

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, April 30, 2020

Details of Gov. Cooper's 3-phase plan

Mayor Taylor following Governor's lead; to discuss options Friday AM

By Brittney Lofthouse

Though neighboring states are scaling back stay-at-home provisions beginning this week, North Carolina Governor Roy

Cooper is taking a more conservative approach. Last Thursday, Governor Cooper announced that the state's current order, which was scheduled to end on April 28, will

be extended until May 8, at which time the state will begin a three-phase process to re-opening after COVID-19.

• See PLAN page 5

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Drive-by parade lifts spirits of Eckerd LC residents

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Residents at Eckerd Living Center had the chance to see family members in-person for the first time in almost two months on Tuesday when over 40 cars paraded through the parking lot on Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's campus.

In the current climate of stay-at-home orders and social-distancing to slow the spread of coronavirus, visitation is not al-

• See ECKERD page 21

Highlands School Class of 2020 says 'Hello'



The 32-member Class of 2020 at Dry Falls. See the first installment of "Senior Spotlight" on page 10.

Mission to phase in care for non-covid patients

By Nancy Lindell
Mission Health

Within the next several days Mission Health plans to begin phasing back in certain services and procedures that were temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

To date, Mission Health has not seen the surge of COVID-19 patients initially anticipated when the pandemic first began to spread across the country. There have been just over 20 inpatients with COVID-19 throughout the entire health system as of late April.

"Thankfully the sacrifices we have all made to flatten the curve have helped to slow the spread of the virus. This gives

• See MISSION page 9

What 'no school' means for students

By Brittney Lofthouse &
Kim Lewicki

Late last week, the day after announcing the 3-phase plan to

reopen North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper announced that public schools in the state will remain closed for the rest of the school

year, if not longer. Gov. Cooper extended his order that had previously kept schools closed through

• See SCHOOL page 15

Police traffic checkpoints have died down but initiative is still in place; HPD not sharing strategy. See story on page 19.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Dealing with COVID-19 is front and center

To open or not to open the town, that is the question. Should we continue strict COVID-19 measures, or relax them in an effort to return to some kind of normalcy? I know these questions are on the minds of many, including the Town Board and myself.

I receive feedback from both perspectives. On Monday morning I took a call from a resident who stated she would not listen to any more of my negative radio programs that tell part-time residents not to come to Highlands. This person vented that I was hurting the foundation of the economy of the town, and that businesses had to open as soon as possible.

On the other hand, I have residents supporting the strong position that the board has taken in adopting state of emergency measures that curtail the spread of the corona virus. These residents are very concerned about an outbreak of the coro-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

navirus in Highlands.

We're in a precarious situation. The actions of the town, whatever they may be, will not sit well with everyone. I realize any policy decision will cause pain and concern for some, while being assuring for others. The only thing the board and I can do is strive to make responsible decisions that hopefully will be for the best outcome for the town and our residents.

I've called a special meeting of the Town Board for this Friday at 8:30 a.m. I want the board to review our current state of emergency, especially in the context of the governor's plan to reopen the state. The board should consider what can be done safely to reopen the town and the economy. Regardless of any changes in the town's state of emergency, the governor's declarations and reopening plan will have to be followed.

The same resident who called me about my negative radio broadcasts also let me know I was demonstrating poor management skills by not calling the governor to ask for exceptions for communities like Highlands from his state order. The rationale was we do not have the outbreaks like in Raleigh and other large cities, so we should not have to follow the same restrictions.

I do think there are some areas where we may adjust town state of emergency to facilitate opening the economy. Changes must be made carefully and must follow the governor's reopening plan. Phase 1 could begin around May 9 with the limited opening of retail stores. Phase 2 would begin about the first of June with the opening of restaurant dining on a limited capacity basis. Phase 3 would begin sometime in early July with more normal operations including removing the restrictions on large gatherings.

There are difficult decisions ahead. How do we reopen and avoid the loss of a number of businesses? On the other hand, how do we protect our residents, especially the elderly, during this pandemic?

I believe COVID-19 will be with us for some time. The difficult decisions will continue to be with us also.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 30-Apr	Fri, 1-May	Sat, 2-May	Sun, 3-May
53°F 40°F	57°F 40°F	70°F 47°F	76°F 54°F
A brief afternoon shower	An a.m. shower; partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny and nice
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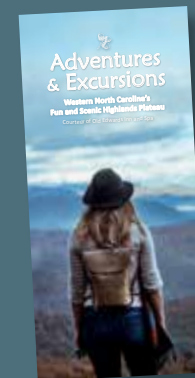
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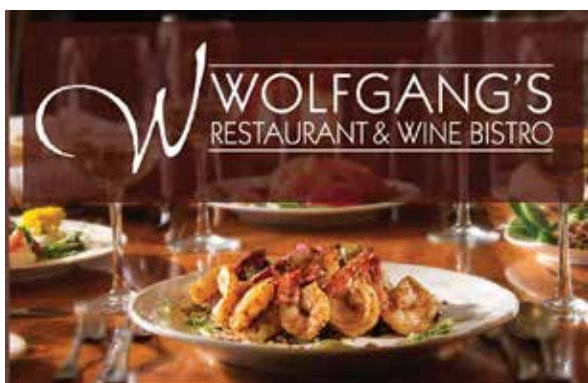
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...PLAN continued from page 1

So the end is in sight.

"The health and safety of people in North Carolina must be our top priority," Cooper said. "This plan provides a roadmap for us to begin easing restrictions in stages to push our economy forward."

With mounting criticism from businesses across the state who want to reopen and salvage what is left of their profits, Governor Cooper said that a cautious approach, formulated by science, is the best way to ensure the safety of North Carolinians during this unprecedented pandemic.

"North Carolina cannot stay at home indefinitely," said Governor Cooper. "We have to get more people back to work. Right now, the decision to stay at home is based on the public health data and White House guidance. North Carolina needs more time to slow the spread of this virus

before we can safely begin lifting restrictions. I know that this pandemic has made life difficult for many people in our state and I am focused on keeping our communities safe while planning to slowly lift restrictions to help cushion the blow to our economy."

Gov. Cooper and other state leaders reiterated that the decisions to slowly reopen the state was not made hastily, instead was carefully considered with medical and health experts.

"Data has driven our decisions, starting with the aggressive measures Governor Cooper took early on to slow the spread of COVID-19. Those actions combined with North Carolinians' resolve to stay home to protect their loved ones have put our state on the right path. If we stick to these efforts right now we will continue to see a slowing of virus spread and we can slowly begin easing restrictions," said Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen.

By extending the current order a week, Gov. Cooper said it gives the state time to increase the state's testing capacity, which is vital in being able to get the clearest picture of the virus in the state.

Currently, North Carolina is testing approximately 2,500 to 3,000 people per day and is working to increase to at least 5,000 to 7,000 per day. Currently, North Carolina has approximately 250 people doing contact tracing across its local health departments and is working to double this workforce to 500.

The stay-at-home extension will also give the state additional time to ensure adequate Personal Protective Equipment. The state is working to ensure there are adequate supplies to fulfill requests for critical PPE for at least 30 days. This includes face shields, gloves, gowns, N95 masks, and surgical and procedural masks. Currently the state has less than 30 days supply of gowns and N95 masks. Availability of PPE is calculated based on the average number of requests for the last 14 days compared to the supply that the state has on hand.

Beginning May 8, if data suggests the virus continues to level off in North Carolina, the state will enter into the three-phase reopening plan:

In Phase 1:

- Modify the Stay-at-Home order to allow travel not currently defined as essential, allowing people to leave home for commercial activity at any business that is allowed to be open, such as clothing stores, sporting goods stores, book shops, houseware stores and other retailers.

- Ensure that any open stores implement appropriate employee and consumer social distancing, enhanced hygiene and cleaning protocols, symptom screening of employees, accommodations for vulnerable workers, and provide education to employees and workers to combat misinformation

- To limit gatherings to no more than 10 people, instead of five;

- Reopen parks that have been closed subject to the same gathering limitation. Outdoor exercise will continue to be encouraged;

- Continue to recommend face coverings in public spaces when 6-foot distancing isn't possible;

- Encourage employers to continue teleworking policies;

- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings;

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•WORD MATTER•

A Pause for Reflection

Where are you, right now? What are you thinking about?

Things are changing every nanosecond. It seems we're watching the world rotate on its axis. Benjamin Disraeli told us that numbers can lie as eloquently as words. "There are three kinds of lies," he said, "lies, damned lies, and statistics." Yet, eyes glued to screens, we watch the numbers. So many new cases. So many more deaths. When will this end?

Why are some intelligent Americans still rejecting the unfolding reality, both here and around the world? There are, in fact, two realities; the public health reality and the economic reality. I understand that there are people who are out of work and people who are watching their businesses shrink



Bud Katz

and even disappear. Honestly, I feel for them. But, shouldn't our health be our primary concern? What good is any business without healthy employees and customers?

No matter who we choose to trust, don't we owe it to ourselves to listen to

them and their best advisors before risking our health and lives? And, when the shouldn't we seek other, impartial information from a source we trust? I trust Johns Hopkins University's center-forhealthsecurity@jhu.edu.

I'm an introvert, so staying home, helping arrange for our essentials, investing time in positive thought and activities, considering a future that may or may not await us, hasn't yet driven me over the edge. Not yet, at least.

I'm a realist, and therefore am way more interested in the math and science than in the politics, the media's 'what if's', and the rampant conspiracy theories. Consequently, my energy remains aimed at doing my part to stop the spread of the virus.

I'm a human being, so my thoughts, prayers, and attention, are focused on doing what I can to save lives, yours, mine, ours.

I'm considered vulnerable – really, we all are – so I want to understand what I can and can't, should and shouldn't do. When there's some kind of 'all clear' sounded, we will resume what we were doing before our lives were interrupted.

The issue, to me, is what kind of future will we find when all is said and done, and the words, coronavirus, and Covid-19, are hopefully relegated to medical and scientific history.

We're going to reflect on why and how this attack happened. We're going to consider how we can immunize ourselves against anything similar ever again upsetting our lives to the extent we are currently witnessing and experiencing. We're likely, if we've learned anything at all, going to reconsider how we think about food and crowded spaces, about, as a society, where and from whom we will obtain our pharmaceuticals and critical equipment, even our toilet paper. I hope we're going to rethink how we manage healthcare in America, for all of us, and how we can best take care of our brothers and sisters on the margins.

For those of us capable of critical thought, we must ask ourselves to consider who and what

we choose to believe, and why. I'm not talking about faith, or God, or anything so fundamental to our human nature. I'm talking about the secular aspects of our belief system. When we encounter something as indiscriminately evil and deadly as a virus borne of human interaction with animals, we really must ask ourselves who we are going to trust to inform us, to lead us, and to protect us.

I've always believed in, and have passed along to my children and grandchildren, the notion of paying attention to what's really important, to focus on things that matter. It's not always easy to put aside trivialities because, frankly, what's trivial to one person may be really important to another. Many of us get caught up in nonsense instead of focusing on those things that touch us most deeply. This episode, hopefully, will encourage us to keep our eyes on important matters, and not on the fleeting distractions or petty annoyances of day-to-day life.

I, for one, tend to look forward. I don't spend time moaning about how this or that has upended my life. I don't look for someone to blame. Instead, even while in the midst of it, I'm imagining what's next, and hoping we can paint our own future for ourselves.

It may not be 'morning in America' right now, but it is Spring – a time for renewal, for Nature's beauty, and, yes, for hope.

That's where I am right now. That's how I'm thinking. Where are you?

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...PLAN continued from page 5

• Local emergency orders with more restrictive measures may remain in place.

Phase 2

To begin, at least 2-3 weeks after Phase 1 which began May 8. (May 22 or May 29)

• Lift Stay-at-Home order with strong encouragement for vulnerable populations to continue staying at home to stay safe

• Allow limited opening of restaurants, bars, fitness centers, personal care services, and other businesses that can follow safety protocols including the potential need to reduce capacity;

• Allow gathering at places such as houses of worship and entertainment venues at reduced capacity;

• Increase the number of people allowed at gatherings

• Open public playgrounds;

• Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.

Phase 3

To begin at least 4-6 weeks after Phase 2. (June 19 or June 26 or July 3 or July 10)

• Lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing and minimizing exposure to settings where distancing isn't possible;

• Allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worship, and entertainment venues;

• Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings;

• Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.

COVID-19 Antibody Tests Are Coming:

Up until now, almost all COVID-19 testing completed and reported have been antigen tests. These tests look for the presence of the actual antigen SARS-CoV-2 (aka COVID-19). If these antigens are found it indicates the virus is present and is likely capable of infecting and causing illness. Therefore, testing for the actual virus has been an indication of an acute infection. We know much more about these tests and their meaning than we do about the coming antibody testing.

What is an Antibody and Antibody Testing?

Antibody testing looks at the body's immune response to the virus, rather than antigen focused testing as mentioned above. Antigens are molecules recognized as foreign to our bodies. The immune system responds by making antibodies to attach to these foreign antigens. From there, antibodies block or kill the antigen in an attempt to prevent infection and illness.

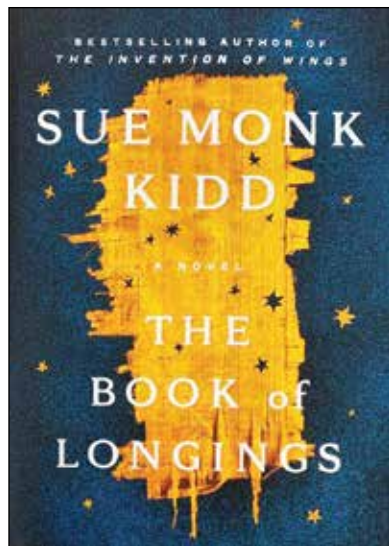
The Concern with Antibody Testing?

Although antibodies are helpful to fight off infection, they are not always able to differentiate between the portions of the antigen that cause illness and the portions that do not. This is a concern when it comes to antibody testing because it is not specific enough to identify if these antibodies were created against the portion of the antigen specifically responsible for infection with the virus and if they are unique to COVID-19 or related to another strain of Coronavirus, like SARS or MERS.

Ultimately, the new antibody testing, will be beneficial to our understanding of the immune response to COVID-19; however, it is not specific enough to determine whether short-term or long-term

immunity is provided from the antibodies. Antibody testing can only show the presence of antibodies that have been created in response to the COVID-19 antigen, but it cannot determine if the antibodies were created from the infectious portion, thus testing is not able to determine the level of immunity provided.

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Let's Rebound!

"...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance"
— (Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933).

About six weeks ago, I penned a column in this space called "We're All in This Together," which is still very true. I applaud my fellow Real Estate Brokers who've written you since then, all of them about Covid-19. Their wise words have ranged from health concerns, market advice, humor, and the so-called "new normal" process of Buying and Selling property here on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

FDR's words are as true today and they were back then and certainly pertain to our current situation. All of us are ready to get back at it and "to advance" as Roosevelt said. With that in mind, all of us respect the seriousness of the pandemic and as Dr. Fauci says "we don't make the timeline, the virus makes the timeline." As the numbers state-wide, county-wide, and certainly

in Highlands and Cashiers begin to turn in our favor, we believe that it's time to think "Rebound," and to get the show back on the road. As of today, there have been two confirmed cases in Macon County, and five confirmed cases in Jackson County. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order has us in shutdown mode through May 8th.

We cannot ignore the reality or sugar-coat the impact on the housing market as a result of the shutdown. Nationally, the number of homes for sale have declined by 16% (Danielle Hale, Chief Economist, Realtor.com) and weekly mortgage applications have dropped 18% despite interest rates in the mid 3% range (Curbed.com). But what about the Highlands-Cashiers market? Let's check the MLS metrics.

In the period since the shutdown and the National Emergency was declared (March 13th – April 26th), New Listings



Pat Gleeson
Owner, BIC
White Oak RG
828-782-0472

across the entire MLS are down 49%, Properties in Due Diligence are down 29%, and Closings are down 22% versus the same date range last year.

Contrast these figures with where the Highlands-Cashiers market was pacing prior to the shutdown, because Q1 2020 was booming! Between January 1st-March 13th, 2020, New Listings were up by 20%, Properties in Due Diligence were up by 48%, and Closings were up 50% from a year ago. And then came Friday the 13th of March, "a day that will live in infamy" to borrow another FDR quote.

Please give your Broker a hug the next time you see them (if hugging is allowed by then).

Here's the good news if you're selling a property. During this same Covid-19 period, there have been only 61 "price changes" across the entire MLS versus 93 last year over those same dates. These 52% fewer

price changes means Sellers are staying calm and believe this is no time to panic. Limited supply right now is your friend, and the shutdown is not affecting property value, at least not yet.

Here's the good news if you're a Buyer. You may be more likely to get a good deal at the moment because there are fewer of you out there. I advocate reaching out to your Broker for advice, who will acquaint you with the best practices in place for Covid-19 in order to help you buy or list your property.

Let's get ready for a Rebound!

• Pat Gleeson, Bee, Tom, Christal, Duffy, and their dog Gemma are Owners and Brokers of White Oak Realty Group, in downtown Highlands (4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn). White Oak Realty Group, founded in 2009 by Susie deVillie, is one of the leading boutique brokerage firms on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach all of us at 828.526.8118.

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... MISSION continued from page 1

us hope as we plan to restart services that we temporarily suspended in March as part of our initial response to COVID-19. Both clinical and operational changes are required to ensure the safety and security of our patients and employees and we're committed to getting this right," said Greg Lowe, President HCA Healthcare NC Division/Mission Health.

Due to our intense planning efforts and good supply levels, we are now carefully turning our attention to serving patients whose treatments may have been put on hold because of COVID-19. We understand that many of our patients have forgone important procedures like cancer therapies and joint replacements due to the pandemic, and we are developing a cautious, comprehensive strategy to allow for the safe return of these patients to our facilities. As we begin this transition, the health and safety of our patients and our colleagues remain our top priority, so be assured that any reinstatement of services will be part of a careful, phased approach.

Mission expects to begin a return of services in phases, within the next week to 10 days. In the first phase, we will work to resume procedures that were deferred or canceled during the initial COVID-19 response time. When we make the decision to proceed with services, it will not be a switch, but a dial—enabling us to stay attune to necessary calibrations as we move forward. We will regularly evaluate our best practices to assess when and if we need to make adjustments. Our willingness to adapt in this way is a direct reflection of our commitment to providing the highest caliber care. We value the confidence our patients have in us, and we hold ourselves

accountable for reinforcing that confidence in the days ahead.

William R. Hathaway, MD FACC Chief Medical Officer, Mission Health, noted, "Consistent with Governor Cooper and DHHS Secretary Cohen's guidance yesterday, we are carefully planning and undertaking a phased approach to begin care that focuses on the most critical and timely patients who have been waiting while we prioritized our services for COVID-19 patients."

Safeguards have been implemented across the system, such as universal masking and screening of all patients, visitors and employees, to reassure our patients and team members who may have more concerns about coming to a healthcare facility than they did in the past.

As another aspect of this approach, we are working with physicians to understand what they will need to resume more normal operations in their practices to include social distancing and proper screening of patients as well.

Mission Health is making critical decisions and taking decisive action every day to protect and support our patients, colleagues and caregivers while determining the safest way to phase back in important procedures and other medical services.

"Thanks to the good work of residents adhering to our Stay Home - Stay Safe policy, the risk of exceeding the capacity at Mission Hospital to care for all patients is now low. County health officials are comfortable with Mission performing important medical procedures that had been placed on hold. Residents can receive the health care they need and our nurses and doctors can carry out their work. The county will coordinate with Mission to carefully monitor patient

numbers to assure adequate capacity going forward," said Brownie Newman, Chair of the Buncombe County Commission," said Brownie Newman, Chair Buncombe County Commission.

"Mission Health stands ready to provide care for all patients and is a safe choice for all in our community who need our care, now and for the future," said Lowe.



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Senior Spotlight: Highlands School Class of 2020



Dillon Schmitt

Dillon was involved in basketball for 4 years, soccer for 4 years, and golf for his Junior and Senior year.

He plans to attend the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) to get his NPQ Pro Board firefighter certification.

His favority COVID-19 activities have been working and fishing a lot.

Good Luck, Dillon! You will be missed at Highlands School.



Emma Weller

Emma has been involved with Cheerleading, SGA, Interact and Dance during her years in school.

She is going to NC State next spring where is is going into the Wilson College of Design within NC State to major in fashion merchandising."

"Coach Green's class is always my favorite. I've made so many memories in there as well as in Mrs. Ford's class," she said.

Her favority COVID-19 activity has been watching Netflix and hiking every day.



Jonathan 'Bill' Miller

He has been involved with basketball, golf and soccer during his years at Highlands School.

He plans to attend the Georgia Fire Academy and become a full-time, paid fireman.

During COVID-19 he has been working all the time but also turkey hunting.

Good luck, Bill. You will be missed at Highlands School!



Kedra McCall

She has been involved with SGA, Beta Club, Interact, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Basketball, Volleyball, and Soccer during her years at Highlands School.

Kedra plans on attending Appalachian State to major in Marketing (sales) and minor in Hospitality and Tourism.

She wants to shoutout to Mrs. Mary and Ms. Elaine for being the sweetest & best custodians! Also, to all of our cafeteria staff for never failing to smile at her when she sees them!

Her favorite memory is traveling to Boston with so many incredible people and shouts out to Mrs. B and Coach Green for giving so much time and effort to us and those trips!

Her favorite Covid-19 activity is Zooming with her besties. "Social distancing is tough but thankfully technology keeps us connected!"



Marilyn Valerio

Marilyn has been involved with cheerleading for 4 years (captain junior & senior year) and been part of the Yearbook Staff for 3 years.

She plans on attending East Carolina University in the fall to major in Fashion Merchandising and Consumer Studies. She is super excited!

She shouts out to the entire Highlands School Staff. "This school has truly become a home to me. Highlands School would not be the great school it is if we didn't have all these amazing teachers and staff!"

Her favorite memory was getting the opportunity to travel with Coach P and Profe to Costa Rica and Peru! "Truly an amazing experience with you both!"

Her favorite Covid-19 activity has been hanging out and learning more about her little sister while being stuck at home!



Sophia Nguyen

Sophia has been involved with Basketball and Interact Club while at Highlands School.

"After I graduate, I will attend college at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where I will be in the media studies program which will help me become a screenwriter.

"I would like to achieve the role of a hard-working student in order to graduate college. This means that I want to learn, read, communicate, be prepared for, and create a successful screenwriting portfolio."

Good Luck, Sophia! Your positive attitude and determination will take you far in life.



Sayla Roman

Sayla has been involved with Varsity Basketball, Varsity Soccer, Varsity Volleyball manager, SGA (Junior Class Treasurer and SGA Treasurer), Beta Club (president during junior year), Interact Club (president during senior year), Yearbook (editor during senior year).

She plans to attend Columbia University in New York City in the fall, if COVID-19 allows – to major in biology and minor in something in the arts, such as theater.

She says thank you to all of the teachers she has become acquainted with during her 13 years at Highlands School, even those that she did not have a class with! "My favorite high school memory is when Ms. Mac took the Yearbook Staff to the Biltmore and made a pit stop at Starbucks, where I managed to tip a table and spill my drink everywhere (truly embarrassing)"

Her favorite Covid-19 activity is watching Netflix and reading new books while mastering procrastination.



Carlos Soto Torres

Carlos is active with the North Carolina vocational rehab program; through this program he has had an internship with OEI.

After graduation, he will continue working for OEI and will also continue his passion with animation and technology. His favorite memory is the Highlands School battle cry that is performed at the Pep rallies and by the cheerleaders. He loves any food that is sweet! And, his favorite Covid-19 activity is playing video games and watching movies. We will miss you, Carlos! Good luck in all you do.

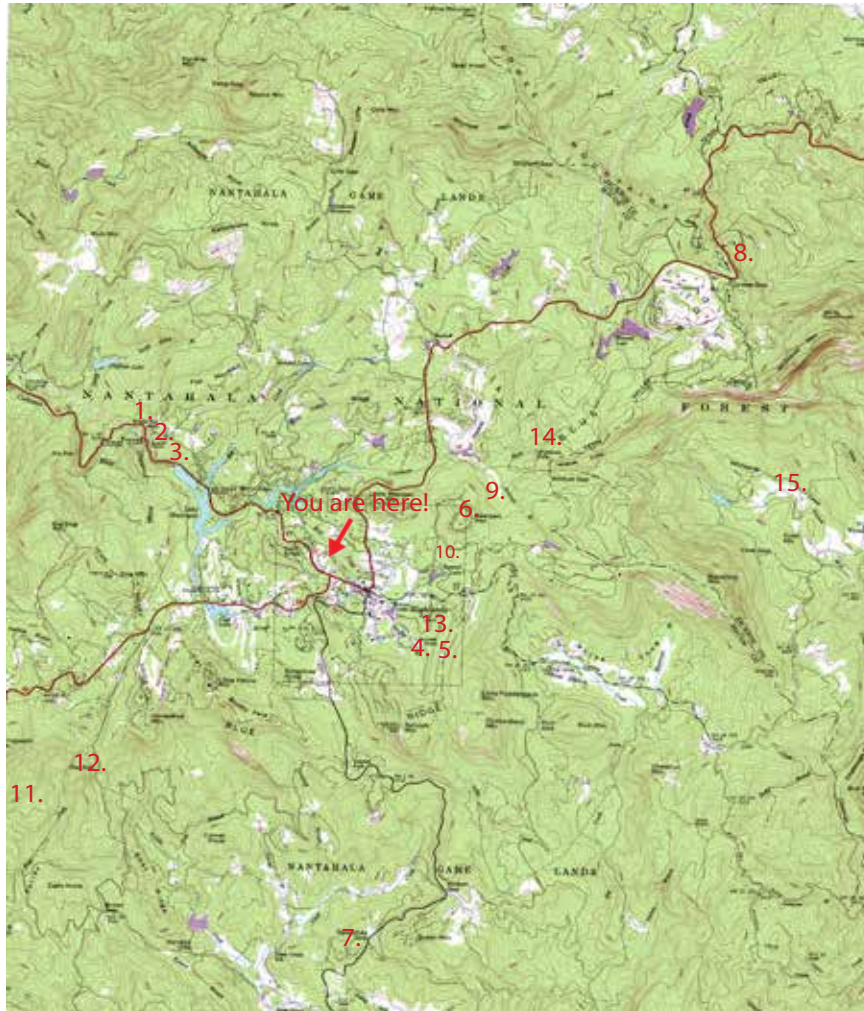
Community COVID-19 Outreach

Community Resources at hand

MASA CHALLENGE!

Marked on the map below are 15 images of George Masa's photographs from a brief excursion to Highlands, NC in 1929. Use the provided map to challenge yourself to find and photograph the vistas that George Masa captured during his visit to the Highlands area.

Share your images on Instagram, #bascommasachallenge!



1. Bridal Veil Falls, 2. Bridal Veil Falls, 3. Municipal Lake Dam, 4. Whiteside Cove from Sunset Rock, 5. Sunset from Sunset Rock, 6. Satulah and Fodderstack from Bearpen, 7. Model T from Sassafras Gap 8. Big View Panorama, 9. Whiteside from Bearpen, 10. Whiteside from Bowery Rd., 11. Camp Parry Dis, Rabun Bald, 12. Top of Glen Falls, 13. Ravenel Driveway, 14. Highlands Falls, 15. Whiteside Cove

Who Was George Masa?

George Masa Masa arrived in the United States in 1901, and in 1915, he settled in Asheville, North Carolina, where he would spend the final 18 years of his life. After initially working for the Grove Park Inn as a bellhop and valet, Masa left the inn to take a position as a photographer in February 1919. Eventually, he founded Plateau Studio (a business he later sold, which is still in operation today). His customers included some of the town's most affluent citizens such as the Vanderbilt, Grove, and Seely families.

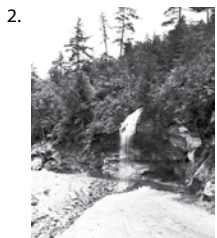
Masa came to love the mountains of Western North Carolina and worked tirelessly for their preservation, often at his own expense. Using his photographic equipment and an odometer he crafted from an old bicycle, Masa meticulously catalogued a significant number of peaks, the distances between them, and the names given to them by the local settlers and the Cherokee. He was a friend of Horace Kephart, and the two of them worked together to ensure that a large portion of the Great Smoky Mountains would be established as a national park. Masa also scouted and marked the entire North Carolina portion of the Appalachian Trail.

Masa was taking pictures for Kephart when Frank Cook in Highlands, NC heard about him. Cook was the manager of Highlands House, & just like the manager of Grove Park Inn, he figured photographs of the beauty of the mountains would generate more business. So in 1929 he invited Masa to come to Highlands to photograph the area.

Tell The Playhouse what you've been watching!

Highlands Playhouse Managing Director Lance Matzke has taken to their Facebook page and Instagram with an invitation to share what movies, shows, and other media people have been enjoying while the Playhouse has been closed.

Each Monday and Friday will bring a new video discussing what Playhouse friends and associates have seen recently and addressing your comments and recommendations. Become a part of the discussion!



Daily 'dealings' during t

Making the most of life



Old Edwards Hospitality Group employees practicing social distancing while joining the local Garbage Grabbers whose mission is to keep Highlands clean.

— Photo courtesy of The Laurel Magazine

Teachers send their love

Dear Kindergarten students,
I miss you all so much! I am very grateful for the time we were able to spend together this school year. I am proud of each and every one of you. I'm proud of how hard you've worked, how much you have learned, and what kind students you are. Your class holds a very special place in my heart. When school starts again in the fall, please come and visit me!

Love,
Ms. Potts

Shep filling the at home hours at an outdoor scavenger hunt.



Teacher love

Dear 3rd grade students,

I miss you all so much! I want you to know that even though we can't be in school right now, I think about you often and I'm always here for you.

I can't wait to see you all when school resumes!

Love,
Ms.
Huneycutt



Since Anna can't make it to the golf course this is where we find her, at her own make shift practice facility. She's addicted to the game!



Statton is learning about the tiny creatures who live all around us.

the COVID-19 Pandemic

during social distancing



Charlie and Annie watching the Church of the Incarnation service.



Sadie and Lucas are studying the lifecycle of a Caterpillar at home with a homemade habitat.



Ransom has taken to the kitchen to make moon dough



Words of Wisdom

Dear Editor,

My name is Leela and I am 11 years old. I am writing to spread joy! This is a very stressful time but no matter how scared or upset you are, please have compassion for everyone. Be kind to your friends, family, and neighbors. we are all in this together. When we get through this we will be a stronger community. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay positive."

Leela Chrestman
Highlands, 5th grade



Happy 6th birthday, Ollie!

Teachers send their love

To my WONDERFUL 1st graders,

I have had a BLAST getting to know each of you this year. It has been so fun watching y'all experience new things and ideas. You are each unique and AWESOME!!!

Please know that I love and miss y'all very much.

Love,
Mrs. Mason

Friends Todd and Lincoln
whiling away the hours in the sunshine during shelting at home.

Community COVID-19 Outreach

Community Resources at hand

Valley Musicians Create a 'Virtual Concert' fundraiser

Sapphire Valley, NC: Residents and guests in Sapphire Valley were used to having a choice of restaurants offering musical entertainment several days per week. With 3 of these 4 restaurants now closed and the other offering take-out only, everyone is not only missing great food, we're missing the music!

Musicians love to play – anytime – anywhere! So, we gathered many of our valley musicians together to support these restaurants, to create a virtual fund-raising concert! These musicians have played for years at Table 64, The Cork and Barrel Lounge, Micas, and were set to have an opening party at the new SlopeSide Tavern, when all was shut down.

This virtual concert may be viewed anytime here: https://sapphirevalley.com/music_valley/concert.html



'Yoga in the Garden'

Highlands Biological Foundation has partnered with Yoga Highlands to bring you Yoga in the Garden.

Grab your yoga mat, and join Rachel Kinback (CYT 500) of Yoga Highlands on the first Monday of the month May-August for virtual yoga sessions in the Highlands Botanical Garden.

"As we continue to follow the stay-at-home order and practice social distancing, we can still come together to connect with nature and unwind our minds and bodies from the bustle of Mondays," said Winter Gary.

These yoga sessions are free to the public, but donations are accepted at highlandsbiological.org.

Yoga in the Garden will be made available on the Highlands Biological Station's Facebook, so 'like' the page to receive updates on this digital offering and to watch the first virtual yoga session when it is posted the evening of Monday, May 4.

For more information, please call (828) 526-2623.

Stores offering online 'style boxes'

AnnaWear and TJ Bailey are shipping their customers "Style Boxes" based on past shopping experiences and allowing them to shop and try clothes on at home. TJ Bailey is also offering a free mask with every order.



Paint your frustrations away!



Times are crazy so let's get creative! I will help you create a masterpiece in the comfort of your own home. I will draw out the paintings for you and send them right to your door with a printed out color example for you to follow. If you get stuck, and need help, all you have to do is shoot me a message and I'll help you out! Need paint and brushes? can have those drop shipped to your door! I can also meet you for scheduled curbside pickup. Reach me through Facebook at the Easley an Artist page or the website at www.easleyanartist.com.

... SCHOOL continued from page 1

May 15. Cooper said the decision to not reopen was made after consulting with health experts.

"This decision is not made lightly," Cooper said at a news conference Friday. "This decision is made with the high hopes that we could go in and finish the school year like any regular school year. But this virus tells us that cannot be, and I know parents want us to keep the health and safety of their children as the No. 1 priority."

North Carolina is among 43 states, four U.S. territories and the District of Columbia that have ordered or recommended that school buildings be closed for the rest of the academic year, according to Education Week. The closures are affecting around 45.1 million students.

"I understand the need for schools to remain closed because of the corona virus' deadly aspects," said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter. "The death of over 55,000 people in the U.S. in only a couple of months is absolutely cause for caution."

But what about end of year grades and will students be ready for the next grade in August?

Last Thursday, the State Board of Education adopted a statewide grading policy in which only high school students

will have the option of getting traditional grades this semester. Elementary school students won't get grades, and middle school students will only get grades saying whether they passed or withdrew from a class.

"Looking strictly at a curriculum focus, and not the maturation of social skills students gain in school, teachers will need to begin the 2020-'21 school year identifying the gaps in course specific knowledge that students may have because of school closing early," said Jetter. "Teachers will need to teach that curriculum first and then move into new material. There will be a lot of assessment at the beginning of the year that is focused on determining different students' gaps in foundational knowledge."

Jetter said one fortunate thing (if there is anything "fortunate" about what is happening) is that the school closing happened with only about 35 instructional days left in the school year.

"While a lot of knowledge can be gained in 35 days, at least we weren't closed with half the year left and the knowledge deficits that would have caused," he said.

When schools closed, many teachers moved from written packet material for students to online interactions with students through platforms like Google Classroom,

and Youtube learning new ways to reach students.

"However, whether teachers are relying on online platforms or packets of work with their students, I do not see a big difference in the knowledge garnered by the work done," said Jetter. "There are many 'older' technologies – phone calls, texts, and emails – by which teachers have stayed connected to students."

In the Highlands area, there are many students who live in places that do not have reliable internet connections.

"So, with a variety of 'connections' from the physical packets of work and the inevitable inconveniences of pick-up and drop-off, to the high-speed connections of internet platforms, we have tried to reach as many students as possible," he said. "However, I think whichever way students and teachers are connected there are students who will have different gaps in foundational knowledge come the start of school in late August. Those gaps will need to be identified at the very beginning of the year and learned by the student before new material is taught."

On top of that, the community's heart goes out to the Class of 2020.

"It is most unfortunate that our seniors, along with most other seniors across our nation, will have to miss final milestones

during the last few months of high school – award and scholarship assemblies, athletic banquets, yearbook presentations and signings, field days, and graduations," said Jetter. "We are all saddened by this loss of memories that may not be made. However, we also realize how important it is to follow the safety measures that have been put in place."

Meanwhile, Highlands School is supporting its seniors through gestures of love, encouragement and respect.

"We are making sure we are ready to implement a graduation ceremony once we know what the restrictions to large group gatherings are. We will be sending athletic and academic award information to our newspapers to share with our community; we have hung senior picture posters on our track fence to highlight our seniors to our community; and we are publishing online and in the newspapers Senior Spotlights to honor each of our them."

Jetter said even though this is a trying time for families, students, and teachers, Highlands School will continue to praise its seniors, families, and teachers for remaining strong.

"The Highlands School faculty and staff look forward to hearing about these seniors' accomplishments in the future," he said.

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Spring Home Improvement 2020

3 Major Home Renovations that are Worth the Effort

(StatePoint) Building a new home? Overhauling an existing one? Here are three renovation ideas that will add beauty and value.

Expand Your Living Space

Don't let that basement sit unfinished and unused. Substantially expand your home's livable areas by turning your attention to the bottom floor. Finishing a basement is an involved project, potentially requiring electrical and plumbing work, insulation, drywall and more -- but the end result is worth the effort and expense. What's more, some of the less technical aspects of this renovation could even be DIY-ed.

Before getting started, consider what type of space would most benefit your household long-term. You may even be able to recoup some cost of the investment. For example, turning your basement into an at-home fitness center means ditching the costly gym membership. Want to reduce time and money on your commute? Your basement may just make an ideal home office.

Add a Focal Point

Is your interior design in need of a little something? The right eye-catching elements can make a room pop while adding vitality to your living spaces. A fireplace, for example,

adds ambiance and comfort while also creating a natural gathering space.

What's more, new models pair the charm of a traditional open-front fireplace with the design flexibility of gas models. The Phoenix TrueView from Heat & Glo offers the convenience of gas without the glass, giving homeowners an unobscured view of the flames against the traditional brick or fade-resistant reflective black glass liner. An optional Bluetooth speaker system allows one to hear the fire as well as see it -- making it a focal point for the ears as well as the eyes.

Boost the Backyard

If you find that your household spends very little time in the backyard, figure out why. Is there a lack of shade? Are there not enough places to sit? Take a poll so you can diagnose the problem and take steps to correct it. Consider also how to make this space usable for a larger portion of the year, such as adding a fire pit or an enclosed, heated patio. Lastly, consider aesthetics. A bit of landscaping can make your backyard as visually appealing as your home's interiors.



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Spring Home Improvement 2020

How Much Home Can You Afford this Spring? Factors to Consider

(StatePoint) The chicken or the egg? Which came first continues to fuel philosophical debates. But when it comes to buying a home, experts are pretty clear about the proper order of things – agreeing you should fit your mortgage to your finances, not to a house.

“Before you even start your search for a home this spring, it’s crucial to know how much you can afford to pay each month,” says Freddie Mac Senior Vice President, Christina Boyle, who stresses that there are a few important things to keep in mind as you calculate this figure.

Start by getting a handle on your finances. What do you earn? What do you spend? How much do you have in savings? Answering these questions will help you better understand how much home you can afford. Make a budget and use free online tools and calculators to determine how much you can afford.

Remember that your monthly expenses go beyond mortgage payments, so leave some room in your budget. Whether it’s a new roof or a leaking faucet, homeownership can mean unexpected expenses. Be prepared to pay for such items, as needed. General maintenance, combined with utilities (an expense that can vary by home depending

on its size and other factors), are added expenses to consider. Some neighborhoods also have homeowners’ association fees to cover the cost of upkeep of common spaces.

Your lifestyle can also help you assess whether a particular home is right for you and your budget. Location is key in determining what you can afford. Some points to consider are whether you want to live in a suburban or urban setting, whether you need to be near specific schools and public transportation, and the potential length of your commute. These factors can affect the cost of a home and you should determine your priorities in advance of home and mortgage hunting.

Remember, getting pre-approved can help you act fast and make a confident offer, so talk to your lender now before you start shopping.

A full rundown on all things homebuying, including free tools and resources, is available at myhome.freddie.mac.com.

This spring, be sure to prepare yourself for the homebuying experience by being well-informed and aware of what you can afford.

5 Things to Look for When Replacing Your Home’s Windows

(StatePoint) Unlike some home improvements, window upgrades are complex, involving many moving parts. If you are in the market for an upgrade, don’t rush into a decision until doing some research and evaluating what will work best on your home.

Here are five things to consider when replacing your home’s windows, according to the experts at ProVia:

- An energy efficient glass package: The right windows will protect your home and keep you comfortable all year long, limiting the sun’s rays from coming through and fading your carpet and upholstery, as well as preventing cold air from entering your home in the colder months.

“Test your current windows by touching them. If you feel the outside chill and air coming through, it may be time for a change,” says Wanda Angel, Brand Manager for Doors and Windows at ProVia.

Seek ENERGY STAR Certified high-performance windows, ideal for the weather extremes particular to your region. They should have multiple panes and feature technologies, such as the ComforTech Warm Edge Glazing System, which offers reduced heat loss, warmer glass temperature and reduced interior condensation.

- Warranty: Windows can cost thousands of dollars. Protect your investment by opting for windows that come with a lifetime warranty that includes glass breakage and seal failure. A comprehensive warranty should also be transferrable to the next homeowner, such as those from

ProVia. This feature can potentially increase your home’s value when you put it on the market.

- Weather stripping: Prevent air infiltration through your windows with proper weather stripping. A bulb seal at the bottom of the window, which is a rubberized seal that compresses to the sill, combined with fin weather stripping on verticals and horizontals, will give you triple weather stripping that acts as a true barrier against drafts, keeping you comfortable and helping reduce utility bills.

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

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

Make an investment in your home with lasting impact. Seek windows that offer comfort, functionality and beauty for years to come.



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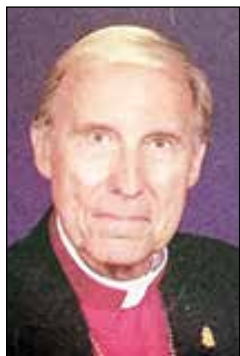
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



A Mother's Faith

Archbishop John S. Erbelding

It's that time of year when, under normal conditions, restaurants would be bracing for one of the busiest weekends of the year. Mother's Day is coming! I want to share with you a story.

A seven-year-old boy returned home from school one day with his head down and his heart broken. A tear-stained face alerted his mother of trouble at school. And she was quick to find out what happened.

The boy had overheard his teacher telling one of the school officials that he was a slow learner who would never amount to anything. And this sensitive child, who only recently had been well enough to return to school, was crushed. His teacher no longer believed in him.

But his mother certainly did. Without hesitation, she took him by the hand and went straight back to school. Together, they would face the teacher. The young boy looked on as his mother told the teacher of her son's remarkable memory, his unique talents, and promising abilities. At that moment, the boy decided to live up to his mother's belief in him.

Years later, the world came to know this mother's son as Thomas Edison, the genius inventor. "With confidence, ambition, and industry, Thomas Edison...turned darkness into light, called forth music from a box, and made hundreds of useful inventions..." for more efficient and comfortable living.

Still remembered as one of the most prolific inventors of all time, Thomas Edison credits his mother's belief in him as the source of his greatness: "My mother was the making of me," he said. "She was so true, so sure of me, and I felt that I had someone to live for; someone I must not disappoint."

Such is the power of a loving mother's faith. Mrs. Edison saw her child not as the underachiever his teacher believed him to be, not even as an average student, but as a brilliant boy full of promise.

This mother and all mothers everywhere who see greatness in their children are God's miracle workers, angels of achievement who instill courage and confidence in their children. They recognize masterpieces in scribbled drawings; beauty in drooping but carefully picked dandelions; brave efforts in scraped knees; and loving intentions in kitchen messes. Sometimes, only a mother's watchful eye can discern the goodness – even the greatness – that is developing in a child.

How many of the world's advancements were fueled by the belief of a loving mother? How many quiet victories were won because a mother – sometime, somewhere – believed in the abilities of her child? If ever our society needed such faithful mothers, we do now. As the poet William Ross Wallace observed in 1865, "...the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

As an only child raised by a widowed mother from the age of six, I dedicate this to my mother who also had faith in me.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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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.

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am
Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

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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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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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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.

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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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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743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Thurs. 9am, Fri., 11am; Sun. 9am

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from March 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 16

• At 5:11 a.m., offices were called about someone using a credit card without the owner's knowledge at a location on Oak Street.

March 25

• At 8:50 p.m., Logan Mack Lewis, 24, of Swannanoa, NC, was arrested in Highlands Plaza for disorderly Conduct. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is April 21.

April 14

• At 1:15 a.m., officers received a call for service at a residence on Hickory Hill Road where someone entered the house at night.

April 18

• At 5:94 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 near

S. 5th Street

April 19

• At 3:45 p.m., officers were called about a breaking and entering with burglary at The Bridge Restaurant where a black electric strip valued at \$100 was taken.

April 22

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at the Highlands Mountain Club.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 18.

April 18

• At 11:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

April 19

• At 12:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Cove.

April 20

• At 4:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moorewood

Circle.

April 21

• At 7:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road.

• At 6:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls South.

• At 6:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Birchwood Drive.

April 22

• At 11:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lake Os-seroga Drive.

April 25

• At 11:39 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza.

• At 7:58 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly FD.

April 26

• At 10:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road.

• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Divide Road.

April 27

• At 9:05 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

Highlands Police Department changes up road checkpoint strategy

**Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News**

The Highlands Police Department began running manned checkpoints at most entrances to Highlands at the end of March to keep all nonessential visitors from entering Town.

After a few days of daily checkpoints at varying times and locations, Town Manager Josh Ward and several commissioners said they felt the checkpoints were working.

"These road checks are really working well," said Ward. "Let's continue to do that, keep an aggressive approach and ask people why they're coming to Town."

However, after a few weeks the checkpoints disappeared, replaced by a strong presence of law enforcement when entering town by HPD and Macon County Sheriff Office units.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said the checkpoints have not completely stopped, but HPD is keeping their strategy under wraps for the public's protection.

"We're not telling all the things were doing to gain and confirm compliance as much as we legally can," said Harrell. "That defeats the purpose, as well as the media telling everyone what we are and are not doing so the selfish/self-absorbed COVIDIOTS can develop a work around. It does nobody

any good and works against the 'we're in this together' motto for the public's safety."

Highlands Board of Commissioners have an emergency meeting scheduled at 8 a.m. on Friday to review the Town's state-of-emergency and to strategize how to begin opening businesses in town in coordination with Governor Roy Cooper's plan to lift restrictions throughout the state beginning May 8.


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Sample Books Available**... ECKERD from page 1**

Residents in wheelchairs lined the sidewalk outside the Eckerd Living Center to hail their family and friends as they drove by in vehicles decorated with posters and balloons.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

lowed at ELC. That's when ELC staff came up the idea for family, friends, and members of the community to drive through ELC's parking lot to shout out messages to loved ones beyond the confines of a video chat.

ELC Director of Nursing Emily Bowers said residents are staying positive amid the COVID-19 pandemic and staff are doing what they can to brighten up their days, including Facetime with family and watching livestreamed programs from local organizations and churches to keep residents connected with the community.

However, Bowers and the rest of the ELC staff raised the bar by arranging a parade of loved ones on a gorgeous day in Highlands.

"It just brings so much joy to the residents to see their family members," said Bowers. "The community showing up like they did means so much to them, and that makes us happy. We are here because we love geriatrics. We're not only their caregivers, we're their family, friends, and support system."

HCH CEO Tom Neal said staff at ELC are thinking outside of the box for innovative ways to stay connected with family while remaining safe.

"It's hard on all the residents not having family there with them, but ELC staff really got creative with how to make that happen," said Neal. "I've never seen anything like this and didn't know how it would go. Now that I'm seeing it, I couldn't be more pleased. Today was not only uplifting for the residents, but for the staff as well. It takes special people to make this facility what it is."

ELC Activities Coordinator Chase Nelson said they got the idea from other senior living homes throughout the country and thought they would give it a try.

"We just wanted people to be able to see their loved ones," said Nelson. "We take it for granted that we get to see our loved ones every day. Our residents generally have a routine and see the same people every day, so having a ton of people come out was awesome to see. Everybody had a good time."

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IN HIGHLANDS FALLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Maintenance Department wanted. Please Call 828-526-2203 or 828-200-9763. (st. 4/23)

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