

# Highlands Newspaper

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

Thurs., April 19, 2018

## What to do if the unthinkable happens

*Highlands PD hosts training seminar on surviving an active shooter situation*

By Brian O'Shea

In their day-to-day activities, people rarely expect anything unusual to disrupt their routine. But that's what mass shootings

in large and small cities and towns do – and rarely are those involved related in any way to the shooter's agenda; they just happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on April 26 the Highlands Police Department will host a seminar on Civilian Response to Active Shooter

• See **SHOOTER** page 14

### Skateboarding at the Rec Park!



Finneas Garner working it at the park. It will reopen on Saturday after the concrete is stained. – Photo by Rachel Kinback

### A 'colorful' 5K Run



The Highlands School annual Color Run Sat., April 14, was a fundraiser for the freshmen and sophomore classes. Money raised will be used to help offset prom and graduation expenses.

## Board of Ed may request funding for mental health staffing

The Macon County Board of Education has been working on the budget for next school year since the beginning of the year, but recent events have led them to change direction in terms of needs.

During a budget work session last week, Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said after the shooting in Parkland, FL in February, the district has re-evaluated the physical safety of the school system, which has changed capital outlay needs, as well as staffing concerns, to address a lack of school counselors and mental health professionals districtwide.

Jim Deni a professor at Appalachian State University and past president of the N.C. School Psychology Association recently ad-

• See **BOARD of ED** page 15

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Last Friday morning, the town's new Christmas tree was planted in K-H Founders Park. – Photo by Brian O'Shea

## Christmas comes early to the K-H Founders Park

At the urging of Commissioner John Dotson, a new Christmas Tree has been found, transported and erected in K-H Founders Park.

During the January Town Board meeting, Commissioner Dotson said the current 20-ft. tree

the town acquired through a donation in 2016 "is a disgrace to the town; an embarrassment."

"We need to consider getting another live Christmas Tree that looks like a Christmas Tree

• See **CHRISTMAS** page 14

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Litter pick-up, voting, and more

I have been in my workshop this week fabricating pickup sticks for the anticipated hordes of volunteers for the Highlands Plateau Pickup. Please join us this Saturday, April 21. Call the Highlands Chamber at 526-2112 and sign-up. Volunteers will begin to assemble around 9:30 a.m. to get equipment and assignments. The pickup starts at 10 a.m. At noon all participants are invited for a picnic lunch at Founders Park. See you at the Highland Chamber Visitors Center on the corner of 1st and Main streets on Saturday morning.

There are several activities getting underway as the town moves into spring. Let me urge voters to take advantage of the One Stop Voting precinct at the Highlands Recreation Department. It begins today and runs through 1 p.m. on May 5. Election Day is May 8. Whether you take advantage of early voting, or vote on Election Day, please exercise the right to express your preference for candidates seeking public office.

The Jackson County Sheriff Department and the Highlands Police Department



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

ment will be conducting an active shooter training workshop on the evening of April 26 at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The 2-hour program begins at 6:30 p.m. I hope all organizations and individuals will take advantage of this important opportunity.

Tonight is the April Town Broad meeting starting at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field.

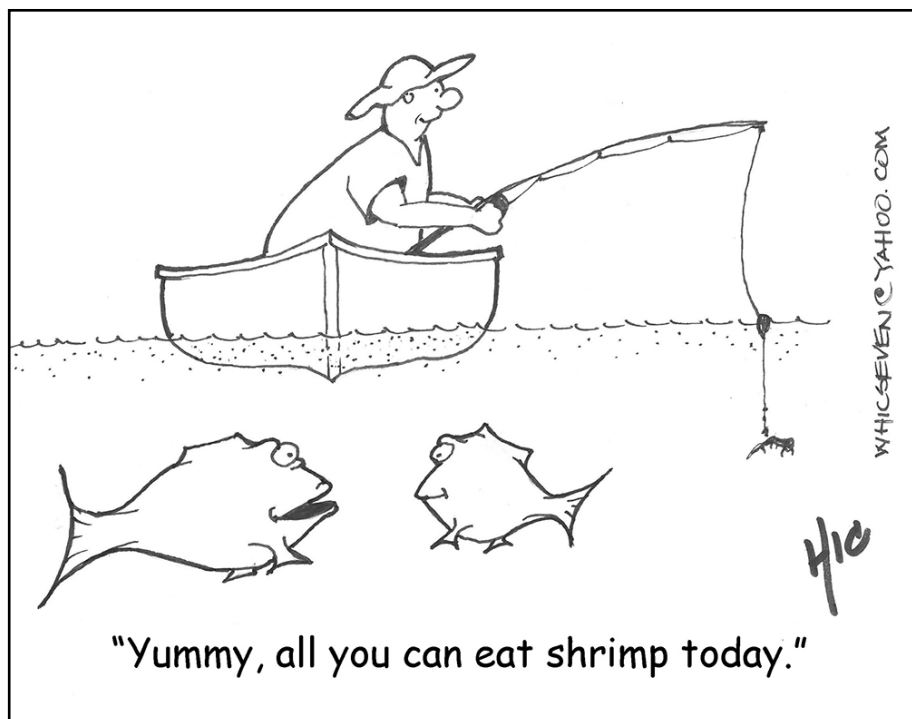
A team from Mission Healthcare will give the board an update on the plans for Mission to merge with Hospital Corporation of America. This agenda item will not be a community forum, but rather an informational session for Town Board members who may have follow-up questions. I anticipate Mission will hold community events for public information and input as the process continues.

Two ordinance changes will be reviewed. One change concerns the lowering of impoundments and new application procedures. If a home owner, or association, operates a lake within the town limits, permitting has to be done before the lake can be lowered by releasing water downstream. This ordinance change would require approval letters from regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction.

Another ordinance change would be permitting new boat docks on Lake Sequoyah. The current ordinance prohibits

• See MAYOR page 14

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • LETTERS •

### New columnist brings new dimesion

Dear Editors:

Bud Katz' column the "Future of the Veterans Administration" in the April 5th edition was succinct and thought provoking.

It makes the reader say, "Wow, so obvious! Why didn't anyone think of that before?" Seriously, with all the high priced think tanks in Washington and Congressional committees studying the VA, you would think someone would have come up with this solution.

Bud Katz is welcome new voice in the Highlands Newspaper. His research is thorough and his writing is very professional. I look forward to his next column!

Kathy Smith  
Highlands

## • WEATHER •

### 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.

	Friday 4/20		Saturday 4/21		Sunday 4/22	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
						
Temp ○	62 F	30 F	61 F	36 F	57 F	41 F
RealFeel® ○	72 F	30 F	67 F	41 F	56 F	42 F
Winds ○	4 g 7	4 g 6	6 g 9	4 g 7	8 g 13	10 g 15
T-Storms ○	0%	0%	0%	2%	7%	7%
Rainfall ○	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snowfall ○	0	0	0	0	0	0

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# • OBITUARIES •

## Vellamae Hicks Potts

Vellamae Hicks Potts, 95, of Highlands passed away Tuesday, April 2, 2018. Born in Rabun County, GA she was the daughter of the late Joe and Samantha Ridley Hicks. She was married to John S. Potts who preceded her in death in 1999.

Mrs. Potts was a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

She was a wonderful cook and showed hospitality to friends and neighbors by warmly welcoming them into her home to share a home-cooked meal. She was immediately loved by all who met and knew her. She enjoyed spending her free hours gardening and growing beautiful flowers.



Mrs. Potts was actively involved in First Presbyterian Church, where she was a member, making calls to people who were sick and visiting those who were shut-in.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Kremser (Buddy) of Satolah, GA; sons, Terry Potts (Karin) and Robby Potts all of Highlands; grandchildren, Kirtis Kremser, Laura Zoellner, Timothy Ryan Potts (Meegan), Christopher Michael Potts (Kelly), Lauren Brittany Potts Casper (David), John Robert Potts and Arthur Potts; great-grandchildren, Ezra Zoellner, Sage Potts, Brionna Potts, Alexis Potts, Jameson Potts, Greyson Potts, Declan Potts, Ivy Fielding, Jade Fielding, Abigail "Abbie" Casper and Landon Casper and a sister, Alvena "Dinky" Bowers of Clayton, GA.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Frank Stephen Potts; four sisters, Levada Welborn, Elvira Owens, Volena Hughes and Velzie Rogers and two brothers, Leonard Hicks and Lemond Hicks.

A memorial service was held Sunday, April 15, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church Highlands. Burial followed at Highlands Memorial Park.

Online condolences are available at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Potts family.

• See FUNDRAISERS page 6



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- **iOS DELVING DEEPER: More about the iPad and iPhone:** Tuesday, May 29 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **BASIC PHOTOEDITING FOR iOS:** Thursday, May 31 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **SIRI:** Tuesday, June 12 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **APPLE MUSIC:** Thursday, June 14 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **iOS APPLICATIONS:** Tuesday, June 26 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **iPAD PRO:** Tuesday, July 10 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **STAY SAFE ON THE INTERNET:** Thursday, July 12 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **APPLE COMPUTERS (Part 1):** Tue./Thur., July 17/19 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **APPLE COMPUTERS (Part 2):** Tue./Thur., July 24/26 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **PHOTOS FOR APPLE COMPUTERS:** Tuesday, July 31 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **iOS FOR BEGINNERS (at a slower pace):** Tue./Thur., Aug. 7/9 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **iOS FOR INTERMEDIATE USERS (at a slower pace):** Tue./Thur., Aug. 21/23 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$135/\$150
- **BASIC PHOTOEDITING FOR iOS:** Tuesday, August 28 Cost \$75/\$85
- **ADVANCED PHOTOEDITING FOR iOS:** Thursday, August 30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **STAY SAFE ON THE INTERNET:** Tuesday, September 11 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **SIRI:** Thursday, September 13 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **APPLE MUSIC:** Tuesday, September 18 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85
- **iOS UPDATES:** Thursday, October 25 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85



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## • HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONCEPTS •

### Can't find enough time to exercise? Reduce anxiety anytime, anywhere with this simple breathing practice

Breathing exercises are a wonderful way to reduce anxiety, agitation and stress while promoting relaxation, calm and inner peace. Like any practice that we'd like to benefit from, it requires a commitment to achieve results. The long-term benefits, however, are well worth the effort - a calm and relaxed body and mind are not only less prone to health issues, but are absolutely necessary for a life filled with inspiration and joy!

The science behind the benefits of a breathing practice is also quite simple. When we choose to consciously control the rhythm and duration of our inhales and exhales, we can dramatically increase the amount of fresh oxygen that comes into our body, while we fully expel stale carbon dioxide that our bodies don't need. This is one reason that we feel so great after we exercise - an increased amount of fresh oxygen strongly influences our physiology, thought processes and moods - all for the better.

By simply focusing your attention on your breathing, you are able to move your body and mind closer to clarity, relaxation, inner peace and true joy. We all know how easy it is to get trapped in a chain of unproductive thoughts that cause anxiety, guilt and unhappiness. Now, whenever you find yourself "going there," you will have a simple and effective method that you can use anywhere and anytime - while driving, waiting in line, at work or at home. The practice of paying attention to your breath will allow you to deeply relax and shift your perception from trying to control outcomes (yes - we all do it!) to accepting the larger reality and inherent beauty of simply "what is." With this shift of perception, we are often able to understand situations with greater compassion and clarity, resulting in less anxiety about the way things "should be" and clearer direction on what we need to do to create the happiness we seek in our lives.

The name of this breathing exercise is the 4-7-8 breath. It is utterly simple, takes almost no time, requires no equipment and can be done anywhere. Although you can do the exercise in any position, it is best if you sit with your back straight while learning the exercise. As you allow your body to relax, gently place the tip of your tongue against the ridge of tissue just behind your upper front teeth, and keep it there through the entire exercise. You will be exhaling through your mouth around your tongue; you can try pursing your lips slightly if this seems awkward.

1. Exhale completely through your mouth, making a whoosh sound.
2. Close your mouth and inhale quietly through your



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nose to a mental count of four.

3. Hold your breath for a count of seven.

4. Exhale completely through your mouth, making a whoosh sound to a count of eight.

5. This is one breath.

6. Now inhale again and repeat the cycle three more times for a total of four breaths.

Note that you always inhale quietly through your nose and exhale audibly through your mouth. The tip of your tongue stays in position the whole time. Exhalation takes twice as long as inhalation. The absolute time you spend on each

phase is not important; but the ratio of 4:7:8 is.

If you have trouble holding your breath, speed the exercise up but keep to the ratio of 4:7:8 for the three phases. With practice you can slow it all down and get used to inhaling and exhaling more and more deeply.

Practice at least twice a day. You cannot do it too frequently, but for best results only practice four breaths at one time for the first month. Later, if you wish, you can extend it to eight breaths. If you feel a little lightheaded when you first breathe this way, don't be concerned; it will pass as you continue your practice. Simply allow yourself to relax fully in the moment and return to normal breathing as you complete your breathing practice. As you return to your activities, you will find your body relaxed, your mind refreshed, and your heart renewed.

### ... OBITUARIES from page 5 Stephen Eugene Ross

Stephen Eugene Ross, 56, of Highlands passed away Sunday, April 8, 2018. Born in Point Pleasant, NJ, he was the son of Eugene Thomas and Shirley Myers Ross.

Mr. Ross worked for many years at Old Edwards Inn in Highlands, NC. He was very gifted with animals and reptiles. After becoming a Christian he sought ways to serve the Lord.

Survivors include two sisters, Laura Wolverton (Kim) of Winston Salem and Kathleen Ross Bryden of Florida; two nieces; one nephew and two great-nieces.

A celebration of life service will be held at 7 pm, Thursday, April 19, 2018 at Highlands First Assembly of God



• See OBITUARIES page 8



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## ... OBITUARIES continued from page 6

Church with Rev. Kim Wolverton officiating. The family will receive friends Thursday from 6-7 pm prior

to the service at the church.

Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.

com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family of Stephen Eugene Ross.

## Jim Crawford

Jim Crawford, of Braselton, GA, went to be with the Lord on April 7, 2018 at the age of 68, after a year-long cancer journey. Jim will be forever remembered as a devoted husband and father by his wife and best friend of 43 years, Kathey, and his two sons, Eric (Cindy), and Ryan (Jessica). He was an awesome "Pa" to three grandchildren, Charlie, Clark, and Quinn Crawford. He will also be fondly remembered by his sister, Betty (Don), and many other extended family members and dear friends. He was predeceased by his father, James Henry Crawford, his mother, Mattie Crawford, and his older brother, Charles Crawford.

Jim was originally from Highlands, NC. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Mars Hill College, in Mars Hill, NC and completed a Master of Arts degree at the University of Alabama. He was first employed as a teacher and coach in Charlotte, NC and later went to Georgia as headmaster of George Walton Academy. He entered the business world in 1984 as a Residential Marketing Representative at Walton EMC in Monroe, GA and then moved to Jackson EMC in Jefferson, GA as a Commercial and Industrial Marketing Representative.

He became Director of Corporate Affairs for Jackson EMC in 1988 and from 1992 until his retirement in 2016 served as Vice President of Customer and District Services.

A celebration of Jim's life was held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at North Metro Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, GA with Dr. Frank Cox officiating. A graveside service was held on Friday, April 13 at Highlands Memorial Park, Memorial Park Drive, Highlands, NC.

Memorial donations for Jim may be given to Hope for the Journey Cancer Ministry, North Metro Baptist Church, 1026 Old Peachtree Road, NE, Lawrenceville, GA 30043.

To express condolences, sign the online guest book at [www.flaniganfuneralhome.com](http://www.flaniganfuneralhome.com); Arrangements by: Junior E. Flanigan of Flanigan Funeral Home and Crematory, Buford, GA

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory was in charge of local arrangements. Online condolences are available at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## Sign up for 'brick' by May 1

On Saturday May 26 another 40 memorial bricks will be added to the 67 at the Veterans Memorial Park in front of the Highlands Police Station on Oak Street.

The deadline for signing up for a brick for installation on Sat., May 26 is May 1st.

For applications and information, contact Bill Edwards, 404-915-1344.





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# • WORD MATTER •

## Is it Time to Repeal a Constitutional Amendment?

Were I to stand on the corner of 4th and Main in Highlands and ask passers-by the meaning of the First Amendment I have no doubt most would know at least part of which rights it confers on American citizens; freedom of speech, freedom with regard to religious affiliation, freedom of assembly. All of these rights come with limitations.

Were I to ask about the Second Amendment most would immediately know it confers a fundamental right to keep and bear arms. There are limits on gun ownership as well, although some might wish there were either more or fewer of those limits.

Were I to ask about the Third Amendment, I doubt one in one hundred has the faintest idea which rights it confers on the citizens of our great nation. The Third Amendment has virtually no relevance in modern America, yet the framers of the U.S. Constitution thought, at the time, in 1787 when the document was drafted, it was important enough to be placed behind only perhaps the two most important amendments to a document still modeled by fledgling nations all over the world.

As drafted, the Third Amendment restricts the quartering of soldiers in private homes without consent of the owner, and forbids the practice entirely during peacetime.

Why, you may ask, is this important enough to offer for your consideration in this particular space and at this particular time? That's the point. It isn't.

It mattered greatly in 1787. We all know Gen. George Washington slept in a whole bunch of what were then private homes during the American Revolution. I'm sure he was a model guest and left those private homes in at least as tidy and fine a shape as he found them when he arrived. I mean, he was George Washington, right?

It's entirely possible, however, some of those of a lesser station serving in the Continental Army who knocked on



**Bud Katz**

the door, invited themselves in and took over someone's PRIVATE residence were, let's just say it, not as polite or as decorous as their commanding general.

The Third Amendment is, in reductive terms, an historical artifact. What it protects individual citizens from would not happen today even in the highly unlikely event foreign foot soldiers mounted an attack on our

homeland. There are operational military bases virtually everywhere, and there are much more serious threats in this, the nuclear age.

While the First Amendment guarantees individuals the free exercise of their religion there would no doubt be loud outcry were human or even animal sacrifice practiced in the name of God, as was the case in Old Testament times.

Even under the broadest definition of our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, individuals are not legally able to own tanks, grenade launchers, grenades, fully automatic weapons, and a range of other "weapons of war."

Of all 27 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, only the Third Amendment has never been presented for consideration to Supreme Court of the United States.

When framers of the established the uniquely American system of checks and balances they entrusted certain rights and responsibilities to each of the three branches of government. This system, mostly, has worked since the Constitution was put into effect on March 4, 1789. Intelligent people can debate specifics involving arcane notions of right and wrong, fairness, propriety and other such fluid notions. But, the system is the one we have and for the most part it works.

I am not a lawyer, constitutional or otherwise. But it's important to know this, good citizens ... if someone wearing stripes, bars, clusters or stars knocks on your door and attempts to commandeer your PRIVATE home for his or her own nefarious purposes, here's what you do. First, after locking your door you can, under your First Amendment right to free

• See WORD MATTER page 17

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# • ALL ABOUT BOOKS •

## Who likes a good mystery?

If I were asked to confine my reading to only one genre, I'd be forced to choose mystery. I read other genres but return again and again to mysteries. Possibly my all-time favorite mystery writer is Robert B. Parker.

His first mystery, written in 1973, was "The Godwulf Manuscript." Thus began the Spenser series, which stretched to 41.5 books before Parker's death in 2010. Why 41.5? Because his long-time editor finished "Silent Night," the book Parker was working on when he died at his typewriter. Since then, Ace Atkins has continued the series.

Spenser is a Boston PI, who introduces himself as "Spenser, with an S, like the poet." It's not many hard-boiled PIs who are familiar with a sixteenth-century poet. As an English major, I smiled each time I read his intro. I think of Spenser as a renaissance man: a well-read gour-

met cook who's tough enough to handily wrestle bad guys. As the series progresses, the regular characters include Hawk, Susan Silverman—the girlfriend—and Pearl, the wonder dog.

Parker's pithy writing style and Spenser's way with words hooked me. I envied Spenser's ability to come up with a fast, witty retort to anything thrown his way, and wished I could be as quick with a response to a snarky insult or question. I don't know about you, but my responses always come to mind much later as "I should have said ..."

In the 80s, I enjoyed the television series, "Spenser: for Hire" starring Robert Urich and years later the TV movies starring Joe Mantegna. My recommendation? Check out the books and then hit the films.



**Kathy Manos Penn**

Parker didn't stop with Spenser. He went on to develop several other memorable characters, though they didn't star in quite as many books. First up was Jesse Stone in "Night Passage," set in Paradise, Massachusetts, a small coastal town not far from Boston. Jesse is a flawed Los Angeles transplant who loses his job on the LA police force and is hired to be Police Chief in Paradise. I not only fell in love with the books but also the TV movies starring Tom Selleck. What's not to love about Tom Selleck? Parker wrote nine Jesse Stone novels, and upon his death, others continued the series.

Then, there's Sunny Randall, who first appeared in 2000 in "Family Honor." For me, the fact that Parker wrote only six of these books was a huge disappointment.

Sunny quits the police force to become a PI, possibly because her ex-husband comes from a mob family. She has the same way with words that Spenser has plus a dog she shares with her ex.

Parker wrote the first book for Helen Hunt, who was a fan of his other books, and there was a movie deal in the works. I'm sad to say the deal never came to fruition.

If you're not a mystery fan, you may be interested in Parker's Western series about Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch, lawmen in a mining/ranching town. My husband got hooked on those, and the first book, "Appaloosa," was made into a 2008 movie starring Ed Harris with Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger, and Jeremy Irons. Once again, another author picked up the series.

The fact that the Spenser, Jesse

• See ALL ABOUT BOOKS page 17

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# Highlands businesses to get a face lift with issuance of SUPs

Plans for renovations and new construction for three cases previewed by the Planning Board last month got the green light and the required Special Use Permits from the Zoning Board of Adjustment last week.

All exterior alternations to a commercial building or new commercial construction requires a SUP.

There were three projects on the agenda. The first was a request to replace canvas awnings with wooden awnings on the Main and Fifth street sides of the Whatley building on the corner of 5th and Main and to erect a privacy fence along the Wolfgang's side. The wall will begin 15 feet back from where the walkway meets the public sidewalk.

Owner Darren Whatley said the privacy wall will keep people from knocking on the door of the private residence located behind the building's two tenants – Pro Nails and Berkshire Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty.

The second request was for extensive exterior changes to the front of the building at 464 Main Street which is along the west side of the Wolfgang property.

The upstairs interior has been gutted and will be renovated to accommodate four apartments – one, two-bedroom and three, one-bedrooms. The SUP wasn't needed for the interior renovations, but it was needed for the façade change as well as the addition of a covered deck off the back which will extend partly over the parking lot in the back.

Planning Director Andrew Bowen said since it is extending over an impervious area there is no change in the built-upon ratio but it is an exterior addition and so was part of the SUP application.

On the front, the roof line will be extended vertically and new windows and rock work will be installed.

Everyone, including the audience, thought the changes to the façade will greatly improve the look of the building and will be an asset to Main Street. Of concern to Mindy Green, co-owner of Wolfgang's Restaurant and owners of Smitten was the potential disruption of business due to construction just as the season is about to start.

However, the town's Unified Development Code (UDO) offers the protection needed in that regard.

"All construction activities requiring the use of public sidewalks and or public parking spaces that are conducted within the B-1 zoning district shall be carried out between the dates of November 1 and April 30, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the issuance of a permit from the Town Manager.

"To complete ongoing construction activity, the Town Manager may grant an extension to the permit beyond April 30."

However, Architect Jeff Weller said it's unlikely the exterior job will begin before April 30. So nothing can begin on the front until Nov. 1.

The upstairs apartments can be constructed, however, but Weller said all activity will enter and exit to the rear of the building that fronts Oak Street so as not to disrupt business on the Main Street side.

The third case was for a partly open new building to be construction in Reeves' building supply storage area bordered by Helen's Barn Ave, Second and Spring streets.

The new 10,000 sq. ft. building will house lumber and building materials currently left exposed to the elements.

The Planning Board requested the Zoning Board to make sure the current impervious footprint stay intact so that the 70% coverage stays the same and that all exterior colors and materials adhere to those outlined in the town's UDO.

Currently, the lot is covered with gravel which is considered an impervious material. It will be replaced with concrete – also an impervious material – to eliminate dust and dirt.

In the SUP issuance, the Zoning Board stipulated that the Planning Board's recommendations be included as well as a request from Zoning Board Member Bud Rogers that the chain-link fence along the Spring Street side be repaired and the vegetative buffer be replanted. He asked that the dying Leeland Cyprus trees be removed and replaced with native trees.

– Kim Lewicki

**Larry Rogers**

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## Tips to Protect Birds in Your Yard and Garden

(StatePoint) One of the best parts of backyard living in the warmer months is all the potential for bird watching that comes with it. You may have even installed a birdfeeder in your garden in an attempt to attract more birds to your property.

But did you know, your home poses dangerous risks to the birds that visit your yard and garden? Window strikes are common among many species of migrating birds, and millions of wild birds are killed annually flying into windows.

Whether you are an avid amateur ornithologist or just a casual observer of feathered friends in flight, by taking precautions your home need not be part of the problem.

Take advantage of the fact that birds can see certain light frequencies that humans cannot to make windows visible to birds in a way that won't obstruct your own view. Doing so can be a simple home project completed in just an afternoon.

Try applying UV decals and UV liquid to your home's windows and sliding glass doors. Those from WindowAlert, for example, have been proven to effectively



alter the flight path of birds to prevent window strikes. While the coating will look like etched glass to the human eye, it will look very visible to a bird. As UV reflectivity may fade over time, it's important to replace the decals and liquid every four months. Application techniques can be

found by visiting WindowAlert.com.

"Turning your home into a refuge for birds is a simple way to save lives and protect the creatures that beautify your yard and, in the case of hummingbirds, pollinate your garden," says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert.

Schock also recommends planting trees, shrubs and flowers that provide birds with nourishment and shelter, as well as paying attention to pet cats when they are outdoors, to ensure they don't hunt the birds that visit.

This season, be a better friend to birds by taking a few simple measures in your home and garden.

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# Spring Home Improvement

## 3 Home Projects That Offer a Great Return on Investment

(StatePoint) The warmer months present an excellent opportunity to get outdoors and spruce up your home's exterior. But if you have limited time and resources, it's important to prioritize the focus of your efforts.

For guidance, consider Remodeling Magazine's 2018 Cost vs. Value Report, which shows that not all remodeling projects are equal.

Here are three spring renovation ideas that will give your property not only a facelift, but offer a great return on investment to boot.

### Garage Door

National data from the 2018 Cost vs. Value Report shows that the project that delivers the highest return on investment is a new upscale garage door. This is a good choice for those looking for better noise control, greater security, curb appeal and convenience.

Newer offerings relying on smart home tech-

nology can synch with your mobile device to offer conveniences like voice control and notifications when you've left the garage door open.

### Manufactured Stone Veneer

In the number two slot for sound renovation investments, according to the same report, is manufactured stone veneer, which is a great way to add visual interest to your home exterior (or an interior room, for that matter).



Be sure to select products that mimic the texture and color of natural stone, such as the choices from ProVia, which are molded and cast to look like stone harvested from various U.S. geographic regions

and are offered in a variety of style and color palettes. The manufacturer offers resources that help make it easy to select and install the best choice for your home or get the look you've always

• See RETURN page 15



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## ... MAYOR continued from page 2

them. The proposed ordinance would allow new, small docks built with environmentally safe materials. Materials like creosoted or pressure treated posts would be prohibited.

The bears are stirring, so please follow good practices. For example, do not leave food in vehicles. Also, place trash in bear resistant containers. Let me clarify one issue. Reeves Hardware sells a 64-gallon bear resistant container. Town policy is that only 35-gallon trash containers can be used by residents. The rationale is that containers over 35 gallons are almost impossible for workers to lift and empty. But, a larger container is acceptable if it has a metal bar that allows the truck to mechanically lift it. The Reeves containers have the bar and are acceptable. The 35-gallon bear resistant containers are available online and from other sources.

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**2018 Town of Highlands**  
**Scholarship Information**  
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1. Reminder: The Town of Highlands Scholarship Application Deadline is April 15th. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.
2. Highlands Annual Three River Fly Fishing Tournament April 26 – 28, 2018.
3. Highlands Own Craft Show Friday & Saturday, October 12 – 13, 2018.

All funds raised benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. Applications can be accessed at [www.highlandshnc.org](http://www.highlandshnc.org) or picked up at Town Hall. For more information, feel free to contact Rebecca Shuler, Town Clerk at 828.526.2118.

## ... CHRISTMAS TREE continued from page 1

that we can maintain and groom – something we can be proud of,” he said, kicking off the discussion. “Either have a cut tree of substantial size each year or plant a bigger tree than what we have now.”

The current tree was planted too late in the season and suffered from the severe drought of 2016 which hampered its growth substantially. In addition, the embankment where the tree now resides, isn’t conducive to its growth due to the underlying granite.

So, the search began for a new tree. Commissioner Brian Stiehler, Golf Course Superintendent for Highlands Country Club and Commissioner Dotson went to Morganton, NC to a Norway Spruce grower. They walked a couple fields and selected a 28-foot

Norway Spruce.

“I personally feel Norway Spruce is the ideal tree in Highlands for a number of reasons. One, it will grow to become a big tree. And second, it isn’t prone to the many fungal diseases and insect issues that other spruce and fir species are prone to,” he said. “Anyone who ever bought a balled and burlapped Frazier fir for their Christmas tree and planted it after Christmas knows how it looked a year later.”

He said Blue Spruce have similar issues and said many see the Norway Spruce as the tree that will replace Hemlocks.

Everyone had high hopes for the first tree – that it would not only thrive but reach an acceptable height – but Stiehler said this time

around the Norway Spruce has a couple of things going for it.

“One, it’s being planted at a good time of year. Second, the site is better suited compared to the rocky site of the last tree. However, it is imperative that it stay irrigated and the root ball remains damp,” he said.

He will encourage the town to invest in a water bag/ring that hold about 20 gallons of water to supplement the time-consuming and rigorous watering procedure that will be necessary for the tree’s survival.

The final bill isn’t in yet, but the approximate \$12,000 it cost to buy, transport and transplant the tree was donated by Art and Angela Williams.

– Kim Lewicki

## ... SHOOTER continued from page 1

Events (CRASE) at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 315 Main Street. All are welcome.

“This course that we’re putting on is extremely important and vital to our community and will enhance the life expectancy of those involved in the event of this happening,” said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell.

The training seminar will include strategies and guidance, how to plan for an active shooter situation and plans for survival. Training will be provided by the HPD and the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office. Harrell said he will be sending other HPD officers to be trained in the instruction of this course but the closest date is not until later this year and he doesn’t want to wait that long to educate the public on how to handle these types of tragic situations.

As far as who should attend, Harrell said the public is welcome, including children if their guardian feels they are of the appropriate age.

“It’s tragic that we have to think like this,” said Harrell. “I don’t even go to church anymore without carrying [a firearm] because church leadership asked me

to.”

Highlands School Resource Officer Josh Greenley said this type of training is very beneficial to students. Knowing that any day the unthinkable could happen is a mindset that helps keep students more aware of their environment.

“I don’t want students to be walking around freaking out, but you need to be aware that unfortunately these situations happen,” said Greenley. “Having the mindset that not every day will be the same, and that bad things can happen is important.”

He added that he has a solid group of older students at the school who keep an eye out and let him know if something is going on such as bullying.

“Faculty and students don’t want to be seen as snitches, but for the most part they let me know if a kid is acting funny,” said Greenley. “The older ones [students] are at an age where they can help protect the little ones.”

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said all Macon County School principals have had active shooter training and says as a deterrent it’s important.

“We held the same training at

the school during a faculty meeting a few weeks ago for all our employees. The training’s content and its purpose are the biggest determinants for value,” he said.

Town of Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor supports this type of training for the community as a whole.

“In the past, we’ve always felt like we were an insular community, but with recent events no one is immune to tragic gun violence,” said Taylor. “We think it’s important for people to be prepared in case it happens.”

He said town employees have been trained in these types of scenarios but he wants this training to be extended to the community.

“It’s unlikely that something like this will happen, but we have to be prepared,” he said.

A similar training recently took place in Franklin. Mike Anderson, community development and training manager for the N.C. Center for Safer Schools, part of the state’s Dept. of Public Instruction, partnered with the MC Sheriff’s Department over Spring Break to conduct active shooter training at East Franklin Elementary School.

## ... BOARD of ED continued from page 1

dressed state leaders saying one in five North Carolina children has a mental health or substance use disorder and 75 percent will not receive treatment in the current system.

School systems across the state are understaffed in terms of mental health professionals. North Carolina has about one school psychologist for every 2,100 students, and the nationally recommended ratio is one for every 700 students.

For Macon County Schools, there are three full-time and two part-time school psychologists responsible for the district's 4,500 students. There are two social workers assigned in the schools -- one per 2,250 students. Macon County Schools employees 10 full-time and one part-time school counselor(s).

One counselor is provided for each school. FHS and South Macon Elementary have one counselor per 450-500 students. Macon Middle School and Mountain View Intermediate have one counselor per 600 students.

"If Nicholas Cruz, [the Parkland shooter] had had his mental health issues addressed early on, there may be 17 people who would still be alive today," said Dr. Baldwin. "We are talk-

ing about doing something in our school system that could possibly save lives."

According to Deni, about 80 percent of North Carolina parents polled say they don't believe their child's school has enough funding to deal with children's social and emotional health.

During last week's budget meeting, four Macon County Schools -- Macon Middle School, Franklin High School, Union Academy, and South Macon Elementary -- requested a total of seven positions which would add nearly \$300,000 a year to the school system's budget. Without additional state funds, those positions would have to be funded locally from county commissioners.

Macon Middle School requested an additional Assistant Principal and a Guidance Counselor. Franklin High School requested two additional Guidance Counselors and one additional Assistant Principal. Union Academy requested a Guidance Counselor and South Macon requested an additional Assistant Principal.

"We have seen our number of students who have mental health issues double over the past three years," said Macon Middle School Principal Scot Maslin. "We have at least two students per week who

are cutting, have a suicidal ideation, or have communicated a threat to harm themselves or others. We also have had a large number of students who have been sexually assaulted and need continued guidance. With two administrators and one counselor to manage 600 students, I feel we are not able to do a lot of our normal duties."

Union Academy Principal Diane Cotton, who wasn't able to attend the budget meeting because she was called back to the school after school officials received a tip that a student may have brought a weapon to campus said, "My students would benefit from the services of a school counselor. On a survey completed this week, 44% of the students said they "sometimes think that life is not worth it;" 49% answered that "At times I think I am no good at all;" 55.7% indicated in the past year they have felt depressed or sad most days, and OK sometimes;" 85% admitted to using alcohol/beer; 44% said they use marijuana regularly. In addition, most have significant trauma in their current or past life experiences."

Although no weapon was found at Union Academy, the entire issue spoke volumes to the needs of having additional staff to address such concerns.

The Board of Education is still in the budget process. It will present all the system's needs to

the county and wait for recommendations on where to go from there.



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For further information about the Western North Carolina AIDS Project, go online to [www.wncap.org](http://www.wncap.org)



## ... RETURN continued from page 13

wanted. Their visualizer tool, found at ProVia.com, allows you to upload a photo of your home to see how the stone will look on your exterior.

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Your home's entry door is one of the first things prospective home buyers will notice, so it's no surprise that upgrading yours could be a wise investment.

The Cost vs. Value report named a new steel door as the third highest cost recouped. However, steel or fiberglass are both good choices for materials when it comes to functionality, durability, energy efficiency, security and versatility in style.

For more home renovation ideas and resources, visit [ProVia.com](http://ProVia.com).

## Festival of the Stars is Friday!

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Cashiers' Library, and The Village Green are teaming up to present the Festival of the Stars Saturday, April 21 from 5-11 p.m. at The Village Green in Cashiers. Activities include learning about the stars and the creatures that are awake at night; walking among the galaxies in the mobile planetarium; hearing Cherokee legends and myths with storyteller, Freeman Owle, stargazing; roasting marshmallows, and hotdogs.



**National Theatre Live** of London



Live via Satellite  
 Saturday, April 21 1pm  
**Julius Caesar**  
 by Shakespeare

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street  
 Tickets available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047

# SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING.

## The Christian's Cause



Pastor Dan Robinson  
Highlands Central Baptist Church

We should be more alarmed when we're not desperate for God than when we are desperate for Him (2 Chronicles 20). When we are desperate for God, it's usually in unprecedented calamity, distress, or extremity. If God doesn't help us in those situations, then there simply is no help.

But frequently, calm waters and smooth seas lull us to sleep. We're not alert. The enemy gains great advantage at this point. He does so by sowing his myriad seeds of deception all around us.

For this reason, I think we should always sleep with one spiritual eye open. He is persistent. We should be (at the minimum) equally so and much more (preferably so).

The terrible trio of world, flesh and devil all work in unabated unison to kill, steal and destroy. And given the number of unsaved people in the world and worldly people in the church we conclude this three-fold strategy is convincing.

In light of this, I think the dynamic missing among many Christians is the dynamic of a Cause. That which says, "This is our Cause. This is the flag we march under. This is what we're willing to give heart, soul, mind and strength to in serving the King of Kings"

Countless numbers of Christians are simply Church-goers. They come and go. They never, no never hear the triumphant cry of demons who have sufficiently blinded millions and happily escort them to hell.

Nor do these mere church-going Christians hear the cries of men and women all around them.

For the most part, silent cries. Nonetheless, audible if one listens. Those cries are indeed desperate. Desperate for purpose. Desperate for liberty and freedom from addictions. Desperate from wounds, bruises and hurts, which they carry and to which the Mercy of Jesus has never been applied. And so, the list goes. Desperation resulting from deception.

The Christian is the one – and the only one – who has the truth which will bring men and women into a wholeness of relationship with their Creator through Jesus Christ.

To be sure there are multiple insights into the basic needs of all men and women. The disciplines of medicine, psychology, sociology and more should not be ignored. There's no need to throw the baby out with the bathwater. None of these disciplines, however, are adequate to reach the deepest needs in the deepest parts of men and women. And it is from the deepest parts that all other behavior springs. Jesus called this deepest part "the heart". And Jesus alone can reach that part! Our

## 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

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

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 U.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Sundays: 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School;

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at

10:30 service.

### 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; Ch.

5p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 6p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am; Worship Service: 11 am

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Pr. 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, 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

LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

### 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 (Rev. Dr. 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 Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

# •HS SPORTS•

with Kedra McCall

## Soccer and Track for the week

Girls soccer played Towns County and Cherokee. The lost 7-2 to Towns County. They beat Cherokee 5-0. Their next home game will be on Friday, April 20th. They will play Stephens County starting at 6 pm.

### Track

Middle school girls ended with a score of 14 and the boys ended with a score of 45.5.

The boys 4 x 100 relay (Connor Briggs, Brent Sleight, Connor Thorske, and Lawson Shuler) finished 2nd. Connor Briggs finished 2nd in the boys 400 M. Karmen Jenkins finished 2nd in the girls 100 M. Brent Sleight finished 2nd in the boys 200 M. The boys 4 x 400 relay (Connor Briggs, JJ Postell, Brent Sleight, and Lawson Shuler) finished 3rd. Lawson Shuler finished first in the boys discus. Brandon Moss finished 2nd Lawson Shuler finished 3rd in the boys shot put. Sydney Figel finished 2nd in the girls shot put. Connor Thorske finished 1st and James Earp finished 2nd in the boys high jump. Their next meet will be Friday, April 20th at 4 pm.

They will compete at Rabun Gap in the Tri-State championship.



## ... WORD MATTERS continued from page 9

speech, scream NO, GO AWAY, repeatedly, at the top of your lungs. Then, go and retrieve your Second Amendment-protected musket and point it at the perpetrator of this heinous act, but please, don't pull the trigger. Finally, dial 9-1-1 and let them know, in no uncertain terms, someone in uniform is attempting to commandeer your private residence and, in so doing, violate your individual rights under the Third Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Chances are this won't happen, but if it does, the Third Amendment is on your side!

## ... ALL ABOUT BOOKS continued from page 10

Stone, and Virgil Cole/Everett Hitch series were all continued by other authors and also wound up as TV shows or movies makes a statement about Parker's popularity. All this reminiscing makes me want to run right out and pick up another Parker book. What about you?

*Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident. Her latest book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," and her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," are available locally at the Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and are also available on Amazon. Contact Kathy at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com).*

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

world focuses on behavior – the outward. Jesus focuses on the heart.

When that is rightly aligned with Him, right behavior will follow. This is the Christian's Cause. This is the work Jesus came to do. This is the work He has left for the Church to do. Introducing men and women to Jesus Christ is the most compelling Cause I know of. Knowing Jesus Christ transforms how we live now and where we live forever.

Earlier this month we celebrated Easter. In that, we remembered our

Lord's death, burial and resurrection. He came to give us abundant life. He died for all the sins of all the men of all the ages. So many still haven't heard. And their situation is desperate (even if they don't know it).

You and I must tell them. This is a Cause worth living for and worth dying for. Jesus proved that. Would you give yourself to this Cause with renewed prayer and commitment? Many more will be in heaven if you do.

## VOTE FOR JIM TATE

### District 1 Macon County Commissioner

Please Vote in the Republican Primary  
Tuesday, May 8th 2018



**Thank you for your support!**

*Jim, Allison, Ethan, Eliza*

### ***My beliefs are simple and to the point:***

- 1) Fiscal Responsibility: Let's continue to live within our means financially and continue to run our government efficiently.
- 2) Education: Let's provide our children with the facilities and tools to be successful.
- 3) Heritage: Let's protect our natural and cultural heritage so that future generations can have the same opportunities we enjoy.
- 4) Safety: Let's keep our communities safe so that we can pursue our lives, liberty and happiness without fear.
- 5) Taxes: Let's continue to keep our taxes among the lowest in the state.
- 6) Buisness: Let's keep Macon County business friendly by providing the necessary infrastructure to support economic growth.
- 7) Civil Discourse: Let's solve our problems through open and respectful conversations.

**Jim** The Man for Highlands  
**TATE**  
County Commissioner

**Vote May 8th**

510485

*Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jim Tate*

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

## April 3

At 10 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Carolina Way.

## April 3

At 10:48 p.m., Christina Pilcher Altman, 41, of Statesboro, GA, was arrested for DWI on Carolina Way.. She was issued a \$2,000 unsecured bond. Her court date is May 2.

## April 5

At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west at Second Street.

At 3:25 p.m., officers responded to a call of a shoplifter at Bear Mountain Outfitters where a woman put shoes in her purse and left the store.

## April 6

At 9:44 a.m., officers were notified of an abandoned vehicle in the Wright Square parking lot.

## The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 5

## April 5

• At 11:34 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Satolah FD on a chimney fire.

• At 1:43 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

## April 6

• At 10:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

• At 1:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

## April 8

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Aspen Lane.

• At 9:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Overlook Villas.

## April 9

• At 12:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Zermatt Circle.

• At 8:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an unattended brush pile fire at a residence on the Cashiers Road.

## April 12

• At 12:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on W. Black Rock Circle,

## April 13

• At 3:42 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers on multiple brush fires.

• At 8:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

## April 15

• At 8:04 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hutchinson Court.

• At 9:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Queen Mountain.

• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Oak Street.

## April 17

• At 2:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on fire due to a downed power line on Bowery Road.

# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Movies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.

## 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 Tiffany Austin at

5:15 p.m.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30-6:30 at the Rec Park.

## 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 info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am with Susan Nastasic.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

## Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

## Tuesdays

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

• 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 Method-

## 1/2 Price Sale

The Book Worm



Except New Releases

Located in the "Falls on Main"

All proceeds support the Hudson Library

## 'Julius Caesar' live via satellite at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present, Live via Satellite, the National Theatre of London's production of Shakespeare's classic Julius Caesar on Saturday, April 21 at 1pm. ALL Students will be admitted Free of Charge. Caesar returns in triumph to Rome and the people pour out of their homes to celebrate. Alarmed by the autocrat's popularity, the educated elite conspire to bring him down. After his assassination, civil war erupts on the streets of the capital. Nicholas Hytner's production will thrust the audience into the street party that greets Caesar's return, the congress that witnesses his murder, the rally that assembles for his funeral and the chaos that explodes in its wake. Please note: this production contains strobe lighting. "Tremendously gripping. Unfolds like a chic, glossy spy thriller." – Time Out. "A star-studded political cataclysm for our times." – Daily Telegraph. "A superb cast in a ferocious, immersive Julius Caesar." – Sunday Times. "Visceral and politically urgent." – Guardian. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, Highlands NC



Creative  
Concepts  
Salon Inc.

Upstairs and Across the Walkway  
at "Falls on Main" Highlands (828) 526-3939

OPENING AT 9A • TUESDAY - SATURDAY

Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilardo

Stylists: Heather D. Escandon,  
Maggie Barden, Bri Field

Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt

Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning  
Eyelash Extensions • Walk-ins Welcome!

**Highlight/Blow-Out  
SPECIAL  
w/Kassie • \$95  
Through April  
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Kassie Vinson

*Shear  
Elevations*

**Mother's Day Special  
Through May  
\$35 Shellac Manicure**

Owner/Stylist: Lisa L. Shearon

Stylist: Jane B. Earp  
Stylist/Nail Tech: Kristi Stockton

Nail Tech: Katie Baker Passmore

Stylist: Kassie Vinson

828-526-9477 • 225 Spring Street, Highlands

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit [www.occupywn.org](http://www.occupywn.org) or call 828.331.1524

## Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

## Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5 By appt. Call 813-625-6785.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:15. A combination class with many different styles of exercise.

## 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.

## Wed. & Fri.

Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm

## Thursdays

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

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness 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 in Franklin Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

## 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

## 1st and 3rd Thursdays

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

## Saturdays

• Zumba with Connie at the

Rec Park 10-11am. By appointment. Call 813-625-6785.

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

## Thurs., April 19

• HS Spring Chorale Concert at 6 p.m. in the old gym.

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to host substance abuse program. Please join us for an evening with Thomas Lindsay, MD, of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Dr. Lindsay will present a program entitled Substance Abuse: All about Addiction. Light refreshments will be provided. The program will be held at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 103, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on at 5:30 p.m. Reserve your space today as the event is limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Anna Claire Ramey, BSN, RN, at (828) 526-1489.

## Fri., April 20

• Senior Dinner Friday, at 12 noon at the Highlands Civic Center in the Meeting Room. The lunch menu will be: Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Salad, roll and desert. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Taxes and Hobo Dance," Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:15-8:45 p.m. Dr Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426

## Sat., April 21

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Plateau Pickup on Saturday – cleaning litter on the Gorge Road between Highlands and Franklin. If you're interested in volunteering, call the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 828-526-2112. Volunteers will meet at the Highlands Visitor Center at 10 a.m.

• Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, The Village Green and the Albert Carlton-Cashiers' Community Library are teaming up to present to you the Festival of the Stars, a North

Carolina Science Festival event. The Festival of the Stars will take place on from 5-11 PM at the Village Green in Cashiers, NC.

• Festival of the Stars at Village Green in Cashiers, 5-11 p.m. Food, storytelling and more. In the event of heavy rain the event will be moved to Cashiers' Recreation Center.

## Mon., April 23

• Jackson County Republican Party's monthly meeting Monday 5:45 p.m. to eat, with 6:30 p.m. meeting at Sylva's Ryan's Restaurant. Important district and state convention information to be shared, and candidates will speak. All welcome. Details, call Ralph Slaughter 743-6491.

## Tues., April 24

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Siri Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

## Wed., April 25

• At Community Bible Church, The African Children's Choir will sing at 7 p.m. The performance is free but donations accepted.

## Thurs., April 26

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Wildflower Tour. Time: 9:30a-3p. Cost \$30/\$40 Guide: Gary Wein. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

• Principals, students, teachers, clergy, parents, neighbors, law enforcement, health workers, government officials, veterans, senior citizens, and community partners, you are invited to "From Bully-to-Buddy" a community forum for Macon County on Wed., 6-8 pm. at Tartan Hall, Franklin, NC. For the bully, the bullied and those in between – all ages – all genders. Enter our contests for prizes: \$75, \$50, \$25. (256) 398-0039 [www.carolynlhiggins.com/bully-to-buddy](http://www.carolynlhiggins.com/bully-to-buddy).

• Active Shooter Training at HUMC in Highlands from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Two-hour training will include strategies & guidance, how to plan for an active shooter situation and plans for survival. Presented by the Highlands Police Dept and the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. For more information, call 828-526-9431.

## Thurs., April 27

• Community Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library at 11 a.m.

• At ...on the Verandah, Dining Out for Life – Dine out and fight AIDS from 5:30-9 p.m. For reservations, call 828-526-2338.

## Sun., April 29

• Free vocal concert at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 2:30 p.m. featuring WCU students and more. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the concert. There will be no admission charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted to help defray expenses for the Costa Rica trip. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

## Mon., April 30

• There will be a meeting of The Mirror Lake Improvement Association on Monday at 5:15 p.m. at the Rec Center. All members are encouraged to attend as well as other interested individuals.

## Wed., May 2

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, Honors College Final Exam Presentation. Time: 4:30-5:30p. No Cost. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

## Sat., May 12

• Macon County Public Health will hold several Rabies Vaccination Clinic at Highlands Community Cen-

ter from 9-10:30 a.m. and from 11a to noon at the Scaly Mountain Post Office. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$10 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2106 for more information.

## Mon., May 14

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez" The Year in review of the U.S. Supreme Court. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Todd Collins. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

## Tues., May 15

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, iOS for Beginners. Time: 10:30a-3:30p. Cost \$75/\$85. Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. For reservations call 828-526-8811.

## Thurs., May 17

• At CLE in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street, The New World Order: Chinese Influence. Time: 10a-12p. Cost \$25/\$35. Presenter: Niall Michelsen.



**April 21**  
10 am - 2 pm

Robert C. Carpenter  
Recreation Building  
Hwy 441 South  
Franklin

---

**Exhibits • Fire Safety • Family Fun**  
More than 20 Booths with Children's Activities, Games & Giveaways!



**Buckle Up Baby Car Seat Check**  
10 am - 1 pm  
Hosted by SafeKids of Macon County



**Macon County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit Demonstrations**  
11 am - Noon



**Bicycle Rodeo & Obstacle Course**  
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