Pennix-Brown. The one-day summit taught business leaders in the community social media strategies to help reach the masses. Increasing valuable engagements and managing social media outlets was a focus of the event.

On Tuesday, the annual Women's Business Networking Luncheon was held at the Entegra Bank Corporate Center in Franklin and Tuesday night, the

• See BizWEEK page 18

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Thanks for picking up trash

I frequently reflect on my performance as mayor, especially how I could work to improve town initiatives, or make operations smoother. For example, I gave the wrong start time for the Plateau Pickup in last week's article. My mistake.

On the other hand, there are events like last Saturday's Plateau Pickup that gives me a great sense of satisfaction to a point that I think, "it just doesn't get much better than this." It is not what I have done that makes me feel so good, it's what other committed people have accomplished. I'm just happy to be a part of it all.

I want to thank the many people who participated in this year's pickup, the 70 plus volunteers who bravely went out to clean the Gorge Road, the Dillard Road, NC 28, Hicks Road, Flat Mountain and streets in and around town. Without this strong turn-out the litter sweep would not have been as comprehensive.

I especially want to thank the Highlands Chamber and Jennifer Cunningham for sponsoring this event that directly sup-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

ports our ongoing effort to make Highlands an attractive place to live, work and visit. Jennifer devotes much time to organizing the pickup and the picnic celebration at Cliffside afterwards. I want to thank two dear friends and supporters of the Chamber in their work and donation of the food for the picnic.

I also appreciate the support of the US Forest Service Rangers. Every year they drive a truck and collect huge loads of trash

bags that volunteers fill with litter. It is a great community partnership with the Forest Service employees who share our bewilderment about people who pollute our roadside forests with their trash.

I want to thank Larry Holt of the Highlands Sanitation Department for making sure dumpsters were in place to handle the loads of trash. Larry and Kenneth Norris loaded the trash onto a town garbage truck and took it to the Macon County Transfer Station on Rich Gap Road. Over 3,000 pounds of trash was collected. That figure will be added to the amount that will be collected this Saturday in a countywide pickup. The final tally will be sent to NC-DOT, the sponsor of this month's statewide NC Litter Sweep.

The Highlands Police and Macon County Sheriff's Department assisted in slowing down traffic on the highways. Every year I pray for a safe, injury free pickup. Some folks drive very erratic, fast and aggressive while volunteers are on the roads.

We had great support this year from several groups. Fred Motz, the leader of the Methodist group that has adopted US 64, had a delegation at the pickup. Old Edwards Inn sent an outstanding group of employees to participate, and a group from the Mountain Garden Club did a wonderful job in picking up on Hicks and Flat Mountain Roads. The Highlands School Interact Club did a great job picking up trash at the Cliffside Recreation Area.

So, events like this make me grateful to be mayor of Highlands. The wonderful people of this town make my job a joy.

Let's keep fighting the litterbugs.

## • LEGISLATIVE UPDATE •

### General Assembly of NC Session 2017

Short Title: Union Co. Bd. of Ed/Partisan Election. (Local) Sponsors: Representatives Arp, Brody, and Horn (Primary Sponsors). For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site. Referred to: State and Local Government I, if favorable, Elections and Ethics Law

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED:

An Act to Change the Election Method of the Union County Board of Education from Nonpartisan to Partisan.

State Representative Kevin Corbin Aye 4/10/2017

Kevin.Corbin@ncleg.net

PO Box 758

Franklin, NC 28744

### Proctors needed at Highlands School

End of Grade tests for Grades 3-8 begin on Tuesday, May 16th, and second semester High School exams begin Tuesday, May 23rd. 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 8AM and end about 11:45 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: Nicole Lui (nicole.lui@macon.k12.nc.us) or Frances Beck frances.beck@macon.k12.nc.us – if you are able to assist us with our testing this year.

**TESTING DATES:** May 16th (Tue); May 17th (Wed); May 19th (Fri); May 23rd (Tues)  
May 24th (Wed); May 25th (Thurs); May 26th (Fri); May 18th (Thurs)

## • THANK YOU •

I would like to thank all of the volunteers how came out for the Plateau pick up this year. We had a great turn out and were able to pick up all the main corridors into town which amounted to 3,000 pounds! Special thank you to the group that prepared the food for the cookout, Forest Service, Town of Highlands Police Department, Macon County Sheriff Department, and Mayor Pat Taylor. If you were not able to participate in the pick-up but still would like to help we have materials at the visitor center that you can borrow and pick up anytime you wish. Let's keep the Plateau Picked –up all year round. based on the number of bags we had I would say we had more than last year which was a little over 4 Tons.

Jennifer Cunningham  
Visitor Center Director

## • WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to  
[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

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# • OBITUARIES •

## Clark Nathaniel Picklesimer



Clark Nathaniel Picklesimer, 85, of Highlands passed away Thursday, April 20, 2017. He was born in Macon County, the son of the late Lyman and Pearl Talley Picklesimer. He was married to Doris Crowe Picklesimer who preceded him in death on September 4, 2013.

He worked in construction as a rock mason and enjoyed fishing and hunting. He loved the Lord and was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church where he served as an usher. He was a member of Blue Ridge Masonic Lodge #435 and was a U. S. Navy veteran serving during the Korean War as a Gunner's mate.

Survivors include his daughter, Terri P. Crowe (Ronnie) of Highlands; his son, Greg Picklesimer (Jeanne) of

Newington, CT; four grandchildren, Natalie Dendy, Michelle Pendergrass, Nathaniel and Joshua Picklesimer; one great-grandchild, Taylor Pendergrass and three brothers, Archie Picklesimer, Radford Picklesimer and Brandon Picklesimer. In addition to his parents and wife he was preceded in death by two sisters, Dorylas Early and Angela Picklesimer.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at Highlands United Methodist Church with Rev. Randy Lucas, Rev. Paul Christy and Rev. Jennifer Forrester officiating. Burial followed at Picklesimer Cemetery.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Picklesimer family. Online condolences may be made at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## ...K-3 continued from page 1

with House leadership regarding House Bill 13, which addresses class size funding. The compromise still aims to reduce the average class sizes in early grades in North Carolina, but extends the deadline by two years to give local districts more time to address the issue.

School districts across the state, including Macon County, worry if House Bill 13 – and now the compromise -- isn't passed by the Senate, districts would have to locate money elsewhere to meet lower class sizes by eliminating art, music and physical education instructors or increasing class sizes in other grades.

House Representative Kevin Corbin, who co-sponsored HB13, is pleased with the potential compromise.

"I commend Senator Jim Davis for his help in moving this bill forward, said Corbin. "This is great news for school systems across the state."

The new version of House Bill 13 was announced by Senate Leader Phil Berger on Monday and pushes back the extensive class-size reductions in Kindergarten through third grade for the next year. Class sizes will still be reduced in the coming year, but not as significantly as originally proposed.

Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said the compromise won't solve all of the district's financial concerns, but will significantly reduce the burden.

The compromise would lower maximum K-3 class sizes for this fall to 23 students. In the 2018-'19 school year, maximum K-3 class sizes would range from 19 to 21 students. Also in 2018, average K-3 class sizes for districts would drop to between 16 and 18 students.

The office of Senate leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, announced the passage of the much-anticipated legislation in a press release. "To continue progress toward smaller class sizes in kindergarten, first, second and third grades," the bill requires local school districts to achieve: a district-wide average class size of 20 students in grades K-3 and a single class maximum of 23 students in the 2017-'18 school year; and a district-wide average class size in grades K-3 that is equal to the teacher-to-student ratio currently in law and a single class maximum of three above that number in the 2018-'19 school year.

"This compromise preserves our long-standing and research-backed goal of lowering class sizes in the early grades, on a timeline school administrators say is reasonable," Berger said. "It will also help improve school transparency and accountability and shine a light on what is needed to keep special subject-area teachers in the classroom - steps I am confident will help our students receive a higher-quality, more well-rounded education."

• See K-3 page 16

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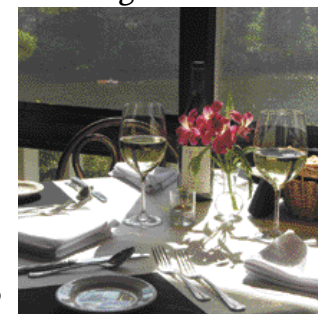


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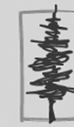
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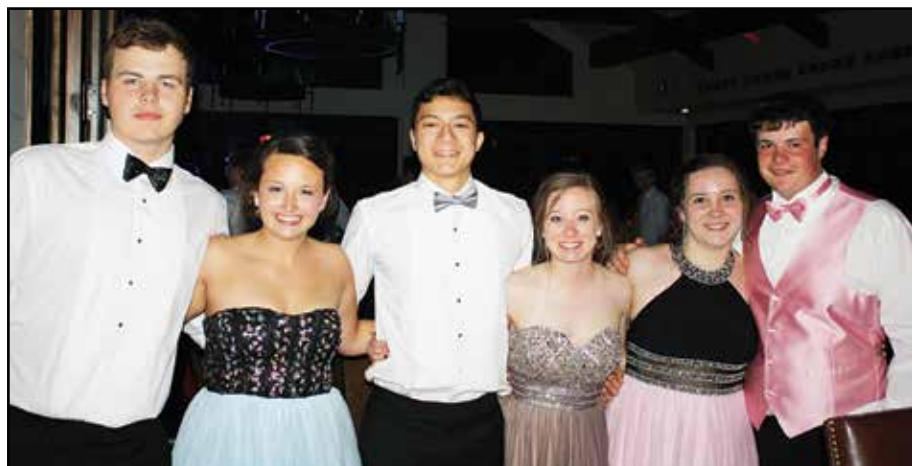
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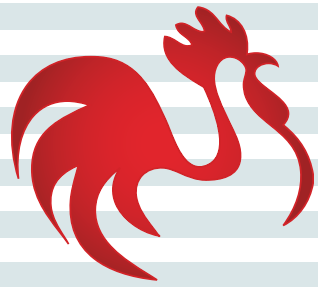
# Above the City Lights • Friday, April 21 at OEI's The Cove



Photos by Sunset Yearbook Staff







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## ...HF&W continued from page 1

It all starts with the Grand Tasting – Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. in the park; Sip n' Stroll options Friday and Saturday throughout the downtown business district Nov. 10-11 from 11a to 4p; the Truckin' event at OEI's Old Creek Circle on Saturday from 11a to 3p as well as the Main Event on Main Street between 4th and 5th streets from 11a to 3p. On Sunday, Nov. 12, it's the Gospel Brunch at noon at OEI's Pierson House on South Street. Finally, there are wine dinners at various restaurants in town beginning at 6p each night.

Town Manager Josh Ward and Mayor Pat Taylor say the town hasn't changed its policies concerning use of public places and streets for private, ticketed events, but if the OK the Highlands Food & Wine Festival got Thursday night is any indication, the event may be setting a precedent for future nonprofit ticketed events on town property and streets.

"We have not changed our policies. The Chamber is sponsoring the Highlands Food & Wine Festival as a means to promote the economy of the entire town. While they do not have a charitable status like many other nonprofits, the Chamber is a nonprofit entity charged with promoting and developing business in Highlands through dues and room occupancy tax income. In addition, part of the proceeds from the festival will be donated to nonprofits in the community," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

According to last year's statistics more than 2,000 guests traveled from GA, SC, NC, FL, TX, TN, AL, CO, MN, and KY; all lodgings were sold out; all wine dinners were sold out; people ages 25-75 attended; and 50% of those who responded to the question had an annual income of more than \$200,000 a year.

Based on last year's statistics and this year's potential, Town Manager Josh Ward agreed with the Mayor.

"I see this as being good for the town and for its economy," he said.

The only other ticketed event that has been allowed in K-H Founders Park was last year's Low Country Shrimp Boil on June 17 whose proceeds went to completing the park.

Mayor Taylor said the Grand Tasting event set for Friday, Nov. 9 "only lasts for a few hours on Thursday evening and during the fall, it is dark at that time [7 p.m.] and folks tend not to be in the park."

If it's a rainy weekend or day, the Main Event will occupy the tented area of the park previously set up for the Thursday night's Grand Tasting, which will feature nibbles and tastings of wine and beer. Saturday morning, while the tent is still up, there will be a free yoga session from 9-10a which is open to everyone as well as a health and nutrition exhibit after the yoga session.

Park events will require the center portion of the park be closed to parking as well as through traffic and soft barricades will be set up around the tented area to keep people without tickets out.

As a way of saying "thank you" to the town, the Chamber is going to pay \$1,200 to get the ice skating rink open during the Veterans Day weekend so people who aren't participating in the Highlands Food and Wine Festival can still use portions of the park.

Tickets sales open up for the general public May 1 but were open to chamber members last week; as of Thursday, April 20, 355 tickets have been sold.

During the traditional Sip n' Stroll

• See HF&W page 21

## TONIGHT!



Have dinner at On The Verandah on April 27 and 20% of your bill will be donated to the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) which provides vital services to those living with AIDS and HIV in our community.

Doug Helms, Pam Nellis, and Carl Romberg — all from Landmark Realty Group in Highlands — are ambassadors for this event.

They hope to see you there!

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potato chips, daily soup specials.

*Deli - Serving all day*

Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli  
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade  
potato chips, daily soup specials.

*Wood Fire Pizza Oven -  
Every day from 11:00 to close*

Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from  
scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed  
tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage,  
pancetta, and daily specials.

### SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

*Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm*

Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak,  
skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed  
potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire  
soup & salad bar.

**\$12.95** (dine in) or  
**\$9.99** a pound (to go)

### PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items fully  
prepared and ready to take home. Grilled  
pork loins, homemade mac & cheese,  
mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken,  
made in house bbq, chicken salad, deli  
salads & much more.

### DINNERS TO GO

*A different full dinner for two every night,  
Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell  
out. Call ahead to reserve...*

#### Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp

*Boil* - Maine lobster tails, wild caught  
large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer  
corn, house made sausage, all steeped in  
our seasoning. Served with drawn butter  
and cocktail sauce. **\$36.95 serves two**

#### Tuesday - Oven Off Night

Two natural chicken breasts grilled with  
our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served  
on a bed of greens with stuffed brie,  
spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil  
and balsamic vinegar on the side with  
two cups of homemade gazpacho and a  
baguette from our bakery.  
**\$26.95 serves two**

#### Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked

*Potatoes & Salad* - Premium Angus  
standing rib roast, cooked medium rare  
w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes  
& a large Caesar salad. **\$35.95 serves two**

#### Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs

- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender.  
Served with house made bacon/apple  
baked beans and potato salad.  
**\$27.95 serves two**

#### Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or

*steamed.* Wild caught North Carolina  
shrimp either lightly breaded in our  
seasoned corn flour mixture, and then  
properly fried in peanut oil & served w/  
hush puppies; or steamed to order in our  
low country seasoning. Both come with  
coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red  
potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.  
**\$28.95 serves two**

**Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ** -  
Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked  
over night and hand pulled to order.  
Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon  
baked beans, and yeast rolls  
**\$25.95 serves two**

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## NOTICE:

• Highlands School: Due to the loss of instructional time from inclement weather delays, May 5, 2017 will now be a regular day of school instead of a teacher work day

## Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm.  
• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

## Mondays, May 29, July 3, and Aug. 7

• Botanical Garden Tour: 10:30 am - 11:30 am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

## First Mondays

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

## Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tif-

fany 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. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

## Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-

noon.

## Tuesdays

• 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.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.

## 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. For info call 369-7385.

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit [www.occupywnc.org](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

## Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

## Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m. This will be a combination class with many different styles of exercise.

## Wednesdays

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

## 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.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• 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. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. 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 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

## Fridays

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

## Third Fridays

• Senior Dinners are held on the third Friday of each month from November through April at noon in the Rec Park

## Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m.. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

## Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

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

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

## Thurs., April 27

• Dine Out, Fight AIDS at ...on the Verandah, 5:30-9 p.m. 20% of your bill will be donated to the WNC AIDS Project which provides vital services to those living with AIDS and HIV in our community. For

## Free Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus Concert at First Presbyterian Church on May 7



At 4pm on Sunday, May 7, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a free concert at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Chorus is conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster who also serves as Music Director of the Asheville Symphony Chorus and Director of Worship/Music at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Chorus, a 24-voice advanced choral ensemble, was founded by Lancaster in the fall of 2016. The group will also sing during the 11 am worship service at First Presbyterian Church on May 7. The public is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

reservations, call 828-526-2338.

• Highlands School Spring Concert/ Art Show/Silent Auction. Concert starts at 5:30pm in the old gym at Highlands School. Students from grades K-8 will be featured. The Middle School band will play during the art show and silent auction. We hope to see everyone there!

## **Fri., April 28**

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at Hudson Library 11a until noon. Subject: Broadband RFP & Communications in Highlands.

## **Sat., April 29**

• At PAC, Live via satellite at PAC the National Theatre of London presents "Rosenrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead" at 1 p.m. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org – at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

• Franklin is hosting the People's Climate March WNC through downtown Franklin in solidarity with the National People's Climate March in Washington, D.C. The event will begin at Big Bear Picnic Shelter at 2 p.m. with speakers and live music. The march from the shelter will begin at 3 p.m., and end at the gazebo in Franklin's Town Square. Local environmental organizations will have information tables set up at the gazebo until 5 PM. Participants are asked to bring signs, water bottles, and to wear green. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. For more information, see [www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org), visit the WNC march Facebook event page or email [forwardfranklinnc@gmail.com](mailto:forwardfranklinnc@gmail.com).

## **Sun., April 30**

• 5th Sunday Singing and Dinner at Blue Valley Baptist Church at 10 a.m. featuring Cross Creek band and preaching by Pastor Jewel Gaines. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call Rev. Oliver Rice at 706-782-3965.

## **Thurs., May 4**

• Leadership & Literature Event: At 6 p.m., a Tasting Buffet with Special Guests Mountain Faith enjoy an evening filled with fellowship, good food and great music! Attendees are encouraged to bid on some exciting silent auction items to raise funds for Lotla Valley Elementary School Tickets are purchased in advance at \$25 per person. Please see an IVE staff member for ticket information or call the school at 524-2938.

## **Fri. & Sat., May 5 & 6**

• At the Nature Center, Wildflower

Whimsy - Friday, May 5, 5 – 8pm. Cost: \$75 members; 828-526-2623

## **Sat., May 6**

• At the Highlands Biological Station, 10am – 2pm. \$100 non-members Join us for Wildflower Whimsy to learn more about plants' diminutive world. All proceeds support the Highlands Biological Foundation. Speaker: Gary Kauffman, NC Fish and Wildlife Service.

• Pulling for a Cure. Firetruck pull in the Big Lots parking lot at 11 a.m. Hamburger and hotdog lunch. Sponsored by MC Emergency Personnel Relay for Life Team. For more information call 828-421-7822.

• Leadership & Literature Event: At 6 p.m., a Tasting Buffet with Special Guests Mountain Faith enjoy an evening filled with fellowship, good food and great music! Attendees are encouraged to bid on some exciting silent auction items to raise funds for Lotla Valley Elementary School Tickets are purchased in advance at \$25 per person. Please see an IVE staff member for ticket information or call the school at 524-2938.

• The 2nd annual Craft Fair, sponsored by the Cartoogechaye Cristian Fellowship will be held on Saturday, at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, from 10a to 2p. There will be approx. 30 artists and crafters selling their hand crafted items, along with a bake sale and food sales. The Cartoogechaye Christian Fellowship (CCF) is a nonprofit organization of seven participating churches in western Macon County. The proceeds of the Craft Fair will be used to benefit Cartoogechaye Elementary School, their students, PTO and other programs.

## **Sun., May 7**

• At First Presbyterian Church, a free Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus Concert at 4 p.m.

## **Wed., May 10**

• A Charity Dining Out Event to benefit the WNC Hospice House Foundation at Canyon Kitchn in Cashiers. Cocktails at 6:30p; dinner at 7:30p. \$175 per person which includes tax and gratuity. \$75 is tax deductible. For reservations, call 828-524-8261.

## **Thurs., May 11**

• "Blue Valley Overflow Trek" Join us as we partner with Chattooga River Conservancy on this easy walk through the Overflow Creek Wilderness Area. Co-hosted by H-C Land Trust and The

Village Green. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, \$10 for HCLT members. To reserve: [info.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:info.hitrust@earthlink.net).

• Lakeside Restaurant will donate 20% of their gross proceeds to the Highlands Methodist Church for the completion of its Family & Fellowship Hall.

## **Fri., May 12**

• Spring Wildflower Garden Tour, 12:30-3. Cost \$30/\$40 Tour the spring garden of Dick and Judy Allison To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

• The Highlands Writers Group has published its very first Anthology. Please join us for a short dedication, a few readings and complimentary wine and cheese at The ugly Dog Pub, Friday, from 3-5p.

## **Sat., May 13**

• An American Girl Tea Party to benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. 2-4 p.m. at the Cowee Baptist Church. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Hot teas, light finger food and sweet treats. Raffle of American Girl Doll of the Year "Gabriela McBride." Door prizes for both children and adults. Silent auction, too. Tickets are \$10 for children and \$25 for adults. Table of 8 is \$150.

## **Tue., May 16**

• iOS for Beginners: The Basics for the iPad and iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com).

## **Wed., May 17**

• Kilwlns in Town Square will donate 50% of its proceeds to support the

• See EVENTS page 14

## Live via satellite at PAC the National Theatre of London present 'Rosenrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead'



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Live via Satellite the National Theatre of London's production of Rosenrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead on Saturday, April 29 at 1pm. Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter, The Woman in Black), Joshua McGuire (The Hour) and David Haig (Four Weddings and a Funeral, The Witness for the Prosecution) star in Tom Stoppard's brilliantly funny situation comedy. David Leveaux's new production marks the 50th anniversary of the play that made a young Tom Stoppard famous overnight. Against the backdrop of Hamlet, two hapless minor characters, Rosenrantz and Guildenstern, take centre stage. As the young double act stumble their way in and out of the action of Shakespeare's iconic drama, they become increasingly out of their depth as their version of the story unfolds. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) – at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands



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# Spring Home Improvement

## Buying a Home? What to Know about Down Payments

(StatePoint) If you're in the market to buy a home, your down payment is probably top of mind. However, it's important to understand all your options, particularly if you've heard the rule of thumb that you shouldn't pursue homeownership unless you can put 20 percent down.

"In today's market, misconceptions about down payments are some of the most common, unfortunately," says Danny Gardner, Freddie Mac vice president of Affordable Lending. "And this discourages many prospective buyers from even leaving the starting gate."

Gardner points out that a growing number

of homebuyers are putting down between five and 10 percent, and even as little as three percent through products like Freddie Mac's Home Possible Advantage. This is important to keep in mind when determining how much home you can afford.

Prospective homebuyers concerned about down payments should also be aware that there are nearly 2,500 homeownership programs across the country that can help with down payment and closing costs, and an estimated 87 percent of U.S. homes are eligible for one or more of these programs, according to research by DownPayment Resource. The down payment program benefit most frequently



found is about \$10,000, making researching these options and discussing them with your lender and real estate agent a worthwhile step. To determine your eligibility and learn more about down payment assistance, visit [downpaymentresource.com/are-you-eligible](http://downpaymentresource.com/are-you-eligible).

Of course, home buyers should not forget that there are benefits to putting more down initially -- this will lower your monthly mortgage payment and reduce the amount you will owe the bank. Additionally, those who put down at least 20 percent don't have to pay Primary Mortgage Insurance (PMI), an added insur-

ance policy that protects the lender if you are unable to pay your mortgage. However, if putting 20 percent down will deplete all of your savings and leave you with no financial reserves, it's probably not in your best interest. What's more, you can cancel your PMI once you've built equity of 20 percent in your home.

Don't assume the dream of homeownership is beyond your reach. Get savvy! There are numerous programs and products available that can help you afford your down payment and beyond.

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# Spring Home Improvement

## Durable Décor Upgrades that Add Comfort and Style to Your Home

(StatePoint) Interior upgrades should make a big impact -- adding style and comfort to your home. They should also last a long time, even if you have a busy household, with lots of foot traffic.

To add both form and function to your living spaces, consider the following ideas.

### Paint and Decorate

Sometimes going from drab to fab is as simple as a paint job. Even if you'd like to keep your white walls, a fresh coat can make a room feel brighter, cleaner and more comfortable -- however, you may want to consider the addition of an accent wall or textured design for some pop.

Don't forget your prep work. Sanding and clean-

ing the walls helps ensure the paint applies nicely and looks great for a long time.

### Redo Your Carpeting

Soft carpeting provides luxury and comfort at once. However, homeowners who have children or pets, or whose rooms otherwise see a lot of foot traffic may wonder if there is long-term value in installing soft carpeting? The answer is yes, as these days, there are options that are durable, soft and easy to clean.

Such carpet features as permanent built-in stain and soil protection, found in options like SmartStrand Silk Reserve by Mohawk Flooring, help to maintain a carpet's beauty. Indeed, in an independent walk test, the carpeting endured 60,000 steps -- the equivalent of seven years of foot traffic --



and still remained beautiful. The carpet also comes with Mohawk's All Pet Protection and Warranty, so pet owners have long-term protection. To learn more, visit [MohawkFlooring.com](http://MohawkFlooring.com).

### Reupholster Furniture

Add beauty to your living spaces with a furniture facelift. New upholstery can add luxury and style to items

that look worn out but are actually in great structural shape. Whether you are a DIY-er or you have this task done professionally, opt for scratch-resistant, hair-repelling leathers and fabrics, especially if you have children and pets or just prefer low maintenance furniture.

Give your home a touch of comfort and style with durable floor to ceiling updates.



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## Dining Out for Life – TONIGHT Thursday, April 27, 2017 5:30 – 9 pm ...on The Verandah

Join us on Thursday evening, April 27, as we raise money for the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) which provides vital services to those living with AIDS and HIV in our community. Have dinner at On The Verandah and 20% of your bill will be donated to WNCAP.

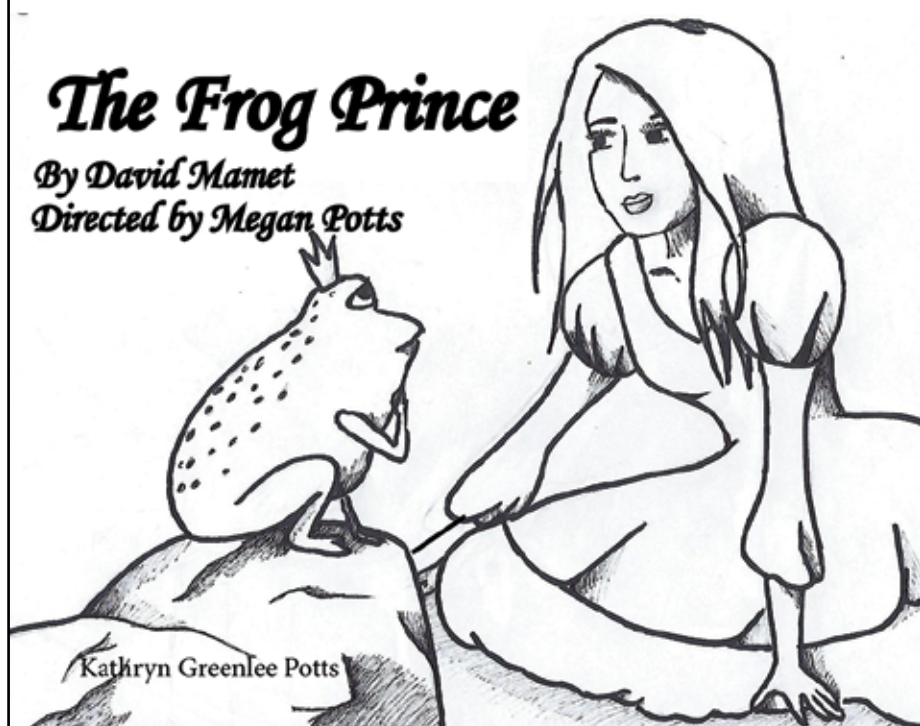
Doug Helms, Pam Nellis, and Carl Romberg — all from Landmark Realty Group in Highlands — are ambassadors for this event. They hope to see you there!



## The Frog Prince

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Directed by Megan Potts



Friday, Saturday & Sunday

April 28, 29 & 30, 2017

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# HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

HUMC Family & Fellowship Hall.

**Fri., May 19**

• At Hudson Library, a book signing and sale of "Small Adventures over Half a Century" by Ellie Harrison at 3 p.m.

**Tue., May 23**

• Vladimir Putin: New Czar or Last of a Dying Breed? 10a-noon. Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

• iOS for Intermediate Users: Learning more about the iPad and iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

**Thur., May 25**

• iOS Delving Deeper: More about the iPad & iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

**Fri., May 26**

• At the Nature Center, Salamander Meander - Ages 6-Adult • 9 pm – 10 pm • \$5. Join herpetologists on a night search to observe some of the area's salamanders in the wild. Registration is required. Don't forget to bring your flashlight! For info, call 526-2221.

**Sat., May 27**

• J. McLaughlin's on Main Street will donate 15% of their proceeds from 1pm - 4pm HUMC Family & Fellowship Hall.

**Tues.-Fri., May 30 – June 2**

• Plants-a-Plenty Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 4 - 6 • 9 am – 11 am daily • Cost \$75 per child. Highlands is a perfect place to investigate plant biodiversity. Campers will be exposed to plant and tree basics while exploring in the Highlands Botanical Garden. From flowers to ferns, the fun is never-ending!

**Tues., May 30**

• Village Nature Series: Hungry Like the Wolf - Learning About Endangered Red Wolves with Ben Prater. Co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. 5:30 PM, rain or shine. For more information contact the land trust at 526-1111 or [info.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:info.hitrust@earthlink.net).

**Wed., May 31**

• 100 Day Review of President Trump's Foreign Policy 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

**Sat., June 3**

• Reviving and Reshaping North Carolina after the Civil War, 10:00-12:00 Cost

\$25/\$35 Presenter: Stephen Nash. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

• Manna Food Bank's 2017 Blue Jean Ball. Travel by motor coach to Asheville. Depart from CLE at 4:45 Cost \$110 per person (age 21 and older). To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

• "Brushy Face Grand Opening Celebration" Come celebrate the brand new public trail on National Trails Day/Land Trust Day at one of our newly conserved properties. Bring the kids and visit environmental education stations along the way. For the more adventurous, join us for a challenging hike from our newest public property, Brushy Face, to the summit of our first property that was protected in 1909, Satulah Preserve. To learn more about this free community event visit [www.hicashlt.org](http://www.hicashlt.org).

**Sun., June 4**

• At the Nature Center, Birds of the World - All Ages • 7 pm • Free. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center (CRC) featuring live raptors from across the globe. Contributions to CRC are appreciated. For in-fo, call 526-2221.

**Mondays, June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)**

• Thinking Bridge: Play of the Hand (intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$90 Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

**Mon., June 5**

• Covert Actions of the CIA, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

**Tues.-Fri., June 6 – 9**

• Cycling Through Nature. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 6 - 9 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost \$110 per child. The natural world is very cyclical. From life cycles of plants and animals to the water cycle and even the seasons, things tend to happen in circular patterns. We will explore the richness of these cycles throughout the week.

**Tue., June 6**

• The Movies of Burt Lancaster: An American Hero, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

**Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27**

• Great American Short Novels (Novellas), 5:30-8:30 Cost \$110/\$120 Pre-



# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

sender: Brian Railsback. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

## Wed., June 7

• Mexico's Drug Wars, 2:00-4:00  
Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Erik Ching. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

• A Dining Extravaganza with Chef Johannes, Meet in the CLE parking lot

and travel by van to the Library Kitchen and Bar in Sapphire, NC 6:00-? Cost \$95/\$110. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

## Thur., June 8

• Race and War: Soldiers of Color on the Western Front, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35  
Presenter: John H. Morrow. To Register Call 526-8811 or [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com)

## ...U.S. PO continued from page 1

This makes doing business difficult.

Because physical downtown addresses aren't verifiable or considered real, instead of taking packages to the physical address of a business in town, carriers like UPS and Fed-Ex take packages to the post office as part of their "last mile" contract with it.

"You have to make us real," said Harry Bears, owner of Southern Way, The Toy Store and Bags on Main. "To function as a proper business legally and to get packages delivered to our door, we need a deliverable address that is recognized."

At Thursday's Town Board meeting, US Postal Service representatives Lisa Adams, Brian Roberts, and Phil Zimmerman of the Mid-Carolina District were on hand to hear concerns and try to come up with delivery solutions.

Turns out contracts concerning modes of delivery – rural vs. city – for the 28741 zip code were established at the national level with carriers (unions) decades even a century ago and according to the representatives, "that's not going to change."

"It's all based on how the initial delivery was set up," said Zimmerman. "You're not going to see a mailman in a suit walking with a pouch of mail door to door."

Interestingly, Old Edwards Hospitality Group gets mail delivered to its door daily which adds insult to injury for the other businesses on the same streets, but that address was established in 1888 and has been delivered since that time. However, the "new" guys in town, can't get mail delivered.

Adams suggested a "centralized delivery system" where a cluster box is set up on each street and would house mail for each address on the street.

"The carrier would have to have a dedicated space to park to safely dismount and take the mail to that cluster box," she said. "Options are limited for cluster box locations so that is the challenge."

Besides that, cluster boxes wouldn't solve the package delivery problem which concerns business owners the most. Most don't mind going to the post office for mail; they don't like ordering from vendors who ship via Fed-Ex or UPS who then say their

• See US PO page 18

## MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

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## ...K-3 from page 3

If a compromise isn't made, Macon County will need to hire six new teachers, at a cost of about \$350,000 a year, and fund five additional classrooms. With more time to plan, the new deal will address both those issues.

Local districts have been using state funds for decreased class sizes to also fund specialty classes such as art, PE and music. To address not having to cut those classes to meet the class size requirement, Senate leaders will study how to fund teachers in those subjects without jeopardizing those subjects.

The compromise hasn't passed the Senate yet, but as of Tuesday morning, was referred to the Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee. If it clears the committee, it will be sent to the Senate floor for a vote.

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

## How's the Market? Which one: Micro or Macro?

**H**ow's the market?" is a question all brokers receive incessantly. Instead of saying "great," "unbelievable," or "slow," we should ask in return: Which market?

Much of what you hear on the radio or see on the news pertaining to Real Estate is the Macro-Market which can be as large as the entire United States. To be of value, only the data, statistics and trends of your Micro-Market matter when you are buying and selling. And even in Micro-Markets, certain neighborhoods or areas or homes with certain amenities are

truly good "comps."

For instance, our younger son in Atlanta is in his late 30s, married with twins and a third child on the way. He and his wife own a 3 bedroom/2 bath home that is approximately 2,200 square feet -- small for his growing family. He wants to upgrade to the next level, but the inventory in his preferred area is so low that homes are sometimes receiving three offers the first day they are on the market and often selling above asking price. Contrast that with the inventory on the Plateau which is still high,



**Jody Lovell  
Highlands/  
Sothebys  
International  
Realty  
828-526-4104**

causing homes to remain on the market sometimes for two to three years and up.

Year to date, the number of homes sold is up 45% and volume is up 31% on the entire Plateau which includes Macon, Jackson and Transylvania counties according to statistics from the Highlands-Cashiers MLS. However, do not be fooled to think that prices have rebound-

ed to pre-recession prices. Buyers are still value focused. Yes, we have more buyers willing to buy but they still want to know that they are paying market value. Even on

the Plateau, micro-markets exist as sales are different for different clubs, for different communities and for homes with specific amenities such as a view or lakefront property, for example. Thus, next time you read an article in USA Today or hear on CNN or Fox News that the real estate market is improving or declining, ask your local broker for the real data that is relevant to you.

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty with three locations in Highlands, Cashiers and at the gate of Cullasaja Club. Highlands Sotheby's is Highlands' leading producer for the last three years according to the Highlands-Cashiers MLS. You can reach them at their main number 828-526-4104.

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# • THE INK PEN •

## So many books, so little time

Who knew that line came from Frank Zappa? I sure didn't, though I wholeheartedly agree with him. My day is not complete until I read at least a few pages in a book—usually a mystery novel—before turning out the bedside light. Oh, I read the newspaper every day, and like many of you, I read business emails and news all day long, but that's just not the same as reading a good book.

I've been a voracious reader since childhood, and I know how fortunate I am that my parents read aloud to me and took me to the library. I recall the Golden books like The Poky Little Puppy. Do you remember the Dr. Seuss books arriving in the mail? I bet many of you also read the Bobbsey Twins or perhaps The Boxcar Children, depending on your age, and graduated to Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys.

Just writing this brings other childhood books to mind: Big Red, Old Yeller, Black Beauty, Beautiful Joe. I guess we all went through a phase of reading books about animals, but I also recall The Five Little Peppers, Heidi and the Little House on the Prairie books. Many of these are still on my bookshelves.

Perhaps it was my love of reading that led me to major in English. I enjoyed all of my literature courses as an undergrad but treasured my time in the master's program where I focused on British literature. Diving into Arthurian legend and discovering Mrs. Malaprop transported me to other times and worlds. To this day, I prefer British mysteries to any other.



Kathy Manos Penn

What fun to read a mystery that imagines the discovery of a missing Shakespearean play or references the friendship of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Oscar Wilde and Bram Stoker. And if you are thinking, "Gee, get a life," I also read all the Spenser and Elvis Cole mysteries set in modern day America.

Lately, though, it's the post WWI era that holds my interest, so the Inspector Rutledge and Maisie Dobbs mysteries are current favorites. While I'm not one to pick up a history book on WWI or any other topic, I do enjoy learning from historical novels. I had only a vague idea of the devastation of WWI and its impact on Great Britain until I read these books. The Death Instinct, a story based on the 1920 bombing of Wall Street, just arrived in the mail, and I can tell from the reviews that it will give me a similar feel for how WWI altered life in America.

Before I move on to New York City, though, I'll need to finish The Messenger of Athens, a mystery set on a Greek island. I'm enjoying the descriptions of whitewashed cottages and bright blue doors with the Aegean sea in the background. As The Cat in the Hat says, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." I think he nailed it; don't you?

• Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy's website at [www.theinkpenn.com](http://www.theinkpenn.com). Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com). Join her at the Molly Grace June 17th, 11 am – 2 pm for a book signing.



## MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO SUMMER MENU 2017

MON

**JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO**  
LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS'S PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

**\$36.95**  
SERVES TWO

TUES

**OVEN OFF NIGHT**  
2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL. SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS, WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS, MOUNTAIN FRESH OIL AND VINEGAR ON THE SIDE AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A MOUNTAIN FRESH BAKERY FRENCH BAGUETTE

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**PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES & SALAD**  
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD.

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**BABY BACK RIBS**  
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD.

**\$27.95**  
SERVES TWO

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**SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED**  
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

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## ...BIZWEEK continued from page 1

Entrepreneur Networking Night VII was held at the Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands. This marks the first year that BizWeek events have been held in Highlands.

Dr. Steve Morse, Director of Hospitality and Tourism at Western Carolina University spoke on Tuesday night about the importance of the hospitality and tourism industry. Dr. Morse touted Highlands for its innovative thinking and for having the foresight to bring economic development and the tourism industry together.

The week wrapped up on Thursday with the annual BizWeek Banquet held at the Bloemsmas Barn in Franklin. Ken Flynt, Associate Dean for the College of Business at Western Carolina University was the guest speaker this year. Flynt graduated magna cum laude from WCU and earned a Master of Economics degree from NC State University. During his 36-year business career. Flynt was a bank entrepreneur,

having been CEO or founder of four commercial banks and two mortgage banks. He also served four years as Chief Economic Advisor to Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. He currently sits on several corporate boards.

Flynt spoke to the improving economy in Western North Carolina and recognized Macon County businesses such as Nantahala Bank and Entegra Bank for helping to pave the way for new businesses to grow in the region.

Flynt helped to recognize the 2017 BizWeek Banquet Honorees. Each year, the Economic Development Commission honors members of the Macon County business community for their contribution to local economy and the business culture.

This year, the EDC recognized the Franklin Health and Fitness

Center in Franklin, which after being in business for nearly 30 years recently announced an expansion of a second facility in Clayton, GA, and Mountain Fresh Grocery and Wine Market in Highlands, which has been an innovator in small town grocery and necessities for several years.

Both businesses were highlighted for their long-standing commitments to the community and for being leaders in reinventing themselves to keep up with the ever-changing business climate and always listening to customer needs to make sure their business succeeds.

Rodney Morris with the fitness center and Sherry Owens, General Manager of Mountain Fresh were each presented with a plaque for being named the 2017 BizWeek Honorees.

## ...U.S. PO continued from page 15

business address is unverifiable and therefore undeliverable.

Meanwhile, without a verifiable deliverable address, the Postal Service has contracted with FedEx and UPS by providing "last mile" delivery of their parcels. Parcels are taken to the post office which notifies box holders that a package has been delivered.

Bears said that's all and good, but when it's 20 boxes "you need a truck to get them back to your place of business and if you don't get them quick enough they are sent back to the sender not FedEx or UPS."

Google is another problem. Business owners can see their building on the Google Map, but Google Business says they don't exist – because the address isn't verifiable.

"For us to be verified as the owners of The Ugly Dog on Google Business, and therefore respond to reviews, we have to prove we exist," said Thomas Craig of the Ugly Dog Public House. "For proof, Google typically mails you a card with a code. You enter the code and are verified. But the card cannot be sent to a PO Box, only a physical address. Therein lies the problem."

Adams acknowledged that the problem may be with the post-

al service's Address Management System (AMS) which is supposed to match up with the 911 physical addresses.

"We have no connection with Google; our connection is with 911," she said.

But evidently, the AMS is behind the times when it comes to Highlands.

"If you update your AMS, I would like to be in that," said Craig. "That would solve 90% of our problem. We would be deliverable [for packages] and verifiable. Then we exist and if we exist we are going to be delivered to. That data base needs to be updated. If we are not included in it we can't get packages and we aren't considered real."

Adams said they will return to Raleigh and try to address the underlying issues many of which would be solved if the postal services AMS matched up with 911.

Mayor Taylor suggested she work with Town Manager Josh Ward and Planning Board Chairman Thomas Craig to address concerns.

"This speaks well of the town that you are here – we have a problem because we have grown. That's a good thing," said Craig.

– Kim Lewicki



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Have faith in God and pray honestly



**Pastor Curtis Fussell**  
First Presbyterian Church

All of us have to deal with limitations. Situations arise when we are limited in what we can do. We may not have enough knowledge. We may not have the skills. We may not have the power. In those times we are desperate for more personal knowledge, skill, power; but we find ourselves limited.

In those situations, it's natural to reach out desperately to God. It is natural even to beg with God. We might even blow up in bitterness and anger towards God. If such reactions occur, with faith let them run their course. Honesty before God is not a flaw. Even the Psalms teach us to pray with bold and honest words. It is good for the soul to be honest with God.

In desperate times it is good for your soul to reach out to God in honest words. Still, no matter how firmly we plead, we may not get the answer from God that we seek. We may not receive the relief we desire. Yet, in those times God gives us the gift of endurance. God gives us the gift of faith. These gifts arrive because God is with us even when we cannot see God's presence.

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 22



## HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Events and Volunteer Coordinator*

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce, located in North Carolina, is seeking a creative, self-starter to serve as the Coordinator of Events & Festivals for our progressive 300 member business organization. The successful candidate must demonstrate the following skills and qualities:

- Prior successful experience
- Organizational skills
- Communications skills
- Marketing experience
- Team Player
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- Creative / Visionary
- Skilled at mobilizing resources
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A bachelor's degree or higher is preferable, along with a minimum of three years of progressively responsible experience in developing and managing the efforts of a successful events and festivals plan / program. Salary and benefits are competitive. Please visit our website at [www.highlandschamber.org](http://www.highlandschamber.org) for information on our organization and beautiful community.

Send a cover letter expressing your interest along with resume, references, work samples, and salary history electronically in a Word document format by  
**Saturday, June 3, 2017**  
to: [president@highlandschamber.org](mailto:president@highlandschamber.org)

## Proverbs 3:5

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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,  
10:45am: Worship Service  
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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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](http://fpchighlands.org)  
Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30  
Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast  
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

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, 6:30 p.  
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 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

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### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
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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

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
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### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418  
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

### 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

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

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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a  
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Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.  
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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## • POLICE & FIRE •

The Highlands Police log entries from April 11. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

**April 11**

**Window and Door Problems?**

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• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Rec Park parking lot.

**April 19**

• At 11:32 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

• At 11 p.m., officers were called to the Ugly Dog on S. 4th Street concerning a verbal argument.

**April 21**

• At 8 a.m., officers were called about criminal damage to property and trespassing at a residence on N. 5th Street where a window was broken.

**April 23**

• At 6:30 p.m., officers responded to a breaking and entering at a residence on Hudson Road where household items valued at more than \$3,750 were taken.

**April 24**

• At 1:30 p.m., officers were called about a simple physical assault and communicating threats between two men at Cleveland Realty on N. 4th Street.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 19.**

**April 19**

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Drive West.

• The dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

**April 20**

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Apple Lake Lane.

## ...HF&W from page 8

events Friday and Saturday ticket holders are offered a glass of wine at participating retail shops.

Last year, numerous Sip n' Stroll participants were seen walking the streets of Highlands with their glasses of wine, but this year Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said there will be a zero tolerance for those who break Highlands open-container law by leaving participating shops with wine in hand.

At least 700 ticket holders are expected for Saturday's signature open-air event – The Main Event on Main Street – which will feature edibles like oysters, stews and small plates by local and James Beard Award-winning chefs, wine, craft beer and spirits which will be available from small tents situated along the street. Live music will take place on the Main Stage at one end of the street. Since this will be an open-air event, Chairman of the Chamber Tony Potts said people without tickets can gather nearby or sit on the lawn of the Presbyterian Church to listen to the music.

Chief Harrell said four off duty police officers will be paid by the Chamber to be on scene from 10a to 3p and two will control traffic during the Main Event and the Gospel Brunch. Festival staff and volunteers will oversee barricade openings, check IDs and tickets at all locations.

Though the sidewalks along Main between 4th and 5th will be open to pedestrian traffic during the Main Event, the street will be closed to parking and through traffic and barricades will be set up along the perimeter of the street.

Commissioners OK'd the closing of South Street 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 12, to through traffic for the Gospel Brunch but people will be able to turn vehicles around in the office building parking lot at the corner of South and 5th Street.

— Kim Lewicki



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## THE MOUNTAIN FRESH PIZZA

**DEPARTMENT** has two positions available for the 2017 summer season. Candidates must be energetic and team oriented. Positions require a range of skills including customer service, food prep, utility assis-

tance and line cook. Evening coverage needed. Please contact Mountain Fresh Grocery at 526-2400 and speak with Missy or stop by in person at the corner of 5th and Main.

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and the Internet/willingness to be trained. Two (2) years of increasingly responsible related experience, or any equivalent combination of related education and experience. Must type a minimum of 50 words per minute. A full job description and applications are available at the Town Office or on-line at the Town's website: [www.highlandscnc.org](http://www.highlandscnc.org). Application deadline is Friday, April 28, 2017. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (4/28)

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED BARTENDERS & WAIT STAFF.

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**FURNITURE MAKERS/TRIM CARPENTERS/CABINET INSTALLERS** for full-time work in High-end cabinet shop in Highlands, NC. Please send resume to: [info@warthconstruction.com](mailto:info@warthconstruction.com). (st. 3/2)

**WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT** looking for experienced waitstaff, bartender and bus person. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 (st. 3/2)

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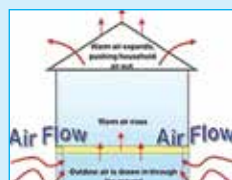
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## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 19

Leonard Sweet in his book, "Soul Salsa," tells the story of how one tribe of Native Americans taught their young boys about the essence of the tribe. When a boy turned thirteen years of age, he was led out into the wilderness to spend the night alone. Up to that time in their lives, the young boys had enjoyed the security of their elders. Yet on that night, the boys were blindfolded and taken miles away. When each one took off his blindfold, he found himself in the middle of the woods -alone. The boy was dependent on nothing but the good will of the Great Spirit -and his own survival skills.

You can imagine what a terrifying night that was for those young boys. Their minds would magnify every sound in the woods. Every shadow would appear to be a fearful monster.

The boy would have to endure the night. But when the morning came there was a surprise. With the first rays of the morning sun, the boy would see his father just a few feet away, armed with bow and arrow. All through the night his father guarded him with weapons in hand. The essence of the tribe was this: someone was with you in trying times.

This story illustrates the manner in which we experience life in the tribe of God. There are times when we will feel alone. There are times when fearful monsters will assail us and we will feel powerless. At such times have faith in God. Stand firm. Pray honestly. You are not alone. God is with you guarding you against destruction. Have hope and have faith in God.





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