

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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

This is the second 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 9

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mayor on Duty .....	2	Events .....	14-15
Weather .....	2	Shopping Pullout .....	16-17
Obituaries .....	5	Letters .....	20-23
Investing .....	7	Police & Fire Reports .....	27
Financial Matters .....	8	Classifieds .....	30

## NC growth prompts redistricting of electoral map

By Brittney Lofthouse

Public hearings for the future of political districts in North Carolina wrap up this week as redistricting is once again on the table after the completion of the 2020 Census. Census results showed that N.C. has growing by 9.5 percent in the past decade, faster than the national average of 7.4 percent. The results give N.C. a 14th congressional seat.

Every 10 years after the census, each state goes through a process of redistricting to establish new electoral maps. The Census Bureau decides how many U.S. House seats each state will have based on its population, an idea called apportionment that is re-

• See REDISTRICTING page 18



A momma bear hangs out in front of the Highlands Newspaper while her cubs play nearby. – Photo by Brian O’Shea

## Highlands is first town in the U.S. to be BearWise certified

By Brian O’Shea Plateau Daily News

Highlands was officially recognized as a BearWise community on Tuesday at the Highlands Rec Park making it the first town or city

in the nation to receive that designation.

This is the culmination of a decade of effort by the B.E.A.R Task Force, with the goal of reduc-

• See BEARWISE page 25

## 2020 Census shows record growth for Highlands

By Brittney Lofthouse

A reported population of 1,014 for the Town of Highlands after the 2020 Census shows the town of Highlands is growing at a rate of 1.60 percent annually and its population has increased by 9.74 percent since the last census.

While a population of just over 1,000 may not seem like much, for the six-square miles of

Highlands, that means a population density of 165 people per square mile and brings Highlands to having the highest population on record — with 924 residents being reported during the 2010 Census.

According to Macon County Manager Derek Roland, Macon County as a whole was one of 49

• See GROWTH page 18

## Mask mandate causes dispute at Highlands School

By Brittney Lofthouse

Kathy Revis pulled her child from Highlands School last month after he was allegedly told by a substitute teacher that he was a murderer for not properly wearing his mask inside of the school building.

Revis spoke to the Macon County Board of Education on September 27 to share her con-

cerns.

“Last Wednesday, my son was told by a substitute teacher at Highlands School that because he couldn’t keep his mask pulled up over his nose, that meant he didn’t care about other people’s lives and that made him a murderer,” Revis said.

According to Revis, she un-

• See DISPUTE page 18



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Masks, Covid and Fred

I have a confession. I was going to an event in another state with fully vaccinated friends. I met them in a local parking lot and didn't wear a mask for a few minutes while we waited on another person to arrive. Some folks questioned my actions and probably thought I set a poor, if not hypocritical example.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

My response is that I was not going to a store or on a sidewalk. I don't wear a mask when I am road running in neighborhoods in town, and sometimes I do pass by an isolated business. I wear a mask on downtown business sidewalks and in town businesses. I strive to model responsible behavior during this pandemic.

I hope we all will follow the ordinance the Town Board adopted that requires masks in businesses and on downtown sidewalks. Masks are inconvenient and in many areas of the country they are no longer required. The board adopted the mask requirements because our community has a really high positivity rate that makes this county a hot spot for the Delta variant. Our medical facilities and first response

systems have been stressed.

When the positivity rate goes below 10% the Town Board will revisit the requirement. I continually monitor the county COVID numbers and routinely check with Tom Neal of the hospital. The community has not yet seen a significant lowering of the positivity rate. Sadly, our death rate from COVID also continues to rise.

I hope we will all work together by continuing to wear masks even for the vaccinated, but especially the unvaccinated. I want us to shed the masks as soon as safely possible.

The COVID testing site at the Highlands Community Building is now operational. Folks can get a rapid COVID test on Sunday and Wednesday from 9a to 5p. A plan to administer COVID booster shots is in process. These boosters will be available in a room at the Highlands Civic Center. This program could be underway as early as October 14 if all plans fall into place.

As previously reported, the paving of Sherwood Forest, Upper Lake, Lower Lake and Spring Street will get underway this month. There has been a delay in paving Spring Street this week due to rain. Spring Street will be the most challenging street since employee parking is located there. The town and the contractor will develop plans and information to address the parking problems. Third Street and Oak Street will still be available while Spring is being paved.

I want to pay tribute to my friend, Fred Woodridge. He passed away recently after living a colorful and an accomplished life. I remember when the Highlands Newspaper was created and Fred wrote his weekly column. He was the Highlands Voltaire, a great satirists.

I would read Fred's column and many times got mad. I would even write letters to the editor in response to a few of his outrageous statements. Fred loved it, he knew he was getting me and other readers fired up and that was exactly what he wanted to do. In his later years I got to know Fred and understand, as best I could, his sense of humor. I will say, there were times when Fred made me angry, many times when he made me think but he mostly made me laugh and smile.

Job well done Fred, you will be missed.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



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High: 67° Low: 55°	High: 69° Low: 62°	High: 74° Low: 56°	High: 74° Low: 56°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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# • OBITUARIES •

## Francis S. Morris

Francis S. Morris of Crossville, TN passed away on September 25, 2021. She was born in Walhalla, SC on April 8, 1936 to Thomas Henry Smith and Ella Mae Rogers.

She is preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Roger Smith and Joe Smith, husbands Charlie C. Gibson and Raymond F. Morris. She is survived by her son Tim Gibson (Sherri), grandson Trevor Gibson (Brandy), granddaughter Lara Gibson, 2 great grandchildren, Emery Gibson and Noah Gibson and step-children, Susan Wilson, Raymond Morris and Sallie Ladner, 6 step grandchildren and 7 step great grandchildren.

Frances was loved by many and shared her love with everyone. She was a strong independent woman who never gave up. She was a fantastic baker and her delicious treats will be missed by us all. She was a true lover of animals. She was truly a caring and giving woman who will be greatly

missed by many.

A Celebration of Life will be held at her home in Crossville, on October 9, 2021 from 2-4p. A memorial will be held at First Baptist Church of Highlands, NC on October 16, 2021 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Humane Society of Cumberland County: 595 Cook Rd., Crossville, TN 38555 or First Baptist Church of Highlands: P.O. Box 625, Highlands, NC 28741

A guest book may be signed [www.crossvillememorial.com](http://www.crossvillememorial.com)

## Manuel Emmanuel Carrion

Manuel Emmanuel Carrion died On September 25, 2021. He was born on March 22, 1979 to William and Susan Anne LaPlante Carrion. He loved his family and embraced being Puerto Rican from the time he was a small boy. As a

• See OBITUARIES page 27

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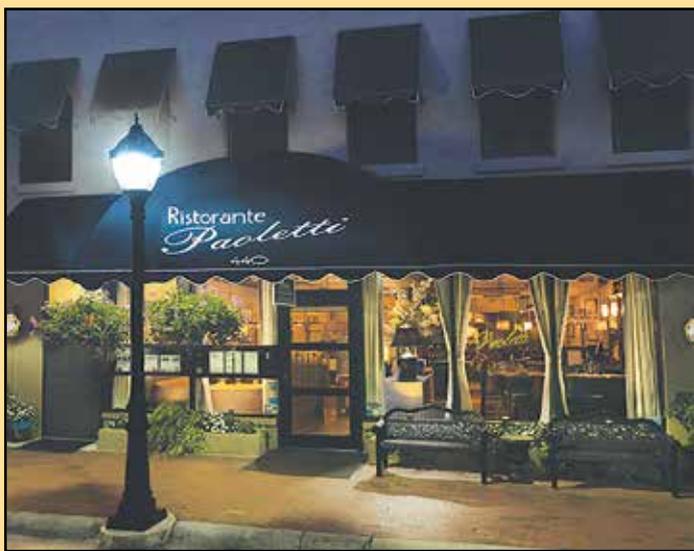
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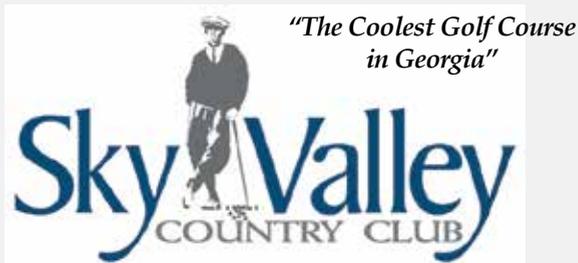
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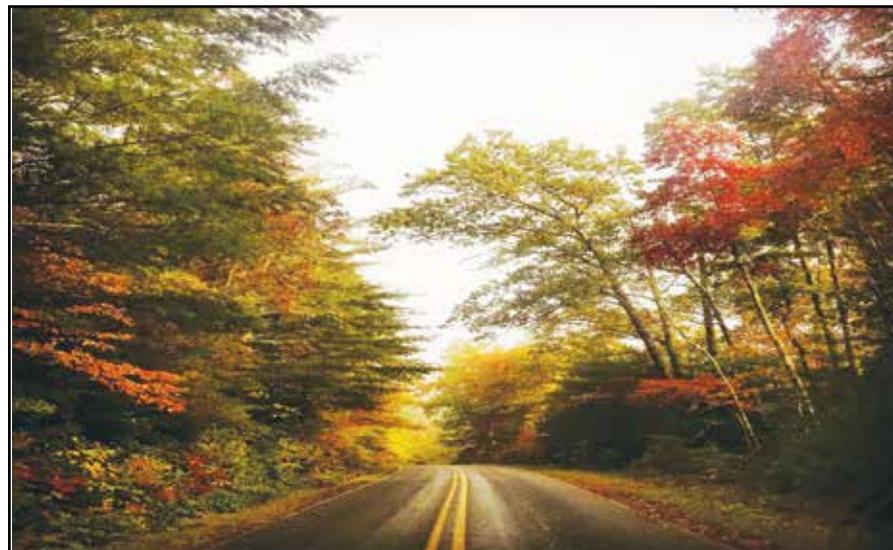


Photo by Rachel Lewicki

## Fall color prediction is good

CULLOWHEE – Beverly Collins, Western Carolina University's fall color forecaster, announced her bold predictions that leaf looking season this year will be pleasant, reasonably colorful and may go into November.

A WCU biology professor, Collins combines her knowledge of forest ecology with weather observations to evaluate the potential of the upcoming season, known to draw thousands of visitors and residents alike into higher elevations to see the surrounding natural beauty.

"Our warm, wet weather this summer and fall, along with tropical storms moving through the area, could put a little damper on fall color this year," said Collins. "Although the National Weather Service predicts near normal temperatures and a wetter than average September, the 90-day period through November is predicted to be warmer than average.

"All the above may combine to bring on color a little earlier in some species and a little later in others, with spottier bright

reds and yellows, and a less pronounced peak in late October at WCU's elevation. On the bright side, the mid- and late fall colors may last longer, into November around campus, and later in October at higher elevations," she said. "Thus, our color season may run from late September well into November from high to low elevations and north to south in Western North Carolina – unless a late storm knocks the leaves off the trees, of course."

As with any forecast, there are margins for variations. Collins explained that trees' leaf colors are a mixture of yellow, orange and red pigments that are revealed as photosynthesis and chlorophyll production wind down. These pigments, especially the yellow and orange, play a role in photosynthesis and, along with the red pigment, help protect the plant from stresses; for example, when there is drought, when it's bright and hot, or under high UV conditions.

## 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](http://maconcountygirlsbasketball.com) for boy go to [maconcountyboysbasketball.com](http://maconcountyboysbasketball.com). Registration will go through November 1st and you must register online. Registration is \$40 per player to register.

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## Leaves Are Sure to Please

Fall is my favorite season on the plateau. The leaves are actually starting to turn and I'm looking at gold leaves out my window as I write. Driving around I am seeing crimson and orange there to greet us. I remember as a child that every October we drove to the mountains from Macon, GA to see the trees in all their glory. My problem was that I was always car sick so I was always lying down in the back seat! I never knew where we were and couldn't look until we stopped and got out of the car.

Several years ago, I was looking through old family photos and found a picture of myself and my cousin – around 8 or 9 years old - standing in front of Bridal Veil Falls! I never knew we came through Highlands and now for 27 years have lived three miles from the falls!

With the changing of the leaves comes an abundance of tourists and lines of cars with tags from all over the place. We all need to be mindful and plan ex-



**Pat Allen is BIC  
Allen Tate/Pat Allen  
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tra time when going somewhere with a specific time. Also, tourists should follow the "pull over" rule letting cars pass. I know the winding roads can be intimidating so you don't have to speed up but just pull over to let others pass.

Make dinner reservations now and know that parking downtown is a challenge so wear your walking shoes! And be sure to bring your masks!

And as the leaves change so has real estate on the plateau. It is now a seller's market and homes are selling as soon as they go on the market. If you've ever considered selling there has never been a better time! Prices have increased by approximately 20% and multiple offers are now common on homes that are updated and in good location. With interest rates so low we have gone from 80% of most buyers paying cash in years past to 80% getting mortgages.

With a shortage of home inspectors and appraisers, attorneys are on overload,

and this has become a challenge for brokers also.

Anyone paying cash has a much better chance of having their offer accepted than those getting a mortgage.

So, as Paula Deen would say: Enjoy the fall, y'all!

• Pat Allen is broker-in-charge of Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group. She is a certified luxury home marketing specialist and top-producing broker in Highlands. Contact her at [pat@patallenrealtygroup.com](mailto:pat@patallenrealtygroup.com) or at 828-200-9179. Or visit the offices at 295 Dillard Road and 5121 Cashiers Road.



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## • BIZ NEWS •

### Sky Valley Country Club hires new Clubhouse Manager

Sky Valley Country Club in Sky Valley, GA announces the hiring of a new Clubhouse Manager and Director of Food and Beverage. Chris Clark starts on October 11.

Clark has over 30 years of professional experience in food and beverage, in dealing with both the dining room and kitchen, and everything in between. He has received many awards, particularly for a restaurant he owned in Tallahassee, FL called Avenue Eat and Drink. In addition, Clark has been a guest speaker at Florida State University for the Deadman School of Hospitality.

He comes to Sky Valley from Killbuck Country Club in Tallahassee, FL where he was responsible for greatly im-

proving the quality and availability of dining for members. Under his tenure there member usage of the club and volume of Food and Beverage were greatly increased. It is also worth mentioning that other club experience includes being the Food and Beverage Director at The Bellevue Biltmore Resort, Spa and Golf Club in Clearwater, FL. At this post, he was known for establishing excellent guest experiences and superior service.

Most importantly, you will get to know Chris as a personable, energetic, and consummate professional. He is a "people person" that looks forward to the opportunity of being the Clubhouse Manager and Food and Beverage Director at Sky Valley Country Club.



**Chris Clark**

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# • FINANCIAL MATTERS •

## The Hauser rule



Michael P. Henderson,  
CFP® CKA®  
Founder/Wealth Advisor

In the next few months, the drumbeat to raise taxes will continue to get louder.

The Biden Administration is seeking a 3.5 trillion dollar increase in Federal income and corporate taxes to help bolster its policy agenda. There has been talk of ending the “step up in basis” when inheriting assets, raising the capital gains rates from three brackets of 0%, 15% and 20% to 39.6% (which would bring it into parity with income taxes), and raising corporate tax rates back up close to where they were before the prior administration lowered them substantially (just to name a few).

All of this is currently in dealmaking phase as several moderate Democrats are uncomfortable with both the spending and the tax increases. We’ll likely see something on the table this January so until then, tax planning is going to be a challenge at best.

How and why politicians feel they can completely change the tax landscape every 4 or 8 years annoys tax and financial advisors like me, but it seems to be happening every time we have an election. It simply makes planning increasingly difficult.

Which brings me to something known as the Hauser Law. You may be familiar with the Laffer Curve or the Taylor Rule, but the Hauser “law” has relevance today.

In 1993, an economist and investment analyst in San Francisco named William Kurt Hauser wrote:

“No matter what the tax rates have been, in postwar America tax revenues have remained at about 19.5% of Gross Domestic Product.\*

In a May 2008 editorial by David Ranson, the Wall Street Journal published a graph showing that even though the top marginal

tax rate of federal income tax had varied between a low of 28% to a high of 91%, between 1950 and 2007, federal tax revenues had remained close to 19.5% of GDP.\*

Yes, you read that correctly! Even in the pre-Reagan era when the top marginal tax rate was as high as 91% and then 28% during the George W era, the money coming into the Federal Government through tax revenues was just under 20% of GDP on average. The editorial went on to say -

“the economics of taxation will be moribund until economists accept and explain Hauser’s law. For progress to be made, they will

have to face up to it, reconcile it with other facts, and incorporate it within the body of accepted knowledge.”

The same WSJ Editorial extrapolated much from this law and applied much of it to the idea of Supply Side Economics. The idea that lowering taxes actually creates MORE revenue for the government.

What makes Hauser’s Law different from the other economic rules I’ve cited is that the Hauser Law makes no claims of causation. It is more of an “empirical observation” rather than a “theoretical argument.” In other words, it presented as a FACT that lawmakers could and should (my opinion) use when budgeting. And if true, regardless of who is in power and what the marginal tax rates are, it’s likely revenues will fall somewhere between 18% and 20% of Gross Domestic Product.

(Unfortunately, since the 2008 monetary crisis, budgeting on a Federal level has gone out the window).

What makes Hauser’s law work? As Hauser said:

“Raising taxes encourages taxpayers to shift, hide, and under-

report income. . . . Higher taxes reduce the incentives to work, produce, invest and save, thereby dampening overall economic activity and job creation.”

So, the argument for how to raise revenues rages on with the American people caught in the middle. But, according to Hauser’s Law, we know the Federal Government is going to take about 19% of the pie. Seems to me like growing the pie would be a more effective way to grow revenues.

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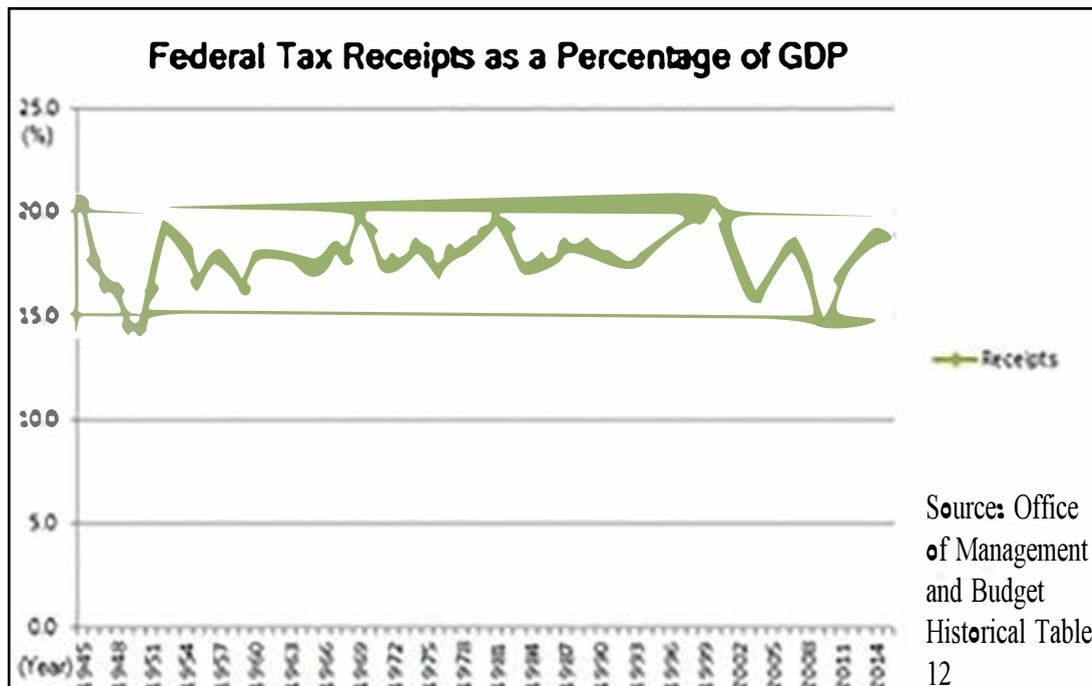
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## ...Q&A continued from page 1

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

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

### Question #2:

*Yes or no. Should entities outside the town limits get sewer and water before offering those services to those inside the town limits? Please explain your answer.*

#### Pat Taylor

My answer is No. I believe sewer services for town residents not currently on sewer should have top consideration for future services. There are areas in town where large rock formations have made providing sewer a difficult problem. It will cost millions of dollars to connect these residents, but they should have priority over-extending water and sewer outside the town limits. Highlands is a municipal water and sewer system, not a county or regional water and sewer authority. If those services are needed for county residents, Macon County should consider creating a regional system like the Tuckasegee Water and Sewer Authority in Jackson County, or create their own water and sewer system as Rabun County did a number of years ago.

I question the proposition that extending water and sewer outside town limits would help pay the expenses to operate the current system. The town extended water lines to developments outside of town some 50 years ago. Years later that policy was changed to not allowing water and sewer services outside the town limits. Nevertheless, the town recently had to replace several of those 50-year-old lines in neighborhoods outside the town limits for over \$400,000. The water fees from these small developments have not covered the recent costs. Highlands has always maintained a strong financial position to operate our water and sewer systems. New water and sewer lines are very expensive, and it could take decades, if ever, to recoup the costs for expansion outside the town.

#### Eric Pierson

I do not think the town should be supplying services to random entities outside the town limits. The town's water and sewer capacities are limited and should be reserved for the citizens that pay the taxes that fund these utilities. Granted, there could be an exception in the future where the Town may supply water and sewer to an entity that would ultimately provide a greater good to the whole community, but not to an entity that is just wanting to develop property for a financial gain.

#### Amy Patterson

No, entities outside town should not get sewer and water from the town for several reasons. First, the water treatment and the wastewater treatment plants were built with money almost entirely collected from the residents inside town. Since neither plant has any debt service, the town's water and sewer rates are based only on operational costs. Water and sewer customers outside town would be receiving a benefit from the town's citizens that they did not help pay for, and before some of those same citizens receive the same services.

Second, water and sewer capacity are finite, and the town cannot supply water and sewer to everyone outside town. How do you decide how much water can be granted to outside entities without endangering the Highlands citizen's water supply in dry years? How would you decide, in a fair way, who will be allowed to receive water or sewer from the town? Any decision on who will receive those services has the potential, at the worst, to invite political and financial chicanery and, at the best, to have citizens suspecting the integrity of those decisions.

Another problem with providing water and sewer to outside entities is the town has no land use control outside town. As pointed out by the professional planners completing the town's new comprehensive plan, there can be a huge difference between the aesthetic look of similar land uses with regulations and without regulations. The town tries to keep a high-quality aesthetic look to the corridors entering downtown. Outside the town there are no regulations controlling that look. Granting water and sewer outside town would allow developments that could have a negative impact on the visual appearance to the approaches to Highlands with no way of mitigating the situation.

A final reason not to allow outside entities water and sewer services has to do with the concept of carrying capacity and limiting factors. Carrying capacity is the maximum population an environment can sustain without degrading that environment. A limiting factor is anything that constrains a population's size and helps keep it in balance with its environment. In the new comprehensive plan for Highlands, the citizens said their highest priorities were protecting the natural environment and preserving the character of Highlands, aka the social and cultural environment. The biggest threat to Highlands' natural, social and cultural environment is too many people. Too much of anything can

• See Q&A page 10

## Early Voting Starts Oct. 14

# KEEPING HIGHLANDS Healthy

*"We are very fortunate that Mayor Taylor is willing to serve another term. Among his many accomplishments, he has demonstrated by action that he is dedicated to the health of Highlanders. He was instrumental in persuading NC Attorney General Josh Stein to extend the requirement that HCA keep our hospital open and not reduce services for ten years instead of the five years that HCA proposed. He continues to monitor the performance of HCA in cooperation with other citizens' groups."*

Barrett Hawks  
Full-time Highlands Resident



Mayor Pat Taylor receiving the Dogwood Award from NC Attorney General Josh Stein. The Award is given to acknowledge outstanding advocacy for healthcare access.

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**...Q&A continued from page 9**

be toxic and not sustainable. How many times over the years have we heard someone say they wish we could lock the gates to Highlands to keep out more people? Water and sewer service could be the limiting factors that helps keep Highlands' natural, social and cultural environment in balance. Citizens inside town have a vested right to water and sewer service. Entities outside town do not.

**Nick McCall**

No I do not believe that the town should not extend access to sewage and water outside of the town limits. We currently have an substantial number of tax paying property owners, inside the town limits. Who lack access to these services. The idea, of providing services outside of the town limits. Without those services being available to the people who finance them, doesn't seem logical. One example of this would be the current providing of internet services. To customers outside town limits

by the town, using the company Altitudes. You the residence inside the town limits, finance this company with your tax dollars? Our connection to the hospital with sewage and water, might be the underlining reason for this question. If there is one issue I believe everyone finds paramount. Maintaining our access to reliable, quality health care services would be it. I believe the town should look into options for satellite annexation, of the hospital property. This would ensure we have a voice in protecting our access to healthcare into the future. Being able to have some form of control over an issue of this importance is vital to the well-being of Highlands and the surrounding area.

**Marc Hehn**

No. I believe the Town is acting prudently to require annexation prior to allowing water and sewer service outside of Town with one exception. We must honor our 1987 commitment to

provide sewer service and our 2001 commitment to provide potable water service to the Highlands Cashiers Hospital Campus which is outside the Town limits. The sewer and water lines are in place and the Hospital is using less than 20% of what the Town has approved. Worker Housing was part of the original plan and funding is now available from the Dogwood Health Trust.

**Thomas Craig**

I'm not sure this is a Yes or No question. To my knowledge every property within town limits has water service. Sewer service is not as widespread. I assume our current sewer system was designed, budgeted, and built to serve a triage of critical, moderate, and non-critical areas. Critical areas have been built, and properties connected, to prevent contamination of drinking water sources. The non-critical areas are mostly unserved because the chance of contamination is minimal and perhaps there's no urgent need for town sewer service. The difference is everyone within town limits has the right to access sewer and water service, but they may be required to pay the cost of construction. Properties outside of town limits have no right to town sewer and water service. The decision to allow properties outside of town limits to connect to town services should be made on a case-by-case basis, again with the triage method mentioned above. The current out-of-town properties that have access to town sewer and water do so with the understanding that their access is conditional, with in-town properties having priority.

The town has a good history of identifying infrastructure needs, budgeting the costs, and implementing the project. If an area within town needs infrastructure improvements, then the town should give it full consideration. If the request is approved then begin the designing,

**Mary Bynum**

No. Except for honoring the

• See Q&A page 19

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# • BIZ NEWS •



From left: Tom Graham, Gardner Davis, Guest Speaker Ren Davis, Carter Davis. A recent Rotary speaker was Ren Davis. Davis, introduced by his brother, Rotarian Carter Davis, presented his film "When Emory Doctors Went to War" which tells the fascinating story of the World War I Base Hospital 43 in Blois, France. Established in 1918 by doctors and nurses from Emory University School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital, the hospital was known as the "Emory Unit" because so many members were affiliated with the university.

## ALL ABOUT BOOKS

# • INK PENN •

## Mysteries by Elly Griffiths

This author never disappoints. I discovered her Ruth Galloway mysteries years ago, though she's so prolific, I'm only up to book four in the thirteen-book series. What I love about Ruth Galloway is her role as a forensic archaeologist and her complex relationships. I always learn something when I read these books.



Kathy Manos Penn

Then I stumbled across "The Zig Zag Girl," the first book in her Brighton mysteries. Set in the '50s, this series features Detective Inspector Edgar Stephens and magician Max Mephisto. The two were members of a band of magicians who served together during World War II. If you wonder what a troop of magicians did during the war, you'll have to read the book.

When a friend recommended "The Stranger Diaries," I grabbed it. Because it won an Edgar Award for Best Novel, I thought it would be a standalone book. I didn't envision there being a book two, and I wonder whether the author did.

The main character is a high school English teacher who teaches a course on a fictional Gothic writer. When a colleague is found dead on campus with a line from one of the author's books by her body, the mystery begins. A Gothic writer, a Gothic scholar, a dark and creepy school, and the old home Clare shares with her daughter combine to set the eerie stage. The only thing missing is an opening line that reads, "It was a dark and stormy night." As you would expect in a murder inquiry, there's a police presence, and this time, it's a female Detective Sergeant named Harbinder Kaur.

That was two years ago. Last month, one of those Amazon emails came across my desk suggesting I would enjoy "The Postscript Murders," a new book by Elly Griffiths. I was hooked. I ordered it on-

line at the library and, surprisingly, had it in no time. There must not be that many Elly Griffiths fans in the Atlanta library system.

Beyond the fact that I like everything I've read by this author, what attracted me was the blurb that indicated it was a literary mystery with senior characters. "... a latter-day Miss Marple," proclaimed the Washington Post. When a 90-year-old

resident of Seaview Court in Shoreham-by-Sea is found dead, a trio of unlikely amateur sleuths swings into action. One is the victim's octogenarian neighbor Edwin, who wittily refers to the retirement community as Preview Court. Before you know it, they've convinced DS Harbinder Kaur that the elderly woman didn't die of natural causes, and the detecting begins. There's even a trip to a literary festival in Aberdeen. Read this gentle romp for the relationships, the intricately woven plot, and the literary references.

What I didn't realize until I looked it up on Amazon was that it's described as Book Two in the Detective Sergeant Harbinder Kaur series. I kept thinking the character was familiar but couldn't figure out why. Not until I looked the book up on Amazon did I see that it was billed as "Part of Harbinder Kaur" (two books.) That's odd phrasing. Only when I scrolled down did I see the word series. Whatever it means, I'll be disappointed if there's not a book three. It's a five-star winner for me.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries locally at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](https://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/), and/or visit her website [www.kathymanospenn.com](http://www.kathymanospenn.com) to read her blogs and sign up to receive her newsletter.

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# • 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://lhi.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 Thursdays 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](http://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

## 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](http://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. In-

terviewing 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 [highlandisplayhouse.org](http://highlandisplayhouse.org).

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

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store at 432 Spruce Street is open Thursday & Friday 10a to 1p. Saturday 10a to 4p. The store will only be open during business hours.

## Thursdays

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

• 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](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call (828) 526 – 0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

## Every Saturday

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

## Third Saturday

• American Legion 370 meets every 3rd Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

## Thurs., Sept. 30

• Orchard Sessions Live at OEI's The Farm featuring Shelly Colvin. Book online at [oldedwardshospitality.com/Orchard-Sessions](http://oldedwardshospitality.com/Orchard-Sessions)

## Fri. - Sun., Oct. 1-3

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rotarian Buzz Dotson; Guest Speaker, Megan Quattlebaum; Rotary of Highlands Past President, Zach Claxton

Rotarian Buzz Dotson introduced Megan Quattlebaum with Pisgah Legal Services as the featured speaker for the September 14 meeting. Quattlebaum outlined how Pisgah Legal, a nonprofit organization, serves more than 20,000 people each year in over 18 counties in Western North Carolina. The organization provides free civil legal aid for the most vulnerable in WNC, including individuals living in poverty, children, and single families. As Americans, we have a right to an attorney for criminal cases, but not for civil, which includes eviction, domestic violence, divorce, custody, and more. Pisgah Legal Services assists people with these cases who are unable to afford legal help.

# • EVENTS •

• At OEI's Half-Mile Farm, a mixology event with ASW: Southern Pot-Still Pioneer. ASW's hybrid approach to making whiskey, combines traditional, Scottish-style double copper pot distillation, with innovative, Southern-style grain-in distillation. This unique process has paid off for the growing Atlanta company, and the whiskey world is taking notice. **Weekend Events in Woodland View Room:** Social Hour Friday evening from 5-6 pm featuring a special tasting of ASW's finest spirits, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, craft cocktails available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern and live music. Saturday Afternoon Presentation from 3-4 pm Kelly and Jim will present the story of ASW's creation alongside samples of some of their special spirits. Social Hour Saturday evening from 5-6 pm hosted by Kelly and Jim and featuring craft cocktails available for purchase made with ASW spirits, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music. Hosted weekends are for Half-Mile Farm guests only. To attend these complimentary events at Half-Mile Farm from October 1-3, book your stay today at <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking/step-1>

## Fri., Oct. 1

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Curtis Blackwell

## Sat., Oct. 2

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2 mile out and back easy hike on the Cove Forest and Anselm's trails on Saturday. There are several gentle ups and downs. We will meet in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, GA at 10 a.m. and carpool to Patterson Gap out of Dillard, Georgia on Betty Creek Road. After the hike we will drive a short distance up Betty Creek Road to Barker's Creek Mill to see the mill operate and have lunch. Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome. Bring food and fluids as needed. There is no charge. Reservations are not needed. For more information, call hike leader David Stearns at 828-349-7361.

• At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square, Bill Lee

and Jane Chalker will discuss their book "Haiti Time" at 3 p.m. Copies will be available in return for donations allocated for the Episcopal Church of Incarnation's mission in Haiti.

• The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center (SMPCC) invites you to help celebrate its 20th Anniversary at its biggest fundraiser of the year on Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin. There is no charge to attend, but please pre-register at [smokypartners.com](http://smokypartners.com) or by calling 828-349-3200. Guest speaker, Melissa Ohden ([melissaohden.com](http://melissaohden.com)), is a saline abortion survivor, and will tell her inspiring story of survival and forgiveness. SMPCC has clinics in Franklin and Cullowhee, and provides all client services, including pregnancy testing and limited OB ultrasounds, at no charge.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Bill Mattocks and The Strut.

## Oct. 8-24

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Music in Motion. This WORLD PREMIERE production takes you on a journey through the silver screen with hits from Hollywood's greatest movie musicals. For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

## Fri., Oct. 8

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Frank & Allie

## Sat., Oct. 9

• At The Bascom, an artist talk from 3:30 – 5:30pm. Curator Gregor Turk will be talking about his work as an artist and a curator.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Nitrograss.

## Sun. Oct. 10

• At The Bascom, Sip & Swine, 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$200. Call 828-526-4949.

## Fri., Oct. 15

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Silly Ridge Round-up

## 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.

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Chief Andrea Holland; Alisa Ashe, Executive Director Kids Place; Tom Graham.

Recently Alisa W. Ashe, Executive Director of Kids Place, "A place where hope begins" spoke at Rotary. Kids Place offers children who have been subjected abuse a safe place to be interviewed about reports of abuse, a home like atmosphere for medical exams, and a non-threatening place for child abuse victims and their families to wait during court proceedings. Alisa, who was introduced by Police Chief Andrea Holland, has been involved in the field of child advocacy 30 years! Alisa and the many professionals she works with, which include representatives of the department social Services, law enforcement, child therapists, and more provide many resources to help children cope with the mistreatment they have suffered. To volunteer, donate, or just learn more e-mail: [kidsplace1@kidsplacecac.org](mailto:kidsplace1@kidsplacecac.org).



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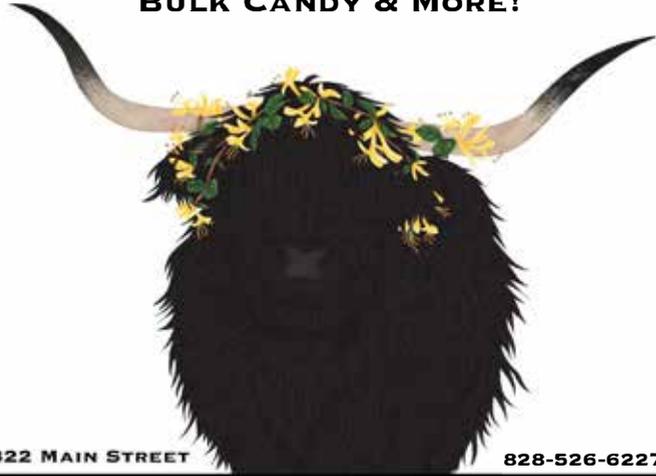


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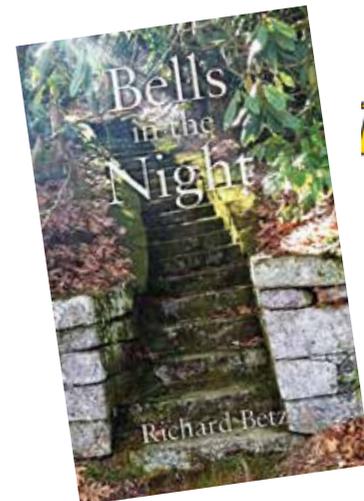


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## ...DISPUTE continued from page 1

enrolled her son from the Macon County School system after the incident and is now homeschooling him.

Revis was one of more than a dozen parents and community members to speak at the September board meeting, calling on the board to end the district's current mask policy. Under a new state law, districts across North Carolina are required to vote on mask policies each month. While Macon County has required masks since school has begun, despite some opposition during the September Board meeting, the board voted 4-1 to continue the mask mandate until the county's COVID19 positivity rate was less than 10 percent.

According to data provided by Macon County Schools this week, a total of 330 students have tested positive since the beginning of the school year. As of Monday,

Macon County Schools reported 32 active positive COVID19 cases in students.

Since school started in August, 1,182 students have had to quarantine due to exposure to COVID19, with 135 students quarantined as of Monday. Sixty-four staff members have tested positive for COVID19 since school began, with five staff members currently positive. A total of 79 staff members have had to quarantine due to exposure with three staff members quarantined as of Monday.

Also as of Monday, the Macon County Department of Public Health reported that of the positive cases within the school system, 27 transmissions have been directly attributed to occurring within the schools.

The Macon County Board of Education said that keeping students in the classroom is their top priority, and based on the

quarantine guidelines from the state, the best way to do that is to require masks at this point.

Originally, board member Tommy Cabe was joined by Nantahala board representative Melissa Evans in casting the dissenting votes against requiring masks within school buildings, however during the September board meeting, Evans changed her vote, citing the recent death of her father, who passed away 10 days prior to the board meeting due to COVID19.

"I think parents should have a choice,

but listen to me here," Evans said. "If I have a choice between my grandbabies wearing a mask and being in school or being sent home and school being shut-down...they can't learn at home. I lost my dad a week and a half ago to Covid. He was 84 years old and he died. He was in the hospital for four weeks. He had the vaccination and he never left home. So do I think masks work...my personal opinion... I don't. I don't think they make a difference.... but not being in school hurts them more than being sent to school wearing a mask."

## ...REDISTRICTING continued from page 1

quired by the U.S. Constitution.

In North Carolina, the ruling party in the General Assembly is in charge of creating new districts for congress and the state legislature. Typically, redistricting starts in April, but data delays due to Covid-19 pushed back the redistricting data release to August 2021

The redistricting process is never a quick or easy one, in fact the last time the maps in North Carolina were redrawn, the political and legal fight over the new maps span the last decade before being finalized in 2019. A 2019 court ruling forced the General Assembly to redraw the maps in an open process, essentially in a big room where the public could watch the process.

Republicans currently have control of the General Assembly, meaning they will control the redrawn districts — however, this time, due to the new census, North Carolina will be gaining a new seat in Congress to accommodate the increased population.

Because of the census delays, the North Carolina General Assembly and local commissions and councils are working on a much tighter schedule to make new maps. Legislators in Raleigh are hoping to get the maps finalized and passed through the

House and Senate by late November, before the Dec. 6 filing deadline for elections for Congress and the state legislature next year.

The census collects all sorts of demographic information each decade, but only a small slice of that data will be released Thursday. The data coming out will focus on what's needed for redistricting: population change, race, ethnicity, voting-age population and housing occupancy status.

In North Carolina, the redistricting process for the General Assembly is now partially determined by an algorithm that helps to ensure that districts align with county boundaries as much as possible.

A joint committee in the General Assembly has already decided on the criteria that should guide drawing the new maps. Under the rules, lawmakers cannot consider race, partisan data or past election results while drawing the new boundaries.

While making the maps, they are allowed to consider where incumbents currently live. Each district should have as close as possible to equal population.

In North Carolina, the governor does not have any say over political maps, meaning that the courts can provide the only check on the legislature's map-making.

## ...GROWTH continued from page 1

counties in the state to see a population increase after the 2020 Census, with the majority of the growth being experienced in the last five years. Roland said the growth is a positive indicator for the county but was not significant enough to experience any growing pains.

The 2020 Census also documents the increasingly diverse community and country. In particular, the Hispanic and Asian populations climbed. Since 2010, the white population across Western North Carolina counties decreased by about 5 percent but still report-

edly make up more than 60 percent of the entire population. African-Americans make up the second largest group at about 20 percent. The third largest population is Latino, which grew from about 8 percent in 2010 to 10 percent in 2020.

Because of population growth, the state will get a 14th congressional district — which Republican leaders are in the process of deciding. This additional district will likely impact all others at least at the margins, including the 11th District which is in Macon County,

# Mountain Findings

## Thrift Store

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*We will be closing for the regular season on Saturday, Oct. 30.*

*We will be reopening the 2nd weekend of November and December on Fridays & Saturdays*

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## ...Q&A continued from page 10

commitment to the hospital.

**Pat Allen**

The answer to this should be an absolute "no" with one exception.

With the outbreak of Covid everyone's lives and businesses were affected. With restaurants and businesses forced to close many employees lost their jobs and their incomes were seriously impacted.

As many know these workers can't afford to live on the mountain due to high rents and a shortage of housing. Now with inflation the cost of gasoline is soaring and the drive from Franklin or Clayton is cost prohibitive.

As a real estate broker, I have been approached by three different develop-

### MC Drive-thru flu clinic now open

With flu season approaching, Macon County Public Health Center announces upcoming drive-thru seasonal influenza clinics.

The influenza vaccine is reviewed annually and is designed to protect against the four strains that research indicates will be the most common this year.

Drive-thru flu clinics are being held at the public health center 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

ers who were willing to invest in affordable housing right outside of town but need to tap into the sewer to make it work.

The sewer line to the hospital only uses 24% of its capacity so it would be in everyone's interest if the town would allow a tap for the benefit of businesses and employees. The developers would be charged for the tap and a monthly fee paid to the town from the tenants.

There should be a way to make it beneficial to all.

Oct. 14 question:

*Yes or no. Are you in favor of installing parking meters on Main Street from 1st to 5th and/or on 4th Street? Please explain your answer.*

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.

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Questions or Concerns? Call Marc at 828.526.2793 or Email [marchehn@nctv.com](mailto:marchehn@nctv.com)

**MARC HEHN**  
for  
**MAYOR**  
*Health for Highlands*

*Here is how I propose to have a  
Healthier Highlands:*

- ✓ Let's attack the problems not each other.
- ✓ Our world is threatened by the forces of pandemic and polarizing politics and misinformation and violence.
- ✓ Where there is a need, there is an opportunity for kindness.

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

*Marc Hehn*



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EXPERIENCE

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# • LETTERS •



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## The financial impact and diminished quality of life issues resulting from this hasty rental ban decision will be long lasting

Dear Honorable Mayor Taylor and Council Members:

I am a third-generation homeowner in Highlands. Highlands has been, and continues to be, my touchstone.

When the Mirror Lake Dam failed in the early 1960s, my grandparents heavily contributed to its restoration. My father used to call square dances at Helen's Barn. He and Buck Trott were good friends. Upon my father's passing, his obituary was published in the Highlands Newspaper. My family always felt we were part of the glorious fabric of the town of Highlands. And gratefully so.



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Now, and with all due respect, the collateral damage from the town council's recent decision to ban short term rentals is tremendous. I feel it is my duty to report the following to you:

It's only been a little over 4 weeks since the council's decision on August 24, 2021, to ban short term rentals. Since that day, real estate contracts are falling through, weddings are moving to other towns, construction contracts are being revoked, rental reservations are being canceled... and buyers are losing their earnest monies--simply because they relied on the town's prior representations that short term rentals were permissible.

Last week two brides pulled their weddings set for 2022 from Old Edwards Hospitality Group because they don't think there will be enough rooms in town for their guests.

Just today I learned of a buyer that chose to walk away from a transaction and forfeited a whopping \$50,000 in earnest money because of the rental ban. Local brokers have reported to me of not one or two--but multiple contracts being canceled in nearly each and every real estate office.

As to renters, below is actual correspondence from a "short term" guest that has been renting in Highlands for the past 11 years--typically, this guest stays anywhere from seven (7) to thirty (30) nights:

*"[sic] ... It is clear we are not welcome. Period. Even if the state legislature passes some bill prohibiting local communities from passing ordinances prohibiting short term rentals, I would be concerned about physical reprisals against us, for example, slit tires, etc. I don't know how safe we would be in a situation such as this. I don't want to travel or visit*

*any place where there is such hate and animosity against visitors. I had no idea we are so vilified by some residents."*

Many additional guests have expressed being "furious" over not being able to rent homes in which they requested repeat stays and had plans to rent in 2021 and beyond.

Neighboring towns are now using the rental ban against the enviable Town of Highlands. "Why would you buy a house in Highlands only to use it part-time and not be able to rent it? Look at what we have in inventory!" Or, "We will be happy to host your wedding venue. In Highlands, your guests will have a very hard time finding accommodations as the hotels fill up a year ahead!"

It appears the council members decided to punish the entire town because of threatening homeowners from a few voluntary homeowners associations. The people complaining about these rentals should relocate into a mandatory homeowners association that has the power to restrict rentals. End of problem.

The financial impact and diminished quality of life issues resulting from this hasty rental ban decision will be long lasting--even if the town were to immediately reverse course.

However, if the council saw such a prompt and express action fit, the monies that would have been used for legal fees could be donated to a local charity and all parties would come out smelling like roses.

Should you have any questions, or if I may assist in any way, my contact information is below.

**Sara Benson  
Highlands**

## Is there something foul smelling?

Dear Editor,

I was surprised by the decision of the Highlander newspaper to suspend printing Mayor Taylor's weekly "Mayor on Duty" column.

I sent them (by email) a proposed letter-to-the-editor on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 6:39 pm and said:

*"I believe you owe your readers an explanation of why you saw fit to take this out-of-the-mainstream action. What would you think if the national press refused to cover press releases from the Whitehouse when a sitting President is running for reelection? Or, what would you think if they refused to cover*

*floor speeches or sponsorship of legislation by a congressperson or senator during a run for reelection, or did the same regarding public notices from state officials running again for office? My sense is that there is something foul smelling that motivated your action. I think you need to explain yourself to your readers in detail, mindful that your action is out of step with what we usually see from the press."*

The Highlander newspaper did not publish my letter and I have not heard from them.

**Barrett Hawks  
Highlands**

...LETTERS continued from page 20

## Clearing the air about Helen's Barn

Dear Editor,

The Land Trust would like to address recent inquiries about our ownership of and plans for Helen's Barn. While Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's mission is to conserve valuable natural resources for all generations, we appreciate and recognize that natural and cultural preservation are often intertwined and when we are able to contribute to the preservation of both, we do so wholeheartedly.

The Land Trust's singular mission is the preservation of undeveloped land. It recently unexpectedly received Helen's Barn, a commercial property, as a gift and has a clear fiduciary duty to use this gift to pursue its mission. The Land Trust cannot be a commercial landlord and is not in the business of preserving historic structures. In fact, doing either could imperil its not for profit tax status. Selling Helen's Barn at market rate is the only responsible alternative the Land Trust has consistent with its

mission and the donor's wishes.

The Land Trust was well aware that there may be interest in seeing the structure preserved, so before putting Helen's Barn on the market at all, it first offered the Highlands Historical Society the opportunity to acquire it. The Historical Society advised that it was not in a position to do so. Indeed, apparently no one concerned about its preservation has ever sought to acquire it in the last 40 years. Helen's Barn has been privately owned and commercially used for many years. It will no doubt continue to be used commercially if the current tenant so elects.

The Land Trust is open to discussions with the preservation-minded with specific proposals which address our ongoing financial obligations as owner, as long as the trust can meet its fiduciary duty.

**Carlton King**  
President, Highlands-Cashiers  
Land Trust

## There is an important reason why women should be allowed to choose

Dear Editor,

In this time of once again having heated debates about a woman's right to choose whether or not to bear a child there is one aspect that does not get enough attention. That is, what happens to the child and to the mother after the unwanted birth?

Sure, there are some happily ever after stories. However, as a psychotherapist in many different settings over the past fifty years I have encountered many more tragic stories of poorly cared for children, mothers desperate for help because they are inadequate to provide even basic needs care to themselves and their offspring.

Many of the people with profound psychological issues were unwanted and poorly cared for. They knew they were unwanted and a burden, or they were raised in an institution or in foster homes or they barely survived with a depressed, dysfunctional, sometimes drug addicted mother. The cost to society is enormous. The cost to such individuals and families is incalculable. I often wonder at the heightened passions about right to life and the relative indifference to

conditions of that life after birth.

**Carole Light, Ph.D.**  
Scaly Mountain

## Thank you for your coverage of Highlands STR issues

Dear Editor,

I'm particularly interested in how the town resolves the short-term rental issues because we are facing the same problems in our homeowner's association in Naples and it is dividing our community.

Your paper is doing a wonderful job of reporting both sides of the story, articulating the problems and some of the changes other communities have made in response.

I think Highlands will come up with some good ways of satisfying everyone, at least in part, and I'd love to see how you work it out, before we return next spring.

**Pat McCabe**  
Franklin

• See LETTERS page 22

## MEET PAT ALLEN

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**VOTE** *Pat Allen* **FOR COMMISSIONER**

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**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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

...LETTERS continued from page 21

## Town Board: Take a breath and think hard about what you are doing to your town and your people

Dear Editor,

Mayor and some on the Town Board members, lawyers, and anyone else involved in this absurd litigation.

I'm not sure what goes on in your closed-door sessions, but the people who live here deserve better than a statement or two. It's like you're saying, "There will be no discussion, we've had our discussion, and here's the way it's going to be." Sounds a little tyrannical to me.

People have already expressed their opinions, but I wonder... have any of you gone out and talked to the shop owners and business owners?

Have you talked to the rental agents, Realtors? I'm certain you haven't. No one from the Town Board has been to our office.

I generally put politicians and attorneys in the same boat; they seem to hide behind outdated laws with very vague language.

Remember, lawyers make the law and know they can bend them.

From what I understand the town has \$14,000,000. in their coffers, I believe the attorneys have seen that cash being tossed around on the otherside.

They don't care about the citizens, business owners about the economic hardship it will create for the 2022 season. It is upon us now, people are making plans.

I have already lost renters and owners because of this STR ban. The lawyers can drag this litigation out for as long as they want.

People have invested in property and now have had the rug pulled out from under them.

The R-1, R-2, R-3 all these people came to invest in Highlands.

I believe the Town Attorney and the Van Wynkly law firm may have a conflict of interest.

I would like to see an independent firm who has no ties to Highlands come in and investigate, and allow the 2022 season to not be shut down while doing the study.

The 2022 season can continue with minor changes, maybe allowing a week minimum in R-1.

My family has been here for over 100 years, in the real estate business for over 80 years, and doing rentals for no telling how long, but for sure long before any restrictions.

Anyone heard of civil disobedience? My company is going to represent my homeowners and continue as always, they will have a lot of family and friends visiting.

A family business of two people taking on the big government. I would rather mediate then litigate.

I'm for forgetting the ban and continue as always. How would the new/old ruling be enforced?

I pay my dues and taxes and I have been to court with the city about rezoning this property, but thankfully, the town dropped the case before actual court time.

I think Mayor Cleaveland didnt want to be called out for the injustice in our case.

To those on both sides that want to use the town as a buffer, I don't think the Mayor or the board members were given an option or the right legal advice. Someone should have made the decision to advise the town to set up a committee to study the issue and iron the differences out. Some people have a knee jerk reaction, or some may have felt forced to take an immediate side.

If you are in a HOA, follow their rules, if there is no HOA you should have some. Owners who are doing their own thing may be a liability with no local representation, there will be some problems. For those who have outdated HOA rules, they need to bring them up to date.

Don't blame the town as a whole. Last year was a covid year and there was a lot more traffic in town than usual, yet we heard from some of our owners how uncomfortable the letters they received telling them not to come to their own home. They pay taxes here but have no vote in the matter. Some felt very unwanted, and now our renters are feeling the same - unwanted.

A little garbage the bears -- let's arrest the bears for getting into the garbage. Even though the bear-resistant cans have been a life saver, there will still be times there is trash on the ground. This isn't Disneyland. I think a little extra noise could have been expected too with people getting away from covid. We have a noise ordinance, let's let that ordinance be enforced.

My mother is 90 years old and gets upset about the changes sometimes. I tell her

## Fall Colors Fine Art Show

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## ...LETTERS continued from page 22

it is inevitable. As a person who was born here and has many generations here, this is my home.

My mother has a saying, "People who come in and stir up things, I call them minute-men. They may be here one season or 10-20 years, they wreak their havoc and then leave. They're just passing through."

Mayor and members of the board, please don't be a minute man, and just be passing through.

If the town wants me to shut my vacation rental business down, I'll just move it to Georgia or South Carolina, it's very simple with the computer these days.

**Tucker Chambers  
Chambers Realty & Vacation  
Rentals**

## Old Edwards wants it both ways

Five years ago, if you had a wedding at Old Edwards, the guests stayed at the hotels or with friends and family. Then the on-line nightly rentals started to appear and now, if you have a wedding at Old Edwards, they won't even rent you enough rooms for your wedding guests!

This year, a friend having a wedding at OEI said he was told they could only have

ten rooms! Why? He was told that "wedding guests are too disruptive." So they want those disruptive guests of Old Edwards weddings to stay in our neighborhoods. Unbelievable!

Worse, Old Edwards developments like the new one Cottages on Fourth DO NOT ALLOW short-term rentals. In their Restrictive Covenants (Section 9) it clearly states, and I quote, "No commercial or business activities may be carried on on any lot. This provision shall prohibit all types of lodging businesses and shall prohibit the renting and leasing of dwellings on Lots for periods of less than one month."

That is exactly why the current law restricting Short Term Rentals in R-1 neighborhoods in the Town of Highlands (that is publicly being assailed by OEI and other commercial and business entities) exists—to protect our neighborhoods. But according to OEI GM Delaney the town should be "ashamed" for trying to protect neighborhoods and all of us complainers who live here should just shut up and get used to short-term renters so Old Edwards can do more business and make more money.

How does that rub you?

**Bob McEver  
Highlands**

## 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 limited! Please call the Highlands Nature Center at (828) 526-2623 to reserve your spot or

if you would like more information. The Highlands Nature Center and Highlands Botanical Garden are part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University (WCU).

Please note that 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](http://highlandsbiological.org) for more fall programming from the Highlands Nature Center.

## Adult Mental Health series at Library

Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, held on a Tuesday of each month from September through December. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. The October 12 program, held at 2 PM, is titled A Rainbow of Mental Health.

This introductory 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 understanding diagnoses and treatment options.

Reservations are required for this event, and masks will be required. Register online at [vayahealth.com/calendar](http://vayahealth.com/calendar) (click on the desired class to register) or call the library at 828-526-3031.

For more information or to request an accommodation, please call Hudson Library at 828-526-3031 or visit [www.fontanalib.org](http://www.fontanalib.org).

EARLY VOTING STARTS OCT. 14

# HIGHLANDS Infrastructure

*Always a Priority*

*"From high speed internet to town water and sewer to the reclamation of the Sequoyah Dam, I've always worked to meet the needs of Highlanders while remaining fiscally responsible. I will continue to advocate for upgrading our infrastructure where needed and balance that with strong budgetary considerations. A new water tower, a refurbished dam, and an upgraded high speed internet commitment are all essential projects we can build on for the future of Highlands."*

*Pat*



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# Highlands Middle School Swim Team holds its own at home against larger area teams

By Coach Steve Hott

On Friday, October 1, the Highlands Middle School Swim team hosted Macon Middle School and Rabun Gap Nagoo-

ee Middle School.

The boys won all eight of their events, while the girls won four of their eight for wins in 12 of the 16 total events.

The teams were led by Aniah McKim, Chase Kenter and Layla Babac who each won all four of their events. McKim and Kenter

scored 60 points, the highest possible in the meet. Babac scored 58.5.

McKim won the 100-yard Freestyle and the Butterfly, Kenter

won the Individual Medley (IM) and the Breaststroke, and Babac won the 50- and 100-yard Freestyle. There were as many as 19 swimmers in each race.

Paolo McRae, Timmy McDowell, and Tate Wilson all won a race and finished 2nd in a race.

McRae won the 50 Freestyle and got 2nd in the Breaststroke scoring 57 pts, McDowell won the Backstroke and got 2nd in the 100 Freestyle also for 57 pts, and Wilson won the Butterfly and finished 2nd in the 100 IM finishing with 55.5 pts.

The boys' relay team of Kenter, McKim, McRae, and McDowell won both the Medley and Freestyle relays; the girls Relay of Wilson, Babac, Margaret Cole, and Cassie McDowell won their Medley Relay and got 2nd in the Free Relay.

Cole scored 2nd in the Butterfly and 6th in the IM for 48.5 pts. Cassie McDowell finished 5th in the 100 Freestyle and 6th in Breaststroke ending with 45.5 pts.

Also swimming well for Highlands was Jim DeLaCruz, in his 2nd swim meet ever, who scored 6th in the 100 Freestyle and 5th in the 50 Freestyle scoring 27 pts.

With the top 16 swimmers in each event scoring, the 5-person boys' team and the 4-person girls' team, though winning 12 of 16 events, were overwhelmed in the final scores by the much larger Macon Middle and Rabun Gap teams. Highlands' boys finished 2nd, the girls' 3rd, and Highlands 2nd overall.

Of local interest, two of the four events that Highlands did not win were won by Highlander Jasmine Abranyi, member of the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team who was swimming for Rabun Gap where she attends school. Abranyi won the IM and the Backstroke.



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- Orthodontics including Invisalign
- Wisdom Teeth Extractions and of course ...
- Fillings and Cleanings (IV Sedation, too)



[www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com](http://www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com)

– Photos by Brian O'Shea

## ...BEARWISE continued from page 1



Highlands was recognized as a BearWise Community on Oct. 5 at the Highlands Rec Park and is the first town in the country with that designation. Areas and counties throughout the United States are designated as BearWise, but Highlands is the first town.

ing human-bear interaction.

“Several years ago, BearWise came into being and as soon as they got active in N.C. we got on board,” said B.E.A.R. Chair Cynthia Strain. “We have been active for a decade doing educational programs, special events, newspaper articles, on-line resources, programs at schools, etc. The town has been great about requiring bear-resistant trash cans and passing an ordinance making it illegal to feed bears. We’ve done a lot over the past 10 years, and I could not be happier that we are officially a BearWise community.”

Being the only BearWise town in North Carolina means Highlands has satisfied the following five steps:

Step 1: Investigate how to become a BearWise Community; find out if bears are in the area and possibly getting into human-provided attractants such as garbage, pet food, and bird feeders; consult with N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) staff regarding bear issues in the

community.

Step 2: Express interest in becoming BearWise Certified and learn more about the requirements; host meetings to introduce BearWise and discuss certification; request a BearWise presentation from NC Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC) staff; and discuss bear issues with neighboring towns.

Step 3: Designate a BearWise Liaison to serve as the point of contact between your community/business and the NCWRC so they can alert neighbors to ways to resolve current issues and report bear incidences if needed.

Step 4: Figure out the best way to implement the requirements to become a BearWise-certified community by identifying and securing all potential food sources and attractants like bird feeders, garbage, pet food, compost piles and any other human-provided attractants; educate community members on how to prevent and respond to human-bear interactions; develop a system to alert community members to non-compliance issues and

maintain BearWise-certified practices; establish protocols for when and how to report bear activity to neighbors and the NCWRC.

Step 5: Finally, NCWRC will work with Highlands on signage that can be displayed showing they are BearWise Certified.

Attending the official certification on Tuesday were Town of Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor and Town Manager Josh Ward, Strain and other B.E.A.R. members, and biologists from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Mayor Taylor thanked members of NCWRC and B.E.A.R. Task Force for their efforts in working with the town to meet objectives. He also thanked Highlands Board of Commissioners Amy Patterson and Marc Hehn who were unable to attend the certification, Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland and HPD Lieutenant Leah McCall, and IT Director Matt Shuler and IT staff for being committed to putting ordinances in place, spend the money to install bear-proof trash cans in the business district,

her cubs that had gotten into a neighborhood garbage can while the girls were walking home from school.

“The decision to require homeowners to purchase bear-resistant rollcarts [toters] was made before I joined the Town Board,” said Hehn but indicated it was a positive move.

Ashley Hobbs, NCWRC Assistant Black Bear Fur Bearer Biologist said achieving something like this at the town level is a big accomplishment and is the “gold standard” of coexistence.

“When you coexist, you keep the people safe and the bears wild,” said Hobbs. “The bears can still move around, they’re just passing through. Highlands didn’t go half-way, they went all in and with all the effort that’s gone into this you’ll see the benefit for years to come.”

Collen Olfenbuttel, NCWRC Assistant Black Bear Fur Bearer Biologist, said the work that’s been done in Highlands is momentous.

“Not only is Highlands the first town to be BearWise certified, but the passion of the people working to accomplish this is a model community for North Carolina,” said Olfenbuttel. “People need to adapt to living with bears and becoming a BearWise Community is key.”

For more information about BearWise and other bear-related information and safety tips visit [www.bearwise.org](http://www.bearwise.org).

and develop programs to educate the public; but the work is not yet finished.

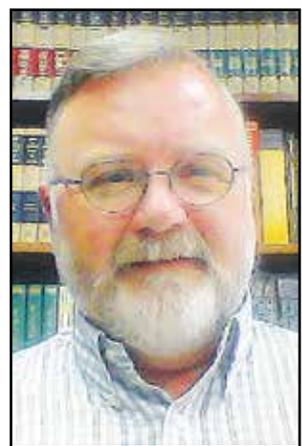
“We’ve had to go back and change ordinances several times and we’ll change more, we always want to look back at what we’re doing and improve upon it,” said Taylor.

Though not at the meeting, later Hehn said he saw the issue of human-bear interactions firsthand when he had to rescue two of his nieces from a momma bear and



A young cub follows its momma through a residential neighborhood in Highlands.

– Photos by Brian O’Shea



## The Light is in Us

**Pastor Dr. Mark Ford**  
First Baptist Church  
Highlands

John 3 tells us of God's great salvation through Jesus Christ. You know, "For God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son..." We are further told that faith in Him removes condemnation, but rejection brings immediate judgment because "they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Then He tells us why and how this happens – "people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works are evil and will be exposed by the light."

We are told in II Corinthians 6 that unbelievers and those who prefer the darkness have no fellowship with the light and those in the light.

It's clear. Light and darkness don't mix, in physics or spiritually. If Jesus is the Light of the world and His Word is the Light as Scriptures teach us, then we who walk in that light and accept its revelation of truth are in conflict with an unbelieving world.

Donald Bloesch called those who adhere to this clear understanding of demarcation between light and dark "theologians of confrontation." Let me just say to all reading this – I am guilty as charged. I join past warriors of the faith who were also guilty – people like Augustine, Luther, Calvin, the Puritans, Bonhoeffer, Bloesch, and so forth. But we don't seek a fight or conflict. It just happens because light has an adverse effect on darkness. Those in darkness don't like what they see when the light is turned on. I don't need to describe and debate the darkness. Just turn on the Light of God's Truth in Christ and the Word and the fight is on.

When the Light is preached – Jesus Christ and the whole of Scriptures – the values and presuppositions of secular culture and compromised theology are called into question. The Truth of God doesn't seek compromise or synthesis with the world but stands alone as the Light. It makes no deals with darkness. In an unapologetic but non-aggressive way the Light of Truth seeks to transform culture through Christ without bending its message to the spirit of the age. We set forth the claims of the Gospel and allow it to convict by its own bright power. The social agendas of today seek to marginalize our message and remove us from the public square, but they can't stop the Light of Truth anymore than they can stop the light from distance stars, sun, or moon.

True believers today will continue the "conflict" by just being Light and Salt. Our message and our Lord will always call into question the darkness of culture and op-

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 27

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUEVALLEY 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 Kerhoulas

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.: Worship 9 a.m. 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

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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

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

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Cct. -April

mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

### 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

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin), Thurs. noon, Fri. 9a; Sat. 4p; Sun., 11a

### 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

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin), Thurs. 9a.; Fri., noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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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 Sept. 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## Sept. 23

At 11:12 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west by Webbmont Road.

## Sept. 26

At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Hummingbird Lane.

## Sept. 28

At 1:15 p.m., Phillip Eugene Nix, 49, of Clayton, GA, was arrested on two warrants services for offenses committed in another jurisdiction. He wasn't issued a bond. His trial date is Oct. 28.

## Oct. 1

At 10:38 a.m., Joan Hicks Hobbs, 52, of Highlands, was arrested on a warrant service for offenses committed in another jurisdiction. She was issued a \$30,000 secured bond. Her trial date is Oct. 28.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 28.**

## Sept. 28

• At 12:47 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

• At 8:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Viewpoint Road.

## Sept. 30

## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

catcher in little league his friends called him "The Puerto Rican Missile" because of the way he could throw out any runner trying to steal. He was athletic excelling in baseball and football in High School and always wanted to be the best.

Manny was a hard worker. He owned Carrion Tree Service in Hiawassee, GA, and in Bradenton, FL since 2009. He also owned The Sand Bar in Hiawassee. While he lived in Townes County, GA, he was very active in the Chamber of Commerce, community and youth sports leagues. He was civic minded and once donated ninety turkeys to Care-Net to help feed hungry families.

Left with many wonderful memories of Manny and the life he lived is his wife, Jill Hayden Carrion and his children, Morgan Michelle Van Hoogen, Chase William Carrion, Taylor Lynne Carrion, and Price William Carrion all of Bradenton, Florida; his parents, Willie and Sue

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKNG continued from page 26

posing ideologies to the Truth. But we do so for the sake of culture and society and not to destroy them. The Light starts with God, and our message is to transform the lives of men and women by pointing that light into their hearts and minds. I have never entered a dark room, turned on the light, and the darkness remain. Darkness always loses in the presence of light. Therefore, beware, you who walk

• At 12:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.

## Oct. 1

• At 2:21 p.m. the dept. was called to Satulah Ridge Road to investigate the source of smoke.

• At 10:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

## Oct. 2

• At 12:16 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 4:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 8:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Road.

## Oct. 3

• At 2:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 5:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Estates Road.

## Oct. 4

• 10:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.

• At 12:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Circle.

• At 8:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Azalea Circle.

• At 10:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Half Mile Drive.

Carrion and his siblings, Rebecca Jenkins (Red), Isaac Carrion (Bridget), Sarah Holbrooks (Brent) all of Franklin, NC, and Benjamin Carrion (Kelly) of Durham, NC; and a host of nieces and nephews

A private memorial service celebrating Emmanuel's life will be held October 9, 2021 at LifeSpring Community Church. Rev. Bryon Lamb, Rev. Ben Windle, Rev. Jason Smith, and Red Jenkins will officiate with music by Jim Byrd.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Emmanuel's service will be for family members only. Masks and social distancing will be required. The service will be broadcast live via LifeSpring Community Church, Franklin, NC, Facebook page beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Emmanuel's family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com)

in the light and bear witness to it. The darkness of today is doing all it can to the throw the circuit breaker of Truth and cut the lights. But Jesus said to His disciples, "Let your light so shine before men!" They can shut down our churches, remove God honoring publications, silence our voices in public and political domains, and remove us from social media. But they can never put out the Light of God's Truth in us.

## 2021 Upcoming Events



at the  
Center for Life Enrichment

### October Schedule

- Tuesday, October 12th - 9:30am - 2:00pm**  
**Stonewall Creek Vineyards Day Trip**  
*Harvest time is truly a memorable experience at Stonewall Creek Vineyards in Tiger, GA. Since 2011, the winery has been producing wine from its own estate-grown grapes, with a few exceptions. This fun, educational tour will introduce you to the process and the harvesting, including a wine tasting, of course. A light luncheon will be provided. **Presenter:** Introduced to winemaking in 1979 by wife Sandi's grandmother, Mark and Sandi Diehl then went on to pursue medical careers in Atlanta. They continued their exploration of wine-making, traveling to Italy numerous times and learning the family secrets dating back to 1922, when Sandi's grandfather began producing wine during the Prohibition.*  
**\$55 members/\$65 non-members (light lunch included)**  
**Carpool from the Peggy Crosby Center at 9:30am.**
- Thursday, October 21st - 5:00-7:00pm**  
**A Private Bear Shadow Event**  
*Hors d'oeuvres, a little bubbly, friends and THE best bear shadow experience. A perfect fall evening in Highlands. View the Bear Shadow as never before, from the deck of a private residence offering a spectacular panorama of Whiteside Mountain and the Shadow of the Bear.*  
**\$40 members/\$50 non-members**  
**Location: Private Residence**
- Wednesday October 27th - 10:00-12:00pm**  
**Southern Appalachian Ghost Stories.**  
*Just in time for Halloween, learn a bit of paranormal terminology and about the ghosts of Asheville and our region. What is an orb? How is that different from an apparition? What is ectoplasmic mist? What is the difference between a ghost and a demon? What is the difference between a vortex and a portal? How do you know if your photographs contain images of real ghosts, or is it just lint, moisture or bad lighting? Why is it dangerous to use a Ouija board in Asheville and Black Mountain?*  
**Presenter:** Pepper Paris had her first encounter with the paranormal at age 4, after her father began experiencing the sighting of early-war veterans. She owns Ghost Hunters of Asheville, Montford and Black Mountain.  
**\$25 members/\$35 non-members**  
**Location: Lecture Hall at the Peggy Crosby Center**

**Center for  
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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

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Downtown Office  
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## Ryan M. Bears

Broker

Cell: 803-271-5426  
Office: 828-526-8784

Ryan@patallenrealtygroup.com

*Pat Allen*  
REALTY GROUP

Pat Allen, Broker in Charge



Highlands | Sotheby's  
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## CASSIE ROSS

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**RUSTIC DINING ROOM TABLE** - six cane seat chairs, 7.5 feet long. Seats 10. \$3,000. Call 256-683-5885. (st. 9/2)

**WANTED**  
**COMIC BOOKS** - Buy / Sell. Call Bob @ 302-530-1109 (9/30))

**HELP WANTED**

## Silver Creek

REAL ESTATE GROUP

**SILVER CREEK IS HIRING** - Top real estate firm continues to expand and is searching for qualified, energetic candidates to fill three full-time positions in our Cashiers office. Available positions include: Front Desk/Office Administrator; Content Writer; Videographer; Photographer. For more information, please email info@ncliving.com. (st. 6/17)

**THE HIGHLANDS RECREATION DEPARTMENT** is looking for an Ice Skating Rink Attendant and life guards. The Ice Skating Rink Attendant is responsible for opening and closing the ice rink and providing good customer service. Life Guard training will be provided for anyone 15 or older. Flexible hours available, may include after school and weekends. Application packets will be available at the Highlands Rec Center, the Highlands

Pool or online at <http://highlandscnc.org>. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Retirees welcomed! (9/16-10/7)

**THE ROOSEVELT TAVERN** - A new upscale casual establishment in Cashiers, N. NOW HIRING ALL RESTAURANT POSITIONS. Including Chef, General Manager, Servers, Server Assistants & Line Cooks. Great pay, flexible hours, relaxed work environment for people who can work independently. Established company with great history and following in the area. 18 Chestnut Square, Cashiers. 828 482-8743. Route64restaurants@gmail.com. (st. 9/2)

**HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE NOW HIRING** - Waitstaff, cooks, bartenders, full and part-time, flexible. Competitive wages. Email info@highlandermountainhouse.com or call 828-526-2590. (st. 8/19)

**LIBERTY LOVING EMPLOYEES WANTED!** If you love freedom, customer service, having fun and are a positive, happy individual, we want to interview you! Looking for 1 - 2 retail customer service team members in Highlands. Positions include traditional retail duties and being awesome with the public - young to old..

Also looking for one full-time bartender in Highlands, so experience is preferred. Willing to train the right person to be the personality of the establishment. Characters welcome, charisma required, boring is unacceptable. All positions require honesty, dependability and a service oriented personality. Must be presentable and drug-free, with a clean criminal record. Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. ~Winston

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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**GRILL & SAUTE COOK/ EXPERIENCED** positions open at Caffe Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Rebecca Long at 828-507-1487 and leave a message. Need ASAP. (st. 8/26)

**HOSPITALITY MINDSET:** Highlands Country Club is looking for a few individuals for food service, bartending and housekeeping, who have a heart for service, want to be respected as professionals and know how to earn to your ability. Competitive pay, tips for F & B staff, uniform provided, and meals per shift provided to all. Golfing privileges are available. Wonderful, busy working atmosphere. Appreciative management to work with each person. Go to [www.highlandscountryclub.com](http://www.highlandscountryclub.com), select the Career tab at the top of the tool bar to fill out an application. Or, call 828-787-2782 and leave a message for Greg. See the Club's reviews on Indeed. (st. 6/24)

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to [ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com](mailto:ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com) or [lindabrtiff@aol.com](mailto:lindabrtiff@aol.com).

**JOIN OUR TEAM!** Whole Life Market is now hiring for full/part time positions. Are you a fun, healthy minded individual looking for a positive work environment? We are an organic health food store/ juice bar. Experience is not necessary but any grocery store, barista skills are a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th. St, Highlands.

**FULL & PART TIME RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES WANTED.** Contact Potpourri at 828-200-0044 to schedule an interview. Eye-

wear experience is a plus. (st. 5/13)

**EXPERIENCED RETAIL MANAGER NEEDED** – Submit resume to: [potpourriHighlands@yahoo.com](mailto:potpourriHighlands@yahoo.com). Good bonus and benefits. (st. 9/9)

**DO YOU LIKE TO CLEAN AND ORGANIZE?** Private club seeking a few energetic individuals with a happy state of mind to join our staff in the housekeeping department. Early hours, routine schedule, competitive pay, benefits, one daily meal provided, and uniforms provided. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Country Club at 828-526-2181. (st. 5/13)

**OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC** – Estate Concierge, Membership & Activities Coordinator, Catering & Conference Services Mgr, Sales Mgr, Asst F&B Mgr, Banquet Server, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Sous Chef, Cook, Asst Pastry Chef, Dishwasher, Reservations Specialist, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer. Apply online: [www.olderedwardsinn.com/careers](http://www.olderedwardsinn.com/careers)

**WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT** Looking for full-time hostess (great pay) dishwasher, prep cook, pantry and waitstaff. PM shift only. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email [wom2@me.com](mailto:wom2@me.com). (st. 2/4)

**LUXURY LODGE MANAGER NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION.** – Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email [mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com](mailto:mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com). (st. 2/11)

**THE SUMMER HOUSE BY REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN HIGHLANDS** is looking for full and part time positions in sales and warehouse & delivery personnel. Must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and/or customer service experience preferred. Competitive starting pay. Generous benefits for full-time positions. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands. (st. 5/20)

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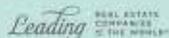


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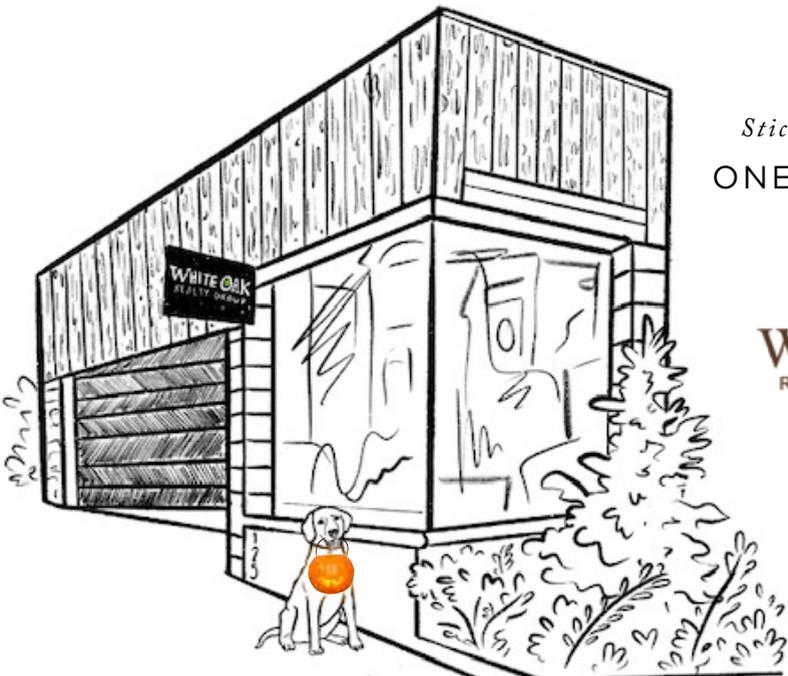
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