

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Planning Board rejects town's ordinances

In a surprise move Tuesday night, the 5-member Planning Board voted unanimously to not recommend the two proposed STR-related ordinances presented by the Town Board.

Instead, in a 4-1 vote, mem-

bers agreed to tweak their original proposal which was the subject of the Feb. 24 public hearing but scrapped by the Town Board. Wendell Willard voted no.

The Planning Board is down to five members because both

Brad Armstrong and Rick Treva- than resigned Monday, Aug. 1.

Armstrong said he is manag- ing a health issue that has gotten worse over the past several months and he has also scaled back other

• See PLANNING page 19

Hotwire lights up Highlands

Submitted

As one of the nation's larg- est Fiber-to-the-Home provid- ers, Hotwire Communications is excited about its partnership with the Town of Highlands to bring the power of 100% fiber to residents and businesses in the region.

As an industry leader ex- panding its presence, Hotwire offers a full suite of telecommu- nications services and custom- ized fiber optic solutions – Fision Internet, Fision TV, Fision Voice, and Fision Security and Automa- tion.

Hotwire Communications is deploying a fully strategized emerging market approach, going wherever the service demand is. And right now that's Highlands.

"Hotwire has leased the fiber optic network from the town

• See HOTWIRE page 10

HF&R Open House is Sat., Aug. 6



The Annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House is at the fire station on Oak Street from 11a to 2p this Saturday. There will be free hotdogs and drinks and firetruck rides. Donations accepted.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Bear Shadow launches nationwide poster contest

Submitted

Highlands Festivals Inc., the organization that produces the annual Bear Shadow music festival held in Highlands, NC, is launch- ing a nationwide search for a de-

signer to create the festival lineup poster for the 3rd Annual Bear Shadow music festival, to be held in April 2023.

The winning artist will receive

• See CONTEST page 16

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New Franklin HS may hinge on Nov. election

By Brittney Lofthouse

With the support of the board of education, the Macon County Board of Commissioners unani- mously voted on July 26 to move forward with plans to build a new high school facility on the current campus of Franklin High.

The vote gives County Man- ager Derek Roland the authority to enter into contract negotiations for schematic designs for building a completely new high school.

To renovate the high school, LS3P, the architectural firm hired to develop the design plans, estimated a project cost of \$111,059,378, while the cost for an entirely new facility would be \$118,420,233.

Mitch Brigulio with Daven- port and Associates presented a comprehensive look at the county's financial standing and funding op- tions moving forward with plans to build a new high school facility on the existing campus at Franklin High School.

Based on current estimates with available revenues, Brigulio

said the county has several fund- ing options ranging from a 5-10 cent property tax increase based on funding sources and timelines.

The first brick school build- ing for a high school was con- structed in 1910 on a lot between the present Franklin High School and the gym. The school was de- stroyed in a fire in 1919. A tem- porary wooden frame building was used until 1923 when a new high school was constructed. The Franklin High School building that stands today was built in the 1950s to replace the 1923 build- ing. At 70 years old, the current building has had substantial is- sues over the last decade, with the school board and county commis- sion pouring money annually to keep the school operational.

LS3P evaluated every pro- gram and building at Franklin High School and analyzed the current and future needs of the school. With a comprehensive needs assessment completed,

• See FHS page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Circumnavigating the ins and outs of STRS

I have complied with the Save Highlands attorney's public document request. All my emails concerning STRs have been sent to Derek Allen. There may be a few I have overlooked or missed, but I have made a good faith effort to fully comply with the request. Also, I included a disclosure statement concerning the conversions, or lack thereof, I have had with people in the community that Allen demanded, including individual conversations with members of the planning board and the neighborhood coalition.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

I have nothing to hide. As an elected official I discuss a plethora of issues with citizens. I view these interactions as a part of my duties. Many people ask that I keep their statements on certain concerns out of the public discussion. Nevertheless, they want their mayor to know how they feel about certain issues. I have always honored those requests not in the spirit of concealment, but rather in respecting the privacy of citizens. It is analogous to the concept of the secret ballot. Everyone has the right to cast a ballot in a voting booth.

Highlands Newspaper

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We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

The booth becomes a private space while the voter is marking his or her ballot. They place their vote into the ballot box, and the voter doesn't have to tell anyone how they voted.

So I hope the people who expressed their opinion, regardless of their views, will be given the same considerations in this legal situation. I understand the open records process and know what I have said and written are public records. I also respect that some citizens may feel uncomfortable having their views aired in the public arena. Hopefully, this current situation does not have a lasting chilling effect on public discourse between town elected officials and residents.

I stand by what I have said in the past. While I might evolve and adjust my position about a critical issue as more information comes forth, I try to be thoughtful and clear in my public statements, such as what I write in this column each week.

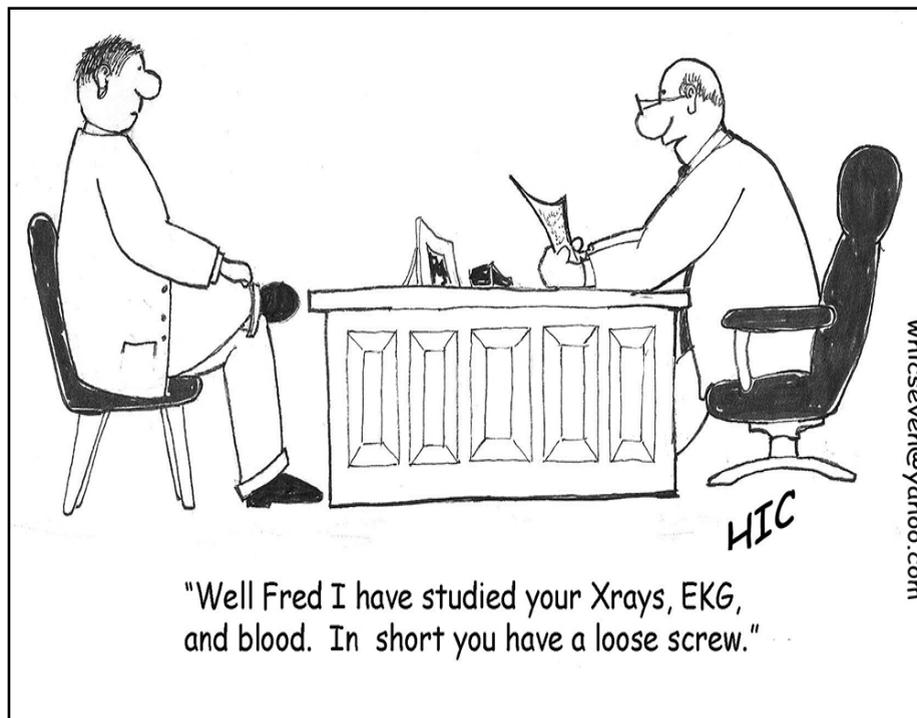
On the STR issue I have consistently taken the position that the town should regulate, register and restrict STRs. I have based my actions on these three concepts. Yes, the courts have ruled that blanket, across the board registration is prohibited by state statute.

On the other hand, there is the legal issue as to whether a municipality can require zoning permits. That issue may be settled in the courts, as possibly other contentious STRs issues such as restricting them to specific zones, etc.

I am all too aware that there has been some very heated rhetoric over STRs. There are many nuances, conflicts and conditions for any proposed plan. The debate intensity is understandable given the board decision could impact many people. Some specific statements that have been spoken in public are unfortunate and disturbing. Among different stakeholder groups there can be extreme differences without labeling or denigrating specific groups of people. We are better than that as a caring community.

We are all exhausted over the STR issue, whether for or against them. I hope we will be able to emerge as a united community once a resolution to this issue occurs.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Well Fred I have studied your Xrays, EKG, and blood. In short you have a loose screw."

whicseven@yahoo.com

• WEATHER •

Thu, 4-Aug	Fri, 5-Aug	Sat, 6-Aug	Sun, 7-Aug
79°F 66°F	76°F 64°F	77°F 64°F	79°F 64°F
Mostly cloudy with a t-storm RealFeel® High: 83° Low: 69	Mostly cloudy with a t- storm RealFeel® High: 83° Low: 67°	Cloudy, a t-storm in the p.m. RealFeel® High: 84° Low: 68°	Mostly cloudy with a t-storm RealFeel® High: 84° Low: 67

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When a second home becomes a permanent residence

As homeowners adapt to post-Covid work, it is still easier than ever to live full-time wherever you want and particularly in vacation properties and locations once viewed as seasonal retreats.

Demand is surging for real estate in second-home markets, as buyers seek year-round residences that are safe with lots of recreational activities. As agents, it's our job to help clients appreciate that there are many other reasons for purchasing real estate on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau besides using it solely for a second home.

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

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

1. Visiting a resort is different from

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

2. Learn what the local community offers to determine if you will be engaged and fulfilled year-round. Fortunately, this area has so many cultural activities for such a small mountain community that one can be active for 12 months a year. From all of the outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, golf, croquet, swimming, tennis, pickle ball, rafting and just plain relaxing, there is a plethora of organizations to meaningfully participate.



Jody Lovell
Highlands and Cashiers
Sotheby's International Realty
828.526.4104

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

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

5. Secondary markets are not as far away from family and friends as one might

think. For buyers young and old, one of the biggest concerns moving to their second home full-time is the fear of separation from family and friends. When you are a drive away, chances are that you will have more quality time visits from your family and friends than ever before. You will be living the dream in a place that most people can only dream about living. The sizzle of being on permanent vacation provides a much sought-after lifestyle.

Many of buyers in this area are seriously considering declaring the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau their permanent home. This will only enrich the fabric of our community and assist in stimulating the local economy 12 months a year. To all of our new homeowners in the area, welcome! We are eager to share this paradise with you!

Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands and Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty celebrating their 22nd year covering the entire Highlands/Cashiers Plateau with 36 experienced brokers leading sales in luxury real estate as the Number One firm on the local MLS. Call them today to help you with buying or selling at 828.526.4104.



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~~3~~ ~~5~~ **8**
STRs ON THIS STREET!!!!

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Short-term Rentals take a toll on all of us. They put stress on our police and fire departments, our Town sanitation, water and electrical service personnel, our hospital, and our infrastructure. They decrease availability and affordability of housing for residents and negatively affect our environment and overall quality of life.

The explosion of STRs in our residential neighborhoods by out-of-state investors has reached the breaking point. That's why so many other towns all across the country have banned them in order to preserve single-family neighborhoods.

It's the right thing to do.

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• LETTERS •

No more Highlands?

Dear Editor,

There is a verse in the Bible:

“Everything has its season.” Perhaps our season in
Highlands is over.

I am 79, travel is difficult, but I love the place.

My favorite is Church in the Wildwood, so unique, no
like the big cold stone edifice at home.

We have visited other places in NC, none of them have
the charm of Highlands.

Where else can you go on Friday night to Kilwins and
listen to live music?

Into my heart an air that kills

From yon far country blows:

What are those blue remembered hills,

What spires, what farms are those?

That is the land of lost content,

I see it shining plain,

The happy highways where I went

And cannot come again.

– *A Shropshire Lad*, XLA. E. Housman (<https://poets.org/poet/e-housman>) - 1859-1936

Bob Heider

20+ year Highlands' STRer

STRs aren't the problem

Dear Editor,

It's not just the STRs that disturb our peace. I have a
slum in front of me with a local Realtor landlord. The po-
lice just simply look the other way. I called the police about
loud music, and the police simply drove by, didn't even stop
to ask them to turn it down.

I, like everyone else, just want peace and quiet, so this
really goes deeper than what it really is....

Karen Reese

Highlands

STRs are better than bad long-term neighbors

Dear Editor,

A local Realtor rents a practically unlivable home to
long-term renters on the street above us in town that is hor-
rifying.

They have junk all over the yard, play loud music, have
aggressive dogs, and do not have an approved trash can (so
trash gets strewn all over our lot) and the town does not
enforce the need for the trash can. I would take short-term
renters where the home looked nice and well maintained
any day of the week!

We would be lucky if this was a short-term rental as it
would have to be 1000% better than what we put up with...

Leslie Dyke

Highlands

Less government or more?

Dear Editor,

I am continuously amazed and baffled by people who
are drawn to vote Republican because they want LESS gov-

• See LETTERS page 8



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...LETTERS continued from page 7

ernment in their lives. In recent years, the Republican government has intruded in peoples' lives more and more.

True, the Democrats want to spend money to offer support for the poor including, health care, housing assistance, food security when such fundamental needs cannot be met. But the Republican platform intrudes control and regulation into a family's life in ways that are extremely significant.

If a woman gets pregnant

and for whatever reason believes she cannot be an adequate parent, the Republican lawmakers assume they should tell her what she must or must not do about that! How is that LESS government intrusion into one's private life?

The Democrat party attempts to make it easier to vote, with mail-in ballots and more availability of polling sites. The Republican party supports limiting access to easy voting and registering to vote. How is that LESS interference in the personal process of selecting

appropriate representation?

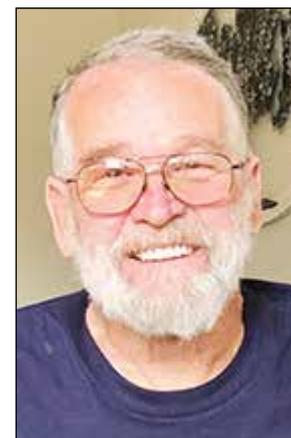
The Republicans support legislation that censors and regulates who one chooses to love and marry, or how one experiences their own personal gender identity. How is that LESS government intrusion into one's private life?

Maybe I am missing something extremely significant, but it seems Republicans argue against government interference in people's lives, yet they seem to advocate for just the opposite!

**Carole Light
Scaly Mountain**

• OBITUARIES •

James Arthur McCall



James Arthur McCall, Jr, 73 of Highlands passed away July 12, 2022. He was born September 25, 1948 in Walhalla, SC to the late James Arthur McCall and Myrtle Louise Gibson. James was a Private in the Army and served in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal,

Army Commendation Medal with V Device for Valor. James enjoyed bass fishing, making jewelry, and listening to rock and roll.

James is survived by two sons; Herbert McCall and James McCall; one daughter, Malena Hamilton; seven grandchildren, Tyler McCall, Kobe McCall, Brendan Hamilton, Kristen Jackson, Marlee Hamilton, Hayley Hamilton, and Aubrey Hamilton; three great grandchildren, Carter Jackson,

Leighton Jackson and William Jackson; a sister, Marie Schulz; a brother, John Elbert McCall; nephews, Willie Heath, James Heath, John McCall, Leroy Smith and John Nix; nieces, Marsha McCall, Sandra Copeland, Isabell Cartwright, Christina Davis

and Jannette Nix,

In addition to his parents James is preceded in death by his wife; Patricia McCall; two sisters, Elenor Nell Heath and Mildred Louise Barnett.

A private service will be held at a later date in Florida.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the McCall family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Evelyn 'Tim' Craine Picklesimer

Evelyn "Tim" Craine Picklesimer, 74, of Highlands, passed away on Friday, July 29, 2022.

Born in Rabun County, GA, she was the daughter of the late Phil and Carrie Isabell Henry Craine. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by eight siblings, Albert "Dick" Craine, Lena Dendy, Lawrence "Chuck" Craine, Marie McCoy, Ethel Ramey, Pete Craine, Richard Craine, and Katherine Craine. Mrs. Picklesimer was a member of the Blue Valley Baptist Church. "Tim" as she was affectionately known loved fishing, hunting, being outdoors, working in her flowers and garden, and reading.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Radford Picklesimer of Highlands; two sons, Archie Picklesimer of Albemarle, NC, and Dwain Picklesimer (Jill) of Franklin, NC; two grandchildren, Corey Picklesimer (Teresa) of Franklin, and Erin Picklesimer

of Franklin; and one great grandson, Hayden Lee Picklesimer of Franklin. She is also survived by one brother, Ernest Craine of Clayton, GA; one sister, Mary McCoy of Walhalla, SC; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was on Wednesday, August 3, at the Highlands Memorial Park. Rev. Oliver Rice and Rev. Davis Hooper will officiate.

Pallbearers were Radford Picklesimer, Dwain Picklesimer, Corey Picklesimer, Austin Ramey, Lee Ramey, JR Dendy, and Dalton Gray.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Online condolences can be left at www.maconfuneralhome.com

Macon Funeral Home is washing the arrangements.



Under North Carolina case law, a negative covenant prohibiting business and commercial uses of property, does not bar short-term residential vacation rentals.

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- Russell v. Donaldson, 222 N.C. App. 702

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1701 Cherokee Mountain Trail Murphy, NC 28906 | \$469,000 | MLS #100356 Taylor Gremler | 828-644-4002



...FHS continued from page 1

LS3P then compared the feasibility of accomplishing the set goals and priorities through renovating existing buildings on the campus vs. building an entirely new facility.

LS3P's cost analysis for a new facility was based on a site concept of building a new three-story building on the location of the current practice football field. The proposal also addresses issues with the Franklin High School Football Stadium by shift-

ing the field to the north and raising the field by five feet. A retention pond would also be installed to address the drainage issues that have caused flooding damage to the football field and adjacent parking lot.

The design places an emphasis on safety. The current Franklin High School campus has 100 entry points around the campus, making securing the facility virtually impossible. The proposed site concept would have one single entry point.

As of right now, the only thing that has been approved by the county is to allow the planning process to move forward. No action has been taken to actually build a new high school in Franklin at this time.

The ultimate future of a new Franklin High School building could potentially be decided during the November Election — as the Macon County Board of Commissioners could potentially get three new board members, who may support the county's current path forward with the high school. Likewise, the Board of Education also stands to potentially get two new board

members as well.

Macon County Commissioner Jim Tate is not running for re-election, leaving his District 1 seat up for grabs between Republican candidate John Shearl and unaffiliated candidate Jerry Moore.

For the county's District 2 seat, both incumbents, Ronnie Beale (Democrat) and Gary Shields (Republican) are running for re-election, but face challengers in Danny Antoine (Republican) and Betty Cloer Wallace (Democrat). Out of the four candidates that will appear on the ballot, only the

• See FHS page 14

...HOTWIRE continued from page 1

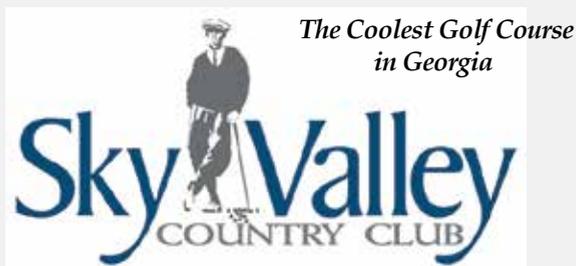
in order to offer their high speed broadband connectivity to residents and businesses," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "While there have

been start up challenges, it is gratifying to see a new business, like Hotwire, providing their services to the Highlands market area."

Via newspaper ads and a mailer sent to residents in the area Hotwire said it is receiving good communication from folks both online through the website and by phone,

"We have more than 50 orders in the system in process to be installed in the next 45-60 days, and a bulk property currently being installed," said Kelsey Hennigan, regional director of marketing.

If you are interested in learning more about Hotwire Communications in Highlands, please visit www.hotwirehighlands.com for more information. Or call the local Hotwire is 833.986.1570



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Ol' Dirty Bathtub

AUGUST 19

The Foreign Landers

AUGUST 26

Silly Ridge Trio

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AUGUST 6

Jesse Barry & The Jam

AUGUST 20

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NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NEW Rec Pool Schedule:

• Public Swim: Mon.-Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. & Sat. 11a-6p; Sunday 1-6p 828-526-1595.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood's hymn sing is at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street in the Old Fellowship Hall instead of the Horsecove location. Come sing your favorite hymns from 7-8 pm. Enter from Main Street. Questions? Call Les Scott at 828-200-9532.

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

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. 3-5

• At The Bascom, Realism vs Abstraction in Landscape with Chris Groves, 10 am – 4 pm. For more information go to thebascom.org.

Fri., Aug. 5

• At Hudson Library in Highlands, Waynesville author Nancy East at 2p to talk about her new book Chasing the Smokies Moon: An audacious 948-mile hike—fueled by love, loss, laughter, and lunacy. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event.

Sat., Aug. 6

• Annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House from 11a to 2p. Hotdogs and firetruck rides.

Sat., Aug. 6

• Nancy Lichtman Art Trunk Show at Acorns 10a to 5p. Nancy's oil paintings feature horses, dogs, and rural landscapes. (828) 787-1877.

Aug. 10-12

• At The Bascom, Painting Flowers in

Oil with Pat Fiorello, 10 am – 4 pm

Wed., Aug. 10

• The Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) has invited the well-known plant conservationist Heather Alley from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia to conduct a free workshop on Wednesday from 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the Community Building, 869 North Fourth Street, Highlands, NC. The lecture: "Exotic Invasive Plants in the Blue Ridge: What We Stand to Lose." Register for this free event at the Highlands Biological Station website: <https://highlandsbiological.org/cnipm/>.

Thurs., Aug. 11

• At The Bascom at 5 pm Exhibitions Reception (Like No Other Place and Members Challenge: Place) | FREE. For more information go to thebascom.org

Aug. 12 - Sept. 4

• The Mountain Theatre Company presents Sentimental Journey, a WWII Music Revue at The Playhouse on Oak Street. Wednesday - Saturday @ 7:30p and Saturday & Sunday @ 2p. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Fri. - Sun., Aug. 12 - 14

• Elizabeth Lock Trunk Show at Acorns 10a to 5p. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold using coins from Greece, Rome, and forgotten empires, as well as luminous pearls from the South Seas. (828) 787-1877.

Fri., Aug. 12

• At The Bascom at 5pm The Ballet of Place, performance by Ballet Memphis (ticketed event presented by The Bascom and Highlands Performing Arts Center) For more information go to thebascom.org.

Sat., Aug. 13

• At The Bascom, at 1pm The Ballet of Place, performance by Ballet Memphis (free to the entire community, with special encouragement for young people to attend, first-come, first-served seating, presented by The Bascom and Highlands Performing Arts Center) | FREE. For more information go to thebascom.org.

Wed., Aug. 17

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association annual meeting at the Community Building at 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 17-19

• At The Bascom, Realism vs Abstraction in Landscape with Chris Groves (Session 2), 10 am – 4 pm. For more information go to thebascom.org.

Fri. - Sun., Aug. 19-21

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Written by Louise Fletcher | Directed by Michael Lanzilotta

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Sunday, August 28 @ 2:30 pm

Thursday–Saturday, September 1, 2, 3 @ 7:30 pm
Sunday, September 4 @ 2:30 pm

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• At The Bascom, Places We Go Clay Workshop with Kim Bernadas, 9 am – 4 pm. For more information go to thebascom.org.

• Michael Hofman Trunk Show at Acorns. Creations using lace and quality porcelain clay have a defined elegance and lightness.

Sat., Aug. 20

• Highlands Emergency Council Fundraiser from 12-3pm in KH Founders Park featuring the Lisa Boone Band. There will be raffles, and a silent auction. Hot Dogs with fixings for \$5 per plate.

• At The Bascom, Philip and Matt Moulthrop, The Moulthrop Family Turns Wood into a Refined Artform presentation, at 4pm. | FREE. For more information go to thebascom.org.

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.-Sun., Aug. 25-28

• The Highlands Cashiers Players present "Nightwatch" 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

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

Sun., Aug. 28

• 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 OldEdwardHospitality.com/chefdinners



**NOTICE of the
ANNUAL
MIRROR LAKE
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION
MEETING
at the
Highlands Community
Building
Wed., August 17
at
5:30PM**

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Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

Listen for the call of the Highlands Bagpipers as they perform from a different location the first Saturday of each month through October.

This Month's Performance:

Highlander Mountain House, 270 Main Street

Saturday, August 6

4:30 – 5 p.m.

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...FHS continued from page 10

top two will be elected to the commission.

Both Beale and Shields have been vocal supporters of building a new high school and continued voicing their support during the July 26 meeting.

With the project's future potentially being impacted by the election, each candidate was asked their stance on a new Franklin High School facility and how it should be funded.

Likewise, Macon County Board of Education member Carol Arnold who has filed for re-election spoke in support of the new high school facility and made the motion on behalf of the school board to move forward with the project. Incumbent Tommy Cabe

who is also running for re-election was not at the July 26 meeting, however he has been a vocal support of the project, previously voting in favor of requesting commissioners to build the new facility.

School board candidates Danny Reitmeier, Stephanie Laseter, Diedre Breeden, and Bill Handley all attended the July 26 meeting and were asked their stance.

Despite multiple emails, social media messages, phone calls, and text messages, neither Danny Antoine or John Shearl responded to questions regarding their stance, however, all other candidates for Macon County Board of Commission-

• See FHS page 15

Exotic Invasive Plants in the Blue Ridge: What we stand to lose

By Ran Shaffner

It has long been appreciated that the southern Blue Ridge is the "Crown Jewel" of biodiversity in North America and that the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau and escarpment area rank among the wettest, wildest, and most diverse ecosystems on the continent. It's no wonder that students and professional and amateur botanists and other scientists have studied this area for hundreds of years, not only admiring the beauty of these mountains but learning about the rarities that prevail here.

With this statement in mind the Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) has invited the well-known plant conservationist Heather Alley from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia to conduct a free workshop on Wednesday, August 10, from 1:30 p.m. until 3p.m. at the Community Building, 869 North Fourth Street, Highlands, NC. The lecture: "Exotic Invasive Plants in the Blue Ridge: What We Stand to Lose." According to Alley, invasive plants are among the top five causes of biodiversity decline during the present era of extinction. The Highlands area is particularly vulnerable as one of the great biodiversity hot-spots of North America. The good news is that there is a lot left to save and what we plant in our landscapes can make a difference.

Her lecture will be followed by optional tours of two gardens planted pri-



marily with native plants as examples of what can be accomplished in beautifying landscapes using native plants. Garden locations and instructions will be announced at the lecture.

When Dr. Gary Krupnick, of the Plant Conservation for the Museum of Natural History was asked, "Are there any invasive plants that have actually improved U.S. ecosystems?" his response was short, but precise: "No, since invasive species are by definition species that threaten the native ecosystem. Anytime a nonnative species is introduced in an ecosystem, there is a risk that the newcomer will replace local systems by attacking or out-competing them. The best approach is to avoid introducing them altogether."

CNIPM is a coalition of seven conservation partners in the Highlands area, including Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Audubon Society, Highlands Plateau Greenway, Highlands Historical Society, Town of Highlands, and the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, a conservation arm of the Laurel Garden Club, and is committed to education and community service and controlling invasive plants on the Plateau.

Register for this free event at the Highlands Biological Station website: <https://highlandsbiological.org/cnipm/>.

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Church Street, Highlands



...FHS continued from page 14

ers and Macon County Board of Education provided their input.

If you were on the board last night — how would you have voted based on the information that was presented?

Macon County Board of Commissioner Responses:

Jerry Moore: “If I was sitting on the Macon County Commission Board on Tuesday night, I would have voted in the affirmative to move forward with securing a contract for services to start the process of building a new Franklin High School. LS3P presented a convincing case for building a new high school, by addressing safety issues to energy efficiency and the overall unsatisfactory state of the current structures that make up Franklin High School.”

Betty Cloer Wallace: “The horse left the barn when the commissioners voted earlier to build on the current parcel, and I would have voted NO for this inadequate project every time it has been presented because it is way too small for a comprehensive

high school. Their nonsensical plan to rebuild there will ensure that we are stuck with a little toy high school for the next century. The site is 20.4 acres, but a comprehensive high school should be at least 50 acres with easy ingress and egress. The current cramped campus will never be adequate for what we need and should build for our children; and the prior decisions of our commissioners should not have taken us down this unfortunate path.”

Board of Education Candidate Responses:

Stephanie Laseter: “The presentations from the architect firm LS3P and financial advisor Davenport were excellent. The motion on the table was to proceed with the recommendation provided by LS3P. This recommendation was based on their comprehensive facility assessment that identified space needs, safety and security issues, traffic flow, proper drainage and costs of renovating existing buildings as-is.

• See FHS page 17



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Choose from 5 different pen styles. Cost: \$40-50 per person and includes laser engraving.

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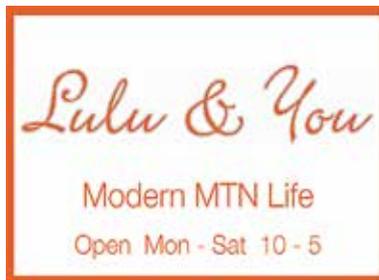
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...CONTEST continued from page 1

a \$1,000 cash prize, four tickets to attend the 2023 Bear Shadow festival weekend and booth space to sell their artwork throughout the event.

Interested candidates should visit <https://bearshadownc.com/poster-contest> for guidelines and information on how to enter the contest. Entries will be accepted beginning Monday, Aug. 15 through Thursday, Sept. 15.

“The festival lineup poster is such an important promotional and commemorative element of live music festivals, and Bear Shadow is no exception. We have been fortunate to partner with amazing designers to create iconic posters incorporating special symbols from the Highlands area and the amazing talent that has been part of our first two events,” said Casey Reid, Festival Director and Founding Partner of Eleven Events. “Now, we are excited to cast a national call for artists who would love to share their talents with us to design the festival lineup poster and have the opportunity to showcase more of their work at our third annual Bear Shadow event. We are looking forward to seeing what we anticipate will be creative pieces of art and awarding a lucky winner with the honor of putting their personal stamp on our 3rd Annual Bear Shadow music festival.”

The winning design will be used to promote the 2023 Bear Shadow festival – a three-day celebration of music, mountains and revelry with live music performances and fine food and beverages held near Highlands every spring.

The music lineup for the 2023 Bear Shadow music festival will be announced in November.

For contest rules, visit <https://bearshadownc.com/poster-contest>.

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...FHS continued from page 15

I would have voted in favor of proceeding with the recommendation by LS3P to begin construction and demolition in the three phases that were outlined.”

Danny Reitmeier: “I would have voted to approve the recommendation and move forward with the next step of the process. This project is long overdue and based on the information that was provided, I feel that would have been the best course of action.”

Bill Handley: “yes.”

Diedre Breeden: “I would have voted in support of moving forward as well, the presentation was very well done. Having teams of people working on the projects who have experience in handling jobs of that specific nature, which definitely seems to be the case here with LS3P Architect Firm, is essential in predicting and proactively addressing future issues and avoiding “value engineering,” which often results in costing more in the long run.”

Do you support the potential for an ad valorem tax increase to fund the proposed project?

Moore: “Increasing the ad valorem tax should be the last option but it will likely need to be increased slightly, even if the voters approve the ¼ percent sales tax increase. The Commission will need to carefully review the final project to ensure we are building the most cost-effective building without sacrificing quality and planning for the future.”

Wallace: “No, not for this inadequate project as presented.”

Board of Education Candidate Responses:

Stephanie Laseter: “I’d prefer we support the sales tax referendum. However, as presented by the financial advisor, Macon County is currently well situated to take on some financial risk in the form of debt based on an outstanding credit rating, the fund balance that we currently hold.”

Danny Reitmeier: “I don’t think we need to increase the ad valorem tax until we have exhausted all other options. I believe we should wait to see if the grant we have applied for is awarded to us and also see the outcome of the proposed sales tax increase on the ballot in November. I want this project to go forward, but I also want to be as fair to our citizens as possible.”

Bill Handley: “yes.”

Diedre Breeden: “I support people taking the time to research what these potential tax increases will look like for them individually, making informed decisions about what they feel would be best for their families, and vocalizing their opinions.

These tax increases have the potential to do a lot to help fund projects that would be beneficial for all of our community, but I also know many get nervous when they hear talk of raising taxes, particularly now.”

One considerable factor in the overall project cost and impact it would have on property taxes in North Carolina will be decided in November when Macon County residents cast their ballots on an education specific sales tax referendum.

Do you support a quarter-cent sales tax increase, which will appear on the November ballot, to help cover the cost of educational needs in Macon County?

Moore: “I am in complete support of the ¼ percent sales tax increase, with all proceeds going to educational needs in Macon County. Macon County enjoys a significant amount of visitor spending each year, allowing this ¼ percent increase to be shared by a large number of individuals and not just full-time residents of Macon County.”

Wallace: “Yes, if it is clearly designated for education and does not displace any other funds.”

Laseter: “Absolutely. We’re technically already pulling this 1/4 cent in many sales, but not using it locally. Let’s vote to keep those pennies here in Macon County! We’re talking about 25 cents for every \$100 purchase. I would happily give that for school improvements and see this as the first option as opposed to the ad valorem increase.”

Reitmeier: “I do support the 1/4 cent sales tax increase that will be on the ballot in November, provided that it is earmarked for educational purposes. That allows our county to generate money from everyone (locals, tourists, vacationers) that makes any purchases in our county. It is a minor increase that can help tremendously.”

Handley: “Yes.”

Breeden: “This approach allows us to benefit from anyone spending money in our county, and doesn’t rely solely on property owners, with a potential benefit of bringing back upwards of 2 million dollars to our county. Bringing more money to our county does impact our schools in more ways than some may realize, because of how our school system is funded. There are state, local and federal funding sources for our schools, with the state supplying the bulk for operating costs. People think state funds the people and the county covers brick and mortar, but it’s not quite that simple. State funding falls short in providing enough to cover the salaries of teachers and staff we have in Macon County, so a

portion of the funds the county allocates to the school system does have to cover those personnel costs in addition to maintenance and improvement of our schools.”

Although Shearl and Antoine did not respond to interview questions for this article, they did provide the following responses during the primary election regarding the quarter cent sales tax referendum:

Do you support the sales tax referendum that will be placed on the ballot in November?

Antoine: “I am not for raising taxes

when, at our current tax rate, we are not properly allocating the taxes currently collected. If the choice were between a sales tax vs. an ad valorem tax, I would choose sales tax because at least the pass-through traffic can help cushion this tax. Ad valorem property tax would only hit our citizens. I will also say, being that we are maintaining approximately \$32 million in savings, I think we should consider the potential use of those funds rather than placing the burden of heavier taxes on the citizens.”

Shearl: “NO!!!”



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Drive actively with God



Curtis Fussell
Co-pastor
First Presbyterian Church

A man was driving along an isolated road one night when his car suddenly stopped running. He was stranded. Fortunately, the lights of another car approached, pulled alongside, and stopped.

After exchanging pleasantries, the other motorist said, "You're fortunate that I have a chain with me to pull to a garage." Promptly, he towed the disabled car several miles to the nearest garage. It was truly a blessing.

The driver of the disabled car tried to give money to the man who had towed his car, but the man refused it.

The driver then said, "Well, I must in some way return your kindness."

The other motorist replied, "If you really want to show your gratitude, buy a chain and always carry it in your car."

In this case, gratitude means being actively prepared for trouble, rather than passively expecting someone to rescue you. This kind of gratitude represents two basic approaches to life: the prepared way, and the unprepared way.

In our relationship with God one can also be either prepared, or unprepared. The difference in this relationship shows up in the manner of our prayers.

One kind of praying expresses an unprepared life. It treats God as a passing motorist. In the journey of life, you merrily go along until trouble comes. Then, stuck on the side of life's road, you pray, "Lord, rescue me! Get me out of this situation. Lord, get me out of this mess." So, God is merely the trouble-shooter.

The other kind of praying expresses a prepared life. In this case God is like a chain if I may put it that way. When troubles come there is not the panic of being unprepared, but God who is there to grasp hold of you and pull you to forward.

Prayer in these cases say, "Lord, I will trust in you and take comfort and assurance. I know that even now you are here with me making a way through this valley. I can wait to worry."

There are two ways to "drive" spiritually through life: in an unprepared way that treats God as an emergency rescuer; or in prepared way that knows the presence of God on good days and difficult days. Trust me; the prepared way, the active way with God brings deep gratitude and peace.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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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

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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

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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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

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

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. 9:30a; Sat. 4p; Sun. 11a

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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.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

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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 July 6. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 6

• At 11:15 a.m., officers responded to a call for service from a person reporting missing property from their vehicle parked on Main Street.

July 19

• At 8:45 a.m., officers responded to a report of a breaking and entering with larceny at a construction site on Holt Circle where more than \$1,400 of tools were taken.

July 26

• At 9:22 a.m., officers responded to a report of larceny from Farmers Market where cigarettes were taken.

• At 9:34 a.m., Parker Davis Spackman, 24, of Powder Springs, GA, was arrested for larceny from a merchant.

July 28

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a report of a breaking and entering and larceny at AnnaWear where a display case was broken into and items valued at \$160 removed.

July 29

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in a parking area on Carolina Way.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 26.

July 26

• At 8:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Forest Trail.

July 27

• At 10:08 a.m., the dept. provided public

assistance on Oak Street.

• At 2:24 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Flat Mountain Road.

July 28

• At 1:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Horse Cove Road.

• At 7:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Half Mile Drive.

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 11:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hickory Drive.

July 29

• At 1:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 2:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 6:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at the Hospital.

July 30

• At 9:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Lower Cliff Road.

• At 5:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on N. Big Bear Pen Road.

• At 7:52 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Department.

July 31

• At 4:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

Note:

The Annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House is at the fire station on Oak Street from 11a to 2p this Saturday, Aug. 6. There will be free hotdogs and drinks and fire truck rides. Donations accepted.

...PLANNING BOARD continued from page 1

volunteer commitments in town.

At the July 25 Planning Board meeting, Trevathan said in light of all the time and effort the board put into the ordinance last time, the Town Board's actions toward the Planning Board's work was offensive.

The mayor thanked Armstrong and Trevathan for their service. "Citizen service is critical to the function of local government, and these two individuals have been outstanding planning board members."

Town Planner Michael Mathis said he won't seek new members until the STR issue is settled.

"I don't want someone to come in the middle of this," he said.

Town Attorney Jay Coward attended the meeting via zoom and answered several questions put forth by members.

According to Coward, whole house rentals in residential districts is not a commercial activity; that amortization is based on billboards and though the amortization

of STRs has never been tested in the courts, the town's new STR attorneys from Poyner and Spruill, who lost the Wilmington case, believe it could stand.

He also said the Wilmington case didn't address amortization.

"There was no green light or red light regarding that," he said.

Chris Wilkes suggested that the town was seeking to establish a precedent in the state for the amortization of STRs and Coward said that was a distinct possibility.

Wilkes said in all the cities he has researched – Charleston, New Orleans and others – STRs work because ordinances are enforced and fines are levied.

"I understand the dangers of a town that does nothing, but enforcement is how it works. I don't know what the town is planning on spending to fight for this amortization precedent versus what it would cost to hire more enforcement personnel. If that's

• See **PLANNING BOARD** page 22

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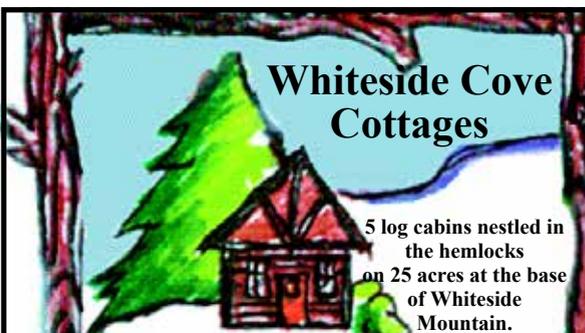
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HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A POLICE OFFICER at the Highlands Police Department. Applicants must have a high school diploma/GED or greater, must have completed basic law enforcement training and possess a BLET

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certificate, a NC driver's license, and have completed requirements established by the NC Justice Training and Standards Commission for certified law enforcement officers. Salary \$37,356.80 - \$56,076.80 based on experience. Must be able to work a rotating shift, this includes days, nights and weekends. Please submit a Town of Highlands application to the HR Director, Emilie Nickerson, at Town Hall or email emilie.nickerson@highlandscnc.org. Open Until filled. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (7/28)

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS CIVIC CENTER

ATTENDANT JOB AD - The Town of Highlands has an opening for Civic Center Attendant through the Rec Park. This is a set schedule of Monday - Friday 1:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. This employee is responsible for closing the Civic Center and providing services to the public such as; customer service, receiving monies, scheduling meeting rooms for civic events, community club meetings or other gatherings. Work includes creating rental contracts, well as taking the money for the rentals. The employee is also responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the facility and grounds and that it is free of safety hazards. This is a full time job with benefits including health insurance, dental and state retirement. The pay range starts at \$15.00/hr. Applications are available at Town Hall or on-line at <http://www.highlandscnc.org>. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (7/28)

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 (Bloomerang). 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 kpeter@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@thedry-sink.com. (st. 7/21)

ESTABLISHED CUSTOM HOMEBUILDER IN HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS AREA looking for project superintendent to manage multiple sites and subcontractors. Please send resume to: JW Underwood Construction LLC, P.O. Box 147, Highlands NC 29741. Or email: john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com (st. 6/30)

SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Business Officer, Exceptional Children Teacher, School Counselor Please visit www.summitschool.org/careers or call 828-743-5755 for more information or to apply. (st. 6/30)

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

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...PLANNING BOARD continued from 19

the case, it's not smart in the long run because there is still no plan.”

Nick McCall said amortizing billboard use was a lot different than amortizing a housing use because the initial investment is not comparable – that of a billboard investment is pennies compared to a house -- so the suggested timeframe of two years, to recoup the investment doesn't make sense.

Vice Chair Helene Siegel was concerned about leveling the playing field – acknowledging vested property rights and allowing others to get into the game -- but said no one will like everything and will likely feel penalized in some way.

She initially suggested tweaking their original recommendation to allow STRs in R1 and R2 with a minimum stay of 14 days.

That motion died 3-2. Whatley, Wilkes and McCall voted against the motion.

Chairman Darren Whatley said he can't reconcile the fact that people made investments when told they could do something and suddenly, they can't.

“We have to consider all the people and not just what our personal opinion is,” he said. “We have to compromise instead of all or nothing.”

In the end, the board agreed 4-1 to tweak its original ordinance and allow STRs in R1 and R2 for a minimum of seven consecutive days with the same renter and to give current STR owners one year to settle current contracts which may be less than seven days.

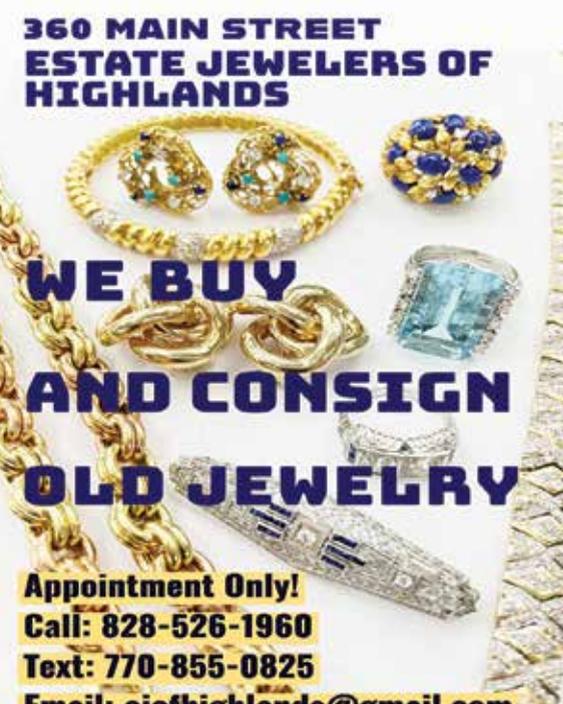
A majority of four was required to pass a motion due to the now 5-member board.

Willard reminded the board that the Town Board doesn't have to accept their recommendation.

The board will meet again Tuesday, Aug. 9 to go over their amended version at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki

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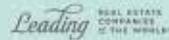


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