

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 17

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Thursday, April 23, 2020

## Some restrictions could be eased after April 29; schools likely to open May 18

At last Thursday's Zoom Town Board meeting and again Tuesday morning, Mayor Pat Taylor stressed the need to work col-

laboratively on a gradual opening of town businesses, properties and public places.

During a webinar Tuesday

morning, Taylor said the Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) of Macon County com-

• See **RESTRICTIONS** page 9

### • INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty .....	2	Spring Home Imp .....	16
Weather .....	2	Spiritually Speaking .....	18
Word Matter .....	6	Service Directory .....	20
Investing at 4,118 Ft .....	8	Police & Fire Reports .....	22
COVID dealings .....	11-14	Classifieds .....	22

## Wide Open deal with Town is dead

During Thursday night's Zoom Town Board meeting, Commissioner Amy Patterson announced that contract negotiations with Wide Open Networks have fallen apart.

At the March's retreat – though business isn't typically done – business was conducted regarding the Wide Open Network contract. The board voted 4-1 to accept the contract. Commissioner Marc Hehn voted against it.

At the time, MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler said though the contract was accepted by the Town Board, the process wasn't complete.

"The Town Board did approve the Wide Open contract, but now it will be sent back to Wide Open for their approval," he said. "If Wide Open approves it, then it is a completed deal, but

• See **WIDE OPEN** page 6

## Entegra is gone; Select Bank is here



On April 20, 2020 the three Entegra Bank, a Division of First Citizens Bank, branches (located at 30 Hyatt Road, in Franklin, 473 Carolina Way, Highlands, and 498 East Main, Sylva) became part of the Select Bank & Trust family. For more information about account conversion – should you choose to stay with Select Bank – go to: <https://www.selectbank.com/resources/information-for-entegra-bank-branch-conversion>.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

## PLS working remotely and is now in Highlands & Cashiers

*Pisgah Legal Services provides free legal aid*

Pisgah Legal Services (PLS), a nonprofit that provides FREE, civil legal aid in Western North Carolina (WNC), now part of the Highlands/Cashiers community, remains open and continues to provide help for people with low incomes during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

The staff is working remotely, helping clients and taking new applications for assistance with critical needs that include evictions, foreclosures, domestic violence, coping with debts, unemployment and other government benefits, and health care.

"Pisgah Legal Services continues to serve existing clients and is also available to people in

• See **PISGAH** page 10

## It's not legal for PAC to get free utilities

The construction schedule for the Performing Arts Center expansion has not gone as planned. The cost of construction and finding a company willing to

take on the project, as well as fundraising hurdles have caused delays.

At the April Town Board Zoom meeting, the last item on the agenda was PAC's request that

town utilities at PAC continue to be waived.

According to Finance Director Rebecca Shuler, the town sup-

• See **UTILITIES** page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Garbage Grabbers clean up Highlands

Yesterday was Earth Day. In the past, the Highlands Plateau Cleanup took place on the Saturday closest to Earth Day. The sponsor of the event, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, cancelled this year's Saturday cleanup due to COVID-19. That was bad news.

Nevertheless, there is good news. The cleanup has already been done by small groups of volunteers. Margot Teed developed the idea to create a volunteer program called The Highlands Garbage Grabbers. Margot and her husband Fred partnered and pooled resources with the Highlands Chamber and its program coordinator, Beverly Wichman.

The project started with small groups of 3 or 4 volunteers signing up on Highlands Garbage Grabbers Facebook page to pick up trash on a designated day. Margot had a drive thru and curb side system where the groups would drive to the rec-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

reation parking lot and receive a prepackaged sack of supplies including gloves, vests and pickup sticks. COVID-19 protocols were followed.

The small groups would then tell Margot where they were going to pick up trash on a highway. Margot would tell Fred and me where and when to collect the trash bags. Slowly but surely groups came forward and progress was made.

A final trash assault was made last Saturday when small groups of OEI employees spread out on all the corridors to pick up sections that had yet to be done. Fred and I hauled to the town dumpsters about 35 bags of garbage on Saturday afternoon. I want to thank Larry Holt, head of the town sanitation department, for safely processing the bags by that evening.

I want to thank Margot and Fred Teed, all the volunteers of the Highlands Garbage Grabbers, and the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. As Fred and I removed the last bags of trash, I told him this program was a new model. The corridors have been swept of trash, and now we have a program to keep them that way.

Volunteers are still needed to keep moving forward. Go to Highlands Garbage Grabbers on Facebook and sign up to do a highway trash sweep. We will collect the garbage bags and make sure they get to the landfill.

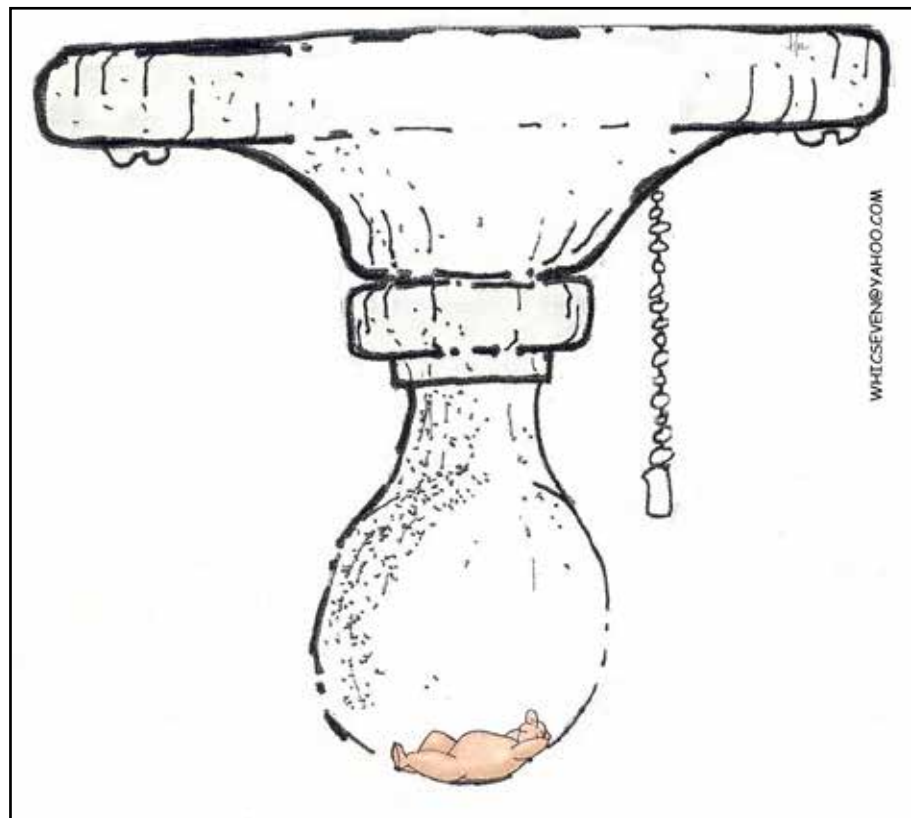
Sometimes a forced change results in a creative alternative. A case in point is the new way the corridors have been cleaned. Other improved systems will be created in response to this crisis.

I have been getting numerous questions about when I and the Town Board will reopen Highlands. My response is that we will follow the governor and the state health director's lead in plans to reopen the state, counties and towns. We anticipate new state guidelines very soon.





Also, I have been in contact with Warren Cabe, the Macon County Emergency Operations Director. He has been in discussions with other officials in adjoining counties and towns. We all agree that there should

• See MAYOR page 5

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 23-Apr	Fri, 24-Apr	Sat, 25-Apr	Sun, 26-Apr
			
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### Highlands Newspaper

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

[www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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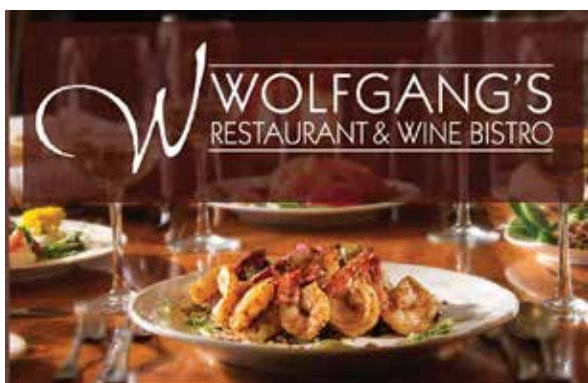
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## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

be a regional coordinated effort for reopening the region.

Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Hehn and I participated in a Zoom meeting with the leadership of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce this week. There was agreement of the need to work together beginning now to develop plans to reopen the businesses and the town, even though the date to begin this process is still unknown.

I was very gratified to hear the chamber leadership stress that a reopening will need to be deliberate, balanced and gradual. The notion of just flipping a switch and returning to normal operations won't happen. The town leadership must plan carefully to balance citizen safety with the need to reopen our economy and community.

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**WED** PRIME RIB COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES, AND A FRESH CAESAR SALAD FOR TWO. **40**

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# •WORD MATTER•

## The Paradox of Preparedness

I'm a word guy. I like words, some more than others. One such word is paradox. Webster defines it as "a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true." Example: Wordsworth's, 'The child is the father of the man.'

Right now, without knowing it, many people are experiencing a kind of paradox of preparedness. If you've ever lived in Florida, you experienced it during every hurricane season. Former Floridians, I can see you asking, "What is this paradox of preparedness?"

I'll tell you.

As soon as a tropical disturbance surfaces in the east Atlantic, meteorologists begin tracking it. We watch it progress from disturbance, to depression,

to storm, to hurricane. We watch as the models tell us where it might come ashore, and at what intensity.

We are warned, and, we are encouraged to prepare. And, many of us do prepare.

Depending on our individual circumstances — do we live on the east coast, the gulf coast, inland, in the panhandle — we load up on drinking water, ready-to-eat provisions, snacks, alcohol, plywood to cover our windows, tarps to cover our roofs, yep, even toilet paper. Depending on our individual level of risk aversion, we either head for the hills (in many cases, these hills), or we grab our surfboards.

I didn't own a surfboard.



**Bud Katz**

And, risk-averse is one of my many middle names.

The majority of us had little to actually worry about, but we prepared anyway.

We knew the deal; better safe than sorry. Hope for the best but prepare for the worst. We understand the underlying idea; it's better to

overprepare and not have to use it, than to underprepare and not survive it.

The paradox of preparedness is that some of us, not close to a majority, aren't interested in preparing. Then, when some of those folks grudgingly do prepare, they get angry when, in the end, the storm zigged instead of zagged and they didn't get hit.

Okay. Enough of the hurricane metaphor.

According to a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll a

sizable majority of Americans, 67% against 33%, do NOT want to rush to "reopen" the American economy in the face of a continuing, still deadly pandemic. No surfboards for these folks. As I write this, Covid-19 has taken almost 170,000 lives around the world, and more than 40,000 in the United States. By now, I'm sure those numbers are higher.

We've been begged, recommended, even ordered to stay at home, if we can, so as to control and then stop the spread of the virus. This tactic has been proven to save lives. Still, nearly a third of Americans either don't understand these measures, because where they are and who they are haven't been affected to the extent where staying home might be obvious.

They want to resume their lives and don't seem concerned if they get infected, because they're in good health with no underlying conditions, or, they're young and are not among those deemed vulnerable. Of course, there's also the disturbing idea that these people are thinking only about themselves and not others, even those in their lives who are vulnerable, such as parents, grandparents, and those with underlying health issues they might not know about.

I feel bad for those who are being economically damaged, but

the public's health should come first.

Our nation is barely two months into its battle with this deadly virus. China and Europe got hit before we did and, thank you very much, they spread it to us. They've been dealing with it for up to 45 additional days. All told, the world is only three-plus months into this thing.

In terms of knowledge and understanding, medical science is still feeling its way. There's lots yet to learn and they must take as much time as necessary to properly apply what they do learn.

The paradox of preparedness is that we prepare, even though we'd rather not, and by preparing, we are spared the worst of things. If you get angry because you prepared and didn't get sick, fine. All it means is you and others are still alive. So please, prepare.

It's inconvenient, frustrating, and yes, painful, but until medical researchers identify treatments and a vaccine, what's being done is working.

Why change a winning strategy? Keep essential businesses open and continue social distancing. And finally, stay at home if at all possible, and let's ride this damn thing out.

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## ...WIDE OPEN continued from page 1

if they have any changes, it will be brought back to the board."

And that's what has happened.

"I wanted to update everyone on where we stand with broadband. We have been in negotiations for two years with Wide Open Networks which was going to provide the network for our high-speed broadband," said Commissioner Patterson. "The latest iteration of them coming back to the town was significantly different from what we have been talking about over the last year or so, so what we decided with Matt and our lawyer in Washington who is very well versed in these things is

we will be going in a little different direction."

Consequently, according to Patterson and staff, the town will not enter into a contract with Wide Open.

"We have let them know that the contract they sent back to us was not acceptable so we have gone in the direction where we are putting together a Request for Proposal (RFP) from other networking folks that can manage our network," she said.

The relationship with Wide Open Networks was based on a Request for Information (RFI) which had state law stipulations at-



# Gratitude.



To the doctors, the nurses, the respiratory therapists, the environmental services workers – to every person working to keep us safe, thank you.

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Current and Future Real Estate Happenings

Through my interactions with current and prior clients during the quarantining, I have been asked numerous questions including: 1) are there any real estate transactions currently happening; 2) how can you show real estate; and 3) what is the future of real estate and how transactions occur?

Currently there are real estate transactions occurring, but at a much lower rate than before things closing down. During the first quarter of the year transactions were up significantly over 2019. Since the stock market took a loss and quarantining began, a number of contracts terminated for various reasons. However, there are still sellers listing properties and buyers looking for properties. Every day there are new listings and properties continue to go under contract, or convert to pending or closed. Some of the buyers had previously decided to move to the plateau as full time residents; some have been waiting for the right property for them; and some have decided that it is time to leave an urban area or have a second home to retreat to because of situations like we are currently in.

There has been a shift in how real estate showings occur. The most common is the use of technology with virtual 3-dimensional online tours. From a computer or tablet you can walk through a house, turn within rooms, go up or down stairs, and look in baths and closets or out windows to get a true feeling of what the house is like. Or, a broker or agent can do a live video walk through. As they go through the house recording, they can describe details and answer questions a buyer has. Because of the new technology, many buyers are making offers on houses that they have not been in, and the North Carolina Real Estate Commission has created an On Site Preview Addendum to accompany the Offer to Purchase Contract. This is used to notify the seller that the buyers have not seen the house in person and states the number of days that they will have to do so; and offers a fee that is paid to the seller for this opportunity. Once the



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buyer actually sees the house they can move forward with the contract and the fee is credited to the purchase price, or they can terminate the contract and the seller retains the fee. This fee is different than a due diligence fee or earnest money which cover other issues.

So you may be questioning how a buyer can safely see the house in person. There are guidelines in place which include riding in separate cars; wearing masks and gloves; and limiting how many people enter the house at a time. The sellers or the listing broker will turn on lights, open closet doors and disinfect prior to the showing to minimize touching. During due diligence, any inspections or appraisals are done alone. Real Estate was deemed an "essential business" by the state; however the strictest guidelines issued by the state or county must be followed, and there are some counties or municipalities that do not allow showings at all.

The NCREC also created a Covid-19 Addendum to address possible delays caused by the existence of the virus. This could be due to the inspection process, mortgage approval or coordinating closing. On this form the buyer and seller agree to a number of days that the contract will be extended if a delay occurs. It also addresses who receives the earnest money in the event the contract isn't executed because of an issue caused by the virus. Of course, the contract can still be amended to extend beyond these dates if agreed to by both parties and we are not seeing delays in our area.

Currently most real estate firms have documents on-line which can be signed and communicated electronically. Many mortgages are done completely online including the furnishing of documents required. Also, many of the closings are done remotely and the buyer and/or seller are not actually in the presence of the attorney. Some counties allow deeds to be recorded electronically. I have actually heard the term "drive-through closings" but am not aware of those happening on the plateau.

• See INVESTING page 19



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## ... RESTRICTIONS continued from page 1

prised of Emergency Management Services (EMS), Macon County Social Services and Macon County Public Health, determined it was important that all the counties and municipalities across the region work in consort – that is, all do the same thing at the same time – and work collaboratively on a gradual opening, said Taylor.

“We are all following Governor Cooper’s lead in this,” he said. “He needs to make a decision on his proclamation which expires at the end of April. The hope is to be back to normal somewhere between May 15 and June 1. But we expect to see directions from the governor, and from the Department of Health and Human Services as to how counties and towns can gradually reopen collaboratively,” he said.

Mayor Taylor said he expects the governor will lift some restrictions at the end of the month but unlike the governors of Georgia and Florida, he expects Gov. Cooper to take a more conservative approach.

“Whatever it is, Highlands will mirror the governor’s plan,” he said.

Meanwhile, the town is going to start considering where things in town could loosen up when it’s time.

And that was the gist of a Zoom meeting orchestrated by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Monday to which the town was invited and during which about 15 others weighed in.

Commissioners Amy Patterson and Marc Hehn and Mayor Taylor attended.

According to Taylor, there is pressure from the Highlands business community to flip a switch and open up, but the Chamber said, “we need to be careful and be deliberate,” he said.

“We have a great situation in that we haven’t had any COVID outbreaks, so the worst thing that could happen is to open up and have outbreaks,” said Taylor. “The town will be talking and working with the Chamber to come up with a plan as to when and what should open.”

He said he expects it to be gradual, but in what regard? Hotels? Downtown retail services? What about restaurants? When should they open?

“We will be getting input from all areas while we consider what the opening will look like regarding social distancing. Can we open downtown and have the same density as in the past? Can people maintain social distancing while filling up parking spaces and sidewalks or is there another alternative – a gradual opening up, maybe blocking off some parking spaces? If we were to open downtown, we still have the problem of bringing people from everywhere to a concentrated area [down-

town] going store to store,” he said.

Also, being considered is when it will be safe for the town to open public facilities like the Rec Park and under what circumstances.

Mayor Taylor said with the Georgia governor opening up businesses in his state that don’t promote social distancing like hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, and gyms, there is a potential for an increase in COVID cases particularly after the two-week incubation period and “BAM,” he said, which could potentially affect Highlands.

“I realize our business community’s livelihoods are at stake, but we also have a large group of older residents who are vulnerable and so there is also pressure to keep things closed,” he said. “Many patrons of our higher-end restaurants, go out to eat 2-3 times a week. But given the outbreak, and given their vulnerability, just because we open restaurants doesn’t mean they will come out to eat.”

Taylor said everyone is waiting on the governor to know when social distancing requirements that are in place now can be relaxed.

Meanwhile, schools are likely to reopen Monday, May 18 – the governor closed them through Friday, May 15 and it’s possible that could be the date on which everything opens ups. But there is no word yet.

“The governor’s current executive order ends on May 15 which means that schools in NC are set to reopen on May 18th pending any future executive orders,” said MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin.

“In the event that schools do reopen on May 18, the current school year runs through June 12. As it now stands, our students would return to school on May 18, with the final student day being May 22 as per the original calendar. However, this can be modified by future executive orders from the governor,” he said.

Though teachers will be at schools through June 12 for teacher workdays, Baldwin said it is his opinion that the governor will not require schools to stay open for students through June 12.

In addition, he said it appears all state tests – EOG, EOC, AR reading – will be waived for the 2019-20 school year.

“Teachers and parents have done the best that they can under the circumstances that have been presented. Overall, students have been communicating and keeping up with their instructional activities, as well,” said Baldwin. “However, May 18-May 22 has not been and cannot be considered a normal final grading period for our schools. We will all be glad to return to normal.”

– Kim Lewicki

## Highlands CC



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## Fire Season is over so the open fire ban has been lifted



### FIND PEACE THROUGH BREATH

A daily practice of hand on the heart and exhaling with sound vibrates the chest, the lungs and also resonates through the sinuses helping keep us centered in the body and less likely to go down the mental path of fear and frustration.

## ... UTILITIES continued from page 1

plies electric, water/sewer, garbage and also pays for PAC's propane, which amounts to an average of \$13,500 per year.

The town's relationship with the PAC has been long and has involved negotiated contracts over the years.

In 2010, when the town owned the building and the land, a contract agreement was approved by the board in which utility payments would be waived for the length of the contract.

Back in July of 2018, PAC presented its plans to expand the center which included purchasing property on either side of the existing building. To do that, they needed the property in their name.

"So, on July 30, 2018 an agreement was entered into to transfer the property from the town of Highlands to PAC, Inc.," said Town Manager Josh Ward. "That occurred and included in that agreement was a continuation of the free utilities until March 21, 2020."

That date was when the PAC

board hoped the expanded center would be completed.

"As we know at this point, they have had some issues with the cost of the construction and have not started construction on the building expansion. They have done the parking lot but not the building," said Ward. "At this point, according to the agreement, the free utilities are null and void."

This, and the COVID-19 ills that have befallen businesses in town, spurred the town to ask the School of Government if the town could in fact, give free utilities to entities in town.

"The School of Government has said that we are not allowed to give utilities away for free," said Shuler. "It's not legal, unless we offer free utilities to a whole group of a particular rate class like all commercial electric, or all commercial garbage clients. We are not allowed to give away utilities to one or two picked individuals."

Shuler said the only reason the town was able to get away with

• See UTILITIES page 21

## ... PISGAH continued from page 1

our mountain communities with new and urgent needs related to the COVID-19 outbreak. In this time of uncertainty, we expect that many more people will have legal needs related to shelter, health, safety from abuse and economic security. We are committed to meeting those needs," said PLS Executive Director Jim Barrett.

If you or someone you know needs help, call Pisgah Legal's main phone lines at 828-253-0406, or 800-489-6144. Online applications are also being accepted: [www.pisgahlegal.org/free-legal-assistance](http://www.pisgahlegal.org/free-legal-assistance). Pisgah Legal staff and volunteer attorneys will be in touch via phone and/or email.

In addition, Pisgah Legal Services has launched a Resources page on its website ([www.pisgahlegal.org](http://www.pisgahlegal.org)) to share updates that include information and resources for folks here in WNC who are being impacted the most.

### About Pisgah Legal Services and the Recent Expansion of Services

Since 1978, Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) has provided free civil legal aid to help people with low incomes seek justice and meet their basic needs. Pisgah Legal Services provides a broad array of free, civil legal services in 11 WNC counties, and offers health and immigration law services in 18 counties. Last year PLS served more than 18,000 people across the mountain region.

Pisgah Legal has 32 attorneys on staff and relies heavily on the pro bono legal services of more than 300 volunteer attorneys.

PLS now has offices in Asheville, Burnsville, Brevard, Hendersonville, Marshall, Rutherfordton and now has staff in the Highlands/Cashiers area, to serve the people of the Plateau and those living throughout Macon and Jackson counties.

Pisgah Legal's expansion of services into the Plateau/Macon and Jackson counties was made possible by the support of generous local residents, churches, and foundations including: the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation; the Highlands Community Fund and Cashiers Community Fund (affiliate funds of The Community Foundation of Western

North Carolina); and the Jackson County Community Foundation and Macon County Community Foundation (component funds of the North Carolina Community Foundation).

**Have You Lost Your Health Insurance During the Covid-19 Outbreak? Pisgah Legal Can Help. But Hurry – Many Only Have 60 Days to Quality for ACA Special Enrollment Period**

### New Staffing

Brittney Lofthouse has been hired as Pisgah Legal Services' local Community Engagement Officer. She is a native of Jackson County, a resident of Macon County, a graduate of Western Carolina University, and has worked for both Macon County News and Highlands Newspaper.

"Throughout my nearly 10 years writing for the newspaper, I have had the pleasure of interacting with folks from all walks of life – from meeting President Barack Obama to talk about the unique needs of Western North Carolina, to writing stories of triumph and victories in our local communities, I have been afforded a unique perspective of our region over the last decade. I take great pride in being a voice for Western North Carolina and being an advocate for change – whether that be by researching injustices in state funding shortfalls to our education system or the disparities for our local businesses struggling to stay competitive without adequate infrastructure like broadband, as a journalist I have had the opportunity not only to shed light on issues facing our community, but be part of the solution to solve those problems.

"I look forward to the opportunity to work with state and local leaders, as well as community

and civic powerhouses to help Pisgah Legal Services become an embedded part of our community and a resource we can all rely on to ensure Justice for All – not just those who can afford it," she said.

Isabel Carson, a seasoned poverty law attorney currently working with Pisgah Legal Services, is transitioning to serve the Plateau/Macon and Jackson counties. As a former prosecutor, Isabel brings a wealth of knowledge surrounding Pisgah Legal's mission and practices. Prior to her work as an assistant prosecutor, she worked in a firm serving people in and around Rutherford County.

"As a child of a small rural town, I know that rural communities need the same access to resources, services, and justice as any other community. We are excited to work with the individuals and organizations in Macon and Jackson counties to help bridge some of those barriers to access and develop lasting relationships," she said.

Mary Dotson is joining the team as the local Office Manager/Legal Assistant. A Highlands native, Mary has worked for many years at a local law firm.

"As a long-time resident of Highlands, I am very aware of the gap in many services available to less fortunate residents of Macon and Jackson counties. The assistance available through Pisgah Legal Services new Highlands-Cashiers office will be a great asset to the residents of these communities. I am pleased to join this exemplary organization in providing much-needed services here," she said.

Pisgah Legal Services continues to actively recruit a second attorney who will bolster these expanded services. To apply, visit [www.pisgahlegal.org](http://www.pisgahlegal.org).

### Want to Help?

Giving online is fast, easy and secure at [www.pisgahlegal.org/give](http://www.pisgahlegal.org/give) or contact Development Director Ally Wilson by phone at 828-210-3444 or via email: [ally@pisgahlegal.org](mailto:ally@pisgahlegal.org). Checks may be mailed to P.O. Box 2276, Asheville, N.C. 28802

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# Community COVID-19 Outreach

## Community Resources at hand

### Trapped-at-Home: Fears mount for victims of domestic violence

Victims of domestic violence can tap a full array of protective services, including potentially lifesaving legal protections, even with the coronavirus lockdown, District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said this week.

“For some, staying home is not actually safe,” she said. “These are very dangerous times for people in abusive relationships. I want victims to know there are avenues of escape.”

Welch and local anti-domestic violence advocates fear a looming spike in the number and severity of cases – not just involving spouses or partners, but children and senior citizens, too.

Like Macon, other communities within the 43rd Prosecutorial District that Welch oversees – the state’s seven westernmost counties – are also starting to experience an uptick in the number of domestic-violence calls received.

REACH of Macon County’s executive director shares Welch’s concerns. Andrea Anderson oversees the Franklin-based nonprofit that provides critical services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

“We have seen an increase in the need

for services — particularly at the shelter, and with calls,” Anderson said.

The 10-bed-room safe haven is full, she said, though the nonprofit continues to find ways to house victims, turning no one away. For now, because of social-distancing constraints, clients cannot “double up” when using the shelter.

“Also, people at our shelter are having to stay a little longer because things are not the same,” Anderson said, explaining that some of REACH’s clients have seen their plans for financial independence derailed or delayed as economic fallout rides side-saddle to the coronavirus threat.

Victims’ seemingly small needs can prove formidable.

In a neighboring county, one client did not have a way to cook her food. A non-

#### Do you need help? Here’s how to get it:

- In an emergency, dial 911.
- For services, advice or just to talk (including anonymously), call the REACH hotline at 369-5544.
- If you are a victim of domestic violence with questions about an open case or about legal protection, call the District Attorney’s office at 349-7210 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as promptly as possible.

profit was able to step in and provide a microwave oven.

Meanwhile, District Attorney Welch said, the courts continue to hold emergency hearings and issue restraining orders; law enforcement officers continue to answer calls and arrest abusers; prosecutors continue to shepherd domestic-violence cases through the justice system on victims’ behalf.

profit was able to step in and provide a microwave oven.

Macon County commissioners issued a stay-at-home order May 26. One day later, Gov. Roy Cooper did the same. Residents are allowed to leave home for essential services, conduct essential business or tap government services.

Welch said Macon County leaders, as well as state and national leaders, are taking the steps necessary to curb the deadly coronavirus. But, there is a flip side of the coin.

“Stress on households will increase

the longer people remain homebound,” Welch said. “There are some individuals who respond to frustrations by drinking. There are those who become aggressive, with emotional abuse escalating into physical abuse.”

Welch said victims could find it difficult to carve out the privacy needed to safely seek help. She urged abuse victims to take precautions when:

- accessing websites about domestic violence.
- sending emails or texts.
- making or receiving phone calls.

To make a financial donation to REACH, call 369-5544 or email reach@reachofmaconcounty.org,

Do you need help? Here’s how to get it:

- In an emergency, dial 911.
- For services, advice or just to talk (including anonymously), call the REACH hotline at 369-5544.

• If you are a victim of domestic violence with questions about an open case or about legal protection, call the District Attorney’s office at 349-7210 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as promptly as possible.

### The Bascom presents: Mr. Bill vs. The Box

Tune in for The Bascom’s new YouTube Channel series, Mr. Bill vs. The Box.

Billy Love, Director of Education and Outreach at The Bascom, also known as, Mr. Bill, will be your guide through a series of creative sessions. The challenge in every episode is for Mr. Bill to take materials that have been placed inside

“The Box” (unknown to him), and make

something cool out of them. Viewers will learn problem solving skills, how to use art

making tools and materials, and just have some creative fun!

Follow The Bascom on social media, and subscribe to their YouTube channel to discover each new episode.

• <https://www.facebook.com/The.Bascom.Highlands.NC/>

• <https://youtube/GCKEEA2Z70>



The Bascom’s Billy Love, director of Education and Outreach explores the box of paraphernalia.





# Daily 'dealings' during t

## Making the most of life



### Teacher moms enjoy quality time with their own

Kindergarten teacher Ms. Potts, is enjoying hiking and enjoying nature with her usually, very, busy teenage daughter and 5th-grade teacher Ms. Lequire with daughter, Ansley.



**"It's super weird  
when  
EVERY DAY  
is Saturday!"**

### Kitchen Magic!

Warren, 3, watches tea bloom.



### Keeping Sane in Insane Times or Preserving Family Sanity or Doing the Worry Walk or ... all of the above!

Dear Brook,

*My pedometer is piling up extra steps in my "why did I come into this room again" syndrome! I find myself retracing my steps numerous times a day starting to do one thing, getting waylaid on the way and distracted by a second third thing before I start all over again. I know it's been the core of many jokes about aging, but is my Covid 19 "Worry Walk" aggravating the syndrome?*

Yes. No doubt about it! Even though we may not think we are consciously worrying, anxiety often lurks beneath the surface and causes forgetfulness, distraction and sometimes destructive behavior like overeating, drinking or drug abuse.

The best things to do if this happens to you is recognize, accept and pivot. Recognize what's going on, accept that this is a normal response to an anxious period, and pivot to a new activity. Going for a walk, reading a book, doing a short exercise routine, looking through your family photo album (yes, once pictures were organized in books!) or calling a friend are all good alternative activities.

We all joke about the "Why

did I come into this room again" syndrome being a part of aging, but it can affect kids and teens, too.

You may find that one or more of your children seem to have an even shorter attention span than usual (yes, that's possible!) or their emotions are on a short fuse. Remember that children are hypersensitive to what's going on with adults. Their moods are often triggered by yours and if you're constantly listening to cable news, they are picking up some of it, too.

The alternate pivot activities that work for you will work for kids, too.

Additionally, you might suggest calling a grand parent or neighbor or doing a jig saw puzzle together. Remember to keep cable news watching to a minimum – that's helpful to ALL ages!

How is your family coping? Please share the activities that keep your family sane during this period of anxiety; we'll get through it by sharing our solutions!

Email: [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com)

**"I'm looking forward to a  
REAL Friday night and not just  
another night stuck in the house!"**



# the COVID-19 Pandemic

## during social distancing



Lyric hits his 9-month milestone while social-distancing at home.

### Families are enjoying connecting

We are so enjoying this down time at home with the baby.

### Learning parent skills

Jackson, 12, at home with his mom Trudi learning culinary art skills.



**Please say a prayer for my 8-year-old son. He has to write four sentences.**



Annabelle gets away from it all and gets some exercise, too!



A studious Grant does his home-schooling.



New Garbage Grabber group practicing social distancing while performing community service.



# Community COVID-19 Outreach

## Community Resources at hand

### It's Only Intermission at the PAC!

*Turn up the volume, close your eyes and let the music take over your soul!*

Stay connected to the arts during this unprecedented time in our lives with help from the Highlands Performing Arts Center. The theater, music, dance, movies, all these genres will get us through. Check out HighlandsPAC.org for a listing of many live steaming events, encore operas and plays.

*Sometimes music is the only thing that takes your mind off everything else.*

The MET Opera will screen encore performances of many of their great operas nightly: Streamed on the MET website: [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org) The Met hopes to brighten the lives of our audience members even while their stage is dark. Each day, a different encore presentation from the company's Live in HD series is being made available for free streaming on the Met website, with each performance available for a period of 23 hours, from 7:30 p.m. EDT until 6:30 p.m. the following day. The schedule will include outstanding complete performances from the past 14 years of cinema transmissions, starring all of opera's greatest singers.

*Great theater is challenging about how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about the world we aspire to be.*

— Willem Defoe

The National Theatre of London will stream encore performances each Thursday: <https://www.timeout.com/london/news/national-theatre-live-is-streaming-free-plays-every-thursday-on-youtube-041620> National Theatre at Home launched on YouTube on April 2, and now, every Thursday (7pm BST/2pm EST) sees a new National Theatre play released – free to watch for one week – along with bonus content including cast and creative Q&As and post-stream talks. There's a definite emphasis on good cheer for the line-up so far, which kicked off with Richard Bean's beloved farce 'One Man, Two Guvnors', starring a pre-chatshow-days James Corden. The capers continue with 'Treasure Island' and a Tamsin Greig-starring 'Twelfth Night'. April 23 'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare.

And then over the coming weeks you can expect a string of family-friendly titles, though naturally there will be those hoping for some of the real NT Live blockbusters, notably 'Hamlet' and 'Frankenstein' starring Benedict



Cumberbatch and 'Coriolanus' starring Tom Hiddleston.

Additionally, the National Theatre will be rolling out National Theatre Collection study resources to pupils now learning at home.

*Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.*

The Paul Taylor Dancers, NYC are offering free dance classes weekly, advanced to tots: [info@ptamd.org](mailto:info@ptamd.org), plus encore

performances of many fabulous dance performances.

American Ballet Theater: ABTKids Daily, a new online resource with digital content to help families and educators build their virtual classrooms during this time of distance learning. The ABTKids Daily page on the Company's website will be updated every Monday morning with a week's worth of curriculum on classical ballet for children, caregivers and teachers to discover. <https://www.abt.org/abt-to-launch-abtkids-daily>

*There are shortcuts to happiness and dancing is one of them.*

Feinsteins' 54 Below: (My favorite dinner club in NYC) brings you Broadway & More.

Fri., April 24: 54 sings Legally Blonde at 6:30pm

Wed., April 29: Christine Andreas at 6:30pm

Fri., May 1: Love Letters at 6:30pm

Mon., May 4: 54/54/54 at 6:30pm

Thurs., May 7: 54 Celebrates Mel Brooks at 6:30pm

and Feinstein's 54 Below on You Tube with many more shows coming. (I'll be watching Steppin' Out with Ben Vereen on Saturday, April 18th)

*Music is what feelings sound like!*

There are many more options on the Highlands PAC website, Monday concerts by the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra from Savannah, bedtime stories read by Dolly Patron, and Sing Along with Broadway. Check it all out, stay connected to the arts you love and feed your soul.

Plus, PAC's own PAC Youth Theater program will be conducting online classes in the next few weeks. For more information and to sign up please contact Megan Greenlee Potts, Artistic Director: [Megangreenleepotts@hotmail.com](mailto:Megangreenleepotts@hotmail.com)

*As I write this article I am watching Disney on Broadway...an absolutely wonderful collection of Broadway stars singing Broadway. It's all on the website: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org)*



### Highlands Motoring Festival to be featured on 'My Classic Car' Sat., April 25

This coming Saturday, April 25th, Highlands and the Highlands Motoring Festival will be featured on the cable TV show "My Classic Car with Dennis Gage" at 8:30 a.m.

This episode was filmed during the festival last June, 2019, during the "Monsoon," and demonstrates how, with the support of the entire Highlands community, the Festival was a success in spite of the weather challenge. This support enabled the Highlands Motoring Festival to donate over \$43,000 to local human needs charities.

"My Classic Car" can be seen on most cable and satellite providers, as well as some streaming services, on the MOTORTREND, or MT, channel. It also airs on MAVTV and REV'N. A preview of the show can be seen at this link: <http://www.myclassiccar.com/episode/24/17/>

And, if you are unable to watch or DVR on Saturday, the episode should be available after the show date online at <http://youtube.com/MyClassicCarTV>

The 2020 Highlands Motoring Festival is still scheduled for June 11-14. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a final decision is expected in early May as to whether adjustments to either the date, or scope, of the Festival will be necessary.

For current information, check the HMF web site at <http://www.highlandsmotoringfestival.com>





# Plateau conservationists help manage the invasive Garlic Mustard plant

By Brian O'Shea  
Plateau Daily News

About a dozen people from local environmental groups were at The Mountain Retreat on Wednesday removing patches of the nonnative invasive plant, Garlic Mustard. It's called Garlic Mustard because the leaves smell like garlic when crushed and the roots have a spicy taste, similar to horseradish.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Kyle Pursel first began seeing Garlic Mustard on the Plateau about 5 years ago. He said this is an invasive plant can quickly spread and cause a number of problems to an area's ecosystem.

Pursel said the roots release a chemical that prohibits the growth of surrounding plants and can physically push out other plants, such as wildflowers, and overtake an entire area leading to both environmental and economic problems.

"Spring wildflowers bring in tourists and are one of the reasons we're such a biodiverse hotspot," said Pursel. "Garlic Mustard is bad because it's a nonnative and invasive plant that can take over a forest understory [plants under the forest canopy] and fields fairly quickly. It prohibits the growth of other plants and is more threatening than other invasive species."

Environmentalists from the HCLT, Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF), and Many Hands Peace Farm (MHPF) at The Mountain helped pull patches of Garlic Mustard on Wednesday to prevent its spread.

HCLT and HBF are part of a group called the Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM).

CNIPM is made up of several organizations whose mission is "to protect and preserve the ecological diversity and beauty of the Highlands Plateau by managing nonnative invasive plant species and promoting the use of

native plants in landscapes."

HBF Education Specialist Paige Engelbrektsson was out on Wednesday lending a hand pulling Garlic Mustard.

"Maintaining the natural biodiversity here is so important," she



The roots of Garlic Mustard taste spicy, similar to horseradish.

said. "The Plateau is a hotspot for things like spring wildflowers and other organisms that depend on our native plants to survive. Garlic Mustard threatens their survival. One species can have a huge effect on our ecosystem."

Garlic Mustard is identifiable by its triangle-shaped leaves with serrated edges. The flowers have four symmetric white petals and bloom in early April.

After years of pulling patches of Garlic Mustard, Pursel said he's finally seeing progress at the four sites he's been monitoring.

"I've been pulling for several years now and we're finally starting to get to the point at these sites where it's on decline and I think we have it under control," he said. "This was the first year I didn't fill up a garbage bag from each site."

Pursel said ignoring the problem only makes things worse and more difficult to get rid of in the future.

"Spring is the time of the year it should be dealt with," he

said. "You want to get to it before it gets to seed. Once a patch has had a few years to produce seeds, it builds up a seed bank and it could take years to get rid of."

Pursel said sites with patches of Garlic Mustard tend to be found in locations near rubble dumps or construction sites, likely brought in by vehicles.

The patches located on The Mountain Retreat were located near a powerline right-of-way and could have been brought in from a utility vehicle, said Pursel.

However, staff of Many Hands Farm at The Mountain have been actively pulling patches on the property and Pursel said it's making a difference.

"It's not widespread in the patches on The Mountain because they've been pulling it regularly and we want to keep it that way," he said.

MHPF Manager Joey Kyle said they were collecting the pulled Garlic Mustard to use for cooking.

"We do a lot with wild edibles at Many Hands Peace Farm, and this is an edible that's also an invasive plant," said Kyle. "Helping to pull it helps the ecosystem and later were going to make a pesto out of it."



Garlic Mustard is a nonnative invasive plant that threatens native plants and can spread quickly if it establishes a foothold. It is identifiable by its triangle-shaped leaves with serrated edges. The flowers have four symmetric white petals and bloom in early April.



Fighting invasives is a family affair.



Groups from HCLT, HBF, and Many Hands Peace Farm helped pull patches of Garlic Mustard on Wednesday.



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# Spring Home Improvement 2020

## How to Extend Your Living Area to Outdoor Spaces

(StatePoint) When warmer weather arrives, it's all about spending time in your home's outdoor spaces. Here are a few new ideas for transforming your porch, deck or yard into an oasis of relaxation.

### Spruce Up

Before getting down to brass tacks, it's time to give your outdoor spaces a once-over and note what basic maintenance and cleaning are needed; be sure to sweep up porches and decks of debris, dust off and move outdoor furniture out of storage and prune trees and plants that need it. This may be a good time to refinish or re-stain an older deck in need of some tender loving care. Want to add a splash of color to the space? Give some time-worn wooden furniture a new paint job in a bold hue.

### Power Up

To match the true comfort of indoor life to your home's outdoor spaces, you'll need a safe, code-compliant and unobtrusive way to power fans, lighting, entertainment, electric appliances and more.

To add an outlet to raised outdoor floors, porches and decks, consider installing a Deck Outlet Cover from Hubbell TayMac. Accommodating two power cords, it lets you put the power where you want it -- in a safe place where

people are less likely to trip over cords.

Weatherproof, UV resistant and durable even in harsh environments, it also features a low-profile design that meets ADA standards, and an attractive slip-resistant texture available in gray, white and bronze.

### Furnish

Given the broad scope of weatherproof furnishings, cushions, pillows and even rugs available on the market today, there is absolutely no reason that your outdoor spaces can't offer the same level of comfort and beauty as any den or living room, especially now that you've supplied your outdoor space with electrical power and the flexibility to install such amenities as an entertainment center, ceiling fans and even chandeliers.

Just be sure everything you install is weatherproofed and protected against the elements, and that you select only outdoor-grade products. However, you can extend the life of certain items by taking extra precautions during extreme weather and the off-season.

By giving your home's outdoor spaces the same attention to detail as the indoors, you can extend your living spaces and even create new "rooms" in which to dine, relax and entertain.



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# Spring Home Improvement 2020

## Home Interior Updates You Can Make to Create a Wow Factor

(StatePoint) Whether you want to customize and enhance your living spaces for your own enjoyment or you need to prepare to stand out in a buyer's market, creating that wow factor is easy to achieve, if you know where to focus your attention. You're likely already familiar with the importance of exterior curb appeal. According to experienced realtors, it's just as important to continue that concept after walking through the front door.

"As the saying goes, 'you only have one opportunity to make a first impression,'" says realtor Vincent A. Stanson, a REALTOR associate with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. "When that front door opens, homeowners have the chance to impress their guests with a stunning stairway system, stand-out mouldings and decorative interior accents."

To get you started, here are easy ideas to give your spaces that wow factor you see and admire in ads and architectural magazines:

### Ceiling-to-Floor Transformation

Totally transform a room top to bottom with decorative mouldings and millwork, starting with the ceiling. Add warmth with wood beams in a horizontal or criss-cross pattern, or simply accent the ceiling with stand-out crown mouldings.

Working your way down, frame windows with straight trim and rosettes in the corners. Throughout the room, add chair mouldings, mantels and floating shelves.

Remember, mouldings don't need to be plain, especially if you want to make an impact. So, replace any humdrum casing, crown, chair and base mouldings with elements that pop, such as those that feature leaves, grapes,

vines or criss-cross ribbon patterns. Consider the decorative millwork accents available from Ornamental Moulding & Millwork, which are easy to install. Their newest offerings dovetail nicely with the latest trends, and their commitment to craftsmanship mean high-quality products that last. The inspiration galleries available on its site can be a good tool for those seeking ideas for creatively enhancing their own rooms. To learn more, visit [Ornamental.com](http://Ornamental.com).

### Step Up Stairways

Often a focal point of a home interior, a stairway system is a crucial area where homeowners can step up their game, and doing so doesn't have to be overwhelming.

"There's a definite trend underway of people mixing metals and woods on stair systems and throughout the home," says Kelly Miller, director of market development for L.J. Smith Stair Systems. "Rather than completely take down an existing wood stair system, many people are turning to the easy IronPro DIY project of replacing wood balusters with iron balusters. Then they're leaving the wood hand rails and newel posts for a stylish, upgraded look."

Defined by unique designs and durability, L.J. Smith products -- including wooden and ornamental iron balusters, stainless steel cable and tube infills, metal panels, newel posts, hand rails and accessories, can help you transform your stairs. Check out the "Stair Designer" tool to determine the best look for your home, as well as installation details and additional tips at [ljsmith.com](http://ljsmith.com).

When taking your home interiors from ordinary to extraordinary, it's all in the details.

## 3 Smart Ways to Boost Home Curb Appeal

(StatePoint) Taking steps to boost curb appeal makes good sense for any homeowner. Not only does it help make a great first impression on guests and neighbors, but certain updates can actually increase your home's resale value when it comes time to put your property on the market.

To maximize the time, money and effort you expend, consider the following remodeling projects, which were all ranked highly by Remodeling Magazine's 2020 Cost vs. Value Report:

### Manufactured Stone

According to Remodeling Magazine's findings, manufactured stone has the largest return on investment of all home remodeling projects with an average of 95.6 percent of the cost of the project recouped. There's a good reason for this. High quality manufactured stone is an eye-catching way to add beauty and elegance to interiors and exteriors.

When seeking out manufactured stone products, look for long-lasting products that mimic the look of natural stone, such as those from ProVia, which combine deep shadow lines with authentic coloring to produce dramatic effects. The manufacturer has achieved an authentic look by selecting natural stones from unique geographic regions for every master mold and by using only raw pigments and oxides to attain a rich color that lasts for years. To use tools that can help you visualize stone and grout style and color combinations, view instructional videos or learn more, visit

[ProVia.com/stone](http://ProVia.com/stone).

### Garage Door Replacement

If you are like many homeowners, you typically enter your home through the garage. Give yourself a treat to come home to each day with a garage door replacement, which provides the second largest return on investment, according to the report. Not only does this upgrade present an opportunity to boost your home's aesthetic appeal, it also has the potential to beef up your home security and lower energy bills. Whether you want the garage doors to make a bold statement or blend into the woodwork, there are many ways to customize, including panel design, colors, hardware fixtures and window placement.

### Siding Replacement

With a return on investment of over 70 percent, there's a strong case for replacing your siding with something new. Vinyl siding is an especially good choice of material for those who value easy installation, good value, durability and minimal maintenance. Many homeowners choose to even mix siding and manufactured stone on their home exterior for a unique facelift that's sure to impress passersby and potential buyers alike.

By selecting home exterior projects that offer the greatest return on investment, you can be sure your renovations go far beyond what meets the eye.



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Finding the Tomb of St. Peter



**Father Jason Barone**

Promoter of Vocations,  
Diocese of Charlotte  
Parochial Administrator,  
St. Jude Catholic Mission and  
Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Mission

During the Nazi occupation of Rome in 1943, a seemingly insignificant construction project was seen underway at the Vatican. Inside, however, was one of the most important discoveries of the 20th century: the finding of the tomb of St. Peter.

Tradition had always testified to this fact, claiming that Vatican hill contained the Circus of Caligula and a cemetery, where in the year 64 or 67AD, amidst persecutions of Nero, Peter was led for crucifixion. Stating that he was unworthy to die in the same manner of his Lord, the executioners obliged him by inverting his cross. Upon his death, Peter's disciples buried him in the nearby cemetery.

In the second century, Christians erected a small shrine atop the grave. Another 150 years later, Constantine encased the shrine with purple marble and erected a basilica directly above the tomb, flattening the hill in the process. In the sixteenth century, the current basilica replaced the original, using the same foundations, raising the ground floor even higher, and adding directly over the shrine the high altar and dome one sees today.

When Pope Pius XI died in 1939 and his final resting place was being dug out in the crypt of the basilica, builders penetrated the floor exposing ancient ruins. Secret excavations commenced, masked as a construction project, lest Nazi intrigue be roused. The ancient ruins were revealed to be a cemetery, occupied by both Christian and pagan, rich and poor. The rich built small houses, closely packed together, to entomb their dead. Thanks to the fill dirt of Constantine's basilica, all was perfectly preserved, including one of the oldest images of Christ ever found.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 21

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUEVALLEY 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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Wes Sharpe, Pastor 828-743-5298  
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30  
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship  
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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.

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Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy  
Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org  
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors  
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org  
Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.  
Mondays: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m.  
Wed: Choir: 6p

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814  
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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Worship/Communion: 10:30; Early-Bird Christmas Eve service of  
Lessons and Carols, Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:30 am.  
All are welcome.

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

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418  
Mass: Thurs. 12:10; Fri. 9am; Sun: 11 a.m.

### 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.

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers  
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



## ... WIDE OPEN continued from page 6

tached – that being that the lease contract between the town and Wide Open could only be for under 10 years. State law doesn't allow a contract based on a RIF to even speak of a contract extension. This doesn't give a company much security to invest a lot of money when it will only be for 10 years, said Patterson.

"It has been an uphill challenge for providers to deal with the 10-year provision," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

According to Town Manager Josh Ward, unlike RFI's, RFPs aren't hampered by state law and so can extend to 20-25 years which means more providers would possibly be interested in being the provider for the town.

Ward said the reason the town initially issued a RFI instead of a RFP was because the town would have more control over prospective bidders.

"It's possible Wide Open may even be interested with RFP terms," he said.

MIS/GIS Director, Matt Shuler said Wide Open could not commit to the annual lease payments which the town needed to subsidize the annual fiber loan payment.

"The extended lease period should be more attractive to interested companies," he said.

Shuler said he plans to have the RFP verbiage ready to present to the Town Board at its May meeting.

"Once the board votes, if it passes, we will then advertise for RFPs," he said.

The town has taken out a \$4.6 million loan to build the network and it expects the fiber network to be a viable operation for 40 to 50 years. It's a 15-year loan but it will take 23 years to fully recover the cost of the loan, said Mayor Taylor.

The network operator will eventually own the fiber highway installed by the town as a private business and will manage and operate it.

The money the potential operator pays the town for operating the network and leasing the fiber will go to paying the loan back.

Patterson said she knows of at least two other companies who have expressed an interest in being the town's network operator.

"What we anticipate doing in the next month or so is to have that RFP out and get proposals back and then make a decision and have them on board about the time when the build-out of our part of the network is done; sometime around mid-summer," she said.

– Kim Lewicki

## ... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

Eventually excavators unearthed the shrine directly beneath the high altar of the basilica. In the grave were found bones. The elation, however, soon soured to disappointment as they were proved to be from several different people and even animals. The investigation, however, continued. Among the investigators was Dr. Margherita Guarducci, an ancient graffiti expert. She discovered on the wall of the second century shrine a cryptic phrase: "Peter is here." The sense of the inscription, however, suggested Peter was within. Noticing a hole in the wall leading to a hollow compartment, she inquired about its former contents. Bones indeed had been found in the wall.

The remains having been ignored for a decade, experiments were conducted, yielding incredible results. The dirt on the bones matched perfectly the dirt in the grave. They were from a single male person dating to the first century. He was 5'5" tall, about 65 years old, and was arthritic.

Today, scientists remain confident these bones belong to St. Peter. Of course, pilgrims have known this for twenty centuries. At the site too were coins hailing from every European country and from every Christian century (the oldest dating

to 14AD), testifying to Christianity's universal and unbroken devotion to Peter and trust in this tradition. The next time you see the famous dome of St. Peter's basilica, consider its precise placement over the grave of Peter, as well as this remarkable history connecting us to the Apostles and therefore to Jesus.

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## ... INVESTING continued from page 8

In the future, I expect that there will be changes in real estate transactions. Sellers may request that any showings are only done for pre-qualified buyers and that open houses do not occur to limit the number of people coming into their home. We will probably see an increase in the use of 3-dimensional tours. There will probably be less use of paper documents and more electronic documents. In the long run, the process will become more streamlined and may even be able to occur faster. There will still be the need for services like home inspections, various tests and surveys, but the buyer isn't required to be present.

These weeks have been very different for all of us. I would like to say that I am really looking forward to the return of friends, clients and family to the plateau and the start of the season. There is no doubt that it will be different this year, but we will be so grateful for the time we get to spend with each other when we are able to do so.

Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Landmark has been the firm with the largest volume of sales on the plateau each of the past 7 years. Carl can be reached at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com.



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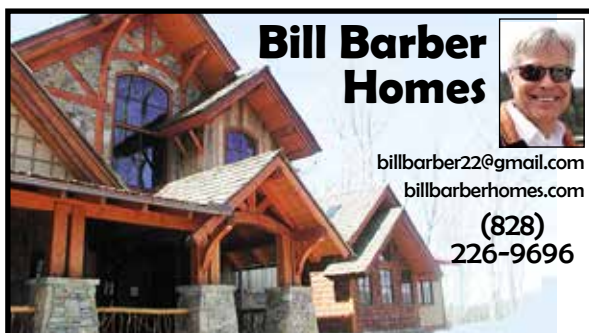
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## ... UTILITIES from page 10

it with PAC is because the town owned the property.

"Since we no longer own the property, it really isn't legal," she said.

Years ago, the town gave free utilities to churches and some nonprofits like Highlands Playhouse and Mountain Findings but the town determined it was on thin ice as to who got free utilities and who didn't so, it stopped the practice except where a contract was concerned as with the PAC.

"It was Commissioner Calloway's position at the time that 'we don't break contracts' and that's how we got to this point," said the mayor.

Member of the PAC board, Cindy Trevathan chimed in when asked to do so during the Zoom meeting saying she understood the legal implications and appreciated the town even discussing this given the other critical issues it was dealing with right now.

She said work is continuing on the renovation of the PAC but like some of the town projects, a step back had to be taken because costs came in higher than they could afford. Alternative designs for the project are being considered which they still hope will be a "wonderful opportunity for the town," she said.

"I guess we could possibly pursue this other ways; we would like the opportunity for the town to partner with us in some capacity. So maybe down the road, if it turns out it truly isn't legal for the town to provide utilities, maybe there is some other way the town could possibly help us with this endeavor, assuming the town is supportive of what we are doing," said Trevathan.

Town Manager Ward suggested this might be a good time to discuss the occupancy tax funds with the Chamber of Commerce "since that's basically what that tax is for," he said. "There may be some funding there to support the PAC."

Mayor Taylor has long held the position that occupancy tax money could be used in broader ways.

"We were looking at the occupancy tax before this, and reviewing how that money could be spent," he said. "The way the legislation is written, some people interpret that very strictly - that it can only be spent on promoting tourism. My views and my concern is that really the arts - along with the culinary arts - all attract tourism in this community. They are part of the hospitality, entertainment and cultural arts community so, I think there should be a hard look at how some of that money can be directed toward supporting things like the PAC."

Chamber Director Kay McHan said last year during its grant cycle PAC received \$10,000 so it does and has supported PAC. A number of nonprofits apply for and are granted grants through the Chamber's grant program.

Since it's not legal for the town to give away utilities, commissioners voted unanimously to begin charging the PAC monthly like it does other businesses in town.

**- Kim Lewicki**

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Maintenance Department wanted. Please Call 828-526-2203 or 828-200-9763. (st. 4/23)

### PART-TIME MARKETING

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND PRINT PRODUCTION POSITION

– 25 hours per week Marketing administrative and production assistant needed to oversee invoice coding and tracking and bookkeeping; manage in-house print production and inventory of all marketing collateral and external print ordering and vendor relationships; distribute collateral around Old Edwards properties and in town; lay out banquet menu cards for the special events department; and other administrative duties. Skill requirements include Excel proficiency; Microsoft Word and Outlook, knowledge of print production and print industry terminology, print-ready specs, paper types, color processes; experience in hands-on print production of materials such as brochures and newsletters, some experience in InDesign. More extensive experience in layout and design a plus and could be considered for a full-time position. Must be a stickler for high quality and details, work extremely well as part of a close-knit team and bring a consistently positive attitude, trustworthiness and integrity. References required. Apply online at [www.oldedwardsinn.com](http://www.oldedwardsinn.com)

**ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING** at the corner of Fourth and Main is looking for part time help. Please stop by or call at (828)526-5404 (st. 3/19)

### JOIN OUR TEAM!!

Nectar Juice Bar (located inside Whole Life Market) is now hiring! Are you looking for a fun, healthy-minded individual looking for full-time, year-round work? Experience is not necessary, but kitchen or barista skills a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th St., Highlands.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT CHESTNUT HILL ASSISTED LIVING

– Med Techs and CNAs. Call 828-526-8400. (st. 2/13)

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**HIGHLANDS** needs nursery help on Wednesday nights; 1-2 hours; \$15 per hour; background check and interview required; must be at least 16 years old. (st. 2/13)

### RANDEVU

now hiring full- & part-time waitstaff. Call 828-743-0190. (st. 2/27)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE.

Hiring all positions. Commitment to excellence in food quality and guest service. We are proud of the products and service we provide, we create experiences not just sell food. Offering defined, sane schedules and healthy work environment allowing for a balanced life. Very cooperative pay. Food service experience preferred. Tobacco free workplace. Contact us at [Smokeyhousehiring@gmail.com](mailto:Smokeyhousehiring@gmail.com) (st. 5/2)

### SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH

### END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC.

Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

## SERVICES

### HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS

### HANDYMAN:

Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (6/11)

## HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN

Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (st. 3/26)

### GUTTER CLEANING, METAL

### ROOF & FABRICATON

roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 6/27)

### HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/

### KEVIN VINSON:

scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 4/25)

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 5 LOTS. 3.22 ACRES.

Borders NSFS. VIEWS. Well, septic, utilities, roads installed. PRIVATE. Multiple exit/entry. 2/2 residence. 186,000 asking. 828.482.2050.

### 38.92 ACRES IN GATED COMMUNITY IN HIGHLANDS.

Small private development with paved streets, community water, community lake and pavilion, underground power and street lights. Gentle building sites with mountain views and streams at over 4,100' in elevation. Borders USFS. Offered for \$599,000 and MLS #88028. Call Cathy Garren at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty at 828-226-5870. (1/2/2020)

### ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS:

Looking for employee housing? We've got several options! Close to town and affordable! Call Christal at White Oak Realty Group. 828-200-9699. (st. 9/19)

### SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK

**ROAD** behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843-460-8015. (st. 5/30)

### 2/2 CLAYTON HOME IN LOWER CLEAR CREEK.

1+ acre, Private. View. 118,000. 706.782.9728 (st. 9/5)

### 1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC

– \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm ... open for negotiation. Please email if interested to [ddmarsh15@aol.com](mailto:ddmarsh15@aol.com) or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

### 1BR/BA HOME FULLY FURNISHED

in town near Bascom Art Center. \$1,200 per month plus utilities. Please call Jerry @ 828-482-2032. (st. 4/23)

4/23)

### 2 HOMES

– Beautiful log home 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Lovely golf course home 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Both fully furnished homes short/long term rentals. Franklin. 828-342-3135 (st. 4/9)

### HOME FOR RENT IN MIRROR LAKE AREA.

2 BR/2 BA furnished. Screened porch & open deck. Small pets okay. No smoking. Long-term preferred. \$1,700 per month. 404-630-8398. (3/19)

### SPACIOUS POST AND BEAM

### HOMES WITH 4-BEDROOM, 3-1/2 BATH

home. Soaring 30' ceiling in open floor-plan of the kitchen/living/dining room. All other rooms offer 10' ceilings. Spacious master suite. Mountain views with creeks and large deck. Less than 15-minutes from Main Street. This is a non-smoking property. Call 828.421.1823 to view the property. Yearly lease @ \$3200 per month. (st. 1/30)

### LUXURY APARTMENT IN TOWN.

Walk to Main Street. 1BR 1BA. \$3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)

## • POLICE & FIRE •

### Highlands Police entries from

**March 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

### March 28

• At 10:07 p.m., Domoingo Orozco, Jiminez, 36, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for DUI when stopped for speeding on NC 106.

### April 9

• At 8:29 p.m., officers received a report of drug paraphernalia left in a bathroom at Farmers Market.

### April 11

• At 9:15 p.m., Jose Luis Pinilla Cleves, 49, of Rabun Gap, GA was arrested for DUI without a license when he was stopped on US 64 east. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His court date is May 4.

### The Highlands Fire & Rescue log

from April 16.

### April 16

• At 3:54 a.m., the dept. was called to investigate smoke at a residence on Cherokee Drive.

### April 17

• 4:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Carriage Lane.

## The open fire ban

## has been lifted!



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