

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 22      Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: [HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com)      Thursday, May 28, 2020

## Town Board hears restaurant requests

*Restaurants say Phase 2 opening at 50% was worth it*

At last Thursday's Town Board meeting, the Chamber of Commerce presented requests from restaurateurs who were trying to plan for being open for in-

side dining for the first time since mid-March.

In preparation of the governor's Phase 2 opening Memorial Day weekend, restaurateurs

wanted to make the most of the Phase 2 restrictions which involved 50% occupancy for both inside and outside dining, while

• See **RESTAURANT** page 16

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## Now 18 COVID-19 cases in the county

At 6 p.m., Tuesday night, the Macon County Public Health Department posted updated COVID-19 statistics for Macon County.

The number of positive cases now stands at 18. It was 16 Sunday night.

Sunday night, Macon County Public Health reported a COVID-19 cluster of seven positive cases in the Evangelical Ebenezer church congregation in Franklin.

Clusters of COVID-19 in workplace, educational, and other community settings are identified as a minimum of five cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period.

All members of the congregation are aware of their exposure and are currently being contacted for testing. All members of the congregation have also been

• See **COVID** page 19



Friends and family gathered at K-H Founders Park on Tuesday evening for a prayer vigil to remember local couple David and Dawn Head who died in an motor vehicle accident Saturday in Mountain City, GA.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

## Local couple dies in vehicle accident over Memorial Day weekend

**By Brittney Lofthouse**

A Scaly Mountain couple was tragically killed Saturday, May 23, in a motor vehicle accident in Mountain City, GA.

David Head, a Corporal with the Macon County Sheriff's Office and Dawn Head, a Physical Therapist at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital were riding their Harley Davidson motorcycle in Rabun

County when 22-year-old Travis Bartlett crossed over the center line. Bartlett started a chain reaction wreck involving a total of five cars.

In addition to the deaths of Dawn and David, other drivers sustained minor injuries.

Bartlett was arrested after being treated for minor injuries and is being held at the Rabun County

Detention Center on two counts of second-degree homicide by vehicle, driver failure to exercise due care and failure to maintain a lane.

Other vehicles involved in the collision were a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado, occupied by Michael Payne, 51, and Tyler Payne, 26 of Hampton, TN, a 2011 Kia Sorento occupied by Jessica Robinson, 41,

• See **DIES** page 19

## HCH Fdn to offer COVID testing

It looks like Highlands is finally getting COVID-19 testing and people don't have to go to the Emergency Room or be sick to get it.

At Thursday night's Town Board meeting, Robin Tindall, CFRE, CEO and executive director of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation requested use of K-H Founders Park on Pine Street as a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site.

"It's the purpose of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation to make sure we are safe and healthy so we can open our economy," she said. "It is our plan to test as many people as possible regardless of whether they are showing symptoms."

The Foundation plans to have two drive-thru testing sites, one in Cashiers June 5 and one

• See **TESTING** page 22

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Personal freedom vs. safety in public places

Last weekend and Memorial Day were somber occasions. I attended the American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony where the fallen heroes of past wars were remembered. Americans who have been victims of the COVID-19 Pandemic, including tragically some World War II veterans, were also remembered.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

We also tragically lost David and Dawn Head to a traffic accident Saturday afternoon. David was a Macon County Sheriff Deputy. Our hearts go out to their children and family in this time of loss and mourning.

At the start of the weekend there was some optimism with the start of the Governors Phase 2 Reopening Plan. I visited downtown merchants on Saturday morning, and I was gratified to see all the precautions that business owners had taken to create safe shopping environments.

They were outfitted with masks and hand sanitizer stations. I heard repeatedly that wearing of masks was not just for

the customers protection, but for employee's protection too. A worker on Main Street will be in contact with a cross-section of the national population. That notion was driven home to me as I rode down Main Street on Saturday afternoon and saw a vehicle with a Hawaii license plate. There were cars from New York, Indiana, Wisconsin, California and of course many from Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana.

All the COVID hotspots were much represented.

But, what really worried me was the realization that our downtown visitors, except for a few, were not socially distancing, nor wearing coverings of any kind. We had a national sample of visitors walking on our streets, eating ice cream, sitting on benches and clustering together in jubilant conversation.

In the meantime, we saw a doubling of COVID cases in Macon County. For weeks we had 3 confirmed cases, and I suspect many thought we were living in a safe zone. By Friday, the number had increased to around 7 or 8. This past weekend an area church had an outbreak of 7, Tuesday another 2 so now at the time of this writing we have 18 cases. The Macon County Public Health Department is doing contact tracing and requiring quarantining where warranted.

We are not at the end of this spread as we had all hoped. The three Ws are still essential for us to follow. Wear a face covering, wash hands frequently, and wait in lines with 6 feet of spacing.

Some folks may say these protocols are an infringement of their personal freedom, and that they do have the right to not wear a face covering. My response is that in a civil society personal freedom is counterbalanced with personal responsibility.

While one may believe they are exercising personal freedom by not wearing a mask, they may be jeopardizing another person's right to safety in public places. Does anyone have the right to freely spread a contagion that could threaten the health of others? This challenge of balancing personal freedom and public safety will continue to confront us in the coming weeks, even here in fun-loving Highlands.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



"WOW. Take a sniff. Old friends are back in town."

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 28-May	Fri, 29-May	Sat, 30-May	Sun, 31-May
70°F 57°F	72°F 56°F	72°F 50°F	69°F 48°F
A shower or t-storm in spots	A p.m. t-storm in spots	A shower and t-storm around	Partly sunny
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 77° Low: 59°	High: 80° Low: 64°	High: 81° Low: 58°	High: 79° Low: 59°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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A romantic scene of a man and a woman in a wooden boat on a calm lake at sunset. The man, wearing glasses and a blue shirt, holds a glowing lantern in his left hand and an open book in his right. The woman, wearing a green shawl and a ring, leans in to look at the book. The background features silhouettes of trees and the warm glow of the setting sun reflecting on the water.

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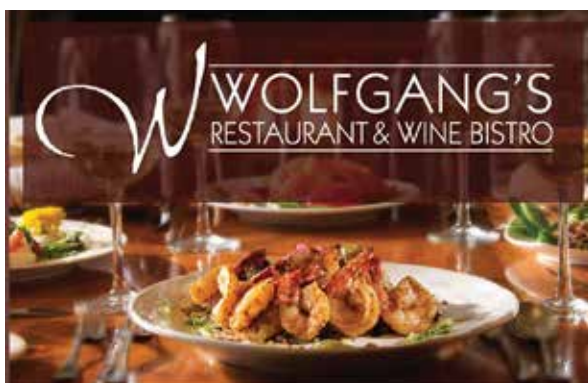
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# • OBITUARIES •

## John Clarke



John Clarke, 72, of Knoxville, TN passed away on Monday May 18, 2020 in his favorite place, Highlands, NC. John was born August 25, 1947 in Winter Park, FL. In 1952 his family moved to West Palm Beach, FL where he grew up. A member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, he graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1972 with a degree in Business Administration. After graduation John worked in the construction industry in West Palm Beach until he moved to Nashville, TN in 1976 to take a position as a bond underwriter with Continental Insurance. During that time he met the love of his life, Elizabeth "Lissa" Brandon. They moved to Knoxville, TN in 1980 and had two children. John was an insurance agent during this time. He purchased Home Investment Insurance in 1986 and John Bailey Company in 1997. He later merged the two agencies into John Bailey Company. The agency was founded in 1946 on integrity and care. Those traditions still hold true today. He loved his employees, the clients they help, the industry, and the insurance company relationships. He was a great businessman.

John was admired and loved by his family and friends. Most notably known for his huge heart, curious mind, incredible work ethic and infectious laugh. He enjoyed walking, hiking, horseback riding, deep sea fishing, fly fishing, reading and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a friend to all and someone you could always count on. He was a member of the Church of the Ascension (Episcopal) in Knoxville, TN. John leaves his wife of 43 years, Lissa Clarke, son Brandon and wife Lauren and daughter Jean Clarke Bainer and husband John Bainer. He had four grandchildren who adored their "PJ", Emerson, identical twins Taylor and Bankston Clarke and his grandson Austin John Bainer. He is survived by brothers and their wives Dan and Mary Clarke and Fred and Elaine Clarke. He cherished moments with his nieces, Carey Aron, Kathy Bird, Stirling Halversen, Roddy Belfatti and their families. His family made him proud.

This has been a tough time for the family as his death was unexpected. We take great peace and joy, however, in our time with John. He was a great teacher, a positive cheerleader and the life of the party. We all wanted to be around him. Every day he would ask "You doing OK?" He never missed an opportunity to tell us he loved us and was proud of us.

A funeral service was held Saturday May 23, 2020 at the Episcopal Church of Incarnation, Highlands, NC. Burial will follow in the Highlands Memorial Park.

A Celebration of Life service will be held in Knoxville, TN at a later date.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Clarke family. Online condolences can be made to [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

## Archibald 'Tom' Hart III

Archibald Hart III, "Tom," passed away at home in Highlands, NC, on May 15, 2020, after a valiant battle with cancer. A native Californian,

Tom is survived by his wife of 29 years, Kathy Duvall Hart of Highlands; his son, Dominic

Petersen Hart; his grandson, Chase Barneson Hart (Lindsey), and his great-granddaughter, Layla Ruth Hart, all of Sacramento, CA. He was preceded in death in 2009 by his son, Christian Barneson Hart. Tom was an avid tennis player for most of his life, but his true passion was vintage Italian sports cars, which he raced all over the world.

The profound and lasting impact that Tom had on those who knew and loved him, is immeasurable.

He was a man of great kindness, dignity, and grace. Tom left us a better world because he was fully engaged in life, giving love, strength, and an uplifting spirit to all whom he touched. Tom deeply loved his wife and grew to love their life in the welcoming community of Highlands.

Though grieving this immense loss, Tom's family finds comfort in the words of a close family friend: "How like life. The dark times of sorrow and grief are an unbearable reality, but there are also times of joy, elation, and such beauty that blinds the eye. All of this is blended together into the most profound epic that God is directing. The dark times are intricately immeshed with the deep richness and depth that is life."

As Tom wished, there will be no service. His ashes will be taken to California to be interred at his beloved Klamath.

In Tom's memory, please consider donating to The Hospice House Foundation of WNC, P.O. Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744



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# Senior Spotlight: Highlands School Class of 2020



Isaiah Tucci-Caselli

Isaiah has been involved with Beta Club & Basketball.

He plans on attending East Carolina University in the fall, to study sports marketing.

His shoutout is to Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Cashion. "They have always been my favorite teachers because they always have a smile on their face, and are always trying to go above and beyond the expected. Also to Coach Green for always making our class laugh, and motivating me to be a better person!"

His favorite Covid-19 activity been skating around the neighborhood or just going for short drives to get out of the house.



Ryan Talbert

Ryan has been involved with Soccer (4 years), Golf (1 year), SGA (1 year), Interact (1 year), and FCA (1 year) She will be attending Western Carolina University to study Social Work where she plans to play intramural soccer.

Her shoutout is to Mrs. Billingsley.

"Mrs. Billingsley has always helped me with any struggles I had and always kept an eye out for me."

Her favorite Covid-19 activity has been spending a lot of time outdoors and playing soccer with her brother.



Javier Figueroa Contreras

Javier has helped with landscaping and construction to beautify the school during his years at Highlands School.

After graduation, he plans to continue working in landscaping and he may go back to school for tattooing. "I am interested in being a tattoo artist because I love drawing."

His shoutout is to Ms. Ford. "Thank you for everything! You helped me in my online classes, and you are a good person!"

His favorite Covid-19 has been playing basketball with his family on Sundays at the Scaly Schoolhouse. "My family is there... my uncles, my aunts, my cousins, and my grandma."



Brianna Norris

Brianna was Cheer Captain, Volleyball Manager, Track Member, FCA Leader, Sergeant at Arms for Interact Club.

She plans to attend East Carolina University and the College of Business so she can become a female business leader that can inspire future generations of women to achieve their personal and professional goals.

I am no stranger to hard work and realize that college will require both dedication and diligence. I am a member of the local Upward Bound program, maintained a part-time job, and held positions on multiple athletic teams.

She said her transfer Highlands High School has been one of the best choices for her,

Her shoutout is to Mr. A and Mrs. Porter. "They have made a positive impact on my high school experience. Thanks to all of the staff and students for welcoming me in as a Highlander!"

Her favorite Covid-19 activity has been finding new ways to motivate herself and she has discovered a newfound interest in canvas painting.

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Michelle Flores

Michelle is taking a a one-year break from school. She plans to keep working at OEI, so she can save enough money to go to college and work on her English.

She plans to go to college in Texas and wants to earn a Masters degree in Spanish.

Her shoutout goes to Ms. A as she was the most important person in her high school journey. "She has taught me to never give up, to work hard, and to always show the best of me."

Michelle, we are so proud of all your accomplishments. Good luck!



Michael Hebert

Michael has been involved with Music/Guitar during his time at Highlands School.

He plans to go to Auto Mechanic School in southern California.

His shoutout is to Mrs. Mac and Mrs. Hedden for all the help they have given him.

His favorite memory is playing the guitar with Mr. A and Mr. Brown after school.

His favorite Covid-19 activity has been fixing up and rebuilding a 1963 International Scout Jeep with his poppa.

## **Shoutout Correction**

In the May 14 edition, Taj Roman gave a shoutout to Coach P, not Coach Page. We apologize for the error.

"Even though he doesn't work at the school anymore, Coach P was my all time favorite teacher, as well as my greatest influence and inspiration to pursue writing as a career. Thank you Coach P, love you always."



# •WORD MATTER•

## The Best and the Worst

The author James Lane Allen is credited with reminding us that adversity doesn't build character, it reveals it.

The last three months have revealed a lot about who we are as individuals and as a nation. While many of us are and behave like truly generous, kind, caring people, some of us have revealed ourselves to be selfish, entitled, and dismissive of people who think differently. Some of us have almost no patience for the legitimate concerns of others. We've become spoiled, insular and self-absorbed. We talk about others as if their concerns and fears simply don't matter. We have chosen sides in a game of life and death.

I'm not one to dwell on the past, but it would have been nice if, during the early days of the pandemic, we would have viewed this attack as if it were an invasion by a foreign power. We tend to come together when faced with a clear, common enemy.

We came together following the attack on Pearl Harbor. We

fought a war on two fronts, and we prevailed on both.

We came together when we were attacked by terrorists on 9/11/2001. We coalesced, formed an alliance, and went after the perpetrators. Ultimately, we prevailed.

In both instances, we behaved as if we were "one nation under God."

However, for some of us, that "one nation" thing survives as long as it is on our terms and doesn't challenge our patience or cause us inconvenience. It's discouraging that, when our nation was "attacked" last December or January, by not bombs or soldiers from a foreign nation, but a virus, we didn't come together as one nation to fight it. Instead, owing to an absence of national leadership, each of our 50 states was left to fend for itself. That's not a way to fight a battle.

There's much we can agree on. This is a new (novel) virus and we are still learning how it spreads and how it kills. Our essential workers have gone above and beyond, continue to do so, and deserve our



**Bud Katz**

respect and gratitude. Many of us have been generous in support of those who need help in these painful, frustrating times. We mourn the tens of thousands who've lost their lives, and we sympathize with those left behind.

After three months, though, we find we don't agree, and have become factionalized regarding what we should do, when should we do it, and how or if we should either "go back" or "move forward" in opening our economy, even while the virus continues to spread.

Should we stay at home, which has helped stop the spread of the

virus? Should we return to pre-Covid times, go shopping, eat in restaurants, and assemble together for a film, for social gatherings, for worship, for whatever reason we choose? Are we prepared for the consequences of either action?

Many of us suffering from cabin fever want ... need ... to get out and start living life again. A different many of us are fearful about what a traditional season on the plateau means in terms of sharing space with people from other places who may or may not behave responsively.

As I write this, folks are arriving for season or vacation, from Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee and other places where they may have been exposed to coronavirus. Those who have been exposed may not know, and/or may not feel symptoms, for a week, or two weeks, or even longer. Who knows how many people they'll come in contact with, how sick they'll begin to feel, and what they will, or won't do when symptoms surface.

Both sides in this conversation have valid arguments.

Regardless of where we line up, some of us will listen, while others will be dismissive because that's what some of us do when we don't like our choices. We take sides, as if this were somehow political. This is unfortunate. It doesn't help.

We should be fighting this virus together, not fighting with each other.

Here's my truth. Viruses are not left or right. They're perfectly bipartisan. They infect anyone and everyone. And they kill, indiscriminately.

A person's character can be revealed in how he or she communicates with others. Name-calling and dismissal don't reveal good character. They reveal bullying. Listening and empathizing, even without agreement, reveal the kind of character needed to make it through tough times like these.

If we can't agree, let's agree to disagree, and go about our business.

## •LETTERS•

### An R Tickle about the President and the current worldwide dilemma

Dear Editor,

This batch of words is intended to 'tickle' or excite something within the reader (assuming that you are still with me). If you are, that means that the brave editor has decided to include this R Tickle in the paper you are holding.

Of course, the name below is a nom de plume – which translates to pen name, or perhaps more appropriately to a plume of something like smoke, steam, or dust. Since I am not using a pen, maybe it should be considered as my keyboard name. If you like, I will reveal my real or given name on my next birthday which may

occur about one year from now.

If you are still reading, I am referring to President John Kennedy!

On 20 January, 1961, President Kennedy included in his inauguration speech two phrases of possible pertinence to the world's current dilemma. These phrases were "The world is very different now." "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

A paraphrasing of the second statement may be appropriate. I suggest that we ask not what, (or when) our government may do for us and all affected by this medical

and economic disaster. Instead, we may want to ask which 'authority' or 'government' we should even seek answers and advice from.

There is so much uncertainty about the near-term and long-term futures for us and the world, it seems that none of the authorities, medical and political, can at this time advise with certainty what is the best course forward. All talk about the so called new-normal with no idea as to what it will be and how long it may last.

While we wait to find out what our government may do for (or to) us, ask yourself what you may do for others who may ben-

• See LETTERS page 15

## Memorial Day celebration had extra props this year



Chris Carneal and son Christian, with their Army 1943 Jeep, took a moment to honor all who have served in the armed forces at Highlands' annual Memorial Day event on Monday in front of the Highlands Police Station. They are pictured here with Mayor Pat Taylor who participated in the ceremony.  
— Photo by Stephanie McCall



# Good-bye drive-thru for K-11 at Highlands School



On Wednesday, May 20, in the pouring rain, Highlands School students in grades K-11 said a final goodbye to their teachers at a drive-thru set up in the front circle. Students were given whatever was left in their lockers as well as gifts and even work they could do over the summer.

– Photos by Kim Lewicki



# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Looking for PPP: Pandemic Protected Properties?

Here in Western North Carolina, in an area known as the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, PPP stands for Pandemic Protected Properties. In this sparsely populated mountain resort area affectionately called "Aspen of the East," social distancing was practiced long before it became mandatory. This pristine and unique area established itself among the most desirable destinations in America's mountain country. With seventy percent of the land owned by the National Forest Service, wide open spaces, countless waterfalls, woodland trails and abundant wildlife offer individual space. This area is increasingly attracting home buyers who want to live in upscale communities with cultural offerings, world-class shopping, five star restaurants, concerts and art galleries.

For over a century, wealthy easterners flocked to this area in the summer to enjoy the cool summers where opposing forces

come together in emphatic harmony with temperatures vacillating between campfire cool to swimming hole hot. Named by Barron's as "One of the Top Twenty Places to Own a Second Home," more homeowners are calling this area their primary residence with its proximity to both public and private airports and nearby health facilities. The local lifestyle celebrates the natural environment and the varied amenities available in a multitude of private country clubs. Noted as the perfect "Summer Camp for Grown Ups" by The Wall Street Journal in 2019, enthusiastic and loving families are seeking this comfortable and safe lifestyle more than ever.

With The Old Edwards Inn in High-



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lands named by Conde Nast as one of the best hotel spas in the United States, you can enjoy Europe without enduring overseas travel. The name Highlands is a nod to Scotland and England, as the area with its farmers markets, quaint shops, smattering of European architecture, green rolling hills and mountain peaks evokes an English countryside village. Locally sourced restaurants and a literary crowd lend to the European feel.

The real estate market on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau was on fire in the first quarter of 2020 but came to a temporary pause due to the pandemic shutdown. However, now that travel restrictions, lodging, retail and restaurants are opening up again, buyers are flocking to this area to find

a safe and secure home for their families. All real estate professionals are safely showing property with masks, gloves, sanitizers and other safety precautions. The local market is still up 20% in volume and over 5% in unit sales even with the interruption. Seventy-one homes have gone under contract since May 1st!!!

Thank you to all of our friends, clients and family whose support helps us raise the bar each year and establishing Highlands Sotheby's International Realty on the corner of Fourth and Main Street as the top producing office again in 2019. Our winning streak as the top firm in Highlands six years strong is an accomplishment that we attribute to YOU – our wonderful friends, clients and family.

• Jody and Wood Lovell, 828.226.6303, Owners/Brokers Highlands Sotheby's International Realty.

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## Addicted to British TV

If you read my columns about books, you've figured out I'm addicted to mysteries, especially British mysteries. Is it any wonder then that I'm also addicted to BBC shows? My first exposure to the BBC came via PBS and PBA here in Atlanta. Thank goodness for the ability to tape my favorites.

Inspector Lewis and now Endeavor are high on my list. I mourned Foyle's War when it ended. Believe it or not, it was written by Anthony Horowitz, the British author of bestsellers like "Magpie Murders," "The House of Silk," and "The Word is Murder." Just last week, I stumbled across another show written by Horowitz, New Blood. In googling Horowitz to write this column, I discovered he wrote the first twelve seasons of Midsomer Murders, another favorite show.

Midsomer Murders, now in season twenty-two, is a light-hearted crime show if multiple murders per episode can be considered light-hearted. It's based

on the novels of Caroline Graham, and I did read some of those years ago but wasn't as hooked on the books as I am on the television show. The running joke about Midsomer is how there can be anyone left alive in the area with at least two-three murders per show.

Because PBA repeats Midsomer episodes so frequently, I couldn't get enough new shows to satisfy my craving. The same thing happened when they started running Vera—another series based on books by a British author Ann Cleeves. My addiction to these two shows led to my investing in a subscription to Britbox. Many of my friends have Netflix, which I might also enjoy, but it was the allure of British shows that convinced me to go with Britbox. And, of course, I had to weigh Acorn against Britbox. It pretty much came down to a toss



Kathy Manos Penn

of a coin. You can't get it all on either one. Before long, I may have to get Acorn too.

For example, we started watching A Touch of Frost, featuring a curmudgeonly detective. We watched show after show on Britbox only to discover that to see the rest of the seasons, we'd need a subscription

to—you guessed it—Acorn. The same thing happened with Vera.

My husband and I are currently addicted to Dalziel and Pascoe, a series I'd never heard

of until we subscribed to Britbox. Dalziel is another curmudgeon, somewhat crude in his habits yet most-often dressed in a double-breasted suit. I was surprised to find the series is based on books by Reginald Hill, a British author whose books I tried but never could get into. The television series is somehow better.

Wycliffe, set in Cornwall, is another favorite of mine, but my husband doesn't like it as well. It's based on the works of W. J. Burley. I'd like to watch more of the early Morse series, but again my husband isn't quite as enamored of the show as I am.

On Amazon Prime, I found

Silent Witness, a show focused on a team of forensic pathology experts. Again, we ran out of episodes on Prime and were happy they were available on BritBox.

If you're an Anglophile like I am, maybe I've whetted your appetite for this streaming service. If you prefer plain old American shows, I suggest Bosch on Prime. Yes, we're addicted to that too!

• Author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries on Amazon. Locally, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).

## Bears are smart. We need to be smarter

By Cynthia Strain,  
Chairperson of B.E.A.R.

People are swarming back to the mountains, and that means more problems with bears. Well, more accurately, more problems with people who cause problems with bears.



Bears have already destroyed at least one car and have gotten into a number of garbage cans. Just today I saw a pile of bear poop that contained plastic wrap. That stuff can kill a bear by strangling its intestines.

Moreover, any bear that becomes accustomed to accessing trashcans around homes is more likely to break into houses and cars resulting in major damage. It could get itself killed too. Most people think its cute to have a bear in the yard, but there are always a few who see it as such a risk that they will shoot it. And truthfully, there is some risk. While bears are not naturally aggressive or particularly dangerous, you really don't want a bear in your house. Or your car.

Bears will be bears. We humans have a choice about what we do. Making good choices requires having good information. While most locals pretty much know by now what to do and not do, it is visitors and short-term renters who appear to cause the most problems.

To that end, the B.E.A.R. (Bear Education and Resources)

Task Force has begun a new project to educate visitors to the area. In coordination with the NC office of BearWise, we have created magnets and framed 5x7 cards that provide good basic information. If followed, the recommendations could prevent most of the problems that occur with bears.

The effort has been funded by a \$2000 grant from Cullasaja Women's Outreach. As a result, B.E.A.R. is able to provide the materials free of charge. In addition, the group provides brochures, which were made possible by a 2018 grant from CWO.

Plans are underway to distribute the materials to agents and homeowners who have rentals/VRBO's or whose second homes are used by friends or family members. Highlands, Cashiers, Scaly Mountain, Sapphire, Toxaway and Glenville are all included in our distribution area.

Current distribution points include Highlands Town Hall, Mill Creek Gallery & Framing (Oak St.) and Highlands Visitor Center. As the project unfolds, we will publicize other locations where the items can be obtained.

These actions the town is taking (requiring bear-resistant trashcans), will result in a community that is safer for both people and bears.



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# What Phase 2 Looks Like in Highlands



Take-out and inside dining with protocols



Joe Green and staff adhering to safety precautions with 50% occupancy and masks.



Memorial Day weekend crowds enjoying Highlands with safety protocols.



A reminder at Bryson's Food Store that essential workers are heroes.



Members of the Highlands Biological Foundation'dropped off lunch to the Highlands Police Department on Friday, May 22 to recognize the diligent work of the Highlands Police Department during this time of crisis.

Still practicing social distancing as required, the Gooch family enjoys family-time and the great outdoors hiking the Bartram Trail.



Though interactions with their little brothers and sisters is sorely missed, the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization gave the parents of its children a \$100 Ingles card to extend a hand to families.



In Town Square at Wild Thyme Gourmet, outside seating at 50%.





Bailey Schmitt



Brianna Norris



Brooke Partain



Camren Dalton



Carlos Gomez

# Community pays tribu



Carlos Soto



Dillion Schmitt



Dylan Laderoot



Emma Weller



# ate to HS Class of 2020



Photos by Rachel Lewicki



Kimberly Villanueva



Kedra McCall



Jordan Powell



Jonathan Miller



Erin Sanborn



Freda Olalde



Isaiah Tucci-Caselli



Javier Contreras



Jeslyn Head

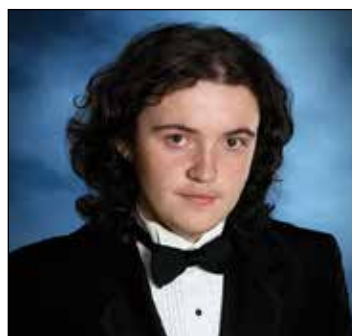




Lilly Deal



Marilyn Valerio



Matthew Barnes



Michael Hebert



Michelle Flores



Morgan Olvera



Pablo Estrada



Patrick Woods



Reid Ingate



Ryan Talbert



Sayla Roman



Sophia Nguyene



Taj Roman

# Highlands School Class of 2020 Scholarships

## **Art & Angela Williams Award**

Valedictorian – Camren Dalton

Valedictorian – Sayla Roman

Salutatorian – Morgan Olvera

## **Bel Canto Scholarship**

Emma Weller

## **Gene & Lee Meyer Scholarship**

Morgan Olvera

## **Gilliam's Promise**

Kedra McCall

## **Guy Taylor Scholarship**

Jeslyn Head

## **Heffington Scholarship**

Morgan Olvera

Joseph Tucci-Caselli

## **H-C Board of Realtors**

Kedra McCall

Brianna Norris

Morgan Olvera

## **Highlands Garden Club**

Camren Dalton

## **Highlands Rotary Club**

Kedra McCall

Brianna Norris

Morgan Olvera

Emma Weller

## **Highlands Women's Club**

Matthew Barnes

Camren Dalton

Lilly Deal

Jonathan Miller

Dillon Schmitt

Patrick Woods

## **Horatio Alger Scholarship**

Brianna Norris

## **Interact Service Award**

Camren Dalton

Kedra McCall

Brianna Norris

Morgan Olvera

Emma Weller

## **Leo L. Campbell**

Jeslyn Head

## **State Employees Credit Union**

Brianna Norris

## **Scaly Mountain Women's Club**

Jeslyn Head

Taj Roman

## **Town of Highlands**

Camren Dalton

Sayla Roman

Morgan Olvera

Jeslyn Head

Pablo Jimenez Estrada

Kedra McCall

Jonathan Miller

Sophia Nguyen

Brianna Norris

Taj Roman

Erin Sanborn

Marilyn Valerio

Emma Weller

Patrick Woods

## **WNC Regional Scholarship**

Camren Dalton



Seniors hanging out after the motor parade through town last week

– Photo by Rachel Lewicki



Class Mascots: Knox Holbrooks  
and Riley Brooks



Nicholas Tucci-Caselli



Tien Nguyene



## ... LETTERS continued from page 7

efit from your help and support. There must be plenty of opportunities within our community, county and state for each of us to share our resources, talents and time to the benefit of a person or persons most adversely affected by this terribly dangerous and stressful dilemma.

Thank you for whatever you may do to help someone(s) else.

This R Tickle may be a two for one if the editor and/or readers decide it should be the first and last.

I hope, that I may be permitted to offer more R Ticks. Preferably with more tongue-in-cheek humor and a bit less about dire situations.

**Al Bentover**  
(If you guess who, please don't tell)

## None of this is OK

Dear Editor,

On February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who was jogging in a residential Brunswick, Georgia neighborhood, was murdered by a group of white men who said they thought he was suspicious looking. The local police took no action for 70 days, until the press got involved, leaving them no choice but to arrest those responsible.

On May 3, 2020, in New Hanover County, NC, an armed mob including an off-duty deputy sheriff, knocked on the door and threatened to forcefully enter the home of a black family, claiming to be looking for a missing girl in the neighborhood. No girl was there and it was the wrong home, but the family was terrified as their lives were threatened by this vigilante gang of thugs.

Incidents like these are too common, sometimes with the silence or encouragement of the highest elected officials.

Whether you are the editor of a newspaper, an elected official, or just a person who believes in basic justice, the rule of law and the sanctity of human rights in our nation, it's time to stand against those who take the law into their own hands through acts of racial hatred, intimidation and domestic terrorism.

**Avram Friedman**  
Sylva, NC

## Thanks for keeping us safe

Dear Editor,

Betsy and I would like to thank High-

lands Mayor Pat Taylor for the wise way the Town's stay-at-home order has been handled, and the deference the mayor has shown to the medical community.

People have been selfdistancing and many have been wearing masks when in public. This has enabled "essential" businesses to continue to operate.

We hope that this caution will continue and people will think of others as we navigate our way through this ongoing ordeal.

Once again, thanks to Mayor Taylor's outstanding leadership, Highlands can be hailed as a model city for others to emulate.

**Marc Hehn**  
Highlands

## Whoops. Apologies

Dear Editor,

In last week's Highlands Newspaper there was an article about the cancellation of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival.

In our acknowledgments of past presidents, we failed to include Olivia Holt, my immediate predecessor, a great mentor and friend of mine. Olivia's contributions to the Festival over many, many years and as President during the 2017 and 2018 seasons, have been inestimable. The Festival has been incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from her energy, enthusiasm and creative ideas. Her love of Highlands, Cashiers and the music scene is boundless.

We so regret this omission.

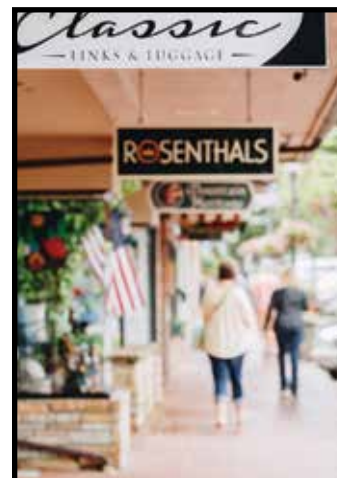
**The HCCMF Board**

## Rec Park pool is open with restrictions

The Highlands Pool is open for 18 years and older lap swim ONLY for NC phase 2. Six lanes will be available Monday-Friday from 6am-12pm, with no shared lanes. The pool entrance will now be at the emergency exit on the back wall of pool deck.

### Restrictions

- Showers, restrooms, and pool deck furniture will NOT be open for use.
- Only six swimmers will be allowed in the pool area at a time.
- Swimmers waiting for a lane to open will be required to wait outside.
- No equipment will be available
- Temperature will be checked at entrance



## Our Community Needs Us!

We all **love** this area, but with the Covid crisis, our *community* needs us to step up. So how can we **help**? Whether full timers, seasonal residents, or regular visitors, helping may be *simpler* than we think.

- Be *generous* beyond the norm.
- Make *donations* to local non-profits that you'd not normally make. Or *increase* the amount that you'd normally offer.
- And instead of waiting until the end of the year, make your donations *now*.
- Go to stores and **buy two** of something – or splurge on items that you'd normally wistfully walk by. Start buying **Christmas** presents or **gift certificates** now: stash up.
- Pay **extra for haircuts** and other services, making up for those that never happened.
- Eat out – or **take out** – **more often** than usual. To help the restaurant owners, order the expensive dishes – and maybe offer to buy a \$50 dessert, just for the heck of it.
- And for waitstaffs and other service workers, make your **tips impressive**.

- If you would like to **volunteer** your time and services, sign up with the Highlands Chamber of Commerce initiative **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** at [highlandschamber.org/neighbors-helping-neighbors/](http://highlandschamber.org/neighbors-helping-neighbors/)

It is, indeed, better to give than receive. Given the craziness of these times, our neighbors need our help; hopefully, all of us **who are able** will

**show our appreciation** to those who work so hard to make Highlands-Cashiers the unique area it is.

*Be creative. Be generous. Be grateful.*

Paid for by a hopeful neighbor



## ... RESTAURANT continued from page 1

adhering to safety protocols.

"Our restaurants are seeking ways to promote dining safely while seeking permission for temporary outdoor seating," said Chamber Executive Director Kaye McHan.

They sought several things: to use 1-3 parking spaces for outdoor dining in B-1, to reduce current on-site parking requirements in B-2 and B-3 to allow outdoor seating areas in those parking spaces, to allow the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the temporary parking space dining, to allow dining on sidewalks and to retain the currently allowed two, take-out parking spaces.

After much discussion between commissioners, town staff and the town attorney, the board OK'd just the retention of take-out parking spaces.

Town Manager Josh Ward said he talked to Bryan Birch with NC DOT to see if using parking spaces on US and NC highways for drinking and dining would be allowed.

Ward said Birch said it would take a lengthy permitting process which would include an encroachment into the rights-

of-way permit as well as proof of insurance.

In addition, restaurateurs would have to get a special permit from the Alcohol Law Enforcement Board to serve alcohol in the parking spaces and there would be additional liability issues to contend with.

"That means there would be two hurdles to clear before this may be allowed plus dining in parking spaces would require 30 sq. ft. per person," said Ward.

Most of Highlands' sidewalks are too narrow to accommodate tables and chairs nor are they ADA compliant which is why sidewalk dining isn't allowed.

Town Attorney JK Coward said it's also an Equal Opportunity issue.

"This might work for some restaurants but not for others and beside the liability, insurance and encroachment issues regarding parking space dining, the town and the restaurants would be liable and could be sued if a vehicle veered into a diner in a parking space," he said.

In addition, Ward said he had already heard from at least one retailer who said if restaurants were allowed to use the sidewalks for dining, then they wanted to use the sidewalk to expand their store, too.

Commissioners John Dotson and Brian Stiehler said they couldn't approve such an idea.

"As narrow as our streets are, I am not for putting visitors in parking spaces. The sidewalks aren't possible either. Besides, it sounds like this is a way to circumnavigate the governor's order," said Dotson.

Stiehler said it was important to protect the town and there was too much liability involved.

However, Commissioner Donnie Caloway wanted the restaurants with wide sidewalks to be allowed to discuss the possibility with Town Manager Ward and let him have the final say, since during the pandemic and with the town's state of emergency still in effect, the town could circumnavigate its own ordinances.

Even though the commissioners said that it meant everyone wouldn't be treated equally, they agreed to let restaurateurs who wanted to use the sidewalk for dining to come to the Town Board with a proposal.

"I don't think the Town Manager should be burdened with that decision," said Commissioner Dotson.

There was also some talk about doing away with the two take-out parking spaces

that have been allowed during Phase 1, but commissioners agreed to let that stand until Phase 3 starts which will likely be July 3.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she had heard from many clients that they wanted to continue to support the restaurants through take-out orders, but they weren't comfortable dining inside, so the take-out parking spaces were needed.

McHan said Mountain Fresh had asked to be allowed to put tables in their parking spaces in their private lot but Attorney Coward said the town would still be liable for any accidents that might occur so that, too, was nixed.

Even though Phase 2 restrictions meant it wasn't "business as usual" over Memorial Day Weekend, most restaurants said business was good – and absolutely worth it even at 50% occupancy.

"It gave us a chance to ramp up slowly and get used to the new safety procedures without being slammed at 100% which would have happened without the guidelines," said president and managing director of Old Edwards Hospitality Group Richard Delany. "We opened the Wine Garden, Madison's and of course Four 65

• See RESTAURANT page 17



# Don't Wait Another Day To Paint



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Cashiers, NC  
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## ... RESTAURANT continued from page 16

which has been open for take-out.”

Delany and others said generally, the clientele was understanding and cooperative.

“There were a few grumpy visitors who were not happy about the 50% capacity and having to wait for a seat. But I have come to learn that even in a challenging time like this, there are still sad, unhappy people out there who will find something to complain about even when we are doing our very level best to make things great in a tough situation.”

Many noted, including Mayor Pat Taylor that many visitors this past weekend were not wearing masks or maintaining social distancing.

“It was a little scary actually. There weren’t many masks and not much distancing on sidewalks but we were strict inside all of OEHG,” said Delany.

Co-owner of Mountain Fresh, Jennifer Snead-Smith said business was very steady with a good mix of eat-in and take-out orders, “which is not uncommon for us at this time of year.”

She said she found visitors to be respectful of new safety protocols and keep-

ing ample space between groups.

Blye Hunsinger, owner of Pescados, said his business over the weekend was up compared to last year and even though his Memorial Day lunch was slower than last year being open inside and out at 50% was worth it.

“However, it does take considerable more effort to ensure our team and customers are as safe as they can be while adhering to all the safety protocols,” he said.

Hunsinger said for the most part people, were understanding of the restrictions but he, too, was surprised at the number of people not taking steps to protect themselves and others.

“They weren’t wearing gloves, face-masks, even though they were handling cash, and even touching credit card machines when we have options for customers to make touchless payments,” he said.

Tom Goldacker, co-owner of Highlands Smokehouse echoed other restaurateurs and said this new norm is an adjustment for everyone.

“We did well with 50 percent occupancy and it was worth opening for dining. However, it is an adjustment to adhere to

all the rules involved. It takes a bit of extra staff to maintain all the different areas – sanitizing of tables and chairs, knobs and surfaces,” he said. “But overall business was good and most people were patient. It was good to see some of our regulars coming back inside to dine with us. We appreciate all

of our patrons.”

Mindy and Joe Green of Wolfgang’s said it was good to be open again.

“It was worth it, even at 50%. We cannot wait to get back to more but having inside take-out was helpful, too.”

– Kim Lewicki



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## The truth is in the Bible

**Pastor Dan Robinson**  
Highlands Central Baptist Church

Which do you think is more trustworthy: Google or the Bible? A friend recently said to me: "I'm beginning to trust Google less and less." This was his comment after comparing Google's information with other information more timely and relevant. Well, as a rule I don't have a bone to pick with Google. I have found their responses very helpful at times in some of my research.

However, after googling a question (the answer to which affects literally everyone on earth), I decided to put it to you and discuss it. Here's the question: "What happens to someone when they die?" Google's quick response was: "There is no definitive proof, of course, that life exists after death." I cringed when I read, "of course." It suggests "doesn't everyone already know this elementary fact anyway?"

I wonder (of course) what one does therefore with the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead? That He was dead and buried has been verified by both Biblical and non-Biblical writers. That He lived again, likewise. What else is that (definitive proof) but that life exists after death?

Google is wrong. But think about the exponential millions who believe Google is right! The Bible teaches there is not only life after death, but more clearly, ongoing life immediately following death. Or as someone has said: "our last breath on earth is followed by our first breath in heaven." That is well said.

There is no suspended animation. There is no soul sleep. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). These are great truths! However, they only apply to those whom the Scriptures describe as "Born-again" (John chapter three). To be born again, or to become a Christian, one must repent of their sins, ask Jesus Christ to forgive them for their sins, and ask Him to be their Lord and Savior. They then become a follower of Jesus Christ. Church attendance, good moral behavior and other virtues (apart from a vital relationship with Jesus Christ) don't count! I believe there will be countless church members who on Judgement day will be declared by Our Lord as those "He never knew."

There is no good news regarding life after death for those who have never met Jesus Christ. What a burden our Lord Himself had about these! Indeed, He preached more about hell than He did heaven! This ought to tell us something. The doctrine of hell sounds so simple, ignorant and outdated in our sophisticated culture. "Surely, you don't believe that!" one might respond. Yes. Not only would Jesus never lie, He loves us too much to ever lie! Hell is as real as heaven.

In merciful frankness He has spelled out the two roads one may choose. The narrow one leading to life or the broad one leading to everlasting death and destruction. I sadly envision one day not future in heaven when

See SPIRITUALLY page 19

## Proverbs 3:5

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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

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& Supper in homes

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Pastor Jim Kinard

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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

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

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Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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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

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

Wed: Choir: 6p

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Pastor Dan Robinson

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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

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from May 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## May 1

• At 8:42 p.m., officers were called about someone communicating threats at a residence on Laurel Street.

## May 8

• At 3 p.m., officers received a report of someone attempting to cash a bad check by using false identification at First Citizens Bank.

## May 14

• At 3:02 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Little Bear Pen Road and US 64 east.

• At 9:40 p.m., officers were called about a simple assault to a woman at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

## May 15

• At 1:45 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west and Raoul Road.

• At 6:21 p.m., officers were called about an unattended death of a 72-year-old man at a

residence on Dog Mountain Road.

## May 16

• At 11:25 a.m., Clarence James McCall, 27 of Highlands was arrested for theft from a building. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond. His court date is June 9.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 22.**

## May 22

• At 9:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence to a location on Horse Cove Road.

• At 9:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 5th Street.

• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on South Old Wal-

halla Road.

## May 23

• At 9:52 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Whiteside Mountain Road where they carried out a hiker with an injured leg.

## May 25

• At 12:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 5:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Big Creek lane.

## May 26

• At 5:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Knut Gap Road.

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

perhaps millions upon millions will say to Jesus Christ: "Why didn't someone ever tell me all of this?" To which He may reply: "They did. You read it in the Spiritually Speaking column."

So, dear friend, I say again, no one knows you better and no one loves you more than Jesus Christ! I hope you will begin a relationship with Him today because

one day you will die and face Jesus Christ. It will be wonderful beyond words to hear him say, "Welcome Home!" And likewise, it will be tragic beyond words to hear Him say, "Depart from me."

The Bible is trustworthy! I'm grateful there is something we can believe in and live by, not only in this life, but in the endless eternity to come.

## ...DIES continued from page 1

Jerry Robinson, 69, Linda Robinson, 65, and Jerry Parker, 6 of Clayton, GA and a 2016 Chevrolet pickup occupied by Breanna Almeida, 25, Hanna Abercrombie, 31 of Franklin, N.C. and Blake Ashmon, 32 of Stone Mountain, GA.

The couple leaves behind a blended family of four children, including two daughters, both of whom graduate from Highlands High School this year.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office has started a GOFUNDME page to help all four children of David and Dawn.

They leave behind, Jeslyn Head, 17; JD Head, 13; Erin Sanborn, 17; and Sidney Sanborn, 19.

So far a little over \$7,000 has been raised. The goal is \$40,000 to be split evenly among the four children.

## ...COVID continued from page 1

given instructions to quarantine until they receive a negative test result; those who test positive will be given isolation orders for 14 days. In addition, church leadership has been provided disinfection guidance.

MCPH is working to identify additional close contacts of these individuals.

Kathy MaGaha, director of MCPH, won't confirm if the two new cases are part of a "cluster" of cases affiliated with the Evangelical Ebenezer Church or from the previous cases reported at a "business" in Franklin.

Active positive cases in the county now stand at 15; recovered at 2 and one death.

So far 798 people have been tested in Macon County – 505 of which were performed at the health department.

The number of positive tests performed at the health department stands at 14; negative at 243 and pending results stand at 248.

According to the NC Department

of Health and Human Services, there are 24,140 cases in the state resulting in 766 deaths.

– Kim Lewicki



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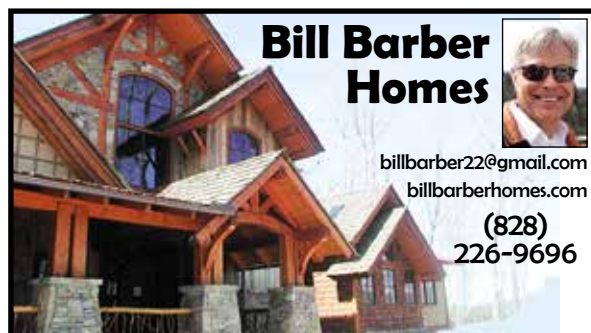
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### Looking for a church home?

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Visit our website [www.wayfarersunity.org](http://www.wayfarersunity.org) for more information, or call 706-746-3303

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## Hudson Library continues curbside service and prepares for by-appointment visits

Fontana Regional Library locations in Macon, Jackson, and Swain Counties plan to open on a limited by-appointment basis the week of June 8. Hudson Library will begin accepting appointments by phone on June 2.

Patrons may make appointments no more than one week in advance. Curbside service will remain in place for those who do not choose to schedule a time to come into the building. All people entering library buildings will be required to wear a mask or other face covering.

While Governor Cooper's Phase 2 guidelines would permit opening on a limited basis earlier than June 8, libraries are awaiting delivery of necessary protective equipment before allowing the public inside. Safety of the public and library workers is the most important consideration, so social distancing and sanitizing procedures will be observed. In accordance with health department recommendations, armchairs, couches, and other upholstered furniture will NOT be available for use. In addition, people will be limited to 45-minute appointment slots, which will allow library staff to serve as many people as possible while also cleaning areas after use.

As a thank you for the public's patience and as a way to welcome patrons back, the library will forgive overdue fines upon request until June 30. Overdue fines will also be forgiven on any lost items that are returned. Please call any Fontana Regional Library location to find out if there are any fines on your account, and ask that they be forgiven.

For more information, visit [www.fontanalib.org](http://www.fontanalib.org) or call Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

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## WANTED

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## HELP WANTED

**NOW HIRING AT WILD THYME.** We are looking for bussers and hostess. Must have positive attitude and reliable transportation. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet in Town Square on

Main Street in Highlands. Please no phone calls. (st. May 28)

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

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## ... TESTING continued from page 1

in Highlands June 13 from 8a to 1p. They expect 150 people in Highlands - 30 cars per hour over the five hours.

Tindall said NC Health and Human Services has opened its guidelines to testing as many people as possible regardless of symptoms. They have prioritized people with symptoms but they have also prioritized certain other people who are important.

"Those include front-line, essential and EMS workers, who are continually exposed socially, as well as those at high risk who are over the age of 65, which is a large sector of our population," she said.

All CDC, FDA and NC Health and Human Services guidelines will be followed, and everyone will be pre-scheduled, which will include insurance screening and demographic information. In addition, waivers will be signed so if someone does test positive, they agree to quarantine.

If someone's insurance doesn't cover the cost of the test, then the foundation will cover the cost.

All reports will be sent to the Macon County Health Department which going forward hopes to increase its ability to test, said Tindall. "But right now, they are concentrating on tracing COVID cases."

The Foundation wanted to use the park on Pine Street due to the easy ingress and egress circular pattern, that of entering off Fifth and exiting on Fourth.

Commissioners were for the idea, but Commissioner Amy Patterson asked if it was necessary or wise to offer the service in such a public place.

"I agree this is a good thing, but Pine Street is the most public place and there are better places for this to happen," said Patterson. "Some more private place like the school rather than in the middle of town and in the middle of the traffic flow."

Tindall said the intent wasn't to be high

profile, it was to be convenient.

Commissioner John Dotson suggested the Rec Park saying there would be room for cars to back up and it, too, offers a circular ingress and egress pattern.

Commissioner Patterson pushed for the school because the back parking lot is more private and the sidewalk is covered which means no one has to be in the rain.

So, in the end, Tindall was asked to see if the school could be used on June 13 and to make sure Wi-Fi was available. If the school doesn't work out then commissioners OK'd the use of the Rec Park.

- Kim Lewicki



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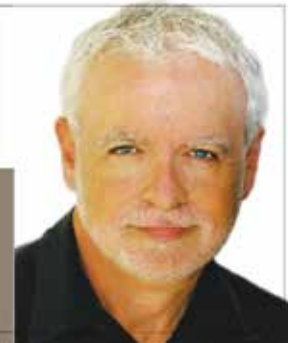


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