

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 18, Number 37 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., Sept. 16, 2021

MCSO reports cluster in detention center, one inmate hospitalized

By Brittney Lofthouse

Last week, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland reported

that all inmate visitations had been suspended due to multiple cases of Covid being confirmed within the

detention center.

According to Holland, the

•See CLUSTER page 14



Highlands Fire & Rescue leads the community on the 3009-step walk for the fallen that started in KH Park on Saturday, Sept. 11.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

Community walks to honor the fallen on 9/11

On Saturday, Sept. 11, members of Highlands Fire & Rescue, Highlands Police Department and scores of citizens congregated at Kelsey-Hutchin-

son Park to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001.

Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart

•See FALLEN page 9

Elevated 3rd Street sidewalk is in town's sights

The seldom used elevated sidewalk that flanks the building along 3rd Street will soon disappear.

A couple of months ago, the Cannon brothers who own the building asked if the town would demolish the sidewalk because the face of it needs constant repair due to drainage from the building eroding the façade.

Demolition quotes were about \$20,000 and they hoped the town would foot the bill.

Before committing to the project, commissioners needed to find out who owned the sidewalk because it would be that party's responsibility to pay for the project.

After delving through old re-

• See SIDEWALK page 14

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Craig Crowe says Hello from outside the Eckerd Living Center where he and Matthew Wright got to visit with and feed a herd of llamas.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

Llamas brighten up the day for residents at ELC

Last Thursday residents at the Eckerd Living Center on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital campus got a break from their day-to-day activities to mingle with a herd of llamas.

Mark English, owner of Llama Caddy of Brevard, trucked his

herd of llamas over for a balmy day in Highlands.

The llamas were set out on the grassy area in front of ELC where they munched on grass and got plenty of strokes from the residents.

•See LLAMAS page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Habitually informing vs. campaigning

A citizen contacted me and asked why I stopped writing my Mayor On Duty column? I responded that I hadn't stopped and that I had been writing it every week for the last eight years. He responded that it had not appeared in the Highlander newspaper for the past two weeks. I said he must be mistaken, that the editor probably placed it where he didn't notice it. I normally do not read my columns in the papers so I hadn't noticed any changes.

This past Saturday I decided to check both newspapers. The column was in the Highlands Newspaper as usual but to my surprise my column was not in the Highlander newspaper.

My initial thought was that there must have been a glitch in the email system, that the editor didn't get the column. When that infrequently happens, editors of the newspapers begin contacting me Tuesday afternoon about whether I am sending a column before the late evening deadline. No contact about a missing column had been sent.

So on Saturday afternoon I contacted



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

the Highlander about why my column had not been published for the past two weeks. I was told that since I was a candidate for reelection the Highlander administration staff had decided to stop running my columns.

I embarrassingly contacted my friend to let him know why he had not seen the column in the newspaper. I accept the decision of the Highlander not to continue my column during this election season. I will say, I have

written the column every week for all these years in the spirit of keeping the public informed about what is happening in town government.

Now if other news sources, newspapers or the radio station, want to stop running my columns and programs during the election season, that will be fine with me. Or, if they want to edit anything I say that they think is electioneering, the media has carte blanche. I simply request that they inform me of their decisions.

Tonight is the September meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners. It will start at 7 pm by way of ZOOM. The access information for the meeting will be available on the town website. The meeting will begin with public comment.

Last month our meeting went for over four hours with a recess and continuation on the following Tuesday afternoon. This agenda is not very long, and I hope we can complete all business within a normal period of time.

I am cancelling the Community Coffee with the Mayor series for the remainder of the year. The Hudson Library has done a wonderful job of organizing these informal public meetings. During the pandemic the coffees were suspended. I resumed the in-person meeting at the library earlier in the summer. Given the current spread of COVID, I think it is in the best interest for the public to not to continue these sessions until we see a significant decrease in the virus spread.

– EDITOR'S NOTE –

Since the Mayor doesn't use his column to campaign, but rather to keep the public informed as to town dealings as Mayor as always, Highlands Newspaper will continue to publish it.

• FORUM •

Highlands needs leaders who listen, lead and bring people together

By James Hicks
Charleston, SC

Whenever I visit Highlands I am always reminded of the fictional town of Mayberry in the old black and white television series The Andy Griffith Show. Reading last week's article on the short-term rental (STR) controversy, I could just see the town folk passionately making their case with tempers on edge and each feeling their position was the only correct answer. On the show, Andy would be seen grimacing and begging the crowd to calm down. Andy Taylor's wisdom was his ability to make everyone understand that the others had a point just as valid as their own. It is reasonable for neighbors of STRs not want to live next door to a "fraternity" house. Equally, owners of homes that can seldom be personally used have a reasonable expectation to rent out the place when they are away. Reasonable people can disagree.

No one that truly loves Highlands and

Macon County wants it to resemble Myrtle Beach or Gatlinburg. But we do have to keep in mind, homes have been short-term rented in Highlands since before anyone reading this can remember. The problems Highlands is having on rentals are not completely new, but the problems today are occurring more often. The STR issues are real. The goal is to find a balance.

Highlands is grappling with the AirBnB/VRBO model of house renting. Highlands is not alone. Many cities and towns across America have been dealing with this for a few years now. One city, Charleston, South Carolina found a solution about three years ago. Voted as the number one city for tourism by Travel and Leisure Magazine, Charleston's short-term rentals had become an unregulated, ungoverned mess. All the parking, noise, and trash issues raised the other week in Highlands were present in Charleston.

• See FORUM page 6

• WEATHER •

Thu, 16-Sep	Fri, 17-Sep	Sat, 18-Sep	Sun, 19-Sep
			
67°F 58°F	69°F 57°F	73°F 56°F	74°F 56°F
A p.m. t-storm in spots	An afternoon thunderstorm	A p.m. t-storm in spots	Mostly cloudy with a t-storm
RealFeel® High: 69° Low: 59°	RealFeel® High: 70° Low: 62°	RealFeel® High: 78° Low: 59°	RealFeel® High: 80° Low: 61°

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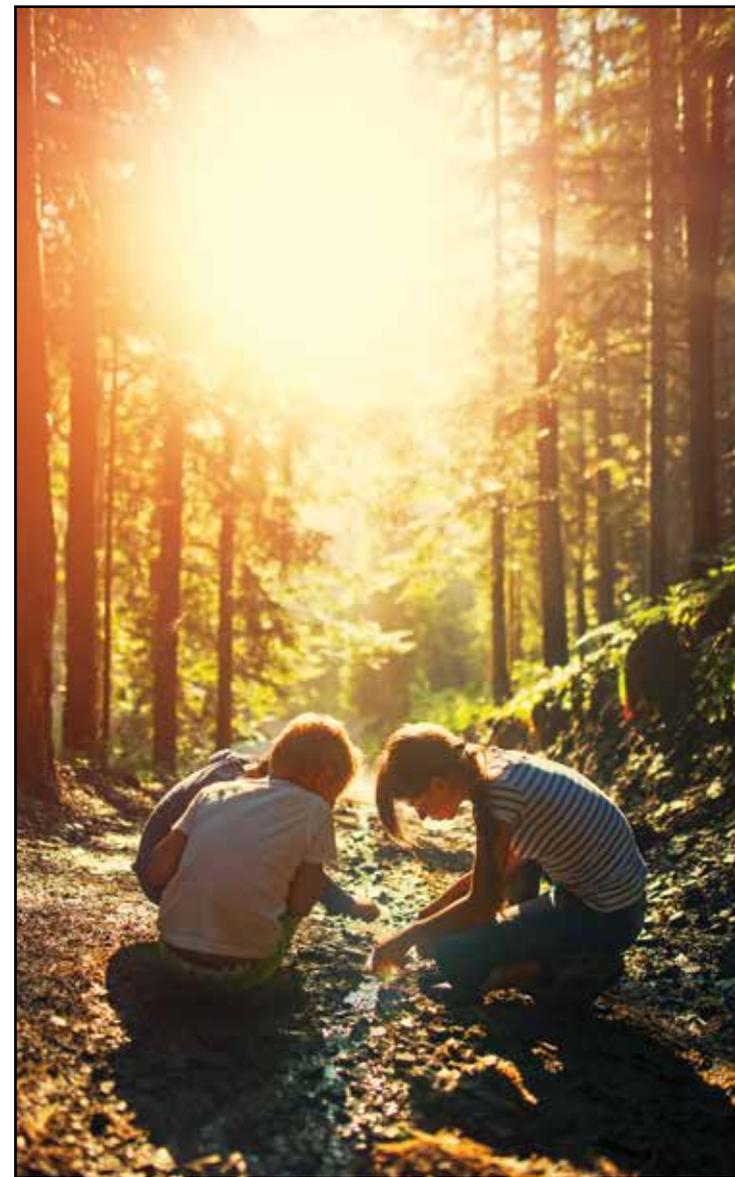
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Most STR bad behavior is already an ordinance violation

Dear Editor,

I am a homeowner in a section of Highlands zoned R1. I do not rent out my home, but I consider the possibility of doing so a positive. On the other hand, I would not want to be located anywhere near a house that was regularly used for loud, late night parties or other obnoxious behavior and agree with the sentiment that such things should be somehow controlled.

I don't think short-term rentals are in themselves bad. In fact I see them as good. They allow people to come enjoy our town and contribute mightily to the local economy without new construction. If a family wants to spend a peaceful week in Highlands in a short-term rental, I think it is great for them, great for the property owner, and great for the town. I do see some of the things that happen in short-term rentals, such as the issues described in the Dog Mountain

Community, as bad. What I would like to see is the bad stuff be controlled and the good stuff be allowed to continue.

Fortunately, most of the bad behavior is already an ordinance violation. Parties with more than 20 attendees in R-1 short term rentals is forbidden by Article 201.10 of the building code, at least according to the link from the Town's website. Chapter 8 of the Town Ordinances contains a pretty good noise ordinance. I think these two ordinances along with other laws already on the books could be used to control bad behavior at short term rentals. If they are not adequate, additional ordinances to control the nuisance behavior would make more sense than outlawing short term rentals all together.

**Jim Chance
Highlands**

OEI Announces Support Of STRs

Dear Editor,

Old Edwards Hospitality Group is totally supportive of STRs in Highlands and we always have been. There are simply not enough hotel rooms in town for the volume of visitors that have discovered Highlands and love visiting Highlands with their families.

Banning STRs in Highlands would have an immediate and drastic negative impact on us and all businesses in town that have come to rely on that additional room inventory over the last 20+ years.

How can you allow STRs to grow and prosper for the last 40 years and openly take the occupancy and sales tax revenue for the town, and then suddenly declare them illegal? In my estimates you could be talking about well over \$10-\$15 million spent in Highlands' businesses annually by STR guests and that is a conservative calculation. We have well over 100,000 visitors annually staying in STRs. How will all of us that have businesses in town replace that revenue? Not to mention the revenue for the STR owners and occupancy tax and sales tax which also are in the millions of

dollars.

It appears to me that this was a knee jerk reaction to a vocal minority and there should have been a lot more discussion and an economic impact study done before any final decisions were handed down.

Even if STRs are not permitted by the UDO in R1 (which is still up for interpretation), the town has basically given their blessing of them by allowing them to grow and prosper for 40 years with no regulation or enforcement otherwise.

In addition, people have invested millions of dollars on dilapidated properties and renovations and locals have built their livelihoods on the perfectly good assumption that since the town did nothing for so long that they must be permitted. Shame on the town.

**Richard M. Delany
President and Managing Director, OEI**

Retirees in R1 want peaceful neighborhoods

Dear Editor,

We were surprised and disappointed in Richard Delaney's piece in the paper (The Highlander, Sept. 9 and above), as we have great respect for the Old Edward's folks he represents and what they have done for the community.

In reading his comments, "banning STRs in Highlands," you are led to believe that those of us concerned about STRs are against ALL STRs and that is certainly not the case.

Speaking for the two of us, we are only opposed to STRs in R-1 zoned areas where so many of us have chosen to retire in Highlands and do not wish the commercial aspect of short-term rentals to change the character of our peaceful neighborhoods.

If we need more hotels to accommodate all the visitors Delaney describes then so be it, they can be built in the business district. The STRs are certainly important to lots of folks, tourists and owners alike, but their wishes and desires should not be imposed on those of us that have chosen to



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...FORUM continued from page 2

Charleston leaders initiated dozens of neighborhood meetings and the City Council held multiple hearings. Having the Highlands City Council vote on an issue impacting hundreds of properties and millions of dollars based on one meeting could leave a

lot of fellows feeling unheard. Can't you just hear Mayberry Sheriff Taylor telling Mayberry Mayor Pike, "Aw come on, Mayor, a fella always got a right to be heard." People that do not feel they have been heard file lawsuits — where they will at least feel they

WERE heard. A lawsuit is the first play in a zero sum game.

From those Charleston meetings and hearings a plan emerged. Every issue for both the property owner and the neighborhood was addressed in new city ordinances. STRs now have to be licensed by the city and the property has to meet certain requirements before it is eligible for a license. Those city license numbers must be listed on the property's Airbnb, VRBO, etc. website. Failure to list the license number can result in the city revoking the license.

Among the regulations:

Charleston requires a minimum number of parking spaces. For Highlands that may be one off-street parking space for each bedroom with a house minimum of two. All licensed houses must have an in town house manager that can be called in an emergency. This takes care of the out of town owner that is not paying attention to what is going on at the property. That was a problem in Charleston, neighbors and the police did not know who to call.

Fire and safety inspections are conducted annually and paid for by the property owner. These inspections and the required safety measures protect the STR and the neighboring houses.

Noise problems are curbed by allowing no more than two persons to a bedroom with a maximum of eight overnight persons per house. A party of eight is not likely to overwhelm the house or the neighborhood. Some houses have even installed noise meters that alert the property manager when decibels level rise above an acceptable level. Highlands could require them in the three or more bedroom homes.

As for trash, guests have nothing to do with the trash. The owner or property manager is responsible for having the trash bagged and rolled out on the proper day and the cart rolled in within 24 hours. Guests do not want to deal with trash on their vacation and STR neighbors should not have to worry about it either. These and other regulations addressed the concerns of the neighbors and allow the STR owners to keep their property rights in tact.

The STR business license fees in Charleston are roughly \$250 to \$750 per year per house. In addition to these fees and annual property taxes, STRs pay accommodations taxes just like hotels. Accommodation taxes are used to enhance the neighborhoods and keep property taxes down on

regular houses. As in Charleston, some of these same fees could be used in Highlands to hire an enforcement officer. With 400 STRs paying an average \$500 business license fee that would raise \$200,000 for an enforcement official.

The Charleston enforcement officer carries in a big "stick", in this case a BIG fine. Fines for noise, trash and other violations start at \$1,087. That high number gets guests and owners attention. The real kicker that keeps property owners involved in making sure their house is in line the City's regulations is the three strikes rule. If within a certain period of time a property is cited thrice for STR violations, the property can lose its license. That STR owner that has been causing his neighbor problems will not last long unless he or she follows the rules.

The Highlands City Council years ago put in the City's ordinances wording for "guest houses." Clearly the council intended for houses to be allowed to be rented. Just as clear is that some owners bought understanding that property right was specifically allowed in the town zoning.

Over the years STRs have served Highlands well. But the internet has upended the old system and it is now time for today's leaders to update the ordinances and find a balance for commerce and quality of life. They are not mutually exclusive. This does not have to be a zero sum outcome.

A hundred years ago America prohibited the sale of alcohol. Even though I enjoy a cocktail, I understand why prohibition was enacted. Unregulated production and sale of alcoholic drinks in the country was out of control — sort of like STRs in Highlands today. History teaches us that complete prohibition and banning was unfair and made average citizens criminals. Regulation, enforcement and taxation of alcohol has worked now for nearly 90 years. Charleston demonstrates that regulation, enforcement and taxation of STRs works too.

Either completely banning STRs or leaving things as they are is a Barney Fife solution. And although Highlands is a fraction of the size of Charleston, tourism is the number one industry for both.

Highlands doesn't need lawsuits and lawyers it needs leaders who listen, lead and bring people together. Sheriff Andy Taylor would figure this out. I hope Highlands will too.

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Twinkle, Twinkle Little STR

It stands to reason that you may be tired of the debate about Short Term Rentals (STRs). My colleague Carl Romberg's thoughts in this space last week were extremely well stated, poignant, and well thought out. Thank you, Carl!

I thought I'd take a minute this week to provide you with a sense of how the Town Board's "consensus vote" last month to begin eliminating short-term rentals is faring throughout the town and beyond, including of course the real estate business:

- According to a prominent local business leader who supports Short-Term Rentals; "It appears to me that this was a knee-jerk decision. STRs bring well over 100,000 visitors to Highlands who spend an estimated \$10-15 Million in local revenue. How will all of us who have businesses in town replace that revenue?" PS: Let's not forget the big hit many of these businesses endured with the COVID shutdown.

- Real Estate Brokers doing business in Highlands are experiencing many emotions about this decision (mostly confusion). Some are reeling, a few are seething, all are advising, many are expounding, several are lobbying, and some have started drinking.

- Buyers seeking to invest in Highlands real estate are re-thinking their decisions "until this thing gets settled."

- Brides, grooms, and families who have booked STRs for weddings in 2022 now face the prospect of having to re-book elsewhere and outside of town.

- Buyers are now requesting to view more property availabilities beyond the town limits, in Cashiers, Scaly Mountain, or Lake Glenville.

- Events like Highlands Food & Wine Festival, BearShadow, the Christmas Parade, and Three Rivers Fly Fishing Festival that attract thousands of visitors are asking themselves "where will all of our Guests stay?"

- Factions on all sides of the issue are lawyering up and airing their grievances on anti-social media. This could get ugly, and expensive.

- Buyers who had a dream, secured a mortgage, hired a local contractor to improve and beautify their property, and were planning to transition their lives



Pat Gleeson
Owner, BIC
White Oak Realty
Group
828-782-0472

to Highlands by renting out their home until they can do it, now face the possibility of selling their property.

- Sellers will now be missing out on a viable market of Buyers wishing to responsibly manage an STR property and be good neighbors.

- Consider Jeanne Marie Piazza from Tampa, FL who recently wrote in this paper; "vacation rentals in town help me remember happy times...as my mother did for me. We are here to enhance the area and hopefully create additional revenue so that Highlands continues to flourish well into the future."

- Local Property Management Companies, Maid Services, Landscaping & Lawn Professionals, Service Providers, and other Laborers who responsibly manage their lives, businesses, and take care of customers with excellence face the prospect of a significant downturn and loss of business as STRs go away.

- The wildlife in town is so upset that the birds have already started migrating to Costa Rica, and the black bears are starting a new movement called STH (Short-Term Hibernation).

As a full time resident of Mirror Lake (there are 3 STRs on my street); a Board Member for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Highlands Festivals, Inc; a Real Estate Broker (shameless plug), and a voter; I simply ask that the Town Board consider taking a deep breath and put the brakes on.

Let's bring in representatives from both sides to sit at the table together before deciding, rather than interpret an outdated ordinance on a Tuesday night Zoom meeting. How about an economic impact study that will respect what the businesses in town have worked so hard to build? Let's learn a lesson from quality destinations like Aspen, Co. Palm Springs, CA. and Napa Valley who've created a process and rules for STRs to be good neighbors and partner in the preservation and value of their beautiful communities and environment.

- *Pat Gleeson, Bee, Tom, Christal, Susie and Gemma (Yellow Labrador) are Helpers and Brokers of White Oak Realty Group, in downtown Highlands (4th Street across from the Old Edwards Inn). Since 2009, White Oak Realty Group remains one of the leading boutique brokerage firms on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. You can reach all of us at 828.526.8118.*

Donations sought by Food Pantry

The Food Pantry in the bottom of the Highlands United Church has ongoing needs. Needed are personal toiletry like deodorant, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, hair brushes, etc.

Also needed are housekeeping supplies like laundry detergent, window cleaner, dish soap, and other various cleaning supplies. Items can be dropped off at the Food Pantry Mondays and Tuesdays and also Thursdays and Fridays. Enter from the Spring Street entrance.



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...LLAMAS continued from page 1

First out were Matthew Wright and Craig Crowe who helped feed them their breakfast.

English said his llamas do it all: wilderness therapy through the SOAR program where they recently assisted with 293 nights of therapy; they often caddy for women on golf courses in the area; they participate in hikes at the Earthshine Lodge, as well as excursions with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands and Cashiers. One llama named Lightning has been a ring bearer in 25 weddings over the past four years.

Currently, there are two babies in the herd joining three moms who are pregnant – a first for the herd. The pregnant llamas and the two babies live the good life at Earthshine Lodge at Lake Toxaway.

Llama Caddy offers a variety of services and adventures in and around Brevard and western North Carolina. Hikes and treks in Dupont State Forest, Pisgah and Nantahalla National Forest, llama golf at Sherwood Forest Golf Course near Brevard and at historic High Hampton Inn and Golf Course in Cashiers. Llama Caddy is also available for events and weddings.

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Craig Crowe wasted no time getting acquainted with the herd.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

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...FALLEN continued from page 1



Prior to the walk which started in K-H Founders Park, Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart addressed the crowd and spoke in remembrance of the fallen on Sept. 11, 2001.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

spoke to the crowd as he ticked off the details of that day.

- At 8:46 a.m., on Sept. 11, 2001, building one of the World Trade Center was struck by a plane that had been hijacked.

- At 9:03 a.m., building two was struck.

- At 9:37 a.m., the Pentagon was struck by a plane.

- At 10:03 a.m., a hijacked plane was taken down in a field in Pennsylvania.

Thousands of lives were lost that day – 343 firefighters, 37 police officers of the Port Authority and New Jersey Police Department, 23 officers of the New York Police Department, 8 EMTs and Paramedics, 3 New York State Court Officers, and one patrolman from the New York Fire Patrol. In addition, many others have since died as a result of being there that day.

After a moment of silence in remembrance of the fallen, Chief Gearhart read a poem written by Christopher Ammons, son of Highlands firefighter Gary Ammons.

Pilgrimage to Ground Zero

Then there was a firefighter strong and brave.

Very often his face he did shave.

He was full of courage, honor and heart.

He was quick to decide and very smart.

6 foot 3 inches he stood.

Always ready, wearing a Nomex hood.

His gear is black from ash and soot.

Calm under pressure and sure of foot.

He was always fast to save a life,

And very loving of his children and wife.

Large muscles to him his job had given.

An honest man who worked hard for a livin'.

He steered clear of drugs of harm.

Any heart could be won by his charm.

In fear for the ones in the New York strife,

On his way up north, he went to save a life.

With eyes of blue and dark brown hair,

In his way to each call he would recite a prayer:

“Father forgive me for my sins,

For if this day is my last, I want us to be friends.

Give me the courage to battle the blaze;

Help guide my path through the fiery maze,

And if something should happen so I am no more,

Watch over my wife and son of four,

Take care of the men who work beside me,

Let them return safely to their family.

Lord this I ask in your precious name,

For now it is time, I can see the flames.”

Prior to the walk, where 3,009 steps were taken – 2,996 to honor those who died that day and 13 to honor the marines recently killed in Afghanistan – names of the fallen were put into a helmet. Participants were encouraged to take a name and to honor that person as they walked.

– Kim Lewicki

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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.
- Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, has cancelled services for the remainder of the season due to recent CDC guidelines. Call Mary Bean if questions at 1-828-506-0125.

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 10:15-11 a.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., 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 Anony-

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

Tues. & Thurs.

- 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 (click on the desired class to register) or call the library at 828-526-3031.

First Wednesdays

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

Wed.-Sat.

- Live productions at The Playhouse.

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SHELLY COLVIN
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FREE Upcoming Event (refreshments served)

Thurs., Sept. 16 author Kelly McDaniel will discuss her new book, "Mother Hunger: How Adult Daughters Can Understand and Heal From Lost Nurturance, Protection and Guidance." from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Wed.-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m.
Thurs.-Sat. For ticket information, visit 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, call (828) 526-0863 or email 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. 16

• At Shakespeare & Company author Kelly McDaniel will discuss her new book, "Mother Hunger: How Adult Daughters Can Understand and Heal From Lost Nurturance, Protection and Guidance." from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Thurs., Sept. 16

• At Shakespeare & Co., book discussion and signing with author Kelly McDaniel and her book "Mother Hunger: How Adult Daughters Can Unerstand and Heal from Lost Nurturance, Protection and Guidance." from 4:5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Fri., Sept. 17

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Ben and Marce

Sat., Sept. 18

• Join the Highlands Plateau Greenway for a Hike on the Historic Kelsey Trail.

Small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, the Cullasaja Club Overlook, and Highlands Falls. Shuttles will leave from the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Saturday at 8:30, 9, and 9:30 a.m. The five-mile walk, mostly downhill, takes about four hours and will end with a picnic at the Park. Bring good hiking shoes or boots, rain gear, water, a day pack and your camera. Residents and visitors can register for the walk by leaving a message at (828) 482-2346. The \$75 cost of the walk includes the picnic lunch and free membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. High Five.

Sun., Sept. 19

• CLE is proud to present the First Annual Highlands Porchfest 2021! Porchfest is a FREE music event for our community being held on Sunday from 1 - 6pm. Musicians from every genre will perform live at various downtown businesses, including The Bascom and The PAC. For more information visit www.highlandsporchfest.com

• Oyster Roast at OEI's The Farm, 4-7 p.m. Join us at The Farm at Old Edwards where we welcome back Kimball House & The Darling, providing the freshest oysters. Lawn games and live music welcome guests. An oyster roast, passed hors d'oeuvres, raw bar and creative cocktails will set the stage for dinner featuring an array of festival stations for an informal Old Edwards-style feast. \$165 per person. Please note: Price does not include tax or gratuity ("fee"), this will be added at checkout. Event is for guests 21 and older. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/oyster-fest-at-the-farm-tickets-65450>.

Fri. Sept. 24

• Trout Fishing in America Comedy Duo at Highlands PAC, Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets available at www.highlandsp Performingarts.com. All ticket sales benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund.

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

Sat. Sept. 25

• Fly Fishing Casting Clinic at Harris Lake. Free and open to the public. Kids welcome! Saturday 10 -11:30 a.m. • Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. The Knotty G's

Thurs., Sept. 30

• Orchard Sessions Live at OEI's The Farm featuring Shelly Colvin. Book online at oldedwardshospitality.com/OrchardSessions

Fri., Oct. 1

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

Sat., Oct. 2

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

Oct. 8-24

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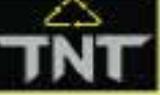
Highlander Mountain House welcomes Chef Dan & Bethany Heinze, husband & wife team from Charleston, South Carolina for a two week residency at The Ruffed Grouse (Sept 15th-26th). The Heinze's met within McCrady's Restaurant in downtown Charleston, where Dan earned the title of Head Chef during his nine years and Bethany managed the bar program. After living in Los Angeles for many years following, Dan & Bethany have returned to Charleston as a combined force to establish their own version of a chef-driven American restaurant. Shaped by years of fine dining experience with a deep influence of California sensibility, their upcoming restaurant aims to become a staple of the Charleston community.

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(Statepoint) The updates you make in fall can prepare your home for the long winter months ahead, helping you stay more comfortable all season while reducing your energy bills and other expenditures. Here are some home improvements to consider, as well as tips and insights for making the most of these upgrades:

- **Select insulated siding:** Did you know that most wall insulation is placed only between the studs? Since wall studs represent up to 25% of the wall surface of an average home, that's like having one side of your home with no insulation at all! Check out siding that provides continuous insulation, such as CedarMAX insulated vinyl siding from ProVia, which is not only one of the most energy-efficient exterior claddings on the market, but offers enhanced curb appeal and durability.

- **Improve windows and sliding glass doors:** New windows can make a substantial impact on your overall energy efficiency, if you select wisely. To identify the most energy-efficient windows for your home, refer to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) climate zone map, which divides the country into four regions. For each region, the agency provides recommended values for the two major characteristics that affect the energy efficiency of vinyl windows: the U-Factor (which measures the window's insulating value) and the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (which represents the amount of heat from the sun that passes through the glass). Learn the specs of any windows you're interested in before making a purchase to ensure they're a good fit for your region.

Wherever you live, make sure the windows and sliding

patio doors have been independently tested to meet strict EPA energy efficiency standards, and check to see that the windows are ENERGY STAR Certified. The ecoLite, Aspect, Endure and Aeris lines from ProVia all offer comfort and energy efficiency, as well as optional upgrades that can help make an additional dent in your energy bill or add aesthetic appeal. Some lines come standard with ComforTech Warm Edge Glazing, a high-tech glass package that measurably improves thermal performance for less heat loss, warmer glass temperatures and reduced interior condensation. Finally, be sure any new products are delivering their full value with a proper installation that eliminates drafts.

- **Seek further savings:** Did you know that by installing energy efficient products, you may be eligible to receive an energy tax credit? When purchasing products for your home, consider shopping with companies that are clear about the status of their products, as well as provide needed documentation certifying your eligibility.

- **Pass it on:** Environmental stewardship is a valuable lesson to impart to the next generation. While you make energy-saving updates to your home, consider checking out free resources that can help your children understand why this matters. For example, the "Sammy the Star" ENERGY STAR Educational Program, found at provia.com/energy-star, teaches children about the importance of saving energy.

Energy savings and environmental protection go hand-in-hand. This fall, consider home upgrades that prioritize both.

What to Know When Updating Your Home's Siding

(StatePoint) With climate change spurring an uptick in extreme weather events in recent years, homeowners today know that to keep their property -- and the people in it -- best protected, the siding they select matters.

"Not only will the right materials better insulate against extreme temperatures, but durable materials will also help guard against wicked weather and storms," says Jon Lapp, siding project manager, ProVia. "And of course, siding has a major impact on the look of your home exterior."

The good news is that you don't need to sacrifice curb appeal in the pursuit of high-quality siding. Here's what to know when making this important upgrade:

- **Materials:** Your choice of materials can impact how you feel about your house for years to come. To that end, consider the most popular home siding material, which,



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Leesa Manley Gene Borino

Fall Home Improvement

according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Construction, is vinyl siding. First introduced in the 1960s, its popularity is no accident. Thanks to its low cost, ease of installation, minimal maintenance and long-term beauty and durability, it's a favorite choice among installers and homeowners. Just be sure that the siding you select is formulated with weather- and heat-resistant materials, as well as UV blockers to protect against color fade.

- **Insulation:** Did you know that most wall insulation is placed only between the studs? Since wall studs represent up to 25% of the wall surface of an average home, that's like having one entire wall with no insulation at all. Insulated siding blankets your home, providing continuous insulation between the studs and exterior wall of your home. Look for insulated siding options that are tested and proven to increase the R-value (a measure of a material's resistance to heat flow) of an exterior wall. One such option is CedarMAX insulated vinyl siding from ProVia. One of the most energy-efficient exterior claddings on the market, it can help reduce your energy bills. It's also built with a strong, rigid foam backing that can bridge the subtle bows and dips present on almost every wall. This will make for longer, straighter panels for increased curb appeal, as well

as greater impact resistance against rain, hail and contact with your child's fastball. And because it resists fading, chalking, cracking, peeling and thermal expansion and contraction, it will have a longer, more environmentally-sustainable life.

- **Color:** Color and beauty are huge factors in your home improvement decision. To get it right, start by using the color selection tools on your manufacturer's website. It's important to know that the monitor settings on your device can impact the way the color displays, so contact the dealer to see real color samples made from its actual products before making a final decision. Choose from classic whites, earth tones, bright and colorful shades, or bold, darker hues. Just be sure your beautiful new siding contains anti-weathering ingredients that prevent weather and sun exposure from causing it to fade.

Additional siding information and resources can be found by visiting provia.com/siding.

"Approach this home improvement project carefully. With the power to boost your home's beauty and energy efficiency, new siding can offer a great return on investment and protect your home for years to come," says Lapp.



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...SIDEWALK continued from page 1

ords, it was discovered that the town owned the sidewalk and as such its upkeep was likey the town's responsibility.

At Monday's Public Works Committee meeting, Commissioners Mark Hehn, Donnie Calloway and Brian Stiehler met with Town Manager Josh Ward and Public Works Director Lamar Nix at the site to go over four scenarios.

All scenarios involved removing the elevated sidewalk and constructing drainage for the downspouts on the building that would drain into the town system.

Differences involved, rebuilding the elevated sidewalk, allowing for parallel parking along 3rd Street as well as keeping the much-used loading zone, painting a sidewalk be-

tween the new face of the building and the loading zone, keeping the elevated portion on the back side on Oak Street and including several parking spaces.

Costs were between \$47,725 and \$93,780.

Removing the elevated portion of the sidewalk that wraps around to Oak Street would cause the most problems because the electrical panel for the building is currently accessible from the sidewalk. Removing it would require lowering the panel box to street level which would mean the building would be without power for 3-5 days.

In the end, the commissioners decided on a hybrid model – a combination of scenario 1 and 4. It will be presented to the owners and the Town Board in the near fu-

ture.

If approved, the elevated sidewalk along 3rd Street will be removed. The elevated portion on Oak Street will stay. A sidewalk will be painted and stamped from Oak to Main along 3rd with a crosswalk likely painted to cross 3rd at the corner. A loading zone will be extended the length of the building on 3rd without parking spaces for vehicles.

The work will take a month to complete and will cost between \$47,000 and \$55,000. Town crews will do the work.

Remediating the eyesore and making the area more pedestrian friendly was suggested in the Comprehensive Plan.

– **Kim Lewicki**

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...CLUSTER continued from page 1

decision was made in the best interest of staff and inmates and was done as a precautionary measure. Jail officials are reportedly working with the local health department as well as the detention center physician and nurse to have all inmates and all detention officers tested. The testing within the detention center was voluntary and all but two inmates agreed to be tested for COVID19.

Holland reported that as of September 12, 82 of the 83 tests that were conducted had been returned. A total of 58 negative tests and a total of 24 resulted in positive for Covid19. All 24 positive results were of male inmates and are in the dormitory section of the jail facility.

"We currently have no positive cases in the female dorm," said Sheriff Holland. "All MCSO detention officers tests resulted in negative for Covid19. Although negative, we will continue to monitor all employees and inmates as we have done throughout this pandemic and conduct additional tests when appropriate. In addition to this week's testing, we conducted "Rapid Tests" for additional officers who reported for work this weekend and all those tests resulted in negative for Covid19."

While visitation was suspended and because sheriff's office staff were concerned for all the inmates mental health due to denying opportunity for visits, the detention center staff has worked to make sure inmates have had the opportunity to call family or friends as needed.

"Staff reported that inmates voiced appreciation for looking out for their well-being," said Sheriff Holland. "Earlier this evening I called and had my staff commu-

nicate with each of our dorms via intercom system and asked if all inmates had the opportunity to use the phones today to call anyone if they needed to and the inmates confirmed they had. I also had them confirm all phones within our facility were operational throughout the weekend."

At this time, only one inmate remains hospitalized due to Covid and has been prescribed oxygen.

"Our facility is unable to adequately provide an appropriate location for an inmate needing a device to provide oxygen due to all of our isolation cells being occupied with other Covid positive inmates," said Sheriff Holland. "All other inmates' symptoms range from no symptoms to minor symptoms. Medical staff from our local health department and MCSO detention center physician has maintained continuous communication throughout the weekend with staff and inmates. As of this release, all inmates continue to be doing well."

Sheriff Holland said for anyone concerned about an incarcerated family member to contact Macon County Jail Administrator Lieutenant Dereck Jones.

"Please understand that our staff will not confirm your family member has Covid and will not provide you with any medical information by telephone," said Holland. "They legally are not permitted to do so. Your family member incarcerated in the Macon County Detention Center has access to a telephone and can call you to provide their medical information if they choose. No inmates currently incarcerated in our facility is severely ill at this time but all of them continue to be closely monitored."

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...LETTERS continued from page 5

live in R-1 designated neighborhoods.

We thought Carl Romberg's piece in the Highlands Newspaper (Sept. 9 issue) was well thought out and we are grateful to have Patrick Taylor as our Mayor during these difficult times, as we feel he un-

derstands both sides of the issues and yet knows that the fabric of our community is at risk as the proliferation of STR's in R-1 neighborhoods continues.

Bill and Rosemary Stiefel
Highlands

Mature, mutual cooperation is needed

Dear Editor,

Founded in 1875, our Town of Highlands has an expectation to be a community lead by mature municipal leadership and competent, well-paid staff.

As I read the undated memo from the Town's lawyer about short term rentals, only after the "consensus decision" to ban them are the elected/staff leaders thinking of engaging an expert in the field to examine the issues. With due respect, that seems backwards.

Rather than the mature leadership our Town's stoic age would suggest, we have experienced pell-mell leadership on this topic. What a dirty mark on all who rushed to the errant decision after years of allowing or ignoring this property use.

To be clear, I don't want an unregulated STR next to me, but I also don't want a neighbor's property rights taken wrongfully by a municipal government. There is a better way.

I urge the Town's elected officials to do what you can to bring all points of view back to the table while examining the current proper legal status of STRs within our existing ordinances and examine what could happen to our Town if super-numerous monetary judgments and mandatory injunctions are granted against it (Us).

We can erase this dirty mark with mature, mutual cooperation.

Hopefully, we can repair neighbor relations, too.

Gary Moore

•See STRs page 16

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Pat

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Successful Town Initiatives Since Becoming Mayor

- ✓ Developed the Broadband Project to ensure high speed Internet to Highlands.
- ✓ Fully Developed Founders Park.
- ✓ Covered the pool.
- ✓ Renovated the Rec Center gym, workout, aerobics and bridge rooms, and pickle ball courts.
- ✓ Completion of downtown wall replacements.
- ✓ Water intake at Lake Sequoyah and refurbishing of the dam.
- ✓ Building of the Buckhorn water tank to ensure good, clean water to Highlands.
- ✓ Extension of the hospital commitment to 10 years of operation (Dogwood Award Recipient)
- ✓ Lead the COVID pandemic response and helped facilitate the vaccine clinics.
- ✓ Reorganized the ABC board from 3 to 5 members to optimize representation.
- ✓ BearWise initiative and disposal of garbage.
- ✓ New Highlands Fire Department.
- ✓ Major road resurfacing and improvements.
- ✓ Implemented green policies: hybrid police cars, LED street lighting, and enforcement of watershed ordinances.

Service

8 years as Mayor of Highlands
Highlands Planning Board - 6 years
Highlands Appearance Commission - 6 years
Highlands Area Magistrate - 10 years

www.PatTaylorForMayor.com

Paid for by Keep the Mayor on Duty

...LETTERS continued from page 15

Residential means residential but to be fair, the bad STRs are fueling this fight

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners for the work they do and for wading into a very difficult situation about Short Term Rentals. I have been visiting Highlands for over 20 years and have loved the scenic beauty, charm and quality of life the town has to offer. So much so that I bought a home here in January 2019 for the purpose of retiring in a few years. Presently, I live here about four days a week and drive back to Atlanta for work three days per week. As an attorney I am acutely aware of all sides of the argument and all of the legal arguments for and against, and I hope that we as a community can come to an amicable solution.

What I notice mostly in the newspaper discussions are people who have a very vested financial interest in turning Highlands into a tourist destination, never considering that the whole charm of the community is the fact that it hasn't historically been one.

For the past 20 years, I have loved that it is an oasis away from all that I hate about city living and why I wanted to retire

here. While I understand real estate agents, homeowners who subsidize their incomes by renting out other homes full time and corporations who own homes as an "investment," the whole idea of "residential zoning" is just that.

I bought my house in Mirror Lake neighborhood after doing research about the area for which I thought would offer all I wanted in retirement. Unfortunately, only after buying and moving in did I discover that the three homes across the street from me are used for short-term rentals. The one directly across is 100% used for rentals and is an 8-person rental which results in large groups which are loud and disruptive. My attempts to contact the owner about cars parked blocking the road, trash and loud music and parties have remained unanswered. So far, I haven't contacted the police for fear of retribution and resulting property devaluation. But this morning at 5:30am, while waking my dogs in my front yard, I came upon a bear in the driveway in the home across the street which had opened that owners non-compliant bear trash can, and was tearing through several bags of trash. This has not been the first

incidence of trash being strewn all over the driveway but was the first time I came upon a bear. Luckily it was more scared of me and my dogs and started to climb a tree. But had this been a mother bear and cub it could have quickly escalated into something worse.

While I don't wish to interfere in anyone's right to make a living, the whole purpose of zoning is a legal construct to insure people can live in their home free from noise and interference of commercial activity. Less I be accused of being a nosy neighbor, I take no issue with the other two homeowners who rent out their homes in STRs because I don't even notice they are rented. While legally I agree with the city attorney that is a commercial activity, I don't begrudge that activity when it isn't a nuisance. But the home directly across the street from my home is the very definition of a nuisance. The renters are always in large groups, multiple cars, very loud and very disruptive. The owner is nonresponsive to any complaints and is not in compliance with city ordinances. We need to have some way to resolve this matter than simply escalating this into the police being called.

That creates an awful environment for all involved.

I do not know how this will finally be resolved, but there has to be a better solution than lawsuits and all of the vitriol being directed at our town leaders and homeowners that are living this nightmare.

For anyone who is opposed to the enforcement of R1 zoning, ask yourself if you would like to live across the street from a tavern that operates seven days a week and into the wee hours of the morning. If you are a real estate agent, how easy is it to sell a house next to a nuisance house? I am curious how your reaction would be if the nuisance was in your personal life or your investment stream. Please consider that before asking the rest of us to tolerate those same living conditions. Unfortunately, the house across the way has made life here less enjoyable to the point where I am rethinking my retirement plans.

Again, I want to thank our town government for seeking a resolution to this ongoing problem.

Timothy H. Paschall
Atlanta and Highlands



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• HIC'S VIEW •



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September 23rd
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Highlands Recreation Park



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Way to the Top



Christ Anglican Church
Fr. Jim Murphy

Throughout America's history, part of our inculturation (socialization) has included the notion of being "on top, the best, winning."

During our school years we are steeped in competition so as to excel, to constantly strive to be the winner. Whether the competition comes in the field of academics or of sports, "winning is," as the late Vince Lombardi once said, "everything."

Even in our WNC mountains there is a bit of pride in having the tallest peak, the highest elevation, or the most magnificent view. The notion of aiming for the best or being on top is ingrained in us. Competition is good for character development, or so we are taught.

Many of us will remember Muhammed Ali the heavy-weight champion boxer. After literally fighting his way to the top, Ali was unashamed to tell the world that "I am the greatest." Be that as it may, the Bible presents us with an alternative way to reach the top, in lieu of fighting. After witnessing an argument among his followers, Jesus lays out a revolutionary strategy for them and us to be the greatest. His disciples had been having a discussion as they walked along the road about who was the greatest of his band of apostles. Knowing what they said, the Lord replied, "if anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." (Mark 9:35, NKJV).

The Son of God spoke from experience. He had left his home, his Father, he left everything in heaven so that he might, "seek and save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) Jesus went to the back of the line. He knew that that was the only way to excel, to reach the top.

The Lord consistently taught that in humility and service lies excellence. A bit later in Mark's gospel, when a couple of his disciples were still looking for lasting privilege, the Christ laid it on the line. The ways of the world are not the methods of God's kingdom. Addressing his followers who believed that to the winner goes the spoils, he said, "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to be great among you shall be your servant. And whoever desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (10:43-45)

Jesus became for us the consummate example of winning. He became the greatest, the most revered Man in human history exactly because of his love, his humility, and his service to all. And so he encourages all of us to be winners by becoming slaves, by following his example in serving others. We have a multitude of opportunities surrounding

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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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

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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

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glensville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

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Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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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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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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• OBITUARY •

Horace Vaughn Neely



Horace Vaughn Neely, age 52 of Highlands, N.C., passed away September 10, 2021. He was the son of the late Carl Neely and Geraldine Tritt Neely. He was also preceded in death by one brother Dale Neely.

He is survived by one sister Denise Zachary and husband Ben Zachary of Highlands, NC., one brother Terry Neely of Clayton, Ga., three nieces Candace Keener, Michaela Kaim, Alexis Neely, two nephews Kyle Keener, and Quinton Neely.

Vaughn enjoyed coon and bear hunting, he loved his dogs and all animals. He was a friend to everyone and loved his family and friends.

He will be deeply missed by everyone.

A graveside service was held Tuesday September 14, 2021 at Clear Creek Community Cemetery in Highlands with Johnny Owens officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family donations be made to Beck Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, GA, is in charge of the arrangements. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 2

• At 3:38 p.m., two pairs of sunglasses valued at more than \$500 were reported taken from Potpourri Eyewear on Main Street.

• At 5:55 p.m., officers received a report of a woman receiving harassing text messages at her place of work.

• At 4:22 p.m., Miranda Lewis Mueller, 52, of Rockville, MD, was arrested for shoplifting.

Sept. 3

• At 9:20 a.m., officers received a report of private property signs valued at \$50 being taken from a residence on Chestnut Walk.

Sept. 6

• At 6 p.m., officers responded to a report of missing property from a residence on Bowery road. Missing was a purse containing multiple credit cards and well's fargo checks and a Nintendo 3DS valued at \$100.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 7.

Sept. 7

• At 6:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spruce Lane.

Sept. 8

• At 5:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

Sept. 9

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

Sept. 10

• At 12:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

Sept. 11

• At 11:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on 4 1/2 Street.

• At 11:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 2:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

Sept. 13

• At 7:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a gas leak at a residence on Wyanoak Road.

Highlands PD make arrest in assault case

Two men have been charged in connection with a fight that occurred outside of 4118 Kitchen + Bar on the night of Tuesday the 27th.

According to a statement from the Highlands Police Department, Robert Baty and Richard Errington got into a verbal argument outside of the business. Witness statements describe both men as arguing and acting aggressively toward each other when Mr. Baty reportedly pulled a knife and swung at Mr. Errington who was approaching him. Mr. Errington received a wound in his chest from the knife and

was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for treatment. Mr. Baty left the scene and was subsequently stopped and later arrested by Sergeant Thomas Parker.

Robert Baty has been charged with Felony Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury, as well as Misdemeanor Affray.

Mr. Baty was given a \$20,000 Secured bond at the Macon County Detention Center.

Richard Errington was charged with Misdemeanor Affray.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

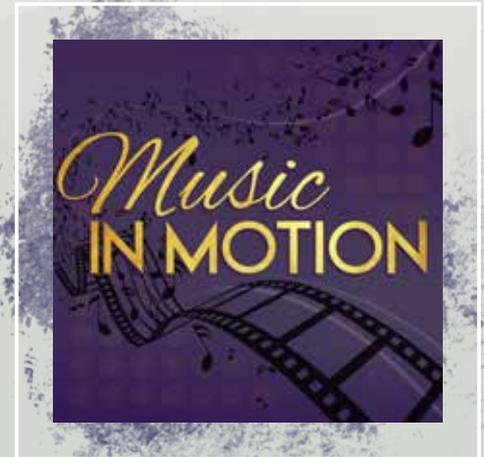
us in our area wherein we can rise to the top. Not the top of some mountain but to the top of his heavenly kingdom. Imagine if you will, a world where there were no arguments about who is the greatest. A world where no opportunity to

serve was spurned. A world where loving our neighbors as ourselves was the law of the land. That, my friends, would be the greatest, the top.



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HELP WANTED

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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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 Churchill Email us at libertylibations@gmail.com.

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, 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 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 or lindab-tiff@aol.com.

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FULL & PART TIME RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES WANTED. Contact Potpourri at 828-200-0044 to schedule an interview. Eyewear experience is a plus. (st. 5/13)

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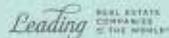


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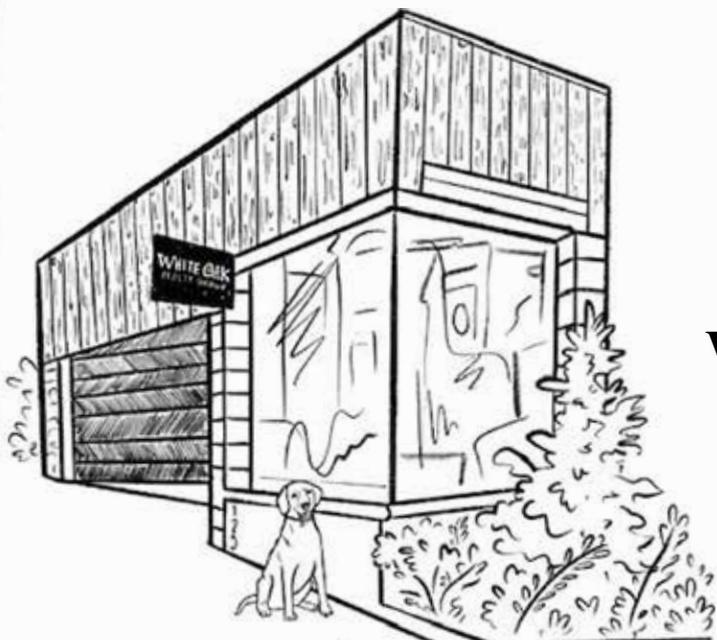
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