

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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## MC Board of Ed mandates masks

**By Brittney Lofthouse**  
Monday night, the Macon County Board of Education reversed an early decision to allow masks to be optional this semester and voted 3-2 to require face coverings for students and staff, effective immediately.

Face coverings are now required inside school facilities and school transportation. Face coverings will not be required outside, or during vigorous physical activity. The decision to reverse an earlier decision for masks to be optional comes after a surge of COVID19 cases and the highest positive rate

• See MASKS page 7

## Town Hall is closed due to a COVID outbreak

On Monday, Mayor Pat Taylor announced that Town Hall is now closed to the public due to a COVID outbreak. Several employees have tested positive for the virus.

The mayor said specialty cleaning equipment is being used to sanitize the building.

The Macon County Health Department has been notified and the town is following prescribed protocols.

There is a rolling 14-day COVID positivity rate of 37.98% in Macon County

“We’ve had three cases in Town Hall within a week,” said Town Manager Josh Ward. “We felt it was best to shut down, clean and try to keep from spreading

• See OUTBREAK page 5



From left: Anita McKim (HS English), Celena Mitchell (TA-Kindergarten), April Getz (Media Specialist), Marlene Fairchild (HS Spanish), Martilynn Walker (cafeteria), Joi Chapman (Music). Not pictured are: Kelsey Sabo (MS Social Studies), Melissa McKinnon (MS English), Justin Bohner (Industrial Arts), Allison Hedman (3rd grade)

## Highlands School students to see 10 new faces this year

Some things will be different the when the 2021-'22 school year starts Monday, Aug. 23 and some things will be the same.

For the first time in ... well, a really, long time, there will be 10

new faces greeting students this year.

New hires have been found to replace three teachers who retired last year; six teachers who re-

• See FACES page 5

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## NC legislators to issue statement on lawsuit against HCA

**By Brittney Lofthouse**  
Last week, residents of North Carolina filed a class-action lawsuit against Hospital Corporation of America Healthcare, the for-profit owner of Mission Health, alleging the corporation is using a monopoly to charge more while providing poorer quality of care.

“While we are still reviewing the complaint, we applaud these citizens for taking action. The summary reflects what Western North Carolina individuals, doctors, and businesses have reported experiencing since HCA purchased Mission Health: higher costs, downgraded quality of care, and reduced access to health care, especially in rural areas,” Sen. Kevin Corbin said in a joint release with Sen. Brian Turner and Sen. Julie Mayfield. “HCA’s practices are particularly troubling because they acquired a non-profit hospital with a regulated monopoly in Asheville,

leaving no realistic alternatives for many types of care in the region. HCA promised to maintain quality of care in the Mission Health purchase agreement, and it is time for them to fulfill that promise by competing fairly and focusing on patients.”

The class-action lawsuit was filed last Wednesday in Buncombe County Superior Court and named six plaintiffs who live across Western North Carolina’s Mission Health Service area.

In a statement announcing the lawsuit, lawyers representing six Western North Carolina residents who brought the suit say the complaint alleges Mission is now the most expensive hospital in the state for many procedures.

“An out-of-state corporation has used its market power to cut quality and raise prices,” says attorney Mona Lisa Wallace of

• See LAWSUIT page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

**Let's beat this thing ...**

The first mass vaccination effort in this country was undertaken at the direction of General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. By the time the Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge in 1778, smallpox was and had been decimating their ranks.



**Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor**

Washington knew he had to take action or there would be no army to fight the British in the upcoming summer campaign. The British soldiers had developed a herd immunity from the spread of smallpox throughout Europe, but that was not so for the American soldiers.

Washington decided to vaccinate all troops who had never had smallpox with a new and controversial technique. An incision was made on the soldier's forearm. A thread soaked with the smallpox puss was then dragged through the incision, thus infecting the soldier with hopefully a mild case of smallpox. The theory was that this planned exposure gave a person immunity, and it was a better choice than having full blown smallpox that significantly increased the possibility of death. This vaccination technique still caused death in an estimated

5% to 10% of those treated. Nevertheless, it stopped the spread of smallpox at that terrible winter encampment. The Continental Army was able to reform from a disjointed militia force into a cohesive, disciplined army.

The tradition of vaccinating American troops began with Washington and continues today. The spread of disease within an army can be just as devastating as enemy fire.

Now I'm not making the case for mandatory vaccinations against COVID, but I do think it is interesting that these founding heroes of this nation were willing to risk everything, even taking an untested vaccination in order to fight for their country. I do see taking the current vaccines as a similar act of support for our friends and neighbors ... for our fellow countrymen. While I hear folks raising concerns about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines, I think about how far we have come. What would General Washington think?

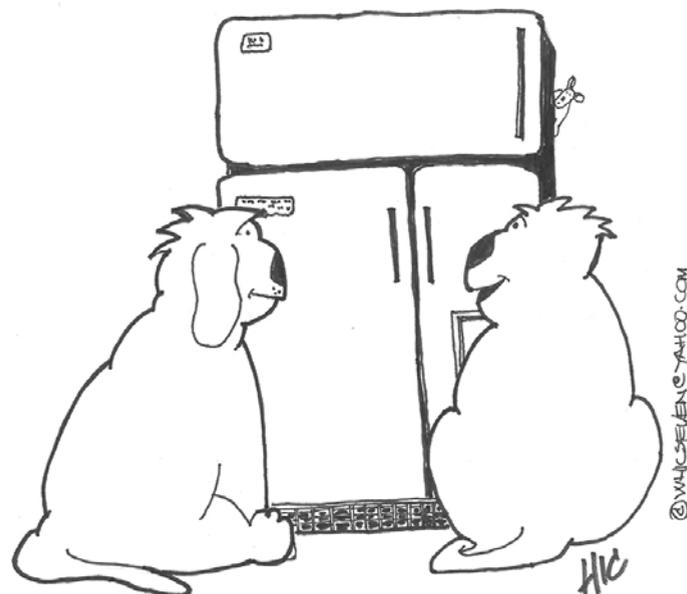
I am concerned about vaccine reluctance now that it is becoming clear that we are facing a resurgence of COVID through the spread of the Delta Variant. I am concerned that many of our town workers have not been vaccinated. While I foresee no plan to force workers to take the vaccine, I would hope the spirit of public service would make those not vaccinated reconsider.

I attended last Friday a celebration for the volunteers who worked in the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Vaccination Clinic. It was a bittersweet moment. Those in attendance had returned to wearing masks again along with the discussion about resuming the clinics.

I presented to the volunteers a plaque that commemorated the resolution the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners passed thanking the volunteers for all the work and effort they contributed to operating the clinics. I also had the honor of issuing a mayor's proclamation honoring the leadership and hard work that Tom Neal put forward in organizing and operation of those many clinics.

I hope all the efforts of the volunteers will not be in vain. This coming fall might be a "Valley Forge moment" to where our hearts and souls are again tested.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



**"They ask why I keep robbing refrigerators.  
Because that's where the leftovers are."  
(Willi Sutton's dog)**

## • WEATHER •

| Thu, 19-Aug  | Fri, 20-Aug   | Sat, 21-Aug   | Sun, 22-Aug   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| 77°F<br>62°F   | 78°F<br>59°F  | 75°F<br>59°F  | 80°F<br>61°F  |
| Couple of thunderstorms  | An afternoon thunderstorm   | An afternoon thunderstorm   | A thunderstorm or two   |
| RealFeel®<br>High: 81° Low: 65°  | RealFeel®<br>High: 85° Low: 66°   | RealFeel®<br>High: 81° Low: 63°   | RealFeel®<br>High: 88° Low: 62°   |

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## ...OUTBREAK continued from page 1

the virus.”

The three employees with COVID are following the health department's instructions for returning to work.

“The IT department has set up laptops to enable us to work from home,” said Ward. “We are using our fogger to sanitize Town Hall and other facilities.”

In addition, the town is working on setting up a remote phone system to be in communication with those calling with questions regarding town business.

“Frances is set up to answer the Town Hall phone from her house,” Ward said.

Payments for utilities can be put in the silver drop box in front of Town Hall on N. 4th Street.

Mayor Taylor said Town Board meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

– Kim Lewicki

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## ...FACES continued from page 1

signed and moved elsewhere and one which will be bringing music back to the school.

Melissa McKinnon is the new middle school English teacher; taking over for Michelle Lane who will be teaching high school English; Anita McKim will also be teaching high school English.

Allison Hedman is a new 3rd grade teacher; and April Getz is the new Media Specialist.

Kelsey Sabo is the new middle school social studies teacher; Marlene Fairchild is the new high school Spanish teacher and Joi Chapman is the new music teacher.

Celena Mitchell, is a new Kindergarten teacher assistant and will be working with Kindergarten teacher Bonnylin Covey.

Justin Bohner will replace long-time Industrial Arts teacher Dave Cashion and Martilynn Walker is a new cafeteria worker.

Principal Brian Jetter said there is still an opening for a custodian.

As of Monday, Aug. 16, there are 378 students enrolled for the new school year, but that number is likely to change the first week of school.

There are two kindergartens - Bonnylin Covey and TA Mitchell will have 16 students; and Margie Potts and TA Francie Jetter will have 17.

There are two first grades – Chandler Luke with TA Cindy Reed who will have 14 and Stephanie Mason with TA Stephanie McConnell will have 14.

There are two second grades – Robyn Hessling who has 15 and Pamela Taylor who has 15.

There are two third grades – Allison Hedman who has 13 and Laura Huneycutt who has 13.

There are also two fourth grades – Sherrie King who has 16 and Maci Bears who has 16.

Angela Swain teaches fifth grade and will have 17 students; Joy Archer teaches sixth grade and will have 20 students.

Seventh grade has 27 students, and eighth grade has 40 students – they will both be taught by Kelsey Sabo, Stephanie Smathers, Melissa McKinnon, and Sarah Hibbits.

There are 32 in the ninth grade; 19 in tenth grade; 38 in

eleventh grade and 37 in the twelfth grade.

At Monday night's school board meeting, due to the rolling 14-day COVID positivity rate of 37.98% in Macon County, masks will be required of all students, teachers and staff at Highlands School until further notice.

“Anyone entering a school building must wear a mask that covers the nose and extends below the chin. The mask must be worn the entire time they are in the building. Students and adults will be able to remove the mask while eating and drinking as long as they are socially distanced six feet. This includes all adults and all students K-12. Masks are required at all times for anyone riding a school bus. Face shields do not meet the requirements of wearing a mask,” said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter.

Principal Jetter also said unlike last year, Fridays will be in-person days for all grades. However, he will continue the policy of monitoring temperatures at the doors coming into the building, will continue to restrict entry into the building, will continue the use of hand-sanitizer and the practice of washing hands in the classroom/bathroom.

In addition, the classrooms will be fogged twice a week in the afternoons after students and teacher leave the premises.

Like last year, breakfast and lunches will be eaten in classrooms not in a crowded cafeteria.

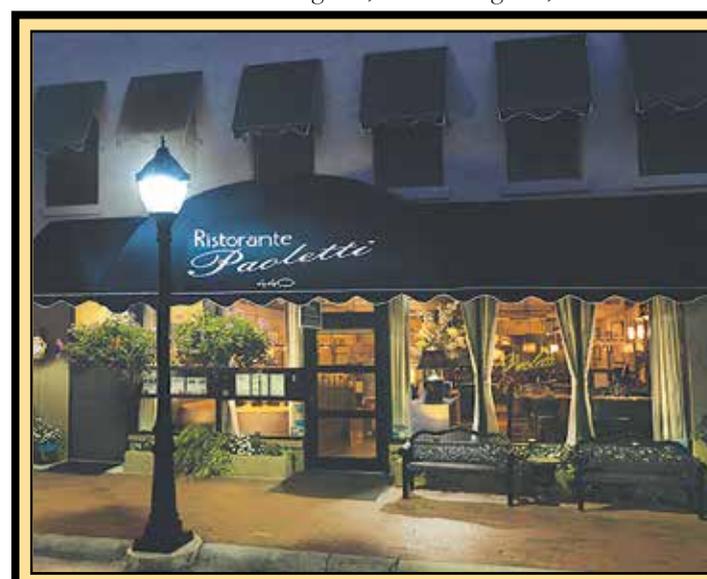
Principal Jetter welcomes everyone – new and old – to Highlands School.

“Highlands School honors its rich traditions and continually seeks ways to develop the individual talents of every student. Through the creation of a safe and orderly learning environment, our teachers are able to foster intellectual curiosity and personal growth in each of our students, and we are devoted to giving our students the opportunities by which they will gain the skills necessary to become significant contributors to our society.

“We encourage all parents to become active and supportive members of the Highlands School community by joining our PTO and by coming into our school frequently.

“Together we can make our students' years at Highlands School productive, fun, and memorable,” he said.

– Kim Lewicki



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# • LORD BANJO REFLECTIONS •

## I don't get no respect

Rodney Dangerfield's signature line captures my feelings exactly. Why? Because my family has been making fun of me and saying things like, "Poor Banjo." If that's not bad enough, you should have seen what Puddin' said about me in her

last column. Who does the little thing think she is to diss the royal pooch?

Unlike the silly cat, I have royal perks, like a lovely dog bed beneath Mum's desk and three offices of my own. The master bath is my headquarters. It's the roomiest and quietest, and I have a water dish in there, too. That's where I sleep at night and occasionally take naps.

I also have two satellite offices, the guest bath downstairs and the one in the upstairs hallway. I hang out in the downstairs bath most of the day, especially in the hot summer because the air conditioner vent in that room blows directly on me as I lie on the cool tile floor. Which office I choose as the day progresses depends on where the royal parents are. If Dad's downstairs, I may head to that office. If he's upstairs with Mum, I stay up there.

Unfortunately, Mum and Dad have begun making disparaging remarks about my age, about my moving slowly, being hard of hearing, stumbling, you name it. How dare they? Yes, I am the eldest in the family, and yes, I'm slowing down. But, but . . . isn't there a saying about respecting your elders? Mum and Dad are no spring chickens, so you'd think they'd be careful about making mean comments. You know, what goes around, comes around, they say.

But the worst thing by far is what Puddin' wrote about me for the world to see. She called me her "senile canine brother."



Lord Banjo

Senile? How dare she? Sure, I bark at things those three can't see. Sure, I stumble coming up the three steps to the porch, but I still get around under my own steam. And, yes, occasionally, Mum has to help me get up the stairs to the bedroom, but I'm not senile.

And, yes, nowadays I wake up earlier than I used to—at 2, 3, 4, or 5 A.M. Why shouldn't I bark when I wake

up? Usually, I just want someone to come into the headquarters office and rub my back. That makes me feel good and I can sleep for another hour—or not. It just depends.

Rut-ro, Puddin' just reminded me that I've had two accidents in the house. Oh pshaw. I was on my way to the front door, deep in thought, and lost track of where I was. That's my story and I'm sticking to it, but talk about no respect. Mum now makes me wear a terry cloth-filled band around my tummy in case I have another accident. Oh, the indignity! To quote another famous man, I am suffering "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," and I won't stand for it. Unless, of course, I get a treat . . . and a belly rub. I'm easy that way.

• *Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his mum, Kathy Manos Penn, author of the Dickens & Christie cozy animal mystery series available on Amazon and at Books Unlimited in Franklin. Write Lord Banjo at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com).*

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Though this year's 5K Race event got rained out, this group's spirits weren't dampened. They were ready and raring to go.

— photo by Kim Lewicki

# ...MASKS continued from page 1

since the beginning of the pandemic.

Citing the county's positivity rate of over 50 percent, the highest on record for Macon County since the beginning of the pandemic, Macon County Director of Public Health Kathy McGaha recommended the school system begin the school year requiring masks for students and staff.

According to Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, if schools were to begin this week, the school system would need 27 substitute teachers just to be able to operate based on the number of employees currently in quarantine. There are 11 students currently positive for COVID19 and over 100 students and staff in quarantined.

"I am worried how we are going to keep our schools open with the quarantine rules," said Dr. Baldwin.

"I am too," said McGaha.

While the board's meeting was held virtually due to public safety concerns and rising COVID19 cases, the decision to mandate masks for the start of the school year came after more than an hour of public comment.

Individuals emailed public comments both for and against requiring masks and Macon County Board of Education attorney John Henning Jr. read each one.

While local medical professionals such as Dr. Gus Wilde advocated for masks due to their

scientifically proven effectiveness against spreading the COVID19 virus, others spoke out against masks claiming it was infringing on their personal freedoms.

During the public comment period, Macon County Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove paused reading submissions from Macon County parents and residents to allow Congressman Madison Cawthorn to address the board via video.

"The Superintendent of Schools in your county work for you, they don't work for the Governor, they don't work for these bureaucrats in Raleigh," said Rep. Cawthorn. "I am asking you please, stand up and do the hard thing. I understand it may be unpopular. I understand you may get some backlash. But surely the people in Raleigh can't arrest all of us. They can't shut down all the schools."

Rep. Cawthorn claimed that the COVID19 virus is less lethal than the cold and flu and suggested he believes masks shouldn't be used because of that.

McGaha, along with Macon County Department of Public Health Physician Dr. Dewhurst noted that the COVID19 Delta variant is more transmissible than prior months, causing for a sharp rise in positive COVID19 cases locally as well as a surge of hospitalizations. McGaha noted that the Delta Variant is also infecting younger individuals more than ever before.

Dr. Baldwin noted that the entirety of the Franklin High School cross country team was currently quarantined due to exposure to positive COVID19 cases, as is the Nantahala Volleyball team.

Despite all 16 members of the Nantahala volleyball team being quarantined due to exposure to COVID19, and McGaha stating that the team had been wearing masks, they may not have been required to quarantine, Nantahala school board representative Melissa Evans voted against requiring masks for students, stating her 8-year-old granddaughter asked her not to.

Board of Education member Tommy Cabe cited his personal experience during his summer trip to Hawaii as being his reason to vote against requiring masks. However, once the board voted to mandate masks, Cabe placed his face covering on and said he would follow the requirement.

Highlands representative Hillary Wilkes said that after speaking with parents and staff across the district and with the sharp increase in the county's positivity rate, she would support a temporary mask mandate to keep everyone safe.

Board member Carol Arnold noted that because she is not a medical professional, she relies on the expertise of those in charge such as McGaha and local doctors, and based on their recommendations, she supports a temporary mask mandate as well.

Macon County Board of

Education Chairman Jim Breedlove said that his primary focus is to keep students in school for in-person instruction, and according to McGaha, the best way to do that is to temporarily require masks.

"More importantly than keeping teachers teaching, I want to keep teachers safe," said McGaha. "Keeping them working is one thing but keeping them safe

is more important and that is my priority."

The face coverings mandate will be re-evaluated weekly and can change based on COVID19 data for Macon County.

The Macon County Board of Education will continue its August 16th Board Meeting on Monday, August 23rd at 6 pm.

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"When buying or selling real estate, you may find it helpful to have a real estate

agent assist you. Real estate agents can provide many useful services and work with you in different ways. In some real estate transactions the agents work only for the seller. In other transactions the seller and buyer may each have their own agents. And sometimes the same agent or firm works for both the buyer and the seller in the same transaction. It is important for you to know whether an agent is representing you as your agent or simply assisting you while acting as an agent of the other party."

"These questions should help you decide which relationship you want to have with a real estate agent and give you useful information about the various services real estate agents can provide buyers and sellers and explain how real estate agents are paid.

Below are some questions that can be asked and answers may be obtained in the NCREC pamphlet:

Q: What does the word "agency" mean?

Q: What is an agency agreement?

Q: Is there a standard time for agency agreements?"

Q: Is there a "standard" fee for real estate agents?

Questions for SELLERS:

• I want to sell my property. What do I need to know about working with real estate agents?

• What are listing agent's duties to a seller?

• What services might a listing agent provide?

• How is the listing firm compensated?

• If I list my property with a real estate firm that also represents a buyer who wants to buy my property, what happens then?

• What is the risk if I agree to dual agency?

• How can I reduce the risk if dual agency occurs?

• Can I sell my property without hiring a real estate agent?

• What happens if the listing agreement expires?

Questions for BUYERS:

• I want to buy real estate. What do I need to know about working with real estate agents?

• What are a buyer's agents duties to a buyer?

• Must a buyer have a written agency agreement with the agent who represents the buyer?

• What services might a good buyer agent provide?



Lynn Kimball

• How is a buyer agent compensated?

• What happens if I want to buy a property listed by the same agent or firm that represents me?

• What is the risk if I agree to dual agency?

• How can I reduce the risk if dual agency occurs?

• What happens if the buyer agency agreement expires?

• Can I buy real estate without hiring a real estate agent?

• If I am an unrepresented buyer, who pays the real estate agent?

• Can the real estate agent who represents the seller require me to hire an agent to represent me?

Termination of Agency Agreements:

• If I hire a real estate agent or firm to represent me, can I terminate the agency agreement before it expires?"

If you are seeking answers to these questions, you may ask a real estate agent to provide you with the Pamphlet.

Please rest assured that when you sign a Working With Agents Disclosure, you are not obligated to being represented by any real estate agent. This is an informational Disclosure.

At any time after you sign this Disclosure, a real estate broker may ask you to sign an Exclusive Buyer's Agency Agreement or an Exclusive Right to Sell Listing Agreement. You certainly may want to have the opportunity to get to know the agent well enough to feel comfortable with their knowledge of the real estate market and their abilities to represent you before signing with he/she which obligates you to work with them and their firm exclusively. Many agents will wait until the time they decide to make an offer or are ready to list your property.

• Lynn Kimball has over 48 years of real estate experience, with over 36 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as a Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at [www.signatureproperties-nc.com](http://www.signatureproperties-nc.com). Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations: 488 Main Street in Highlands, 132 Hwy 107S in Cashiers or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location in Highlands across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at [Lynn@bhsmmr.com](mailto:Lynn@bhsmmr.com)



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# • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

## 2021-2022 volleyball season begins

*Highlands varsity volleyball team sweeps Hayesville in season opener*

By Brian O'Shea

Plateau Daily News

Highlands varsity volleyball team sweeps Hayesville in season opener

The Lady Highlanders varsity volleyball team travelled to Hayesville on Monday for the season opener that ended in a 3-0 Highlands victory.

Highlands started off slow in the first game, staying neck and neck with the Lady Yellow Jackets but still managing to pull off the win. Things picked up for Highlands during the second game.

"We were just too nervous in the first game," said Highlands Julia May Schmitt. "The second game was way better once we found our groove."

Highlands Ava Schmitt said there were some nerves during the first game, but then they settled into a comfortable rhythm.

"We had the first-game jitters, but we kept playing our game and started playing together," said Ava. "And when you start a season on someone else's home court, you got to play harder and be extra

loud."

Ava added that it felt great to win, but it just felt good to be able to play.

"It feels amazing getting back out on the court with the girls and have that energy," she said.

Highlands Coach Desiray Schmitt said the girls went out there and got the job done.

"Varsity did really good," said Desiray. "They talked and played just how we wanted them to, great way to start a week of games!"

### Junior Varsity

Highlands junior varsity team had a tougher go of it in Hayesville losing 2-0, but the difference between the first and second games in terms of performance was significant and spirits were high despite the loss.

Hayesville won the first game 25-6 and took the second 25-23.

"After the first game, we knew we needed to talk more," said Highlands Abbie Doerter. "During the second game we weren't as nervous. We had a good head

on our shoulders and really started communicating with each other."

Highlands Caitlin Tingen said it took a bit to get comfortable out on the court.

"We had too many nerves that first game," said Tingen. "Everyone was trying to get adjusted. But in the second we calmed down and played our game and did much better."

Highlands Aislynn Luck said the first game was a rough one, but is proud of their performance.

"Stepping on the court for that first game was so exciting," said Luck. "I was nervous, I mean I was really nervous. The game wasn't good, but I think we played good for the first game of the season."

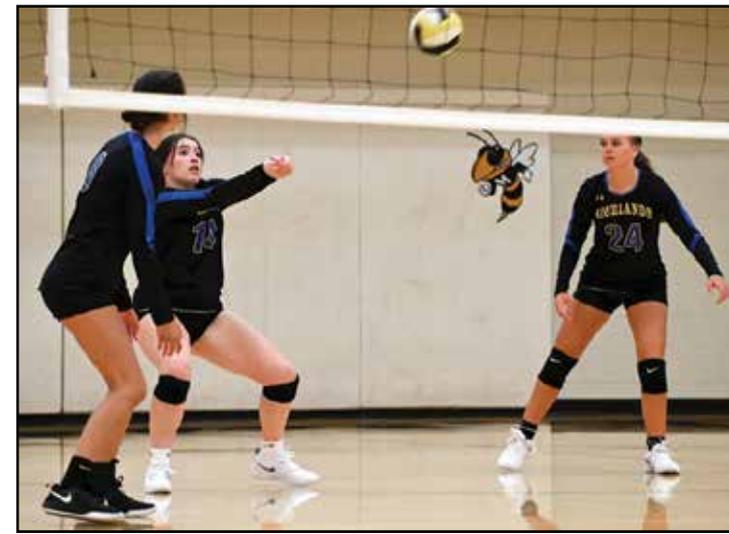
Desiray said the JV squad played well despite the loss and is proud of their efforts. She added that there are some young players on JV who are new to the game and some older girls decided to play this year, so it will be a learning process.



Highlands Ashlynn Wilson threads the needle between Hayesville's block and scores one for Highlands.



Highlands Ezra Branham launches to block a Hayesville spike.



Above: Highlands Abbie Doerter slams the ball down on the Hayesville side of the net.

Left: Highlands Mac Woods spikes the ball and puts one on the scoreboard.

Right: Highlands Caroline Woods passes a Hayesville serve.





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## ...LAWSUIT continued from page 1

Salisbury firm Wallace & Graham. “Mission Health was once the crown jewel of North Carolina’s healthcare system. In filing this action, the Plaintiff seeks to have HCA live up to its promises of providing affordable health care in Western North Carolina.”

The 87-page suit alleges even before it was sold, Mission was operating as a monopoly following its 1995 merger with St. Joseph’s Hospital in Asheville.

HCA, the Chattanooga-based for-profit healthcare system purchased Mission Health Systems in 2019. The suit outlines concerns that have gone unanswered by independent monitoring agencies and North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein. Specifically claiming “HCA has been cutting costs and staff at an alarming rate, leaving residents with insufficient healthcare options and astronomical prices.”

According to the lawsuit, “The North Carolina Constitution



Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is one of eight regional hospitals under the HCA umbrella in Western NC.

states: ‘Perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free state and shall not be allowed.’ However, from 1995 until 2019, Mission operated its hospital system as a monopoly. In January 2019, HCA acquired Mission and to this day continues to operate it as a for-profit monopoly.”

The complaint further addresses concerns regarding HCA’s monopoly on healthcare in WNC, saying HCA holds an approximate 90% market share for inpatient general acute care in Buncombe County and Madison County, giving it “free rein to dictate the prices it charges ... while at the same time undermining quality to cut costs.”

And across the region, it charges that HCA holds a monopoly market share (70% or more) for inpatient services in seven counties: Yancey (90.9%), Madison (90%), Buncombe (86.6%), Mitchell (85.4%), Transylvania (78.7%) McDowell (76.4%) and Macon (74.7%).

With the majority of the market share in WNC, the suit claims HCA is driving up prices that are 55 percent higher compared to other areas of the state.

There are 8 regional hospitals under the HCA umbrella in Western NC.

Angel Medical Center, Asheville Specialty Hospital, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, CarePartners, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Mission Hospital, Mission Hospital McDowell and Transylvania Regional Hospital.

The lawsuit says that HCA’s monopolistic practices have “caused reduced quality of service,” and that after the sale, “there have been numerous news reports, public protests, more than 100 citizen complaints sent to the Attorney General, and statements from area politicians protesting declining quality at the system.”

Mission Health Spokesperson Nancy Lindell said that the hospital will move forward with a response once it has officially received the suit.

“Once we have been served with the lawsuit, we will respond appropriately through the legal process. We are committed to caring for Western North Carolina as demonstrated through more than \$330 million in Charity Care and uninsured discounts we provided in 2020, expansion of hospital services including the opening of the North Tower, a new Pediatric ER, and securing land for a new 120-bed behavioral health hospital,” said Lindell. “Further, we have invested in our colleagues with onboarding nearly 1,200 new members this year and providing more than \$3 million in student loan and tuition reimbursement in 2020. Mission Health is committed to the health and well-being of every person who comes to us for care, and we are proud of our dedicated hospital teams that are facing the many challenges of this pandemic and the exceptional care they have provided to our patients.”



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The Dry Sink Main St. Highlands, NC

# Quercus Circus packs the house

By Brian O'Shea

Plateau Daily News

The Highlands Community Building was full of environmental enthusiasts last week for Quercus Circus: The Biodiversity and Ecological Value of Oaks. The program was presented by the Highlands Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM), which is made up of a consortium of conservation-oriented groups.

The program's name, Quercus Circus, is in reference to the oak tree's genus, Quercus. It began with a presentation by Dr. Paul Manos, Professor of Biology at Duke University, and was followed by a field trip to Dixon Woods for a presentation about non-native plants by Kyle Pursel, Stewardship Coordinator for the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Dr. Manos discussed oak biodiversity, oak biology, and oak interactions with vertebrates, insects and fungi throughout his presentation. There are over 30 species of oak in North Carolina and Manos said he wants the take-away for the audience to be the importance of oaks to the biodiversity of other species, ecology, food webs, etc.

After Manos' presentation he took questions from the crowd that touched on forest conservation and management in your own backyard.

Manos said it was a great crowd, hungry for interaction and knowledge.

Dixon Woods

After the presentation at the Community Building and despite a light rainfall, most of the crowd made their way to Dixon Woods, a property maintained by the HCLT minutes from town, to catch Pursel's presentation on non-native plant species and walk through the property for some tree identification.

Pursel talked about the "Rogue Gallery," plants he deems to be the worst invasives in the area, how to identify them, and how to get rid of them.

The top three invasive of-

fenders on Pursel's list are Japanese Knotweed, Oriental Bittersweet, and Japanese Spirea.

He said the knotweed is becoming less prevalent because problem areas are being treated through funding from the Laurel Garden Club and a partnership with Tate's Landscaping.

"we're starting to get it under control through a spraying program," said Pursel. "And it's working, we can see it starting to die back."

The Bittersweet and Spirea are different stories. He said Bittersweet is difficult to treat for a couple reasons. First, it's a climbing vine, and spraying often leads to collateral damage depending on what the vine is clinging to, and secondly, they haven't really found an effective chemical against the invasive woody vine.

Pursel said the problem with Spirea is the speed that it spreads.

"It was much more visible last month with plumes of tiny purple flowers," he said. "Now it's much harder to notice, but it's ev-

erywhere, especially around water. There's a ton of it in the gorge and it's spreading like wildfire."

HCLT's Dixon Woods is a flat, 17-acre patch of land with trails throughout the property surrounding a small pond. Near the center is a pocket meadow, where Pursel gave his presentation. He said of all the 17 acres, this is the only patch of clearing where the sun reaches the forest floor.

"A lot of species depend on open field habitats," said Pursel. "We're trying to purposefully seed it with showy-native flowers for pollinators, and things that eat pollinators like birds."

Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plant Management partners include:

Town of Highlands, N.C.; Laurel Garden Club Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau; Highlands Biological Station; Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; Highlands Historical Society; Highlands Plateau Audubon Society; Highlands Plateau Greenway



Kyle Pursel gives a presentation on non-native plant species from the pocket meadow at Dixon Woods.



Dr. Paul Manos points out a small oak tree at Dixon Woods.



Dr. Paul Manos addresses a packed house at the Community Building last week for Quercus Circus: The Biodiversity and Ecological Value of Oaks.



A small pond located at Dixon Woods near the pocket meadow.



Kyle Pursel demonstrates how to properly remove an invasive plant species.

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## NOTE

• Effective immediately MASKS are required in the Civic Center, Pool and Community Building and all other indoor Town Facilities.

- Movies at Highlands Play-

house will return in the Fall of 2021.

• Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, has cancelled services for the remainder of the season due to recent CDC guidelines. Call Mary Bean if

questions at 1-828-506-0125.

## Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

## Mon.-Fri.

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11a.m.

## Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

## Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body. With the many benefits of cardio, kickboxing is also a great stress and frustration reliever. We will be making contact with pads. If you have your own gloves and pads, please bring them. Kickboxing combines cardio and strength training to tone muscles and burn fat. Burn off stress and calories while having a great time.

## Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30 a.m. \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times

visit our website [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

## Tues. & Thurs.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30pm. This will be a combination class with many different type of exercise.

## Wed.-Sat. & Sat. & Sun.

• Live productions at The Playhouse. Wed.-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. For ticket information, visit [highlandisplayhouse.org](http://highlandisplayhouse.org).

• The Bookworm at 555 Main Street is now open Thursday-Saturday 11a to 3p. For more information, call 828-526-3031.

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store at 432 Spruce Street is open Thursday & Friday 10a to 1p. Saturday 10a to 4p. The store will only be open during business hours.

## Thursdays

• AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. An In Person Meeting with Covid 19 Preven-

tive Measures is held each Thurs Noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member of AL-ANON call 828-342-6866.

## Thursdays thru Sept. 9

• Zahner Thursday Night Lectures: These free lectures serve to educate and inspire the public through a series of talks from well-known regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers. This summer, the Highlands Biological Foundation will host nine lectures focusing on a wide array of topics. The lectures will be held on Thursday evenings at 6pm between and they will be hosted through a mix of in-person and virtual formats. For a full schedule of lectures and how to participate in each (registration required for virtual lectures), please visit [www.highlandsbiological.org](http://www.highlandsbiological.org) or call the Highlands Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.

## Thursday Evenings

- Free ESL classes at the

## Thursday night Zahner Lectures continue at 6 p.m.



Did you know the southern Appalachian Mountains have more species of salamanders than anywhere else in the world? On Thursday, August 19th, join the Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) as they host their next Zahner Conservation Lecture featuring Dr. John Maerz, local salamander expert and Josiah Meigs Distinguished Professor and Professor of Vertebrate Ecology at the University of Georgia (UGA). Dr. Maerz will present his lecture "Salamander Ecology in the Salamander Capital of the World" in-person at the Highlands Biological Station beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. In the event of severe weather, this lecture will be held inside the Highlands Nature Center, so registration is required ([highlandsbiological.org](http://highlandsbiological.org)).

All are invited to participate in HBF's free Zahner lectures which will be held on Thursday evenings through September 9th. To register for this lecture or to see the full lecture lineup, please visit [www.highlandsbiological.org](http://www.highlandsbiological.org) or call the Highlands Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.

## Michael Hofman Pottery Trunk Show at Acorn's



Fri.-Sun., Aug. 20-22 Michael Hofman Trunk Show at Acorn's on S. 4th Street. Using lace and quality porcelain clay, Michael Hofman studios craft pieces with a defined elegance of thinness and lightness, with a profound structural integrity. The glazes, made in house, dress each piece in a cornucopia of colors. Each piece is crafted to become a distinctive object without equal. The studio is based in Asheville, NC

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Presbyterian Church 5:30-6:30 p.m. There is no registration required; students can just show up and participate. Set at a time that is convenient for students to attend after work, TL&LC also provides snacks for this kid-friendly event. The classes are for all ages, and anyone who wishes to learn English is encouraged to participate. For any questions, visit [www.maconncliteracy.org](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call (828) 526-0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

## Every Saturday

• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Park on Pine Street. 8a to 12:30p.

## Third Saturday

• American Legion 370 meets every 3rd Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

## Through Sept. 5

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Curtain's Up. This original tribute to the best of Broadway and beyond was created by our very own Playhouse artistic team, led by Marshall Carby and Jimmy Lewis. This all new - original concert - featuring some of your favorite Playhouse performers, will explore the classic musical theatre tunes we all know and love along with today's Broadway and West End hits! For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

## Fri. -Sun., Aug. 20-22

• Michael Hofman Trunk Show at Acorn's on S. 4th Street. Using lace and quality porcelain clay, Michael Hofman studios craft pieces with a defined elegance of thinness and lightness, with a profound structural integrity. The glazes, made in house, dress each piece in a cornucopia of colors. Each piece is crafted to become a distinctive object without equal. The studio is based in Asheville, NC

## Fri., Aug. 20

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Sycamore Flats

## Sat., Aug. 21

• The Jackson County Branch #54ab of the NC

NAACP will hold its August Membership Meeting on Saturday at 10am. The meeting will be held online. The topic for discussion is, "Congressional Redistricting and Voter Suppression: Updates and New Initiatives." Email [jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com](mailto:jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com) to receive instructions to join online. All are welcome!

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p.

ZuZu Welch

## Fri. Aug. 24

• The annual Alpha Delta Pi Sorority alumni luncheon for members in Western North Carolina and North Georgia will

be held this summer at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club in Highlands at 11:30 a.m. on Friday. All ADPis are invited to come and renew acquaintances and college memories. For more information or to make a reservation, please call or email Emily Benson Buskirk at 828-787-1015 or [ebbuskirk@gmail.com](mailto:ebbuskirk@gmail.com).

## Thurs., Aug. 26

• A Highlands favorite, singer songwriter Mike Kinnebrew returns to The Orchard Sessions Live Concert series on Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy an enchanting evening at The Farm at Old

Edwards nestled under heirloom apple trees while being entertained and transported with the musical stylings of Mike Kinnebrew. Mike's music is laced with familiarity and comfort, and his lyrics tell the story of his heart. His passion for music and its ability to engage is made evident by the swell of enthusiastic fans. Tickets are \$15-\$25. The \$25 ticket includes light bites, and a cash bar is available. THE Orchard Sessions concert series brings a stellar lineup of well-known musicians to The Farm at Old Edwards - located at 336 Arnold Road in Highlands. For more information about Orchard sessions - and to book online visit [oldedwardshospitality.com/ORCHARDSESSIONS](http://oldedwardshospitality.com/ORCHARDSESSIONS).

• Glenville Area Historical Society members, neighbors, friends and history lovers will gather on Thursday at 6PM at the Glenville Community Center for the Society's annual meeting. The event begins with light refreshments and an opportunity for attendees hailing from every corner of the Glenville area and Hamburg Township to meet and greet. The meeting

agenda includes a brief business meeting to elect a Board of Directors and hear a review of the 2020-21 year. However, it is the historical topic program that generally attracts the overflow crowd. This year's topic, "Remembering Glenville's Historic Buildings and Homes" is a significant topic since some of the town's historic buildings and homes are those that were dismantled or demolished when the dam was built creating Lake Glenville. For additional information call 828 507.0322 or email [historicalsocietysglenvillearea@yahoo.com](mailto:historicalsocietysglenvillearea@yahoo.com).

• Join the Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building (869 N. 4th Street) for the next installment in their annual Zahner Conservation Lecture Series. This event will feature Owen Carson of Equinox Environmental as he presents "Supremacy or Stewardship? An Exploration of Modern-Day Anthropocentrism." For millennia human beings have shaped their surrounding environment to make their lives simpler. From the clearing of forests,

• See EVENTS page 14

## Handcrafted items for sale at the MountainTop Art & Craft Show Aug. 28-29



Gourd Art by John Gibson.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 28-29 it's the Mountaintop Art & Craft Show will be held in downtown Highlands at K-H Founders Park (Pine St.) from 10 to 5. The FREE event features regional potters, jewelers, woodworkers, fine artists, etc. plus food. For more info call (828) 526-9227 or visit [www.mountaintopshow.com](http://www.mountaintopshow.com).

## Simon Pearce Trees Trunk Show



At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Simon Pearce Trees Trunk Show is Friday-Sunday, Aug. 27-29 from 10a to 5. Handcrafted in Vermont, Simon Pearce believes in simplicity, quality and artisanship are tenets of a better way of life. Each piece of Simon Pearce's lead-free glassware carries a story that lends meaning, authenticity and grace to every use. From sapling-sized to stunningly stately; brilliantly clear or dusted with snow; wrapped, dappled or silvered: Simon Pearce signature glass trees come in many form. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

## ...EVENTS continued from page 13

to the removal of mountaintops, to the straightening of streams, shortcuts have been created that expedite the exploitation of resources and further the ability of our societies to grow and expand. However, only within the recent past have scientists begun to realize and address the ramifications of our actions. This lecture will explore major anthropogenic changes made to our southeastern landscapes over the past century, the lasting ecological impacts those changes have created, and our recent at-

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tempts to mitigate, restore, and prevent further large-scale destruction of natural habitat. This lecture is graciously sponsored by Kathleen and Jim Milby. All are invited to participate in HBF's free Zahner lectures which will be held on Thursday evenings through September 9th. For a full schedule of lectures and how to participate in each, please visit [www.highlandsbiological.org](http://www.highlandsbiological.org) or call the Highlands Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.

### **Fri.-Sun., Aug. 27-29**

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Simon Pearce Trees Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Hand-crafted in Vermont, Simon Pearce believes in simplicity, quality and artisanship are tenets of a better way of life. Each piece of Simon Pearce's lead-free glassware carries a story that lends meaning, authenticity and grace to every use. From sapling-sized to stunningly stately; brilliantly clear or dusted with snow; wrapped, dappled or silvered: Simon Pearce signature glass trees come in many form. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

### **Fri., Aug. 27**

• Community Coffee at Hudson Library with Mayor Pat Taylor. Please join us on Friday at 11am in the Hudson Library Meeting Room for Community Coffee with Mayor Patrick Taylor and guest speaker Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland. Community Coffee with Mayor Taylor, a joint endeavor by Hudson Library and the Town of Highlands, is held on the last Friday of each month from February through October at Hudson Library. Every month Mayor Taylor, regularly joined by guest speakers, offers information about topics of interest to the entire Highlands community. This month's refreshments are provided by Center for Life Enrichment. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031. Hudson Library, 554 Main Street in Highlands, is open 10am-5:30pm Tuesday through Friday and 10am-4pm on Saturday.

• Friday Night Live in Town

Square: 6-8:30p. Trudition

### **Sat. & Sun. Aug. 28-29**

• Mountaintop Art & Craft Show will be held in downtown Highlands at K-H Founders Park (Pine St.) from 10 to 5. The FREE event features regional potters, jewelers, woodworkers, fine artists, etc. plus food. For more info call (828) 526-9227 or visit [www.mountaintopshow.com](http://www.mountaintopshow.com).

### **Sat., Aug. 28**

• NO CONCERT

### **Fri., Sept. 3**

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Silly Ridge Roundup

### **Sat., Sept. 4**

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p.

A Social Function

### **Fri., Sept. 10**

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Curtis Blackwell

### **Sat., Sept. 11**

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p.

Full Circle

### **Sun., Sept. 12**

• Bel Canto at 4 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on

Chestnut Street, followed by dinner at Highlands Country Club. For more information, or to make a donation, call 828-787-2867. Performance to feature Kara Shay Thomson, soprano; Mary Phillips, mezzo; Jonathan Burton, tenor; and Todd Thomas, baritone.

### **Wed., Sept. 15**

• To help support the Bolivia on-going mission there is having an auction at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on Wednesday, Sept. 15 beginning at 5:30 p.m. There is an admission charge of \$100 donation to the mission per person and this includes drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and the silent and live auctions. Reservations or more information can be made by calling Baumrucker at 828.200.0902 or by mailing a check to: Highlands Bolivian Mission; P.O. Box 1358; Highlands, NC 28741. Donations of articles for the auction can be accepted. Call the above number for details. The mission

## Zahner series continues Thursday nights



On Thursday, Aug. 26, Join the Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building (869 N. 4th Street) for the next installment in their annual Zahner Conservation Lecture Series. This event will feature Owen Carson of Equinox Environmental as he presents "Supremacy or Stewardship? An Exploration of Modern-Day Anthropocentrism."

## ...EVENTS continued from page 14

is a 501 C3 tax exempt organization.

### Fri., Sept. 17

• Friday Night Live in Town Square:  
6-8:30p. Ben and Marce

### Sat., Sept. 18•

Join the Highlands Plateau Greenway for a Hike on the Historic Kelsey Trail. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, the Cullasaja Club Overlook, and Highlands Falls. Shuttles will leave from the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Saturday, September

18th, at 8:30, 9:00, and 9:30 A.M. The five-mile walk, mostly downhill, takes about four hours and will end with a picnic at the Park. Bring good hiking shoes or boots, rain gear, water, a day pack and your camera. Residents and visitors can register for the walk by clicking on the big red button below or leave a message at (828) 482-2346. The \$75 cost of the walk includes the picnic lunch and free membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

## Village Nature Series is in Cashiers on Aug. 31



### A dark fishing spider.

Join the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Village Green at 5 p.m. on August 31 for a live presentation at the Village Green Commons in Cashiers as local spider expert, Alyssa Fuller, demystifies the spiders and their closest kin.

This Village Nature Series presentation, *Along Came a Spider*, will explore the natural history, diversity, and the important ecological roles that spiders play and peer into their often-unseen lives as top predators in the world of arthropods.

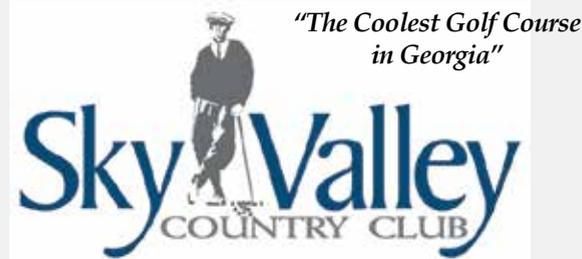
Learn to appreciate and live alongside spiders as allies around our homes and gardens. We'll also discuss their medical significance, their promising potential as models for a variety of valuable biological research projects, and observe live specimens from the Highlands-Cashiers plateau and around the world.

This program is FREE and is open to all ages, kids welcome!

The Village Nature Series is co-hosted by The Village Green and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and features experts in their field presenting on wildlife, habitats, conservation, and local cultural heritage. These events are held on the last Tuesday of every month during the summer season. Thank you to Cedar Creek Club for sponsoring these programs!

The Village Green is a public park located in the heart of Cashiers, North Carolina, at the crossroads of Highway 64 and Highway 107, providing a place for community members and visitors to gather for events and to enjoy nature, learn more HERE.

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that protects more than 3,500 acres of biologically diverse mountain landscapes, rare habitats, wildlife corridors, and headwater streams in the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.



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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Jenkins 3rd book will be available in September

Seventh generation Highlander Angela Lewis Jenkins' third book, entitled *Memoirs of Highlands' Early Years* has gone to the printer in Alpharetta, GA.

Self-published by Jenkins with layout by Boonedocks Graphics, the book will feature stories of growing up in Highlands – written in their own words by 18 different story authors. Each story will be accompanied by photos from Highlands' early days – with a total of 258 images in the story section.

Putting the book together piece by piece has been a true labor of love for

Jenkins and has helped her through the grieving process following the loss of her mother to terminal cancer in June 2020.

The book is dedicated in loving memory of Jenkins' mother and father, Jane Anderson Lewis, a sixth generation lifelong Highlander, and A. Alan Lewis, who passed away in 2016 – a loyal Highlander since 1954. The book is also dedicated in honor of Jenkins' children and grandchildren who are eighth and ninth generation Highlanders.

Story authors include Edna Phillips Bryson, Virginia Vinson Bryson, Mary Anne Calloway Creswell, Edna Norton Crisp, Agnes Gibson Crowe, Betty Crawford Fisher, Betty J. Holt, Charles Bobby Houston, Angela Lewis Jenkins, Jane Anderson Lewis, Margaret Mitchell O'Donnell, Beverly Cook Quin, Hazel Edwards Rogers, Anne Reese Wilson, Herman T. Wilson, Kenneth Wilson, Sarah Hicks Hines, and O. Earle Young, Jr. Sadly, three story authors have passed away during the past year since submitting their stories.

Details of the story authors' growing up years range from as early as 1905 – with the youngest story author, Angela Lewis Jenkins, having grown up in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Through these wonderful stories, the early days of Highlands truly come alive. You will hear stories of how animals roamed free range in the streets of Highlands, how folks made a living in the early days, special holiday celebrations and traditions, attending school in the early years, what folks did for entertainment, and more.



Angie Jenkins

Also contained in the book is an "In Loving Memory" section which features 165 submitted photos of now deceased native and long-time Highlanders.

The 210-page hard cover book is truly a treasure. It is expected to be available by late September, and will be an 8 1/2 x 11 oblong coffee table size. It will be available in area stores where Jenkins' first two coffee table books, Highlands, North Caro-

lina...The Early Years Volumes I & II are sold.

Jenkins is a direct descendant of Barak and Mary Nicholson Norton, early pioneers of the region, who settled in

Whiteside Cove around 1820. The family relocated to Highlands soon after the town was founded in 1875.

Descendants of the family have been very instrumental in the development of Highlands throughout the years. Jenkins' Highlands an-

cestors have served as postmaster, taught at Highlands School, owned the Central House (currently Madison's), Highlands House (currently Highlands Inn), The Norton House (currently the Highlander Mountain House), The Hall House (was located on the block of Fifth, Chestnut, Sixth streets, and Horse Cove Road), Highlands Telephone Exchange, Anderson Brothers' Café, Highlands Drug Store, Highlands Texaco, Anderson's 5 & 10 (later the Highlands Variety Store), and also the Sears Catalog Agency and Radio Shack franchise in more recent years. The family was instrumental in the development of both the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and First Presbyterian Church.



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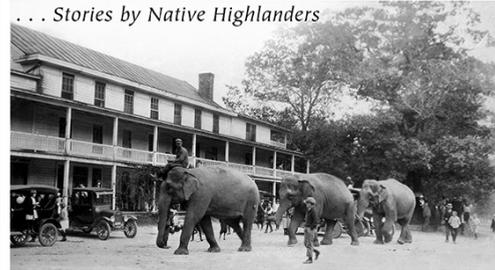
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### Memories of Highlands' Early Years

... Stories by Native Highlanders



Compiled by Angela Lewis Jenkins

...BIZ NEWS continued from page 16

## Mission Health now accepting scholarship applications

Kesha Young Scholarship recipients gather at Mission Hospital for a reception in 2019, taken pre-COVID-19 pandemic.



Mission Health is accepting applications from throughout the community for the Kesha Young Health Careers Scholarship, with the aim of making college more affordable for minority high school seniors and college students from Western North Carolina who are pursuing careers in healthcare. Scholarship amounts range from \$1,500-\$2,500 for the 2021-22 school year.

The scholarship is named in honor of Kesha Young, a 22-year-old, bi-racial woman who was born with mental and physical disabilities and underwent multiple surgeries at Mission

Hospital. Kesha died just months before she was scheduled to earn her high school diploma. Despite being in constant pain and confined to a wheelchair, Kesha was described by her adoptive parents as embodying the characteristics that are vital to how healthcare team members engage with patients, families and visitors, with a strong spirit, warm smile and positive encouragement.

"Receiving the Kesha Young scholarship has allowed me to network with people from different walks of life within the Mission Health system. Cultivating these relationships ultimately led to me

becoming a part of the Mission Health care team. The scholarship empowered me with the ability to afford the education I needed to make a difference in my community," said Jameka Johnson, previous scholarship recipient.

The application can be found at [Missionhealth.org/scholarships](https://Missionhealth.org/scholarships).

The completed application, along with all additional materials, must be received by 5 p.m. on September 13th, 2021 for consideration. Winners will be notified in October 2021.

Any member of the WNC community who meets the qualifications is invited to apply.

## Playhouse staff entertains Rotarians

Live theatre is flourishing on the Plateau as proven by the August 10 presentation by the Highlands Playhouse for the Rotary Club of Highlands. Scott Daniel, Executive Director of the Playhouse, was introduced by Rotarian Keith Crawford. Scott is in his third month living in Highlands and he described the sensational "Ring of Fire," now in its last week of performances, and the upcoming "Curtains Up!"

Daniel was accompanied by Marshall Carby, Artistic Director, and six members of the 2021 Acting Troupe who entertained Rotarians with a song from each musical.

Scott said plans for the Highlands Playhouse include extending the live theatre season as well as continuing the popular cinema



Back row from left: Andrew Harvey, Scott Daniel, Andrew Fahrenbacher, Marshall Carby. Front Row from left: Jimmy Lewis, Myjocia Cezar, Bailey Baker, Keith Crawford, Sarah Pool Whillhelm

season. He encouraged on-going community support through the Playhouse's Sponsor Program which enables the organization to reach for its mission to "educate, elevate and inspire."

"Curtains Up!" is an original musical of the best of Broadway and will explore the classical musi-

cal theatre tunes known and loved along with today's Broadway and West End hits. It was created by the Highlands Playhouse' artistic team, led by Marshall Carby and Jimmy Lewis and will run August 19 - September 5. For tickets or sponsorship information visit [highlandsplayhouse.org](https://highlandsplayhouse.org).

## • OBITUARY •

### Betty Corder Outerbridge

Mrs. Betty Corder Outerbridge, a long-time resident of Highlands, North Carolina passed away April 13, 2021, at the The Fountainview Center for Alzheimer's Disease in Atlanta GA, at the age of 88. Betty was born March 10, 1933 in Paintsville Kentucky.

She was preceded in death by her parents Nelle McCloud Corder and John Elmo Corder, her husband, Joseph "Jack" Outerbridge, and her son David Evans Munday.

Mrs. Outerbridge's survivors include her children, William Wade Munday (Terry) and Laura Munday Doherty (Mike), and 4 grandchildren, Evan Garret Munday, Reese Lauren Munday, Amanda Nicole Doherty, and Hannah Marie Doherty.

Mrs. Outerbridge was a graduate of J.M. Atherton High School for Girls in Louisville KY in 1949 and DePauw University in Greencastle Indiana in 1953 where she was a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority.

Betty married Jack Outerbridge in Hilton Head Island South Carolina April 1993. They later moved to Highlands, NC and split their time between Highlands and their home in Bermuda.

In Highlands, they were members of the Cullasaja Club and the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club and attended First Presbyterian Church.

Betty loved her family and was immensely proud of her four grandchildren. She also loved the lifelong friends she made as a Delta Gamma and her Cullasaja family. Betty was an avid reader, an amazing cook. She loved dogs, playing golf and bridge and she loved to travel. She and Jack traveled all over the world during their time together.

Services for Betty will be held August 22 at 2 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, NC. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Alzheimer's Association or the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust.

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## We are called to imitate Christ



**Pastor  
Steve Ridenhour**  
Lutheran Church of the  
Holy Family, Highlands

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1 and 2, NRSV)

As Christians we are called to be imitators of God. This plays itself out in our lives as we closely seek to mirror Jesus in what we do and say. That sounds like big marching orders. Because Christians across the spectrum seek to imitate Jesus from many doctrinal perspectives. But St. Paul's words will help all Christians to focus on what it means to imitate Jesus.

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul reminds us to speak the truth to one another in love.

We are called to seek to do God's will in the world especially as God's will is revealed to us through Jesus.

We are asked to share with the needy and to offer meaningful help to those who are struggling.

We are to build up and speak well of our neighbor and to offer understanding and grace beyond measure.

We are beckoned to put away bitterness and quarreling. Paul appeals to us to follow Jesus' example of sharing love, grace, mercy, and to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32 (NRSV)

These expectations are high.

As Christians, we faithfully confess that we are sinners. We are not perfect. Only Jesus is perfect. So, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our attitudes and actions, so that we genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness, we have received through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

We are called to imitate God through Jesus.

May we reflect upon Paul's words and trust the Holy Spirit to help us in this daily journey.

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717

www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 8:30am Worship (no music); 9:30am Sunday

School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children's Program, Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd. Sunday

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-8152

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services in the Chapel:

Rite I, 8a; with choir; 9:30a; with choir, 11a.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 9 a.m. Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m., Choir: 6p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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

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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 21522 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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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.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Cct. -April  
mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin), Thurs. noon, Fri. 9a; Sat. 4p; Sun., 11a

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin), Thurs. 9a.; Fri., noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org

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 July 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## July 23

• At 8:58 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 and 4th Street.

## Aug. 2

• At 10:45 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident near Lower Lake Road.

## Aug. 4

• At 10 a.m., officers were notified of a customer producing fraudulent checks drawn upon the ABC Operation Account without permission.

• At 11:40 a.m., officers were notified about destruction and vandalism of property at Highlands Pharmacy where a tool was used to damage a door frame. Damage is estimated at \$100.

## Aug. 13

• At 2:55 a.m., Ryan Kevin Keller, 27, of Cary, NC, was arrested for DUI and exceeding the speed limit. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Sept. 29.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 10.**

## Aug. 10

• At 10:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on BigView Dr.

• At 1:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 4:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on S. Old Walhalla Road.

## Aug. 11

• At 1:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

## Aug. 12

• At 12:44 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on US 64 east.

• At 5:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 9:26 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Cullasaja Club Drive.

## Aug. 13

• At 9:88 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Arnold Road.

## Aug. 14

• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

• At 12:57 p.m., the dept. was called to rescue a hiker on the Bartram Trail who broke her ankle.

• At 7:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 8:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

## Aug. 15

• At 1:34 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 6:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

• At 5:55 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

• At 7:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

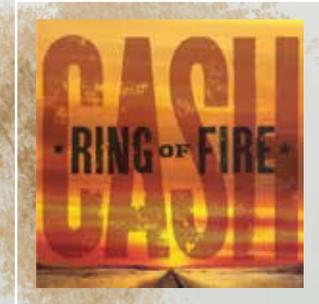
## Aug. 16

• At 10:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Horse Cove Road.

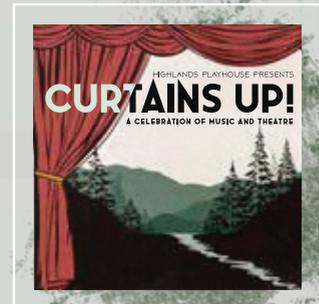


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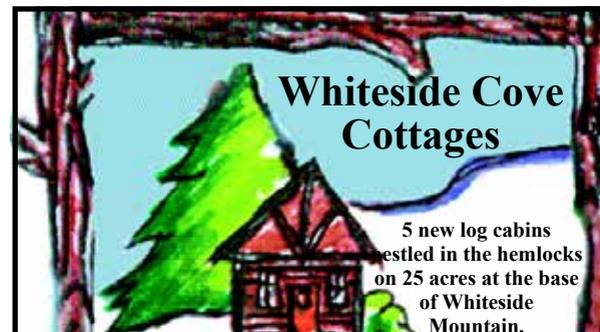
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**PART TIME BOOKKEEPER NEEDED** for local business. Most work can be done from home. Call or text Tim Sharp 256-683-5885. (st. 6/24)

**THE HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC** is seeking a part-time employee to work in the Welcome Center on Saturday and Sunday. The ideal candidate should have excellent knowledge of the Highlands and Plateau areas and enjoy greeting visitors to our town. Hours are Saturday 10a.m. – 4p.m. and Sunday 11a.m. – 3 p.m. For consideration, please send resume to [visitor@highlandschamber.org](mailto:visitor@highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-2112. (st. 5/27)

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**JOIN OUR TEAM!** Whole Life Market is now hiring for full/part time positions. Are you a fun, healthy minded individual looking for a positive work environment? We are an organic health food store/ juice bar. Experience is not necessary but any grocery store, barista skills are a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th. St, Highlands.

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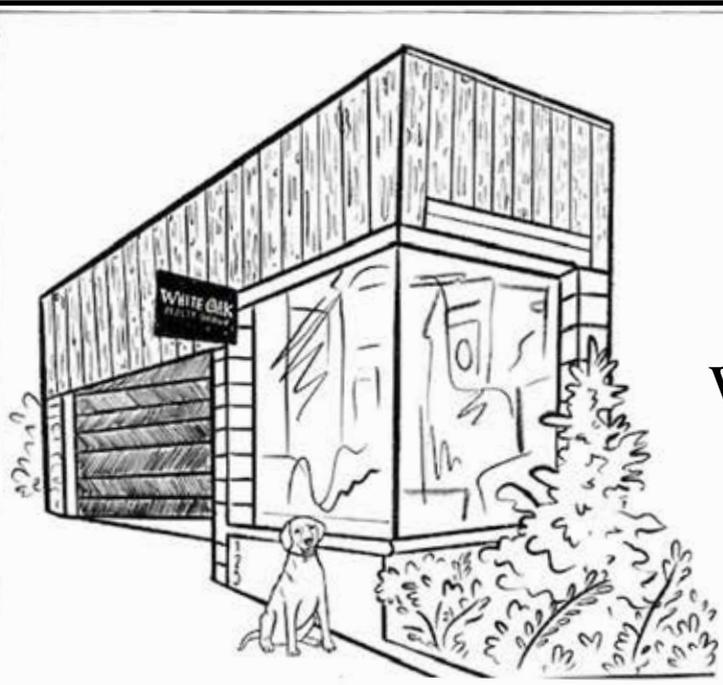
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