

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Milling & paving of Main Street begins Mon., March 15

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Thurs., March 11, 2021

Macon County School System to get \$4.67 million for COVID relief

The NC Association of Educators has ideas on how to spend it

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Federal Government passed COVID19 relief in December than the North Carolina General Assembly split it up to be sent to counties across the state.

Macon County teacher and NC Association of Educators President John deVille sent a letter to Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin last week urging the board to con-

sider spending the funds on areas to improve education across Macon County.

"Macon County Schools will receive \$4,672,288 of this

• See RELIEF page 6

Highlands School pays tribute to its soccer seniors



Highlands boys soccer team hosted Murphy on Monday for the last home game of the season and recognized Seniors (from left) Ethan Tate, Gig Chalker, and Lane Tingen. The Highlanders ended up losing to Murphy, 5-2.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

Mission Health eases visitation restrictions system-wide

With Governor Roy Cooper relaxing COVID restrictions last week, HCA/Mission Health has stepped up to open its doors to some extent, to patients' visitors.

It's been one year since family and friends were told they could no longer visit loved ones in area nursing homes or accompany family members during hospital or ER visits. But now Mission is allowing two visitors per inpatient during regular visitor hours at its area hospitals — Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Angel Medical Center — and others.

Patients who are hospitalized overnight may now have one visitor

• See EASES page 10

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Work will begin on road at Bridal Veil Falls on March 29.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea.

Repairs to US 64 at Bridal Veil Falls to begin 3/29

Traffic detouring to Buck Creek Road

Mayor Pat Taylor discussed it briefly last week, but now NC DOT has made it official.

Department of Transportation crews will perform a difficult

repair on U.S. 64 west at Bridal Veil Falls in Highlands from March 29 to April 16.

The highway will be closed

• See BRIDAL VEIL page 6

Congratulations, Suzanne McDavid!
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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Town Retreat helps set financial tone for FY '21-'22

Today is the annual town retreat which consists of staff presentations and board Q&A of budget needs for FYI 2021/'22. The town website has the ZOOM information so folks can see and hear the staff and board interactions.

The town retreat will be followed by a series of budget workshops this spring where the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year will be refined. There are always more spending items identified at the retreat than can be included in the upcoming budget. The budget process identifies priorities that need the most immediate funding.

At the May Town Board meeting the Town Manager will present a proposed balance budget that goes into effect on July 1. A public hearing for the proposed budget will be set for the June Town Board meeting.

At the retreat the report by Public Works Director Lamar Nix always has the most big ticket items. Road paving, sanitation and water and sewer are costly items. I



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

know we have a number of roads that will need repaving. Over the last several years the board has been very aggressive in funding road paving. We are beginning to catchup. Lamar will present a list of unpaved roads that could be paved. The heavy rains of the last few seasons underscore the ongoing costs of maintaining unpaved roads. From an environmental perspective they are primary contributors to problems with runoff and sedimentation.

I also know Lamar will be requesting the replacement of a large clarifier tank at the water department. The current tank has been in operation for 55 years. The tank service days are numbered.

We also have two major waterline replacements with very high price tags. Earlier this year the staff initiated preliminary construction documents for the replacement of one of these lines. If there is federal funding for such projects, we will quickly submit the plans to the feds for funding. With all the talk in Washington concerning COVID and infrastructure relief for municipalities, I hope we will get our share to put toward infrastructure like water and sewer upgrades.

Recreation Director Lester Norris, will make a presentation on the need to replace the current Houston House near the back entrance to the recreation center. This house is currently being used as an after-school center for young children. The after-school program is outgrowing the facility. The town will need to begin looking at replacing the house with a more functional building.

In the afternoon, retreat attendees will discuss operations of our sanitation department. We constantly have shortfalls in funding these operations. Future projections indicate rate increases in order to break even. The issue will be what action should be taken to address these shortfalls? Should we accept the need for ongoing rate increases? Can we make changes in operations that would improve the system? For instance, cutback pickup days for residential and/or commercial customers? Or, should we consider phasing out this department, like many towns have done, and rely on private providers?





• HIC'S VIEW •



"Fred, I can't begin to say how happy the flock is you are open again."

whicseven@yahoo.com

• WEATHER •

Thu, 11-Mar	Fri, 12-Mar	Sat, 13-Mar	Sun, 14-Mar
			
60°F 43°F	69°F 47°F	62°F 43°F	64°F 41°F
Partly sunny and pleasant	Mild with periods of sun	Rain and drizzle in the p.m.	Cloudy
RealFeel® High: 63° Low: 41°	RealFeel® High: 70 Low: 45°	RealFeel® High: 62° Low: 47°	RealFeel® High: 65° Low: 47°

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• LETTERS •

Do yourself a favor and stay informed

Dear Editor,

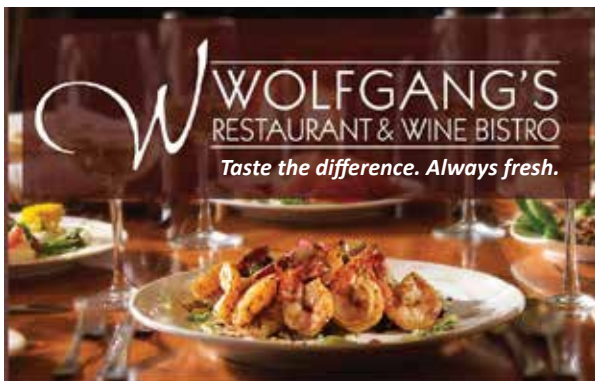
Mayor Pat Taylor responded to the many concerns of Highlands citizens regarding major projects and subdivisions. I am certain it is quite a shock for some of our citizens who return to Highlands after a couple of months away and find the earth movers and concrete trucks having at it. I was glad to see he made suggestions as to how to keep up with the many changes happening here: Read the newspaper, call Town Hall and get put on the Sunshine List (meaning you can zoom in on town meetings), and listen to the radio.

Several years ago I was surprised to learn that the town is not mandated to inform neighbors of a pending construction plan even if it will happen in the lot next door. So, yes, you do need to be proactive if you want to know what the town is up to. Stay informed.

Objections have been known to stop an unwelcome building projects so do not think you are voiceless. It is a shame that things can happen "behind your back" so to speak, but that is the way it is. Get your newspaper online while you are out of town and let your voice be heard. Read Highlands Newspaper for free at www.highlandsinfo.com click on News and read The Highlander on line with your annual subscription. And good luck.

**Glenda Bell
Highlands**

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• OBITUARIES •

Leon Yaun

Leon Yaun peacefully left this earth to be with his Maker March 3, 2021. Leon was born in Memphis, TN to Samuel Leon Yaun and Anna Anita (Swift) Yaun, December 11, 1928.

He graduated from Subiaco Academy college preparatory school in Arkansas and as a young adult pursued his studies at Memphis Academy of Art, where many of his paintings were on display.

Leon and his partner Hazel Giles moved to Glenville, NC where Leon spent the remainder of his life. He spent countless hours painting and carving and exhibiting his work at Folk Fest in Atlanta, GA, the nation's largest folk art festival at that time. His work is held in collections all over the south and northeast.

Leon is survived by Hazel Giles, his life partner of 38 years; his sister Carol Richardson (Wayne Hancock) of Salisbury, MD, his half-brother, Eddie Yaun of Germantown, TN; his son, Todd Yaun and his children Derek Yaun and Luke Yaun of East Woodstock, CT and Iris Anna Gohn (Yaun) of Tuscon, AZ; his daughter, Rory Lynch (Yaun) of Petersburg, NY and her children Clove Lynch of Boulder, CO and Mimosa Lynch of Munich, Germany; daughter Jennifer Yaun Rainey (Tom) of Brooklyn, CT and her children Travis Harwood of Plainville, CT and daughter Venessa Harwood Perry (Ronald), of Middletown, CT; daughter, Leslie McClellan of Dayville, CT and her children Evan McClellan and Nathan McClellan; Step-daughter, Lynn Giles Herrera and her children, Megan Herrera Cartwright (Mike) of Milton, DE, Rebecca Herrera Joga (Matthew) of Beaufort, SC and Brittany Herrera of Montclair, NJ; Stepson, James Giles (Kristina) of Rockville, MD. and their children, Christopher John (CJ) Giles and Kaitlin Rose (Katie) Giles of Rockville, MD. and nieces and nephews and 13 great-grandchildren.

Everyone who met or knew Leon was impressed by his kind, gentle humor and immense talent.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Leon's family. Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com

• See OBITUARIES page 8





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...RELIEF continued from page 1

disbursement,” said deVill. “I would like to see the formation of a teacher/parent group to provide significant input on how these monies are spent.”

In the email, deVill also offered some options for how to spend the federal aid dollars.

Some of the options include:

- Providing principals and other school leaders with resources to address the needs of their individual schools.

- Purchasing sanitation and cleaning supplies for school facilities.

- Purchasing educational technology for students.

- Providing mental health services and support.

- Addressing learning loss among students.

- Planning and implementing summer learning and afterschool program activities.

According to Dr. Baldwin, the district is not yet close to being able to disperse the funds, as they are not yet available to local districts.

“While we do not currently

have access to the ESSER-II funding nor do we have clear direction on how the funding may be utilized, we are excited and grateful for the potential that these resources represent,” said Superintendent Baldwin. “This amount of funding will have a tremendous positive impact on student learning and achievement across our school system. The ESSER-II funding is important in that it will allow the Macon County School system to begin addressing the impact that the COVID19 pandemic has had on our school children.”

Dr. Baldwin and other public education leaders in the state participated in a webinar on Tuesday to better understand how and when access to the funding will be available. Dr. Baldwin said that when those details become more clear, getting input from stakeholders as suggested by deVill would be ideal.

“We are still learning how to properly access and budget the use of these funds. Input from our stakeholders (including, but not

limited to parents and teachers) will be extremely important once the budgeting process actually begins,” said Dr. Baldwin.

Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund).

The Department will award these grants to State Educational Agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), was signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provides an additional \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund).

...BRIDAL VEIL continued from page 1

to traffic from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day and will operate in a one-lane pattern with a traffic signal overnight for the duration of the operation. The one-lane pattern will remain in place from April 2 to April 5 for Easter weekend.

“These repairs need to be made in order to secure the structural integrity of the road,” Division 14 Maintenance Engineer Wesley Grindstaff said. “It’s necessary to limit the possibility of long-term damage to the highway, and it’s necessary for the safety of visitors and residents in the area.”

Traffic will be detoured on Buck Creek Road when the road is closed – going down and coming up.

Drivers heading east from Franklin will turn left onto Buck

Creek Road and follow it for 11 miles until the intersection with U.S. 64 east of Highlands.

Drivers heading west from Highlands will take U.S. 64 east out of town and turn left onto Buck Creek Road. All drivers should factor extra time into their travels.

“We know this is inconvenient, but it is absolutely necessary,” Grindstaff said. “Choosing to close the highway at 9 a.m. instead of earlier each day provides benefits for people who commute in the morning.”

Heavy rains from Hurricane Zeta in October damaged the drainage pipe under U.S. 64 west that carries water from the popular natural attraction under the highway and washed away material sup-

porting the highway.

NCDOT crews will remove the broken pipe and install a new pipe under the roadway. They will also rebuild the slope below the road by building a new embankment one stone at a time.

NCDOT officials have developed a plan with the U.S. Forest Service to limit impacts on the forest below the road.

“Rebuilding the slope will be very tedious work in very tight quarters,” Grindstaff said. “Instead of dumping stones, each stone will have to be passed from excavator to excavator one at a time. Crews will work as safely and efficiently as possible to have the road safely open to full capacity as soon as possible.”

K-12 Open House at Summit Charter School

Saturday, March 13, 10 am

Summit Charter School is located at

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• PAST & PRESENT •

The Developer's Dance

Have you heard of the developer's dance? Here it's a Highland fling and goes something like this, two steps forward and one back. First, it typically involves a developer like Macauley Investments representing the Hillside project in Cashiers, a 57-acre multi-housing/retail/accommodation project planned for the intersection of Highways 107 and 64, perhaps the busiest in the region.



Milton Ready

Knowing they will have to adjust initial plans to "address the concerns" expressed "from the community" and perhaps appease a grumpy elected official or two, sophisticated developers like Macauley have learned to begin with inflated plans and then scale back to what they originally had in mind.

Thus, Macauley's will now offer a "20% reduction in density" while pledging to preserve the area's increasingly artificial beauty. Developers and planning/zoning boards long ago learned to co-opt the language of environmentalists and insert it into their proposals, terms like low-density, greenways, park-like settings, and preserving the natural beauty of the region if still existing.

This dance usually works, beginning first as a promenade with your local partner, either a planning board member or elected official, then taking one small step backward and starting again with a revised Special Use Permit. Thus, developers will claim they have met the opposition halfway, sought to be reasonable and revised their plans to meet "strong concerns" expressed within the community, a mantra often accepted and utilized by planning and zoning boards, one that paints them and developers as victims and tree-huggers and activists as unreasonable, even fanatical. Between the first,

second, and even third SUP pirouettes, protests typically die down and development proceeds as planned.

You'll find the same shuffle with the Bear Shadow festival, only this time a quick side-step to the 50-acre Winfield Farm in Scaly, a "base camp" that will give an "enhanced fan experience" for those attending. All should be wary of glowing, feel-good terms that serve to distract from objections like those raised by in the Horse Cove community. Indeed, little is said about what will happen there, almost as if it will be unaffected by moving the main stage to a Highlands farm. Distractions work. In all this, developers simply want the festival to be held, especially since it has a compressed timeline. And it will be.

Finally, perhaps the most interesting might be the do-si-do between the town of Highlands and the proposed Bryson subdivision on 5th Street. It involves a local developer, the town's planning board, and the prospect of a gated community in Highlands, a practice "discouraged... but allowed." Not anymore. Do-si-done.

Consider the rationale given to justify a gated community within Highlands. According to the developer, "the way Highlands is these days a gated community was necessary." Highlands, it seems, has become unsafe, a high-crime area beset by rioters, criminals, and "outsiders" who come and go, its law enforcement agencies unable to protect ordinary citizens. Really now, how much more insulting and facile could an argument be yet still be accepted? In a do-si-do partners face away from each other, never looking each other in the eye.

In all this, do not reflexively blame Macauley's, festival organizers and boosters for

Bear Shadow, or local developers for their efforts. Remember the allegorical tale about the scorpion and frog? Indeed, developers like Macauley's understand that "money never sleeps" in a capitalist society like ours and cannot resist exploiting weaker local officials and processes. It's in their character. To paraphrase Pogo the Possum, "We have found the enemy and it is us."

How many times and ways does Mayor Patrick Taylor need to remind us that many elected and appointed officials want transparency and "open communication in... government" but citizens do not attend meetings or participate while better prepared developers and business interests do? Highlands, like many municipalities, has a Sunshine List where those who sign up receive all documents and communications given elected and appointed officials. Only 148 have signed up. Sad. Like the Constitution, transparency and a system of checks and balances are not guaranteed by an inert piece of paper or a process. It takes a concerned

citizenry to animate them, one largely absent today.

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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• INK PENN •

Sneak Peek #2

For your reading pleasure, join me again as a fly on the wall at the book club meeting in my latest book.

Beatrix quieted the guests and told us to take our seats, so I grabbed glasses of wine for Dave and me and sat next to Wendy. Beatrix started with facts about author Graham Moore. We all found it amazing he'd been only twenty-eight when he published this debut novel in 2010. Beatrix further surprised us with the fact that Moore had also written the screenplay for *The Imitation Game*, the 2014 movie about Alan Turing, the genius behind cracking the German's Enigma code during WWII, and that he'd won an Academy Award for that effort.

As for the book, *Sherlock Holmes* lovers would enjoy it for its nod to real-life Sherlock scholars and societies, and Anglophiles were sure to get a kick from the many well-known authors, actors, and playwrights it featured. I appreciated it for both reasons. While I'd learned of the friendship between J.M. Barrie and Arthur Conan Doyle when Dave had written his article on Barrie's lost manuscript, I'd been unaware of Doyle's friendship with Bram Stoker. I was eager to hear what

Gilbert would add to that part of the story.

He kicked off with questions for the audience. "Who's read any of the original *Sherlock Holmes* stories?"

Several of us raised our hands, and a few said we'd mostly watched the old black and white Basil Rathbone movies followed by the movies with Robert Downey, Jr. and the BBC Benedict Cumberbatch series.

Ellie interjected, "I adored *The House of Silk* by Anthony Horowitz, and you know he wrote *Foyle's War*, right? I adored that series too."

Gilbert was enjoying the audience's obvious love of the subject. "How about *Bram Stoker's Dracula*? How many of you have read it?"

I was interested to see I wasn't alone in only having seen the movies. I'd never read the book but recalled watching the black and white Bela Lugosi versions with my father on lazy weekend afternoons. As an adult, I'd enjoyed the version with Gary Oldman and Winona Ryder and, of course, the campy *Love at First Bite* with George Hamilton.

"It's not unusual for readers to be surprised Stoker wrote twelve novels, *Dracula* being the fifth. Fact: He was close friends



Kathy Manos Penn

with Doyle. Fact: He attended Doyle's second wedding in 1907. Fact: He produced a play based on a Doyle short story. Fiction: He helped Doyle solve the mystery of the letter bombing. Fact: Doyle did receive a letter bomb, just not in 1900."

Gilbert was an engaging speaker, and he had the full attention of the audience. I found the Q&A as fascinating as the book. One attendee asked about Doyle's trips to the States and American authors he might have met while there. Another questioned why Oscar Wilde didn't figure more prominently in the story.

Gilbert prefaced his answers with a caveat. "I'm an avid Arthur Conan Doyle and *Sherlock Holmes* fan, but I am by no means an expert. I can tell you he made a trip from New York to

Boston especially to meet Oliver Wendell Holmes, but unfortunately, Holmes died shortly before he arrived. As for Oscar Wilde, the two knew each other well and respected each other's writing. We'd have to ask Graham Moore why Wilde doesn't have a larger part in his tale."

He ended his presentation with a reminder that he was speaking at the Chipping Camden Literary Festival Saturday afternoon and that his friend Dave Prentiss was leading a session Friday.

After a robust round of applause, the audience descended

on the table displaying *Sherlock Holmes* books, calendars, and notecards in addition to Conan Doyle biographies. A line quickly formed at the checkout counter.

If you enjoyed your sneak peek, order "Collectors, Cats & Murder from Amazon now, to find out what happens next.

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, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.

...OBITUARIES continued from page 4

Irene Vinson 'Rene' Speed

Irene Vinson "Rene" Speed, 93, of Franklin went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. She was surrounded by her family the weeks prior to her passing.



Irene was born in Otto on September 28, 1927 to the late Laura Bell and Sylvester Vinson. She was married to Harold "Papoo" Speed, her true love, for 45 years who died in October of 1993.

Irene was of the Baptist faith remained a faithful and active member of Riverbend Baptist Church (Formerly Faith Baptist Church) as long as her health permitted. Even when she was unable to attend she prayed and read her Bible often. If fact, she was the oldest surviving member and last living charter member of the church.

Rene is survived by a daughter, Carol Ann Speed Sanders, two grandchildren, Russell Sanders and wife Tina and Rodney Sanders and wife Renee; five great-grandchildren, Nathan Sanders, Katie Sanders, Nicholas Sanders, Luke Sanders, and Emily Sanders; a granddaughter-in-law, Laura Widner Sanders; one sister, Joanne Cabe (Edwin); three brothers, Ray Vinson (Linda), James "Jim" Vinson (Nancy) and

Jerry Vinson (Dora Ann) and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins that she loved dearly.

In addition to her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by one grandson, Ryan Sanders; one son-in-law,

Roger Sanders; five sisters, Lucille Moffitt, Betty Sue Elvis; Roberta Welch, Hazel Brookshire, and Dorothy Sosebee and two brothers, Edwin Vinson and Max Vinson. She is also preceded by several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at Riverbend Baptist Church with the Reverends Roy Lowe and Brian Holland officiating. Burial followed at Highlands Memorial Park. Rodney Sanders, Russell Sanders, Nathan Sanders, Luke Sanders, Nicholas Sanders, James Farrish, and Jason Rogers served as pallbearers. Katie Sanders and Emily Sanders served as honorary pallbearers.

The family would like to thank the folks who helped take care of her when she went to Grandview Manor. The family would also like to especially thank Moffitt Family Funeral Care for their assistance during this difficult time. Crisp Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



Dickens & Christie are at it again!

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Dreaded Due Diligence and Home Inspections

For a seller and the brokers involved in a sale, there is nothing more dreaded than a home inspection! As part of the due diligence or "investigation" process, a home inspector is contacted, and a date is set to put your home under a giant microscope!

Sometimes I do question what I refer to as "nit-picky" items, such as a light is not working in the garage and the inspector's recommendation of contacting a licensed electrician to investigate when the problem was a burned-out light bulb!

With the issues to be dealt with in the report, the inspector suggests consulting a general contractor when a handy man can do many of the repairs such as a doorknob being loose or the door not closing properly.

As the seller, the typical 35-75 page report can be quite intimidating since the seller has been in the home for many years without an awareness of the issues addressed in the report. With that said, if something in the home isn't working the way it is intended to work, it is the seller's responsibility to have it repaired – not the buyers.

I do have an issue with the inspector who writes that the appliances are "near the end of their life" when the appliances are working properly at the time of the sale. Is he an appliance guy who repairs them?...no! He is going by the ages of them. The buyer is savvy enough to know the age of the home and knows that eventually they will need to be replaced. Items not working are the responsibility of the seller to repair or replace or, to save time, a credit can be agreed upon and is part of the settlement at closing.

On the other hand, if the inspector smells a musty odor, it is not automatically considered mold. That word conjures up fears of breathing in toxins, which is not necessarily the case.

We are in a rainforest and moisture is part of our environment, which contributes to our cool summers that attract thousands of tourists and second-home buyers. This hysteria has led to inspectors recommending encapsulation which is a costly process that covers areas underneath the home with heavy plastic, sealing the floors



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Cell: 828-200-9179
Pat Allen Realty Group

and walls and adding a commercial dehumidifier to control the moisture that seeps into the home causing the musty smell.

So, then the question becomes: "Whose responsibility is it to pay for it?"

The seller can say the smell has never bothered him and he is not going to pay thousands to do this and does not consider it a "repair." So as a buyer, don't automatically expect an encapsulation to be paid for by the seller. Everything is negotiable but don't make this a deal breaker.

As far as updating, the bathrooms with low sinks covered in cultured marble is not a defect but simply a cosmetic issue that buyers can change if they desire. The same goes for kitchens with Formica we all once loved! It is not a defect. Buyers should not expect sellers to come down thousands of dollars for any cosmetic issues, including paint colors.

As brokers, we list a house "as-is," as the contract language states. Assuming the seller will lower the price by thousands is not always feasible. But on the other hand, items in the home should be in working order. If you don't use your home very often, I recommend getting a home inspection prior to listing it so you aren't blindsighted by the inspection the buyer presents to you, leaving you in a predicament where you don't have time to make repairs prior to closing. As always, the best transactions should be "win-win" transactions, not "winner take all."

• Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is certified in Resort and Second home properties. She chooses to remain an independent firm and her firm was recently selected to join Leading Real Estate Companies of the World and Luxury Portfolio International. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau and she and her daughter, Julie Osborn, were the TOP SALES TEAM in Highlands for 2020. Visit her on the web at www.patallenrealtygroup.com, call 828-526-8784, or 828-200-9179 to speak to her. The main office is conveniently located at 295 Dillard Road with a second location at 5121 Cashiers Road at the entrance to Wildcat Cliffs Country Club with Julie Osborn as Broker-in-Charge.

On-line Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

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. Due to Covid 19, In Person open A.A. meetings are suspended, but On Line meetings can be found @ www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.



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...EASES continued from page 1

remain with them overnight. Outpatient surgery patients may have one visitor.

ER patients at Angel Medical Center, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Mission Hospital

McDowell, and Transylvania Regional Hospital may have two visitors with them.

However, due to the high number of patients continuously being cared for at the Mission Hospital ER in Asheville, patients

may only have one visitor with them.

Eckerd Living Center is allowing two masked, socially distanced visitors for a maximum of 30 minutes, pre-scheduled in the lobby or outside during normal business hours. Call 828-526-1316 for an appointment.

CarePartners locations will allow two visitors per patient, during regular visitor hours.

Patients who are hospitalized overnight may now have one visitor remain with them overnight.

Mission Health physician practices throughout the system are allowing one visitor per patient. This may vary by practice and circumstances.

There are no changes in visitation policy regarding COVID-19 patients: visitors will not be allowed for COVID-19 positive patients or for patients awaiting a COVID-19 test result.

Hospital staff have been supplied with iPads to facilitate FaceTime and Skype visits to help

connect families and loved ones with patients.

Screenings and access restrictions are still in place at all Mission Health locations, regional hospitals and CarePartners.

Mission Health continues to use established protocols to care for patients with infectious diseases and follows CDC guidelines related to COVID-19 cases, including isolating the patients and taking steps to ensure the safety of patients, employees and visitors.

Here are some of the areas in which the governor has relaxed North Carolina's COVID-19 restrictions:

- Stay-at-home order and curfew. A 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. statewide curfew terminates at 5 a.m. Friday.

- Alcohol sales. Starting Friday, alcohol sales for on-site consumption are allowed from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. They had been stopped at 9 p.m.

- Private bars. Bars can have indoor seating again starting at 5 p.m. Friday. The new rule allows them to operate at no more than 30% capacity or 250 people, per

room, whichever is smaller. Their outdoor seating continues to be capped at 30%.

- Indoor venues for sports, music, etc. These have a 30%, or 250 people (whichever is smaller), maximum capacity. Indoor venues with more than 5,000 seats may operate at up to 15% capacity.

- Outdoor venues for sports, concerts, etc. They may operate at 30% capacity, provided they have no more than 7 guests per every 1,000 square feet.

- Mass gatherings. The indoor limit on how many people may be gathered together increases from 10 to 25. The outdoor limit remains at 50 people.

Despite the positive news, officials cautioned that variants of the virus could pose a unique threat as the state eases restrictions.

Gov. Cooper urges citizens to continue to wear masks, even after being vaccinated, to maintain social distancing and to wash hands regularly.

"We are still not out of the woods," he said.

Highlands School Kindergarten Registration is Friday, March 12

On March 12, Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin, for parents only, at 10 am in the school's cafeteria. Children who reach the age of 5 on or before August 31, 2021 are eligible for admission into the Class of 2034. No children should attend the registration.

Registration packets can be picked up at Highlands School or at Highlands Community Child Development Center. All forms in the registration packet (except the Health Assessment Transmittal Form), need to be completed and returned on March 12th. The Health Assessment Transmittal Form should be completed and turned in to the school by Aug. 1.

In addition to the registration documents, the following items should be presented at registration on March 12th for photocopying:

1. Certificate of Immunizations (School must have within 30 days from the start of school). Students without a complete Certificate of Immunizations presented within

30 days from the start of school will be placed on administrative suspension until in compliance.

2. Certified Birth Certificate (must present original, certified birth certificate. No copies or "un-certified" birth certificates will be accepted).

3. Proof of Residency.

4. If you are not the biological parent of the child enrolling, and/or there is a custody agreement in place, please provide any legal documents you have giving you authority to enroll the child (i.e., custody papers, name change documentation, adoption papers or educational domicile affidavits).

The faculty and staff look forward to meeting you. Please feel free to call us at 526-2147 should you have any questions.

Please allow about an hour for Kindergarten Registration.

Due to COVID restrictions parents uncomfortable coming on Registration Day, can call the school at 828-526-2147 to make an appointment to register.



It's Precinct Meeting time!

Wednesday, March 17th from 5-6 pm.

The Highlands Democratic Precinct is meeting via ZOOM or phone.

Democratic and Unaffiliated voters are welcome.

Email maconncdems@gmail.com or call (828) 349-3113 for a Zoom link or if you prefer, a phone number to call.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

I Saw You



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I saw you the other day,
you didn't know I was watching.
I saw you speaking kindly
to the tired cashier at the store.

Others had shown some impatience,
some were distracted on their phones.
But you took time, you listened.
I saw your smile, and the cashier's too!

I saw you the other day,
though I don't think you noticed.
You offered encouragement to the waiter
who had just been chastised by others.

The soup had been too cold, I guess,
or the porridge was too hot.
Either way, the waiter was not having a good day,
until you happened by.

I didn't hear everything you said,
but your words were caring, patient, kind.
You must have left a very generous tip.
I'm pretty sure I saw the waiter wipe a tear.

I saw you the other day,
you didn't know I knew,
that your kindness made a difference,
your generosity did, too.

Life's about encounters,
some are big and some are small.
And we seldom know the stories
where our shadows briefly fall.

But watching you the other day,
I remembered something grand.
That sometimes just the smallest grace,
helps weary legs to stand.

I saw you the other day,
and you may never know,
how the impact of your goodness
will flourish, spread and grow.

And if our paths should cross again,
you may not see my face.
Just count me with the unseen eyes,
searching for signs of grace.

Proverbs 3:5

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

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

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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required) Early Worship Service; 11:15am (masks optional)

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

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

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

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

Wed: Choir: 6p

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John 3:16

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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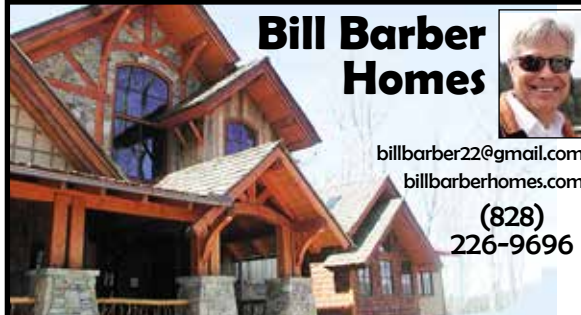
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED **AT POSH PAWS**

Posh Paws Pet Spa in Highlands, NC is now hiring full-time, part-time, and seasonal dog bathers. Our business hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 9a-5p, and we will be doing open interviews Tuesday-Friday from 10a-3p. We are not open in the evenings or on holidays, so you can expect to be able to enjoy those times with loved ones.

Have you ever been interested in working with animals or trying something new but weren't sure how to get into the animal care industry? Working as a dog bather may be the job for you! This is an entry level position that requires no prior experience. Fast advancement opportunities are available through our self-paced, paid, one-on-one apprenticeship. This is a great opportunity to learn a trade skill without accumulating educational debt! All of our employees (including the owners of the business) have started their dog grooming careers as a bather.

Dog bathers must be willing to learn and take constructive criticism. We currently employ a wonderful group of people that works well as a team, so being a team player is a must. Drama will not be tolerated. A love for dogs and a high level of patience is also required. Attention to detail is a necessity as we never want to send home a dog that isn't 100% clean.

This job does require standing for long periods of time and heavy lifting with help. The bather must be able to wash, rinse, and dry up to 8 large dogs per day plus small dogs.

Daily duties will include bathing and blow drying the dogs, assisting the groomers when needed, and completing daily as well as weekly cleaning routines to keep our salon looking and smelling nice.

Still not sure if this would be the right job for you? Please give us a call at 828-526-9581 with any additional questions about the position or come by to take a quick no-obligation tour before applying. We look forward to hearing from you!

ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING is looking for part time help. Call or stop by 828-526-5404. (st. 3/11)

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC - \$500 sign on bonus for FT Bellman, Housekeeping, Dishwasher! Now recruiting for Houseman, Turndown Attendants, Overnight House-

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AT ELEVATIONS - part or full time sales associate. Great pay, retail experience preferred, friendliest store in town. Please call 828-371-2582 (st. 2/18)

CASTING CALL! The Highlands Playhouse is reopening and we are looking for talented and committed team members in a variety of roles. Leadership and box office staff positions are available (both full and part-time). Experience in business management/customer service and an interest in the arts is a must! The Highlands Playhouse is an 83 year old institution offering movies year-round and live entertainment in the Summer and Fall. Please send resumes and inquiries to HighlandsPlayhouse@gmail.com (st. 2/18)

THE SUMMER HOUSE BY REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN HIGHLANDS is looking for full and part time sales and administrative positions. Sales — must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and customer service experience preferred. Design Assistant — must be attentive to detail, have computer and organizational skills. Duties include placing and following up on Purchase Orders, managing accounts, and working closely with our in-house Designer and design clients. Apply in person at 2089 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 2874. (2/25)

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)

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT Now open for the season. 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)

SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC. Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

WANTED FULL HOUSE GALLERY in Highlands Plaza is accepting CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE. Please call or text Susan at 828-526-6004. (st. 3/19)

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GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 9/17/20)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEY-IN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

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POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

Highlands Police entries from Feb. 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Feb. 28

• At 1:20 p.m., officers responded to a motor vehicle accident in the parking lot of the Blue Bike off Carolina Way.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 1.

March 1

• At 3:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hapoldt Drive.

• At 5:29 p.m., the dept. was called to investigate smoke on Shortoff Road.

March 2

• At 1:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hill Road.

• At 9:22 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers at a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

March 4

• At 12:21 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke on Holt Road.

March 5

• At 5:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Larkspur Lane.

March 7

• At 7:05 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Church Street.

• At 9:17 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Westview Way.

March 8

• At 2:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

March 9

• At 6:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Church Street.

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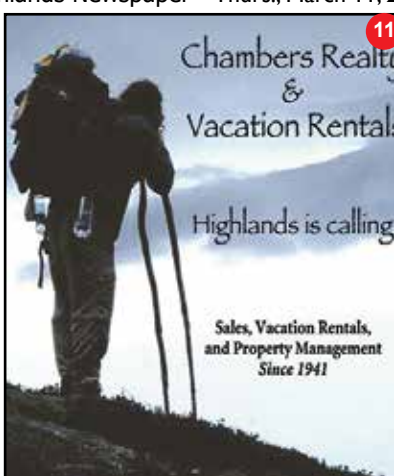


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