

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 25 2022

Reval is based on billions in RE sales

At Thursday night's Town Board meeting the upcoming property revaluation was discussed ... in billions.

Macon County revalues property for tax purposes every four years. The last reval was

2019 and the next one is set for 2023 with the reval based on sales through 2022.

Usually, the county and the town keep tax rates revenue neutral. The revenue neutral rate is the mill levy rate to generate the exact the

same amount of property tax revenue as the year before, using the current tax year's property values. However, there hasn't been a final word on that.

According to the Macon

• See REVAL page 16

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The Town prepares to finalize STR issue

Proposed ordinances for Short-term Rentals as well as legal ramifications of pursuing those proposals were briefly discussed at last Thursday's Town Board meeting.

Amendments to the Planning Board's original STR ordinance, which was the subject of the Feb. 24 Public Hearing, was sent to the town by SAVE Highlands the first week in March. That letter, which had not been acknowledged until last month was briefly discussed.

SAVE Highlands' legal counsel had gone over the Planning Board's proposed January ordinance and eliminated and changed what it thought was prudent for those who want STRs to continue in some form in Highlands.

Evidently, Highlands' legal counsel never sent the proposal on to the board of commissioners

• See STR page 10



The new teachers at Highlands School are: Jessica Sims, Title I; Beth Jones, 4th grade; Crystal Jones, Kindergarten; Dawn Westbrook, ITV Coordinator; and not pictured is Adrienne Watts, Agriculture Science, local elective.

The first day of school is Aug. 29 with new teachers and a new elective

By Brittney Lofthouse

When students in Macon County return to class for the new school year on Monday, August 29, Highlands students will have a new opportunity for some "hands-on" learning.

This year, Highlands School will be expanding their elective offerings by adding an Agricultural Science curriculum for students.

The course will cover all things agriculture from forestry to plants to farming to animals and everything in between.

The new local elective will allow students to learn all about the science of agriculture and will be taught by Adrienne Watts. Watts has worked in the Macon County School System for the last two years and currently lives in

Franklin with her husband Ethan and their two children, Caroline and Cooper. Watts enjoys growing flowers and vegetables, raising livestock, and volunteering with the Franklin FFA.

"I am excited to share my passion of agriculture by introducing this new local elective to Highlands School," said Watts.

• See SCHOOL page 14

Police logs tell town's crime story

Lately, the issues of ordinance violations and crimes have been associated with Short-term Rentals specifically increased noise, unlawful parking and trash as well as theft/larceny, burglary/breaking and entering, and property damage.

Last week Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland provided five-years of incident statistics that may offer some insight regarding Noise and Trash Complaints as well as those for Theft/Larceny, Burglary/Breaking and Entering, and Property Damage.

The statistics for Noise and Trash categories were broken into two parts – those that were "STR Related" and those that were "Other Locations."

The statistics for Theft/Larceny, Burglary/Breaking and Entering, and Property Damage were town-wide and would include all residential and business locations.

• See CRIME page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Town projects to be added to the pipeline

At the board meeting last week, I did a rather long mayor's report concerning initiatives I want the board address in future meetings. Let me briefly review several of these items.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

First, the Master Sidewalk Plan needs to be updated to include several important projects.

Sidewalks on the NC 106 and US 64 corridors need to be included. These corridor sidewalks are on the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, so inclusion in the town sidewalk plan is needed for consistency. How these very expensive sidewalks are funded will be a major challenge. Are there state funds available, or are will it be necessary to obtain town and private funding? I suspect, if private and town resources were available, the state would expedite their contribution and timetable.

Second, I also believe we need to complete a sidewalk loop on the east side of town. This year's budget includes the completion of a sidewalk on 1st Street that

will create a sidewalk loop for the west side of town. The east side loop will entail extending the sidewalk on Chestnut and possibly building a sidewalk on 6th Street.

Third, I also want the board to consider moving forward with the replacement of the recently demolished Houston House at the Highlands Recreation Center. The old, dilapidated Houston House was the site of the afterschool and summer camp programs that the recreation department operated. There is a critical need for afterschool programs for kids, and the town needs to build a new facility.

Finally, our staff, as well as the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, are researching the installation of electric car charging stations in the downtown areas. It is not a simple process. We currently have the space and electric power needed to install charging systems. Although the need for charging stations is currently limited, the need will rapidly increase. FORD Motor Company and General Motors are "all In" when it comes to electric cars. Cities, towns and states need to start embracing the idea of this change in cars and resulting power grid requirements. As with Duke Energy, down the road Highlands will have to upgrade its electric grid to handle this demand which is driven by future electric vehicles and by other usage factors.

The plans I have outlined above will take time to complete. Careful planning and new funding sources will need to be considered.

The public hearing concerning STR amendments to the Highlands Unified Development Ordinances is this evening, August 25. The hearing begins at 5 pm at the Highlands Community Center next to the ballfield. Procedures for tonight's public hearing can be found on the town website.

On Tuesday, August 30, the Town Board will hold a work session at 6 pm at the Highlands Community Center to begin drafting the final STR amendments. This meeting will be open to the public, but there will be no public comment. This work session may be the first of possibly several before a formal vote and adoption is made.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Well the plywood loggers snatched good old Fred. Makes you ponder the meaning of life."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 25-Aug	Fri, 26-Aug	Sat, 27-Aug	Sun, 28-Aug
 74°F 60°F	 76°F 59°F	 77°F 60°F	 75°F 60°F
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• LETTERS •

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7-day minimum won't work

Dear Editor,

In some delightful communities we enjoy visiting at length (and we do not rent out our residences when we are away) a minimum rental stay of only 7 days often results in an actual 2-3 day stay, partying is much the rule, the full 7-day rental income is paid to the owners, full 7-day taxes received by the governments, and the poor next door neighbors have the same loud, restless long week-

ends they had before all this STR debate.

Of course, not every rental, not every time, but often enough to make folks consider a minimum stay much longer than 7 days so that the cost discourages the "dishonestly rent for 7, full heartedly party for 3 and rapidly run" visitors.

Just an observation. Not being pushy.

Gary Moore
Highlands

Pay attention to judge candidates

Dear Editor,

I've been a casual visitor to Highlands for years, becoming more of a seasonal visitor and now contemplating becoming a full-time resident. I love that North Carolina is a purple state—I remember when most states were.

My other state is very much one color, which means that voters of both parties have very little incentive to vote, because it seems your vote doesn't matter. Honestly, it barely resembles a democracy.

I'm writing to express my appreciation of the recent letter-to-the-editor discussing the importance of electing judges who

are impartial, knowledgeable, and experienced, regardless of party affiliation.

The list of characteristics and meaningful experience to look for is very insightful. I would also like to remind voters to "follow the money." Who are the large donors and PACs backing each candidate? Are they hoping to gain something?

I found a very useful website that collects and posts a wide variety of election facts and figures, including campaign finance information, and belonging to the North Carolina State Board of Elections online at NCSBE.gov.

• See LETTERS page 15



An Open Letter to our Neighbors:

The Town Board and Mayor are getting ready to decide the future of Highlands. Will we preserve true residential neighborhoods and welcome visitors only in our hotel and business zones? **OR**, will we become a tourist town with short-term rentals (mini hotels) on every street?

Who Really Makes Up the Fabric of Highlands?

Out of town investors? Wedding guests and other weekend visitors renting the 400+ short-term rentals in our residential neighborhoods? **OR**, the homeowners living in the 1,800 traditional homes in our residential neighborhoods who support our local charities, foundations, nonprofits and make Highlands a great place to live?

The Public Hearing on August 25 is our ...

Last Chance to Stand Up and Speak Out for Highlands!



EMAIL THE MAYOR & TOWN BOARD. Let them know you support getting rid of STRs in R1 and R2. You can email them via Gibby.Shaheen@Highlandsonc.org

Be sure and include your name and local address and title the email "Statement for August 25, 2022" They will accept letters until August 26th.



ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING and show your support.

Arrive early and look for us.

August 25 5pm Community Building
869 N. 4th St.

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3
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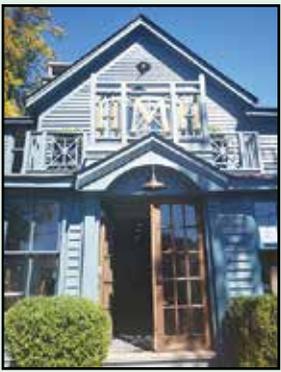
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August Schedule

- **Drawing Beginners I**
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Cost: \$70/\$80
Presenter: Mary Cavaoli
- **Drawing II**
Monday, August 29, Time 1-4p
Cost: \$70/\$80
Presenter: Mary Cavaoli
- **Shibori Dyeing Workshop**
Tuesday, August 30, Time 10a-12p
Cost \$90/\$100
Presenter: Jessica Kaufman
- **Unusual Wines, A Two-Part Series,
Part I**
Tuesday, August 30, Time: 3-5p
Cost: \$60/\$70
Presenter: Cathy Huyghe
- **Unusual Wines, A Two-Part Series,
Part 2**
Wednesday, August 31, Time: 3-5p
Cost: \$60/\$70
Presenter: Cathy Huyghe

September Schedule

- **Clean Up, Clear Out & Unclutter
iPhone/iPad**
Thursday, September 8, Time: 10a-3p
Cost: \$80/\$90
Presenter Loraine Smith
- **Italian Art History To Historical
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Thursday, September 8, Time: 10a-12p
Cost \$25/\$35
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Ready, set, GROW

The town of Highlands was founded in 1875 but let me back up a little bit. In our haste to get here, we tend to forget that we aren't the first, nor the last to inhabit these beautiful mountains.

There were Indians, probably Cherokee, here as far back as 1100 AD, but there is archeological proof of Indian life and culture in the 1700s. After the Indians were forced out, what is now Macon County was

formed and by the 1830 census, there were 5,300 people.

The original Macon County was a part of Buncombe County but later carved out, removing what became Cherokee County and Jackson County. Even after all the divisions, by the 1870 census, Macon County had about 66,000 people. Word was out. People were flocking to the predominantly white-populated mountains. There were still

some Indian families, blacks and a few first-generational families from European countries settling in Macon County as well, so it's no wonder Kelsey and Hutchison found us, too.

In 1875, Truman Kelsey and Clinton Carter Hutchinson, after a careful, but deliberate investigation of these southern mountains, chose 839 acres and carved a road running east to west which became Main Street Highlands, NC. I've heard the Shortoff Community was also considered as the center of town. In one of the first pamphlets enticing people to visit and settle in Highlands, the quote was, "Nobody should come here without money." Well, that part hasn't changed, has it?

It's no doubt the face of our town is changing -- it's growing. Like children, towns and communities can have growth spurts, too. Our town has had spikes in the number of people visiting and moving here to make these mountains their permanent home.

Within 10 years of the formation of Highlands, there were approximately 300 people living here and four hotels -- Highlands House was first, followed by Lee's Inn, Edwards Inn and the Phelps House.

Before the next decade was over, boarding houses dotted the area including the Hall House, known as The Meadow House. Our real estate and vacation rental company is in a home built in 1930 on what was the 9-hole golf course of The Hall House. Back then, there were no short-term rentals. Since it



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty
& Vacation Rentals

took three-four days of travel, at the very least, to arrive in Highlands, those visitors stayed as long as possible, usually two-three months to escape the heat of the lowlands.

After the road to Franklin was built and later, the road to Georgia was improved, steady traffic to the mountains ensued.

Macon County more than doubled its census between 1960 to 2010. Highlands gained about 15% since the 1990 census, as full-time residents went from 948 in 1990 to about 1,100 in 2022. One thing is for sure, some new residents come in quietly to live among those already in residence, and others say they love it like it is, but seem determined to make changes to make it better.

Highlands was founded as a resort-area town "where the air is cleaner, and the risk of malaria is less because the mosquitos are fewer." Consequently, Highlands became known as a health resort.

In the 1950s, Hillbilly Day was born and for at least six years, locals and tourists enjoyed the parody of the mountaineer life. Although the event was started by full-time residents and enjoyed by Highlands' natives and local people, word got out, and people came from several states to join in the fun.

It became a huge event and was squashed years later, as some believe by influential summer residents who thought it wasn't the image Highlands needs to display.

Sound familiar? Only the proper kind of growth is welcome in Highlands.

According to the 2022 density standards for our area, a few of the goals are to make efficient and visually aesthetic use of natural features of the landscape and preserve natural vegetation and ecosystems. In one document, it was noted that a property may be subdivided without respect to the minimum lot size for the purpose of cluster developments. Are we encouraging developers to "maxify" the density by creating more cluster neighborhoods?

Some have noted that corporations have discovered Highlands and are taking advantage of the affluency of the area to buy up land for the sole purpose of investment.

Yes, corporations are buying up land, developing a hotel and at least one cluster development which sort of removes the "preservation of natural vegetation."

Highlanders, be careful what you wish

• See INVESTING page 22



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...STR continued from page 1

and so until they learned so in the press, they were unaware of the correspondence.

As it turned out, the Planning Board's January ordinance was nixed by the Town Board so comments about it would likely have been disregarded anyway, but in any case, the document was submitted as part of the agenda Thursday night.

Town Manager Josh Ward said the

document in hand had been properly formatted by SAVE Highlands legal counsel and resubmitted showing verbiage in black, red and blue ink. The red ink was the Planning Boards' ordinance additions and the blue ink was SAVE Highlands suggestions. The black ink was the part of the ordinance originally submitted by the Town Board after working with previous counsel repre-

sented by Craig Justus.

There was no discussion about the proposal because the town has since presented two of its own proposals.

One proposal disallows STRs in R1 and R2 but allows Homestays in those residential districts where the owner stays on the property. All rentals are allowed in R3 and the business districts.

The other ordinance allows everyone in town to rent their homes regardless of the zone for two years at which point the use is amortized – ceases for evermore, but just in R1 and R2.

This amortization ordinance was discussed in Closed Session Thursday night with Attorney Bob Hagemann from the town's new law firm, Poyner and Spruill.

Last week, The Institute of Justice wrote the town a letter outlining reasons why the town shouldn't pursue amortization citing previous cases and legal fees the town would be responsible for should it lose its case. (See Highlands Newspaper Aug. 18 edition.)

Commissioner Amy Patterson asked why the issue couldn't be discussed in Open Session, but Hagemann said "because he had been requested to give his legal opinion in response to the letter the town received from the Institute of Justice regarding the amortization option."

Friday, Mayor Pat Taylor said no action was taken in the Closed Session regarding that issue.

"We were advised that we have legal options and defense, and we are evaluating the cost of possibly going to court over this option. Attorney fees and court costs are something we are very aware of," he said.

Meanwhile, the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, which would like STRs to

cease in all single-family residential districts in Highlands, also sent a letter to the board of commissioners Thursday outlining changes it thought needed to be made to the amortization proposal, which is the only proposal it considers acceptable.

The letter was sent by Cathy Henson, Tom Coley, Carol Gable, Lila Howland and James Worrell of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition.

"We believe there are ample options for STRs in appropriate zoning districts other than those zoned single-family residential," reads the letter.

Those zoning districts would be R3 (multi-family), B1, B2, B3 and B4 (B-Business)

"We strongly support the Town adopting the amortization amendment which ultimately will eliminate STRs from some neighborhoods in Highlands while at the same time allowing STRs in multiple other zoning districts. We encourage the Board of Commissioners to adopt that amendment," reads the letter.

However, the coalition said it has issues with the proposed two-year period during which homeowners could rent their homes as STRs until the use is amortized and thereby cease.

"The current proposal appears to permit unrestricted expansion of STR activity throughout all residential zoning districts of Highlands during the amortization period. This is a dangerous proposal – in the event a court decides that the Town cannot amortize STRs, but must grandfather them, the Town could find itself in two years' time with several hundred additional STRs within its limits – this would permanently destroy the Town's residential zones

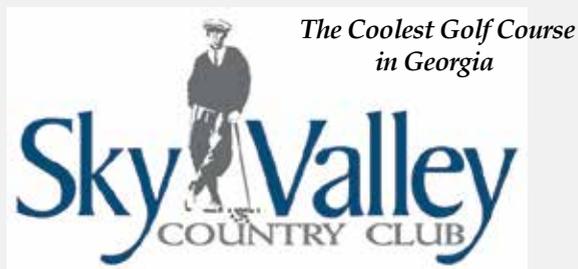
"If the Town considers this ill-advised option, at least clarify that at some point in time no new STR activity would be allowed in single-family residential neighborhoods," read the letter.

The Coalition also has issues with the new Homestay category the board of commissioners proposed in its other proposal that doesn't allow STRs in R1 or R2 but does allow Homestays – where the owner must be on the property.

"This is yet another commercial lodging activity which for the first time in the history of Highlands zoning regulation expands commercial lodging activity into every residential zoning district, including R-1, which until this proposal was free of all commercial activities, including customary home occupations," reads the letter.

However, at a recent Planning Board meeting it should be noted that Town Attorney Jay Coward said the courts have ruled that renting homes in residential dis-

• See STR page 22



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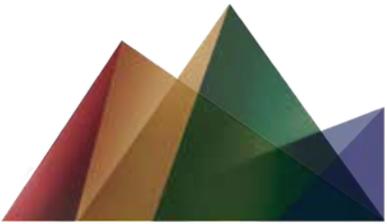
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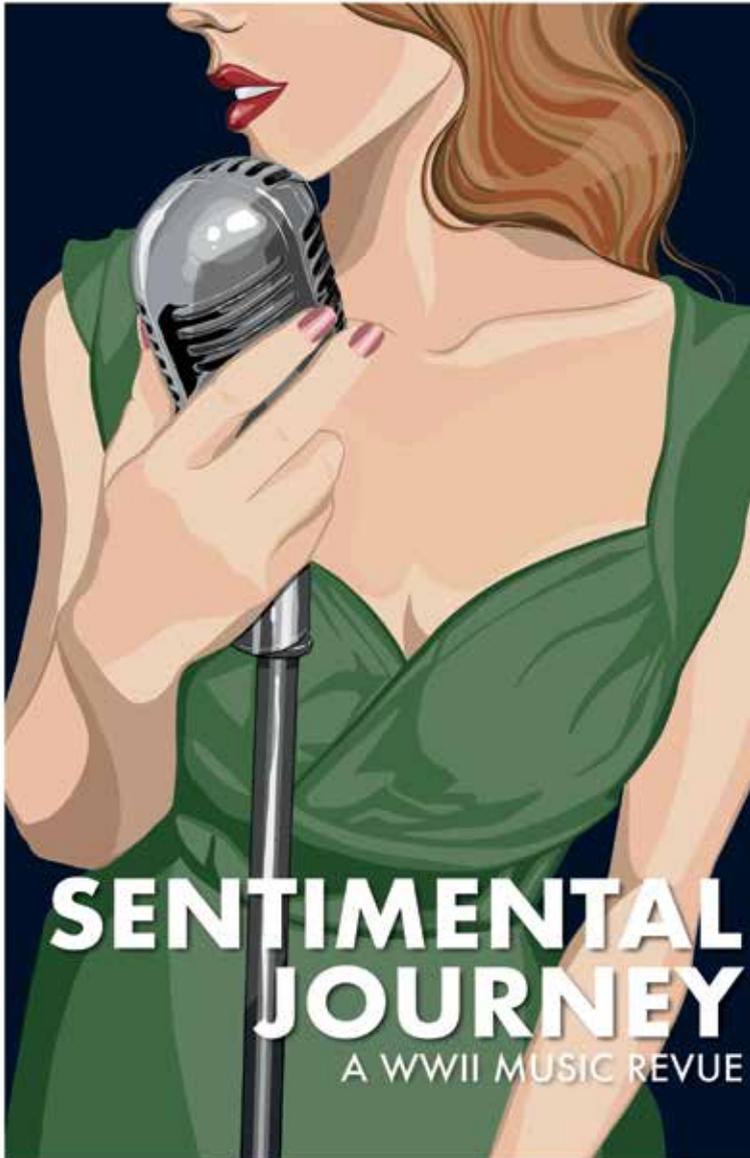


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Rec Pool Schedule as of Aug. 29

- Public Swim: Mon.-Wed. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p; Sunday 1-6p. Adult Lap Swim: Mon-Fr 6-9:45a; Mon.-Thurs, 5-7p. Sat. 10-11a. 828-526-1595.

Sundays

- Church in the Wildwood's hymn sing is at its original location on Horse Cove Road. 7-8 p.m. Call Mary Bean at 1-828-506-0125.

Mondays

- ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Second Mondays

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

2nd Tuesdays

- Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings held on the second or third Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Members receive weekly notification regarding when and how the group will assemble. "We welcome participation from anyone interested in writing, or just hanging out with writers," said Bud Katz. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Wednesdays in Sept.

- Community Yoga Class to benefit the Chattooga River Conservancy from 6-7:15p at Yoga Highlands, facilitated by Rachel Kinback CYT500. Fun and restorative movement. Come as you are. All skill levels are welcome. Suggested donation \$10-20.

Thursdays

- At Hudson Library, Family Storytime at 10:40a. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

- At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

Mon-Fri

- Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11am.

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 for every muscle

- New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and

Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

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

- Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a.

1st Tuesdays

- Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

Tuesdays

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

Tues. & Thurs.

- Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas

- New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.

- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise.

Thursdays

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

Fridays

- Friday Night Live Concerts in Town Square on Main Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs.

Saturdays

- Saturdays on Pine in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic.

2nd Saturdays

- The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

- The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/ 909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10AM We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

Aug. 24-26

- At The Bascom, Painting an Alla Prima Portrait in Oil with Marc Chatov, 10 am – 4 pm. For more information go to thebascom.org. For more information go to thebascom.org.

Thurs., Aug. 25

- Open House & Artist Demonstration with Karen Weihs Fine Art from 2-4 p.m. at Rhonda Lanier Interiors at 25 Old Cashiers Square.

- At the Highlander Mountain House. Salon Series with Alexa Rose at HMH 9 PM. For tickets call the hotel (828) 526-2590.

Fri., Aug. 26

- Free Shred Event from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Highlands Plaza, near Bryson's Food Store on Hwy. 106. The public is invited to dispose of sensitive documents in an environmentally friendly way. Participants are encouraged to transport items in plastic bags or

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

bins and keep in mind the following guidelines:
 Items Allowed: Paper products with staples or paper clips, spiral notebooks. Items Not Allowed: Three-ring binders, cardboard. Donations accepted to help support the area's first bilingual mental health counselor. The counselor will be part of the Plateau Behavioral Health Collaborative, a partnership of The Counseling Center, the Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers and the International Friendship Center.

- Community Coffee with the Mayor. Mayor Patrick Taylor will be joined by Director of Public Works Lamar Nix with a Public Works Update. I am in the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

Sat-Sun, Aug. 27 & 28

- Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Art & Craft Show will be held in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street from 10a to 5p. Attendance is free, dogs are allowed, and food will be available. For info contact coordinator Cynthia Strain at (828) 318-9430 or visit: www.mountaintopshow.com

Thurs., Aug. 27

- At the Highlander Mountain House. Pop-Up exclusive shopping experience with Baybala, Varnish Collection, & Massey Gordon

Sun., Aug. 28

- Land of the Sky Barbershop Chorus will sing Sunday, at 3p in Tartan Hall at Franklin's First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian Church sanctuary at 26 Church Street,

a block north of Main Street. Admission is by donation; \$10 is suggested. Doors open at 2:30p. For more information call 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net

- Sunday Supper at OEI's The Farm with Chef Cole Ellis of Delta Meat Market in Cleveland, MS and Chef Rob McDaniel of Helen in Birmingham. Book at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/chefdinner

Mon., Aug. 29

- The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers will hold its monthly meeting on Monday at THE BASCOM. Social Time starts at 4:30 PM, followed by an Artist Presentation from 5-6p. Our meetings are FREE. Welcome all Art Enthusiasts and Like-Minded Folks. JOIN US. For more information visit www.artleaguehighlands-cashiers.com, email: johnbauknight3@aol.com or call 828-421-1466

- At The Bascom, at 6 pm Concert and Cuisine, The Bascom's signature gala fundraiser (ticketed event). For more information go to thebascom.org.

Wed., Aug. 31

- Hudson Library is pleased to announce a special Books & Bites event at 12:30p on Wednesday. Famed football coach Bill Curry will join his wife, author Carolyn Curry for a joint program about her debut mystery novel Sudden Death. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.

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Art & Craft Show August 27 & 28



Be prepared to be wowed by the astonishing skill and talent represented at this weekend's Mountaintop Rotary Art & Craft Show which showcases some of the area's most gifted artisans. A summer tradition for 17 years, the show has over 80 regional vendors bringing furniture and other woodcraft, pottery, fabric, purses, soaps, hand-blown glass, kids' clothes and much more. If you get hungry, Fressers Courtyard Cafe and the Secret Garden in the Village Square will be open both days. There is no admission charge, but donations to Rotary are appreciated. Find the show in K-H Founders Park on Pine St. between 10 and 5 on August 27/28. Visit www.mountaintopshow.com for more info or call (282) 318-9430.



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...CRIME continued from page 1

Noise and Trash Complaints by Year and Location

Year	Noise Complaints Total	Trash Complaints Total	In known (143) Short-Term Rental Locations Noise Complaints	Other Locations Noise Complaints	In known (143) Short-Term Rental Locations Trash Complaints	Other Locations Trash Complaints
2017	7	0	0	7	0	0
2018	12	1	0	12	0	1
2019	22	4	2	20	0	4
2020	29	17	2	27	2	15
2021	23	54	2	21	14	40
2022-8/15/22	19	16	5	14	2	14

Noise and Trash Incident Reports –143 known STRs

In 2017 there were 0 noise and 0 trash complaints; in 2018, there were 0 noise and 0 trash; in 2019, there were 2 noise and 0 trash; in 2020 there were 2 noise complaints and 2 trash; in 2021 there were 2 noise complaints and 14 trash complaints. So far in 2022, there are 5 noise and 2 trash complaints.

Noise and Trash Incident Reports Other Locations – Residential and Business

In 2017 there were 7 noise complaints and 0 trash; in 2018, there were 12 noise and 1 trash; in 2019 there were 20 noise and 4 trash; in 2020 there were 27 noise and 15 trash; in 2021 there were 21 noise and 40 trash and so far in 2022 there have been 14 noise and 14 trash complaints.

Chief Holland said regarding the 2021 trash complaints, 85% were related to complaints at ad-

resses that did not have the new bear resistant trash cans.

Crime is another issue STRs are being blamed for, but Chief Holland said she just hasn't seen it.

"Think about it," she said. "Would someone break into a house that is lit up and has people inside?"

Theft/Larceny, Burglary/Breaking and Entering

Overall, Theft/Larceny, Burglary/Breaking and Entering and Property Damage incidents have decreased since 2019 which was a high year. Statistics include Residents, Businesses and Automobile incidents.

In 2017 there were 23 theft/larceny and 9 burglary/breaking and enterings; in 2018, there were 24 theft/larceny and 19 burglary/breaking and enterings; in 2019 there were 46 theft/larceny and 25 burglary/breaking and enterings, in 2020 there were 35 theft/larceny and 13 burglary/breaking

and enterings; in 2021 there were 18 theft/larceny and 4 burglary/breaking and enterings; and so far in 2022 there have been 17 theft/larceny and 6 burglary/breaking and enterings.

Chief Holland said when considering the burglary/breaking and entering statistics it's important to note that when officers receive a call for a burglary/breaking and entering, the incident may be unfounded at the completion of the investigation, but it's still logged as a such.

Property Damage All locations

In 2017, there were 23 incidents, in 2018, 19; in 2019, 28; in 2020, 16; In 2021, 16; and so far in 2022, 12.

Regarding Property Damage Chief Holland said, "it could have resulted from a bear."

– Kim Lewicki

Crimes Stats for January 2017- August 15 2022

Crimes	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Theft/Larceny	23	24	46	35	18	17
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	9	19	25	13	4	6
Property Damage	23	19	28	16	16	12
Drug Charges	6	10	5	7	6	0
Simple Assault	14	14	20	11	9	4
Aggravated Assault	2	2	1	1	2	0
Shoplifting	7	8	8	10	10	7

...SCHOOL continued from page 1

While Agriculture Science will be a new offering for Highlands, the course has been previously offered at Franklin High School. The elective expansion for Highlands is part of a district-wide move to provide more career focused electives for students.

"We know college isn't the path for every student and it shouldn't be the only path," Dr. Chris Baldwin said Monday night during the Board of Education meeting when discussing future plans to incorporate more career-focused education opportunities

for students.

Watts is one of five new faces greeting the 344 students enrolled at Highlands School next week when school begins.

Crystal Emmons will serve as the school's new Kindergarten

• See SCHOOL page 19

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...LETTERS continued from page 4

As I am learning and familiarizing myself with local and state government and candidates, this site has been very helpful. It's worth visiting and digging into the trove of information there.

I encourage voters to take a look for themselves.

Nan Cummins
Highlands and
Pass Christian, MS

Our nation is losing its way

Dear Editor:

A most relevant letter by Karen Hawk (Highlands Newspaper 8/18/22) serves as a reminder to all of us that deleterious changes are taking place within our judicial system clearly indicative of a nation fast losing its way.

Hawk correctly points out several qualifications justices or judges should possess and at the top of the list must be the preeminent belief in such things as «due process,” “judicial restraint,” and “equal justice under law.”

Equal justice under law is considered to be the main principle of the judicial system in the United States, worthy enough to be engraved above the entrance to the Supreme Court building. It literally means that every person in the United States is entitled to receive equal and fair treatment

from the law.

This fundamental doctrine must be considered essentially indispensable at all levels in order for our judicial systems to work as they were intended as it expresses the very cornerstone of the ultimate responsibility of the Supreme Court when hearing all cases and controversies arising under the Constitution or the laws of the land.

If courts are to be the reviewers and judges of the law and thus able to guarantee the American people the promise of equal justice under law as well as function as the guardians and interpreters of the Constitution then they can never appear to be even slightly subservient to any one political party or (as our present U.S. Supreme Court has somewhat illustrated) any one person.

• See LETTERS page 19



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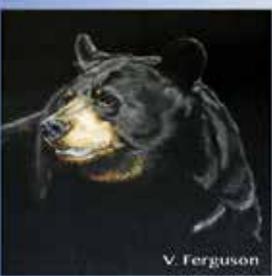
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...REVAL
continued from
page 1

County Tax Appraiser's Office, the 42,542 taxable parcels in 2019 were valued at \$7,969,346,695. In 2023 the number of taxable parcels increased to 44,013 and were valued at \$12,029,130,971, which represents a 50.34% increase from 2019 to 2023, but 2022 isn't over yet.

According to Tax Office figures, the Town of Highlands and the Highlands Township continue to lead the way in property values in Macon County.

In 2019 there were 4,002 taxable parcels in the Township of Highlands valued at \$1,739,098,960.

In 2023 that increased to 4,114 taxable parcels valued at \$2,683,235,400 which is a 54.29% increase.

In 2019 there were 2,900 taxable parcels in the Town of Highlands valued at \$1,792,600,040.

In 2023 there were 3,020 taxable parcels valued at \$2,815,585,960 which is a 57.07% increase.

Though Flats Township property owners aren't affected by town taxes, the Flats Township also added to the mix.

In 2019 there were 1,192 taxable parcels valued at \$260,842,500. In 2023 there are 1,244 taxable parcels valued at \$376,402,250 which is a 44.50% increase in value.

Qualified sales for tax purposes were listed per township comparing 2021 and 2022 understanding that 2022 isn't yet over.

County wide in 2021 there were 1,853 qualified sales and so far for 2022, there have been 815.

In 2021, the Township of Highlands accounted for 241 of those sales with the highest sale being \$4,000,000 and the lowest \$5,000.

So far, in 2022 there have been 75 sales with the highest being \$2,800,00 and the lowest \$30,000.

In 2021, the Town of Highlands clocked 188 sales with the highest sale at \$5,500,000 and the

...REVAL continued from page 16

Totals by Township

TOWNSHIP	TAXABLE PCLS	2019 TAXABLE	TAXABLE PCLS	2023 TAXABLE	\$ INCREASE	%CHANGE
FRANKLIN	8,283	\$ 997,103,790	8,656	\$1,524,533,490	\$ 527,429,700	52.90 %
MILLSHOAL	3,695	\$ 334,969,420	3,778	\$ 502,225,610	\$ 167,256,190	49.93 %
ELLIJAY	3,207	\$ 310,357,090	3,335	\$ 476,502,760	\$ 166,145,670	53.53 %
SUGARFORK	1,518	\$ 194,362,320	1,580	\$ 279,393,040	\$ 85,030,720	43.75 %
HIGHLANDS	4,002	\$1,739,098,960	4,114	\$ 2,683,235,400	\$ 944,136,440	54.29 %
FLATS	1,192	\$ 260,842,500	1,244	\$ 376,402,250	\$ 115,559,750	44.30 %
SMITHBRIDGE	4,471	\$ 478,812,430	4,523	\$ 723,088,570	\$ 244,276,140	51.02 %
CHARTOOGECHAYE	3,169	\$ 390,172,790	3,216	\$ 570,046,570	\$ 179,873,780	46.10 %
NANTAHALA	2,548	\$ 312,068,235	2,587	\$ 458,758,821	\$ 146,690,586	47.01 %
BURNINGTOWN	1,281	\$ 143,169,350	1,314	\$ 196,876,840	\$ 53,707,490	37.51 %
COWEE	3,746	\$ 349,771,960	3,907	\$ 514,316,300	\$ 164,544,340	47.04 %
FRANKLIN CITY	2,530	\$ 666,017,810	2,739	\$ 908,165,360	\$ 242,147,559	36.36 %
HIGHLANDS CITY	2,900	\$1,792,600,040	3,020	\$ 2,815,585,960	\$ 1,022,985,920	57.07 %
	42,542	\$7,969,346,695	44,013	\$12,029,130,971	\$ 4,059,784,278	50.94 %

Qualified Sales by Township

2021 Sales				2022 Sales					
Township	parcels sold	highest	Lowest	Township	parcels sold	Highest	Lowest	AVERAGE	MEAN
FRANKLIN	323	1,173,000	5,000	FRANKLIN	176	1,145,130	8,500	197,602	165,000
MILLSHOAL	154	2,900,000	6,000	MILLSHOAL	61	750,000	4,000	165,607	140,000
ELLIJAY	108	1,275,000	5,000	ELLIJAY	61	730,000	5,500	180,426	145,060
SUGARFORK	52	1,250,000	5,000	SUGARFORK	18	1,264,500	5,000	268,417	210,000
HIGHLANDS	241	4,000,000	5,000	HIGHLANDS	75	2,800,000	30,000	638,333	612,240
FLATS	51	1,290,000	30,000	FLATS	34	982,000	45,000	291,205	225,000
SMITHBRIDGE	171	1,650,000	3,000	SMITHBRIDGE	78	730,000	7,000	223,173	185,000
CARTOOGECHAYE	138	825,000	6,000	CHARTOOGECHAYE	65	652,000	10,000	235,100	238,000
NANTAHALA	112	1,250,000	7,500	NANTAHALA	49	1,925,000	10,000	259,337	100,000
BURNINGTOWN	41	650,000	14,000	BURNINGTOWN	21	740,000	12,500	150,182	107,000
COWEE	154	1,495,500	4,000	COWEE	60	1,000,000	10,000	245,108	196,750
FRANKLIN CITY	123	950,000	10,000	FRANKLIN CITY	55	6,412,000	25,000	386,182	239,000
HIGHLANDS CITY	188	5,500,000	20,000	HIGHLANDS CITY	62	8,000,000	90,000	1,065,700	762,500
Total Qualified Sales	1853			Total Qualified Sales	815				

lowest at \$20,000.

In 2022 there have been 62 sales with the highest at \$8,000,000 and the lowest at \$90,000.

In 2021, in the Flats Township there were 51 sales with the highest at \$1,290,000 and the lowest at \$30,000.

In 2022 there have been 34 with the highest sale coming in at \$982,000 and the lowest at \$45,000.

The 2021 and 2023 in-town sales numbers indicate in-town property (residential and commercial) is at a premium.

Mayor Pat Taylor reiterated that the Highlands area – town and township – accounts for much of the county's tax base.

"The Town of Highlands has led the way with a 57% increase in valuation since 2019 with \$2.8 billion in sales followed by the Township of Highlands which had \$2.6 billion in sales – a 54% hike. You add those up and that's almost \$6 billion out of the

\$12 billion for the entire county," he said. "Which by the way is why we need a good full-time fire department – to protect our property values."

Concerning tax rate changes, Mayor Taylor said the town will strive to be revenue neutral.

The Proposed Schedule of Values Standards and Rules were presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners on Aug. 8.

There will be a Public Hearing regarding the Tax Appraiser's information on Sept. 13 and on Oct. 11 the MC Board of Commissioners will meet to approve both the Schedule of Values separately.

The mayor said the county's appeal process regarding tax increases was alive and well and people would be able to have their say.

– Kim Lewicki

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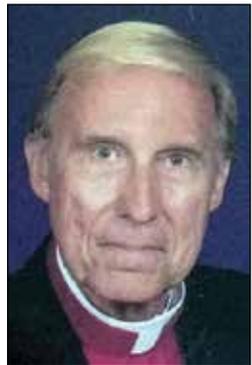


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Please hold my hand

Archbishop
John S. Erbelding

No one in our small Vermont town seemed to remember when it started. Did it start when they were high school sweethearts on their way home from school? Was it when he returned from serving his country in the war? Or was it when the children arrived a few years into their marriage, and it gave them both a chance to talk and plan and dream of their future together? But no matter how or when it started, this dear sweet loving couple has taken their afternoon walk through town, hand-in-hand.

Their hair is now silver, and their step is now slower and more guarded against a fall, but hand-in-hand they walk. Their animated conversation in the early years is now fewer words but no less important to the future they still have ahead of them, and the passion in their two hands grasping each other speaks volumes of the past and present of their lives.

Nothing seems to reach our souls like seeing a couple in love, celebrating their first or 60th anniversary. Those who work at keeping love alive, who have taken the words they said on their wedding day as a pledge, “for richer, for poorer, in sickness or in health, and love for all eternity,” they have endured all.

They have heard with not only their ears but their hearts, St. Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians, a reading that is most important at any wedding service. St. Paul writes about love and tells us, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude or self-serving. It is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs,” and St. Paul tells us what this couple holding hands has learned: “Love always protects, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” Husbands and wives in a good marriage understand that love is a series of actions, not a fleeting feeling that someday will escape them.

A happy marriage takes two people both giving all of themselves. They will tell you it is not easy. They have chosen to forgive. They have decided to be patient time and time again, keeping no record of wrongs.

They have never lost sight of the vision of who they have become over the years together. This wonderful couple we see walk hand-in-hand has chosen to love, like a marathon runner choosing to stay in the race. They have long ago discovered that true marriage was never intended to be a short dash, but traveled holding hands, hearts beating in unison along this path we call life, because love never fails.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 28717
www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am Sunday
School; 10:30am Worship Service.

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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: 10:45am Children’s Program, HS 4:30-6:30pm
Mon: 4:30-6pm Women’s Bible Study; Tues: 7-8am Men’s Bible
Study@Zookeeper Bistro; 10am-Noon Women’s Bible Study
Wed: MS 5:30-7pm; Thurs: 7-8:15am Men’s Bible Study@
Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. V. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in
Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Tues: Men’s Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
We wear masks and social distance.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Franklin • 828-634-1312
Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April
mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
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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
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.
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Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;
Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a
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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• 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 noon, officers responded to a call of someone trespassing at the Emergency Council after knowingly and willingly walking onto the property after trespass warning was issued.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 16.

Aug. 16

• At 3:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hedden Lane.

• At 7 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Goldmine Road.

Aug. 16

At 3:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at location on Skyline Lodge Rd.

At 6:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

At 9:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to location on Skyline Lodge Rd.

Aug. 17

At 7:47 a.m., the dept. was first-re-

sponders to a residence on Webbmont Rd.

Aug. 18

At 8:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

At 8:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Walkingstick Rd.

Aug. 20

At 8:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Rd.

At 4:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Dr.

Aug. 21

At 1:05 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Walhalla Rd.

At 2:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Crescent Trail.

At 1:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a miscellaneous fire on Buck Creek Rd.

Aug. 22

At 8:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut St.

At 11:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Dr.

Aug. 23

At 4:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Dr.

...LETTERS continued from page 15

Not only is a law requiring candidates for judges and justices to declare party affiliations a bad idea; requiring a prospective judge to conspicuously declare potential partisanship is the exact antithesis of what «justice» inherently means and requires.

If the NC Republican legislature truly intends to require candidates for judges

to declare their political party preference then their obvious motive can only be to transform what was, from our beginning, intended to be an impartial, equitable, nondiscriminatory and wise judiciary into a gaggle of partisan hacks.

**David L. Snell
Franklin**

...SCHOOL continued from page 14

teacher, Beth Jones as the new 4th grade teacher, Jessica Sims as the new Title I teacher, and Dawn Westbrook as the new ITV teacher.

Emmons will be replacing Mrs. Covey as she transfers to Highlands' Middle School Science. Emmons is a graduate of UNC-Greensboro with a Bachelor's Degree in education and a license in Birth-Kindergarten. She grew up in the Raleigh/Durham area and brings 14 years of experience in early education to Highlands School.

Jessica Sims and her family recently moved to North Carolina from Florida and brings nine years of experience to Highlands to serve as the new Title I Teacher.

Dawn Westbrook has worked in the MC School System for the last 15 years and

will be transiting to Highlands to work as the school's new ITV Coordinator.

The final new teacher joining the Highlands Staff this fall is Beth Jones who will be the school's new 4th grade teacher. Jones is originally from Iowa and has been visiting the mountains since the early '90s. After living in Atlanta and teaching for 16 years, Jones and her husband Tony have relocated to Macon County permanently.

While all teacher positions are currently filled in Highlands, the school still has one vacancy in the cafeteria.

"I hope this is the best school year ever for our students, parents, teachers, and staff," said Franklin High School Principal Brian Jetter.



Outdoor Concert Series

Join us for free, live music each Friday night in Town Square and Saturday evening at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park from May through October!

All shows take place from 6 - 8:30 pm

The Outdoor Concert Series is hosted by Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

Thank you

Thanks to all who continue to make our
Outdoor Concert Series
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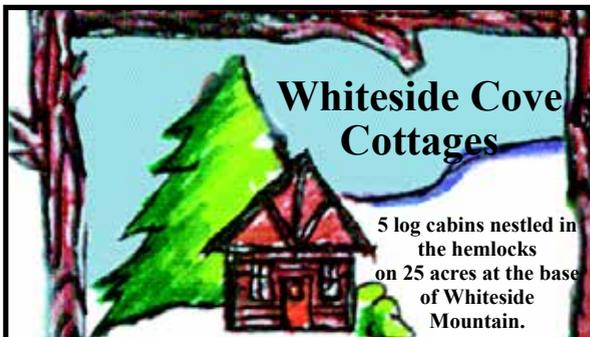
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SUNBEAM TIGER – Classic '65 Sunbeam Tiger V8 convertible with hardtop. Come see in Highlands. 386-562-1976. (st. 6/2)

FOR RENT

COZY LAKEFRONT COTTAGE. 1BR, 1BA, Fully furnished. No Pets. In Franklin, close to town. Ideal rental for vacation, permanent or corporate traveler. \$1,500 month plus utilities. Sarah Miller. 770-757-7500. (st. 8/4)

HELP WANTED

POSH PAWS PET SPA IN HIGHLANDS, NC is looking to fill full-time grooming apprentice positions. Dog grooming is the best combination of pet care and cosmetology, and this position is the first step in a dog grooming career! We are not open in the evenings or on holidays, so you can expect to be able to enjoy those times with loved ones. Our business hours are Tuesday - Saturday from 9-5.

Have you ever been interested in working with animals or trying something new but weren't sure how to

get into the animal care industry? Starting as a grooming apprentice may be the career change you were hoping for! This is an entry level position that requires no prior experience. Fast advancement opportunities are available through our self-paced, paid, one-on-one apprenticeship. This is a great opportunity to learn a trade skill without accumulating educational debt! The time commitment expected to advance from this entry level position to fully trained pet stylist is approximately 2-3 years with promotions being earned at each new level of advancement.

New hires must be willing to learn as well as handle constructive criticism. We currently employ a wonderful group of people that work well as a team, so being a team player is a must. Drama will not be tolerated. A love for dogs and a high level of patience is also required. Attention to detail is a necessity as all dogs must be 100% clean.

This job does require standing for long periods of time and heavy lifting with help. Beginning daily duties will include bathing and blow drying the dogs, assisting the groomers when needed, and completing daily as well as weekly cleaning routines to keep our salon looking and smelling nice.

Still not sure if this would be the right job for you? Please give us a call at 828-526-9581 with any additional questions about the position or come by to take a quick no obligation tour and meet the team (most trained in house through our apprenticeship program) before applying. We look forward to hearing from you! (st. 8/25)

FULL TIME MAINTENANCE POSITION

Seeking to fill (2) full time year 'round positions for the maintenance department team. Interest in grounds maintenance and water and sewer systems required. Excellent health insurance, 401 K matching, vacation, holiday and sick pay. Educational opportunities. Respectful work environment with small team in a beautiful community. Please contact Highlands Falls Community Association, Inc. at (828)-526-2203. (8/25)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS LAND TRUST IS

HIRING! Join our hardworking team and be a part of the organization that is conserving the Plateau's natural places for ours and future generations. Seeking a Development and Outreach Assistant who will be responsible for several duties including meticulously managing HCLT's donor database and processing donor gifts/donor acknowledgments; assisting with other fundraising, PR, and administrative tasks; assisting with event planning and implementation; and providing office reception services such as greeting visitors and directing telephone calls as well as other duties as needed. This is a part-time position (20-30 hours/week) with the possibility of transitioning to full-time and other growth potential. Hourly wage commensurate with experience. This position reports to the Development Director and has the option for some flex scheduling. Send your resume to julie.hitrust@earthlink.net. (st. 8/11)

PART TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT – The Bascom M-F 10 am - 2pm \$16-\$20 / hour depending on experience This position provides general administrative support to the development function of The Bascom, and includes handling daily correspondence with donors, including producing gift acknowledgments and solicitation mailings, as well as daily updating of our constituent data base (Bloo-

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

HIGHLANDS AUTO DETAILING



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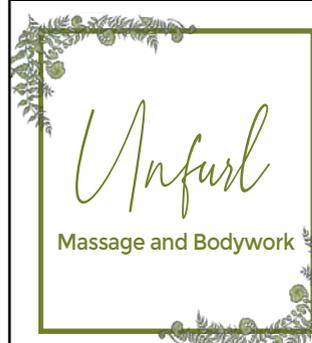
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

merang). This position also handles inquiries from our constituents, providing prompt, thorough and accurate information. The full job posting can be found at TheBascom.org Please submit, via email, resume and cover letter to: Karin Peterson, Executive Director kpeterson@thebascom.org (st. 7/21)

THE DRY SINK IS HIRING! We have a position receiving merchandise, opening boxes and pricing merchandise. Great for a self starter or someone who is an independent worker! Perfect for someone seeking part time work or can be a full time job. Pop in for an application at 450 Main Street, or email Sam at shays@thedrysink.com. (st. 7/21)

DOMESTIC IRONING – Needed In Highlands. Pick up and return when finished. Call Dottie Butler at 941-735-8996. Leave message. (st. 6/19)

MCCULLEY'S IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS is seeking full- and part-time help. Inquire at 828-200-0928. (st. 6/9)

SWEETREATS AND HIGHLANDS DELI IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT and is hiring full and part time staff for the season. Competitive starting wage, great tips, and reasonable hours (not too early, not too late). Pick up an application in store at 115 S. 4th Street or apply on Sweetreatshighlands.com. (st. 5/19)

WOLFGANG'S BISTRO is looking for full-time prep and line cook and waitstaff. Evenings only. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/17)

COUNSELING CENTER OF HIGHLANDS is seeking additional therapists. Looking for a place where you can build or add to your private practice, provide mental health care to those in need, and be part of a counseling center that is dedicated to the behavioral health needs of all members of the community regardless of ability to pay? Our Center is looking for licensed therapists who share this mission and YOU may be one. If you are

interested – or just want to learn more about the Center – let us know by sending an introductory email with your resume to info@counseling-center.org. We look forward to hearing from you. **REQUIREMENTS:** Master's Degree or higher in counseling, psychology or related field; Licensed in North Carolina in related disciplines; Must have a minimum of 2 years of experience as clinician; Flexibility, creativity, and a spirit of collaboration; Along with full-pay, willing to see clients-in-need at a reduced fee; Counseling Center will reimburse the difference between reduced fee up to \$75. **PREFERRED:** Strong Clinical skills, including areas of assessment; diagnosis; crisis & case management; Independent decision-making skills; Experience and desire to lead workshops and/or groups as outreach to the Highlands community **CRITICAL NEED FOR THE AREA:** Specialty in Substance Abuse; Bi-lingual (Spanish & English) (st. 4/7)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Up-scale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

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...STR continued from page 10

tracts in any form are not commercial activities.

“Our opinion is that no STRs (including Homestays) should be allowed in R-1 and R-2 but should be allowed in other districts,” reads the letter.

Meanwhile, there is a public hearing on the Planning Board's most recent ordinance proposal on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Community Building.

The Planning Board's new proposal allows STRs in R1 and R2 for a minimum of seven days and gives a one-year grace period for those property owners who have contracts in the pipeline for less than seven days. After that one-year grace period renting for less than seven days wouldn't be allowed.

People can sign up in advance to speak at the Aug. 25 Public Hearing for three minutes or give their time to a group representative or they can email comments to gibby.shaheen@highlandscnc.org

In all cases people must identify themselves and be polite without outbursts of any kind – clapping, talking, etc. – or be escorted out.

The mayor said there won't be any decision made at the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested moving the STR deliberation process along so it can come to some resolution.

“This has been going on a long time. We just need to go ahead and do it,” she said.

To that end, a worksession is set for Tuesday, Aug 30 at 6 p.m. with the understanding that there may be another as soon as Thursday, Sept. 1.

Commissioners acknowledged that it has three ordinance proposals – its two and the Planning Board's most recent proposal.

“But we don't have to follow the Planning Board's recommendations,” said Commissioner Brian Stiehler.

Commissioner Marc Hehn said the board also has comments from both sides – previously from SAVE Highlands and Thursday's Highlands Neighborhood Coalition submission. He also said SAVE Highlands may be submitting comments about the Planning Board's latest ordinance proposal, as it did with the Planning Board's January proposed ordinance.

– Kim Lewicki

...INVESTING from page 8

for.

Being aesthetically sound, like Disney, may not be the future Highlands needs. Everyone who owns property in the town of Highlands pays taxes, but only the people who list Highlands as their primary residence can vote in town elections.

How many voters are local people and how many are newcomers (over the last few decades) who only want to change Highlands to make it better...in their eyes.

It appears the affluent still think they hold the reins of Highlands, and maybe they do. Even if you don't hold the right to vote in the local election, you have a voice.

I stand for allowing real people to own homes in the town of Highlands that can be rented as short-term rentals if they choose.

Even though it has been established that STRs aren't a commercial entity, Highlands has been a commercial enterprise almost since its inception.

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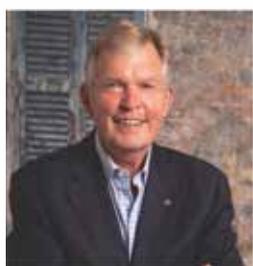

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