

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 18, Number 41

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

Thurs., Oct. 14, 2021

Highlands Town Board candidates line up for third of 5-week Q&A

This is the third week in our five-week Candidate Q&A. Each candidate was asked the same question.

There are two candidates running for the mayoral seat – incumbent Mayor Pat Taylor and Commissioner Marc Hehn.

There are six candidates running for the two open seats on the Town Board – Incumbent Amy

• See Q&A page 20

Election early voting starts today

This Municipal Election is open to Franklin and Highlands residents who live in the municipality only.

Early Voting begins today, Thursday, Oct. 14 and ends Oct. 30.

The hours are 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday. The only Saturday for early voting is Oct. 30, 8 am to 3 pm.

The two early voting locations are:

In Franklin – at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin.

In Highlands – at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th St.

The last day to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 26, by 5 pm.

Election Day is Nov. 2, 6 am to 7:30 pm.

If you have any questions, please call the Macon County Board of Elections at 828-349-2034



Historic Playhouse makes history with first-time live performances set through Oct. 24

'Music In Motion' now on stage at The Playhouse

Highlands Playhouse, for more than 80 years known for producing summer theatre, has begun its first ever Fall Musical to

rave reviews. "Music In Motion", a tribute to Broadway musicals turned into popular movies is a

• See PLAYHOUSE page 19

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HCHF is recipient of HCC's Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament proceeds

The 39th Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament was held August 5-7, 2021 at Highlands Country Club.

The tournament is named after the legendary Bobby Jones and features Walker Cup players from the United States, Great Britain, and Ireland.

Jones was selected to play on the United States Walker Cup Team five times and twice served as its captain. Jones loved Highlands and was instrumental in the development of Highlands Coun-

try Club where he christened the course by hitting the first ball when it opened in 1928.

This year the Tournament raised in excess of \$250,000 benefitting the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation.

Proceeds will go toward the funding of the Blue Ridge Highlands Cashiers Health Center, the foundation's number one priority project.

"We are pleased to dedicate the proceeds from the Bob Jones

• See HCHF page 6

Tate not seeking re-election

At the October MC Board of Commission meeting, Commissioner Chair Jim Tate announced he will not be seeking re-election in 2022.

He read the following statement:

"On December 11, 2011, I

had the privilege of being sworn into office as a Macon County Commissioner. Since that day, I have worked extremely hard and I have dedicated countless hours to ensure that our community would be proud of my service

• See TATE page 21

VOTE
Mary A. Bynum
For **Board of Commissioners**
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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

•MAYOR ON DUTY•

Highlands continues to be Bear-Wise

It was gratifying for the North Carolina Wildlife Commission to designate Highlands as a BearWise community. The BearWise program will not solve all the bear issues in town, but it sure will help. The challenge now that the program is in place, is to continue following the best practices for bear safety.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

There are a number of people who I want to thank for making this program possible. First, Ashley Hobbs, a NC Wildlife biologist provided important support and assistance in guiding the town and the B.E.A.R. Task Force through the steps of the program. We worked through the steps for several years before everything fell into place.

I want to thank the Town Board for its support of the program. It voted to install bear-proof and bear-resistant street cans in the business areas. The board led the way in removing those ugly, shared dumpsters in the business areas. They were magnets for the bears to pillage on a regular basis. Instead, the town converted to roll-cart con-

ainers that are bear-resistant. The only dumpsters remaining are on the property of single businesses. Those businesses are responsible for managing their dumpsters.

The board also adopted the policy of requiring bear-resistant roll-carts in residential areas. These roll-carts have an added benefit of minimizing the need for our sanitation crews to constantly lift trash cans during daily routes.

I want to thank commissioners Amy Patterson and Marc Hehn for serving on the BearWise and wildlife committee. They were instrumental in developing ordinances prohibiting the feeding of bears and the overfilling of roll-carts.

I also want to thank our staff in moving the program forward. Matt Shuler of our IT department was very helpful in developing the BearWise webpage. Our town website now has a BearWise leaf link that provides all the information about the program. It also includes a bear-tracking map so visitors can monitor recent bear activity in town.

I also want to thank the B.E.A.R. Task Force led by Cynthia Strain. It will serve as the town's education partners as we work together to continue the program. The task force will provide information to residents concerning bear activity and how to curtail unwanted interactions with bears.

Finally, I want to thank all the residents who are cooperating with the town in addressing the bear issue. I know the use of bear-resistant roll-carts can be inconvenient, but they are essential to the BearWise program. I also know that the latches on the roll carts can sometimes stick and not secure the lid. I have been using a spray can of silicon liquid to keep the latch on my roll cart working.

On another topic, let me address the mask requirement in the business areas. I have received calls that it is time to rescind that requirement because COVID rates are going down.

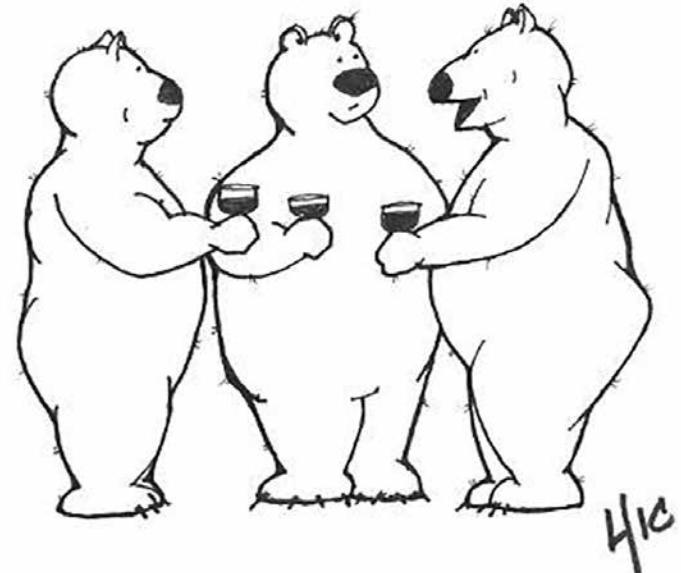
I agree that we have seen a marked reduction in cases, especially in the past week. That trend is good news. I will ask the Town Board to consider the cancellation of the mask policy at the Town Board meeting next Thursday.

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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•



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"Y'all hear about this Highlands BearWise nonsense. Well, if that is their attitude, we'll just shop someplace else."

•WEATHER•

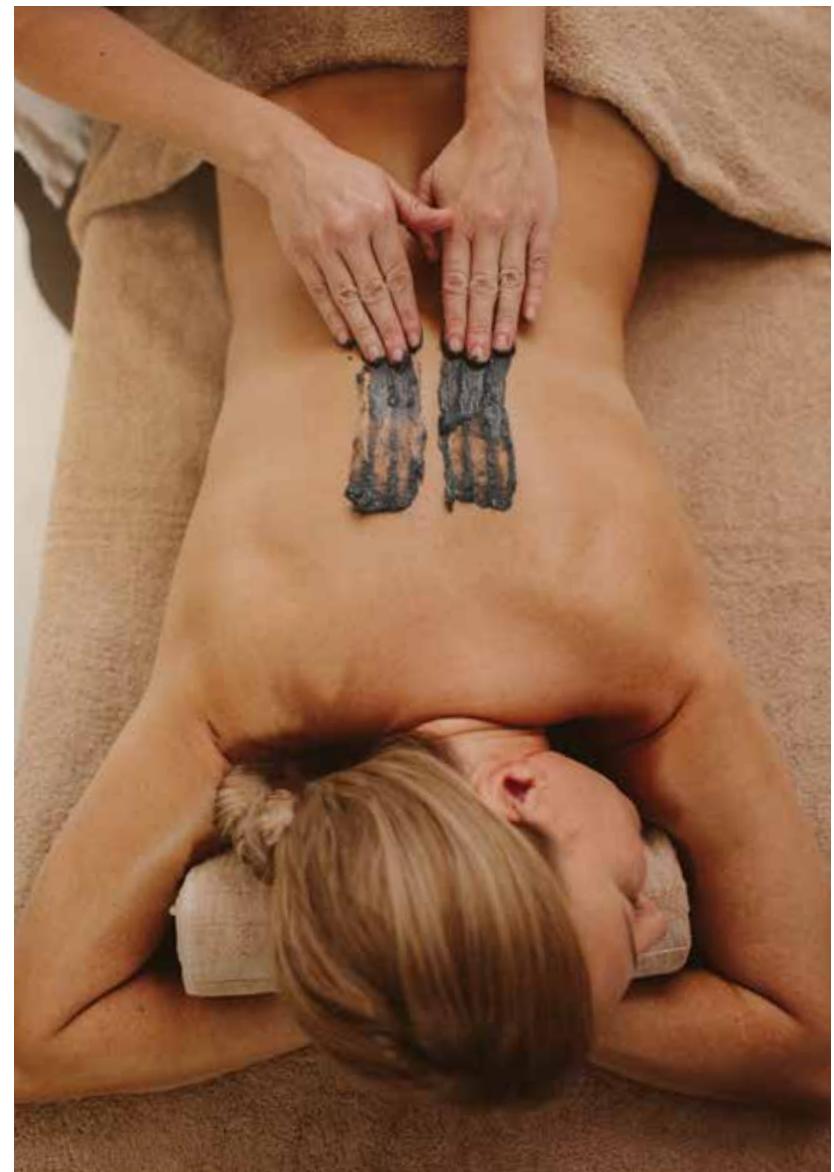
Thu, 14-Oct	Fri, 15-Oct	Sat, 16-Oct	Sun, 17-Oct
75°F 55°F	73°F 57°F	62°F 41°F	60°F 38°F
Partly sunny and warm	Partly sunny, warm and humid	Cooler with showers around	Plenty of sun
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• OBITUARIES •

Sandra Ann Levernier Vos

Sandra Ann Levernier Vos left this world on Sunday, October 10th 2021. She was 64 years young. Sandy was born on January 5, 1957 and was a woman loved by many! She was very concerned and compassionate towards others and gave you the news or advice straight up!

Throughout her life she had many skills and performed many assorted jobs, the last being with the Old Edwards Family helping to run the warehouse. Sandy loved spending time with her family, being at their home in the mountains and also their lake house.

She is survived by her husband, Timothy Vos, husband of 39 years, and three

children and spouses, Kimberly, Timmy and Kellye, Scotty and Ilona and three grandchildren; Timothy III, Mason and Milo, along with her three siblings.

Sandy died surrounded by her loving family while in her home. She had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. The family is asking that donations in her memory be made to Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church (Information below). A memorial service is planned for Thursday, October 14 at 10 AM at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church, 8397 Wolffork Road, Rabun Gap, Georgia 30568.

• See OBITUARIES page 21

The Secret Garden isn't a Secret anymore!
It is located in The Village Square behind K-H Founders Park.

Offering hot and cold sandwiches, green salads, pasta salads, bakery items, "SECRET" daily specials and chillers filled with specialty charcuterie items sourced from small batch vendors in North Carolina.

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Need Help! The Highlands Emergency Council is now accepting applications for Fuel Assistance and Christmas Angels. Please apply in person at the Highlands Emergency Council located at 71 Poplar Street (next to Wilson Gas)

Christmas sponsors are needed to help those in need. If you would like to sponsor a family for Christmas please call the Highlands Emergency Council at 828-526-2635.



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...HCHF continued from page 1



Pictured in the check presentation from left is Tara Southern, Tournament Administrator, Earle Mauldin, Tournament Committee Member, Robin Tindall, HCHF Executive Director & CEO, Jim Santo, Tournament Co-Chair, Mike Campbell, Highlands Country Club President.

Invitational Golf Tournament to support this important initiative for families and neighbors across our Highlands and Cashiers area. Local access to high quality, affordable health care and keeping physicians here is essential to all of us," said Jim Santo, Co-Chair of the Tournament Committee.

The health center, independently operated by Blue Ridge Health, opened on the hospital campus June 28 with two full-time physicians providing comprehensive primary care. The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is making this project possible through grants and contributions from the community.

"We are deeply grateful and humbled by the extraordinary generosity of this distinguished tradition to benefit our mission to improve health and well-being of the

residents of the Highlands plateau," said Dr. Walter Clark, Foundation Chair.

Supporting healthcare is not new to Highlands Country club. Over the past 38 years the Bob Jones Invitational has contributed approximately six million dollars to vital healthcare services on the plateau.

"There is no doubt that Bob Jones was one of the greatest golfers of all time, and there is no doubt that the generosity and integrity of Highlands Country Club has made meaningful, positive impact on the health of our community. We are immensely grateful for their partnership and support," said Robin Tindall, Foundation CEO and Executive Director.

For more information, please visit the website: www.hchhealthfnd.org or call 828-482-6513.



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When a Second Home Becomes a Permanent Residence

As homeowners adapt to remote work, it's easier than ever to live full-time wherever you want and particularly in vacation properties and locations once viewed as seasonal retreats. Demand is surging for real estate in second-home markets, as buyers seek year-round residences that are safe with lots of recreational activities. As agents, it's our job to help clients appreciate that there are many other reasons for purchasing real estate on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau besides using it solely for a second home.

Luxury buyers are choosing to move away from their primary residences in major cities to discover the lifestyle of which they've always dreamed. People are even more inclined when they know others are doing the same thing. Clients are coming from markets that are not ordinary feeder markets, such as San Francisco, Boston, New York, Chicago, etc.

Here are five factors to consider when deciding whether to make your second home your primary residence:

1. Visiting a resort is different from living in one. If you have a vacation residence you only visit occasionally, it may very well be part of a resort. And while that style of living may offer superb amenities and convenience, homeowners quickly discover they need more privacy when they live there on a more permanent basis. There are many private country clubs in the area that have resort amenities but also offer estate lots with private residences.

2. Learn what the local community offers to determine if you will be engaged and fulfilled year-round. Fortunately, this area has so many cultural activities for such a small mountain community that one can be active for twelve months a year. From all of the outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, golf, croquet, swimming, tennis, pickle ball, rafting and just plain relaxing, there is a plethora of organizations to meaningfully participate.



Jody Lovell
Highlands Sotheby's
International Realty

3. Decide if the weather is adaptable year-round. For the most part, this area is very temperate with cooler temperatures in the summer than the rest of the Southeast and warmer winter weather than most other mountain areas. An apt description of the Plateau is "Crossroads of the Natural Worlds" where the Arctic air meets the tropic air offsetting any extreme weather patterns.

4. Start meeting people right away during your home search process. Talk to people at the grocery store, the coffee shop, the art galleries and retail stores. No one is transferred here for their jobs, so everyone chooses this area for personal reasons and are anxious to tell you how they found this special spot on the planet and why they elect to stay.

5. Secondary markets are not as far away from family and friends as one might think. For buyers young and old, one of the biggest concerns moving to their second home full-time is the fear of separation from family and friends. When you are a drive away, chances are that you will have more quality time visits from your family and friends than ever before. You will be living the dream in a place that most people can only dream about living. The sizzle of being on permanent vacation provides a much sought-after lifestyle.

The local real estate market statistics show that volume year-to-date is up 20% and unit sales are up 6%. Many of these buyers are seriously considering declaring the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau their permanent home. This will only enrich the fabric of our community and assist in stimulating the local economy twelve months a year. To all of our new homeowners in the area, welcome!! We are eager to share this paradise with you!!

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DOGSPEAK**• LORD BANJO REFLECTIONS •****Physical Therapy for dogs?**

Last month, I went for my annual shots, and I was my usual well-behaved self. They love me at the vet's office, and sometimes they let me roam and keep the office staff company. This time, however, there were some rude noisy dogs, so I put my paws over my ears and took a nap.

Now, where was I? Oh right. When Dad picked me up, they sent him home with an article about rehab for dogs. The vet called Mum first to explain what was coming, and Mum's reaction was "Seriously? They have physical therapists for dogs?"

Dad was even more skeptical than Mum. He grumbled something about reading it for the entertainment value but there was no way he was taking me for therapy. He's way more frugal than Mum. I expect she'll soon remind him that there are no two-legged children in our family, and, as their only son, I should have therapy if the vet thinks it will help me.

You see, I'm fourteen. I have arthritis, and I've lost muscle mass in my hind legs. That means I move slowly, and I sometimes trip. Of course, that doesn't stop me from going up and down the stairs all day to see Mum in her office because I love her. It also helps that she dispenses greenies up there in the morning and liver treats in the afternoon.

While I lay beside Mum's desk, she read the write-up to me. I was curious about what

**Lord Banjo**

they do for dogs, and I bet you are too. Well, listen up.

Hands-on techniques include massage, stretching muscles, and joint manipulation. Massage sounds pretty cool to me, but I'm not sure about the other two. Allegedly, all this would lubricate my joints and reduce my pain.

Then there's therapeutic exercise to promote strong muscles and improve the function of my joints. Mum got pretty excited about the recommendation to take me on short daily walks on a leash. I've never routinely taken walks because I used to amble around our wooded back yard which is pretty hilly. In my younger days, I never went out there that I didn't do a circuit or two. Mum says she lost sight of the fact I no longer do that. I pretty much do my business and come back in.

Walks are okay, but I liked the line about swimming. It's been too long since I've taken a dip in a creek or a river,

though, truth be told, I never did much swimming. I walked in and got wet and stood there.

Cold and heat treatments came next. Much like my Dad uses ice packs for his joint pain, this article suggested applying an ice pack to my joints to reduce inflammation and numb my pain. They sure do make a big deal about pain. I, on the other hand, try to ignore it, but I like the idea of an ice pack because I like the cold. The thing about heat doesn't appeal at all. They can talk about it increasing my flexibility but there's a reason I lie on the cool tile floor beneath an AC vent. Nope, no heat.

And, honestly, I didn't like the sounds of the rest of the stuff: laser treatment, electrical stimulation, acupuncture, and even shockwave treatment. Gosh, it sounds as though I could spend days and days at physical therapy appointments. How on earth would I find time for all my naps? How would I get my treats?

For now, Mum and I have agreed we'll start with short walks and see how things go. After that, I'd opt for swimming. Meanwhile, it's nap time and, oh yeah, time for my afternoon treat.

• Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his mom, Kathy Manos Penn, author of the Dickens & Christie cozy animal mystery series available on Amazon and at Books Unlimited in Franklin. Write Lord Banjo at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

Macon County drive-thru flu clinic now open

ter located at 1830 Lakeside Drive on Mondays from 1-4 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1-4 p.m.

These flu vaccine clinics will be first come, first serve and an appointment will not be necessary. Individuals 65 years and older are eligible to receive high-dose influenza vaccine.

High-dose vaccine will be

available as long as supplies last.

The cost for the regular dose is \$36 and the high dose (recommended for those 65+) cost is \$73. Insurances will be filed, so we ask that you bring your insurance card with you to the flu clinics.

Please bring only cash or check for any co-payments.

• LETTERS •

A Bit of Timely Pertinent Information

Dear Editor,

An excerpt from the Charter of The Town of Highlands:

Section 2.3. – Mayor; term of office; duties.

The mayor shall be elected by all the qualified voters of the town for a term of four (4) years, or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

The mayor shall be the official head of the town government and preside at meetings of the board, shall have the right to vote only when there is an equal division on any question or matter before the board, and shall exercise the powers and duties conferred by law or as directed by the board.

When our town government makes a decision that is not favored by one or more persons, there are attempts made to blame

and criticize the mayor.

In accordance with the Town Charter, the mayor seldom has the prerogative to vote on these contentious matters. If he or she did have the opportunity to cast a vote, his or her vote would be just one of three. I have no recollection of a Highlands mayor casting a vote at a board meeting.

If anyone has a problem with a decision taken by the Town of Highlands, the five commissioners have made these decisions and should be the ones to be held accountable.

Larry Brannan
Highlands

Need for public hearings after draft maps are released

Right now, politicians in the North Carolina General Assembly are dividing North Carolina into new legislative and congressional districts that could determine who represents us for the next decade.

For too long, our communities have been sliced and diced for partisan advantage. We deserve accurate and accountable representation, and we deserve a say when it comes to drawing the next decade of district lines that will represent our communities.

Right now, legislators who control redistricting are planning only ONE public hearing in Raleigh following the release of draft maps that could determine our representation for the next decade. This one event will be inaccessible for most North Carolinians – and that is wrong.

We deserve better than this. Our zip code should not determine whether or not our voices are heard in this process.

Every North Carolinian deserves to have their voice heard in this process. We need public hearings after draft maps are released that are accessible – both in-person and online--to every North Carolinian – regardless of whether they live in a large city, small town, or tribal territory.

I am calling on my representatives and the entire Joint Redistricting Committee to ensure that the public has accessible, safe opportunities to comment on draft maps. Without doing so, there is no way they can claim that this year's process was truly transparent.

Jean Wright
Franklin

Intervention can help

Dear Editor,

What an amazing evening, last Saturday, at the SMCPA for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center!

Sheriff Holland led the program as speaker after speaker touched our hearts and inspired our souls to advocate for the gift of life. As a detective in 1999, Sheriff Holland recalled receiving a call to come to the MC landfill where he found the remains of a baby that had been discarded with the trash.

The discovery of that child led to a community outcry to bring care to moth-

ers and their unborn babies and eventually NC legislation for the safe surrender of newborn babies.

Local resident Kelsie Elliott shared her journey from a life of addiction to six years of sobriety. She now has three beautiful children and she will graduate from college next semester largely as a result of the guidance and support she received during her darkest days from the loving volunteers of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center.

Featured speaker, Melissa Ohden, who has advocated for life in speeches around

• See LETTERS page 10

Want to add a few FACTS to the Mayoral Race?

RUMOR

THE DOGWOOD FOUNDATION HAS A \$40 MILLION ENDOWMENT TO SPEND ON HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE HOUSING AND MAYOR TAYLOR IS BLOCKING ITS USE

FACT

The Mayor of Highlands does not have the power or authority to block any spending that the Highlands Town Board has approved. The Dogwood Health Trust Foundation is a nonprofit and cannot fund directly or indirectly to the operation of the FOR PROFIT Highlands Cashiers hospital. Nor can the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation.

RUMOR

MAYOR TAYLOR IS FOR A TOTAL BAN OF STRs IN HIGHLANDS

FACT

In truth, Mayor Taylor would not support a total ban of short term rentals in all residential zones. He, along with the Highlands Town Board, will evaluate the advice of the town attorneys and community feedback before moving forward on the STR issue.

RUMOR

THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN HIGHLANDS IS CRUMBLING

FACT

With new sidewalks, a new water tank, miles of road paving, upgrades to the community pool and rec center, pending high speed internet contract , and refurbishment of the Sequoyah Dam (just to name a few), the infrastructure of Highlands is sound. While there are many projects on the horizon, Highlands is well positioned financially to meet future capital improvement challenges and opportunities.

**Please visit my website for more
on these issues**

www.PatTaylorForMayor.com

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...LETTERS continued from page 9

the world, before congress, on Fox News and Hannity is one of 403 babies in her own network who has survived an attempted abortion procedure.

There was not a dry eye in the Center for Performing Arts as Melissa recounted her story, told through her medical records, of her survival of a botched saline induced abortion. Melissa's testi-

mony educated, engaged and empowered our hearts to boldly speak for the lives of the unborn. She repeatedly praised the mission and the non-judgmental work of the volunteers of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center as they minister to the hurting and desperate mothers in our own community who walk through their doors every day.

A special thank you to the tenacity and vision of the members of the Board of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, their volunteers and the undying financial support of the community as together we proudly and boldly lead the fight to preserve life.

**Carla Miller
Franklin**

Spot on observations about Highlands STR dilemma

Dear Editor,

The war of short-term rentals (STR) in Highlands is in full swing. Our homeowner's association several years ago voted in a requirement for a minimal rental time of thirty days, thus the short-term rental issue does not affect us personally.

As a lover of Highlands for many decades and a property owner here for the last 25 years, I have several observations:

1) I salute, rather than condemn, the town's decision to "call the question" with a short deadline. The deadline early next year matches the low point on the calendar for seasonal rentals. Better to get everyone focused, lawyered up now and try to work out a new solution within a short time frame. Mediation, not litigation, is in everyone's best interests.

Whatever the result, which everyone should hope comes quickly, property owners are in the best time ever to sell their properties if they desire to do so. The town may have been slow to completely address the problem, so now is the best time to decide the new rules.

2) Technology writ large (Airbnb and VRBO) has changed the short rental dynamic in Highlands and across the country. The evident emerging problems are

not just here but everywhere. The advent of these online short-term rentals has changed the psychology in renters' minds. Absent personal contact through a local rental agent or owner, these virtual guests feel little or no sense of responsibility to anyone. They feel "invisible."

3) Large, expensive weddings are new to Highlands primarily by way of Old Edwards Inn (OEI) and its successful marketing and hosting of multimillion dollar weddings. OEI is a wonderful, civic minded business, and large expensive weddings bring lots of revelers who like to party. Apparently the "young and the restless" all-night partiers do not stay in OEI accommodations when they come to Highlands for a wedding party. OEI would likely not tolerate such behavior.

4) The local Chamber of Commerce wants to "stay out of it" but likes the large sums of money it receives as a result of STR taxes.

5) Local Highlands people are mainly polite and do not like calling the Highlands police when neighboring houses are the source of excessive noise and messes. It's awkward to call police about unruly parties in your neighborhood.

6) Highlands police are not

"on the beat" actively enforcing town ordinances when short-term rental parties exhibit excessive celebration.

7) Local real estate rental companies were, in the past, the only path between prospective renters and party houses. With current internet access via Airbnb and VRBO, that is now often NOT the case. At least one respected old school real estate company in Highlands refused to do such short-term rentals in the past. Owners who want better results and fewer bad incidents would benefit by using a local rental agent.

8) The Highlands town council is elected by Highlands' voters. Those of us who are property owners and not year-round citizens are not voters here. We may not feel the same about the STR problems as those who make their homes here year-round. Good to remember. Town council elections this fall may have prompted Highlands Town Council to finally address this STR problem. "No time like the present?"

9) We will get through this.
10) We all love Highlands!

**David Sweatt
Highlands**

Adult Mental Health series at Library

Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, held on Tuesdays September through December. The series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on

mental health issues of particular interest to them. The program is designed to provide an overview of the most commonly diagnosed mental health-related conditions among older adults. It features a person-centered approach to un-

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derstanding diagnoses and treatment options.

Reservations and masks are required. Register online at vayahealth.com/calendar (click on the desired class to register) or call the library at 828-526-3031.



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Wildcat Cliffs Office

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Scaly Mountain, NC 28775 | \$499,000 | MLS #96748

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• ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

Benjamin Franklin

I have always been fascinated with Benjamin Franklin. There are a number of scholarly biographies about him that you can study yourself.

I'm rather partial to the short little biography written by a 4th grade boy. He was given the assignment of writing on Ben Franklin. He sat there squirming in his chair for a few moments chewing on the end of his pencil wondering how he was going to put down some of the things he learned about Ben Franklin. Finally, he began to write. This is what he wrote.

The Biography of Benjamin Franklin.

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston. He didn't like it so he moved to Philadelphia. One day he got so hungry and he bought a loaf of bread. He was walking down the street with the loaf of bread under his arm and he saw a woman. She smiled at him. They got married and he discovered electricity.

It's hard to improve on that. There is no doubt though that Benjamin Franklin was a remarkable man. He was born to a very poor family. He never, in the course of his life, claimed to be Calvinist Christian. However, he was raised in a home which was profoundly spiritual and Calvinist in its approach. That belief which was a part of his childhood rises to the surface again and again in the course of his life. He became the most educated man throughout all the colonies. He was one of the – if not the most - important founding fathers in our nation.

He invented things like bifocals, the Franklin Stove, lightning rods, swimming flippers, and odometer.

He was appointed first postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737 and the first Post Master General.

He did much research on electricity. Many of the words we use today in association with electricity are words first used by Ben Franklin. He coined words like armature, condenser, battery, and many other words.

He started the first volunteer fire department, the first library and under his in-



Kenny Youmans

stigation, the first hospital was started.

He was the only American to sign The Declaration of Independence, The Treaty of Alliance, The Treaty of Paris, and the Constitution of The United States.

It was Benjamin Franklin who persuaded the British when they separated Canada from America to give America four additional degrees of latitude in land and as a result of that decision America now possesses Minnesota, North Dakota, and the State of Washington.

He was a writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, printer, and publisher.

He was America's first celebrity. He was inducted as an honorary member of the swimming hall of fame and inducted into the chess hall of fame. He started playing chess at the age of 17.

In 1761 he invented a glass harmonica which was immediately embraced by composers like Mozart and Beethoven. He also invented the flexible catheter.

He created what was the first documented franchise in 1731 in Philadelphia. He entered into an arrangement with Thomas Whitmarsh to print many of his writings. Thomas Whitmarsh had to buy all of his printed materials from Ben Franklin.

He started "Poor Richard's Almanack" in 1732. The print reached 10,000 per year. The contents included articles on the weather, poems, sayings, astronomical and astrological information as well as a calendar.

Some of his more popular sayings:

"Three can keep a secret if two of them are dead;"

"He who falls in love with himself will have no rivals;"

"Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards;"

"An investment in knowledge pays the best dividends;"

"He that lies down with dogs will rise with fleas."

America could use at least one "Ben Franklin" today.

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Located in HFCC, this lovely home was built for the architect for his family by Schmitt Building contractors, it is very good quality, with great space and well thought out rooms. Craftsman style with loads of stone and glass to bring the outside in, and a great screen porch with fireplace and open deck to get to the fresh mountain air. Great room features Heart pine floors and 2 stone fireplaces. Custom kitchen with lp cooktop and huge island workspace. Bar, powder room, and master suite complete with gas fireplace. Upper level kids playroom, 2 bedrooms with an adjoining bath. Lower level has Laundry, huge storage room that doubles as a kennel. Family room with pool table, sitting room with fireplace. 2 bedrooms each with ensuite baths. A two car garage and a view of Whiteside mountain round out this wonderful package. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #95669



Beautiful, spacious 4 bedroom, 3 and a half bath home in Scaly Mountain. Two master bedroom suites with large jetted tubs. House has crown molding, wood stove which can heat the entire house, two water heaters, and central heat and air. Den. Front porch, side porch and back porches. Long range views to the West. Enjoy outdoor living with woods and a stream and a gorgeous flat yard all on the 8.58 acres. It is a very private setting. New roof coming in August 2021. Offered at \$947,000. mls #97053



This one has it all. A almost flat 3.55 acres with end of the road privacy. Enter the Home from a covered carport into a spacious den-living dining area, updated kitchen is located adjacent to the stone fireplace. Living and dining boast mountain views. Wing bedrooms floor plan with the master at the end of the hall and 2 guest bedrooms off the hall with baths. The cutest log guesthouse that you have ever seen. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #96998



Wilson Road. Wonderful flat lot and walk to town with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a 2 car garage, wood floors, heated tile master bath, generator. Lush rhododendron in back and sides for privacy. Oil Furnace with wood stove backup to keep you warm. Offered at \$899,000. mls #95369



This charming, spacious family home has easy access to the golf course and has grounds with a small branch and pond. 5-6 Bed-rooms, 6.5 baths, great covered porch with fireplace and space for great entertaining. Custom features throughout and a cooks kitchen. Full detached guest suite. All of this at a great value price at Highlands Country Club. Offered at \$1,650,000. mls #97428



Fabulous 6 bedroom 6-1/2 bath log cabin on historic Satulah Mountain. 3 large stone fireplaces including one in the master bedroom. This log home is a rare find on 2 acres of land. Old heart pine, wormy chestnut and charm throughout from the gourmet kitchen to the large great room with dining area and adjoining sun room that all open out to the deck with a fabulous view to the west for those wonderful sunsets. The owners have added a large 2-car garage. Offered at \$3,275,000. mls #94319



Great Family home has flat grassy spaces and lovely outdoor entertaining areas. View of Shortoff mountain from the historic outdoor fireplace. 3-4 Bedrooms, 3 baths, office, 2 car garage and a 2 car carport. A do not miss and in move in condition. Offered at \$1,174,000. mls #97458



Mirror lake Lakefront cabin. What everyone is looking for, old house charm with new house living. Main house has 2 bedrooms 1 bath, a real stone fireplace, wood floors and usable kitchen. Guest house has 2 bedrooms 1 1/2 baths with an enclosed outside shower. Offered at \$1,600,000. mls #97457



Stunning and spacious home boasts the finest quality Materials and workmanship. The master suite takes in the view, with a spacious en suite with tub and walk through shower, his and her offices, laundry, and a 2 car garage. Upper level can be bonus room or guest suite with large bath. Lower level has 3 bedrooms family room with morning kitchen, and an additional 2 car garage.. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #97520

Move in condition, this 2 bedroom 2 bath sits on .96 acre and is in a good location with view of Little Yellow Mtn. It has vaulted ceilings with a main floor and upper floor bedroom and bath and a lower level garage/basement area workshop. It is light and airy and ready for a new Owner. Water comes from a shared well and is on septic drain field. Only 7 minutes from town and a do not miss at \$525,000. mls# 97355



5 Bed/5 bath home located at Highlands Country Club. Usable lot with lovely landscaping.45 KW Generator. Sophisticated irrigation system which allows full property irrigation and a 19-station window and deck flower box irrigation drip system. Offered at \$1,495,000.mls #96652



Cozy rambler style single level home with mountain views. This home has brand new heating and air conditioning and a completely renovated master bathroom with dual shower heads. 3rd bedroom or cozy office off master bedroom. Lighting has been changed throughout. Home has two large covered porches as well as a gas fireplace. 5 minutes to downtown and is located in the City of Highlands. Offered at \$329,000. mls # 95167



This is a great neighborhood close to downtown highlands and near mirror lake for fishing and feeding the ducks or canoeing. This 3 bedroom 3 bath has all the bedrooms on the main floor. Enjoy the fireplace in the vaulted great room open to the dining room. The lower level is for family fun with pool and ping pong tables or sit by the fireplace while watching your favorite team. This is a very successful short term rental and comes with a kayak and bike to ride. Offered at \$599,000. mls #97598



Lovely Old Orchard estate Over 9 acres with spectacular mountain views, this house is in move in condition, with 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Fully renovated kitchen with dining area and cathedral living room with fireplace. Immaculate grounds. Do not miss this one if you want privacy and usable yard. Offered at \$1,875,000. mls #97404

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE

• Effective immediately MASKS are required in the Civic Center, Pool and Community Building and all other indoor Town Facilities.

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

Rec Pool Schedule:

- Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri, 6-10a; Mon.-Fri. 11:15a to 1:30p & Sat. 10-11a.
- Water Aerobics: Mon.-Fri. 10:15-11:15a.

Public Swim: Tues. & Wed. 3:30-7p, Sat. 11a to 6p; & Sun. 1-6p.

Please call ahead to make sure the pool is open for Public Swim due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

Sun.-Wed.

- COVID Testing 9a to 5p.

Sun. & Wed. in Highlands at the Community Building.

Mon. & Tues. at the Village Green in Cashiers.

To register go to <https://hi.care/covidtesting>. For more information, call 877-562-4850.

Second Mondays

The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

Mon.-Fri.

- Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11a.m.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

- The Food Pantry behind

the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

- Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body. With the many benefits of cardio, kickboxing is also a great stress and frustration reliever. We will be making contact with pads. If you have your own gloves and pads, please bring them. Kickboxing combines cardio and strength training to tone muscles and burn fat. Burn off stress and calories while having a great time.

Mon. & Thurs.

- Drive-thru flu clinics at the public health center located at 1830 Lakeside Drive in Franklin Mondays and Thurs-

days from 1-4 p.m. The cost for the regular dose is \$36 and the high dose (recommended for those 65+) cost is \$73. Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. For additional information call 828.349.2081.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

- Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30 a.m. \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

- Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Tues. & Thurs.

- New Zumba class from 4:30-5:15p.
- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30pm. This will be a combination class with many different type of exercise.

Tuesdays

- Strength Training 8:15-9:15. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper

Tuesdays

- Strength Training 8:15-9:15. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper

form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

2nd Tuesdays thru December

- Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, held the second Tuesday of each month through December. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. Reservations are required for this event, and masks will be required. Register online at vayahealth.com/calendar (click on the desired class to register) or call the library at 828-526-3031.

First Wednesdays

- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring Walk-in Wednesdays Hiring Event. Interviewing for RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals and Support Services Professionals. 1-3:30 p.m. 190 Hospital Drive, front entrance. On the spot offers. Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions. Bring updated resume. Casual wear.

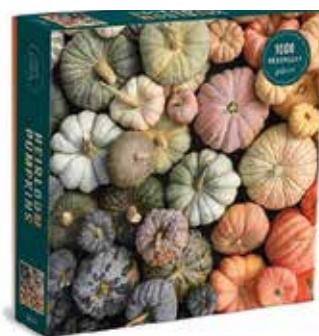
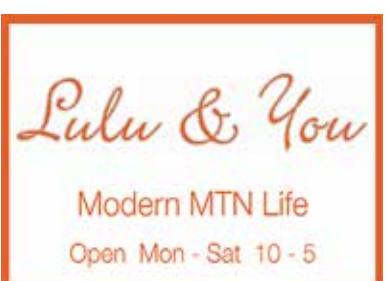
Wed.-Sat.

- Live productions at The Playhouse. Wed.-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. For ticket information, visit highlandsplayhouse.org.

- The Bookworm at 555 Main Street is now open Wednesday – Saturday from 11AM to 3PM. For more information, call 828-526-3031.

Thursdays

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 a.m. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Learn



• EVENTS •

the proper form and technique to execute jabs, hooks, uppercuts, and front and side roundhouse kicks in a non-contact setting. No martial arts background necessary.

- Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break)

Note: Thursday, 10/14 will only be open from 1-5 and the clinic will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. Location subject to change, please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19>, or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet. Anyone 12 or older is eligible to get vaccinated at an OptumServe community testing site, including uninsured, underinsured, undocumented and homeless individuals. ID and proof of citizenship is not required.

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for ages 18 and up. Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 12 and up. More information about who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine can be found here <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

- AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. An In Person Meeting with Covid 19 Preventive Measures is held each Thurs Noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member of AL-ANON call 828-342-6866.

- Free ESL classes at the Presbyterian Church 5:30-6:30 p.m. There is no registration required; students can just show up and participate. Anyone who wishes to learn English is encouraged to participate. For any questions, visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call (828) 526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Every Saturday

- Highlands Marketplace in K-H Park on Pine Street. 8a to 12:30p.

Fri., Oct. 15

- Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Silly Ridge Roundup

Sat., Oct. 16

- At Summit Charter School, SummitFest. Come celebrate with your family and friends on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. Activity wristbands and game tickets can be purchased the day of the event. Wristbands are \$10 each and tickets are 10 for \$5, 25 for \$10, and 60 for \$20. 828-743-5755.

- Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Rockabillys

Wed., Oct. 20

- Highlands Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Skyline Lodge frm 5-7 p.m. Craft Beer, Wine, Savory Bites. Guests are welcome to dine upstairs at Ock for dinner afterwards.

Fri., Oct. 22

- Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Byrds & Crow

Sat., Oct. 23

- Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Eli Mosley

Tues. Oct. 26

- Pray for our Nation and God's Will in America at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers at 6 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 29

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

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 30-31

- Halloween at The Park on Main 6-7:30 p.m., and at the Ugly Dog Pub from 5-6 p.m., for Pumpkin Painting.

Sat., Oct. 30

- NO CONCERT

Sun., Oct. 31

- Hurricane Creek

Fri., Nov. 5

- Community Shred Event at the Rec Park from 9a to noon. Donations will be collected for local nonprofits.

Nov. 27-Dec. 24

- Santa in the Park

VOTE Mary A. Bynum for Town Board of Commissioners

- Native to our beloved mountains and a Highlands business owner (McCulley's Cashmere Store) for over 40 years.
- Represent and will advocate for the needs of my fellow Highlanders.
- Not afraid to face complicated challenges!
- Love my town and my neighbors! And when you vote for me,

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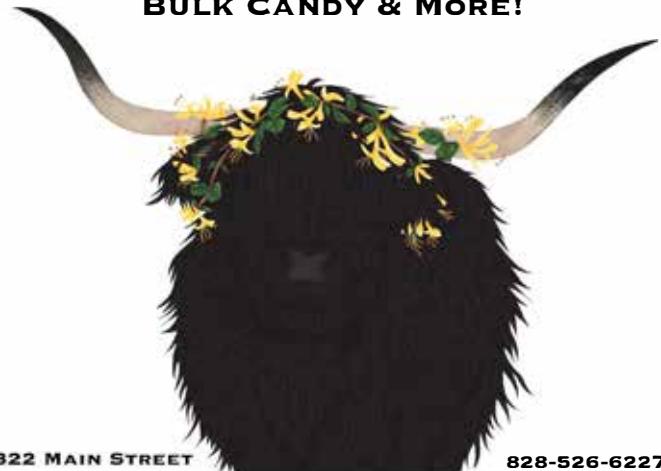


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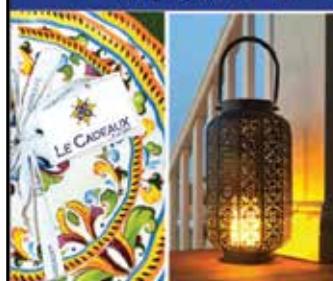
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Highlands, NC



Fellow Lovers of Highlands,

As you are all well aware, Highlands is an inclusive family of year-round residents, seasonal homeowners, visitors, restaurateurs, artists, landscapers, retailers, housekeepers, entrepreneurs, builders, realtors, plumbers, electricians, and many others. All these groups are inter-woven into the fabric that makes this town so special, and while some may not realize it, all of these groups benefit from vacation rentals.

For four decades the Town of Highlands communicated to countless property owners and visitors that there were no restrictions on vacation rentals. The Town has happily accepted rental tax revenue and welcomed renters for decades. That changed this summer when a small but vocal HOA voted to bring legal action against the Town of Highlands. On August 19th, the Town meeting opened with the statement "this is the beginning of a long discussion on vacation rentals." By the end of that meeting, the Board had voted to ban them. The people and the businesses of Highlands were blindsided.

In response, Save Highlands was created. Sadly, we are being positioned as faceless investors. The truth is that we have been part of the community for decades and many of us are full-time residents. One member has had property and family rooted in the town since the 1920s, another since the 1880s. We are not a group of faceless investors. We are your neighbors and, just like you, we want what's best for this Town.

On October 13, the Save Highlands group of homeowners took the first legal step to retain personal property rights in the Town of Highlands. To be clear, this is not an action we wanted to take. Unfortunately, neither Mayor Taylor nor anyone from the Town of Highlands have come to the table with negotiations or made any attempt to find common ground. In effect, all remaining options for cordially protecting the rights of property owners and saving Highlands have been exhausted. We firmly believe the law is on our side regarding this issue.

Banning rentals will not only have a crippling financial effect on Highlands, but also fracture its people unnecessarily. In fact, it's already happening. This action has created an artificial divide between neighbors when together we could address the issue thoughtfully, taking the entire community's input into consideration.

A vacation rental ban will have a substantial negative effect on tax and business revenue and lead to a devastating loss of income for countless Highlands residents. Banning rentals could mean a loss of \$13,500,000 direct income and a \$115,000,000 total economic loss. These financial implications are far reaching and affect us all.

While the Town is currently booming - fueled by the travel dynamics of the pandemic and a recovering economy - the financial effects of a vacation rental ban will be felt this winter and exponentially when the economic climate isn't so strong. We want balance. Vacation rentals are a complicated subject for any town, which is why they were specifically addressed in the Draft Community Plan.

And while loud voices have stated that vacation rentals are "simply against the law," that is simply false. The Town of Highlands Use Regulations do not even mention vacation rentals. Even the State of North Carolina defines vacation rentals as "residential use." But more than that, we feel that who we invite into our homes should be in our hands as the property owners - not the decision of the government.

We love this town and its people. And we believe if we come together as a community, we can create an inclusive, well-planned future to save Highlands for generations to come.

Sincerely,
The Save Highlands Committee

...PLAYHOUSE continued from page 19

spectacle of singing and dancing from six extremely talented performers from across the U.S.

Scott Daniel, Executive Artistic Director of The Playhouse, wrote, choreographed, and directs the show.

"When I joined the Playhouse organization in May, I committed to extending our live-theatre season June through December. We hope the community will be thrilled with this change and come out to support the Playhouse as we live up to the mission set by the organizations founders 83 years ago," said Scott. "Music in Motion has 64 popular tunes, with 100 different costumes and spectacular dancing from start to finish. The show is a real treat for the eyes and ears, and perfect for the whole family."

Amble Tours at the Bio Station

If you have wondered why leaves change color or what conditions make for a spectacular fall display, join the Highlands Nature Center for our 'Autumn Amble' tours Thursdays in October.

Every Thursday at 1 p.m., staff will lead an exploration of the Highlands Botanical Garden to discover what leaves are already changing and the (science of) why.

All are welcome to participate in these free guided tours, however, spaces are lim-

The show stars Emanuel Carrero, now a full-time Highlands resident, Leah Lewis from Ohio, Erin Leigh hailing from Georgia, Kyle Ivey from Las Vegas, Brandon Leporati from NYC, and Julia Rifino from Florida.

"Music IN Motion" can be seen Wednesday through Saturdays at 8pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 2pm through October 24th. Tickets are available at www.highlandsplayhouse.org.

On October 27-30, The Playhouse will offer four different, hilarious Halloween-themed movies with a live actor providing commentary. The Playhouse is right downtown, at 362 Oak Street next to the Highlands Police Department.

ited! Please call the Highlands Nature Center at (828) 526-2623 to reserve your spot or if you would like more information. In accordance with WCU's policies, and for the safety of both HBS guests and staff, face masks will be required during all in-person tours.

Tours will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Stay tuned to highlandsbiological.org for more fall programming from the Highlands Nature Center.

Chestnut Hill,
a residential retirement community on a quiet mountain top in Highlands, NC, has spacious Independent and Assisted Living Apartments. It is a full-service, Medicaid Certified community.



For further information call Linda Tiffany at
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for
MAYOR
Health for Highlands

We have forty open positions for full and part time health care first responders in Highlands. \$90,000,000 is available annually from the Dogwood Health Trust, I want to be a problem solver build worker housing and have fully staffed hospital and medical practices.

I humbly ask that you allow me to work for you and I ask for your vote.

- Marc Hehn

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EXPERIENCE

VOTE FOR
MARC HEHN

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Monday - Friday • 8am-5pm
Saturday, Oct. 30 • 8am-3pm

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November 2
6:30am - 7:30pm

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Authorized by Marc Hehn, candidate for Mayor and Paid for by the Candidate



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On the corner of 3rd & Spring

...Q&A continued from page 1

Patterson, Pat Allen, Mary Bynum, Thomas Craig, Nick McCall, and Eric Pierson.

This week, the candidates' answers will be displayed in alphabetical order.

Question #3:

Are you in favor of installing parking meters on Main Street from 1st to 5th and/or on 4th Street? Please explain your answer.

Pat Allen

Do I support parking meters? With the lack of parking, we experience and being a popular tourist town, yes, I think parking meters are a good option. I know employees who continue to park on Main Street and that rule is not being enforced. People drive around several times and opt to go home instead of shopping.

With 2-hour meters, those who want to shop or have lunch should have adequate



Highlands Marketplace
Open Every Saturday
8a to 12:30p

**Featuring your favorite vendors.
We look forward to seeing you at
Kelsey-Hutchinson Park!
Pine Street • Highlands**

time. The revenue can go to the town for enforcement. Many locals and tourists who frequent downtown are older with hip and knee issues (although not disabled) and need an opportunity not to have to walk from Church or Spring streets. I think the lack of parking hurts the merchants. Most resort towns control this situation with parking meters, and I'm not opposed to it.

Mary Bynum

NO to meters! Being a merchant (McCullery's Cashmere) for 40 years and a native of these mountains. I understand the parking dilemma. On my agenda, PARKING will be a priority that I will help solve!

I will not allow our quaint village to let this fester any longer. We cannot sweep this under the rug. Currently I am working with some merchants, town leaders and constituents to determine and implement remedies for city parking issues in our beautiful village.

I am totally against meter and hourly parking!

WE NEED TO ACT IMMEDIATELY! "WILL WORK FOR YOU!"

Thomas Craig

No, and I'm curious what's driving this idea. Are employees taking up too many spaces? Are customers/visitors staying too long? Does the town need money? The town tried 2-hour parking limits a few years ago and quickly ended the policy. Most modern meters use an app to pay but our cell phone coverage is so bad I don't think it would work. So, we would probably end up with a physical payment method and the resources required to enforce could be better focused elsewhere.

We all know parking is difficult on Main and 4th Streets, but I don't think the answer is parking meters. I've often said people will park off of the main streets if spaces are both well-marked and the walking experience is attractive. We need to stop building sidewalks to the minimum size requirements and start making the Highlands' walking experience the best it can be. That means wider sidewalks, separation between sidewalks and roads, and landscaping.

Marc Hehn

No, we don't need parking meters on Main Street. I wish the Town had acted to purchase two sites for parking that were identified in a 2007 Downtown Traffic and Parking Plan and are no longer available. We have a fund balance of \$14 million and we should use it when land opportunities become available. For example, a third potential 0.98 parking site sat for years and recent-

ly sold for 26% of its value as determined by the County Tax Office.

Nick McCall

No. Working on the current Highlands Community Plan, preserving our character and scenic beauty, were the most important goals for our community.

Installing hundreds and hundreds of metal parking meters, seems counterproductive to achieving these goals.

Visitors and residents alike spend the entire day strolling through town, visiting our shops and restaurants. Why would we impose a mechanism to discourage that?

The town could eliminate all parking issues by, constructing a parking facility, such as a parking deck. This could easily be achieved, using the property of the soon to be abandon fire station. One level of the parking structure would basically already be completed. The centralized location of this property makes it easily accessible, to Kelsey Hutchinson Park, Carolina Way, 4th Street, Main Street, Town Hall, Recreation Center and more.

Designing the structure could be done in a manner that blends in and is aesthetically pleasing.

Creating a mini park surrounding the structure, the town could provide another open space with trees in the downtown area. Designating the use of the parking deck for employees, visitors or both, would be the only remaining question?

Amy Patterson

Parking meters to help solve parking problems on Main Street is an interesting suggestion to explore. The B-1 district has only on-street parking for a range of business types. Parking needs range from short-term, turnover parking (think the hardware store or a real estate office), through longer-term parking for folks who use Main Street as an outdoor mall and want to browse the shops or socialize over food and drink, to the folks staying overnight at the two hotels on Main Street in B-1. Conflicts arise when all the businesses rely on the same shared parking spaces.

The first question is whether parking meters can help accommodate the different needs without adversely affecting the welcoming, friendly atmosphere Highlands promotes in the downtown. A few years ago, Highlands put up direction signs to side-street parking and tried 2-hour parking limits on some spaces to discourage long-term parkers from parking on Main Street. Not only was it difficult to enforce, but the

• See Q&A page 23

...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

William (Bill) Bickley Miller

William (Bill) Bickley Miller, MD passed away on October 7, 2021 at the age of 85 in Highlands, NC. Bill was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 8, 1936, the eldest of Dr. Spencer and Helen Miller's children.



pital in West Palm Beach, FL. Bill proudly served as Chief of Radiology at St. Mary's Hospital as well as joined the Radiology Department at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Bill is survived by his wife, Carole Miller and their three children, Paige Miller (Lauren Morovich), Michelle Miller Masters, and Dr. Jeffrey Miller (Anita Miller) as well as six grandchildren: PFC William Masters, Michael Masters, Megan Masters, Athan Miller, Jackson Miller and Caroline Miller. Bill is also survived by his sister, Susan Hafer, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Bill enjoyed time with his family and friends. His passion for golf was unmatched. During a round of golf or at the practice areas, Bill was always eager to ask for advice about his game as well as share tips, especially with putting. He was so proud to have played so many of the bucket list of golf courses including Augusta National,

Chicago Golf Club, Kapalua Golf Course, Pebble Beach, St. Andrews, and many more. One of Bill's fondest memories was when he and his son had the privilege of playing with Tom Lehman in the 2012 Ryder Cup Captain's Challenge at Medinah Country Club, where they finished first.

Outside of golf, Bill enjoyed listening to music, reading books, solving puzzles, travelling all over the world, supporting his favorite sports teams, and his devotion to watching movies on Netflix.

For the last 20 years, Bill and Carole en-

...TATE continued from page 1

with which they had entrusted me.

"Macon County has made many, great, calculated strides forward during my time in office; however, as with most things in life, change is inevitable. Thus, I am announcing that I will not be seeking reelection for a fourth term as a Macon County Commissioner.

"My years of service as a commissioner have been some of the greatest of my life. I can't explain how extremely humbled and blessed that I have been for the leadership

joyed their time at their summer residence in Highlands Falls Country Club in Highlands, NC.

Bill was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by family and friends.

The family plans to host a Celebration of Life Party in Bill's honor in the coming months with details to be provided.

If you wish to make a donation in Bill's remembrance, memorial gifts may be made online to the First Tee at: <https://firsttee.org/donate>.

MEET PAT ALLEN

Full time resident for 27 years • Strong and dependable leadership • Understands the art of negotiation • Uses a common sense approach • Successful due to a hard work ethic • Supporter of local non-profits • Negotiated with seller to make the mandatory new fire department a reality • Fortified commission to make the new PAC a reality • Wants to maintain the charm of Highlands to keep it the special place it is • Recognizes and appreciates the hard work and challenges of our local business owners and workers • Understands that with growth comes challenges that need to be sorted out and discussed creating a "win-win" for all



VOTE Pat Allen FOR COMMISSIONER

Paid for by the candidate

YOUR CHOICE FOR YOUR VOICE



The Town of Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment currently has three vacancies. The Zoning Board of Adjustment membership consists of five members and two alternates. A minimum of five members must reside within the corporate limits and two members may reside outside the corporate limits in Highlands Township and must own property or a business within the corporate limits.

Applications can be submitted in person at Town Hall at 210 N. 4th Street or by email to the Town Clerk - gibby.shaheen@highlandsnc.org. The application can be found online at www.highlandsnc.org under Boards and Committees Vacancies.

Fall Colors Fine Art Show

Sat. October 16 & Sun. October 17 – 10 - 5



Indoor Exhibition & Sale 828-526-8429

Highlands Recreation Park

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Highlands School Middle School Swim Team. Front row from left, Tate Wilson, Layla Babac, Cassie McDowell, and Margaret Cole. Back row from left Potter Hughes, Paolo McRae, Timmy McDowell, Aniah McKim, Jim DeLaCruz, and Chase Kenter.

HS Middle School Swim team makes high marks at MS Swimming Championship

By Coach Steve Hott

On Thursday, October 7, Highlands School Boys and Girls Middle School swim team traveled to the 10-lane Asheville Pool to compete in the 2021 Far West NC Middle School Swimming Championships.

As they have done all season, against five much larger teams, the six Boys won ALL of the Boys events.

The four Girls also did well scoring a 2nd and 2 two thirds.

The Boys were led by Aniah McKim who won the Individual Medley (IM) and the Breaststroke and scored 45 points.

Chase Kenter won the Butterfly and finished 2nd in the IM with 43 points.

Paolo McRae finished 2nd in the Butterfly and 3rd in the Breaststroke and scored 40 points.

Conner Hughes won the 50-yard Freestyle and the Backstroke scoring 37.5 points.

Timmy McDowell won the 100-yard Freestyle and finished 2nd in the 50-yard Backstroke with 35.5 points.

Jim DeLaCruz finished 9th in the 100-yard Freestyle and 11th in the 50-yard Freestyle scoring 7 points.

Tate Wilson led the Girls team finishing

2nd in the 50-yard Freestyle and 4th in the Backstroke scoring 34 pts.

Layla Babac finished 3rd in the IM and 7th in the Breaststroke with 29 pts.

Margaret Cole finished 3rd in the Butterfly and 7th in the 100-yard Freestyle scoring 29 pts.

Cassie McDowell, the youngest member of the teams and the only 6th grader, finished 8th in the 50-yard Freestyle and 14th in the Breaststroke with 15 pts.

The Boys Medley relay of Hughes, McKim, Kenter and McRae won the Medley Relay, and McRae, Kenter, McDowell, and McKim won the Freestyle relay.

The girls Medley Relay finished 6th and 4th in the Freestyle Relay.

These were ALL outstanding finishes as there were 40 to 50 entries in many of the events. Out-scored by the much larger teams the boys finished 3rd, the girls 5th and the combined teams 3rd.

Seven of these 10 will move up to the High School team next year.

Highlander Jasmine Abranyi won the IM and the 100-yard Freestyle swimming for Rabun Gap Nagoochee School.

...Q&A continued from page 20

Chamber of Commerce asked the Town to remove the 2-hour restriction after several years.

Perhaps the meters could be strategically located only in front of businesses that need short-term spaces. However, that is not practical as how would you determine the number of spaces to meter for a business or account for changes in business locations over time. And why should a business patron who just needs a quick visit be charged for parking when longer-term parkers are not? Enforcement again would be a problem.

Other problems include additional structures (the meters) on our already crowded sidewalks that would further impede foot traffic, and if and how you could meter the center-of-the-street parking spaces. Parking meters require more up-front capital investment and cost for enforcement without a guarantee they will be helpful and accepted.

So, after thinking through the question, no, I am not in favor of installing parking meters in downtown Highlands.

Eric Pierson

I am not in favor of installing parking meters along main street. I do not think they would serve any real purpose other than be a burden on patrons as well on the towns police department attempting to 'enforce' timed parking when their efforts are best utilized elsewhere. Also, I feel that they would aesthetically diminish the character of downtown.

Pat Taylor

My answer is "No," with a provision of "Yes" under certain circumstances. I am against installing parking meters in the business areas if the only purpose is to raise revenue for the town.

On the other hand, modern parking meter systems are not the ones our grandparents used, operated with pennies, nickels and dimes. New metering systems use smart technologies, so the town could easily use these new systems to implement a parking metering system. The Highlands Community Plan states that a parking metering system does not detract from business but increases it with a constant turnover in parking. If

the merchants and residents wanted a parking meter system for this purpose, the town board should certainly consider it.

Also, if parking decks were to be built in the downtown area, one way of financing them would be to charge a fee to park in them. If that was the option to fund parking decks, I think we would have to implement a parking metering system throughout the B1 business district with proceeds being earmarked for servicing the debt for parking decks. If parking fees were confined solely to the parking decks, people would tend not to use them in favor of finding free spaces on Main Street. Parking decks and metering would have to be a part of a greater downtown parking plan.

An alternative and/or additional fund-

ing source for parking decks would be to institute a special use tax for the B1 district. Currently, businesses B1 do not have to pay or provide for parking spaces as do merchants in the other business zones.

I am not necessarily advocating the construction of parking decks and metering. Parking decks are at the top end of construction costs. There are other options such as extending parking from 3rd all the way 1st street on the First Baptist Church side. The Highlands Community Plan has identified that proposal as a possible first alternative.

Question #4

Oct. 21

Should town resources be used to develop workforce housing? Please explain your answer.

Registration is now open for MC Boys and Girls Basketball

Macon County Boys and Girls basketball registration is now open for ages 5-14. To register for girls go to maconcountygirlsbasketball.com for boy go to maconcountyboysbasketball.com. Registration will go through November 1st and you must register online. Registration is \$40 per player to register.

EARLY VOTING STARTS TODAY!

www.PatTaylorForMayor.com

*"One of my first projects
as Mayor of Highlands was to upgrade
and refurbish Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.*

*We added a public restroom facility,
landscaping, brick walks, a fountain, and generally turned it
into a great gathering place for the town to enjoy. Our family
and friends have spent many memorable times in this park and
it was my pleasure to spearhead the renovations."* 



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HIGHLANDS MAYOR

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Sallie, Lucy and Pat in K-H Park



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Stell Huie retires from Bel Canto Committee

On September 29, Stell Huie announced his retirement as the Chair of the Bel Canto Committee. Huie is best known for being a lawyer for MARTA, from the time it was just an idea until the trains were running.

Huie has been a faithful and passionate leader of the Bel Canto Committee since he assumed the role from Richard Joel in 2008. During his tenure, Bel Canto contributed \$666,800 to its Highlands beneficiaries: the music programs for the children at Highlands School, The Highlands Community Child Development Center and The Gordon Center and the programs of The Bascom.

"It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with such a dedicated and talented committee," said Huie, "I am very proud of what we accomplished together."

Huie will be succeeded by re-



Stell Huie

tired physician, Michael Crowe. A lifelong musician, Crowe has been captivating crowds with his voice and his piano talents since the 1980s. After an illustrious career as an OB/GYN in Atlanta and a musical journey that took him from the United States to Europe,

Crowe became a seasonal resident of Highlands in 2010.

He was asked to be the Interim Organist and Choirmaster at the Church of the Incarnation in 2019. He has also performed at the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches here in Highlands. Michael is honored to follow Stell Huie as the long-time chairman of the Bel Canto Committee. He also looks forward to helping plan next year's 30th anniversary Bel Canto Recital.

Bel Canto has made substantial artistic and financial contributions to the Highlands community since its inception in 1993. This annual benefit features international opera singers performing arias from beloved operas and popular songs from Broadway. Bel Canto operates as an independent committee of The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts.

Preserve
The Character of Our Town

Protect
Our Neighbors and Neighborhoods



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Highlands[®] Playhouse

ELEVATING THE ARTS TO 4118 FT

LIVE ON STAGE



Oct 8th - Oct 24th

This WORLD PREMIERE production takes you on a journey through the silver screen with hits from Hollywood's greatest movie musicals. Featuring selections from such cinema classics as "West Side Story", "Footloose", "Beach Blanket Bingo", "Dirty Dancing", "Mamma Mia", and MANY MORE! This 90min multimedia hit parade is perfect for the whole family, and will have you dancing in your seat, and grooving out to the street!

Wed-Sat @ 8pm / Sat & Sun @ 2pm



• MILESTONE •



Kyle Gabbard tees up.

Local Long Driver wins Amateur World Championship

Highlander Kyle Gabbard has won the PLDA Amateur Long Drive Championship in Mesquite, NV on Oct 1.

In April of this year Kyle competed in his first PLDA event located in Memphis, TN as an amateur where he finished first.

He has competed in several events throughout the summer culminating with the World Finals in Mesquite, NV.

In Mesquite, Kyle competed against 16 of the top amateurs in the world - to win the title.

He is looking forward training and competing in the 2022 Long Drive season.

You can follow Kyle on Instagram @the_kyle.gabbard

No-Cost COVID-19 Vaccination Event:

Highlands Recreation Park
Thursdays: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

(Closed for a half-hour lunch break)

Thursday, Oct. 14 will only be open from 1-5.

Clinic will be closed on Thanksgiving

Location subject to change, please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information.

Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19>, or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

QUALIFICATIONS: Anyone 12 or older is eligible to get vaccinated at an OptumServe community testing site, including uninsured, underinsured, undocumented and homeless individuals. ID and proof of citizenship is not required.

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for ages 18 and up. Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 12 and up. More information about who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine can be found here <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

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.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, 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

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717

www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 8:30am Worship (no music); 9:30am Sunday

School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

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

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am; 10:45am Children's Program, Youth-12:15 – 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhouals

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd. Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-8152

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services in the Chapel:

Rite I, 8a; with choir; 9:30a; with choir; 11a.

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

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m., 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

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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg: 7 p.m.

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• FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 5.

Oct. 5

- At 3:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Queen Mountain Road.

Oct. 6

- At 3:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

- At 4:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain Road.

Oct. 7

- At 4:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

- At 9:27 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at the hospital.

Oct. 8

- At 9:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

- At 4:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Hickory Nut Gap Road.

- At 7 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on NC 106.

Oct. 9

- A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Satulah Road.

- At 2:10 a.m., the dept. was on special assignment at a location on Bowery Road.

- At 3:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Glen Falls Road.

- At 7:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

- At 10:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Leonard Road.

- At 10:12 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hummingbird Lane.

Oct. 10

- At 5:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

- At 11:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Half Mile Drive.

Oct. 11

- At 6:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Dr.

- At 12:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lost Trail

- At 1:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Church Street.

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— 2 Chronicles 7:14

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Macon County DSS Seeks Public Comment on TANF

Macon County Department of Social Services oversees the local Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program (TANF) which is also called Work First in North Carolina. This plan has to be reviewed and updated every four years; this also includes a public comment period for the proposed plan.

A copy of the proposed 2023-2026 plan will be available at the following locations:

- Macon County Department of Social Services – 1832 Lakeside Drive
- Macon County Public Library – 149 Siler Farm Road
- Macon County Courthouse Annex – 5 West Main Street
- <https://www.maconn.org/dss.html>

The timeframe for public comment is 8:00am on Monday, October 15, 2021 to 5pm on Monday, October 22, 2021. Comments can be submitted at Macon County Departm

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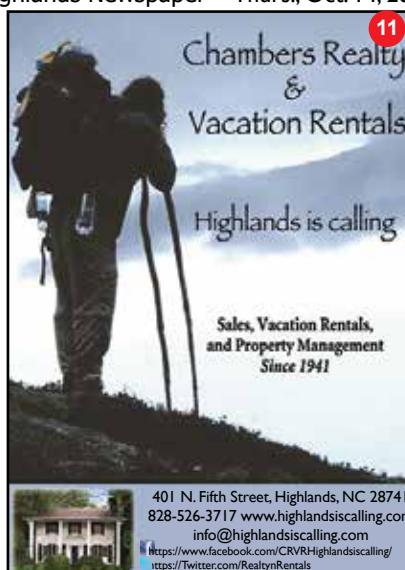


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