

Highlands Newspaper

Happy Labor Day!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 18, Number 35 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., Sept. 2, 2021

The STRs issue continues to fester

The short-term rental issue has snowballed since last week when the Town Board backed Town Attorney Jay Coward's interpretation of the R1 zone definition and voted via consensus

4-1 to disallow STRs in that district effective Jan. 3, 2022. Those who lobbied against STRs in the R1 district applauded the commissioners' decision; those who make a living or supplement

their living through the rental of STRs – homeowners and vacation rental agencies – are up in arms and ready to fight.

Jennifer Huff sent out an
•See STRs page 10

Highlands reinstates masks in business district

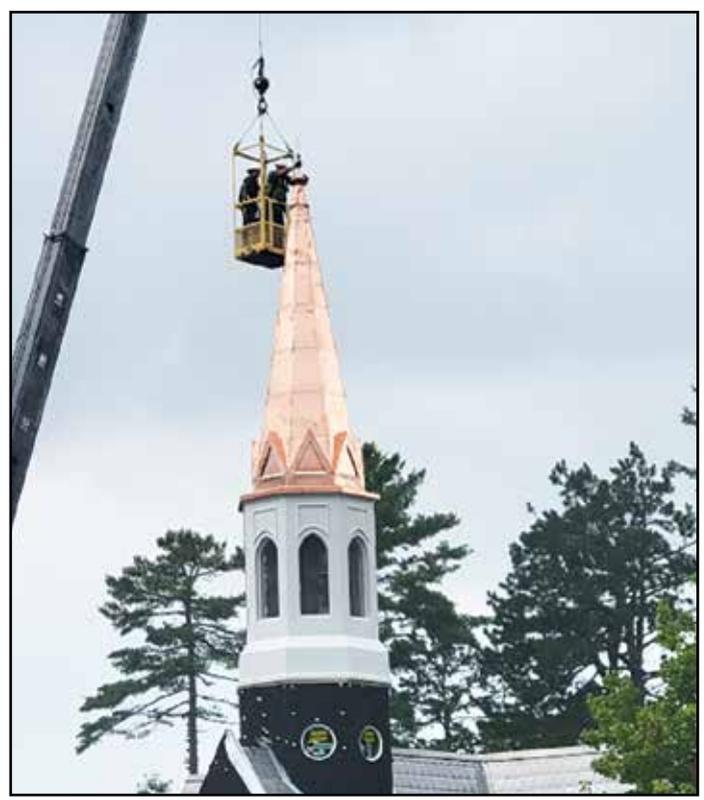
By Brittney Lofthouse

With COVID19 cases continuing to climb in Macon County, the Highlands Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting Friday afternoon in which the Town Board passed an order reinstating the wearing of masks in all business zones, in both inside and outdoor spaces. There are no inside capacity limits as a part of this order. Customers in restaurants and bars do not have to mask while eating and drinking.

This order does not apply to residential zones, although everyone is encouraged to socially distance in crowded situations. For example, no one is required to wear a mask if walking down

•See MASKS page 25

New shining spire is now in place



At the end of June, the 4,500 lb. bronze bells went into the tower; last week the copper spire was placed on top as part of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation's \$6 million renovation project.

– Photo by Rachel Lewicki

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

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Wildlife euthanizes an injured female bear

Bears are part of the scenery here in Highlands and they are dear to most everyone's hearts.

So, when an injured bear appears to be suffering, people get involved.

Sadly, last Friday, a severely injured female bear about five years old was euthanized by wildlife technicians.

According to Cynthia Strain with BearWise, the injured bear had been seen around Highlands for three to four weeks. People

said its tongue was hanging out and it appeared to have a broken jaw and was obviously in pain and starving.

"It was so small, people thought it was a young bear, but it wasn't," said Strain.

Lisa Shomper of August Produce said the bear was at the vegetable stand on the Franklin Road on Sunday, Aug. 22.

"We called wildlife because it was clearly suffering and walking

•See BEAR page 24

High-speed chase ends in crash and arrest on Buck Creek Road

By Brittney Lofthouse

Around 9 Friday morning, Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland was beginning her morning patrol when Macon County dispatch called over the radio that a stolen wrecker was driving from

Franklin and believed to be heading toward Highlands.

Motorists travelling the Highlands Road toward Franklin passed the wrecker travelling at a high speed followed by several

•See CHASE page 24

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Historical wise words from Martin Luther

The great Martin Luther wrote a letter to the faithful during the outbreak of bubonic plague in 1527. He had chosen to not flee Wittenberg where he taught at the university, but rather to stay and minister of others. Below is a portion of this letter which has been circulated on the internet in recent days. It seems to strike a chord as we deal with the spread of COVID.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Luther wrote: "Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence or has recovered, and act like a man who wants to help put out the burning city. What else is the epidemic but a fire which instead of consuming wood and straw devours life and body? You ought to think this way: "Very well, by God's decree the enemy has sent us poison and deadly offal. Therefore, I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, adminis-

ter medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs

me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely, as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith

because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God." Luther's Works, 1999.

The Highlands Cashiers Vaccination Initiative put on a vaccine clinic this past Saturday for people with compromised immune systems needing a third booster shot. Volunteers also vaccinated people who were getting their first vaccine shot. I am so thankful for those folks stepping forward to be vaccinated even though they may still have concerns.

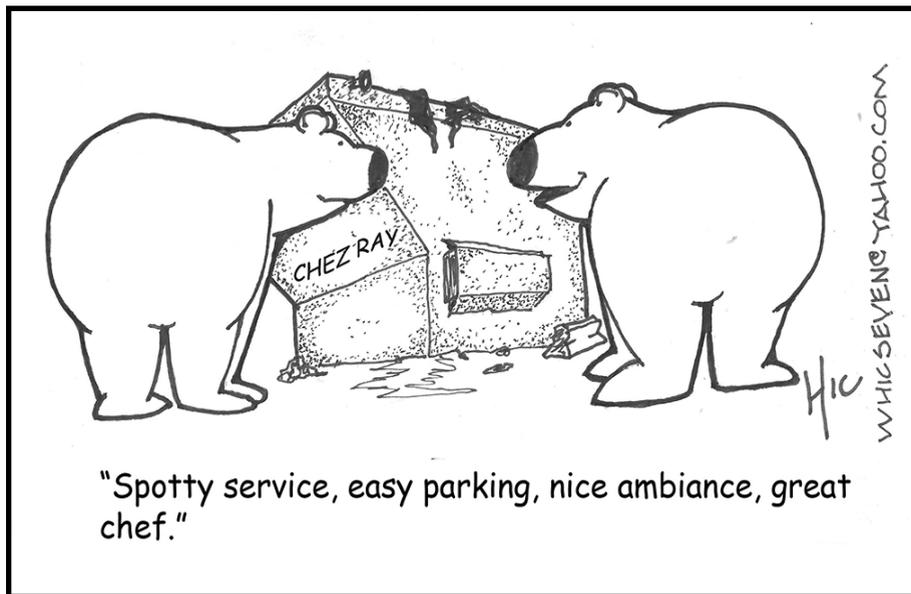
I am also grateful for the wonderful volunteers that put on the clinic. They embody that spirit of ministry and grace that Luther lived and practiced as the leader of the Reformation.

The Town Board reinstated the mask requirement in business zones at a special meeting last Friday. It applies to both inside and outside activities. Tom Neal, the CEO of the hospital and director of the vaccination initiative, presented a compelling case to the return of wearing masks without delay. Tom stressed that our community is in an emergency code red zone with the spread of Covid. Our medical and first-responder systems are being challenged.

We can all help the people on the front lines who are fighting this virus. I urge everyone to help one another by wearing a mask in the business zones, whether you have been vaccinated or not. At the board meeting Dr. Patti Wheeler stressed that vaccinated folks can carry and spread the virus even though they may not have any symptoms.

Let's embrace the grace and concern for others that Luther practiced.

• HIC'S VIEW •



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• MILESTONES •

Local World Long Drive Championship Qualifiers:



Long Drive athletes Kyle Gabbard and Ethel Ruthenberg have both qualified for the Long Drivers World Championship (PLDA) tournament held in Mesquite, NV Sept. 27-Oct. 1. Gabbard and Ruthenberg train at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club with their coach Head Golf Professional Keven Gabbard. They have competed in several tournaments in and around NC & SC to qualify for the World Championship tournament. Gabbard a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and Ruthenberg from George, South Africa have both competed on golf teams in the past. If you would like more information about the upcoming events follow them on Instagram at @the_kyle.gabbard and @ethel-ruthenberg

• LETTERS •

We love Highlands' STRs!

Dear Editor,

I am so disappointed that some residents of Highlands are opposed to short term rentals in this community. My mother was a seasonal resident of Highlands for over 25 years and coming up in the summer to visit her are some of the best memories of my life. In her later years and since her passing, my family and I have been coming to Highlands every year during the week of Thanksgiving.

About eight years ago we stopped staying at area hotels and resorts and chose to rent someone's home. This allowed us to prepare a proper Thanksgiving Day dinner and just feel more at home while visiting. I had no idea that people were up in arms at the thought of sharing their neighborhoods with short term visitors. I can assure you that vacation rentals in Highlands are not inexpensive, but we budget for this trip faithfully. I also feel that those who are coming to visit must be spending heavily by shopping and dining at local restaurants because stores and eateries are packed the entire week we are here. I have watched visitors create entirely new "seasons" in Highlands which has to be good for the local economy...right?

I just really want these Highlands residents to know that many of us who rent short term are also deeply endeared to this very special place. A vacation rental in town helps me remember happy times and also allows me to create lasting memories for my own family, much 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.

Jeanne Marie Piazza
Tampa, FL

Is this allowed in R2?

Dear Editor,

I have been very dismayed at the condition of the property behind Wilson Gas fronting on Hickory. We live across the street in the townhomes at Town Place on Hickory so we view it every day. Depending on when you walk or drive by you will see different things stored there; trucks, dumpsters, boulders, any number of construction items, just plain junk and waist high weeds. It's a total eyesore!

We were shocked to learn this was zoned R-2 Res District!

Where are the city regulators? Why is nothing being done to protect our wonderful neighborhood from this type of blatant disregard for the neighbors living in the area. This is a residential area where children and grandchildren live and play.

The owner has ignored any correspondence in regards to complaints thus far.

Thank you for being such an informative newspaper. I always grab it, read it thoroughly, and frequent the businesses that advertise in your publication!

Anne Erbesfield
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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• INK PENN •

Two mysteries that kept me guessing

How do I describe two books that are well-written but, in some ways, unsatisfying? At least to me? Both expertly wove together red herrings and clues. Both had victims that were less than likable. For me, too many of the characters in each were also unlikable. Some were downright despicable, and they weren't even the victims or the killers. Still, there's no denying that both books were well-plotted.



Kathy Manos Penn

This book is also an Amazon Editor's Pick, and the review describes it as a "riveting novel. a story within a story that is a Rubik's Cube of twists." It is all that—a psychological thriller about a writer who has a hugely successful debut novel, only to stumble with his sophomore attempt. From there, his writing career goes downhill, and he supports himself as a creative writing instructor and

coach—until the unthinkable happens. A student shares his idea for a can't fail plot. It helps that the student is a cocky unlikable jerk when later the professor writes a book using the student's brainchild, only after discovering the student is dead and never published a book.

The novel is even more successful than his debut, and he's living the dream, able to afford a new apartment, traveling the country promoting his book, appearing on Oprah—everything he could hope for. Except . . . he worries that someone will find him out, and his fears come true when he begins getting threatening emails calling him a thief. The emails eventually escalate into tweets and more. It was only very near the end that I began to suspect who the culprit was, so once again, I was up late wanting to know if I was right.

If you like murky, complex plots, these books are for you. Me? I plan to turn to Louise Penny's latest and a few other titles on my list, books where I know the characters and am longing to see what they've been up to lately.

• 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, follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/, and/or visit her website www.kathymanospenn.com to read her blogs and sign up to receive her newsletter.

"The Guest List" by Lucy Foley

The back cover blurb sets the stage: "An exclusive wedding on a remote Irish island. The bride, the plus one, the best man, the wedding planner, the bridesmaid—all have a secret. All have a motive. But only one is a murderer."

The book opens on the wedding night and the first chapter is narrated in the third person. From there, chapters move back and forth between the day before and the wedding night and also switch between several characters who speak in first person and back again to the third-person narrator. It's the multiple perspectives that skillfully reveal the details of the complex relationships among those in the wedding party, some dating back to their school days. This technique kept me on the edge of my seat, and up too late too many nights in a row.

Who were the despicable characters? Let's just say the likable ones were in the minority, and for me, therein lies the problem. Maybe I'm just old fashioned, but I kept wanting someone to root for, and I didn't find anyone to fit the bill. I would temporarily find myself liking someone only for that person to behave badly. Read it for the tangled web and the conclusion. It's an Amazon Editor's Pick and the editor had this to say: "Reads like the secret love child of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* and Liane Moriarty's *Big Little Lies*."

"The Plot" by Jean Hanff Korelitz



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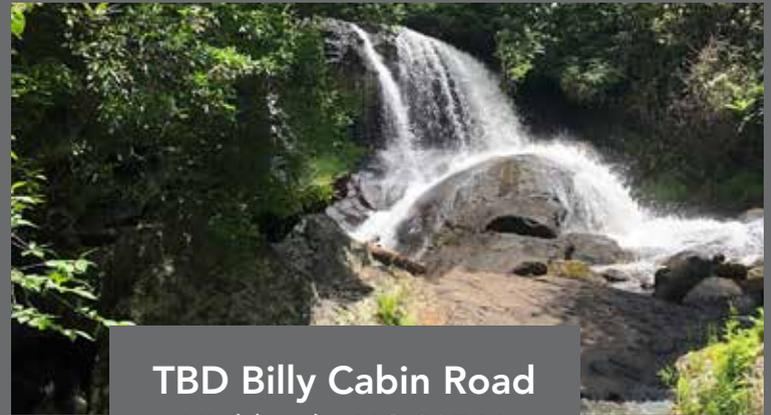
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NC's Highlands Sotheby's franchise more than meets demand for changing lifestyles

From RIS Media

Soaring home sales in 2020 will be viewed for generations as the most unexpected outcome of the pandemic that swept the nation.

The widespread mandate to “stay home” forever redefined the meaning of home. No longer just a place to sleep after long days in the office, home became

the center of the universe, where people worked, cooked, exercised, socialized and homeschooled their children.

Broker Jody Lovell and her husband, Wood, owners of Highlands Sotheby's International Realty in the idyllic resort area of Highlands, NC, were among the first to realize that months of solitude had shifted

consumer priorities; that pandemic-weary Americans, many of whom were working remotely, longed not just for more space or more amenities, but for a home close to nature and far from city life.

Idyllic vacation or second-home resort communities, like their pristine Highlands/Cashiers mountain area in western North Carolina became a coveted long-term or year-round living destination. Buyers set sights in droves on this sparsely populated bit of mountain greenery...and Jody Lovell was up for the challenge, shattering state records in 2020 with \$165 million in closed transactions,

“Social distancing was practiced here long before the pandemic,” Lovell says, “For more than a century, wealthy easterners like the Vanderbilts and the Rockefellers flocked to the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau for its cool summers and laissez-faire ambience.

“When Sotheby's International Realty invited us to be a member of the franchise in 2008, we were witnessing a real estate collapse that created much of the same uncertainty and fear that we experienced in 2020,” Lovell explains. “Both periods caused a lot of introspection about what is really important in life. They also prompted consumers to flock to quality brands with a solid reputation and track record. We believe the Sotheby's brand helped us to gain and maintain clients during the recession, and once again in 2020.”

Specifically, she said, the brand provides a long history of quality and exposure and cutting edge technology agents can utilize in their marketing and communications.

“Judicious use of the resources available to us helps the company outshine the competition year after year,” says Lovell. “Additionally, and as important as technology is, we do our best to provide what we call, ‘touchology.’ Staying in touch and supporting our agents daily, especially during the challenges of the last year, have been just as important to our overall success as any other tools and resources.”

The firm's achievements have not been lost on Jenny Pruitt, co-founder and owner of Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty where Jody Lovell holds her Georgia license.

“One agent with our company in Atlanta, with its population of 6.5 million, sold



Jody Lovell
Highlands Sotheby's
International Real Estate

\$107 million dollars of real estate last year, breaking the state of Georgia's individual agent sales,” Pruitt says. “The fact that an agent in a small area of North Carolina with 1,000 permanent residents surpassed that, closing \$165 million in property sales, is both a tribute to her and a signal that resort markets are providing a welcome escape hatch in a world where everything can be turned upside down overnight.”

For her part, Jody Lovell attributes her success to the three Rs: Reputation, Relationships and

“My reputation as the top producer in our market for the last 20 years provides a track record that helps me close deals,” she says. “My relationships with both clients and fellow brokers provide the basis for structuring transactions - and referrals from past clients and from the extensive network of Sotheby's International Realty agents provides fuel for ongoing business.”

Referrals in the Sotheby's International Realty network as a whole, she notes, rose 42% during last year's period of global reshuffling.

“We are seeing buyers from feeder markets as far away as San Francisco, Boston, Chicago and New York,” says Lovell.

She says the area has been discovered and real estate here is still undervalued compared to other resort areas of this caliber.

The flight to this small piece of North Carolina paradise, however, has not been without consequence. Inventory has shrunk measurably and prices have risen to an average of \$923,000, yet the growing desire to be at home with nature, and with reasonable access to culture and entertainment, continues to turn once seasonal markets into year-round destinations.

“In this competitive market, where timely communication can make or break a deal,” Lovell explains, “there is an escalating sense of urgency.”

But being successful comes with responsibility, she maintains.

“We are bullish for the foreseeable future and grateful to have found our special spot on the planet,” says Lovell. “Our goal is to continue to serve our clients, our brokers and our brand with great enthusiasm. At the same time, we are committed to being good stewards of this remarkable location.”



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...STRs continued from page 1

email last week, to all Chamber members, asking for donations to help fund the ensuing legal battle.

“I’m part of a small committee spearheading the effort to raise money to fund the legal representation we will need to fight back against the Mayor and Town Council who worked very quickly to ban our short-term rentals, effective January 3, 2022. The committee is made up of Debi Bradshaw Martin, Caroline Ragsdale, Will Pichard, Becky Blakeney, Chris Rideout, David Bee, Julia Weller, Chris Weller, Kristy Jones-Favalli and myself.

“The legal team we’ve amassed is impressive, but in order to fight for the rights of ALL residential short-term rental owners, it will take a lot of funding. For the time being, only those located in R-1 are affected, but R-2 and R-3 zones are sure to follow.

“The plaintiff owners of Short-Term Rental properties located in Zone R1 in Highlands, NC are filing a lawsuit against the Town of Highlands, NC challenging the Town’s regulation of Short-Term Rental properties. The Plaintiffs have retained the Asheville, NC law firm of Allen, Stahl, and Kilborne, with attorney Derek Allen acting as lead counsel. The GoFundMe account will be used to pay the retainer and legal fees of the law firm incurred in the prosecution of the litigation.” she wrote.

A resident in the R1 zone, Knight Martorell responded quickly to Huff’s email.

“I am in complete support of the town’s recent ruling. VRBOs destroy neighborhoods and any sense of community. Perhaps YOU should live next door to after-wedding parties every weekend until 2 a.m. Picking up garbage on Monday morning after they left with so many pizzas boxes that the bear proof-can can’t close. Neighbors I have had for decades are moving out, and each house becoming a hotel. You need to seriously reconsider your direction, and priorities,” he wrote.

“And, since when does the Chamber of Commerce put as its mission to not uphold the quality of life, and community in Highlands? This is not a business issue. Residents are outraged at what we now have to endure. The Chamber is running a risky game with this GoFundMe and undoubtedly will alienate many members such as myself.

“For 18 years, I worked with HDR, (an international architecture and community design based in Omaha) in community design throughout the U.S., and you might want to do some research into the affect that short-term rentals have on neighborhoods. VRBOs are banned in many municipalities

for this very reason. Have you done research into community restructuring, and the profile of this topic nationwide?

“In addition to the two issues I mentioned, Highlands residential streets are typically 20 feet wide or less, and many homes were built with two-car parking spaces, or only one. How many times have you driven home, but not be able to get to your house because the streets are blocked with cars parked in and on the streets? That happens a few times a week for me. Highlands does not have the infrastructure to support this.

“I am astounded by this GoFundMe, and disappointed that the Chamber of Commerce so eagerly is unwilling to go to the extremes without regard for the other side of the coin,” he said.

Huff said she simply associated businesses and the chamber, in name only and in no way was the Chamber endorsing the Gofundme page. She said she should have said “Dear Business Owners.”

Interestingly, though the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center exist at its current capacity largely from Occupancy Tax proceeds, Chamber Board Person John Woods and Chamber Board President Kaye McHan were quick to say the Chamber remains neutral in this matter.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of The Highlands Chamber of Commerce, we want to go on record and state two items: the email that went out last night at 10:21 p.m. with a link to a Go Fund Account was NOT sent out by nor endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce. This list was obtained from resources other than the Board of Directors or any staff’s knowledge. And, at this time the Highlands Chamber of Commerce is going to remain neutral on this situation.

“The mission of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce is supporting the members/businesses in Highlands and quality of life for our residents,” wrote Woods.

The issue comes down to the connotation of “commercial.” For those against STRs “commercial” means paying occupancy tax and sales tax however that is not explicit in Highlands Unified Development Code regarding any of the residential districts – R1, R2, or R3.

5.2.1 R-1 Residential District definition reads: The R-1 Residential District is exclusively a low-density residential district for single-family dwellings with customary accessory outbuildings, together with such

Main Street COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES Mtn. Fresh

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccp4highlandsnc.com | ccp4info@frontier.com



What a great opportunity to own a subdivision 1.5 miles from downtown highlands called RIDGEWOOD ACRES. This 33 acre tract already has several nice homes in it and the roads are paved. This listing includes 2 beautiful homes one with a view to the west. This large tract of land is perfect for enjoying your private mountain getaway or if you are looking for home sights this could have some great lots to develop. **DON'T MISS THIS ONE.** Offered at \$2,750,000. mls #96975



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



Great House at Highlands Falls Country Club. Recently renovated and in move in condition, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, great decks that take advantage of the wooded and ridgeline views. Inside features an open plan with vaulted ceilings and a custom kitchen. A wonderful getaway home. Offered at \$699,000. mls #97104



5 Bedroom 5 bath home located at Highlands Country Club. Usable lot with lovely landscaping. Seller has golf membership. 45 KW Generator. Sophisticated irrigation system which allows full property irrigation and a 19 station window and deck flower box irrigation drip system. Do not miss seeing this one! Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #96652



Hidden Village. Located in a small enclave of second homes. Private, flat lot within hearing distance of the Cullasaja River. The house is spacious and livable, with a 3 car garage and warm open spaces. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms on the main level. Also a loft with bedroom/bath and additional storage in the upstairs level. Move in condition and ready to be enjoyed. Offered at \$1,200,000. mls #96943



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



New home construction. Located to truly walk to town, this 2 bedroom 2 bath home on a 1/2 acre lot is almost dead flat. Allowances will be given for finishes. Offered at \$895,000. mls #96476



Turn of the Century 480 Winfield Farm has 4.7 acres and borders USFS land. View, frog pond, awesome perennials, fenced garden plot, fire-pit, porches, room for yard games, dogs, kids, horses? Main house has 3+BR/2.5Bath with 1 car attached garage, Stone wood burning fireplace, wood floors and large master suite on Main. Guest house has 1 BR/1 Bath with 2 car garage, a canning basement with keeping room. All has been renovated, updated, and made neat as a pin. Offered at \$679,000. mls #94617



Horse Cove. First time on the market. Long time family vacation home. Open deck and screened porch to enjoy the stream below and view of the neighboring pond. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 2 - 1/2 baths. Basement with laundry room and 1/2 bath. Lots of storage. Offered at \$750,000. mls #95668



Wonderful lakefront setting with this spacious 4 bedroom 3 and 1/2 bath. Cozy couples room with a fireplace, a great room, kitchen with huge island that opens into a dining living room, which opens onto an inviting screened porch, overlooking the lake. Large master bedroom suite and 2 additional bedrooms and baths on the main level in the split floor plan. Terrace level has a family room, spacious bedroom and bath. plus storage. Offered at \$1,195,000. mls #96947



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



A blank canvas, ready to make your own. Gutted and ready for renovation. Was a 2 bedroom 2 bath. Fantastic flat lot, great location. Walk to Mirror Lake. Offered at \$710,000. mls #97333



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



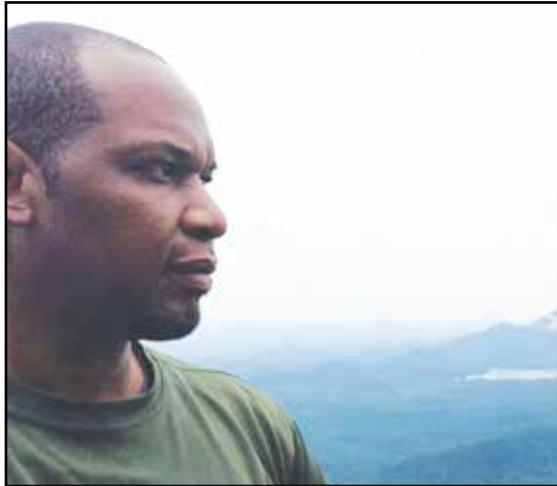
In town. Flat lot and walk to town with this 3 bed/2 bath home with a 2 car garage, wood floors, heated tile master bath, generator. Lush rhododendron in back and sides for privacy. Oil furnace with wood stove backup. Offered at \$799,000. mls #94369

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE

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

Last Zahner Lecture is Thurs. Sept. 9



Join the Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) next Thursday, Sept. 9 at 6pm as they host their final Zahner Conservation Lecture of the year! HBF will be concluding 2021's enlightening and inspiring series with Dr. J. Drew Lanham's presentation "Conservation and Culture - The Necessary Convergence". Using birds and his own brand of "cultural ornithology," Dr. Lanham will blend natural history of the region with a prisms bend through culture, to make conservation "fly" through both head and heart to inspire action as well as deeper thought. J. Drew Lanham (B.A. Zoology 1988; M.S. Zoology 1990; PhD Forest Resources 1997) is a native of Edgefield and Aiken, S.C. In his 25 years as Clemson University faculty, he's worked to understand how forest management impacts wildlife and how human beings think about nature. In particular, he's interested in how ethnic prisms bend conservation practice and perception. Dr. Lanham holds an endowed chair as an Alumni Distinguished Professor and was named an Alumni Master Teacher in 2012. In his teaching, research, and outreach roles, Lanham seeks to translate conservation science to make it relevant to others in ways that are evocative and understandable. He is an award winning and widely published author and poet, garnering the Southern Environmental Law Center's Reed Award for Outstanding Environmental Writing in 2018, a Southern Book Prize for his book, "The Home Place - Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature (Milkweed Editions 2018; Tantor Audio 2019) and was named an author of One of America's Best Essays in 2019. The presentation will be held in-person at the Highlands Biological Station meadow (located behind the Highlands Nature Center). For more information please visit www.highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of WCU.

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 10:15-11a.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., Wed., Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

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

Tues. & Thurs.

• 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.

First Wednesdays

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring Walk-in

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

Wed.-Sat.

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

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

• 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. Set at a time that is convenient for students to attend after work, TL&LC also provides snacks for this kid-friendly event. The classes are for all ages, and 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.

Through Sept. 5

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Curtain's Up. This original tribute to the best of Broadway and beyond was created by our very own Playhouse artistic team, led by Marshall Carby and Jimmy Lewis. This all new - original concert - featuring some of your favorite Playhouse performers, will explore the classic musical theatre tunes we all know and love along with today's Broadway and West End hits! For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

Sat., Sept. 4

• New York Times best-selling author Kristin Harmel will appear at Hudson Library on Saturday at

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

12:30 PM to talk about her new novel *The Forest of Vanishing Stars*. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event, and lunch bites will be served. Attendance at this event is limited and reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

Fri., Sept. 3

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

Sat., Sept. 4

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. A Social Function

Fri., Sept. 10

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

Sat. & Sun. Sept. 11-12

• Highlands Historical Society's 11th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival 10a to 5p all around Highlands. The 11th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Show will be held Sat. Sept. 11 at The Bascom from 1-4:30 p.m. The Bascom will host Highlands Historical Society's Dazzling Dahlia Show Saturday September 11th from 1:00 - 4:30. The public is invited to view the incredible, irresistible dahlia in its many different varieties. Highlands Historical Village will have flower arrangements for sale, and docent guided tours of the Prince house & Highlands Historical museum. Both the dahlia festival and show are free, and are outdoors, socially distanced events.

Sat., Sept. 11

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Full Circle

Sun., Sept. 12

• Bel Canto at 4 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, followed by dinner at Highlands Country Club. For more information, or to make a donation, call 828-787-2867. Performance to feature Kara Shay Thomson, soprano; Mary Phillips, mezzo; Jonathan Burton, tenor; and Todd Thomas, baritone.

Wed., Sept. 15

• To help support the Bolivia on-going mission there is having an auction at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on Wednesday. beginning at 5:30 p.m. There is an admission charge of \$100 donation to the mission per person and this includes drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and the silent and live auctions. Reservations or more information can be made by calling Baumrucker at 828.200.0902 or by mailing a check to: Highlands Bolivian Mission; P.O. Box 1358; Highlands, NC 28741. Donations of articles for the auction can be accepted. Call the above number for details. The mission is a 501 C3 tax exempt organization.

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.

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. Along the way, 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, September 18th, 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 clicking on the big red button below or leave 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 deliciousness to follow. The dinner menu will feature 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.simplertix.com/e/oyster-fest-at-the-farm-tickets-65450>

Fri., Sept. 24

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

Sat., Sept. 25

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. The Knotty G's

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

• 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. Featuring selections from such cinema classics as "West Side Story," "Footloose," "Beach Blanket Bingo," "Dirty Dancing," "Mamma Mia," and MANY MORE! This 90min multimedia hit parade is perfect for the whole family, and will have you dancing in your seat, and grooving out to the street! For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

Fri., Oct. 8

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

Sat., Oct. 9

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

Around town and at The Bascom look for Dazzling Dahlias Sat. & Sun. Sept. 11 & 12



Highlands Historical Society's 11th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival 10a to 5p all around Highlands. The 11th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Show will be held Sat. Sept. 11 at The Bascom from 1-4:30 p.m. The Bascom will host Highlands Historical Society's Dazzling Dahlia Show Saturday September 11th from 1 - 4:30. The public is invited to view the incredible, irresistible dahlia in its many different varieties. Individual blooms, and stunning arrangements of dahlias are judged and awarded accordingly by Garden Club of America judges. Growers may bring their entries to the Bascom from 8 - 10a Saturday morning. It is \$20 for up to 8 blooms to enter. A walking and driving map of dahlia installations will be available at the visitor's center, the Bascom, Highlands Historical Village, and Kelsey Hutchinson Founder's Park. The public may vote for their favorites by following the QR code & going to Highlandshistory.com. Judges and people's choice winners will be announced Saturday at 6p in KHFP when the band, "Full Circle" takes the stage for the Saturday's on Pine concert series. Winners will have their ribbons for viewing on Sunday. There will be self guided scavenger hunts for children of all ages, Highlands Biological Foundation and Highlands Cashiers Land Trust will have surprises in the park. Highlands Historical Village will have flower arrangements for sale, and docent guided tours of the Prince house & Highlands Historical museum. Both the dahlia festival and show are free, and are outdoors, socially distanced events.

• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

Roth IRA benefits for the affluent

In my last article, “Taxes on the seed or the crop?” in the July 22 edition, I wrote about how billionaire Peter Theil turned an initial \$2,000 contribution to his Roth IRA into \$5 billion (available to him tax free), and how most Americans can take advantage of this type of arrangement if they have earned income.

But there are also advantages for people who may be above the income limits set by the government, and who don't qualify to directly contribute to a Roth IRA. One possible way is by using a strategy known

as a Roth Conversion. In other words, converting all or a portion of an existing Traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. Roth Conversions and Estate Planning

By far, the biggest advantage of Roth IRA's is the ability for your money to potentially grow tax-deferred, and then to be withdrawn tax-free after 59½, or prior to the account being opened for 5 years, whichever is later. But unlike a Traditional IRA, they don't have to be withdrawn at all during your lifetime. In other words, you won't be forced to take Required Minimum Distributions at

age 72.

Traditional IRAs are meant to be emptied by the time you reach approximately age 100, so you must begin taking distributions – called RMD's - after reaching age 72 whether you need the money or not. But with a Roth IRA there are no such requirements.

This can be an important advantage, especially if you don't need the money and plan to pass it on anyway. For example, if you lived to age 90, this would give the full account 18 more years to compound. Keep in mind, I'm only using the age of 72 (and 18 additional years) to highlight the advantages. The earlier the conversion, the more time there is to potentially grow the account and the greater the tax savings. Many people begin converting IRA's they feel they won't need in their early 60's.

Also, if your non-spouse heirs are in a higher tax bracket than you, this would potentially save them a considerable amount in taxes when they inherit the account

The Tax Hit

We know the government isn't going to let us do something like this without some pain. So, by converting a Traditional IRA into a Roth IRA, you essentially forfeit the tax deduction benefits you received when you contributed and/or rolled over the money to the IRA. As a result, you'll owe taxes on your original contributions and the growth (neither of which have ever been taxed).

But you'll receive the benefits of the Roths tax deferred growth potential going forward, along with income tax-free withdrawals at some time in the future – either when you or your heirs take distributions from the account. The farther out that future is, the more advantageous this strategy becomes.

If the account is inherited by your spouse, he or she can either leave it in the deceased spouses name or change the ownership to their own. At that point, it's theirs and the benefits continue until their death.

When a non-spouse heir inherits either a Traditional or a Roth IRA, they must be-



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

gin taking Required Minimum Distributions almost immediately and were able to stretch their required distributions out over their life expectancy. But they lost a substantial benefit in the SECURE Act last January. Now, the account must be emptied within 5 years. While that's an obvious take back by the government, if they inherited a Roth IRA, at least the forced distributions over 5 years would be income taxfree.

Key Considerations

Since what you're essentially doing is prepaying the taxes on these accounts, the question is, does this make sense. Besides the mathematical equation that will help answer that question, there are other considerations.

- First, do you have assets in IRAs you likely won't need in retirement?
- Do you plan to leave anything to non-spouse heirs?
- Do you expect your non-spouse heirs to be in higher tax brackets than you in the future?

- Do you have the money to cover the tax liability?

If you feel this might be right for you, a qualified financial advisor should be able to run the calculations and provide the guidance you need.

And remember, do you want to pay taxes on the seed, or the crop?

• The opinions expressed in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest you discuss your specific situation with a qualified tax advisor.

All investing involves risk including loss of principal. Unqualified Roth withdrawals may result in a 10% IRS penalty

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On the corner of 3rd & Spring

...STRs continued from page 10

other related uses which are of a residential character or contribute to the residential character of the district.

For many, those in favor of STRs in particular, the use of a house as a house, to sleep, bath and eat in, is a residential use.

In fact, that issue has been pursued in more than one court with the outcome the allowance of STRs in residential zones.

At the Town Board continued meeting last Tuesday, Commissioner Donnie Calloway said he wasn't comfortable disallowing STRs in the residential districts because there were just too many questions surrounding the term "commercial."

Though Commissioner Marc Hehn joined the other four commissioners in the vote to disallow STRs in R1, during the meeting he alluded to information he had received the previous day about the issue, though he didn't make it public or divulge what it was until asked by email Wednesday.

"We cannot continue to selectively enforce the town zoning which has been the case. All town zoning ordinances should be enforced," he said explaining why he voted to accept the R1 verbiage as written even though there is nothing in it referring to STRs.

"There was a way to research this a little more, give everyone a chance to speak, have an expert in NC Land Use Law give an opinion and enforce the town zoning uniformly," he said in an email. "I heard Attorney Jay Coward's opinion last week and accepted it. Then, I received and read Rebecca's opinion on Monday and shared it with Jay."

Rebecca Badgett, with the NC School of Government was in communication with Hehn and offered her opinion which he didn't make public during the meeting but shared via email the next day.

"It is not uncommon for STRs to be treated the same as other residential dwelling units. In the town's case, dwelling units are allowed in the R1 district, and therefore STRs would be allowed, too," began Badgett.

"A dwelling unit is: A single residential unit consisting of one (1) or more rooms designed, occupied, or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters, with cooking, sleeping, and bathroom facilities provided within the dwelling unit for the exclusive use of a single-family maintaining a household.

"This definition may apply to STRs. In short, just because a dwelling unit is rented on a short-term basis does not mean that its use has changed to a commercial use or that the use fits under the tourist home definition," she said.

She offered one appellate court case in NC that ruled STRs are a residential use, despite the fact that a property is advertised as a STR and a financial benefit is received. *Russell v. Donaldson* (read page 9) <https://law.justia.com/cases/north-carolina/court-of-appeals/2012/12-183.html>

"The courts held that a covenant prohibiting commercial usage of property did not prohibit the rental of the property on a short-term basis for residential purposes. Neither [the] financial benefit nor the advertisement of the property or the remittance of a lodging tax transforms the nature of the use of the property from residential to commercial," stated the courts.

"You can always amend the code to regulate STRs in a distinct land use. If you do nothing, I think you have a fair argument that STRs are allowed anywhere other residential dwelling units are allowed, including R1," said Badgett.

Like Commissioner Amy Patterson said at the continued meeting last Tuesday, the town can always amend its ordinance but

for now felt the town should uphold what is written as interpreted by Attorney Coward and Hehn concurred.

Realtor Pat Allen stated in her "Investing at 4,118 Ft." column in the Aug. 26 edition of Highlands Newspaper and again on Facebook, "the discussions now on restricting short-term rentals in town may turn into an ugly thing with protestors if it's not handled correctly. We simply don't have

enough hotel rooms to accommodate visitors and that's a bad thing that needs to be changed to a good thing. Anyone staying in a rental should abide by the same noise restrictions and safety issues that we locals do. The police are to be called and fines are to be issued in the same way they are to full-timers."

On Facebook she said there needs to

•See STRs page 18

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

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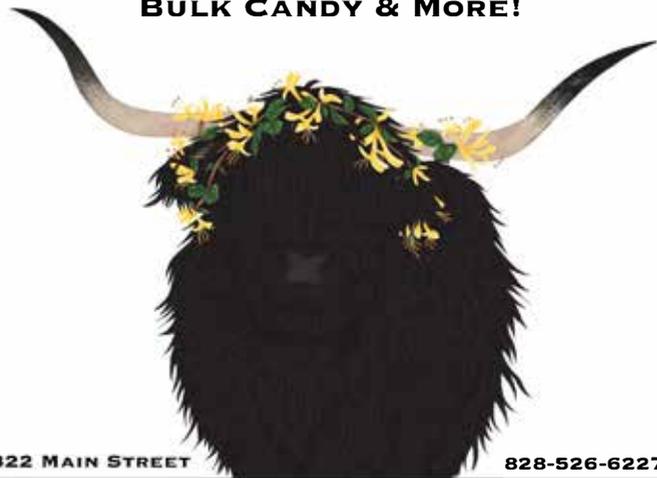
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HIGHLANDS NC

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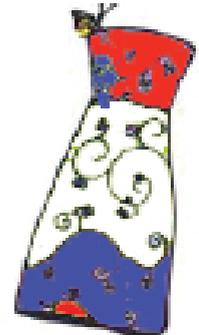
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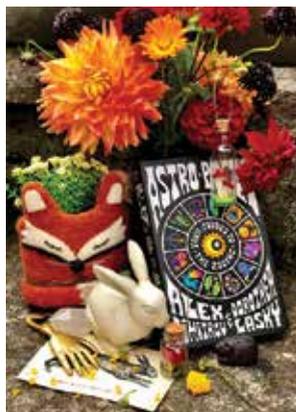
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...STRs continued from page 15

be control and more regulations put in place.

"In a community with an HOA, the board sets the rules for rentals, short-term or long-term. In neighborhoods where home owners are strongly against rentals, they should try and form one.

"I live in a neighborhood that allows a minimum of seven days with people here to typically enjoy the town and events," she said.

A citizen who lives in a neighborhood just over the town limits said they have taken care of the issue of STRs through regulations.

"About two years ago, we started to see some neighbors either age out, or move for other reasons. Some of those sales went to buyers who were more interested in renting to short-term tenants than being full-time or part-time residents.

"A couple of them are fledged businesses where the owner, by law can only stay 14 days or less per year in their own house. There is nothing wrong with either one of those situations on an individual basis. However, if an entire community flips into a rental mill, while it may be profitable, it loses its sense of community. And with that goes a personal sense of responsibility.

"Owners and long-term renters tend to have a greater desire to be good neighbors. I would say the majority of short-term or weekend renters are often great folks as well. However, short-term renters also tend to be the ones that create disturbances which can ruin a weekend. Without a staff or anybody to manage them, things can get wild.

"To that end, the neighborhood amended its Declaration of Restrictions as follows," he said.

"No trade or Business of any kind is permitted on a lot within the Subdivision. A Business activity shall be considered "related" to a residential use and thus permitted under this Section only if conducted by a person or persons residing in a Dwelling on the lot and

•See STRs page 19

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**Thurs. & Fri.: 10a to 1p
Sat.: 10a to 4p**

**Thursday:
1/2 price in the cottage**

**Friday:
1/2 price in the Annex**

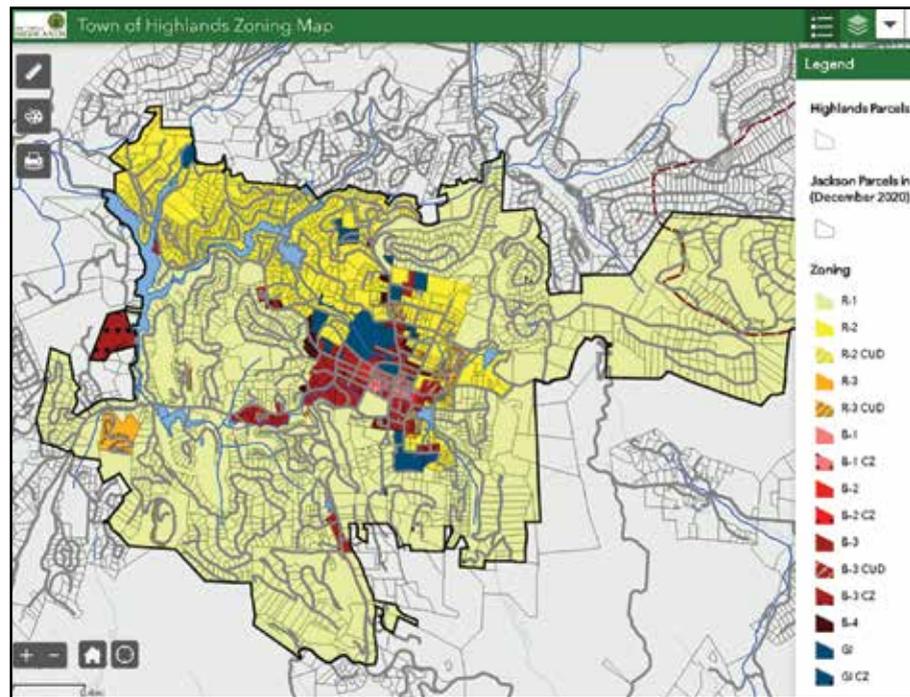
**Saturday:
1/2 price in both buildings**

**We will not allow "HOLD"
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432 Spruce St. • Highlands

...STRs continued from page 18



As shown on the town's zoning map, most of the residential districts in Highlands (shown in pale green) are considered R1 which is where STRs will no longer be allowed come Jan. 3, 2022.

only if the business activity (i) complies with applicable zoning requirements; (ii) is not apparent or detectable from outside the Dwelling; (iii) does not involve regular visitation to the Dwelling or the lot by clients, customers, suppliers, agents, other business invitees or by employees who do not reside in the Dwelling; and (iv) is consistent with the residential character of the Subdivision and does not constitute a nuisance or a hazardous, noxious or offensive use or threaten the security and safety of others.

“A Dwelling may be leased for a Vacation Rental and the leasing of the Dwelling will not be considered a Business if (i) the lease is for the entire Dwelling; (ii) the term of any lease is for at least four (4) consecutive days between January 1 through April 30, and at least seven (7) consecutive days between May 1 through December 31 of a calendar year.

“All leases of a Dwelling must be in writing and shall disclose that the tenant and all occupants of the Dwelling are bound by and obligated to comply with the Restated Declaration, and any duly adopted Amendments, and the Bylaws,” he said.

During the Town Board meeting, the economic impact of disallowing STRs in R1 was not considered.

“There was no mention about the

numerous people who will be adversely affected by this hasty decision,” wrote Huff.

“It is about the people who will lose jobs. It is about property managers who will lose companies. It is about businesses who will lose customers and year-round business, as means to survive. It is about those who spent their savings, it is about the owners whose retirement plans counted on this revenue, it is also about the older owners whose only income is their rental income. Think of our guests, friends and families who love Highlands just as much as we do and would be disappointed to learn of this. Finally, the foreclosures, decline in property values and tax revenue that will go away will be devastating.

“We relied on Highlands’ well known and long-standing position with regard to STRs, and with no notice, commissioners blindsided homeowners, business owners, real estate agencies, cleaning crews, handymen and a host of others who will feel this effect,” she said.

So far there has been no mention of amending ordinances, but Mayor Pat Taylor said the staff, and board members will continue to be in communication with the town attorney and other experts about how to review and move forward in addressing the issues related to short term rentals.

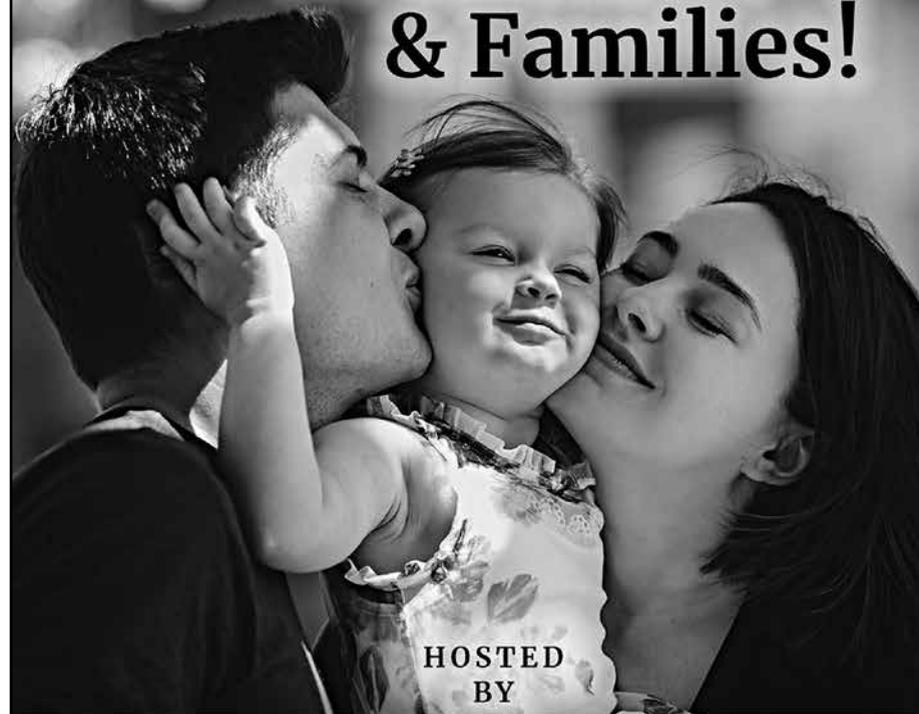
– Kim Lewicki

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• PAST & PRESENT •

Cul-de-Sacs, Luxury SUVs, and Golf Carts: Pride and Prejudice Inside a Gated Community

Let me begin with a disclosure. I live inside a gated community, one of thousands proliferating across the nation, especially in the South and West. As you read this, know that perhaps 40%-60% of new housing units nationally will embrace some form of privatization whether restricted, covenanted, or gated. In terms of socio-spatial segregation, Americans simply are more divided, frightened, suspicious, and angry at each other than at any time since the 1920s. Or the Civil War. The pandemic has only exacerbated that trend.

My subdivision is filled with cul-de-sacs, dead ends to most folks, luxurious SUVs and sports cars, and, of course, a beautifully manicured golf course. Golf carts scoot everywhere. Except for service providers, you don't see a lot of trucks, a cultural marker here in the South, in a gated community. In fact, you won't see many vehicles at all.

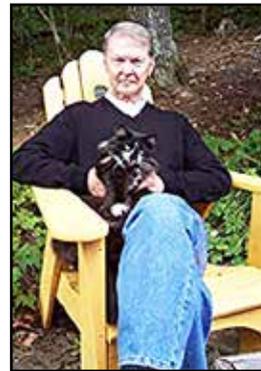
You see there are rules against parking on streets, all part of restrictive if sometimes resented CC&Rs, aka Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions. When and how trash can be put out,

the kinds of fencing, paints and roofs you can have on your house, setbacks from streets, outside lighting, noisy neighbors, leashed pets, and even where and how you can plant in your garden, all fall into those restrictions.

When asked about the advantages of CC&Rs, residents become vocal, even enthusiastic about safety, security, and increased property values. Yet when publicly questioned about disadvantages, they fall into an uncharacteristic silence but privately grumble about many. CC&Rs bake an exclusionary pride into restrictive communities.

Perhaps the greatest illusions, even conceits of those who reside in gated communities center on a false aura of security and puffed sense of philanthropy. Really now, does anyone realistically believe that a gate whether manned or not offers any but minimal security? Most communities can be accessed from a number of points, across a golf course or lake, a service entrance, through a wooded area, or just gaming the guards, most typically locals. There are fewer more comforting illusions than that of a gate or wall.

On any given day, streets in gated communities teem with workers from "bonded and fully insured" service providers, homes are cleaned, appliances installed, lawns manicured, and garbage hauled away by complete strangers, many increasingly Hispanic, the newly favored low-wage minority. Privately praised by most residents for their work ethic and willingness to do menial tasks, few want them to become citizens, vote, or receive health or welfare benefits.



Milton Ready

When the pandemic settled into a lockdown last year, American society, like that of Covid's variants, mutated almost overnight.

In restrictive communities, those wealthy and secluded took refuge in country clubs, golf courses, and in an expanding digital universe. Seamlessly

downloading if aided menus of perhaps 144 streaming platforms from Amazon Prime to Vimeo, residents turned their homes into offices, trading floors, schoolrooms, and conducted business, professional, and personal meetings. Zoom became a verb as well as a noun. With an almost cavalier attitude, residents exposed more personal data with little or no hesitation. Personal safety and security seemingly applied only to scary folks outside the gate and not to surveillance capitalism embraced inside. Those outside the gate, the "less fortunate," were exposed instead to the Coronavirus itself, making deliveries in Amazon, USPS, and FedEx carriers, servicing appliances, manning cash registers in stores and, in general, doing jobs with no online equivalents. Why wouldn't anyone want such low-paying, high-risk, often benefit-less work? Covid came to divide those relatively wealthy, secure, and safe from "others." It emphasized and exposed existing and growing inequalities in terms of race, class, and gender. It still does.

A constant refrain inside gated communities is that of noblesse oblige, the duty, even burden of helping others. Indeed, most gated communities justifiably take pride in how much

they raise for charities, frequently through golf tournaments, raffles, and dinners. Yet such giving resonates with residents' sense of self-control and image, often favoring Christmas bonuses to workers or cancer research over community-based charities like United Way or Feeding America. In terms of percentages of income and time, middle-class mountaineers give more.

Still, newer residents of gated communities seem to be losing a sense of guilt that, in the past, underpinned that obligation, one that came to be the saving grace of their predecessors. Indeed, it's difficult to know which is the more overheard, cringeworthy comment, i.e., "because I've earned it," "because it's my money," or "because I'm worth it." Default social Darwinists and dubious of the "less fortunate" who somehow are responsible for poor life "choices," residents reflect modern society's sclerotic, hardening attitudes toward classes, a repellent word avoided in American history. Indeed, the moral universe we share seems as divided as the physical one we inhabit.

Lastly, while residents of gated communities largely incorporate elements necessary for a sense of community -- typically a boundaryied neighborhood, social values, a common hub for interaction like a club or center, and participation through interest groups, recreation activities, and parties -- only few achieve it.

Indeed, it seems that many who choose to build a wall between or gate themselves away from the rest of society also do not want to belong or participate in larger social engagements of any kind, a dead-end mentality that characterizes many restrictive communities.

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• HS SPORTS •



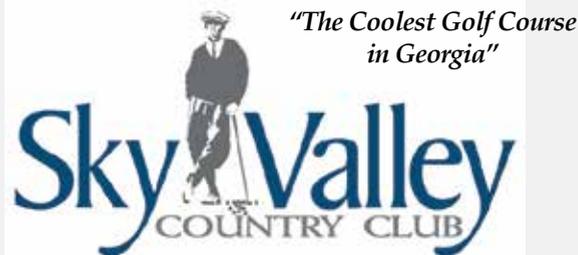
Monday, Aug. 30 was a winning day for several Highlands School teams. Highlands Middle School volleyball defeated Summit 2-0; Highlands Middle School Boys Soccer defeated Summit 3-2; and Highlands JV Volleyball defeated Summit 2-0. Above is high-schooler Anna Stiehler on Highlands School Girls Golf team at a match Monday at Sky Valley Country Club where she shot 38 to finish first against Rabun Gap.

• MILESTONE •

And Winston makes five!



Born three months premature on May 26, 2021, Winston Cole Decker rounds out this picture of five generations. Pictured is first generation Granny (Arlene Crunkleton Brown), behind, second generation Maxine Brown Ramey, far left, is third generation, Rebecca Ramey Shuler and far right is fourth generation Mom, Emily Shuler Decker.



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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Capital Investment in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital In Excess of \$8 Million Allows Our Hospital to Make Significant Improvements

At least once or twice a year, I believe it helps our community to get an overview of what's happening at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH), because we're far from a static facility and

organization. There's always growth and change happening, because we must adapt to the changing needs of our patients, as well as changes in healthcare.

In order to review the current state of

the hospital, it's important to understand that our present strength and stability and our status as an HCA Healthcare hospital are tightly interwoven. That said, I can share that the support of HCA Healthcare has brought a multitude of enhancements to the hospital that benefit patients directly, improve our hospital's infrastructure, and better our operations, which includes systems that maximize efficiency, safety, and overall quality of care. Medical and administrative technology and supply management also fall under this umbrella.

The improvements I'll discuss represent an investment of a total of \$8.2 million on HCA Healthcare's part during 2020 and to date in 2021. In addition to our Surgical Suite renovations that I discussed last month, we can now offer 3D mammograms, the screening's "gold standard," and a new Digital Radiology Suite to our patients.

Additional capital improvements include those that add efficiency and speed, like a system to boost cell phone reception in the building and a pneumatic tube system that enables transfer of lab specimens between our Emergency Department and



Tom Neal
CEO/CNO
Highlands Cashiers
Hospital

Lab, whose construction and installation is set to begin in August.

We have also invested to support our nurses. We were able to purchase a mannequin that can be used for broad experiential educational purposes, and two ultrasound machines — one is for supporting nursing ability to start IVs by highlighting patients' veins, and the other is for assessing patients for urinary bladder retention, which can prevent infec-

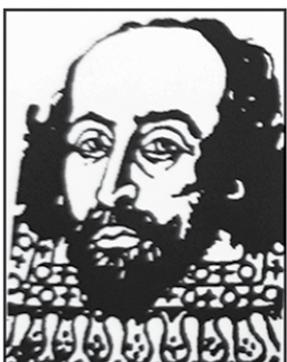
tions.

In order to remain able to deliver the best care, a hospital can't overlook spending on infrastructure, either. We have been able to invest in updating our elevators and for an update to our alarm system. Since air quality is pivotal in hospitals and especially in patient rooms and surgical suites, we were able to replace our air quality and vacuum systems, and a significant upgrade to our air handler and boiler. Finally, we installed an improved electrical power system upgrade. These investments ensure safety for patients and staff, including during those times when we experience a power outage.

When we discuss hospital operations, we're talking about certain administrative, financial, and quality improvement aspects of how the hospital is run that affect efficiency, which in turn ultimately impact patient safety and quality of care. Examples of these types of enhancements include optimized, shortened Emergency Department wait times, and applying best practices for stroke, sepsis, and heart attack care by consulting with HCA Healthcare experts about all of our operations. In regards to COVID-19, HCA Healthcare assured we had ample supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and that we could offer quarantine pay to our team members when unable to work due to Covid-19, allowing them to save their vacation time. They also kept us abreast of the most up-to-date treatment protocols.

Another reality that developed since

• See HOSPITAL page 23



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...HOSPITAL continued from page 22

I wrote last month's column is the alarming upsurge in COVID-19 — specifically the highly contagious Delta variant. I urge any members of our community who have not gotten vaccinated to do so. This is the best way to turn the tide on this disease and stop us from revisiting the winter of 2020. The vaccine is safe, tested, and easy to get.

We also need to intensify our efforts regarding the 3 Ws. Stay conscientious about washing your hands frequently, staying at least six feet from people, and wearing your mask to protect others and yourself. While vaccinations are the most effective, masking is the quickest step to stop the spread. Keep in mind, it can take up to 6 weeks for you to have protection from Covid-19 if you were vaccinated today. If everyone masked, we would have protection immediately.

We are dedicated to offering the best care possible at HCH as always, and we can all play an important part in quelling this pandemic.

- Tom Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Neal is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive healthcare experience. Prior to his role at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems (CHS) and served as Chief Executive Officer of both Berwick Hospital Center in Berwick, Pennsylvania, and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Ronceverte, West Virginia. Tom has an MBA from the University of Louisville, MHA from the California College of Health Sciences, BSN from Regents College of New York and an ADN from Jefferson Community College.



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Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Walk-In Wednesdays Hiring Event

Interviewing for:

- RNs
- CNAs
- Allied Health Professionals
- Support Services Professionals

Event Details

The First Wednesday of
every month from

1pm-3:30pm

Next Walk-in, Oct. 6

Location

190 Hospital Drive, Highlands NC
28741, Front Entrance.

What to bring to this event:

Please bring an updated resume

What to wear:

Casual (come as you are, but please be presentable)

About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Join a team that's dedicated to improving more lives in more ways – there's a place for you here!

We're hiring RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals, Support Service Professionals and more. Come join us on Walk-in Wednesdays between 1pm-3:30pm the first Wednesday of every month starting September 1st. Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions.

What is a Hiring Event?

Think of it like a job fair, but for one company and more personal. Hiring events are a great way for employers to fill multiple roles quickly. Hiring is a human process, and they would like to meet you to see if you're a fit!



District Attorney Ashley Welch speaks at a the Saunook Volunteer Fire Dept. Monday night.

DA Welch issues stern warning

In the wake of the recent torrential rain and flooding in Haywood County, centered in Cruso community, District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch has repeatedly issued stern warnings to looters and would-be looters.

“If you do this – harm these victims still more, we will come get you,” Welch has said, repeating the promise Monday night at a Republican precinct meeting at Saunook Volunteer Fire Department.

On Aug. 26, Welch joined Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson and other state and local officials in viewing the devastation. Six people died, almost 550 home suffered some sort of damages and 160 homes were destroyed, according to state assessments.

“I have seen a lot of bad things,” said Welch, who has been a prosecutor for 17 years. “But the amount of damage people suffered in this flooding is among the worst things I’ve ever seen.”

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...CHASE continued from page 1

law enforcement vehicles, both sheriff and Highway Patrol — and presumed they were all headed to an accident on the Gorge.

Highlands police officer Leah McCall was stationed at the head of Buck Creek and spotted the stolen vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed being pursued by Macon County Sheriff’s Deputy Jay Wright.

Eventually, the wrecker, which was stolen from Ridgecrest Automotive in Franklin, crashed into an embankment near Buck Creek and Walnut Creek in Highlands.

“As I was arriving on scene, Deputy Wright and Officer McCall had the suspect in custody and were walking him to the patrol car when a struggle ensued,” said Chief Holland. “While the suspect attempted to resist arrest, we were able to subdue him and get him into the patrol car without further incident.”

Wyatt Lane Qualls, 27, of Franklin, was arrested and charged with felony probation violation, driving while impaired, reckless driving to endanger, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny



Wyatt Lane Qualls

of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle, larceny of a firearm, possession of a stolen firearm, possession of a firearm by felon x 3, resisting a public officer x 3, possession of burglary tools, and flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle.

He was issued a bond of \$285,000.

According to Sheriff Robert Holland, Qualls stole the tow truck as the driver was preparing to get in it.

“The wrecker was stolen first thing this morning in broad day-

light and recovered within the hour,” said Joe Condemi, owner. “Thank you Macon County Sheriff officers for acting quickly in the apprehension of an armed and dangerous criminal. We also want to thank Highlands PD and NC Highway Patrol for assisting throughout the entire process. Although our tow truck was ditched during the chase, miraculously no one was hurt.”

According to Chief Holland, after Qualls was successfully detained within the patrol car for transport, the scene was turned over to the North Carolina Highway Patrol and the Macon County Sheriff’s Office for further investigation.

Sheriff Holland commended the law enforcement officers.

“The officers with both MCSO and HPD did an outstanding job in bringing this situation to an end with a safe conclusion. It was an intense few moments for everyone involved knowing the suspect had firearms in his immediate reach and was obviously delusional.”

...BEARS continued from page 1

funny. It was really pitiful and sad,” she said.

Justin McVey with the NC Wildlife Commission said they had been hearing about the bear for a few days and after the call that Sunday he sent a technician to Highlands to try to find it, but he couldn’t. Then on Friday, Aug. 27 they got a call about an injured bear under a deck of a house in the Glen Falls area.

“When we got there, it was so lethargic it couldn’t even lift its head. It was emaciated and clearly starving to death and was way underweight on the verge of death,” he said.

The humane thing to do was to euthanize her, which they did. Afterwards, they inspected her and discovered that her bottom jaw was shattered in a million pieces, and she only weighed 40 lbs. They estimated she was five or more years old because her teeth were

yellow and worn.

“Typically, a female bear her age would weigh 150 lbs. and although bears have an amazing ability to self-mend, even living without a leg, there was no self-mending for this bear. The damage was just too much,” he said.

Ashley Hobbs also with the NC Wildlife Commission said that they don’t attempt to rehabilitate an injured bear over 20 pounds. People who call about an injured adult bear are told to leave the bear alone and let nature take its course.

“Also, it’s illegal for a citizen to handle a bear so leaving it alone is the only choice,” she said.

According to nature photographer Bill Lea, bears have an almost super ability to heal from wounds and fractures, especially during winter hibernation.

Hobbs said that’s true, but they can self-mend anytime during the year as long as they have food.

McVey said they don’t rehabilitate adult bears because adult bears don’t do well in captivity so keeping it captive, even if trying to help it, would be cruel.

“Handling it over and over again would be too much for it,” he said. “And reconstructing a jaw would not have been possible.”

Interestingly, McVey said people often think bears are bigger than they are which may be why people thought the injured female was a young bear.

“The biggest bear I have ever come across in Western North Carolina was 570 pounds. But the normal size is 250-300 pounds.”

He said they do grow bigger in the piedmont and closer to the coast due to food availability.

According to McVey, the biggest bear reportedly found in those regions was 880 lbs.

– Kim Lewicki

...MASKS continued from page 1

6th Street, a neighborhood area.

Tom Neal, CEO of Highlands Cashiers Hospital and director of the vaccination initiative, spoke to Highlands Commissioners during the meeting, recommending the board consider requiring masking in business areas. According to Neal, the positivity rate for the plateau area is at 18 percent, which is considered to be a high code red zone. The current positivity rate for the plateau is higher now than it was during the height of the pandemic last year.

According to the board's vote, the order will remain in place until the positivity rate drops below 10 percent. At that time, based on the recommendations of health professionals, the board will consider rescinding the mask requirement.

Hospital and Macon County EMS are stretched to limit

During his request to the board, Neal explained that the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is not equipped with an ICU to treat COVID19 patients and the hospital's role has been to stabilize patients that come to the hospital for treatment until they can be transferred to another facility. According to Neal, on average the hospital sees 2-3 COVID19 patients each day and the hospital capacity is stretched to capacity.

Warren Cabe, Director of Macon Emergency Services, supported Neal's assessment and concerns. Both agreed that the COVID situation in the area is as intense, or even more so than at the beginning of the year. Health experts are seeing a surge with the spread of the Delta variant.

"EMS currently has eight full-time vacancies out of our 41 full-time positions," said Cabe. "We have a large roster of part-time/as needed employees and through the use of those staff members and liberal use of over-time funds, we, for the most part, have been able to maintain our existing levels of service through the month of August. Our staff is in contact almost daily with COVID patients and inevitably

we will have staff that needs to be isolated and miss work due to illness."

Cabe noted that on August 16, there was a four-hour time period when the county's EMS system had all administrative and supervisory staff on ambulances due to employee vacancies related to isolation and sickness when EMS had to stop using an ambulance in Franklin.

"That left us two staffed ambulances in Franklin, one in Highlands, and one in Franklin with no supervisor backup to maintain all our county coverage," said Cabe.

Cabe said that there is almost no shift that goes by now that EMS crews are not evaluating, treating and/or transporting COVID patients.

"Even during the surge of the virus last winter, we were not seeing this number of patients with this diagnosis or presenting with these signs and symptoms," said Cabe. Each of these patient transports requires significant decontamination and cleaning of our equipment which, along with delays at receiving facilities as they undergo their appropriate isolation process, can cause increased times for ambulances to return to service."

Cabe cautioned that based on staffing, equipment, and the county's current positivity rate, healthcare officials in Macon County are more concerned than ever.

"I wanted to present all of these items to express my concerns that the pre-hospital healthcare system all the way from the call takers to the transport crews are as close to a single point of failure as I have ever seen in my career," said Cabe.

At the meeting, Dr. Patti Wheeler emphasized that both unvaccinated and vaccinated people should wear masks in the business areas.

"A vaccinated person can spread the virus and contract COVID - although those cases in vaccinated people overwhelmingly tend to be minor to mild infections. Everyone should wear masks

in the business zones," she said.

The mayor and board of commissioners urge residents and visitors to voluntarily mask in business areas out of mutual support in curbing this growing public health concern. The town enforcement approach of this order will be to encourage voluntary compliance.

COVID Sick Leave

Town Hall has been closed over the last two weeks due to town employees testing positive for COVID19, many of whom have required hospitalization due to illness. During their regularly scheduled meeting last month, the town of Highlands discussed COVID19 paid sick leave for employees who have not received the vaccine.

With Town Hall closed due to positive COVID19 cases, the board discussed the town's COVID19 sick leave policy. Paid sick leave for employees during the COVID19 Pandemic was part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which provided up to 80 hours of paid sick leave for employees. While the act originally mandated businesses provide the sick leave, it became optional at the beginning of the year, leaving it up to the town as to if and how it is offered.

Highlands' commissioner voted to allow Covid Sick Leave for employees for two months. After the two months, if an employee is out due to Covid, the employee would be required to use their own leave time. Employees who are fully vaccinated will continue to be covered by Covid Sick Leave.

The board voted to give town employees 30 days to get their first vaccination shot and if they fail to do so and become sick, then their allotted paid sick leave would expire after two months and then they would be required to use their own leave time.

According to the Macon County Health Department 45 people of various ages have died due to COVID.

On Tuesday, MC Schools announced that due to staff quarantining for COVID 19, Union Academy will distance learn until Sept. 13.

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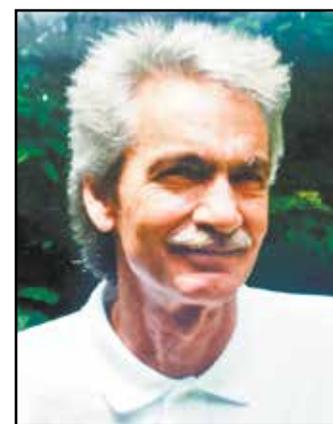
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Deadlines



Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central
Baptist Church

Deadlines are odious to some people. By temperament they resist. They are neither aggressive nor assertive. They simply prefer a more relaxed (even non-committal) lifestyle.

Others resist by nature. The Bible teaches us that we are all sinners by nature (Romans 3:23). This sin nature fosters a rebel attitude whereby we determine that no one is going to tell us what to do. Nonetheless, a deadline does insist that something be done and done within a certain time.

There are those however, who appreciate a deadline. They can indeed rest and even relax in knowing what is expected of them and when it is expected. This eliminates panic.

Our President set August 31 as the deadline for all U.S. Military personnel to be out of Afghanistan.

That date has now come and gone. In the days ahead that decision will be rehearsed, debated, analyzed, scrutinized, criticized and either affirmed or rejected. To be sure, there will be rebuttal of some sort.

But not so for the final deadline which is already established in heaven. It will affect not only a certain region of the world but will indeed mark the end of the world.

That deadline is set!

Every person since Adam will stand in front of Jesus Christ and give an account of his or her life to Him. There will be no rebuttal of any sort. His Judgement for the Christian (2 Corinthians 5:10) and for the non-Christian (Revelation 20:11) will mark the deadline for the human race and for the world as we now know it. It will be final.

It should strike us as incredulous that there are those who are scrupulously observing the President's August 31st deadline while ignoring and even scoffing at God's.

I urge you to live today in light of that certain final day. That deadline is set. No one can change it.

Would you please remember that no one knows you better and no one loves you more than Jesus Christ? We are so bold as to say this is one reason why you are even reading this article. Our Great God is revealing His Hand. He is giving us all a "heads-up." We are therefore without excuse (Romans 1:20).

Would you pray a simple prayer? A prayer like this: "Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I confess my sins and my need for you as my Savior. I invite you now into

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 27

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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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. Aryan 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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Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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School; 10:30am Worship Service.

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

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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 SKYVALLEY

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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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

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526-31 • 75 • fpchighlands.org

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

Mons: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m. Wed: Choir: 6p

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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• 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.

Aug. 15

• At 9 p.m., Robert James Griffin, Jr., 77, of Atlanta GA, was arrested for Driving Under the Influence on US 64 east at Sherwood Forest Road. He was issued an unsecured \$1,000 bond. His trial date is Sept. 29.

Aug. 23

• At 9:43 p.m., officers responded to a call of someone in possession of up to a half ounce of marijuana at a residence on US 64 west.

• At 9:55 p.m., Alexis Joy Taro, 22, of Franklin, was arrested for misdemeanor possession of a Schedule VI drug at a residence on US 64 west.

Aug. 25

• At 10:50 p.m., officers were called to a restaurant in Highlands Plaza about a simple affray and a assault with serious injury when a man was stabbed with a knife.

• At 11 p.m., Robert Newman Baty, 33, of Highlands, was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and inflicting serious injury with a lethal cutting instrument. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond. His trial date is Sept. 2.

Aug. 27

• At 5 p.m., officers were called to the Rec Park where someone took a \$100 bill from a youth.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 22.

Aug. 22

• At 12:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

Aug. 23

• At 11:41 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a location on Satulah Ridge Road.

Aug. 24

• At 6:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Half Mile Drive.

Aug. 25

• At 8:24 a.m., the dept. was called about unauthorized burning at a local on S. 4th Street.

• At 3:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

• At 10:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a restaurant in Highlands Plaza.

Aug. 26

• At 8:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Drive.

• At 2:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 10:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. Big Bear Pen Drive.

Aug. 27

• At 5:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on BigView Drive.

• At 3:48 p.m., the dept. was called to assist in a search in the vicinity of Buck Creek road.

• At 5:30 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Hickory Street.

Aug. 29

• At 4:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

• 4:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

• At 6:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Walhalla Road.

Aug. 30

• At 8:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Persimmon Lodge road.

• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

New doctoral degree in family nurse practitioner offered at WCU

CULLOWHEE - Applications are now being accepted for a new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Western Carolina University that will prepare nurses as family nurse practitioners. The first cohort is set to begin in May 2022.

Family nurse practitioners offer a broad scope of family care, treating from infants to seniors and all ages in between. They hold office visits, diagnose and prescribe medications, perform diagnostic and lab work, and consult other medical professionals. The profession has found popularity as a primary health care provider, particularly in rural communities.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

my heart. I ask you to help me to live for you for the rest of my life. I confess you as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

If you've prayed that prayer, then there is no need to fear history's final deadline. God Himself will take care of

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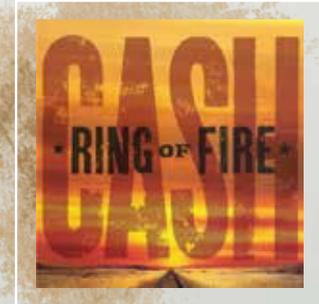
The deadline is coming. Be sure and tell everyone you know.

God bless you and May god bless America!

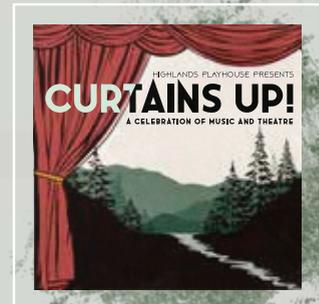


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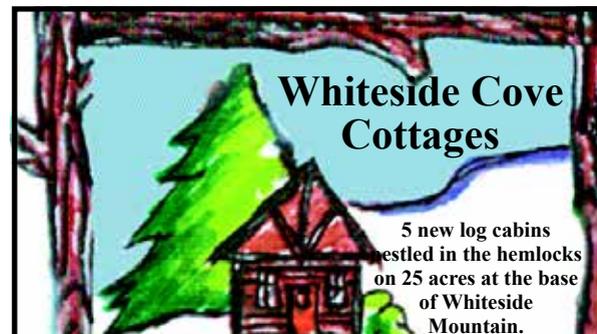
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HOSPITALITY MINDSET: Highlands Country Club is looking for a few individuals for food service, bartending and housekeeping, who have a heart for service, want to be respected as professionals and know how to earn to your ability. Competitive pay, tips 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)

THE HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT

HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking a part-time employee to work in the Welcome Center on Saturday and Sunday. The ideal candidate should have excellent knowledge of the Highlands and Plateau areas and enjoy greeting visitors to our town. Hours are Saturday 10a.m. – 4p.m. and Sunday 11a.m. – 3 p.m. For consideration, please send resume to visitor@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112. (st. 5/27)

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

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)

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Reservations, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer, P/T Marketing Asst. Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.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. (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. (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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HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN – Can fix anything inside or out. carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Will also monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-5984. (5/27)
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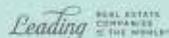


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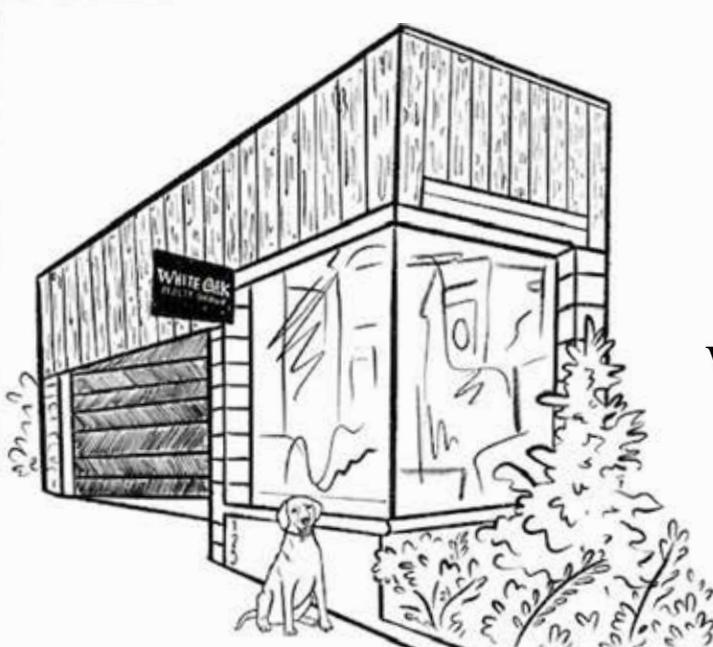


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