

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 18, 2021

Sanitation Dept. is hot topic at retreat

Keeping the Sanitation Department in the black has always been a challenge for the town. Of its three enterprise funds – electric, water/sewer and sanitation – sanitation always needs a transfer

of funds from an unreserved fund balance to break even.

“We lose money every year without transferring funds,” said Treasurer Rebecca Shuler at last Thursday’s retreat.

Ideas to get the department in the black included cutting residential pickup to one time a week instead of two, going out of the trash business, raising rates across the

• See **SANITATI**’ION page 6

NC DOT Paving Project begins on Main St.



NC DOT’s paving project started Monday night with crews milling a small portion of Main at 1st Street until rain closed them down. Tuesday was rained out but it stopped temporarily early Wednesday morning so crews returned to that area to finish the milling. The plan was to mill at night and return the next day to pave, but rain has altered plans. After the 1st to 2nd block is completed, crews will move down block by block over the coming days, weather permitting, with milling at night and paving during the day.

– Photo by Brian O’Shea

Chamber prepares for 2021 and beyond

At the Town Board annual retreat last Thursday, one of the last presentations was by Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Kaye McHan.

She outlined results of the Chamber’s annual retreat which took place in February during which the board further delineated the Chamber of Com-

merce’s and Visitor Center’s mission statements and purpose and spoke about the future of tourism in Highlands once COVID is contained.

“We have two different funding sources so basically we run two different businesses which is the way we distinguish what we do with the funds we receive,” she

said.

The Chamber is funded with membership dues and the Visitor Center, now dubbed Visit Highlands NC is funded through occupancy tax dollars which all accommodations must levy.

The occupancy tax in Macon County is 3% of the accommoda-

• See **CHAMBER** page 10

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Capital Improvement wish list includes Rec Park additions

Philanthropy in Highlands is historic.

Joining Jane Woodruff, who helped make Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Highlands Civic Center a reality as well as paving the way for a Fire & Rescue complex, among other things, are Art and Angela Williams and families and businesses in Highlands who donate money but also offer in-kind services.

Now an anonymous family

has stepped up to flesh out Highlands’ recreation offerings.

At Thursday’s Town Board retreat, Recreation Director Lester Norris said a family has offered \$31,000 to expand the existing playground at the park.

“Basically, they want to add two more units to what is already there ... expand the current area down the embankment and to add a new area on the other side

• See **REC PARK** page 8

WCU student employees of High Hampton Resort get tuition reimbursement

It began as small conversations regarding the possibility of Western Carolina University establishing an internship program with High Hampton resort in Cashiers.

Little did Kenny Jordan, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism in WCU’s College of

Business, know the magnitude of what those discussions would result in – a partnership establishing the High Hampton Educational Assistance Plan.

Through the plan, High Hampton is looking to employ up

• See **HIGH HAMPTON** page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The trick is balancing preservation and progress

Ran Shaffner, the architect emeritus for the Highlands Historical Society, wrote an interesting article in the February March Plateau Magazine. It is entitled, "Allowing the Soul to Bloom."

My friend Alice Nelson shared the piece with me. I found it very informative as we develop a new community comprehensive plan and grapple with pressures of growth and expansion.

Dr. Shaffner writes:

"Growth looms more destructive in a village than in a metropolis, where it is far less noticed. To argue that a town, which doesn't grow, will die is to disregard deaths from overgrowth. The high cost of too much growth in a small town is not so much financial as human. The stakes are higher in a town like Highlands than for larger cities, whose residents visit for love of what makes it different rather than what duplicates life back home. The hope for Highlands' future lies in preserving its natural and human



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

qualities, its innate beauty and humanity.

I find myself agreeing with Ran about the future of Highlands and the plateau. A motto I have embraced over the years has been "to balance preservation and progress." Progress does not imply ever expanding growth. Preservation has many dimensions, not just preservation of this beautiful environment. Shaffner points out we need to preserve our human capital also. The community needs an ongoing conversation as to how this dynamic between change and constancy develops.

I witnessed the value of our humanity in this community over and over this winter. This past Sunday, another event was put on by the Highlands Cashiers Vaccination Clinic at the Highlands Recreation Center. I was again gratified to see such a tremendous volunteer effort in vaccinating almost 1,000 people.

As a volunteer I found myself empathizing with everyone getting vaccinated. Regardless of our status in life, I again realized we are all connected to one another in mutual support and concern. We are at our best as a community when we help our neighbors in time of need and distress like what we have endured this past year.

Highlands is a caring community of volunteers that responds to those needs. We can't afford to lose this invaluable human asset. We can't afford to lose this core of residents who love to live, work and serve this community. What will we really accomplish if we sacrifice this human, caring resource for only expanded monetary gain? While preserving the natural beauty of the plateau is essential, preserving our humanity actually goes hand in hand in a broader preservation vision.

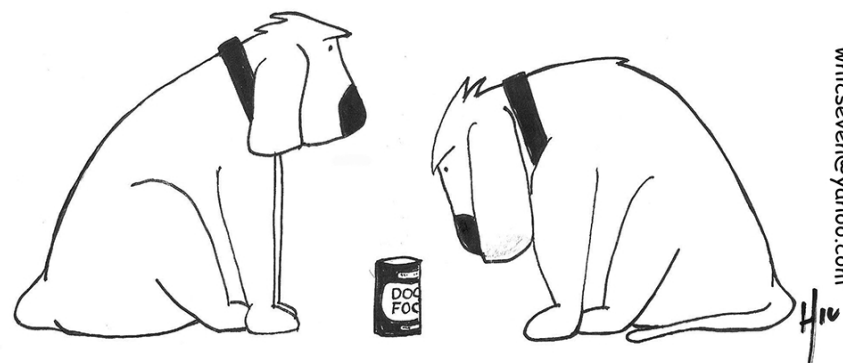
Our town retreat last week identified a long list of needs that require funding. The most critical needs will be included in the forthcoming budget. Other important needs will remain as top priorities for subsequent budgets. The board will have to make difficult decisions between now and July.

The March Highlands Town Board Meeting will be in person tonight at the

Highlands Conference Center. It will begin at 7 pm. There will also be a ZOOM option, but public comment will be done in person. A person wishing to make a

comment can come to the start of the meeting, make a comment and then leave. Masks and social distancing will be observed at the meeting.

• HIC'S VIEW •



whicseven@yahoo.com

"Face it Chuck. Our lizard brain has been circumvented by the American dog food industrial complex."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 18-Mar	Fri, 19-Mar	Sat, 20-Mar	Sun, 21-Mar
62°F 38°F	50°F 24°F	50°F 27°F	55°F 34°F
T-storms, some severe; breezy	Mostly cloudy	Sunny	Plenty of sunshine
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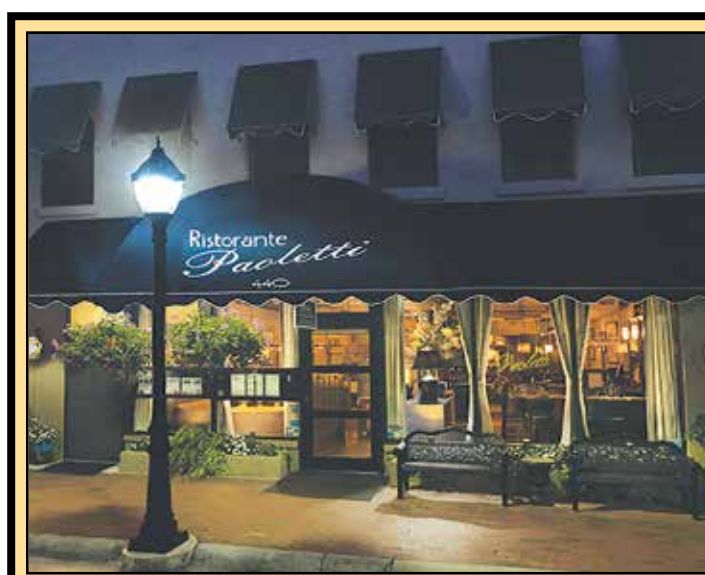
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• OBITUARIES •

Sandra Duane Parr

Sandra Duane Parr, 72 of Cullowhee, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Born in Tampa, FL, she was the daughter of the late JD and Doris Marquart Hughes. Sandra was a retired schoolteacher in FL and was the owner of The Bird Barn and Gift Emporium in Cashiers, NC. She loved reading and studying her Bible, cooking, and

watching cooking shows. Mrs. Parr was a member of Community Bible Church in Cashiers, NC.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Leroy Daniel Parr, Jr; daughter Jaime Duane Jones (Durl) of Banner Elk, NC; son, Leroy Daniel Parr III (Patty) of Cullowhee, NC; and one brother, Douglas Charles Hughes of Tampa, FL. Also surviving are eight grandchildren, who she

loved and adored.

In following Mrs. Parr's wishes, the family will not be having any services at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to TSI, PO Box 1566, Newland, NC 28657, Reference, Sandra Parr.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Billy Ray Nix

Billy Ray Nix (Bill), 83, of Scaly Mountain, North Carolina passed away on March 14, 2021. He was born September 21, 1937 to the late Marvin and Rhoda Nix.

Bill was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was preceded in death by two brothers, John Marvin Nix, Jr. (Junior) and Richard Nix. He is survived by his wife, Jean Nix, and his two children, Curtis Nix and Judy Marchman (Ben). He is also survived by his three grandchildren: Michael Nix,



Sam Nix, and Ashley Marchman.

Bill was a lifelong resident of Scaly Mountain, NC. He worked with the US Forest Service until his retirement, where he worked mostly with timber. He loved to be outdoors and in the woods. His favorite pastimes were hunting and fishing. He was an avid gardener, and he had the most beautiful garden every year.

Bill also loved to listen to gospel and bluegrass music, watch old Westerns on the TV,

and spend time with his friends and family. Bill was a member of Battle Branch Baptist Church in Clayton, GA and loved the Lord very much.

The funeral service was at Battle Branch Baptist Church Wednesday, March 17 with Pastor Madison McCrackin and Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial followed at the Methodist Cemetery in Scaly Mountain, NC.

Per Covid-19 guidelines, masks and social distancing will be required at the service.

Hunter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. An online obituary and register is available www.hunterfuneralhome.ga.com

...SANITATION continued from page 1

board, raising rates only for weekend pickups in the commercial district, raising rates just for those businesses that need extra trash pickup on the weekends, charging Vacation Rentals and AirBnBs the commercial rate for pickup, and finally finding a place for a "convenience" center where residents and businesses can take their trash in between pickups.

"No one does residential pickup two times a week anywhere," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "They just do one time, so we need to look at that option, too."

Town Manager Josh Ward said going out of the trash business was a possibility, but he was certain residents and businesses wouldn't be happy because they

wouldn't get the same level of service at the price at which they are accustomed. Commissioner Patterson said maybe an outside contractor would just pick up the business district, but Ward said he didn't know if it would be worth their while.

Though increasing fees across the board has been the answer in the past, Commissioner Patterson said residential customers already subsidize commercial customers, so she didn't want to jump the gun on raising rates.

"Let's figure out a more effective and efficient way to do this instead of raising rates. The commercial tonnage of FY '19-'20 is almost exactly the same so something is off, and we have already spent the entire amount allocated

for overtime for '20-'21 in half a year."

Just raising commercial rates or just raising rates for those businesses that need more pickups than others was also considered, as was charging Vacation Rentals/VRBOs or AirBnBs as commercial entities.

But Ward said they had learned that it is unlawful to require Vacation Rentals/VRBOs or AirBnBs to register which means there isn't a documented way to segregate them from residential customers.

Police Chief Andrea Holland and Officer Leah McCall said there really hasn't been an issue with the Vacation Rental market as to not complying with bear-

• See SANITATION page 7

...SANITATION continued from page 6



Changes in procedures are aimed at bringing the Sanitation Department into the black.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

proof trash cans and overflowing trash.

There have been a few instances, but Officer McCall said people comply after one visit and she hasn't had to issue any fines for anything regarding trash.

Finding a place in town for a "convenience center" is discussed annually, but no one wants one in their back yard.

"Where could we put a convenience center without a huge outcry? As good as an idea is, we still have to figure out how it would work," said Commissioner Patterson.

Acknowledging that the main reason for the department deficit is due to overtime, Public Works Director Lamar Nix said the day before the retreat he had made changes in the department to offset the overtime hours logged particularly in the commercial arena.

He said he has stopped cardboard pickup in the business district, has stopped personnel in other departments — many who make a higher hourly wage — from logging overtime in the sanitation department

and limited sanitation employees to four hours of overtime on a weekend.

In addition, Department Head Larry Houston is supplying a list of businesses that consistently need more pickups than others particularly on weekends, in case the town wants to charge them more. Nix said part of the problem is certain businesses have a need for more pickups due to a lack of capacity and some don't have space for increased capacity.

In that case commissioners said an increase just for them would just be "the cost of doing business."

In the end, commissioners agreed to collect and go over the data before making sanitation department rate changes for FY '21-'22.

"Let's not overreact. In one year, let's see if Lamar's new policy works and then if necessary, let's consider targeting rate increases rather than raising rates across the board," said Commissioner Patterson.

— Kim Lewicki

Upcoming Events at

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Bluegrass Brunch

March 21, April 11 and April 25th
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...HIGH HAMPTON continued from page 1

to 50 students from both WCU and Southwestern Community College for a variety of positions paying between \$12 and \$15 per hour.

Students working a minimum of 800 hours during a calendar year in which they were enrolled in school will be reimbursed up to \$2,650 per semester – no more than \$5,250 in a calendar year – for qualified educational expenses, including tuition, fees and books.

Those working a minimum of 500 hours during a calendar year while enrolled will be reimbursed up to \$1,312.50 per semester -- no more than \$2,625 a calendar year -- for qualified educational expenses, including tuition, fees and books.

“This program is a great example of the partnerships our faculty forge with businesses and community organizations across Western North Carolina,” WCU Provost Richard Starnes said. “It has important and tangible benefits for both our students and High Hampton resort.”

High Hampton is also providing free shuttle service from WCU and SCC to its property. Currently, more than 30 students have taken advantage of the program, which could reach a maximum payout from High Hampton of \$250,000 to students.

Participants in the plan must achieve a “B” or better grade-point average, or a “pass” grade for classes that are on a pass/fail scale.

Jordan said they also are working closely with WCU’s Center for Career and Professional Development to promote the reimbursement plan and help prepare students for the interview process.

“Although Hospitality majors may see a very direct correlation to their future career paths, all students, from any major -- accounting to business -- will see processes, culture and management in a real-world scenario -- all of which can help shape their careers and perspectives,” said High Hampton General Manager Scott Greene.

Specific jobs that need filling are in food services, guest services, housekeeping and others.

Jones said the goal of the program is to provide all interested students with the

opportunity to work and gain employment experience.

“We see value for students in every position, providing skills and onsite experience through company culture, processes, management and job skills. Housekeeping, in particular, can help students learn time management and attention to detail, while improving and developing their interpersonal and communication skills,” said Greene.

Whereas many hospitality companies in the area are going overseas to recruit workers, Greene said the purpose of the program is simply about finding the best team members.

“We know that the energy students can bring to a property, as well as the intimate

knowledge of the region, customs, and culture, will help High Hampton provide an even more authentic experience for our guests,” he said.

WCU has a notable hospitality and tourism school, so Greene said the partnership was a perfect natural fit.

“The reputation for quality education, its relationships with their students, and the school’s location really made Western Carolina University the perfect partner for High Hampton,” Greene said. “Together, we will help create meaningful career movement for students, while providing support for their educational journey.”

Both WCU and SCC saw the benefits of helping students find both year-round and seasonal employment that could provide flexibility to accommodate schedules.

For High Hampton, attracting quality candidates who had ambition for success and growth was important.

Greene said High Hampton is always hiring and certainly won’t stop if great people are applying.

High Hampton is a renowned luxury resort located in scenic Cashiers. Its property includes an inn, a private lake, restaurants, a spa, an 18-hole golf course and tennis courts.

For more information about the High Hampton Educational Assistance Plan, contact Jordan at kjordanjr@wcu.edu, or Theresa Cruz Paul, director of the Center for Career and Professional Development at 828-227-7133 or tcpaul@wcu.edu.



...REC PARK continued from page 1

of the skate park where the picnic table is now.”

Norris said the family has pledged another \$20,000 to be hopefully augmented with a local fundraising campaign.

With a Town Board squarely behind recreation facilities in town as well as enormous financial aid from Art & Angela Williams who helped fund the interior renovation of the Civic building as well as renovations to the pool house, creation of the skating rink, and work at the ball field, recreation facilities in Highlands have never looked better.

Since the annual Town Board retreat is where department heads present their capital improvement wish list, Norris laid out his wishes.

First, he said the outdoor bathrooms are pretty decrepit and since they have been getting a lot of use with the skatepark opened and the tennis courts revamped, it’s time for them to be totally renovated.

He asked for \$75,000 to remodel the bathrooms and the playground. Donated funds would replace what the town might spend on the playground project.

Also on his list, is the Houston House on Foreman Road which is being used for the Rec Dept.’s after school and summer camp programs.

Again, this is a structure that has outlived its original purpose ... that of a modest Highlands home.

In its place, he suggested an 8,000 sq. ft. multi-purpose building that could be used for the same after-school and camp

programs but also much more.

“We renovated and re-allocated space in the Civic Center but now we need more space for other things,” he said.

Additional uses for the multi-purpose building would include birthday parties, family reunions, meetings, fitness classes, clinics, pickleball during inclement weather, and basketball.

He said ideally the structure would include a classroom, kitchen, restrooms, a recreation room/gym, storage area, and should include video, music and speaking capabilities as well as handicap parking on site.

The price tag is a hefty -- \$2 to 2.4 million.

He asked that the money for the conceptual plan by Architect Paul Schmitt of \$33,000-\$36,000 be budgeted for FY 2021-’22. If the town decides to move forward with the project, then that cost will be deducted from the cost of the architectural plans of \$165,000 to \$180,000.

Norris also requested new lights for the ballfield which would cost \$265,000-\$275,000. They would be 20-30 feet lower so as not to overflow into area neighborhoods and they would consist of the latest lighting technology.

He also said \$25,500 was needed to remove and replace pavilion pads on the pavilions below the playground.

No capital expense decisions were made at the retreat, but Rec Park items were added to the list.

– Kim Lewicki

HS Middle School beats Swain 10-1



Jim de la Cruz de Dios goes all out at Middle School season-opener game at Swain. Highlands won 10-1..
–Photo by Brian O’Shea

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

QTR: Quality Time Remaining

A few years ago, clients and friends introduced me to their acronym: QTR which stands for "Quality Time Remaining." This acronym becomes increasingly important as the years go on here on The Plateau. Each year, I meet dear clients who become friends. They are very conscious of how they want to spend their QTR with family, friends and activities. It is our job as real estate brokers to help newcomers decide if this area is the best place for them to spend their QTR. Here are the reasons that convince many folks to make this their home:



Jody Lovell
Highlands Sotheby's
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Atlanta, for example, the quick two-hour commute allows us to stay connected to our children, grandchildren and old friends while providing us an opportunity to meet new friends from all over the world.

6. Medical Facilities. With the new partnership with Mission Hospital in Asheville, we are fortunate to have medical facilities with its excellent medical staff in our community.

7. Air and Water Quality.

Water is the new "gold" with many parts of the country continually in drought. The pristine mountain water with an average of 90 inches of rain per year should never be taken for granted. The EPA evaluates areas by the Air Quality Index (AQI). This index is on a scale of 500-0 with 0 being the best air quality. This area is rated 39 which is in the very top range of good air quality.

8. Safety and Crime. When the most common incident in the police reports is "barking dog reported," you know that you are living in one of the safest spots in this crazy world.

9. Traffic. Driving behind a slow driver in the season is annoying, but getting "stuck" in traffic and wasting years of your

life just does not happen here.

10. Investors like YOU. The commitment of homeowners to support the community with its five-star restaurants, the art scene and the fabulous shops that we have supports the economy and vibrancy of this bucolic paradise.

May we all grow old together while enjoying our QTR in one of the most special places on Earth.

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HS girls varsity beat Swain 4-1



HS High School freshman Mackenzie Woods is on the ball at the season kick-off game at Swain.
— Photo by Biran O'Shea



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The Dry Sink Main St. Highlands, NC

...CHAMBER continued from page 1

tion rate. The money is sent to the county which keeps track of the money generated. After the county takes a handling fee, the money is sent back to the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Centers through the local Tourism Development Authority in the municipalities from which it was generated.

New mission statements were formulated during the Chamber retreat because the entities are different.

"We felt it was important for us to have statements to keep in mind what the mission is we are trying to accomplish and to make our decisions off of that," said McHan.

The Chamber's mission, which is Member-dues driven is "strive to enhance and promote economic vitality and quality of life in the Highlands community."

The vision accompanying that is: "to be the most valuable resource forging partnerships between businesses and residents for prosperity while preserving the uniqueness of Highlands."

The mission for Visit Highlands NC, which is funded with occupancy tax money, "is to promote tourism and travel to Highlands for the economic benefit of all."

The vision is "to be a year-round destination for those seeking an authentic leisure experience that makes the most of the area's resources and unique culture."

All together the value of the Chamber and Visit Highlands NC is to maintain the brand and integrity, and to operate as a research-driven organization to preserve the unique culture of Highlands.

"It's about the data and finding the proof for what we are trying to do," said McHan. "And ultimately to preserve what makes Highlands unique -- the value of our small town and the reason we all moved here. It's important to protect that and maintain it."

Though throughout the nation, the hardest hit enterprise during COVID is tourism, Highlands totally missed the bullet, said McHan. "We really lucked out."

According to statistics, the two kinds of places that profited off the COVID year are small mountain resort areas and beach areas.

"Those are the only ones that are coming out of this on the positive side as far as tourism is concerned," she said. "Nationally, the highest unemployment rate is in tourism. Elsewhere in the nation the tourism industry is dying. Highlands really lucked out."

McHan said what has helped Highlands is the demographic of the people who traveled here, and the Chamber wants to make sure that continues.

According to McHan, the demographic of people who come to Highlands and who came during COVID are those in the 75th percentile economically. She said they normally take luxury cruises, stay in luxury hotels, go to Broadway shows, major sports events, and travel internationally. But in 2020 that wasn't the case.

"In 2020, they had none of that. So instead, they drove to Highlands. And why not? It's an amazing place. During 2020, those with the means took day trips, short get-aways, drive-to destina-

tions. That's us. That's the places they went to and will continue to go to if they choose to travel," she said.

Already 2021 is looking good. "2021 is opening up. We have had more traffic during our slower months. Vaccines are happening, so people are getting a little more comfortable. Still not going international -- that's still a ways out, so they will still come here."

Occupancy tax proceeds from July 1, 2020 through January 30, 2021 have already surpassed the total amount of occupancy tax dollars for the previous fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 and FY '19-'20 was already 14% higher than FY '18-'19.

The total occupancy tax proceeds for FY 2019-2020 was 755,964.54. The total for July 1, 2020 through Jan. 2021 is already \$844,595.57 -- and the fiscal year doesn't end until June 30, 2021.

What has McHan and the Chamber board concerned is what happens if Highlands loses the echelon of visitors it has enjoyed and profited from since everything began opening up May of 2020?

"In April when we only got \$178 in occupancy tax, that was a wake-up moment. What happens if we lose our visitors?" she said.

Of course, the opposite happened, but worried about high-earners vacationing elsewhere once everything opens up worldwide, the Chamber has its eye on the future saying that's why it's important to keep marketing Highlands as a great place to live and visit.

"This is not a permanent change," said McHan to the Town Board. "I wish I could tell you the town will be getting that much sales tax every year, but it won't. The dip will probably come in 2022-'23 when people become comfortable going out around the world. We need to work on replacing the audience we are going to lose."

Year-to-date sales tax proceeds for July 1-Jan. 2021 is \$671,896.46 -- already up \$24,470.77 over February of 2020.

"We will need to replace that group that will likely shift elsewhere, so we need to keep our name out there to the right audience. We are Garden and Gun not Southern Living."

With that in mind, McHan said the Chamber's goal is to strengthen the year-round economy through seasonal marketing with an emphasis on spring and winter because the goal is to keep year-round, steady income coming into town.

Since its inception, Highlands has been a place to rejuvenate. But says, McHan, it's not just a great place to visit, it's a great place to live so what the Chamber does isn't just for visitors.

"It's for us -- concerts, fireworks, parades. It creates a great place to live. So, if we put our money in those things to keep it a great place to live, it makes it a great place to visit."

With hundreds of thousands of dollars at their disposal, the Chamber/Visit Highlands NC will be taking over the flowers and hanging baskets on Main Street. It plans to extend the business district experience with visual clues seen on Main Street -- basically flowers -- to elsewhere in the business district. Hence "Highlands is Blooming," kicks off Mother's Day weekend.

"Visual clues will be a repetition of what's on Main, and this will take people off Main to Carolina Way, Spring Street and elsewhere -- spread them out so Main Street isn't so crowded," she said.

"Meander in May" is Saturday, May 22 where artists, weavers, and musicians will be spread out all over the downtown business district. It will be a great reason to be outside and be in Highlands," she said.

This year, Friday and Saturday outdoor concerts are scheduled May 22-Oct. 31.

"We have a great lineup for this year with the Caribbean Cowboys kicking off of the concert series the night of "Meander in May."

Events slated for 2021

- Plateau Pick Up -- April 17
- Highlands is Blooming -- May 9
- Meander in May -- May 22
- Fri. & Sat. Outdoor Concerts May 22 -- Oct. 31
- July 4th Fireworks and Concert -- July 4
- Halloween On Main -- Oct. 31
- Lighting of the Park and

• See CHAMBER page 11

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'I will make all things new again'

Daylight savings time has arrived. Our days are a bit longer. We have more time in the evening for outside work and play. This extra hour of evening daylight is welcomed by many reminding us that Springtime is almost here.

While the brisk March winds continue to whistle across the Blue Ridge mountain tops and through their valleys and gorges, the warmer days help us to recall the pleasant summer breezes that are just around the corner.

We know that Springtime is arriving as the daffodils break forth from the ground with beautiful golden crowns. We see that the tulips are not far behind, as their greenery pierce the garden soil. The barren trees are beginning to bud.

In due time, we know that the mountains and forests will spring forth into colorful new life. We know that the new life of Springtime is upon us, as the birds awaken and fill the air with joyful and vibrant melodies.

Springtime reminds us that the dead of winter does not have the final say. God has the final say. Springtime reminds us that by God's own grace and love for all of creation, we are given the promise of new and eternal life. God has the final say in our lives and in our world! From the book of Revelation, "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also, he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Rev. 21:5.

As the flowers emerge from winter's cold and hardened soil. As the buds on the trees break forth from their winter tomb. As the birds sing a new song. We see God's finger in action, as all of creation is once again made new.

We give thanks especially this springtime, that these words of promise and hope are true and trustworthy. In all things, God promises each of us, "I will make all things new." Thanks be to God who comes to us through our triune God.

...CHAMBER from page 10

Main -- Nov. 27

- Trim Our Town -- Nov. 27
- Olde Mountain Christmas Parade -- Dec. 4
- Santa in the Park -- Nov 27 -- Dec 24
- New Snow Event coming Jan 2022

The new "snow event," yet to be unveiled, is scheduled for late January.

— Kim Lewicki

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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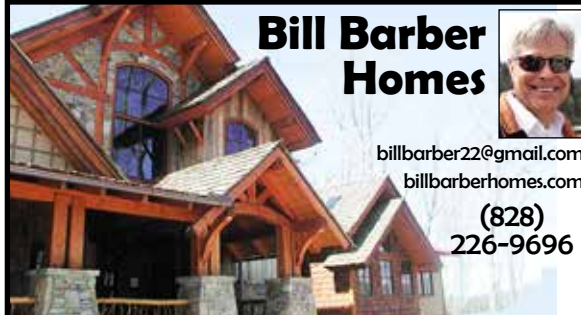


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Have you ever been interested in working with animals or trying something new but weren't sure how to get into the animal care industry? Working as a dog bather may be the job for you! This is an entry level position that requires no prior experience. 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.

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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 March 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 12

• At 7:30 p.m., the theft of a box truck from a storage facility on Pierson Drive was reported.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 9.

March 9

• At 2:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on S. 4th Street.

March 11

• At 1:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Dawn View Court.

• At 7:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

March 13

• At 6:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Songbird Lane.

March 15

• At 4:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

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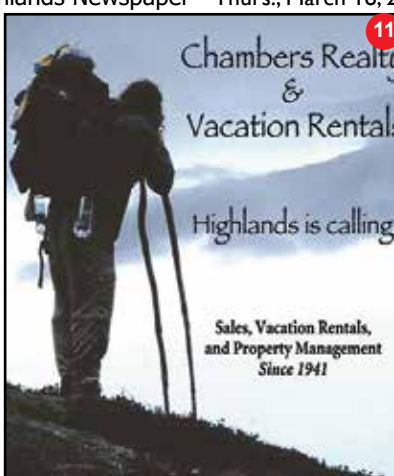
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