

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020

Big Brothers Big Sisters merge Highlands' and Cashiers' programs

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News
Chapters of Big Brothers

Big Sisters of WNC in Highlands and Cashiers recently merged to better serve the children and families on the Plateau. One of the first events held

• See BBBS page 6

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MC reports 8th death related to COVID-19

*Highlands School reports a positive case
Gov. Cooper extends Phase 3 - lowers limit for indoor gatherings to 10*

A Macon County resident diagnosed with COVID-19 has died. The person was over the age of 65 and had underlying health conditions. To protect the family's privacy, no further information will be released about this patient.

"The family and loved ones of this individual are in our thoughts and prayers. As we head into the holiday season and as more people gather indoors, please continue to practice the 3Ws and be mindful of those that are higher risk," said Kathy McGaha, MC Health Director. "We can make a difference by wearing a mask, washing your hands, and staying 6 feet from others. Continue to practice social distancing and limit your trips outside your home to help to slow the spread of COVID-19."

Highlands School
Monday night, parents, teach-

ers and staff at Highlands School were notified that a positive case of COVID was confirmed. This makes the third case reported at the school since teachers returned in August.

This individual is currently under quarantine. Contact tracing is underway through the Macon County Health Department. Any student or staff member identified through the contact tracing will be notified. Macon County Schools will continue to work closely with the Macon County Health Department as we monitor this situation.

Town of Highlands

As a reminder, masks are mandated in all public places in Highlands – on downtown sidewalks, in retail shops and when entering dining and accommoda-

• See COVID page 8



The Community Comprehensive Plan meeting was held virtually last Thursday evening with 35 people attending.

The Comprehensive Plan web defined

The second public input meeting about the formation of the state-mandated Comprehensive Plan was held virtually the evening of Thursday, Nov. 5.

The first public input meeting was an in-person meeting at

the Community Building on Oct. 22, but it was poorly attended. Suspecting COVID was the culprit, a virtual meeting was held last week.

Why the need for a Comprehensive Plan?

The State Legislature adopted

amendments to the General Statutes in July of 2019, which created a new Chapter 160D. The reasoning was to consolidate county and municipal land use standards of Chapters 153A (county) & 160A

• See PLAN page 15

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Trashing Highlands

A picture is worth a thousand words, or at least 500. The photo of an overstuffed bear-resistant garbage toter that was placed on the road Sunday afternoon illustrates a growing problem in Highlands. I suspect a VRBO group decided it was acceptable to just pile their garbage up on the roadside. I hope this was not the deed of a permanent resident.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

What is unfortunate is that much of the garbage in the photo could have been recycled. The toter was less than a mile away from our recycling trailer at the Highlands Recreation Center. The cardboard boxes, beer cans and wine bottles didn't have to appear in the photograph.

I have researched the issue of overloading toters. Many commercial companies, like Waste Management, have additional fees for overloading their trash toters. If the lid cannot be closed, the additional fees go into place. In lieu of fees, the town has fines for placing loose garbage on the roadside. It is a form of littering.

What is distressing about the image is

the message it communicates about how people view this beautiful mountain environment. It suggests a sense of entitlement about just throwing away garbage.

As I have stated many times before, everything consumed on the plateau is trucked in and sold. It costs more money on average to purchase these products, but folks accept those prices as part of being in this beautiful, but isolated mountain

community.

The flip side is that it costs more money to remove the trash generated on the plateau. It is intolerable to just throw garbage on the roadside. What is seen in the photograph increases the likelihood of trash being scattered; which is why caring citizens routinely participate in litter sweeps to keep our community beautiful.

We are all responsible for disposing the trash we generate in a conscientious and responsible manner.

There are related issues that the town and the county need to address. One priority is to locate a site and build a convenience center in, or near, Highlands where folks can recycle and deposit excessive amounts of waste. The project will be challenging but has to be addressed.

Second, the community needs to ex-

• See MAYOR page 15



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• HIC'S VIEW •



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• WEATHER •

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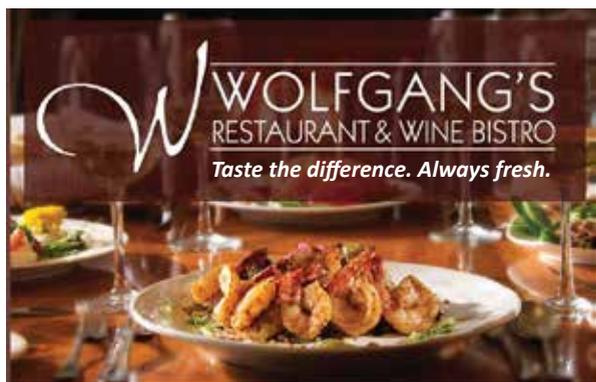
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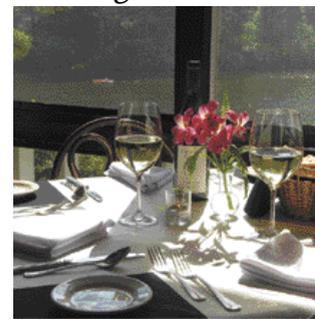
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• OBITUARIES •

Elinor Metzger

Elinor Metzger, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who inspired others with her grace, strength and love, returned to her Creator, Savior and Lord Friday evening

Oct. 30, 2020, at Eckerd Living Center in Highlands N.C. Her daughters Kathleen Shuford and Laura Doonan and son Harrison Metzger were blessed to be at her side when her spirit

departed this world. She was 96 years old.

Elinor was born Dec. 2, 1923, in Atlanta, Ga., the only daughter of the Rev. Elton and Lois Sauls. She was raised in Atlanta and graduated from the Washington Seminary. She attended Agnes Scott College for a year and then at the age of 19 attended the Arts Student League in NYC. While she was in NYC and later in Panama City, Fla., she worked as a nurse's aide due to the shortage of nurses during World War II. Elinor's love of art inspired pursuits throughout her life, including drawing, photography, gourmet cooking, and singing and worshipping with her family at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Atlanta.

That family had its genesis when Elinor as a young woman worked in a wartime factory with a striking redheaded woman from Rhode Island, whose husband and son were serving in World War II. Dorothy MacKaye Metzger told Elinor stories of her brave and handsome son, Earl H. Metzger Jr., who was then manning anti-aircraft artillery in North Africa and Sicily. Intrigued, Elinor agreed to meet Earl upon his return from the war, and thus began a romance that lasted more than 53 years.

They were married Feb. 22, 1947 and raised their three children in Atlanta where Mr. Metzger served as Director of Model Cities for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Elinor and Earl had many friends, and she loved to entertain them with her warm hospitality and inspired culinary artistry. They traveled to France and the UK many times and instilled their children with a love of nature, people and social justice. They were supporters of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

Elinor served as a volunteer and supporter of numerous civic and church organizations including being a board member of the Georgia Conservancy and President of the Atlanta Fulton chapter of the League of Women Voters. Elinor went to work as the Director of the VISTA program (Volunteers in Service to America) for the Southeast during the 1960s. In 1981, they retired to Highlands, N.C., where they built a home surrounded by gardens that Elinor planted and tended. Elinor helped found and was the first president of The Laurel Garden Club in Highlands.

They continued to enjoy traveling and entertaining and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a glorious party attended by family and friends. Even after the passing of her beloved husband on Nov. 12, 2000, Elinor continued to live a vibrant and joy-filled life. She was active in her church, The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, as a licensed Lay Reader and Eucharistic Visitor, taking communion to seniors who were unable to attend services. She was a graduate of the University of the South, School of Theology's Education for Ministry program, a four-year program of theological education that she enjoyed so much she participated another four years. She was beloved by her many friends



•See OBITUARIES page 21

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...BBBS continued from page 1

after the merger was a Halloween themed party at The Village Green last month in collaboration with The Bascom that included costumes, painting pumpkins, and a scavenger hunt.

Danielle Hernandez, BBBS Cashiers & Highlands Program Coordinator, said the merger allows for the collaboration of services and resources focused on the community as a whole.

"This had been long debated for quite some time; however, decisions leading to this merger since my being Program Coordinator came as a result of being so close in proximity, the benefit of efficiency in serving the children and families across the entire Plateau, and bridging the divide between Cashiers and Highlands in terms of services and sense of community," said Hernandez.

Hernandez was the Program Coordinator for both programs before the merger and coordi-

nated with two different advisory boards. She said combining programs and their advisory councils makes her efforts more efficient.

"Honestly, this is perfect in terms of making this position far more efficient," said Hernandez. "Rather than spending additional administration time running two councils, two programs, two of everything, we are able to run smoothly as one. The efficiency allows me to spend more time where it's needed most, building the program and providing supports for children, families and matches already established."

She added that combining advisory councils will help make BBBS stronger as an organization.

"I'm incredibly thrilled to work with such movers and shakers as those who are on these combined councils," said Hernandez. "The council leaders, Nancy Albers and Ricky Seigel, comple-

ment one another so well and the cohesiveness of this new team approach will only grow stronger, creating a more profound impact for those we serve – the children and families of the Plateau community."

Rick Seigel began the Highlands chapter of BBBS in 2002 after participating in a Leadership Highlands class in 2001 and saw there was a need in the area.

"There was nothing really focused on kids who are facing significant life challenges," said Seigel. "Someone who may need an extra helping hand, a mentor, or someone to talk to. BBBS is another ear for a child to speak to."

He said the merger of the Highlands and Cashiers chapters of BBBS was a step in the right direction.

"We're 11 miles apart and we're both working towards the same thing," said Seigel. "Combining the advisory councils will be twice the number of thinking brains working on recruitment, funding, and publicity. You're doubling your brainpower."



Big and little brothers and sisters of Highlands and Cashiers gathered in Cashiers recently to celebrate Halloween with various fun-filled activities.



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• LIFE ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

The Good Old Days

From time to time we hear people say they want Highlands the way it used to be during "The Good Old Days." I can certainly understand. There are many of us who remember our towns and cities back in the '40s, '50s and early '60s. We can talk to our friends from Atlanta, Savannah (my home town), Jacksonville, Orlando, Memphis and on and on and on. These places are no longer the same.



Kenny Youmans

I spent every summer back in the middle '40s and early '50s with my grandparents in Swainsboro, GA. Swainsboro had a beautiful courthouse and very nice Mom and Pop stores on the square. It was easy to find about anything that was needed. There were also 2 wonderful pharmacies with soda fountains. We went almost every day for milkshakes. Today, all of it is gone, including the courthouse. The Mom and Pop stores have been replaced with a large Walmart on the edge of town.

"The American Soda Fountains" started way back around 1850. At one time there were thousands and thousands of locally owned pharmacies with soda fountains. Stop in every day after school, have a milkshake or sundae with your friends - special, special days. The soda fountains in America had a complete collapse by 1970.

I have very fond memories of the 5 and 10 cent stores. F. W. Woodworth opened their first store in 1879 in Lancaster, PA. They grew to over 800 stores. They went out of business in 1997. S.H. Kress 5 and 10 cent stores opened their first

store in 1896 in Nanticoke, PA. They grew to 264 stores. They went out of business 1981.

I also miss Morrison's Cafeterias. Their first store opened in 1929 in Mobile, AL. At one time they had 151 locations in 13 states. They finally went out of business in 1996 after a long hard struggle to survive.

Let's not forget Sears and the Sears Catalog. There was a Sears catalog store in High-

lands owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Lewis. They had four children. Some of you may know them - Martha, Angie, Bill and Scott (Angie is in the process of writing a book on growing up in Highlands in the Good Old Days).

How about Montgomery Wards? Today we have Amazon. Wow! Who would ever have believed? Don't forget pay-phones.

Change is inevitable. Most places we remember have not changed for the better. However, I feel Highlands has been moving forward in a very positive way.

In many ways we are still like a "Town of Yesteryear." Many kids can walk to school. Parents are still involved. Most people in town all know each other. The Rotary clubs and other charitable organizations are very involved and supportive. We are in a bubble. It is a blessing indeed to live in Highlands, North Carolina.

PS: I would expect that back in the '50s and '60s there were some "old-timers" saying "What Happened to The Good Old Days?"



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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• **INK PENN** •

Author Christopher Swann

I had the pleasure of attending a virtual book launch for Christopher Swann's latest book, "Never Turn Back." When I read his debut novel, "Shadow of the Lions," I enjoyed it so much, I sent copies to several friends, so I was delighted to have the opportunity to hear him speak about his second book and his writing process.

I found "Never Turn Back" especially enjoyable for its Atlanta setting and classroom scenes. Ethan Faulkner, the protagonist teaches English at a private school and resides in the Chastain Park area as the story opens. As a child, he lives in Sandy Springs outside the Perimeter until a home invasion

turned deadly forces him and his sister to move to Grant Park. The novel moves back and forth between the present and the tragedy that shaped Ethan's life.

The Amazon blurb describes it as a "Southern-set domestic thriller about family, vengeance, and atonement." It is that and more. It's a story about the decisions we make—good and bad—decisions that seem to be inconsequential until . . . they're not. How often do

you recall actions you've taken and cringe? Even years later? Ethan and his sister Susannah have more than their usual share of cringe-worthy memories. The consequences and how they work through them form the foundation of the tale.

Is it intriguing? The answer to that is my husband spent almost an entire day on our screened porch engrossed in the book and subsequently asked me to get him the first one. The good news for Christopher Swann fans is that he's already turned in the draft of a third book to his editor and has plans to write a sequel to "Never Turn Back."

The saying goes, "Write what you know," and Swann's vivid classroom scenes are surely a product of his experience as an English teacher and department chair at Holy Innocents Episcopal School. If you've ever taught or you have children in school or simply enjoy literature, I predict you'll savor



Kathy Manos Penn

those parts of the book as much as the mystery at its core.

As a corporate escapee turned writer, I was eager to hear about his writing process. I had to laugh when he was asked whether the book sprang fully formed from his head like Athena from Zeus, and I was heartened to hear it didn't. He explained he enjoys writing the characters and scenes but the challenge comes in making sure the story as a whole makes sense.

Similarly, as I've experienced and also heard other authors mention, his characters tend to take on lives of their own and can take a book in different directions. If I can trust my scribbled notes, I believe he said Susannah, Ethan's sister, wound up with a larger role than originally intended. However it happened, planned or not, she's integral to the plot.

"Never Turn Back," provided hours of enjoyment at the Penn household. If you like thrillers with plenty of twists, I predict it will do the same for you.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries on Amazon. Locally, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

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...**COVID continued from page 1**

tion establishments which also have their own rules.

State of North Carolina

Governor Roy Cooper has extended Phase 3 restrictions across the state to through Dec. 4.

Cooper said the numbers for the virus are too high. He said the state will remain paused in the current phase and will also change mass gatherings indoor limits from 25 to 10.

The governor said with the cooler weather, more people could gather indoors where the virus spreads easier.

"This reduction in our indoor gathering limit aims to slow the spread and bring down our numbers. It also sends a serious signal to families, friends and neighbors across our state. Success in slowing the spread will help our businesses," he said.

The change in mass gatherings does not impact church services.

Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen said overall cases are trending up and that is disturbing as the holiday's approach.

"We are on shaky ground...as we head into Thanksgiving," said Cohen. She suggested if you do have to travel for the holidays to get tested for the virus several days before you travel.

The phase means the status quo will remain. Outdoor-only bars, amusement parks, movie theaters and other small outdoor venues can stay open at 30% capacity. Bigger outdoor venues like stadiums will stay at 7% capacity.

The governor also says restaurants will be able to apply for up to \$20,000 to help



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Photos needed for new book

Angie Jenkins, author of coffee table books *Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years*, Volumes I & II is currently working on a new book entitled *Memories of Highlands' Early Years* which will feature stories written by native Highlanders about their growing up years in our wonderful town.

Also in the new book will be a section which will feature pho-

tos of now deceased Highlands' "old timers."

Please send photos and full names of your now deceased Highlands ancestors by December 1, 2020, to Angie Jenkins at angiejenkins117@gmail.com or mail to Angie Jenkins, P.O. Box 1176, Highlands, NC 28741.

If received by mail, your photos will be scanned and then returned to you.

...COVID continued from page 8

with rent payments.

Three weeks ago, the governor first extended Phase 3, saying coronavirus numbers were going in the wrong directions.

The new restrictions take effect Friday, Nov. 13 and will be in place through December 4th.

The entire state of North

Carolina is under a "Safer at Home" executive order, currently under phase three with masks required to be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from

COVID-19; however, anyone of any age can become infected with this illness.

As of press time, there were 811 cases reported in Macon County; 87 tests pending and eight deaths.

— Kim Lewicki

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Rebecca L. Baker, RN, MSN, NP-C joins Dr. Baker's Primary Care Clinic

We are pleased to announce that Rebecca Baker will be joining Dr. Baker's Primary Care Clinic as of Friday, November 13th.

She will be working on Fridays 8:30a - 5p and is also accepting new patients.

She was an RN for 25 years and has experience in critical care, transplants, labor and delivery as well as pediatrics.

She graduated from UAM with a BSN in 1991 and from Western in 2014 with an MSN. She is certified with the AANP and a member of the International Honor Society of Nurses.

She is currently working on her DNP from Liberty University.

She worked as a nurse practitioner for six years in Cashiers, as well as rounding at the Eckerd Living Center and running a Suboxone clinic.

She has been in Highlands 24 years and is active in her church, attending a women's Bible Study, ringing bells, and is a Stephen's Minister.

She sees patients from age 6 months to 103 years old. She does enjoy women's care and is proficient in gynecology.

If you are a prior patient of Rebecca's or would like to establish care, please call the office at 828-526-1700.

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OPEN LETTER TO COMMISSIONER HEHN & CITIZENS OF HIGHLANDS

I want to respond directly to the open letter Commissioner Hehn wrote to me in last week's newspaper. Misperceptions and confusion have been created by Commissioner Hehn's letter.

First, absolutely, I and the town manager were very cautious not to share with Commissioner Hehn the documents that he requested concerning WideOpen Networks, which were part of Town business prior to Mr. Hehn becoming a commissioner. Several years ago, when we began business negotiations with WideOpen, I signed, on behalf of the town board, a nondisclosure agreement with WideOpen. They viewed certain information and financial formulas within their proposed contract as propriety information and trade secrets. Under NC Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) and 143-318.11(a)(4), the board and our attorneys reviewed this information several times in closed

session. The board and I were not attempting to hide this information from the public, as eventually much of that information in the contract would have been revealed to the public at a formal acceptance of the contract by both parties; however, that final contract never happened.

So, yes, when Commissioner Hehn asked for this information right at the moment we were about to put out an RFP/Bid request to lease the fiber for 25 years, I did have concerns about our responsibility to protect that information because WideOpen expressed interest in bidding on the new RFP. I believed that if that information were to be shared with other potential bidders, WideOpen would view that as a breach of the nondisclosure agreement.

The town manager and I believed we had valid concerns about sharing the information with Mr. Hehn. We communicated those concerns to the town attorney and to WideOpen. WideOpen affirmed to us that they still viewed their financials and formulas as proprietary information and would not want it shared with potential competitors. I might add, the current companies who have submitted a bid for the 25 year lease are also requiring a nondisclosure agreement before sharing their financials with the town.

At the Town Retreat in March, all the board members reviewed a final contract that we submitted to WideOpen. Our attorney was at this closed session meeting to answer questions from the board and to provide legal assistance. About a week later WideOpen submitted a counter proposal with a different set of numbers than our contract proposed. The staff working with the contract reported that the WideOpen numbers were so out of line that there was no need to continue contract negotiations. Subsequently, the board decided to move to a 25-year lease of dark

fiber agreement. Bids went out, and we have received three bids which are being processed now.

Mr. Hehn wanted to see the letter in which WideOpen proposed the alternative numbers. I showed him a copy and allowed him time to read the letter and take notes in my office. I did not want the letter with the WideOpen counter proposal to be removed from town hall, especially since the town was entering a new bid phase. In fact, a potential bidder contacted our staff for a copy of the town's proposed contract and the WideOpen response. We denied that request because neither WideOpen nor the town, ever agreed to a final contract.

Given this current bid review for a 25-year lease, all the WideOpen confidential negotiations are now irrelevant. Had WideOpen agreed to the contract that the town submitted, the board review and approval would have been done in open session. But, both parties never got to that point. WideOpen chose not to submit a bid, explaining to town staff that their investors decided to invest in a fiber network in their hometown of Blacksburg, VA.

The approval of any new 25-year lease will be done in open session. The interviews of companies submitting bids conducted this week were done in closed session, at which Commissioner Hehn was present. Each bidder was asked about financial and business information that they may not have wanted to discuss in public. North Carolina statues allows closed sessions for this purpose. The eventual contract that the town will agree to will be a public document, just as the bids have been public.

I find it regrettable that Mr. Hehn has felt the need to engage a private attorney in conducting town business as an elected of-

• See LETTER page 11

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...LETTER continued from page 10

ficial. In my seven years as Mayor I have never felt that I had to consult with a private attorney about Town business. In fact, I have no private attorney. I don't believe the other commissioners have ever consulted with private attorneys about Town business either. I assume that the public can access through the internet the anti-trust suit that Commissioner Hehn referenced in his letter.

As for anti-trust issues that Mr. Hehn brought up in his letter, the town has been consulting with expert attorneys in the field of telecommunications throughout the broadband process. At the national level, including FCC compliance, we have engaged Jim Baller of Keller, Hickman, LLP. At the state level, the town uses Gabriel Du Sablon of Cauly and Pridgen, PA. At every step in the process we have worked to comply with state statutes, especially NC HB 129, which heavily impacted our negotiations with WideOpen in attempting to develop a 10-year lease agreement. The current 25-year lease agreement has another set of state requirements that we will follow. We have never had any indication from our legal team that the actions of the town have or might violate anti-trust laws. Any company currently operating in Highlands had the opportunity to bid on the dark fiber,

and of course can continue to operate and compete in this marketplace.

The Town of Highlands' primary interest in building this fiber optic network to homes and businesses has been to create a smart grid that can help manage our rather complex utility system. The network will also have significant benefits to our residents and businesses. The ability to manage utilities and systems within the homes and businesses will be optimized, and many residents will have the distinct option of working anywhere in the world from home.

Highlands is making a long-term investment for the entire community by developing this project. It will pay dividends in the future. As I have said before, because of forward thinking Highlanders, the town was one of the very first in Western North Carolina to have running water and electricity in the 1920s. With the critical demand for ever expanding broadband, Highlands will be one of the first communities in the region to have actual fiber to town facilities, homes and businesses.

Finally, let me express my confidence in the work of our town manager, Josh Ward. I believe four members of the town board share a similar confidence in him. Under the town manager/council form of

government Ward is charged with the operation of the town. The board is responsible for general oversight and considering a broader view, but they should not be involved in the micromanaging of the town manager and his staff. Our town staff and the manger have responded to numerous weekly requests from Commissioner Hehn about documents in all phases of town operations. Frankly, if every commissioner made similar requests, I suspect it would be hard for the staff to complete their ongoing duties. I, along with the town manager and staff have had numerous meetings with Commissioner Hehn. As just one example, our financial director, IT director and town manager spent several hours with Mr. Hehn after the March Retreat closed session answering questions about the WideOpen contract. They will continue to do so, just as they respond to inquiries from all the commissioners.

I believe the town board needs to take a broad and longterm view of the Highlands Smart Cites Project. Yes, it has and will cost money to build the fiber network, but the rewards and gains in the future for the people of Highlands outweighs current expenditures.

**Patrick Taylor, Mayor
Highlands, North Carolina**

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rainy Veterans Day ceremony doesn't dampen spirits

American Legion Post 370 held its annual Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 and recognized the addition of 21 bricks being added along the Memorial Walkway at Highlands Veterans Plaza in front of the Highlands Police Department. Post 370 Commander Ed McClosky, HPD Chief Andrea Holland, and Mayor Pat Taylor all spoke in honor and support of veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country. The ceremony was moved onto the Highlands Playhouse deck to escape the rain. And despite the steady rainfall, over 60 people attended the ceremony.

—Brian O'Shea



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Halloween in Highlands goes on despite COVID

Getting into the Halloween spirit at Highlands PAC

By Briann O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Costume clad movie-goers spent Halloween evening trick or treating at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, followed by a showing of the spooky classic Hocus Pocus at Ray's Drive Up.

The annual Halloween celebration on Main Street in Highlands was cancelled this year due to COVID-19, and Executive Director Mary Adair Trumbly thought showing a movie on Halloween would give families a chance to get into the spirit of the holiday.

"Last night was an event to give the kids a memory, a little bit of normalcy," said Trumbly. "A chance to safely gather and to have a good time. Trick or Treating and a fun movie for the whole family."

Children showed up dressed as dragons, princesses, storm troopers, and teenage mutant ninja turtles, and were able to trick or treat throughout the parking lot before the movie.

Trumbly said friends of

the PAC volunteered their time to pass out candy because they wanted the kids to have a fun evening.

"I was pleased. I had hoped that more people would come, but it was a good turn out and everyone had fun, the main objective," said Trumbly. "One cool thing happened that I didn't expect or even think about... people came and decorated their cars and had their own candy to hand out to all of the Trick (Trunk) or Treaters."

The PAC has recently been offering Parkin' at the PAC at Ray's Drive-Up, an outdoor theater showing movies on Thursdays and Fridays as a safe form of entertainment amidst COVID-19.

Trumbly said the Town has approved the drive up until N.C. Governor Roy Cooper lifts the restrictive mandates, but she hopes to repeat Halloween at the drive-up next year.

The PAC will be showing ELF after the Tree Lighting this year. More details will be released soon.



Drive-through trick or treating at The Literacy Council

The Literacy Council changed tactics this year and held a drive-through trick or treat-style event delighting costumed children with bags of books and treats on Halloween.

"In order to align with COVID-19 precautions, TLC had to shift the way we ordinarily celebrate Halloween," said Jenni Edwards, TLC Marketing Manager. "Normally we participate in Highlands' Halloween parade by giving out books. TLC decided to do a drive-through Halloween where anyone could come by and pick up a trick-or-treat bag."

The bags were filled with candy from TLC and the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, age-appropriate books from TLC and Mountaintop Rotary, DVD coupons and bookmarks from the Hudson Library, and some of the bags had take-home art projects from The Bascom.

Volunteers for the night included TLC board members, people from Mountaintop Rotary, and friends and family. Edwards said the TLC is grateful to everyone who volunteered, they couldn't have done it without them.

"We look forward to giving out new books to children around Macon County every year and thought it was important that we adjust our regular practices so we could still do that," said Edwards. "We were so happy to see everyone that came by Halloween night, and we even got a few pictures and videos of children surveying their candy and reading their new books. The trick-or-treat bags that were left over after Halloween night were given to students at Highlands School."



Halloween in Highlands goes on despite COVID



Highlands School holds annual 'Spooky Parade'

Students in grades K-5 at Highlands School got their Halloween on at the annual "Spooky Parade" and marched through the halls showing off their costumes on Nov. 2.

"The students look forward to this special event and are excited about walking the halls each year," said Assistant Principal Sarah Holbrooks. "This year we had

to rethink our route due to social distancing guidelines. Grades 6-12 also look forward to the "Spooky Parade" where they can see the little ones. Many older students have younger siblings or cousins that participate in the "Spooky Parade."

Older students cheered on costume-clad elementary students as they walked through the hallways. Holbrooks said she felt it was especially important they continue this tradition this year because students have had many other disappointments since last

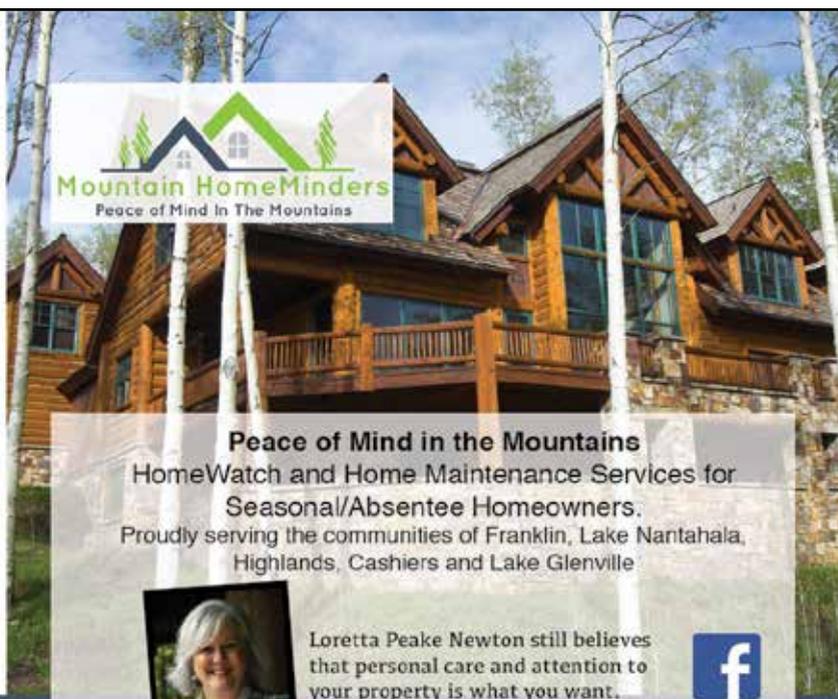
March due to COVID-19.

"We are happy that we were able to tweak the parade so that our students could have a fun time while continuing to follow safety protocols," said Holbrooks. "We love to have fun, but we also want to be sure that we are putting the health and safety of our students first."

In addition to the "Spooky Parade," Holbrooks said K-5 classrooms also incorporated fun-Halloween activities into classroom learning to make the holiday even more festive.



Photos and stories by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News



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Let Us Give Thanks

So while the pandemic rages on, those of us in the local real estate market are shattering sales records for the history books.

These are tough times and a lot of people are suffering both personally and professionally. But people are still selling and buying as they try to move to new parts of the country where they will be more comfortable.

Our beloved Highlands/Cashiers Plateau is being discovered as one of those comfort zones.

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, let us pause and reflect on reasons to be grateful in this Covid 2020 year:

We are grateful for:

1. Family, friends and colleagues who are always there rain or shine.
2. Living in this beautiful area.
3. The outstanding medical community and unheralded first responders that allow us to sleep peacefully at night.
4. Practicing a profession that allows



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interactions with so many interesting people.

5. The Leaders of this community.

6. The Investors and Businesses in this community.

7. The local workers in every segment.

8. The scarcity of Covid right now on the Plateau.

9. The strength of the local economy.

10. The optimistic and sensible growth of this area.

11. Feeling that there is "no place like home on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau."

May you and your families enjoy a safe and healthy Thanksgiving wherever and however you are able to celebrate. We give thanks for you!!

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Highlands' Winter Greens

Take a gander at Highlands' year-round greenery! What evergreen plants do we commonly see in the winter? How do they survive the harsh conditions?

Paige Engelbrektsson, Highlands Biological Foundation's™ Education Specialist, will answer these questions and more with an introductory talk and virtual exploration of the Botanical Garden.

All are welcome to participate in this free online program. You can watch the premiere on the Highlands Biological Station's™ Facebook page (@highlandsbiologicalstation) on Tuesday, November 17th, at 1 PM or find it afterward on the Highlands Biological™ YouTube channel.

For more information, please contact Paige at (828) 526-2623. Highlands Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of WCU.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Local author publishes second book

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Local author Jeannie Chambers recently released her second book, *Arnetta and The Mirror of Destiny: The Future Doesn't Belong to the Faint Hearted*.

The story follows a 16-year old girl, Arnetta, from a textile town in S.C. who discovers a mirror with the power to show the future and causes a ripple effect in Arnetta's otherwise mundane life.

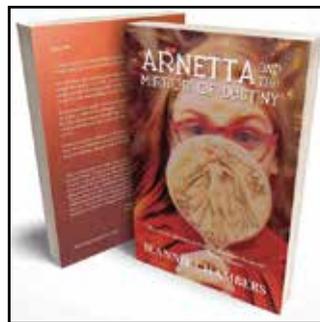
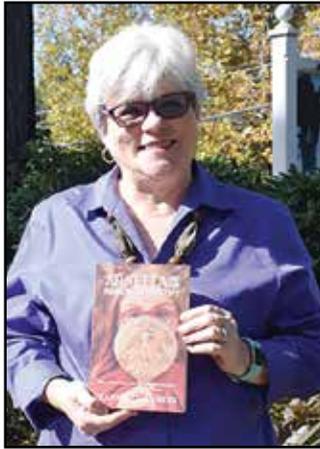
Arnetta and the Mirror of Destiny is the journey of a teenager who learns that knowing certain things can be beautiful, but also heartbreaking, dangerous, or deadly.

Set in 1985 during Ronald Reagan's second inauguration, Chambers said if you're going to write about the future, you have to start in the past.

Chambers said she is consistently thinking of new stories and adventures, asking what if. The story may be fiction, but Chambers likes to think "it could happen..."

"I do a lot of background research and behind the scenes stuff because I want everything to be right," said Chambers. "When you're writing fiction, you have to remember it's fiction. It's so real to me when I write it, I feel like it's really happening."

This is Chambers' second published work, the first being *Tunnel of Time* released in 2017. However, both of those



works were not written the year they were published. *Tunnel of Time* was written in 2013, and *Arnetta and The Mirror of Destiny* in 2012.

"Once you have the foundation of a book written, that's when the editing process begins," said Chambers. "By the time a book gets published, it has gone through so many revisions. It takes a long time to read the whole story over and over. Then you have other people read and get their feedback. Plus, I have a day job."

The projects both took shape in 2012-13 when Chambers participated in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) that takes place each November. NanoWriMo is a nonprofit that challenges people of all walks of life

to write 50,000 words of a novel in one month.

When Chambers writes, her goal is to write stories that make people think without being taught, and tickle inquisitive bones where the only way to satisfy that itch is to read more and more.

Chambers is a native of South Carolina and has lived in Highlands since the early 1990s. She owns and operates Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals her day job) with her husband Tucker.

Arnetta and The Mirror of Destiny: The Future Doesn't Belong to the Faint Hearted is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Book Nook, and Books-A-Million.

to see how residents feel about the situation.

In the meantime, we can all continue to be good, environmental stewards of the plateau. Town staff and law enforcement are reviewing ordinances and policies to see if improvements can be made.

Now that I am finished writing this article, I am going out to pick up bags of trash on US 64 that wonderful volunteers collected this past weekend.

...PLAN continued from page 1

(municipal) into a new Chapter 160D. Chapter 160D, requires all counties and municipalities the have zoning to update their unified development ordinances and comprehensive plans by July 1, 2022, in order to comply with the standards.

A few months back, the town hired Stewart, Inc., to oversee the process of putting a comprehensive plan for Highlands together. It will entail incorporating plans already in place as well as eliciting input from stakeholders in the community as well as citizens.

In Thursday's meeting was Highlands Assistant Planning Director, Michael Mathis and the staff of Stewart, Inc.

"This first-ever Comprehensive Plan is important as it will guide the future development of the town of Highlands for years to come," said Mathis.

Project Manager with Stewart, Inc., Jake Petrosky directed the meeting which included a Powerpoint presentation which highlighted points including background and analysis.

The Comprehensive Plan will function as the town's future plan promoting public health, safety and welfare of its citizens; guiding and managing growth and change while strengthening the community; to protect property values and investments and to improve the quality of life for residents while attracting and retaining businesses.

The Comprehensive Plan is meant to be collaborative conversation about what's going well, what should be continued; what could be done better and what are issues coming up that need to be addressed.

"We are thinking in terms of 10 and 20 years out, but we also think about short-term actions, policies or standards or programs that can move us toward the overall goals," said Petrosky.

Members of the group said comprehensive plans examine a lot of different issues – the interconnectedness between land use, growth and development, transportation, utilities, recreation, historic pres-

• See PLAN page 16

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

amine policies on short term rentals, i.e. VRBOs. I along with some commissioners are getting growing feedback about visitors coming to town to party and have a good time and then leaving garbage messes behind for town sanitation workers to haul off. I suspect this short-term rental issue will be a major item in the Highlands Community Plan which will be coming out toward the end of 2021. It will be interesting

...PLAN continued from page 15

ervation, and the downtown area.

“The plan is not meant to be regulatory; it is a policy document so it doesn’t change zoning, or ordinances, or laws, but it can inform regulatory changes,” said Petrosky. “In the end, we might make recommendations to the town and suggest looking at some ordinances or zoning regulations; perhaps make some adjustments to be more in line with the overall vision.”

Representatives said they are looking at how the whole system in the town is interconnected.

How land use affects housing and economic development, parks and open spaces and environmental goals and how infrastructure affects housing. So, it’s a web, they said.

Highlands comprehensive plan will be building on the 2005 Land Use Plan whose vision statement said: We envision an attractive mountain community, which is founded on the beauty of the plateau’s natural environment, the uniqueness of Highlands’ village

character and the richness of the area’s culture and history.

It had goals and strategies which are still applicable now, but some will have to be updated, they said.

The work will be done in phases which started late summer 2020 and will be completed the spring or summer of 2021.

Members of the Stewart, Inc., will continue to talk to staff, business owners and residents, and will continue in that analyses phase through the winter.

“We will then take back everything we have seen and heard, the survey results that close in December, and talk and come up with a draft plan sometime spring 2021, that encompasses our recommendations, visions, objectives, land use, everything the previous plan had and more. Aiming for summer 2021 adoption,” said representatives.

There will be a lot of public input opportunities all along the way; the first of which is the survey available at [scommunityplan.com and can be taken through December.](http://www.highland-</p>
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Everything will be posted on the website so the community will know what’s going on all along the way.

Petrosky said they are looking at trends in town, doing a lot of mapping analyses, working with town and county staff and with DOT and natural resource agencies, to understand some of the issues that are ongoing in Highlands and on the plateau outside of town to understand what’s happening in Macon County.

Research has shown that Highlands year-round and seasonal population has grown. In 2010 there were 924 year-round residents and in 2020 there are 1015.

Seasonally, population in town grows to 3,000-4,000 and outside of town in the township it grows to 18,000. “Lots of folks coming in and out,” they said.

Petrosky characterized Highlands as a regional center for people in Macon and Jackson counties who come in for cultural activities, to dine and to shop.

Housing was a big research topic. In 2018 there were 2,218 housing units in the town limits and within those 646 are considered permanent for the 1,000 folks who live in Highlands. With

1,473 of the 1,572 homes being rented out either seasonally or for short-term rentals, there are only 100 vacant units at one time.

“This is something you don’t see in a lot of communities where only 29% of housing is occupied year-round and the rest is for seasonal visitors,” he said. “Most homes are single-family and through this planning process we will see whether people want to see more density in town. But right now, 85% are single-family homes.”

As everyone know, housing values have increased dramatically.

The median home value in 2017 was 507,000 and it jumped up to \$550,000 – \$655,000. The median price for condos has increased \$200,000 in the last year and half.

“Highlands is experiencing explosive growth in home values. There has been a 77% increase since 2017, and that’s pre-pandemic levels,” they said. “Since the pandemic, houses are going really quickly and sale prices are up 11% from last year.”

There are 417 active AirBnB and VRBO rentals in the town limits and that more than doubled in the last three years.

“Almost 19% or one-fifth of Highlands housing is being rented online and that doesn’t include those rented by local property

management companies. Folks are making good money renting out their homes. Rental occupancy rates throughout the year is just over 50% but in April it was 90% so we suspect that during the other seasonal months it is higher than that 50%,” they said.

Highlands retail market is heavily tourist based. Local businesses – clothing, food & beverage and restaurants are really dependent on tourists for their revenue, they said.

The number of jobs has increased since 2010, but the proportion of the largest job type are very similar to what they were – accommodation, food service and retail trade.

Essentially a lot of workforce drives in from other places because some of the industries in Highlands are lower paying so people live elsewhere because they can’t afford to live in Highlands. Even mid-level managers drive in from other places because there just are not a lot of long-term rentals available.

“In fact, only 370 workers live in town. About 1/3 of workers live elsewhere,” they said.

Stewart, Inc. is looking at areas in Macon County outside the town that will affect the growth of the town, too – to anticipate what could be voluntary annexations.

• See PLAN page 19

Ready for the Holidays?



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Curbside Drop-off at Highlands First Baptist Church for Operation Christmas Child begins Nov. 16

Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts – filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys – to children worldwide for more than two decades. This is a project that everyone can still be a part of, even with COVID-19 restrictions Nov. 16-23.

There’s still time for individuals, families, and groups to transform empty shoeboxes into fun gifts. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God’s love to children in need. Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage.

Highland’s location and their scheduled hours are listed below:

First Baptist Church
 Coordinators: Sergio Baranco, Angelica Garcia
 220 Main Street, Highlands
 828-508-7466 or (828) 508-2695

- Mon, Nov. 16: 2-6pm
- Tue, Nov. 17: 12:30- 5pm
- Wed, Nov. 18: 3-7pm
- Thu, Nov. 19: 1-5pm
- Fri, Nov. 20: 1-5pm
- Sat, Nov. 21: noon-5pm
- Sun, Nov. 22: 1-5pm
- Mon, Nov. 23: 10am - noon

Those interested in more information on how Operation Christmas Child is making adjust-

ments during its National Collection Week can visit the organization’s Important COVID-19 Updates webpage for the latest information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, seeks to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Shop local with The Mountain's Thanksgiving Online Auction to benefit its Mountain Camp

A Virtual Opportunity to shop with some of the finest boutiques, hotels, restaurants in Highlands, NC while supporting The Mountain.

This year our silent auction is online and open to you to participate from home! The Mountain has partnered with our small business neighbors in Highlands to bring you some exciting, tasty, beautiful items perfect for gifts or treating yourself.

Proceeds will go towards The Mountain to help us further our mission of gifting the MountainCamp experience through our Lee Knight Campership fund. Your support also helps local business thrive and helps us maintain an exemplary retreat and sanctuary for generations to come. To participate head to TheMountainRLC.org.

This auction concludes on November 27th, at 8 p.m. Enjoy the holidays locally and put a positive spin on Black Friday shopping as we conclude our



online silent auction in person. Register at TheMountainRLC.org to participate in-person on the final night of the Auction Friday 11/27, 5-8pm.

Join us atop The Mountain's 100-acre estate to enjoy tapas, drinks, stunning views and community while you bid to support local businesses. The Mountain is also hosting an in-person Thanksgiving experience. Spacious & Gracious, This event has reduced capacity and flows into the con-

clusion of the silent auction so please register early. Thank you to Highlands for your generous support!

Silent auction web address: <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/The-Mountain-Silent-Auction-16135>

If there are businesses that would still like to contribute a donation to this auction please contact development@mountaincenters.org.



Episcopal Church construction project begins

After a successful capital campaign, the Church of the Incarnation recently began construction on a nine-month building project.

The church is working with the historic architectural firm, Cram & Ferguson (founded in 1889 by the "preeminent American Ecclesiastical Gothicist"[1] Ralph Adams Cram and Charles Francis Wentworth) and has enlisted JDavis Construction as their general contractor (Westminster, SC).

Notable features of the project:

- New door and formal entry into the Sanctuary directly from Main Street, literally opening church doors to the community.

- Prominent windows added to the new entry on both sides and above the door, admitting

light through the wall and into the rear of the Sanctuary.

- New Spire housing for four cast bronze bells (the largest of which will be 1,000 lbs.)

- Increased seating in main sanctuary (adding 60 new seats)

- Updating entire building to be ADA compliant

- Enhanced sanctuary to offer comfort and transcendence, beauty and grace, inspiration and peace – a sacramental home uniting heaven and earth.

- More natural light with new and additional windows added throughout building. Updated LED lighting throughout building.

More information about the project can be found at: www.gloriousvision.org

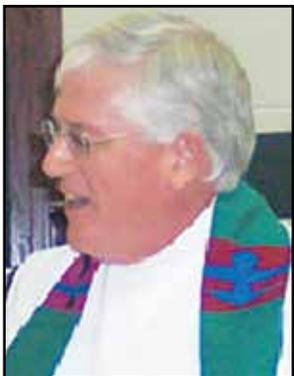
More information about the architects can be found: <https://www.cramandferguson.com>.

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In the Season of Thanksgiving: Praying for Jerusalem's 'Peace'



Rector: Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church,
Cashiers

President Trump did an amazingly good thing in 2017 when he both recognized Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capitol and moved the United States Embassy to that city. There is not space here to go into all of the blessed ramifications of those official acts but they will reap benefits for world peace forever. Yet, at first blush, you may be tempted to think, "Why pray for Jerusalem's peace, anyway, we're hurting here with rank division and violence at every turn, we need peace right here in the good old USA!" And you would be correct. A thorough-going peace in our country is a prerequisite for order, civility, and truth. Peace is a scarce and precious state of being in 21st century America. Nevertheless, we are called by God in his Word to prioritize Israel's peace, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." (Psalm 122:8, ESV) Why?

There are three principal reasons to pray for Jerusalem's peace. The first reason is that our Creator-Father has chosen her for the place that his name would dwell forever. Jerusalem (a.k.a., Zion) is God's sovereignly chosen location, that is, the home-town for his name, (i.e., his character, his reputation, his peace,) to dwell. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem because he has chosen her and therefore calls us to our knees on behalf of her peace. King Solomon, in 2 Chronicles 6:6, announces the selection of the holy city to the nation of Israel assembled therein as his name's abode.

The second reason to pray for Zion's peace is that all of mankind benefits from Jerusalem enjoying peace. King Darius, the heretofore pagan ruler of Persia understood this principle, outlined in Psalm 122. Darius came to recognize Israel's God as the only true God. In Ezra chapter 6 he issued a decree that basically protected Zion's reestablishment and provided for Jerusalem's peace and tranquility. The Arab-King of Persia commanded all the world to take care of Zion because in taking care of her, the world was providing for their own peace.

Finally, the third reason that we are called upon to pray for Jerusalem's peace is because of he who is the Prince of Peace, spoken of in Isaiah 9:6. Jesus the Christ is the subject and fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. It is Jesus who is the epitome and embodiment of Peace. Indeed, he is the one and only grantor and guarantor of everlasting Peace. Every

•See SPIRITUALLY page 19

Proverbs 3:5

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.
- BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
- CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Rev. Wes Sharpe, Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30
- CHAPEL OF THE SKY**
Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
- CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
9:30am Sunday School; 11:30am Worship Service; 6pm Mon.
CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.
- CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.
- COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sundays: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; 9:45am (masks required) Early Worship Service; 11:15am (masks optional) Worship Service; Sundays 10:45am-Children's Program, Sunday Youth-4:30pm - 6:30pm Dinner provided
- COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY**
706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447,
Pastor Gary Hewins
Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.
- EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968
Sunday Services Live-Stream at 10:30 a.m.,
Morning Prayer Weekdays on Facebook live at 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist at noon in the garden on Mon and Wed
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS**
828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
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
- GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am
- GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

- www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm
- HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.
- HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship: 11
- HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening Worship, 6p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.
- HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376
In-Person Indoor Worship with limited seating, and an allowable capacity up to 30% pending appropriate social distancing. 9:09 and 10:50 worship
- HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA**
2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Worship/Communion: 10:30
All are welcome.
We wear masks and social distance.
- MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.
- MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463
- MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.
- OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
Mass: Thurs. 12:10; Fri. 9am; Sun: 11 a.m.
- SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.
- SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.
- SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.
- ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**
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- THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**
1448 Highway 107 S., Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services
Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.
- UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
- WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

Oct. 28

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on N. 5th and Oak streets.

Oct. 29

• At 4:48 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at NC 28 south and S. 3rd Street.

• At 9 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Main Street and NC 106.

Oct. 30

• At 11 a.m., officers received a report of a breaking & entering and destruction of property at a residence on Foreman Road. Wooden doors, frames and locks were damaged as

were windows in a garage.

Nov. 4

• At 7:55 a.m., officers received a report of a larceny of jewelry from an accommodation on Wilson Road.

• At 11:59 a.m., officers received a report of littering in K-H Founders Park where someone left large bags of clothing.

Nov. 7

• At 11:35 p.m., officers received a report of a simple assault at the High Dive on Carolina Way where the victim was punched in the face.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 3

Nov. 3.

• At 2:26 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

Nov. 4

• At 2:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a location on Church Street.

• At 7:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Church Street.

• At 8:04 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Church Street.

Nov. 5

• At 4:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Queen Mountain.

Nov. 6

• At 9:56 a.m., the dept. investigated a call concerning smoke on Talley Lane.

• At 12:53 p.m., the dept. investigated a call concerning smoke on Bowery and Horse Cove roads.

• At 6:07 p.m., the dept. investigated a call

concerning smoke on Sassafras Gap Road.

Nov. 7

• At 9:51 a.m., the dept. responded to call of a dumpster fire on Oak Street.

• At 11:56 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Carl Chastain Road.

• At 6:51 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Picklesimer Road.

• At 7:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a location on Spring Street.

Nov. 8

At 7:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Fallen Leaf Lane.

Nov. 9

At 9:08 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hummingbird Lane.

...PLAN continued from page 16

Towns in North Carolina can't involuntarily annex anyone.

The Highlands lifestyle is heavily influenced by what is outside the town and that's what makes Highlands unique, they said.

Highlands is surrounded by 42,736 acres of public conservation land – USFS but also land trust properties within five miles. There are 36 ecologically significant natural areas within that five-mile ring of town; 107 miles of trout waters; trails outside of town and the seven miles of the Highlands Greenway off and on road trails.

“That is something you may want to build on and use for more purposes,” said Petrosky. “A lot of natural resources in a short distance which makes living in Highlands great.”

Within Highlands there are a parks and recreation facilities due to public private partnerships, and town initiatives.

Kelsey-Hutchinson Park actually functions as a town green,” he said.

Petrosky said Stewart, Inc. is looking for public input with the survey as a jumping off place but wants everyone to participate along the way.

“What else would you like in and around town? What connections do you want so they will be used more? Are there barriers? Those are the things we want to

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

other type of peace pales in comparison to the thorough-going peace that only God himself brings. According to John 14, it's a peace that the world cannot give. Therefore, it makes sense to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, for Jesus the Prince of Peace, that he

know about,” he said.

He said so far they know that the environment and preservation is important to people; there is a need for housing for workers and families; downtown safety during peak periods is a concern – there are sidewalks but they aren't wide enough. There is a need by bike racks in town which may alleviate the need parking.

“It's about maintaining a sense of community and the character of Highlands through careful, thoughtful development over the next 10, 20, 30, years. There is a lot of concerted effort to make sure new development fits where the vision is going while taking care of existing structures by revitalizing them,” he said.

For instance, there are a lot of one-story buildings in Highlands and the price of real estate downtown is really high. So, there is pressure to build multiple stories while maintaining the character, the size and the use, they said.

“We want to reinforce what makes Highlands special. Take the survey and tell your friends about it – what is your vision, your big ideas about recreation, housing, short-term rentals, downtown priorities and even transportation?” asked Petrosky. “Let us know.”

– Kim Lewicki

would come and forge an everlasting peace for all who accept it, him.

I encourage you, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, it will be better for everyone in the world.

To avoid this:



We have required this:



Bear Resistant Toters were required by August 1st, 2020.

Toters can be purchased locally at Reeves Ace Hardware, at Home Depot and online.

Citation Warnings will be issued for the next week and starting November 16th citations will be issued for those not in compliance.

For more information, please feel free to call Town Hall at (828)526-2118 or look at the ordinance online at:

www.highlandscnc.org



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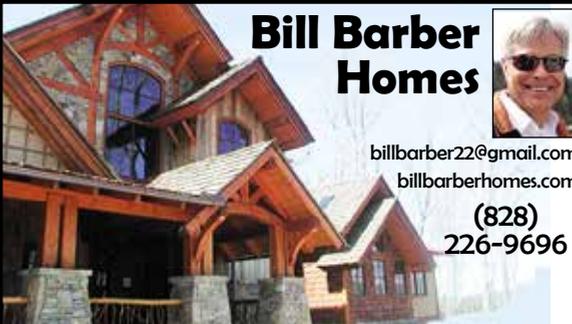
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...OBITUARY continued from page 5

for her sweet and affable nature, wit, intelligence, wisdom and loving care for those in need. She passed away at the Eckerd Living Center. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by her three children who sang to her, read her poetry, and laid hands upon her on her final day.

Survivors include children Kathleen and the Rev. Carlton Shuford of Augusta, Ga.; Laura and Patrick Doonan of Atlanta; and Harrison and Jeanne Metzger of Mills River, N.C.; grandchildren Josh and Laura Shuford of Marietta, Ga., Andy and Julie Shuford and Kevin Doonan of Los Angeles, Calif., Kristan and Paul Makl of Seattle, WA.; Charley Doonan of

Denver, Colo.; Anna and Daniella Metzger of Mills River, N.C.; four great-grandchildren; and beloved friend Helen Moore, of Highlands, N.C., who ministered to the family with the same sort of grace and hospitality that Elinor shared her entire life.

The family thanks Eckerd Living center for their loving care of Elinor, and asks that in lieu of flowers donations in her memory be made to Jubilee Partners, P.O. Box 68, Comer, GA 30629; Cashiers Highlands Humane Society, 200 Gable Drive, Sapphire, NC 28774; or MountainTrue, 121 Third Avenue West, Suite #1, Hendersonville, NC 28792. Services will be announced at a later date.



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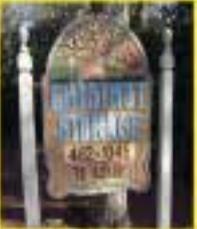
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LONG TERM RENTAL- Couple looking for a long term rental in the Highlands/ Cashiers/ Glenville/ Sapphire area. Must allow dogs. Move in March 1st. Call 267-371-3783. (11/26)

QUALITY GUITARS. Cash on hand. Gibson, Martin, etc. Call: 917-554-4185, Email: Bakelitemusic@yahoo.com (11/12)

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

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SISTED LIVING COMMUNITY in search of a Dietary Cook, CNAs, Med Techs, Wait Staff and Weekend Receptionist. Send resume to Lindabriff@aol.com or call 828-526-5251. (st. 2/13)

HIGHLANDS DELI is hiring kitchen staff, starting immediately for the summer and fall. Please pick up applications at SweetTreats/Highlands Deli – 115 S 4th Street. (st. 8/13)

WOLFGANGS is looking for hostess, wait-staff, and backer. Best award of Wine Spectator. Please call Jacque at 828-526-3807 for either positions. (st. 5/28)

THE LOG CABIN is looking for servers, line cooks and dishwashers. call or stop by – great pay. Start immediately. Call or stop by 828 526-577. (st. 6/11)

JOIN OUR TEAM! Nectar Juice Bar (located inside Whole Life Market) is now hiring! Are you looking for a fun, healthy-minded individual looking for full-time, year-round work? Experience is not necessary, but kitchen or barista skills a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th St., Highlands.

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

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