

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Town Board mandates masks be worn inside town facilities

At a special called Town Board meeting Monday, commissioners voted unanimously to require masks be worn by employees and visitors inside any town facility, effective immediately. Those facilities include: Town Hall, the Community Building, the

Civic Center, the Police station, the Fire & Rescue Department and the ABC Store.

• See MASKS page 6



From left are Jeanne Mullin, Highlands Playhouse Board; Craig Eister, Highlands Cashiers Players Board; Brad Armstrong, Building Committee; Charlotte Muir, PAC Board; Mary Adair Trumbly, PAC Executive Director; Martha Pearson, Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Board; Jane Webb, PAC Board; Rick Trevathan, PAC Board; Geri Coleman, PAC Board; Wade Coleman, Building Committee Chair; John Eastman, PAC Board.

Crews break ground for renovated PAC complex

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Excitement was in the air at the groundbreaking ceremony kicking off the construction for phase two of renovations at the Martin Lipscomb Performing

Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Phase two entails building a new theater, phase one was the installment of a new parking lot on Laurel Street.

PAC Executive Director
• See PAC page 15

Beloved Highlands benefactor dies at 95



Jane Woodruff

"Mrs. Woodruff loved this community, and she was a great Highlander. Her generosity and longtime support of this community will be an enduring legacy of devotion to her fellow citizens and community institutions."

— Patrick Taylor, Mayor
See Obituary on page 5

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Highlands Road work to continue through October

A contractor for the N.C. Department of Transportation recently started a safety project along a stretch of Highlands Road in Macon County that should have long-lasting benefits for residents and visitors. The project is funded

• See ROAD WORK page 16



Front Row from left: Sofia Jandera-Chambless, Jack Sumner, Justin Powell, Lilliana Jandera-Chambless, Corena Dearth. Back Row from left: Jelehna McKim, Aniah McKim, Finneaus Garner, Chase Kenter, Jasmine Abranyi, Mark Gross, Paolo McRae

Hurricanes come in 12th out of 26 at Jr. Olympics

The Highlands Hurricanes TX, July 28-Aug. 1 for AAU Jr. Swim Team traveled to Houston,

• See HURRICANES page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Masks required inside town buildings; vaccinations are encouraged

I called a special meeting of the Town Board last Monday afternoon to discuss the governor's new orders concerning wearing masks in state facilities. Governor Cooper had encouraged local governments to consider doing the same.

Prior to a vote, the board heard a presentation from Dr. William Hathaway, the CEO of Mission Healthcare. Dr. Hathaway updated the board on his assessment of the Delta variant, and what were the best practices to follow. In his opinion, the wearing of a mask is the first line of defense against Covid.

He also pointed out that vaccinated people can be infected with the Delta Variant, but many vaccinated people are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. About 97% of the vaccinated people who contract COVID do not require hospitalization. Dr. Hathaway emphasized that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people can spread the virus.

After a Q & A period and further discussion, the board voted to require the wearing of masks within town facilities.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The requirement includes Town Hall, the police department, the Highlands Community Building, the Highlands ABC Store, the Fire Department, and the Highlands Civic Center and other offices.

The board also encouraged all town employees to get a vaccination. Our Town Manager and personnel director will meet with Tom Neal, the coordinator of the vaccination clinic, to establish a time during working

hours for employees to voluntarily get a vaccination. If private businesses have workers who would like a vaccination, they can call Josh Ward at Town Hall. While we want as many town workers as possible to be vaccinated, with the operationalization of a clinic, any local person would be welcomed.

As Dr. Hathaway emphasized, we need to vaccinate and mask as many people as possible to stop the spread of this highly transmissible Delta variant. I thank Dr. Hathaway for his willingness to drive to Highlands and share his professional expertise.

The board's action concerning masks in town buildings aligns with what Governor Cooper and state health director Dr. Mandy Cohen have recommended. The governor's new orders do not apply to private businesses, but he strongly recommends that these mask protocols be implemented throughout communities.

I was gratified that the board unanimously voted on the mask policy for town facilities. It is better at this point to take a proactive position in addressing a resurgence of COVID, rather than reacting in the mists of a large spread and skyrocketing infection rates. My concern is that as we move toward fall, a COVID resurgence could happen near or greater than levels seen at the first of the year.

Everyone can practice responsible behavior by doing two things. First, everybody should consider taking a vaccine if you haven't already done so. I know some folks are reluctant and have fears about the vaccine. To me the protection against COVID that a vaccine provides far outweighs possible unknown side effects. Second, we can all wear masks in crowded indoor situations. A mask protects not just the person wearing it, but everyone in the room.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"He wants me to surrender Highlands. They want all our fish, or else. I said OK."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 5-Aug	Fri, 6-Aug	Sat, 7-Aug	Sun, 8-Aug
70°F 59°F	73°F 59°F	74°F 56°F	79°F 58°F
Periods of sun with a shower	Cloudy most of the time	Some sun with a thunderstorm	A p.m. t-storm possible
RealFeel® High: 77° Low: 63°	RealFeel® High: 78° Low: 64°	RealFeel® High: 82° Low: 61°	RealFeel® High: 88° Low: 63°

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• OBITUARIES •

Jane Woodruff

Jane Woodruff, age 95, passed away peacefully at home on the afternoon of July 29, 2021.

Throughout her life, Jane was devoted to her family above all else. As matriarch of her family, Jane was dedicated to her devoted sons, Richard "Buck" Woodruff (Ann) and John Woodruff. Jane constantly doted on her five grandchildren – Carolina Stamm Woodruff, Alexandra Winship Woodruff, Lillian Chappell Woodruff, John Winship Woodruff, and Richard Harrison Woodruff. The most recent addition to the family, six-year-old great-grandson John Barbato, III – affectionately known as Tripp – brought a light to Jane's eye even in her final days.

Best known for her monumental charitable endeavors, Jane deeply touched the lives of many people. Her current endowments stretch from medical establishments originally supported by her father, George W. Woodruff,

to educational institutions that she and her family supported throughout their lives.

Her continual gifts to the Shepherd Center, Mayo Clinic, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Highlands Cashiers Hospital, enable hundreds of thousands of patients to receive medical care in state-of-the-art facilities.

While pregnant with her first son, Jane spent time at Emory Hospital as a "pink lady" volunteer. Even while caring for her own family, she prioritized the care of strangers, who she considered friends.

In Highlands alone, she was a long-time philanthropist and benefactor and the driving financial source behind not only the funding of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital, but also the Highlands Community Child-care Center, the Highlands Civic Center and Rec Park, the Highlands Post Office as well as paving the way for the new Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. She also provided the seed money to start the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center's capital campaign.

Jane believed that the future of the country depended on quality education for everyone. She was staunchly dedicated to educational institutions in the state of Georgia, including Emory University, Mercer University, Woodward Academy, Pace Academy, Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, The Westminster School, The Lovett School, and others. Jane knew that education could help people build better lives for themselves and their families.

Born in Atlanta, GA on September 30, 1925, Jane started school at Lula Compton Seminary in Birmingham, AL, later attending Seabreeze Private School and Graham-



Eckes Private School in Daytona Beach, FL. She earned her high school diploma from Washington Seminary in Atlanta, GA and her bachelor's degree from Mt. Vernon College in Washington, D.C., serving as president of her class and on student council.

A woman of strong faith, Jane was a lifetime member of North Avenue Presbyterian Church. She was an active member of the Junior League of Atlanta, Highlands Country Club, Halifax Club and Oceanside Country Club. As a young woman, Jane was a member of Atlanta Debutante Club, the Rabun-Gap Nacoochee Guild, Tallulah Falls Circle, Cherokee Garden Club, Capital City Club, and the Georgia Arabian Horse Association.

Jane was a lifetime member of the Henrietta Eggleston Hospital Auxiliary, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the National Society of Daughters of American Revolution. Jane was preceded in death by her mother, Irene (Tift) King Woodruff, her father, George W. Woodruff, sisters, Irene and Frances, as well as her former husband Richard Woodward King of Anderson, SC..

As a beloved resident of Atlanta, GA, Highlands, NC, and Ormond Beach, FL, Jane's passing is a great loss to the communities that she has supported throughout her life.

A private burial service will take place in the coming days and a memorial service will be held in her honor in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in her memory to the Shepherd Center Foundation at 2020 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30309, webmaster@shepherd.org.

• See OBITUARIES page 7



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• INK PENN •

How on earth do you write a book?

That's a question I often get. Two years ago, when a friend suggested I write a cozy mystery, I asked the

same question. Actually, it was more along the lines of, "What do I know about coming up with a plot?" Even now with five cozies

under my belt, I'm not sure I have a good answer.

So, how do I start? First, I spend a month or so pondering a plot. For whatever reason, the plot for the next book begins to take shape in my mind as I'm writing the current one.

I have an idea notebook where I jot down thoughts as they come to me. I may get a kernel one day and nothing at all for a week, but they all go in the notebook. I do plenty of research, which gives me more ideas and often takes me in a different direction. The story evolves, and by the time I write the first line, it may not look anything like the initial few words I scribbled.

I begin with an idea for the "surround." That's my word for knowing the story will take place at a literary festival or a yoga retreat in Cornwall, as is the case for "Castles, Catnip & Murder" coming out in September. Each book contains a book club meeting, and the book somehow connects to the plot, so I identify the book before I start. For example, "The Once and Future King" is the selection for "Castles," and lots of info about Arthurian legend is woven throughout the story. I also know who will die and how and what form the confrontation scene will take, but sometimes I don't decide who the killer is until I'm halfway through the book.

I never fail to experience what cozy author Nancy J. Cohen calls "the muddle in the middle," meaning I question where I'm going or whether I have enough material to get there. That's when I may choose to develop a new character more fully or rework the flow or flesh out a promising subplot. And as Cohen says, that's when "story magic" happens.

People also ask if I outline my books. Well, sort of. I have a general idea of where I'm going, but not what most people would



Kathy Manos Penn

consider a formal outline. I'm more of a "pantser" – defined as someone who writes by the seat of their pants – than a plotter. As I type, my characters take me places I hadn't planned to go. That's the only way I can describe it.

Once I start, I strive to write 1,000 words a day. That's approximately four pages, and my five novels range from 68,000 to 84,000 words each.

Some days, those 1,000 words take two hours. On others, they may take four. Some days, a scene simply flows and all but writes itself. Other days? Not so much.

Every morning, I read and edit what I wrote the day before, and then I start on the next scene. With ongoing research and reworking of the plot, it takes me approximately 90 days to produce a decent first draft—starting from the day I type the first word. Then I give a big sigh of relief and send it off to my Beta readers for feedback, fingers crossed every time that they won't find plot holes or other major issues. So far, knock on wood, they haven't.

Have you figured out I don't have a pat answer to the question? What I do know is that writing my Dickens & Christie mystery series is a joy. My characters seem like old friends, and my readers tell me they feel the same way. I guess that means I better start pondering the next plot!

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries locally at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/, and/or visit her website www.kathymanospenn.com to read her blogs and sign up to receive her newsletter.

...MASKS from page 1

Mayor Pat Taylor said the town has always stayed in line with and adhered to mandates or suggestions made by NC Governor Roy Cooper and now is no different – though for now, the town's stance isn't as stringent as his.

Last Thursday, Governor Roy Cooper and NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy K. Cohen an-

nounced that state government would begin verifying vaccination status of its workers. Employees not vaccinated are required to wear a mask and be tested at least once a week. (See story on page 10.)

"He has urged municipalities to adopt a similar order, so I called this meeting to discuss masks and vaccinations," said Mayor Taylor.

• See MASKS page 8

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

Charlotte Carter Merry

Charlotte Carter Merry died peacefully on June 28, 2021 in Highlands, NC surrounded by her loving husband, son and daughter. Charlotte courageously battled Alzheimer's disease for 10 years with the same grace and dignity that she lived her life. Despite her struggle with Alzheimer's, Charlotte remained active and happy until her death participating in croquet and art classes.



Charlotte was born in Winston-Salem, NC on October 23, 1943 to Francis Graves Carter and Elizabeth Hamlet Carter, who preceded her in death as did her brother, Francis Graves Carter, Jr. Charlotte is survived by her husband of 41 years, Finley Merry, her son Will Rice, her daughter, Adrian Robinson, her step son, Howard Merry, her brother Martin Carter and grandchildren Rob and Carter Rice, Will and Rice Robinson and Vee Merry.

Charlotte attended Salem Academy and Salem College in Winston Salem where she graduated in 1965. Later she served on the board of Salem College. Throughout Charlotte's life she was active in numerous philanthropic organizations including Historic Augusta, the Augusta Symphony, Augusta Assembly, Sand Hills Garden Club, Bulbs and Borders Garden Club, Morris Museum Gala Committee, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the Bascom Art Center, and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Charlotte was a member of the Church of the Good Shepard in Augusta, GA and the Episcopal

Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC. Charlotte was also a member of the Old Town Club in Winston Salem, the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta and the Augusta Country Club and Highlands Country Club.

Charlotte's loving personality and grace will be sorely missed by all who were lucky enough to spend time with her. She was a devoted and caring wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She gave endlessly of her

time and talent to others. Even during her sickness, Charlotte brought joy to others. Charlotte was a beautiful person inside and outside. Her memory will live on forever.

A graveside service was held at Highlands Memorial Garden on June 30th with Father Bentley Manning and Reverend Mike Jones officiating with a celebration reception following the service at the Highlands Country Club.

The family would like to thank Charlotte's devoted friend and caretaker, Ellie Hartweiger, who lovingly cared for her over the past five years, as well as the nurses and staff at Mission Hospital in Highlands. The family would also like to thank Kirk Moore of Oakleaf Florist and Garden. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Emory University.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Merry family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com

• See OBITUARIES page 15



Through September, Old Edwards Inn is participating in a cocktail swap with the Garden & Gun Club in Atlanta.

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Mirror Lake mirrors us

Lately, I've been thinking about our town and its "nature." Nature, meaning our distinctive natural resources which is why folks like you consider buying real estate up here. And nature, meaning our character and disposition towards others and other things. It led me to ask this big question. What is our nature towards nature? I think the story of Mirror Lake helps to answer the question and may help you understand why you should be here, and/or consider investing in Highlands.



Pat Gleeson
Owner, BIC
828-782-0472

sediment build-up thanks to unrestricted runoff, unauthorized tree removal, and a gradual flow of impediments from her tributaries. Mirror Lake is a designated trout stream, but I'm afraid the trout are gone, the waters have shallowed, and the temperatures don't lend themselves to ice skating. So we're at a critical gateway with our lake. We're deciding to join in as one big community to "Save the Lake". Our nature is to do the work necessary to dredge and restore this natural watershed to its

original glory. Our nature is to help our neighbors, the surrounding communities, the Town of Highlands, Macon County Watershed, and to raise the money necessary to fund the dredging project. I can see a day soon where the trout are back, the sediment is gone, trees are planted on the Mill Creek island, the Mirror Lake Landing and Parkway is finished, and we open the Mirror Lake Yacht Club to all.

This may sound counterintuitive, but I think our nature as real estate professionals is less about selling you a house than it is about offering you a lifestyle; an enhancement that could enrich your life and that of your family. That's what Highlands is all about. Trust me, we'll find you a house in time, but the first step is to experience our nature. I encourage you to discover Mirror Lake, it's one of the reasons you'll want to be here.

Surrounding Mirror Lake is the most charming collection of cottages and mountain homes, about 200 of them if you consider all 5 of the neighborhoods who call Mirror Lake their "home water." Its residents are a mix of full-timers, second-homers, bears, geese, and dog-walkers. If you get a chance to see a Mirror Lake Cottage, don't pass it up. Mirror Lake's rich history included legendary ice skating, fly fishing for native trout, canoeing for miles, a bird sanctuary, waterfalls, and picnic areas. Who wouldn't want to live in a community like Mirror Lake?

But here's where the "nature towards our nature" comes in. Over the years, Mirror Lake has been negatively "choked" by

• Pat Gleeson, Bee, Tom, Christal, Susie and Gemma (Yellow Laborador) are Helpers and Brokers of White Oak Realty Group, in downtown Highlands (4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn). Since 2009, White Oak Realty Group remains one of the leading boutique brokerage firms on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach all of us at 828.526.8118.

inated and as far as he can tell they have no intention of getting vaccinated. Though incentives to entice more employees to get the vaccine were thrown around, commissioners agreed that would not help. "From my experience, incentivizing will do absolutely nothing," said Commis-

...MASKS from page 6

Overall, commissioners were against mandating employees get vaccinated as well as requiring weekly testing of the unvaccinated employees because obviously, that would identify those who have opted not to get the vaccination and risks harassing them.

According to Town Manager Josh Ward 75% to 80% of town employees are not vac-

• See MASKS page 11



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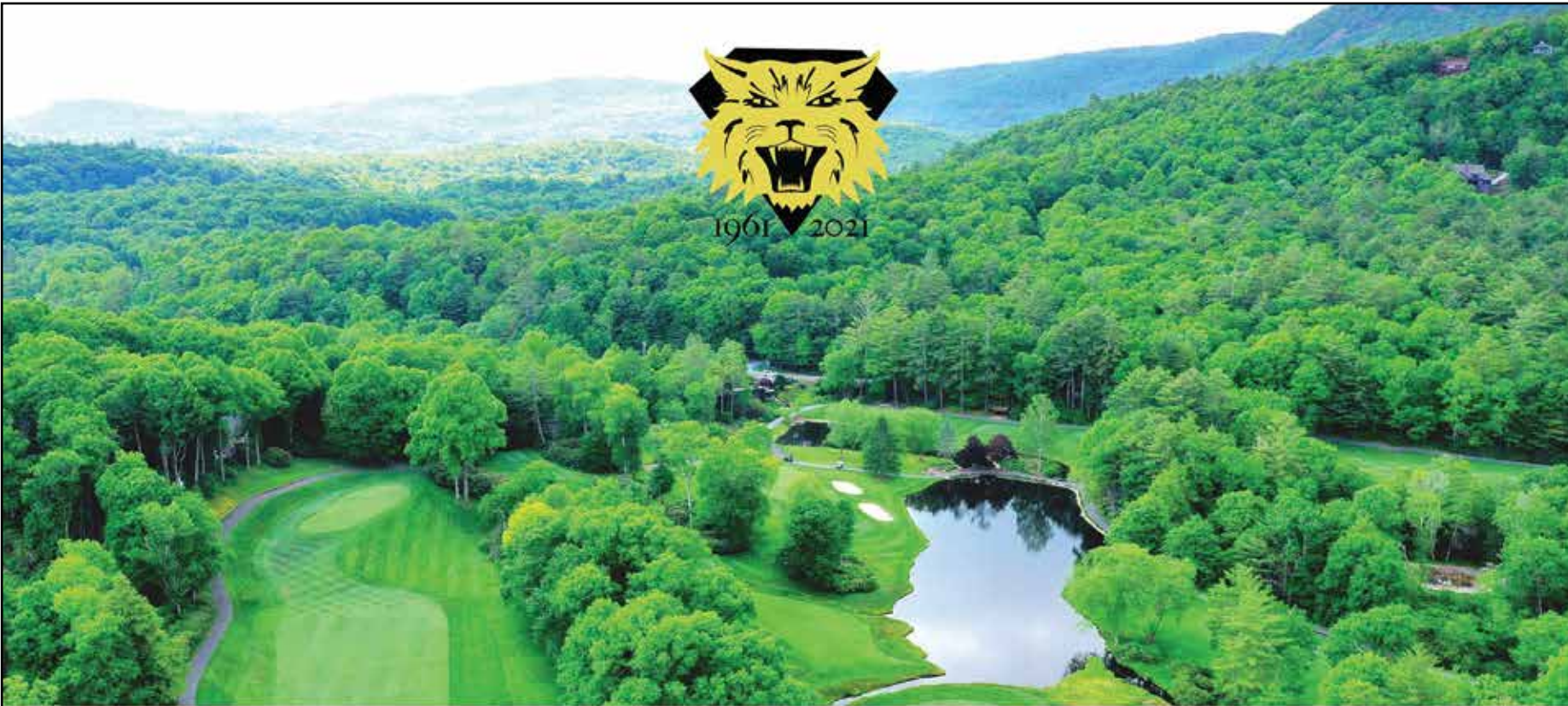


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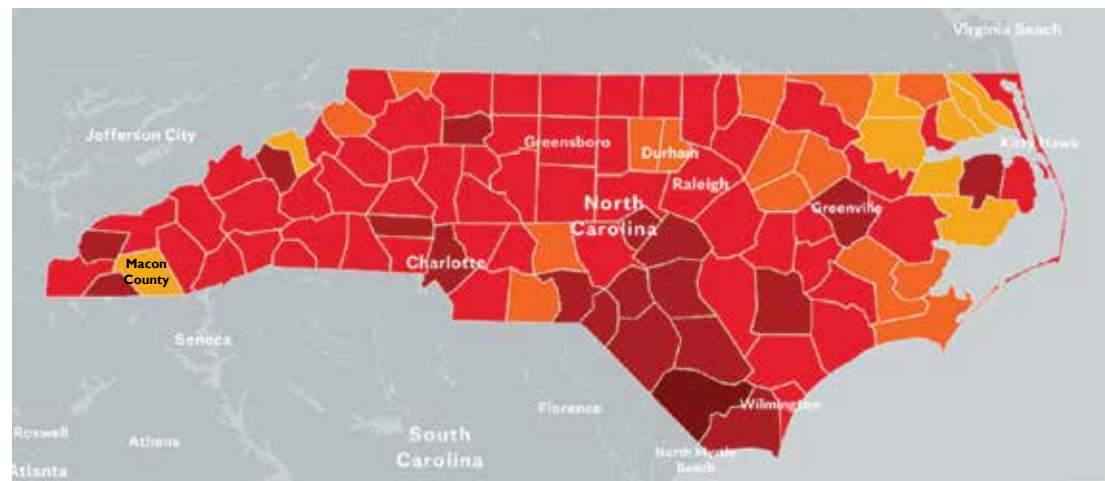


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Hot spots in North Carolina as of July 31

This map shows a rolling average of daily cases for the past week. This is the best sign of hot spots. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing a mask indoors in public where there is substantial or high transmission of new cases, even if you've been vaccinated. The top three color ranges in this map meet those criteria (average daily cases ≥ 50 per 100,000 people). The new maps designate counties as areas of low (blue), moderate (yellow), substantial (orange) or high (red) transmission.

North Carolina to require vaccine verification for State employees, urges other government agencies and private employers to do the same

Last Thursday, Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. announced that state government would begin verifying vaccination status of its workers. Employees not vaccinated are required to wear a mask and be tested at least once a week. The announcement comes as North Carolina's latest upswing in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations is driven by unvaccinated North Carolinians.

"Until more people get the vaccine, we will continue living with the very real threat of serious disease, and we will continue to see more dangerous and contagious variants like Delta," said Governor Cooper.

NCDHHS updated guidance encourages private sector businesses to, at a minimum, verify vaccination status for their workers as well. The requirement for state government employees applies to cabinet agencies and is included in Executive Order 224.

"There is only one way out of this pandemic and that is vaccination. Our trends are accelerating at an alarmingly fast rate and the highest rates of viral spread are happening in areas with low vac-

cination rates and among those who are not fully vaccinated," said Secretary Cohen. "If you are already vaccinated, I call on you to urge your unvaccinated family and friends to get their shot now. It is not an understatement to say that you will save lives by doing so."

The NCDHHS updated guidance reminds unvaccinated people that they need to continue practicing the three Ws – wear a mask in all indoor public settings, wait six feet apart in all public settings and wash hands often. In addition, unvaccinated people should not gather with other unvaccinated people who do not live with them. If they do, they should stay outside and keep 6 feet of distance.

In addition, unvaccinated people should not travel.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new mask guidance this week based on levels of transmission in communities. The new maps designate counties as areas of low (blue), moderate (yellow), substantial (orange) or high (red) transmission. Moving forward,

• See GOVERNOR page 15

HIGHLANDS HISTORIC VILLAGE



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The Dry Sink Main St. Highlands, NC

...MASKS continued from page 8

sioner Brian Stiehler.

"There is a large percentage of people who don't care about this and aren't worried about this and take no precautions whatsoever. It's unfortunate but it's the reality of it," he said. "Women are afraid of reproductive harm, people are worried about microchips. I've heard them all."

Tom Neal, CEO/CNO of Highlands Cashiers Hospital and Dr. Bill Hathaway chief medical officer for Mission Health HCA, NC division, discussed the importance of vaccines and at the very least wearing masks indoors and socially distancing.

"We are seeing a rise in cases and the Delta variant is far more virulent and contagious. Vaccinated people can catch it and spread it even if they aren't affected by it," said Neal.

As with the aftermath of all holiday festivities, there was a rise in COVID cases after July 4th but now it's due to the Delta variant which presents a slight alteration from the original virus.

"Due to the Delta variant, we are hovering in the mid-40 range of cases a day in just three weeks. It is three to four times more transmissible than the original COVID viruses," said Dr. Hathaway.

...GOVERNOR continued from page 10

everyone in a red or orange county in North Carolina, including those who have been vaccinated, should wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Additionally, in accordance with the updated CDC guidance, all K-12 schools should require universal masking, regardless of vaccination status. NCDHHS is updating its guidance for schools to align with this recommendation.

To date, North Carolina has administered nearly 9.8 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 57 percent of the adult population fully vaccinated. 61 percent of

He said a large explosion of cases in Cape Cod, MA, following July 4th shed light on the implications of the Delta variant.

"We weren't surprised to see cases after the July 4th holiday. That's what happens after holidays. What surprised us was the number of people who contracted the virus who were previously vaccinated. The CDC identified 469 cases from the outbreak. Of those cases, 346 were in vaccinated people – that's 74%. The good news is the vaccinated people weren't very sick. There were very few hospitalizations and very little illness for them.

"What we learned, however, is the vaccinated people were fully able to transmit the virus to other people. The bottom line is we have an uptick, we have more hospitalizations, we have more cases, but the vaccine still works and prevents people from getting ill. The vaccine prevents severe illness and it's important to get that message out there."

This led commissioners to discuss having an information and vaccine day for town employees to explain the reality of the vaccine not the bogus information perpetuated on social media.

"Would it behoove us to have the hospital come and do an immunization program for town employees only? Have

• See MASKS page 17



The mission of Highlands Laurel Garden Club (LGC) is to aid in the protection and conservation of our natural resources. This is accomplished with the cooperation of other organizations and is especially meaningful at this time.

While future plans for the LGC Kitchen Tour are uncertain for now, our mission, to support our natural resources will not change. For further information about future fundraising events and educational seminars on protecting our habitat, please visit our website at laurelgardenclubhighlands.com.

We appreciate and express gratitude to the wonderful supporters of our biennial Kitchen Tour who are listed below, along with community members who assisted as volunteers and attendees. As a result of your ongoing support, the club has donated \$200,000 to local organizations in support of our mission.

Norman Askins, Architect
David Bock, Contractor
Nancy Brun, J.Q. Dickinson Salt Works
Bobby Lee Carey, Caterer
Landon and Ashley Clark, Kilwins
Kristi Henderson, The Chocolate Heaven Company
Paula Jones, The Summer House
Jamie McPherson, J. Elliott Style
Alan Mayer, The Dry Sink
Beaux Pettys, Inman Marble and Granite
Martha Porter, Pastry Chef
Terry Potts, Country Club Properties
Tony Potts, Banker
Hammond Raders, Franklin Ford
Preston Rogers, Reeves Hardware
Alex Smith, Garden Design, Ltd.
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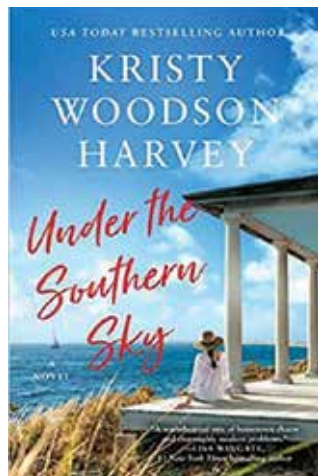
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Books & Bites with Author Kristy Woodson Harvey



Popular author Kristy Woodson Harvey will appear at Hudson Library on Saturday August 7 at 12:30 pm as part of the library's Books & Bites series. Ms. Woodson Harvey will talk about her latest book, *Under the Southern Sky*. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event. Reservations are required.

Two childhood friends discover that love—and family—can be found in unconventional ways in this timely, moving novel from the USA TODAY bestselling author Kristy Woodson Harvey. *Under the Southern Sky* is a fresh and unforgettable exploration of love, friendship, and the unbreakable ties that bind.

Kristy Woodson Harvey lives in coastal North Carolina with her husband and nine-year-old son, where she is working on her next novel.

Books & Bites programs, including light lunch, are sponsored by the Hudson Library Board of Trustees.

For more information, to make your reservation, 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.

NOTE

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse will return in the Fall of 2021.

Sun. thru Sept. 5

• The Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, is open for Sunday night hymn singing from 7-8 pm each Sunday through Sept 5. Anyone entering the church should have had the Covid. 19 vaccine, have a natural immunity or wear a mask. Non-vaccinated guests may sit on the porch. Call Mary Bean if questions at 1-828-506-0125.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

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 highland-splayhouse.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.

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., Wed., Fri.

• 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 or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

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 or call the Highlands

Thursday night Zahner Lectures continue



HBF's next Zahner lecture will feature a very familiar face! HBF's former Director, Sonya Carpenter, will be our featured speaker this Thursday, August 5th as she presents "Nurturing Life in Your Backyard; Choices Within Our Control." This lecture will take place at the Highlands Community Building with a reception to follow

Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.

Thursday Evenings

• Free ESL classes at the 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, call (828) 526-0863 or email 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.

Thurs., Aug. 5

• At the Highlands Community Building, Zahner Lecture with Sonja Carpenter at 6 p.m. "Nurturing Life in Your Backyard; Choices Within Our Control." A reception to follow.

Fri., Aug. 6

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Foxfire Boys

Sat., Aug. 7

• At Acorn's on S. 4th Street, Carolyn Goldsmith Art Trunk Show. 10a to 5p.

• Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House. Free Hot Dogs and Fire Truck Rides. 11a to 3p at the station at 322 Oak Street. Celebrating 68 years of service.

• At Hudson Library Books & Bites with author Kristy Woodson Harvey at 12:30 p.m. Free with light lunch but reservations required. Call 828-526-3031.

• At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at Oak & 5th streets, Discussion and book signing with Dr. Jean Benedict Raffa, author of "The Soul's Twins: Emancipate Your Feminine and

Masculine Archetypes" at 3 p.m. Free and refreshments will be served.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. High Five

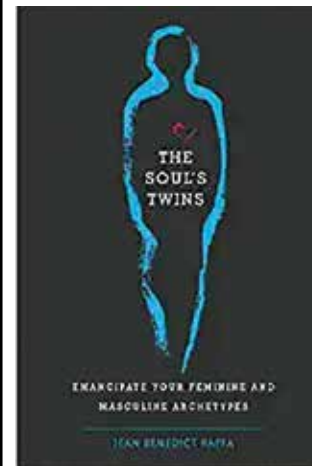
Sun.-Tues., Aug 8-10

• At OEI's Half Mile Farm, 214 Half Mile Dr, Highlands, Southern Writers Series. With its storied history and constantly evolving present, the South continuously produces award-winning writers. We are pleased to present four Southern stars for our first-ever Southern Writers Series at Half-Mile Farm. Contemporary authors Wiley Cash, Cassandra King and Ron Rash, along with Cele and Lynn Seldon, will be in residence at Half-Mile Farm for a few fun days. Book Your Stay at <https://www.oldewardshospitality.com/calendar-of-events/southernwriters>.

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 13-15

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Elizabeth Locke Jew-

Raffa at Shakespeare & Company Sat. Aug. 7



At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at Oak & 5th streets, Discussion and book signing with Dr. Jean Benedict Raffa, author of "The Soul's Twins: Emancipate Your Feminine and Masculine Archetypes" at 3 p.m. Free and refreshments will be served.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

elyr Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Elizabeth Locke travels the world in pursuit of the uncommon elements to make up her designs. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

Fri., Aug. 13

• "Bells in the Night" by Richard Betz booksigning at Shakespeare and Company from 4-6 p.m.. It is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at Shakespeare and Company.

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

Sat., Aug. 14

• Scaly Mountain Community Assn. Pancake Breakfast at the Scaly Mountain Volunteer fire and Rescue Community Room. 169 Hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mountain. 8-10:30 a. \$6 per person, \$20 for families of 4 or more.

• Twilight K Run at 6 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine. Twilight 5K concert. 6-8:30p.

Sun., Aug. 15

• Dinner with Steven Satterfield & Joseph Lenn at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30 p.m. Please join us in celebrating the height of the summer season in the mountains with James Beard Foundation award-winning chefs Steven Satterfield of Miller Union in Atlanta, and Joseph Lenn of JC Holdway in Knoxville, TN. This dynamic duo, who also happen to be great friends, will present a multi-course menu full of summer's most delicious flavors alongside pairings from the Old Edwards sommeliers in the beautiful setting of The Farm. \$185 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online today: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/dinner-with-steven-satterfield-joseph-lenn-tickets-67065> or call 828-787-2525 to book.

Mon. Aug. 16

• HCHC Open House at 209 Hospital Drive, Level 2, #204 from 10-11:30a.

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 20-22

• At Acorn's on S. 4th Street, Michael Hoffman Pottery Trunk

Show. 10a to 5p.

Fri., Aug. 20

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

Sat., Aug. 21

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. ZuZu Welch

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 27-29

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Simon Pearce Trees Trunk Show 10a to 5p. 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 forms, and are a joy to collect, give and display – all year round. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

Fri., Aug. 27

• 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.

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.

Fri., Sept. 17

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

Sat., Sept. 18

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p.

Hurricane Creek

Sun., Sept. 19

• CLE is proud to present the First Annual Highlands Porchfest 2021! Porchfest is a FREE music event for our community being held on Sunday from 1 - 6pm. Musicians from every genre will

perform live at various downtown businesses, including The Bascom and The PAC. For more information visit www.highlandsporchfest.com

sporchfest.com

Fri., Sept. 24

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Foxfire Boys

Carolyn Goldsmith art Trunk Show at Acorns, Sat.



Carolyn Goldsmith is a renowned Birmingham AL artist known for her figurative and abstract paintings. Her vibrant and dynamic work is primarily in mixed media on canvas. The freedom and balance are greatly influenced by the artists of the Abstract Expressionist movement. Come join us at Acorn's on 212 S. 4th Street 10a to 5p.

Meet new friends at Saturdays' Music in the Park



Every Saturday evening from 56 to 8:30 p.m. there is Music in the Park in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. Bring a picnic and chairs and prepare to be entertained. This Saturday it's High Five.

Highlands F&R Open House Sat., Aug. 7



Come celebrate the department's 68 years of service featuring free fire truck rides and hot dogs. The firehouse is on Oak Street. Just follow the sirens. Rides are 11am to 3pm. Donations accepted.

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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to debut its new operating rooms and welcomes new surgeons

As Highlands-Cashiers Hospital continues to evolve, I realize that growth doesn't just happen as a result of expanding a facility's square footage, recruiting new physicians and staff, enhancing services, supporting staff in their efforts to gain education and skills, acquiring the most state-of-the-art medical technology, or engaging our community. We advance as an institution because of all these things and more.

Reimagining and restarting a service that has been dormant for a time constitutes another important type of growth that reflects our commitment to serve the healthcare needs of this community. We have done just this by reopening our Operating Rooms, which have been closed for more than five years.

It's an exciting development for community members and the hospital because the shift will mean that you can access more care closer to home. The first surgical procedures we will be performing will be orthopedic and general surgery. We will limit services to low-risk outpatient surgical procedures, often called same day procedures. This means you will have your procedure and be able to go home the same day. Some examples of orthopedic procedures include joint replacements and repairing repetitive stress injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome, as well as remedying sports and traumatic injuries. We will also initially offer routine general surgical procedures, such as hernia repairs, and resuming routine colonoscopies.

We've invested significant time and capital in our ORs, preparing them to serve you, and assuring they comply with or exceed the best practice standards. For example, we will have the capability to perform minimally invasive surgery, which offers significant



Tom Neal
CEO/CNO
Highlands Cashiers
Hospital

advantages for the patient, like faster healing, reduced pain, and less scarring and blood loss. This is because the surgeons need to make only a couple very small incisions, rather than larger ones, as in traditional open surgery. In addition, our lighting and other technology allow the surgical team members to more efficiently communicate with each other in real time as procedures are happening.

In addition to making surgical equipment improvements that make the patient and clinician experience better, we have invested in bringing the surgical suite into compliance with the most current regulatory requirements and industry standards. Examples would include investment in automated medication management systems, and continuous monitoring of temperature, humidity, and air quality — all essential to assure a safe environment for our patients. Critical support from HCA Healthcare allowed us to execute this project. This support included capital, access to experts in the field, and recruitment of our new surgeons.

The doors of our new ORs are scheduled to open this summer, and I'm pleased to introduce our new General Surgeon into the HCH family, Dr. John Bishop. He

comes to the Plateau from serving patients and families at Gunnison Valley Hospital, in Gunnison, Colorado. A graduate of the Loma Linda School of Medicine, Dr. Bishop is highly skilled in many general surgery procedures, and has extensive experience with performing minimally invasive surgery. We're very happy to have Dr. Bishop with us and I'm certain the community will benefit from his skills, knowledge, and compassion. He is now accepting new patients, and his first official day with us is July 28th. Community members can call 828-369-4402 to schedule an appointment with him.

Accomplished orthopedic surgeon Dr. Gregory Crawley joined us this past January. He practiced for years in the northern Atlanta suburbs, and is proud to be delivering advanced care that's customized to each patient's unique needs. Dr. Crawley has much expertise in performing minimally invasive knee arthroscopy, as well as carpal tunnel syndrome and trigger finger release surgery.

We are also fortunate to welcome a dedicated and enthusiastic primary care Physician Assistant, Allison Litchfield, MPAS, PA-C. Allison will practice primary care at the Cashiers branch of Mission Community Primary Care. An Atlanta area native, Allison graduated from Gardner-Webb University with her Master of Physician Assistant Studies in the midst of the pandemic — May, 2020 — and worked in Asheville for eight months before coming to the Plateau. Her love of both medicine and people combine to make her a valuable caregiver to our community, who prioritizes building lasting relationships with her patients.

The talented surgeons I in-

• See HOSPITAL page 15

...OBITUARIES continued from page 7

In Memory of Mary Katheryn Spitzer Crane

Mary Katheryn Spitzer Crane was born on July 22, 1945 and died June 3, 2021.

She was married to Oscar N. Crane who preceded her in death on August 6, 2015.

Kathy and Oscar spent their last days on earth at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, Highlands, NC.

Kathy was the daughter of the late Bud and Mary Hunt Spitzer.

She was employed for many years at Mitchel Motel, and became family with Al and Renee Bolt and their children.

"This world, however beautiful, was never meant to be the place that we would



call our home for all eternity. And though we would not choose to leave, a loving God knows best, and in His time He lifts us to a place of peace and rest. For He has built a mansion where His children will abide, free from pain and sorrow, forever by His side. He said He'd never leave us to face our trials alone, and though we sometimes fail Him, He never fails His own. Some-

day we'll be together in our Father's home above, where we'll thank Him for His mercy & praise him for His love."

— Darl Dinger

...PAC continued from page 1

Mary Adair Trumbly said working with project management JLL and Choate Construction out of Atlanta has been a team concept since planning began over a year ago. She said the groundbreaking for a new theater is both exciting and gratifying.

"This 'dream' came about after Mayor Pat Taylor wrote about having all the performing arts under one roof," said Trumbly. "This was right before the PAC had a Board retreat, August 2015. It was at that retreat that the Board decided we needed a bigger theater because all of our concerts were sold out with waiting lists."

Initial plans called for two new theaters, a 400-seat theater and an 85-seat movie and black-box theater. However, plans had to be scaled back as a result of the pandemic and new plans include one 300-seat theater. Also eliminated from the initial plans are a spiral staircase and balcony.

"We raised the needed funds, had a design we could afford to build, and then the pandemic hit," said Trumbly. "Now with the world-wide price increases, we will have to raise more funds. We will accomplish this."

The PAC Executive Board released a statement on Tuesday that reads "Our construction contract has a maximum guaranteed cost of \$9.4 million, though we are anticipating some further cost savings, and our total project cost, which includes design, engineering, furnishings, technical

equipment, expanded and enhanced parking, and related expenses, is \$11 million. Given the significant inflation that has taken place in the construction industry during the last year, we are extremely pleased to be able to build a first-class facility for the community at this cost. We are, however, continuing to seek important financial support from the community which is needed to bridge the gap between our original budget and the total project cost."

Choate Superintendent Russell Hartness said the goal is to finish construction on the new theater by the summer of 2022 and he's excited to get started.

"The project team looks forward to forging new relationships and completing a successful project that is positive for the community," said Hartness.

Over the next month or so, construction crews will be focused on underground utilities, earthwork, and stone piers.

Hartness said potential snags in the timeline include variables such as weather, procurement, or an unpredictable supply chain.

Adair said all the planning involved in the renovations was a team effort.

"The whole team approach of JLL has been wonderful," said Trumbly. "We met every other week for over a year. Everyone was in the meeting(s), JLL (project management) Choate (construction) LAS (architects) the design and theatrical teams, along

• See PAC page 16

...HOSPITAL continued from page 14

roduced earlier, and our excellent OR staff are who will make the OR come alive. Without their expertise and dedication to our patients, the OR would be just an impressively appointed room. It's the combination of their clinical gifts and the tools present in our OR that make for an even better patient experience and recovery.

• Tom Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Neal

is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive healthcare experience. Prior to his role at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems (CHS) and served as Chief Executive Officer of both Berwick Hospital Center in Berwick, Pennsylvania, and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Ronceverte, West Virginia. Tom has an MBA from the University of Louisville, MHA from the California College of Health Sciences, BSN from Regents College of New York and an ADN from Jefferson Community College.



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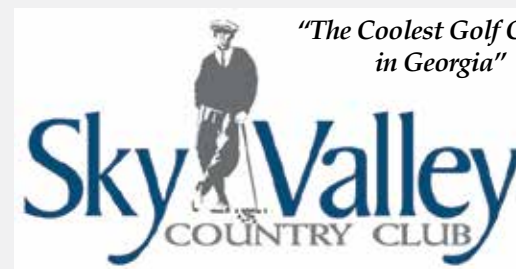
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FREE Upcoming Events (refreshments served)

Saturday, Aug. 7, at 3 p.m., Dr. Jean Raffa discusses and signs copies of her new Nautilus Award-winning book, "The Soul's Twins: Emancipate Your Feminine and Masculine Archetypes."

Friday Aug. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m., local poet Richard Betz will sign copies of his new collection, "Bells in the Night."



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...ROAD WORK continued from page 1

through the Highway Safety Improvement Program which is designed to provide a continuous and systematic process that addresses specific traffic safety concerns such as those along this stretch of highway.

"This project is a wonderful example of how our engineers are utilizing data to help improve safety for drivers," Division 14 Engineer Wanda Austin said. "Our Highway Safety Improvement Program plays a critical role in identifying areas of concern and recommending improvements on our local roadways."

A five-year study of this corridor revealed a total of 144 crashes including 12 severe injury crashes and five fatalities. New construction addresses multiple areas in a

six-mile stretch on Highlands Road (U.S. 64/N.C. 28) between Rogers Road and Walnut Creek Road. Crews for Harrison Construction are installing four-foot paved shoulders in areas prone to crashes from vehicles leaving the road to the right, and crews are also installing rumble strips on the centerline for the entire length of the project. The rumble strips are a relatively new design — first installed in 2016 — and are effective in alerting drivers to their location while creating less ambient noise than traditional rumble strips.

The extra shoulder width will provide errant vehicles additional space to get back on path before running off the road, and rumble strips alert drivers that they are



Construction is taking place on the Highlands Road below the Gorge.

about to cross into oncoming traffic. These rumble strips also feature reflective paint which increases visibility of the centerline at night and in wet conditions.

For crews to safely complete the proj-

ect, the contractor is required to use a single-lane closure for the duration of the project. NCDOT officials anticipate this \$1.4 million projects to conclude in October.

...PAC continued from page 15



The new part of the building will connect and extend west from the current structure.

with the PAC Building Committee. Everyone heard all concerns and worked to find solutions. Choate has been on site for nine days now and the amount of work already done is amazing. Russell Hartness, project superintendent and Omid Yavari, project manager could not be any nicer or more accommodating. It's pleasure to work with them."

She added that she would also like to thank the PAC's Building Committee, which includes Wade Coleman, Chairman, Jim Ward, Brad Armstrong, Rick Treva- than, Leonard Wood, Nancy Harrison, and Frank Oliver.

Lastly, she thanked the PAC Board of Directors (past and present) for their tireless work on making this dream become a reality.

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...HURRICANES continued from page 1

Olympic Nationals.

Out of 26 teams from all over the country, the Highlands Hurricanes Boys finished 8th, the Hurricane Girls finished 12th and the team finished 12th overall.

This against teams representing entire regions like New England, and entire states like Arkansas, Florida, and more.

The team consisted of Jelehna McKim, Finneaus Garner, Mark Gross, Aniah McKim, Paolo McRae, Chase Kenter, Jack Sumner, Jasmine Abranyi, sisters Sofia and Lilliana Jandera Chambless, Justin Powell, and Corena Dearth.

The 12-member team brought home 42 medals – three of them gold.

Chase Kenter and Sofia Jandera Chambless led the team with 140 and 139 points respectively. Kenter won three bronze medals, Sofia Jandera Chambless won one gold, two silvers, and three bronzes. Sofia's sister Lilliana scored two gold medals, and two bronzes on her way to 72 pts.

Corena Dearth won a bronze medal in the 50 breaststroke and scored 46 pts.

The fearsome foursome of Mark Gross, Aniah McKim, Finneaus Garner, and Paolo McRae medaled in all four of their relays for a combined 115 points. Gross earned 41, McKim 40, and Garner and McCrae 27.

Justin Powell medaled in the 100 backstroke and scored 23 pts.

In the longest event of the meet Jelehna McKim scored 5 pts in the 1,500-meter freestyle (often referred to as the metric mile), and Jack Sumner scored 4 pts in the 50 free and 50 back.

With the end of the summer season, the team will rest until Labor Day when practice will resume for the winter season and it all starts up again.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to join is that a swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (one length of the pool) unassisted. For further information please call head coach Steve Hott at 828.421.4121.

...MASKS continued from page 11

them sign up so they don't have to stand in line. Set a time, set a date. It's free it's done and they are still on the clock and still getting paid," asked Commissioner John Dotson.

Neal said the hospital would be willing to do it.

Commissioners Donnie Calloway and Stiehler said it was a great gesture, but they didn't think that's the issue.

"If we were having this conversation pre-social media, this wouldn't be the issue it is now. But it's just amazing the ignorance out there. There are so many people who have their minds made up and they wouldn't even be open to it. To a lot of people, it's a political thing," said Stiehler.

But Commissioner Amy Patterson said the circumstances have changed with the Delta variant and said if people understood the facts they might be willing to get vaccinated.

"We thought, 'we were over the hill, out of the woods – the vaccine came out, we are going to get herd immunity, everything is going to be fine. We don't need to do anything more.' Now we are seeing that's not the case in a specific way. Not just predictions

but facts. So maybe we need to let people know 'You know what? I am not magnetized; Bill Gates is not tracking me.' Whatever it is, let

them vent and come to some consensus about what their problem is about the vaccine; you may change minds and you may not. You need to counter it with something real

• See MASKS page 19



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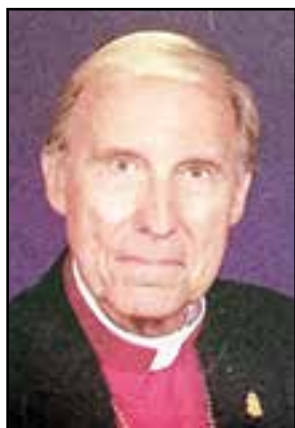
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Archbishop John Erbeling

No one in our small Vermont town seemed to remember when it started. Did it start when they were high school sweethearts on their way home from school? Was it when he returned from serving his country in the war? Or was it when the children arrived a few years into their marriage and it gave them both a chance to talk and plan and dream of their future together? But no matter how or when it started, this dear sweet loving couple has taken their afternoon walk through town, hand in hand.

Their hair is now silver and their step is now slower and more guarded against a fall, but hand in hand they walk. Their animated conversation in the early years is now fewer words but no less important to the future they still have ahead of them, and the passion in their two hands grasping each other speaks volumes of the past and present of their lives.

Nothing seems to reach our souls like seeing a couple in love, celebrating their first or sixtieth anniversary. Those who work at keeping love alive, who have taken the words they said on their wedding day as a pledge, "for richer for poorer, in sickness or in health, and love for all eternity," they have endured all. They have heard with not only ears but their hearts, St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, a reading that is most important at any wedding service. St. Paul writes about love and tells us, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude or self-serving. It is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs," and St. Paul tells us what this couple holding hands has learned: "Love always protects, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." Husbands and wives in a good marriage understand that love is a series of actions, not a fleeting feeling that someday will escape them.

A happy marriage takes two people both giving all of themselves. They will tell you it is not easy. They have chosen to forgive. They have decided to be patient time and time again, keeping no record of wrongs.

They have never lost sight of the vision of who they have become over the years together. This wonderful couple we see walk hand in hand has chosen to love, like a marathon runner choosing to stay in the race. They have long ago discovered that a true marriage was never intended to be a short dash, but traveled holding hands, hearts beating in unison along this path we call life, because love never fails.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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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.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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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

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

July 3

• At 2:40 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and 2nd streets.

July 22

• At 9:25 a.m., Shelton McKinley Freeman, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for driving under the influence. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond. His trial date is Sept. 23.

July 23

• At 1:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the parking lot of Rhodes Superette on NC 106.

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident east of Lower Lake Road.

July 24

• At 11:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and N. 4th streets.

July 28

• At 10:01 p.m., Perry Christopher Dominici, of MA, was arrested for exceeding the speed limit and driving under the influence, resisting arrest and communicating threats. He was issued a \$1,000 bond. His trial date is Sept. 29.

• At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a report of second-degree trespassing on 4th Street Market.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 27.

July 27

• At 12:07 p.m., the dept. was called to investigate the source of smoke on Wahoo Trail.

• At 4:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wyanoak Road.

July 28

...MASKS continued from page 17

if all they are getting is from social media saying all these conspiracy theories," she said.

Citizen Jerry Moore suggested including town employees who got vaccinated at the information/vaccine session to explain why they were willing to take the risk to get vaccinated.

"Friends and families are a much better influence than social media, billboards, and newspaper messaging. The more people they know who say 'this is safe' the more apt they are to get vaccinated. A billion-plus people have been vaccinated worldwide. They need to get information from reliable sources that they trust."

Police Chief Andrea Holland said only she and one other person in her department have gotten vaccinated.

"Their excuse is 'I don't know what the vaccine is going to do to me in the future.' Well guess what, if you get COVID you don't know what that's going to do to you in the future. I have a best friend who is a paramedic with the county who has severe nerve damage after recovering from COVID. I have another friend who is on a vent and another three years younger than me who is also on a vent.

"Yes, we don't know about the future, but I guarantee you the box of food you ate last night with that big long word on it – you don't know what that's going to do to you either," she said.

She said the trouble is people in the area haven't known or seen anyone get really, really sick from COVID.

• At 10:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

• At 12:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hedden Lane.

• At 4:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hickory Hill Road.

• At 7:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clearview Lane.

July 29

• At 12:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Blue Valley Road.

• At 6:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Village Court.

• At 8:09 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke on US 64 east.

July 30

• At 11:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

• At 11:33 a.m., the dept. was responded to a motor vehicle accident on Bear Shadow Road.

• At 10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

Aug. 2

• At 8:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Kenridge Lane.

• At 10:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row.

• At 11:52 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

• At 12:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 6:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

"They hear about sniffles and chest congestion. They've not seen the people on a vent. I've seen it. The sad thing is, if you don't see something bad happen, you don't believe it," she said.

Moore said but "This is real. Why play Russian Roulette with your life?

"There is a 25-year-old man here in Highlands who was on a vent for a month, and he was healthy and living his life. Tracy Hedden at Highlands School almost died," he said.

Another person suggested Neal let people know about possible interactions with current medications or pre-existing conditions with the vaccine. "Make it clear to the employees what, if any, are the risks," he said.

Neal, said interactions with the vaccine from other medicines is very rare.

"There are very few things that would prohibit you from taking the vaccine," he said.

Dr. Hathaway said vaccine hesitancy is a real thing but if people aren't vaccinated, they are at risk of being part of the chain of transmission to people who can get very ill.

"They end up in the hospital and die. This is a very serious disease with 1% to 2% mortality, which is far higher than the flu. Anything we can do to vaccinate our communities – social distance, wear masks – that is the agenda I would push," he said. "We have a highly safe and highly effective vaccine with very few serious side effects. It prevents serious illness, hospitalization and it dramatically decreases transmission."

– Kim Lewicki

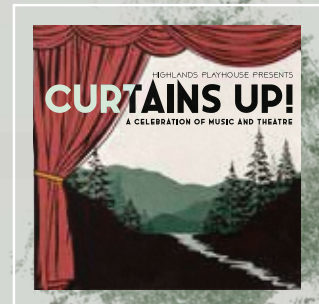


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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED positions open at Caffè Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Kevin at 841-763-5539. Need ASAP. (st. 6/24)

HOSPITALITY MINDSET: Highlands Country Club is looking for a few individuals for food service, bartending and housekeeping, who have a heart for service, want to be respected as professionals and know how to earn to your ability. Competitive pay, tips for F & B staff, uniform provided, and meals per shift provided to all. Golfing privileges are available. Wonderful, busy working atmosphere. Appreciative management to work with each person. Go to www.highlandscountryclub.com, select the Career tab at the top of the tool bar to fill out an application. Or, call 828-787-2782 and leave a message for Greg. See the Club's reviews on Indeed. (st. 6/24)

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. - 3p.m. For consideration, please send resume to visitor@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112. (st. 5/27)

POSH PAWS PET SPA IN HIGHLANDS, NC is now hiring dog bathers. No experience necessary. Fast advancement opportunities. Please call 828-526-9581 to inquire about position. (st. 7/29)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindab-tiff@aol.com.

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.

FULL AND PART TIME RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES WANTED. Contact Potpourri at 828-200-0044 to schedule an interview. Eye-wear experience is a plus. (st. 5/13)

DO YOU LIKE TO CLEAN AND ORGANIZE? Private club seeking a few energetic individuals with a happy state of mind to join our staff in the housekeeping department. Early hours, routine schedule, competitive pay, benefits, one daily meal provided, and uniforms provided. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Country Club at 828-526-2181. (st. 5/13)

CALLING ALL MERMAIDS! Spartina 449 now hiring part time key and sales position. Apply in person. 394 Main St, Highlands. 828-787-1178 (st. 4/29)

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC - Graphic Design & Layout Professional, P/T Marketing Asst/Print Production, Catering Manager, Sales Manager, Assistant F&B Manager, Banquet Captain, Banquet Supervisor, Host, Server, Breakfast Server, Server Assistant, Bartender, AM Sous Chef, Breakfast Cook, Cook, Assistant Pastry Chef, Dishwasher, Reservations Specialist, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk Agent, Bellman, Room Attendant, Houseman, 2nd Shift Laundry, Retail Associate, Fitness Manager, Spa Concierge, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor. SPECIAL RETEN-

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WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT Looking for full-time hostess (great pay) dishwasher, prep cook, pantry and waitstaff. PM shift only. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/4)

LUXURY LODGE MANAGER NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION. - Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 2/11)

THE SUMMER HOUSE BY REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN HIGHLANDS is looking for full and part time positions in sales and warehouse & delivery personnel. Must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and/or customer service experience preferred. Competitive starting pay. Generous benefits for full-time positions. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands. (st. 5/20)

RE FOR SALE 4/BD, 2 BA HOME ON 2 BEAUTIFUL ACRES located between Highlands and Cashiers in a nice residential area. Property borders a creek and includes a storage house with cellar. Garden area and beautiful lawns, too. \$650k. Contact Tina @ 828-342-9312. (St. 7/29)

BIG BEAR PEN MTN LOT, Corner of Paul Walden/Upper Lake Rd, 1/3 acre, 100k\$. 770-339-7002 (st 7/29)

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best panoramic views in Highlands, 10 acres of land backing up to the national forest, a beautiful 5,000sq ft main house with an available 2 bedroom guest house and a putting green and horseshoe pit for \$990,000! Better hurry before my wife changes her mind. Please text or ring Paul at 678-516-8388. (st. 7/1)

SERVICES HOME MAID CLEANING SERVICE LLC: - Quality work, experienced & insured. For a free estimate call, (828) 371-1702. Check out our website at, www.homemaidservicenc.com. (8/15)

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - Interior & Exterior painting, sheetrock repair, wallpaper removal, log homes, decks. Insured/free estimates. (9/16)
CALL 828-524-1391 OR 828-332-0525 HANDIMAN - Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry. Call Al Edgar 828-332-7271. 828-369-6245. (4.1)

HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Will also monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-5984. (5/27)

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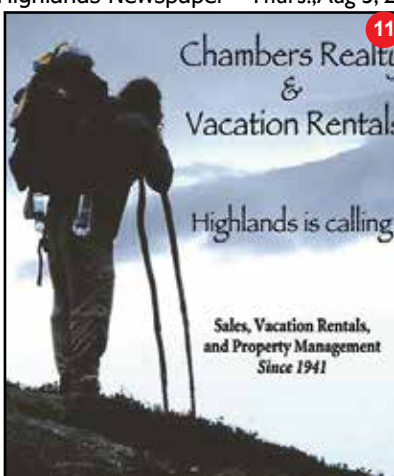
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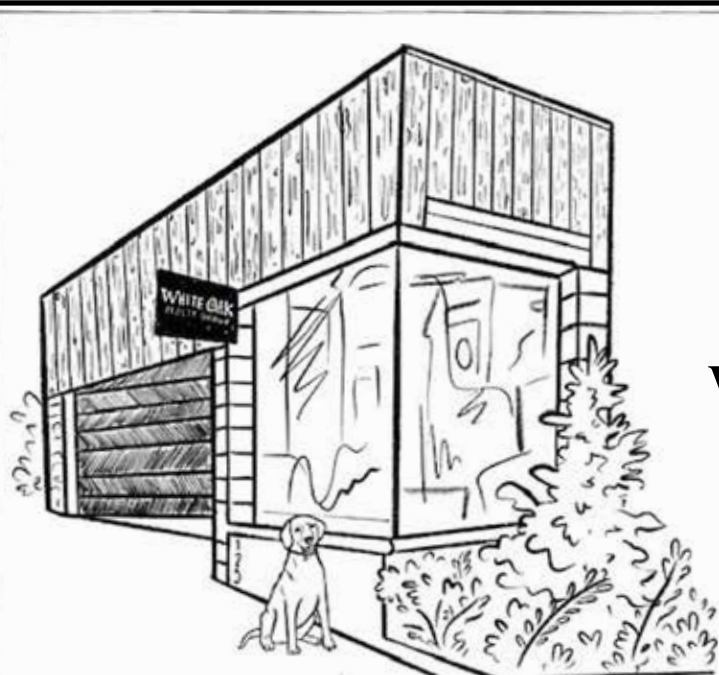
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