

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 43

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Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019

The seven Town Board candidates line up for Q&A number 5

Running for re-election Tuesday, Nov. 5 are Commissioners, John Dotson, Eric Pierson and Brian Stiehler. Opposing them are Marc Hehn, Nick McCall, Michael Rogers and Hank Ross. There are three seats open on the board.

Each candidate has been asked to answer six questions. This week we will feature answers to Question 5 by the candidates in alphabetical order.

Question 5:

What are your opinions con-

cerning beautifying Highlands commercial district with trees or increased lighting?

John Dotson

I am a proponent of a well-planned and thoughtful implementation of some additional trees on Main Street. As with everything, there are a number of considerations with placing more trees on Main, the greatest of which is parking.

While I do not believe we have a "parking problem" per se,

I am in favor of keeping the parking we have. The last proposal for trees on Main Street did not remove any parking spots yet still softened the impact of the large swath of asphalt in the middle of our most utilized area.

With regard to lighting, I am a firm supporter of the "dark skies" initiative proposed years ago by Hank Ross. We are still a spot where people gaze into the sky at night and are in awe of the majesty

• See Q&A page 15

Scholarship Golf Tournament brings in \$19,000



Pictured from left are first-place winners Vance Wood, Gary Drake, Steve Snead-Smith and Ed Loke.

Wildcat Cliffs CC hosted the annual Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament which raised nearly \$19,000 to fund scholarships for graduates of the Highlands School. "We are grateful to the membership at WCCC and General Manager, Jeff Blais, for making this a special annual event. Without their support, the Town's scholarship fund would not be as successful as it has been in recent years. In the nine years that WCCC hosted this event, over \$180,000 in scholarships."

Bob Jones Invitational proceeds to outfit EMS ambulances

New truck stationed in Highlands is outfitted with latest equipment

The 2019 38th Annual Highlands Country Club Bob Jones Invitational Tournament proceeds provided \$145,000 toward the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation access to healthcare, emergency transport initiatives.

This year's fundraiser in-

• See BOB JONES page 23

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Duke Energy rate hike won't affect Highlands

By Brittney Lofthouse

Energy giant Duke Energy Carolinas has requested another rate increase — this time for 6 percent — for residential custom-

ers in Western North Carolina. While the average residential customer may be concerned with how another increase will affect

• See DUKE page 19

HPD officer Tim Fish retires after 30 years



Highlands Police Officer Tim Fish was honored with a retirement party after last week's Town Board meeting. He spent 30 years as a law enforcement officer working in Highlands, Franklin and Macon County. Pictured with Officer Fish is HPD Chief Bill Harrell, his last boss, and his first boss previous Sheriff Homer Holbrook. Endearing stories were told by friends, family and co-workers. Fish ended by telling his comrades to "stay safe." He will finish his 30 years of service Halloween night on Main Street. If you see him, wish him a fond farewell.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Change is in the air!



**Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor**

Fall in Highlands is where more than leaves change. Late October is a time when seasonal residents change locations. Our municipal election on November 5th may portend change in some form or another.

October is also the final Community Coffee with the Mayor for this year. These public, community meetings will resume in March. I want to thank the Hudson Library for its ongoing support by providing a great venue, and all the nonprofits who have sponsored these events. The coffee is tomorrow, Friday, at the library meeting room at 11 am.

The coffee topic will be "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Broadband and the Highlands Fiber Network." Matt Shuler, our GIS Director, and the staff of Altitude Broadband will be there to discuss the new fiber optic network and its community impact. It is a timely topic since when we resume our community coffee series in March, the fiber network will just about be completed and within weeks of being activated.

The Altitude crew will explain how the system will interface with homes and busi-

nesses in Highlands. For example, there will be a number of options for residents to access television through the network. Matt and the crew will have actual equipment for demonstrations.

At last Thursday's Highlands Town Board meeting Justin McVey and Ashely Hobbs from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Department made a presentation on where Highlands stands on becoming a BearWise Community. With

the requirement of the bear-resistant totes for residential garbage pickup going into effect August 1, 2020, Highlands is positioned to become the first BearWise certified community in the state.

We will also have to form a town committee in order to interface with the BearWise program and NC Wildlife Resources. The goal of the committee will be to educate the public about best bear practices and to keep the town updated about the status of the program. Commissioner Brian Steihler will be working with the B.E.A.R. Task Force, the town board and staff in creating this new committee.

After the meeting I talked about our next steps with Justin, a biologist who specializes in bear habitats and related issues. He told me someone had called him to complain that there were significantly less bears in Highlands this year, so, the Mayor

• See **MAYOR ON DUTY** page 9

Expect delays on Gorge Road Monday, Oct. 28

On Monday, October 28 the NCDOT's County Maintenance Department will temporarily close a portion of the Highlands Road while crews remove a dead tree that is hanging over the road near Jackson Hole.

According to David Uchiyama, Communications Director for the Western Region of the DOT, crews will set up a bucket truck to remove the tree to prevent damage to state infrastructure or to motorists. Uchiyama said an official detour will not be established, but motorists are encouraged to use Buck Creek Road if possible.

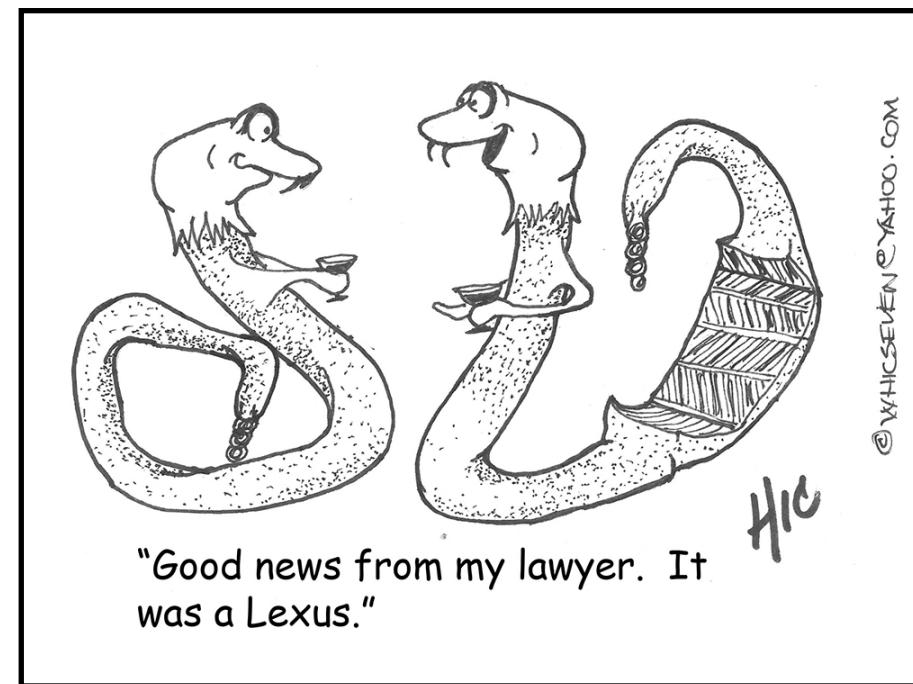
"DOT crews will set up flaggers, but local traffic will be able to travel as usual, with the exception of some delays," said Uchiyama.

The project is expected to begin shortly after 8 a.m., following the peak morning traffic and will last around two hours.

Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Good news from my lawyer. It was a Lexus."

• LETTERS •

Reduced speed limits and paving is appreciated

Dear Editor,

I'd like to publicly thank the Town Board for listening to the concerns of residents by lowering the speed limits in the Mirror Lake area. This issue has been particularly problematic on Hickory Hill Road, where blind curves and road conditions routinely result in close calls or

worse. Although there's no guarantee that lower speed limits will totally solve the problem, that, along with the re-paving project, should make driving in the area safer. Thank you!

Holly and Gary Campbell
Wyanoak Road,
Highlands

• See **LETTERS** page 10

• WEATHER •

Fri, 25-Oct	Sat, 26-Oct	Sun, 27-Oct
57°F 49°F	59°F 54°F	68°F 48°F
Cloudy	A thick cloud cover	Rain possible in the morning
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 59° Low: 48°	High: 58° Low: 51°	High: 68° Low: 59°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather



NEW ON MARKET: Fully furnished and ready to enjoy, this 3BR/3BA condo at Highlands Falls CC has easy access with only one step into the main level and plenty of parking right in front. The owner has enclosed the side deck and made it into a spacious dining room surrounded by glass on three sides giving you the feel of alfresco dining. The great room has cathedral ceilings with a high transom window and a wood burning fireplace with custom built-in cabinetry.

MLS# 92243 | Offered for \$499,000



NEW ON MARKET: This beautiful lakefront home is on Hogback Lake in Sapphire Valley. You'll enjoy the tranquil lake view and the soothing sounds of the cascading stream in the adjoining greenspace. The light-filled main floor allows for one level living with a spacious living room, dining room, kitchen, outdoor deck, and large master bedroom. The upper level has two guest bedrooms and a loft area. Launch your kayaks or fish from your private dock.

MLS# 92240 | Offered for \$425,000

NEW on MARKET & PRICE CHANGES!

PRICE CHANGE: This adorable Highlands CC cottage offers 3BR/3BA, a one-car garage, two stone masonry fireplaces, and wonderful decks. Conveniently located within a short walk to the clubhouse, golf, and the croquet lawns and only minutes away from hiking, golf, canoeing, and fishing. In-town living approximately 1.5 miles to Main St. Highlands shops, restaurants, and festivities. This cottage is also located on the Atlanta side of town and can be a year-round residence.

MLS# 92096 | Was \$925,000 NOW Offered for \$895,000



PRICE CHANGE: Settle into your very own mountain retreat in gated Cross Creek in this luxury 4BR/4BA home with two master suites and an open concept layout. Two stacked stone fireplaces, a screened porch, open deck, and incredible long-range views. Conveniently located a short drive from both Cashiers and Highlands, this home is an entertainer's dream with room for everyone. Cross Creek adjoins national forest land so you can hike from your own back yard.

MLS# 90014 | Was \$795,000 NOW Offered for \$780,000



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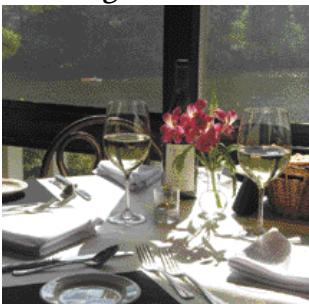


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We're thrilled to announce another wonderful community from Old Edwards Hospitality Group! Located in-town and walkable to all that Highlands has to offer, this property is just over three acres and will include six homes, each on a half-acre lot. The community will be gated and beautifully landscaped to include a common area featuring a pavilion and small pond. Constructed by renowned Highlands builder, Lupoli Construction, this project will exhibit the finest quality, design, and materials. There are two floor plans available including one-level and two-level options, both with three bedrooms and three and a half baths.

- 12-foot ceilings in the great room with wood beams and high baseboards
- Kohler fixtures and stone in kitchens and baths
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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Located on the 11th fairway overlooking the green, you can enjoy the golf and mountain views from the covered, vaulted screened porch. The great room has vaulted, beamed ceilings with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. The home is light and bright as the back faces east and catches the morning sun. The large eat-in kitchen overlooks an entry garden. The kitchen has been updated with new countertops and stainless steel appliances.

MLS# 91526 | Offered for \$500,000

HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Adorable cottage in Highlands Falls Country Club in a very private location on a cul de sac. The home has an older pedigree but has been updated with the addition of a large master suite plus a lower level which features a family room and additional guest quarters. The main level features an updated kitchen with a breakfast bar and opens to the greatroom with stone fireplace. The back deck is large and has a great view. Offered completely furnished - move right in!

MLS# 91516 | Offered for \$398,000



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Come see this cozy home with the prettiest view of all the Golf Villas in Highlands Falls! Overlooking the 10th green, the lakes around the clubhouse and the ridges beyond, the back deck is surrounded by rhododendron. Light and bright inside, there are vaulted, beamed ceilings, gleaming hardwoods, a wet bar and a lovely stone fireplace to provide warmth in the winter months. Offered mostly furnished.

MLS# 90948 | Offered for \$477,000

SHELBY PLACE Exceptionally well-maintained, charming in-town three bed-room/three bath with single car carport located less than a mile from Main Street. Open living/dining area with fireplace. Granite countered kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Two bedrooms on main and master suite on upper level. Large deck surrounded by a canopy of trees for outdoor dining. Lower level could be finished into additional living space. Community clubhouse and tennis court amenities.

MLS# 89855 | Offered for \$395,000



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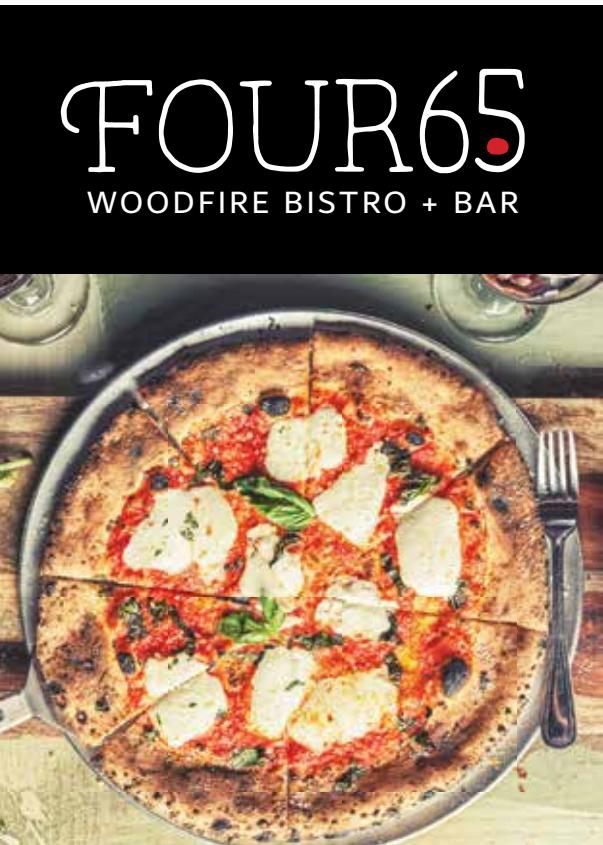
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• OBITUARIES •

Raymond Fairchild

Born in Cherokee, NC, March 15, 1939, Raymond Fairchild began playing the banjo at the age of 18. He died October 13, 2019. A natural entertainer, he was a musician for over six decades entertaining audiences around the world with his unique and individualized style of banjo playing.

Raymond met wife, Shirley in 1965 while playing in Maggie Valley, NC. They settled in Haywood County, NC and raised three children. In 1988, Raymond and his wife, Shirley opened the Maggie Valley Opry House where he performed regularly for over 30 years. Raymond was loved by many and he was a people-person, never meeting a stranger.

Raymond traveled the world sharing his love of music. In the mid-'70s, Raymond found the sound that he always wanted when he began performing with the Crowe Brothers; Josh and Wayne, whom he thought of as sons. In 1977, they performed at the Grand Ole Opry for the first of many times and also performed on numerous television shows throughout the years.

A 5-time world champion banjo player, he was inducted into Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Hall of Fame and he was also voted a member of the Society for the Preservation of Blue Grass Music in America's (SPGMA) "Hall of Greats." Among the numerous albums he recorded, two were awarded Gold Records for his banjo instrumentals and his music is archived in the Smithsonian Institution.

When he wasn't playing his music, Raymond was proud to be a "32nd Degree Master Mason" and an Oasis Shriner. He was a champion and advocate for the Shriners Hospitals for Children and Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Predeceased by his parents Joseph and Mary (Ballew) Fairchild, brothers, Calvin, Herman, Frank and Melvin, and infant son Daniel, he is survived by his beloved wife Shirley (McGaha) Fairchild, daughter, Mary Sue Fairchild, sons John Fairchild (Marlene) and Zane Fairchild and three grandchildren, Hannah Meissner (Dustin), Harper Delia and Jackson Raymond, and sister, Sue Hendley and many nieces and nephews whom he loved.

A memorial service was held at The Stomping Ground in Maggie Valley, NC on Sunday, October 20.

In Raymond's honor and in lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted at the memorial or can be made directly to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Phillip Raymond Elder

Phillip Raymond Elder, 72 of Highlands, NC passed away Monday, October 14, 2019. Phil was born May 16, 1947 in Bradford County, Florida to the late Emmett O. Elder and Cbell Stroud Elder. He enjoyed gardening, home projects, working with Meals on Wheels and Bible Study (Eschatology). He served active duty Navy and retired in Public Education as a Superintendent in Alabama. Phil was a member of The First Baptist Church in Highlands where he served as a Deacon and was a beloved Sunday School Teacher.

Phil is survived by his wife Sharon Mattocks Elder of Highlands, NC. A son, Phillip R. Elder, Jr. (Therese)

•MILESTONE•

Stiehler is headed to Pinehurst for



Highlands Freshman golfer Anna Stiehler competed in the 1A/2A regional golf tournament this weekend. With her 9th place finish out of 64 participants she qualified for the state championship. The state championship will be held at Longleaf Golf Club in Pinehurst October 28 and 29. Way to go Anna! Her proud parents are Brian J. Stiehler and Hilary Stiehler.

...MAYOR ON DUTY continued from page 2

of Highlands must be operating a program to poison the bears. I laughed, and asked Justin if he knew the details of how I had done such a horrible thing? Justin told the caller that there may be a rival hypothesis to the proposition concerning the mayor poisoning the bears. It could be that the town's current initiatives to reduce the bears access

to garbage might just be working. Justin informed me that Highlands is way ahead of other communities in dealing with bears.

I get reports of people consciously feeding bears, which is a bad practice. If anyone sees a person poisoning a bear, or any wildlife, please let NC Wildlife Resources or our police department know.

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...LETTERS continued from page 2

Kudos to the EMTs/H-C Hospital/Mission?

Dear Editor,

I want to extend my appreciation to the two EMTs who came to my rescue about 2am last Monday morning, when I had woken with extreme nausea and severe abdominal pain. They were extremely caring and very professional in delivering me to the H-C hospital emergency room where I was seen immediately by the ER doctor. He and the staff were very attentive, ordered the necessary tests and determined what I already suspected, an acute appendicitis.

The ER physician contacted Franklin and learned that NO surgeon was available. Doesn't speak well for Mission/HCA, does it? (See Bob Wright's letter in last week's paper.)

So, with options of going to Asheville or to the NEGMC in Gainesville, GA it was an easy choice, as I had had an office in Gainesville for some 27 years and was familiar with the facility.

The same two EMTs returned to pick me up again and took wonderful care of me on what was a quick trip to the North East Georgia Medical Center emergency room, protecting me against any delay resulting in a perforation. I was there by 4am and on the table by 7am.

Thanks again to these two great EMTs and to the ER doctor and staff at the H-C hospital.

My thanks also go out to the two Macon County Deputy Sheriffs who were kind enough to rescue my wife, stranded at the hospital as she cannot drive at night, taking her home and walking through and securing the house before leaving.

Bless them all!

Bill Stiefel
Highlands

There is something amiss at our hospital

Dear Editor,

I would like to ditto Bob Wright's letter in the October 10th issue of Highlands Newspaper. It was an articulate and accurate summary of the deplorable and shameful predicament in which all of us find ourselves when it comes to locally available healthcare. When our independent Highlands-Cashiers Hospital sold itself to Mission approximately five years ago, the handwriting on the wall was loud and clear. Now that Mission has sold itself to HCA, the handwriting is now a flashing neon sign. I honestly don't see how this affluent community can continue to thrive without decent medial facilities and with the physicians to go with them.

Also, I must say I do not understand the logic behind the newly formed Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation passing out grants totaling \$1,267,260 less than two weeks ago with a second round coming soon. This large sum of money would be much better spent on hiring doctors (M.D.s) to replace the ones we've lost, in my humble opinion.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

...OBITUARIES continued from page 8

of Cumming, GA and a daughter, Jennifer Elder Ramos (Mike) of Phenix City, AL. Grandchildren, Luke Ramos of Highlands, NC; Nicea-Paule' Elder of Cumming, GA, Imme-Brok Elder of Cumming, GA, Phillip R Vann Elder III of Cumming, GA and Cash Kelly of Phenix City, AL. Brothers; Ken Elder (Marilyn) of Jacksonville, FL, Larry Elder (Susan) of Asheville, NC and Donny Elder (Carolyn) of Kingsley Lake, FL. Brother in law; Louie Mattocks III.

Several cousins, nieces and nephews. Phil is preceded in death by his parents, Emmett and Cbell Elder.

Services for Phil were held Friday, October 18, 2019 at the First Baptist Church in Highlands. Dr. Mark Ford officiated.

The family requests that any gifts, donations, or offerings of love be made to Phil's home church in his honor to First Baptist Church-Highlands.

Thank you!



**The 2018 fiscal year ended on June 30th and we are grateful for your support,
but most importantly – for you!**

Visitors to Macon County spent \$178,370,000 and provided economic support through:

- 1,400 jobs
- Payroll of \$33,040,000
- Sales tax receipts totaling \$7,950,000

Dining, recreation, retail and accommodations keep our economy healthy. Occupancy tax collected from visitors provides you, the individual, a savings of \$606.02 on your taxes as well as free live concerts and numerous community events throughout the year. We cannot do it without you!

We are grateful for your community support and hospitality.

With Appreciation,
The Highlands Chamber of Commerce

Flat Mountain Beauties!



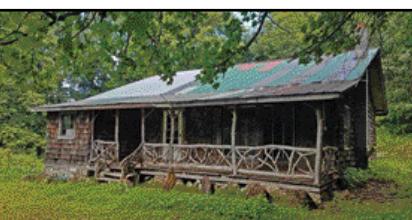
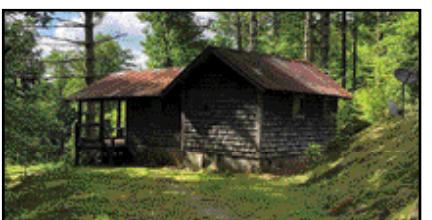
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Some Things Never Change

One of the delightful aspects of selling real estate on this special spot on the planet is glimpsing into the history of Highlands when you visit the older homes. All homes have a story, and if only the walls could talk, we could step back in time to learn what our predecessors were thinking at this time of year.

Actually, the walls did speak to me while showing an older property recently with this poem on the wall, which I think is as relevant today as it was in 1956.



Jody Lovell
Highlands-Sotheby's
828-526-4104
highlandssothebysrealty.com

Farewell

How shall we say it
"Farewell" or "So Long"

If we could sing it
T'would be a sad song
But summer is passing
Fall's in the air
All thoughts of leaving —
These we can't bear

Such a wonderful Summer,
The friends that we've made,
The parties we've gone to
Some merry, some staid
The movies, the lectures,
The mining for jewels,
Hillbilly Day-when we acted
Like fools

The flower show, so lovely,
The "Kentucky High Teas"
The good food at the Inns,
At times such as these
Have made life so pleasant,
We've done as we please!

All things come to an end—
But now as we ponder,
We happen to think and we happen
To wonder
Can we leave just yet?

When we think of the mountains
In colors so high
Guess we'll just change our mind
And here we's sit tight
And not say "farewell" & not say "so
long,"
But wait for the changes
As they come along.

— Written by Mabel E. Gould (Hipty)
August 30, 1956

As we bid farewell to our seasonal residents, they seem wistful that they cannot stay longer. Those of us year-rounders are as excited for the reflective off-season as we are for the busy summers, but it is with sadness that we say good-bye to our good friends as they leave the mountains this time of year. May God Bless all of you this winter! We wish you a happy and healthy time until we dance on the mountains again next spring!! Thank you for another wonderful season on this marvelous Plateau.

• *Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty having moved here 19 years ago. The top-producing firm in Highlands over the last five years with three offices in Highlands, Cullasaja Club and Cashiers, their thirty brokers can help you with all of your real estate needs. Call them today to assist you in buying or selling at 828.526.4104, or go to their website at www.highlandssothebysrealty.com.*

Do you need help with staying warm this winter?

The Highlands Emergency Council (H.E.C.) will be accepting applications from those requesting financial help for the cost of propane gas, fuel oil, and wood.

Applications will be accepted on:
• Mon., October 28, 10am to 2pm
• Tues., October 29, 10am to 2pm
• Wed., October 30, 10am to 2pm
• Thurs., October 31, 10am to 2pm
Please come by H.E.C. located on Poplar Street (next to Wilson Gas). Proof of income is required.

No applications will be accepted after these dates.

Main Street COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

Mtn. Fresh

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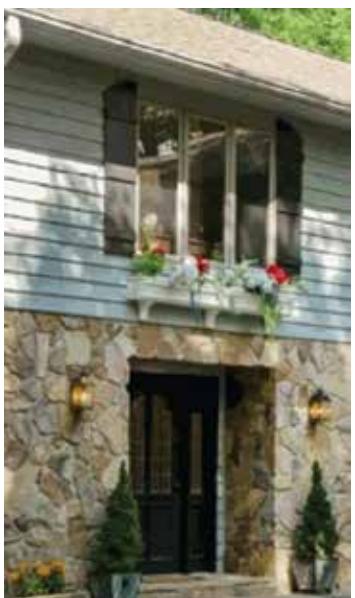
Located on a quiet street and sitting on a private lot, this 3 bedroom 3 bath has been totally renovated and is move in ready. Bright open spaces in the main living area which opens onto a lovely Carolina Room with fireplace, screened porch. 2 main floor bedrooms and an upper suite. A 2-car garage rounds out this wonderful package that will not be around long. Offered at \$665,000. mls #90924



Located about 5 miles from downtown Highlands and over 4100 feet elevation. This home sits on 7 acres flanked by USFS lands. The house has mountain views from most rooms. The house is move-in condition, with a great floor plan. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, lovely kitchen with concrete counter tops and up to date appliances. A usable yard with porte-cochere. Offered at \$1,195,000. mls #91258



Granite counters and custom cabinets in the kitchen, updated tiled bathrooms, large sunroom, hot tub room with tub included, double garage, lots and lots of special touches throughout. A lush green lawn and landscaping with creeks, fences, fire pits. A Morton barn with workshop. Offered at \$679,500 MLS # 90679



Great house in Highlands Falls Country Club. Recently renovated and move-in condition, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage, great decks that take advantage of the wooded and ridgeline views. Inside features an open plan with vaulted ceilings and a custom kitchen. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #90668



5 Bedroom 5 bath home in Highlands Country Club. Usable lot with lovely landscaping. Seller has golf membership. 45 KW Generator. Sophisticated irrigation system and a 19-station window and deck flower box irrigation drip system. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #88512



In the Ponderosa neighborhood. 1.05 acres of two adjoining parcels. The main house has updated kitchen, living room with a fireplace, two bedrooms and two baths. Downstairs family room, 2/bed, 2/ba. One-car garage and one bedroom cottage. quiet neighborhood. \$389,900. mls #90111



New custom built home on 23.04 acres with over 1000' of Clear Creek on the property, pastoral grounds and a pond. The main level living room has vaulted ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, hardwood floors, shiplap interior with rustic touches. 3BR/2BA on main level. Upstairs large bunk room, spacious bath and cozy TV spot. The beautifully designed kitchen. Outdoor patio with stone fireplace. Also included is a detached garage with a canning kitchen and storage loft and a 1BR/1BA guest house with single garage. Offered for \$1,895,000. mls #90668



Mid-century with Fabulous Mountain views. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, spectacular covered porch! Perfect for entertaining and picture perfect grounds with gardens galore. Sagee is a highly desirable enclave of private homes in the city limits and 5 minutes from downtown. Offered at \$1,450,000. mls 91813



Lovely Old Orchard estate over 9 acres with a spectacular mountain views. Mov- in condition, with 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Fully renovated kitchen with dining area and cathedral living room with fireplace. Immaculate grounds and guest house is available listed separately. Offered at \$1,875,000. mls #91113



2 BR 2BA Charming Highlands cabin features a view of Lake Sequoyah with boat access. Large covered porch. Very low maintenance. Some updates and ready for your personal touch. Fully furnished. Offered at \$350,000. mls #90451



Located in the Laurelwood Section of Highlands Falls Country Club, this lovely 3 bedroom, 3 bath overlooks a gurgling branch and sits in a canopy of lush trees. Cathedral Living room, open floorplan that features a split bedroom plan and a 2 car garage. Great screened porch and open deck to enjoy the outside environment. Common area maintenance make living easy. Do not miss this offering and the special opportunity at HFCC for 2019. Offered at \$465,000. mls #89021



Great family or get away home sits on a usable yard with lush landscaping and a pond. Easy access with great parking and a 2 car garage. 4 bedrooms 2.5 baths. Large open kitchen, dining and living room with fireplace. plus an office and frog over the garage. Additional shed for storage or studio. Offered at \$459,000. mls #91479



Just renovated and move in condition with this 3 bedroom 2 bath located on a flat landscaped lot in Flat Mountain estates. Old Highlands charm with the pine paneling and native stone fireplace. Offered at \$465,000. mls #89021



Blue Valley Falls Pointe offering great layered mountain views. Situated on a large 3.57 acre lot. Soaring great room which features a grand wall of windows featuring long range layered mountain views. A large master suite with private screen porch is on the main level with another master suite on the lower level. A large den, wet bar and fireplace complete the lower level. Four additional rooms and a reading loft provide extra space and privacy on the upper level. Open decks on two levels, two screened porches, a double car garage and yard space. \$975,000. mls #89825

Wildcat Cliffs CC



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for
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• HS SPORTS •

By Kedra McCall

Highlands JV
volleyball team
is Little Smoky
Mountain
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tournament
champions!

— Photo by
Brian O'Shea,
Plateau Daily News



Highlands teams are finishing up strong

High school volleyball finished its regular season games out this week with their conference tournament.

JV and Varsity made a clean sweep of the tournament and finished the second day with two trophies. JV beat Blue Ridge and moved on to beat Hi-Dam for the championship.

Varsity beat Nantahala then moved on to defeat Blue Ridge for the championship.

JV's season is now over but Varsity will continue into state playoffs. With the tournament win, they secured a home game on Saturday, October 26th. The time and opponents are to be determined.

High school soccer played Swain and Murphy. They couldn't pull it out against Swain, falling short 2-1. But they then played Murphy where they finished with a strong 3-1 win.

Their next home game is tonight, October 24th. They will play Blue Ridge start-

ing at 6pm. Their away Cherokee game was rescheduled to Thursday, October 31st at 4 pm.

They will celebrate their seniors the night on Wednesday, October 30th at home where they play Hayesville at 6pm.

Anna Stiehler, a freshman on the high school golf team participated in regionals this past week. She finished 9th out of 64 to continue to the state competition. She will compete in Pinehurst from Sunday, October 27th through Tuesday, October 29th.

Middle school girls and boys basketball has also begun. They will have a home scrimmage on Tuesday, October 29th against Rosman beginning at 4 on. Their first official game will be Tuesday, November 5th. They will play Nantahala at home with girls starting at 4 pm and boys following.

Come out to support your Highlanders as they finish up or begin a new season!



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...Q&A continued from page 1

of the stars and planets. The Town lighting reflects a thoughtful, low-key, yet safe environment on our streets and sidewalks and that needs to continue. Lighting up the town other than the holidays, as an attractant to more visitors, is the wrong way to go.

As far as holiday lighting is concerned, my position is that since we are a small town, we need to keep our "small town flavor." People don't come to Highlands for the "light show" other than at Christmas.

Marc Hehn

I like Main Street like it is. One of my earliest memories is looking down Main Street as a small child and being in awe.

Nick McCall

I imagine that many in the community already know my life opinion on this issue. I believe it is a idea pushed by a few and they should be giving more thought for the people it effects the most. It is one of the main issues that compelled me to enter this election. So, to dive right into my opinion on what is really being asked here, I do not think it is, nor would I ever think it is a good idea to put trees down the middle of Main Street.

We honestly live in one of the most beautiful areas in the country. We are surrounded by forests as far as you can see in every direction. I have never heard anyone ever say that Highlands is aesthetically unpleasing.

Looking at this concept from a practical standpoint, each of these trees will have to be big so their limbs have clearance from large trucks and tractor trailers. I don't even want to imagine the nightmare we will face when the roots grow through the water and sewage lines buried underneath Main Street.

Additionally, they are hazards with people hitting them with their vehicles and will create blind spots for seeing pedestrians trying to cross the street. I also question if the DOT, would not have an issue with this since that is US 64 a state road. And speaking for the business community, why in the world would we want to take away any parking? Saying that putting 26 to 30 trees down the middle of Main Street is not going to eliminate any parking spaces is not being honest. The community came together in a large number in opposition of this idea. Citizen after citizen spoke with passion pleading for their voices to be heard. Sadly, they were ignored and dismissed by two commissioners who are running for re-election. The people spoke but were not heard and I can promise you that if elected that will

never happen with me.

My opinion on the welcoming lights are that the shops close mostly around 5 o'clock at night so I don't understand the concept. I have also spoken to a majority of the businesses downtown and they are not on board with this concept.

We also have an ordinance that was passed years ago the dark sky initiative which protects against light pollution which this would violate. Walking around town at night is so peaceful and relaxing and I would vote to keep it that way.

Eric Pierson

I believe downtown Highlands is quite nice compared to some towns yet is also lacking when compared to others (which is a concern that has been expressed to me by a number of citizens in town). Personally, I think that the addition of trees in downtown would make Main Street more attractive and create an atmosphere that visitors to town as well as our residents would enjoy. I understand that a lot of the business owners are against this idea, but I would like for the members of the board, the merchants and citizens to come together and discuss this idea more and see if there may be a way to enhance downtown for everyone's benefit.

Michael Rogers

I would like to see some additional lighting, but I do not want to see the trees wrapped lights. I would like to have street-lights downtown that have an old town feel, that would be complimentary not harsh and glaring. I don't want a Gatlinburg or Pigeon Forge feel to our town. We are beautiful and what we do needs to set us apart and have class to it.

I feel that we do need to plant some more trees and change the trees that are there as I don't feel they complement the buildings. We need trees that grow tall and open so as not to take away from the beauty of the buildings. It is critical we plant the right type of trees as well as the location. They do not need to take up any additional parking spaces or be planted in areas that will grow into the power lines. If we are planting good looking nice trees, we don't need to have to cut them.

I would also like to see more rock walls in certain areas to tie into a cohesive look throughout the Town. Oak Street in particular needs work with trees planted and some beautification in areas, as well as the corner of NC 106 and Spring Street.

As part of the landscape, I want to see sidewalks extended out of our downtown corridor. There are areas that have no sidewalks and are dangerous for our visitors to

• See Q&A page 18



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Brian J. STIEHLER

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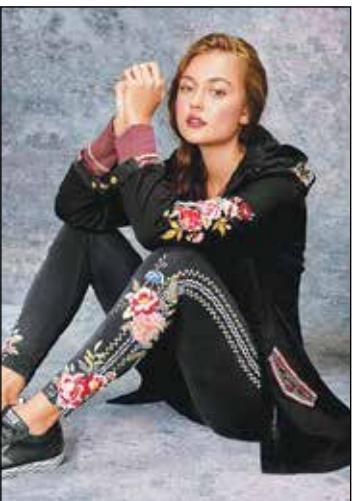
After 8 successful years on the Town Board, I am asking for your support for another term. We have a lot to be proud of.

In those 8 years, I've raised \$180,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Most importantly, I feel like I represented Highlands taxpayers on the board. We have a lot more work to do, and I would be honored to continue serving as chairman of the TDC. Please consider voting for someone with proven leadership in Highlands!

Please free to call me anytime at (828) 787-2778 with concerns or questions facing your town.

Paid for by the committee to elect Brian J. Stiehler

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cake bar

...Q&A continued from page 15

walk. We have more and more visitors to our area every year and I want them to be able to walk safely.

Hank Ross

A beautiful and inviting downtown is vital to the health of our local economy. The downtown tree and streetscape



The Firewood Company
828.200.3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com

program began about 20 years ago and vastly improved our shopping and walking experience. However, this landscape project has not continued in many years.

The downtown streetscape is extremely important and can be improved without losing parking spaces. There are many areas of unneeded asphalt that could be removed and replaced with trees and planters. Also, streetscape in the Highlands commercial district should be extended to other downtown streets that have businesses and parking such as outer ends of Main Street, Oak Street, Carolina Way, Second and Third Streets. Continuing the brick sidewalks and adding trees, benches and trash containers will help draw shoppers to areas other than Main Street by keeping a consistent look and appeal. Presently when passing from Main Street and the "Hill," shoppers often do not continue to other areas believing the shopping district ends there.

I am not in favor of the Chamber of Commerce's proposal for accent lighting of trees on Main Street due to appearance and potential harm to our street trees. Excessive artificial night lighting can negatively impact a tree's ability to go dormant during the winter which is essential to protect it from freezing temperatures. Also, by "extending the day" and adding heat, artificial lighting affects flowering and pollination patterns. As someone that designs streetscapes and outdoor lighting, I always use a "dark sky" and "less is more" philosophy while making sure safety is provided.

Our downtown needs to maintain its lovely mountain charm which will require careful thought when adding lighting and trees.

Brian Stiehler

As for the trees, I was one of two commissioners who opposed this from the very beginning. I want to stress that I am not necessarily opposed to trees themselves, it was more of the process that I was very much opposed to. If this is something residents of Highlands want, let's get a streetscape expert to determine the proper location, planting methods and species of trees to ensure their long-term success and survival. For me personally, I think Main Street is beautiful and works just fine. I do worry that additional trees may impede sight lines and the safety of motorists. In addition, if you've driven down Main Street after an 8-inch plus snowfall, you've seen the mountains of snow that accumulate quickly. With additional trees, this creates a logistical challenge in terms of snow removal.

Finally, as for the lights, I can only share my personal opinion and that is a firm, no. I don't think we need the additional light pollution. Let's leave Highlands as it is.

• Next week Question 6:

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is important to the sustainability of Highlands. As in every other sector in town, affordable housing for hospital employees is an issue and is said to be one of the reasons the hospital is 20 employees short. Do you think the town should assist in this and other hospital matters?

Also, is there anything else you would like to impart to your future constituents?

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...DUKE continued from page 1

their budget, customers in the town of Highlands are exempt from the increase because they are wholesale customers.

"We have a wholesale contract with Duke for the next 10 years," explained Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor. "Duke's rate increases are for their retail customers. Our rates to our customers remain the same for this budget year. While Duke has significantly raised rates in recent years for their retail customers, the town of Highlands has not experienced those increases. Our rates have been about the same for the last several years."

The Town of Highlands' current contract with Duke Energy was signed in January 2010, according to Jeff Brooks, spokesperson for Duke Energy. For the last nine years, when residential customers across the state have seen increases, customers in the town of Highlands have not felt the impact of those increases.

Taylor explained that the town of Highlands became a wholesale customer of Duke Energy out of necessity decades ago.

"We are the oldest town electric utility in this region starting in 1929 with the creation of Lake Sequoyah by damming the Cullasaja River," said Taylor. "We have always bought wholesale electricity since the 1950s when we could not generate enough power from our hydro plant located below Lake Sequoyah. We bought from Nantahala Power at a low rate for years until they were purchased from Duke. We entered a contract with Duke about 20 years ago. It was a 30-year contract. At the time, there really was no alternative. Our old power plant could generate at best 1 megawatt. We currently require about 12 megawatts to power the town."

According to Brooks, the wholesale

process is completely separate from typical residential customers. Not only is it administrated differently, its regulated differently as well.

"Wholesale rates are established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)," said Brooks. "Wholesale customers are charged using a formula rate that adjusts annually based on costs that the utility incurs to serve all of its customers. Those charges are allocated based on how much energy the customer uses and how much demand they place on our energy system (generating plants and power lines) to serve their needs."

"Wholesale rates can also include costs for things like new power plant construction, improvements to large transmission lines and substations that deliver power to wholesale communities, fuel costs and costs for compliance with state and federal regulations. Not all of the costs that the utility incurs to serve its retail customers would be allocated to wholesale customers, so it's really not practical to try to make an easy comparison on how an adjustment in rates for the retail customer group might impact the wholesale customer group."

"That said, some of the major investment themes in the Duke Energy Carolinas case (e.g. some of the grid improvements we are making that relate to wholesale customers, environmental compliance costs, fuel, storm response costs) would be similar types of costs that wholesale customer are generally charged as well. You just can't translate the amounts or increase percentages directly from that case to wholesale customers."

Brooks noted that it is difficult to determine the number of wholesale customers throughout the state because they can

become wholesale customers as individual entities or as larger groups.

"Most of the wholesale customers in NC purchase power from either Duke Energy Carolinas or Duke Energy Progress," said Brooks. "But many of them purchase power as a group (e.g. – electric cooperatives, municipalities), so our wholesale number of customers (around a couple dozen across the state) doesn't really reflect the large total number of towns and commu-

nities (several dozen) that use wholesale power generated by Duke Energy."

Mayor Taylor said that Highlands' current contract runs through 2028 and that negotiations begin about five years prior to its expiration.

Highlands is expected to renegotiate rates with Duke Energy beginning 2023, at which time recent rate increases and costs such as coal ash clean ups, will be discussed as part of the negotiation process.

Highlands Chamber of Commerce presents

2019 All Hallows Eve

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 26

Mr. Pickles' Howl-O-Ween Party
The Park on Main Hotel
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 31

Pumpkin Painting
The Ugly Dog Pub, 294 South 4th Street, Highlands
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Trick or Treating
Main Street and South 4th Street
DJ & Dancing
Curtis Blackwell Band
Hot Dogs
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Adult Costume Contest
The High Dive, 476 Carolina Way, Highlands
10:00 p.m.

All Hallows Eve is provided by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce through Occupancy Tax Dollars

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As of October 2019, HCA Healthcare will be implementing an enterprise-wide minimum wage of \$12.50/hr. At Mission Health, this will be an increase from our current division-wide minimum wage of \$11.00/hr. At this time, only employees who are below the new range minimums will be adjusted.

The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25.

As part of this implementation, Mission Health will be making adjustments to our salary structure as follows:

Grade C will go from \$11 per hour to \$12.50; Grade D will go from \$11.35 to \$12.75; and Grade E will go from \$12.26 to \$13 per hour.

In addition to the new minimum wage, the minimums for grades D and E are being adjusted as well. Team members in those pay grades who are below their new range minimum will be adjusted to their new range minimum.



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•WORD MATTER•

The "I" Word

As always, I've no loyalty to either party. I proudly proclaim No Party Affiliation.

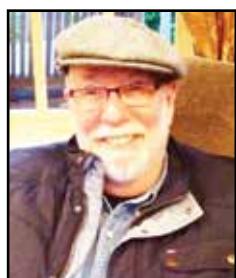
As soon as Democrats took control of the U.S. House of Representatives they began talking about impeaching President Donald Trump. Here's what that means, how it will play out, and, why it is, as Shakespeare wrote in Macbeth, "Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Impeachment is within the purview of the House. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) had counseled patience and, more importantly, deep reflection, instead of bowing to the pressures of a House full of far left freshman members energized by taking back control in the 2018 election. Her patience evaporated amid unquestioned reports regarding the President's conversation with the president of Ukraine, in which he pressed for an investigation of political rival Joe Biden's son, Hunter. As many as nine House committees are holding hearings on what, if proven, constitutes an impeachable offense, after which they may turn their findings over to the whole House. If they do, the House will likely bring Articles of Impeachment against the President.

Then, things move to the Senate. According to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), if the House votes to impeach, as a Republican-held House did in 1998 during Bill Clinton's second term, the Senate will hold a trial. In the highly unlikely event they find in favor of impeachment by a two-thirds majority, they can remove the President from office. In 1998, the Senate held a similar vote but failed to obtain the required majority for President Clinton's removal from office. The same outcome would happen today, in reverse, since Republicans control the Senate.

This is one reason why, for Democrats, impeachment is a bad idea. If you already know you have almost zero chance the Senate will vote to remove the President, why bother?

Another reason is that the process, which will play out leading up to the 2020 Presidential election, promises to drown out everything else, including identifying the best Democratic candidate to defeat the President. Nothing else will get done in the Congress – not that much is getting done now – and important issues, such as immigration reform, climate change, and health-



Bud Katz

care will be relegated to the back burners.

I've heard the argument that the Democratic strategy to keep hammering the President's behavior, and to do so through impeachment hearings, will excite the base. A better way is to let the media, most of whom are predisposed to not love this President, report on his administration's failure to do anything

affirmative on healthcare, its tendency to gut environmental regulations, its actions to destroy relationships with allies while cozying up to brutal dictators, and its unwillingness to lead on real immigration reform.

Impeachment is serious business. This President's alleged crime doesn't matter to his base. It also doesn't matter to many of his supporters in Congress. In this context, I can't see a path to his removal from office and letting him play victim doesn't help Democrats.

The late Woody Hayes, football coach at Ohio State University, was known for operating his offense on the ground instead of through the air. When asked why he didn't throw the football more, something loved by fans because it's much more exciting than his three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust rushing game, he famously said, "When you throw the football there are three things that can happen, and two of them are bad." Coach was right. Incomplete passes (in this context, a failure to remove the President from office) or interceptions (letting him play the victim) don't win games. "More exciting" doesn't necessarily win games.

I believe the Democratic strategy of impeachment with what appears to be a pre-determined losing outcome, is a strategic mistake. It will only galvanize the President's base, and distract from selecting the right candidate for the upcoming election. It may be exciting while it's happening, but it also may not translate into a win.

Is there a chance that President Trump will be impeached AND removed from office before the election? I don't see it. With partisanship as strident as I've seen in my lifetime, were I a betting man, I'd place my bet that the President will, in fact, be impeached in the Democrat-controlled U.S. House, but then he will be vindicated in the Republican-controlled Senate.

And if/when that happens, if/when things play out as I've described, what will Democrats have accomplished? In the final analysis, a whole lot of sound and fury, signifying absolutely nothing.

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2019

Written by
Ernest Thompson

Directed by Lance Trudel

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Sunday, October 20 @ 2:30 & 7:30 pm

****No Show October 19****

Thursday-Saturday, October 24-26 @ 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 27 @ 2:30 pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street
Tickets: 828-526-8084 www.hightlandscashiersplayers.org

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands ABC Store distributes profits



Mayor Pat Taylor accepted the Scholarship and General fund checks: Town of Highlands General Fund got \$23,214.18; Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund got \$17,992.12.



Present to accept Recreation and Psychotherapy checks was Lester Norris. Counseling & Psychotherapy of Highlands (for alcohol rehab and education) got \$8,218.03; the Recreation Dept got \$19,705.65.



Officer Jonathan Philips accepted the check for HPD in the amount of \$5,120.02.

ABC Board members present Leslie Cook (Chairman), Rick Trevathan, Ryan Bears. Not pictured are board members: Andrew Chmar, David O'Harra.

...BOB JONES continued from page 1

cluded a \$50,000 matching grant from the Foundation, magnifying the total dollars to \$195,000 to support a contribution to Macon County EMS.

These funds will be used for state-of-the-art equipment in ambulances serving the Highlands area. Additional contributions supporting the Bob Jones Invitational included a \$100,000 unrestricted gift, which will be collaboratively directed by the Tournament Committee and the Foundation to fund critical needs in our local communities.

Of particular interest is the new truck stationed in Highlands now equipped with automated high-performance CPR devices, proven to save more lives by eliminating the human error factor when administering CPR. Other purchased equipment includes power stretchers and power load systems which meet the vehicle crash standards

while also reducing workplace injuries related to lifting. In addition funds were used to purchase Advance Life Support equipment, IV infusion pumps, stairway transport equipment, radios with improved transmitters and laptop computers.

"We greatly need and appreciate this generous financial support due to the budget constraints we continually experience. Every year as we strive to make ends meet operationally, we inevitably have to cut or hold off on capital equipment purchases," said Warren Cabe, EMS director. "Thanks to the generosity of Highlands Country Club and the Foundation we are accomplishing our goals to exceed national standards for improving emergency transport care and increasing staff safety by equipping all of our vehicles with state-of-the-art equipment."

Foundation Chair Dr. Walter Clark said the foundation is extremely grateful for its partner-

ship with Highlands Country Club. "Over the years their generosity to our Highlands community has been outstanding, totaling more than \$5.5 million for vital health-care services on the Plateau. We are honored to be a part of this distinguished annual tradition that provides tremendous benefit to our community," he said.

Robin Tindall, Foundation executive director said the Foundation and the community owes the club and the tournament an enormous debt of gratitude.

"Working with the Highlands Country Club Bob Jones Golf Tournament is always a significant highlight of our year. The character of this club befits the Bob Jones legend. It is incredible to experience the outpouring of philanthropy their membership so willingly provides to help our permanent and seasonal residents," she said.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

- Movies at the Playhouse Fri & Sat 1, 4, 7; Sun. 1 & 4; Tues-Thurs 1, 4, 7. See ad.

• The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am-5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

• At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

Monday - Saturday

- Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-

Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays

- Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

- At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon.-Wed.

- Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

Mon. & Fri.

- Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at

9:15-10:15 a.m..All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

- Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

Tuesdays

- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the down-stairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlyn@me.com.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

• Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Lunch with the Docs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital noon to 1 p.m. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345. Limited to 50 attendees.

Tuesday and Thursdays

- At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner – Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays – Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit www.cbchighlands.com.

• Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

First Wednesdays

- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

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 @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique

habitats and honing your observation skills.

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public
• Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita (828) 526-9510.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• At H-C Hospital, Lunch with the Docs noon to 1p. Events are limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345.

HCP's 'On Golden Pond' continues Thurs.-Sun. this week



October 24 begins the second weekend of "On Golden Pond" at HCP. Directed by Lance Trudel, this heart-warming love story is bound to pull your heart strings while making you laugh in between. Performances will be on Thursday October 24, Friday October 25, and Saturday October 26 beginning at 7:30 with doors opening at 7:00. Sunday October 27 will be a 2:30 matinee performance with doors opening at 2:00. For more information, please visit our website at

www.highlandscashiersplayers.org or calling the box office at 828-526-8084. Come visit us on the lake. We hope to see you there! HCP.....Good plays, Well Done!

Highlands Playhouse Foodie Film Festival is Oct. 25-27

Highlands Playhouse's Foodie Film Festival, October 25-27, offers a 2nd year of finely curated food and film. Sponsored by Jeff Schenck and Rachael Friday and co-sponsored by Avary and Gerry Doubleday, this year's event will feature support and contributions from Highlands Wine Shoppe, Cake Bar, Marty Rosenfield, El Azteca, Asia House, and more. We'll even offer a mini farmer's market on the patio for Saturday's feature, compliments of The Mountain.

This year's festival will feature:

"The Cakemaker," an award-winning German-Israeli film about food and affairs of the heart, will be paired with delicious Cake Bar confections.

"Ramen Shop," the saga of a man in search of his childhood favorite dish, will be matched with ramen noodles from Asia House.

"Biggest Little Farm," a documentary break-out hit, with food and market by The Mountain

"The Hundred-Foot Journey," a 2014 American comedy starring Helen Mirren, is a supremely entertaining tale that the Playhouse will pair with exotic Indian delights.

The festival's series of award-winning film shorts from around the world were in such a hit last year that we've decided to double the presentations. Among this year's selections are "The River Bottom," "Honeyland," and "The Many Lives of Louis Osteen."

Visit highlandsplayhouse.org for full schedule of films and to purchase your tickets, which are available by individual film, in a full day pass, or as a full weekend pass.

Join us for an amazing weekend of cinema and cuisine - Bon appetit!

Fri., Oct. 25

- 1p – Tortilla Soup
- 4p – shorts
- 7p – Hundred Foot Journey

Sun., Oct. 27

- 1p – shorts
- 4p – Decanted
- 7p – The Cakemaker

Sat., Oct. 26

- 1p – Biggest Little Farm
- 4p – Somm
- 7p – Ramen Shop

Each day of the festival will feature complimentary food and wine pairings and tastings.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Fourth Thursday

- At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

Fridays

- Live music in Town Square, 6-8 p.m.

First Fridays

The Bascom at Sotheby's series features different artists each month with a reception the first Friday of every month at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty from 4-5:30p at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. The public is invited to come meet the artist, view the exhibit and have some wine.

- At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in Night - all ages Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. 526-1595.

Last Friday

- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a until noon.

Friday - Monday

- At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Saturdays

- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

- The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

- Free music in the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8 p.m.

Sundays

- Live Music in OEL's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

Tuhs.-Sun., Oct. 24-27

- HCP presents On Golden Pond at 7:30 at PAC on Chestnut Street Friday and Saturday and 2:30 on Sunday. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Thurs., Oct. 24

- The annual Spooktacular Halloween event is Thursday 6-8pm. There will be face painting, apple bobbing, pumpkin decorating, bean bag games, hay ride weather permitting and a Halloween egg hunt.

Fri., Oct. 25

- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library at 11am in the Meeting Room for the last Community Cof-

fee of 2019 - All You Want to Know About the Highlands Fiber Optic Network with Mayor Patrick Taylor and special guests Matt Shuler, Director of MS/GIS and representatives from Altitude Broadband.

Fri. - Sun., Oct. 25-27

- At the Highlands Playhouse, the Foodie Film Festival. For information, call 828-526-2695.

Sat. - Tues., Oct. 26-29

- The pool at the Highlands Rec Park will be closed starting Saturday, at noon until Tuesday at 6am for routine maintenance.

Sat. Oct. 26

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Siler Bald on the Appalachian Trail, hiking through fall colors up to the bald for 360-degree views of Wayah Bald, Wine-springs and a glimpse of Nantahala Lake. Return by way of the blue blaze trail. Elevation change 700 ft. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 10 a.m., drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7.5 mile hike, elevation change 1500 ft., to Hemphill Bald in Smoky Mtn. Nat'l. Park, beginning at Purchase Knob and hiking along Cataloochee Divide with spectacular views from the ridge. Meet at 9 a.m. at Waynesville Ingles which is 80 miles from Franklin, then 20 miles to the trail head round trip. Call leader: Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations. The hike is limited to 15 people.

Tues., Oct. 29

- At the Nature Center. Free. Halloween Enchanted Forest. 6-7:30p. Celebrate Halloween the natural way! Guided tours of the Botanical Gardens will lead you trick-or-treating around the trail to meet some native animal characters.

Thurs., Oct. 31

- Hudson Library is celebrating Halloween with a Kids Zone Halloween Party! Thursday from 3:30-5pm, kids can enjoy a variety of Halloween-themed activities. Designed for kids 5-12 years old, but younger children can have fun too. Perfect for the whole family! Activities will include creating with 3D pens, a cake-walk, building your own haunted mansion, and more. Costumes are welcome but not required. Come join the fun! For more information 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.

- Highlands Annual Trick-or-Treating on Main Street. 6-8 p.m. Street closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 1

- The Highlands Emergency Council will host a United Health Care Representative to assist with Medicare recipients Friday from 10am to 2pm. UHC is located at 71 Poplar Street next to Wilson Gas.



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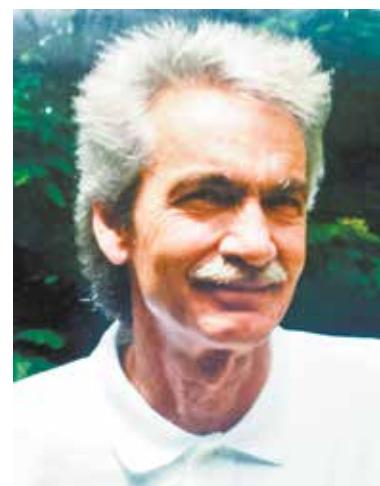


Halloween at the Nature Center is Oct. 29



On October 29th from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, the Highlands Biological Foundation will host our annual Halloween Enchanted Forest at the Highlands Biological Station Botanical Gardens. All are welcome to come celebrate Halloween the natural way and receive guided tours through the Botanical Gardens that will lead you trick-or-treating around the trails to meet some native animal characters. The event is weather dependent. Those wishing to participate in this free event should meet at Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands. For more information, please call the Highlands Nature Center at (828) 526-2623. Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

•SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING•



'God
bless
America,
land
that I
love.'

Pastor
Dan Robinson
Highlands Central
Baptist Church

So wrote Irving Berlin 101 years ago. "From the mountains to the prairies to the oceans white with foam 'God bless America' my home sweet home?"

Indeed, this song-prayer God has been pleased to answer in more ways and more times than anyone can count. There is, however, a huge liability attendant upon such huge blessings. That liability is Presumption. And Presumption always carries the wrong attitude. In the land of plenty it's easy to want plenty more. Expect more. Demand more. And rather than the blessing of God fostering a heart for God, often times all that is fostered is a heart for things. We want the blessings of God more than we want the God of the blessings. Does this describe you?

Yes, in the land of plenty a heart for God is hard pressed to survive. There are many believers across America who are praying for Revival. Not a series of meetings but a refreshing and renewing visitation and work of God in and then through the Church.

For many, Church has become perfunctory and routine. There is no power, joy or living in the victory of Jesus Christ. And, we believe that God will answer prayers for Revival. But Revival may come by way of crisis or catastrophe. Heaven may take away so that finally there's room for what it wants to give.

Our national prosperity, while an unprecedented blessing and protection, has nonetheless lulled many to sleep. There is not a sharpness, brightness or quickness in the lives and eyes of so many professing Christ. There is rather a look similar to what one may see in the eyes-movements of one influenced by too much alcohol... a dullness, stupor and unawareness. Not ready for battle. Indeed, not even dressed for an engagement with the world, flesh and devil. A presumptuous attitude only facilitates a passive and indolent Christianity. A grateful attitude facilitates a sense of responsibility and accountability.

God has blessed America for His own purposes. Our responsibility is to appropriate those blessings by prayer to the accomplishing of those purposes. Jesus said that to whom much is given much will be required. That is true corporately as well as personally. We are accountable for what we do with what He's given us.

I hope you'll pray. I hope you'll come to a whole new awareness of the blessings God has given you and why. I hope you'll be a conduit and not a cul-de-sac with the blessings of God. I hope you'll be a blessing to others.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

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8:30a Early Service; 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship

Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High

School; 10:45am: Child. Program, 10: 45am: Worship

Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

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

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 a.m.

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening

Worship, 6p. Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE

on the 5th Sunday of the month.

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Tally

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

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743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

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

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Sept. 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 21

• At 2:24 p.m., officers received a report of a breaking and entering with burglary at a residence on Dillard Road. Sept. 23

• At 9 a.m., officers received a report of a breaking and entering at a residence on Foreman Road.

Oct. 7

• A little past midnight, officers were called to the Ugly Dog Pub on N. 4th St.

concerning a simple assault when two people got into a physical and verbal argument.

Oct. 10

• At 12:15 p.m., officers were called about a simple assault at Highlands Inn where a person was hit over the head with a broom.

Oct. 11

• At 8:45 a.m., officers received a report of a larceny from a construction site on Brock Court where about \$500 worth of tools were taken.

Oct. 12

• At 9 p.m., received a report of a missing person from Highlands. The per-

son was located.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 13

• At 3:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Oct. 16

• At 11:04 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at the site of a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Oct. 17

• At 6:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Oct. 18

• At 9:06 p.m., the dept. responded to

a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

Oct. 18

• At 7 a.m., the dept. provided traffic control at the site of a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

• At 7:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on West View Way.

Oct. 20

• At 10:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Edwards Creek Road.

• At 2:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Clear Creek Road.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands' first private label wine debuts

Mountain Fresh has long been known for its extensive wine selection, appreciated by travelers and residents alike, and gaining them the Wine Spectator award for the past several years!

Some exciting additions have recently been made, bringing even more variety and interesting options to the Highlands community.

Most recently, the Snead-Smiths partnered with a French winery, and this week, unveiled their new Mountain Fresh selections: Rose, Chardonnay, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

All are available by-the-glass, with the Chardonnay and Cabernet also available for retail purchase by-the-bottle.

You're invited to stop by and see all that Mountain Fresh has to offer, now including Highlands' first private label line of wines!



One-Stop Early Voting continues through Nov. 1.

There are two One-stop Voting locations for this election:

The MC Community Building (Robert C. Carpenter building) 1288 Georgia Rd. Franklin

Dates: Through Friday, Nov. 1st.

Monday – Friday 10AM until 6PM

and

Highlands Civic Center, 600 N. 4th Street, Highlands.

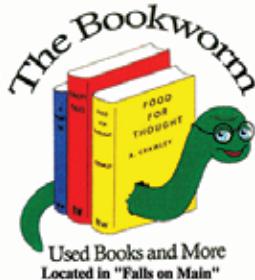
Dates: Through Fri., Nov. 1st

Monday – Friday 10AM until 6PM

The polls will be open for voting on Election Day – Tues., Nov. 5 – from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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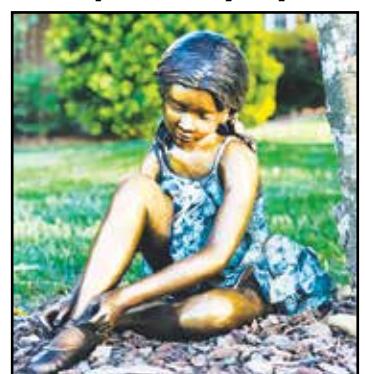
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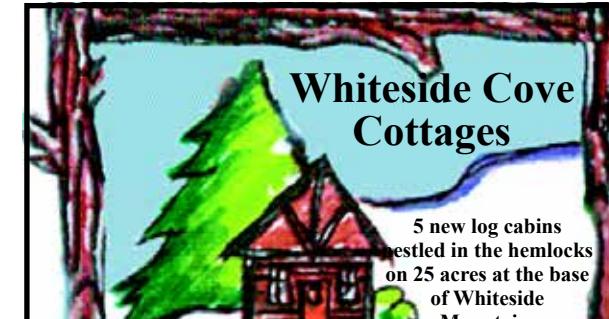
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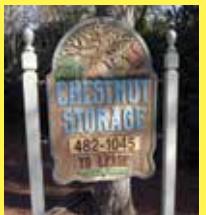
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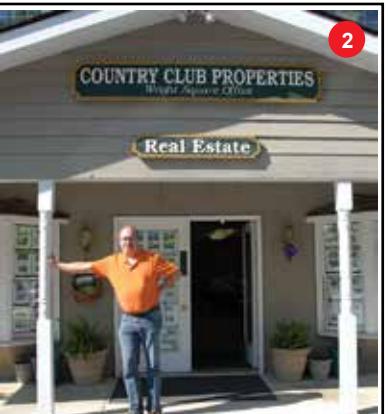
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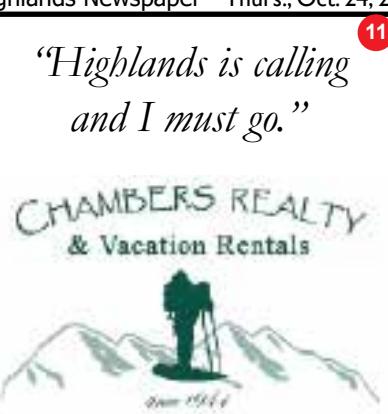
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