

Highlands Newspaper

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Volume 19, Number 1

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Thurs., Jan. 6, 2022

2021 - What a year it was!

For a small town on top of a mountain, Highlands sure had its share of issues and events this past year.

COVID became the label of 2020 and with its variants, tests and vaccines, it continued

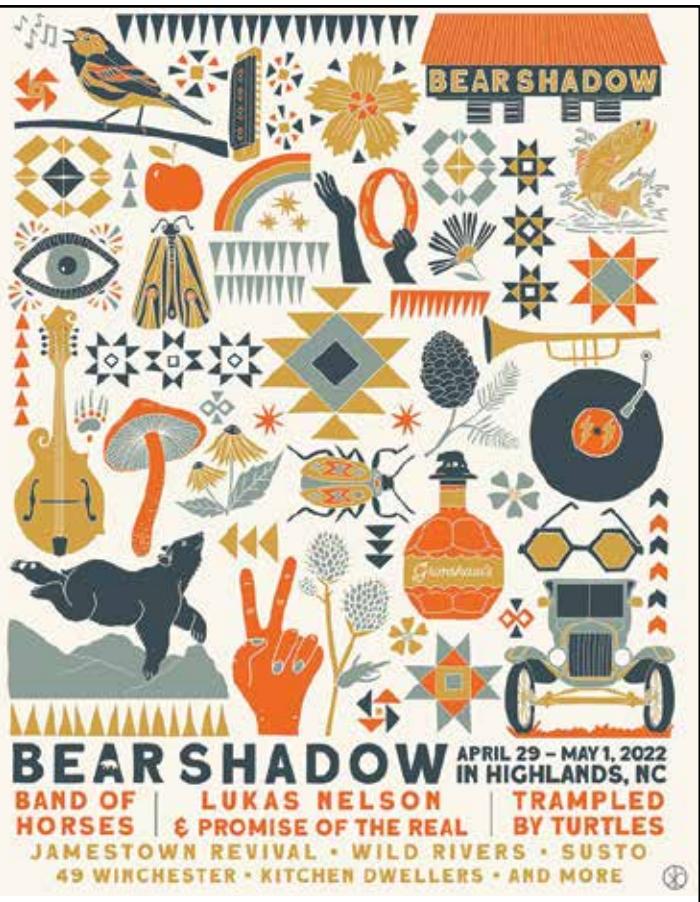
to call the shots during 2021 and is still here this new year of 2022.

November's Highlands municipal election was probably the most contentious in decades shattering voter turnout records. While all the while, the running

of the town marched on with major projects completed including broadband, paving, road construction, and infrastructure improvements, to name a few.

Real estate transactions out-

• See 2021 page 4



The 2nd Bear Shadow Festival is set for April 29-May 1 at Winfield Farms.

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Tickets for April's Bear Shadow Festival go on sale Thurs., Jan. 6.

Highlands Festivals, Inc. has announced a star-studded lineup for the 2nd annual Bear Shadow spring music festival, to be held Friday – Sunday, April 29 – May 1 at Winfield Farms near Highlands.

Headliners for the weekend-long event include Grammy-nominated Band of Horses, Grammy-award winning Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real and Billboard chart-topper Trampled by Turtles.

Tickets go on sale Thursday, Jan. 6.

Three-day tickets for Bear Shadow Base Camp (main stage) will be available at <https://bearshadownc.com/> beginning Jan. 6

• See BEAR SHADOW page 9



Kids shopped with "cops" at Walmart.

'Shopping with a Cop' brought smiles all around

Officers with the Highlands Police Department, Highlands School Interact Club, and the Highlands Fire Department had the opportunity to shop with excited Highlands School kids as part of the annual Shop with a

• See SHOP page 9

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

•MAYOR ON DUTY•

Dog Mountain wasn't annexed to prohibit STRs

I read a recent "Investing" column in Highlands Newspaper where the writer claimed that the residents of Dog Mountain Subdivision sought annexation for the purpose of stopping STRs in their neighborhood.

That annexation occurred back in 2011/12. I wasn't the mayor then but I am not aware of any legal action filed by Dog Mountain residents against the town then or now.

That claim motivated me to research the history of short-term rentals.

Some folks in town have contended Highlands has a long history of STRs. I think there are several categories of rentals that tend to get muddled together. Yes, Highlands has had a long tradition of vacation rentals, but the new trend driven by growth of VBRO and Airbnb was not the original driving force for vacation rentals in Highlands.

Highlands has been both a tourist and a retreat community. There are distinctions between the two. People would come to Highlands during the spring, summer and



**Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor**

stay to fall to get away from regions with extreme heat, mosquitos and other distractions. These folks loved the mountains, the climate and simple lifestyle.

The Highlands Inn had a large group of folks who stayed there the entire summer. Other folks would rent a home for a season, or for several months, weeks at a time, or for a week. With this retreat model, Highlands did, and still enjoys the seasonal residents that come, live and become a vital part of the town for part of the year.

Highlands has always had a transient tourist industry where folks would visit our hotels like Lees Hotel, Old Edwards Inn, the Highlands Lodge, Mitchells Motel and the Highlands Inn. In the past, we had some bed and breakfast tourist homes, but they are no longer in operation.

I do not accept the contention that the VBRO and Airbnb STR model has always been a part of our tourist industry. Looking at the history of how these companies came into being supports my assertion.

VRBO was originally founded in 1995 in Breckenridge, CO for renting ski condos. The original company was purchased by Homeaway in 2006. Homeaway was acquired by Expedia in 2015 and then rebranded as VRBO in 2019. That year a national expansion and media blitz was launched to include more remote communities beyond city areas.

With the initial concept of renting rooms in existing homes, Airbnb was founded in San Francisco in 2008 to respond to a workforce housing shortage. In 2013 Airbnb expanded their operations by creating a media document called Neighborhoods which showcased properties in 23 major cities.

In 2018, "Airbnb Plus" was launched which promoted and vetted, well designed, luxury homes to rent for a short period. This effort was followed by the creation of "Beyond" which featured luxury vacation rentals.

At about this same time, late in 2018, the city of Asheville passed an ordinance banning short term rentals. I followed this issue, and suspected VRBO and Airbnb

• See MAYOR page 7

•HIC's VIEW•



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Fritz, your job performance is very poor, You aren't scaring enough drivers,

•WEATHER•

Thu, 6-Jan	Fri, 7-Jan	Sat, 8-Jan	Sun, 9-Jan
41°F 19°F	37°F 17°F	42°F 27°F	45°F 26°F
Some rain and a thunderstorm RealFeel® High: 39° Low: 23°	Partly sunny and chilly RealFeel® High: 36° Low: 11°	Plenty of sunshine RealFeel® High: 43° Low: 16°	A p.m. t-storm possible RealFeel® High: 46° Low: 28°

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The Godfather – Sopressa salami, shaved ham, pepperoni, red onion, smoked provolone, tomato, shredded lettuce, banana peppers, onions with Italian dressing on baguette. **\$13**

The Muff – Turkey, Sopressa salami, ham, cream cheese olive spread, smoked provolone cheese and shredded lettuce on sub roll. **\$13**

The Porker – Shaved ham, Jarlsberg cheese, DJs pickles with homemade honey mustard on ciabatta. **\$12**

The Hudson – Turkey, Provolone cheese (Have it your way--cucumber, lettuce, onion, banana peppers, black olives, DJs pickles). **\$13**

Salads

The Garden of Eatin' – Spring mix, tomato, cucumber, pepperoncini, onion, red pepper, fresh garden herbs, DJs basil balsamic beets, Fermenti pickled carrots, DJs pickles, House Ranch or Italian. **\$14 (Add meat additional \$3)**

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...2021 continued from page 1

paced those in 2020 which topped the charts compared to previous years!

As the headlines of 2021 attest, for a small town on top of a mountain, a lot happened in 2021!

January

- COVID break-out at ELC explained; Vaccine rollout outlined.

- COVID on the rise; schools adapting .

- 84 of NC's 100 counties are in the red: 'critical community spread;' Gov. extends executive order.

- Fate of proposed Cashiers Hillside project still unclear.

- HCLT protects green corridor on Highway 28 entering Highlands -- Twenty-eight acres of greenspace that borders the entrance to Highlands from Cashiers have been permanently conserved by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT). The tract lies along the south side of Highway 64 extending from Sherwood Forest Road nearly to Poplar Road, a distance of a mile. This property is not only beautifully forested but it contains some cliff face that provides habitat for a rare salamander species.

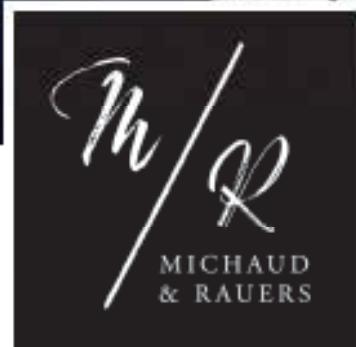
- Phase 2 vaccine begins in Highlands MC Health announced five more COVID deaths since Dec. 31 – now at 17.



- Landslide closes Chowan Road -- Chowan Road has been closed since Christmas Eve after a landslide occurred when a tree uprooted by saturated ground and high winds spilled boulders and knocked down power lines as it careened onto US 64.



- Fire Dept. construction set to begin -- It's taken a few years to orchestrate but work will begin on the new Fire & Rescue Dept. to be located on the old deVille property on US 64 west in the next couple of weeks; it's expected to be completed in about 14 months – in June 2022.



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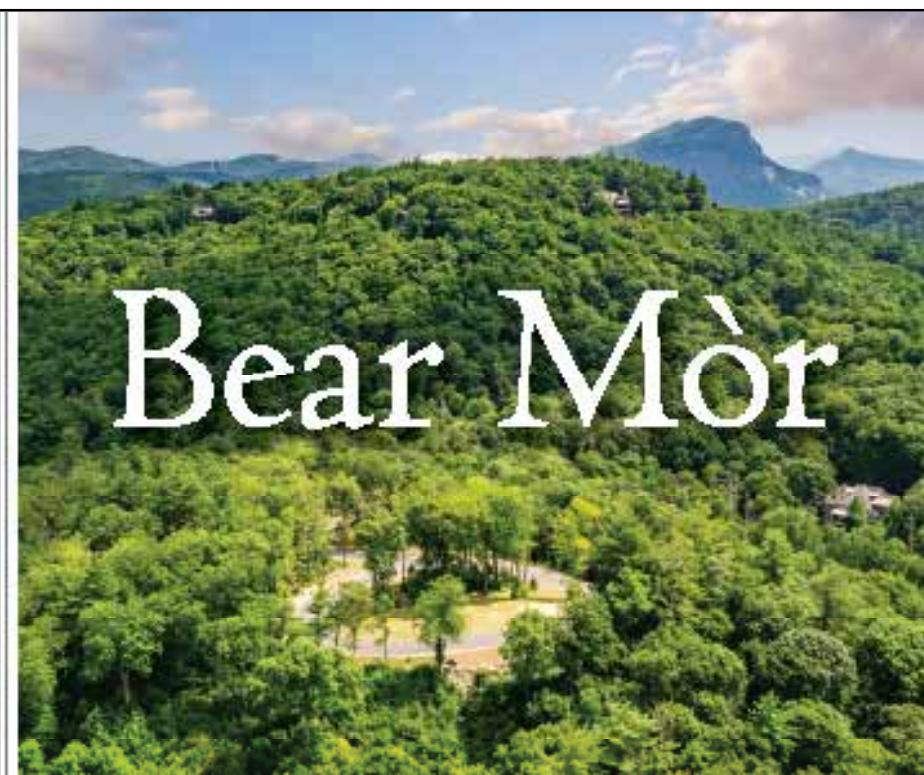
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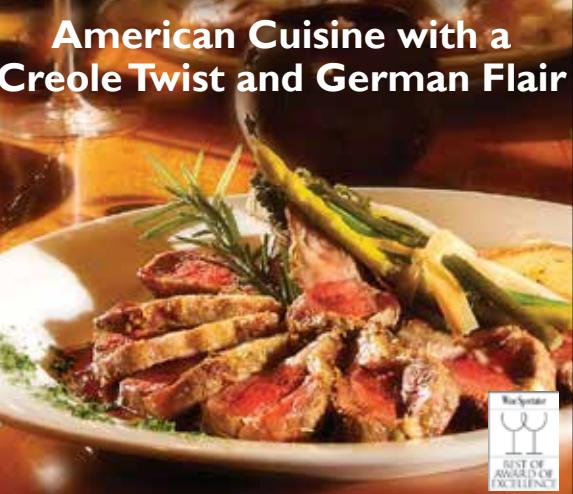
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...MAYOR continued from 2

would at some point impact Highlands. That impact was fast, especially during the pandemic in 2020. Now the town is reviewing this issue that has impacted almost all communities across the nation.

But let me get back to the notion that the Dog Mountain annexation was in order to stop STRs. Now that is a stretch of the imagination. The vast majority of people had no idea about what STRs, Airbnb and VRBO even meant back in 2011/12. However, Highlanders did know about vacation rentals that were administered primarily by local real estate companies and property managers, but these new national companies were nonexistent, or were at best limited start up endeavors.

One concern I have is that corporations and investments companies will become even more involved in this trend. That drives my position that Highlands needs thoroughly examine the short-term rental industry within our town limits. While we have had transient visitors and tourist for decades, I do not want to see this national, corporate

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...2021 continued from page 7

- MC Schools might go virtual -- As of Monday night's BOE meeting, there were 22 staff members and 158 students out due to quarantine or positive COVID19 test results. Highlands Schools continues to have a lower number of cases than other schools, with the last new positive case at Highlands School reported on January 26

- Confidentiality of Town Board Closed Session was compromised – information allegedly obtained during the Closed Session of the December Town Board meeting, which was later released and misrepresented to an “outside” interested party, was the subject of the January Town Board Closed Session meeting.

February

- Gov. extends stay-at-home order until Feb. 28; urges in-person instruction -- COVID death toll in Macon County now at 19 Vaccine shortage halts first-dose injection



- Highlands Fire & Rescue Fireman of the Year - Though the annual Awards Banquet has been postponed due to COVID restrictions, the annual Fireman of the Year was still selected by department volunteers. The department selected Roger Lee Wilson, who has been on the force for 32 years and who is consistently commended for perfect attendance at the weekly Tuesday night meetings. Pictured with him from left are Chief Ryan Gearhart and Assistant Chief Robbie Forrester.

- Despite COVID, tax revenues soar across the state Macon County reports 16 percent increase

- MC EMS assumes COVID19 testing duties Macon County death toll now at 26 - After complaints from the community about testing and vaccine capacity in Macon County, the Macon County Board of Commissioners directed County Manager Derek Roland to look within existing staff to address staffing shortages at the health department

- ‘Base Camp’ portion of Bear Shadow Music Festival to be relocated -- The residents of Horse Cove spoke, and although not happy about it, Highlands Festivals, and Eleven Events listened.

- Comp Plan heading into phase 3 -- Late summer of 2020 the town recruited the help of Stewart, Inc. to develop a Comprehensive Plan which the state has required of all municipalities that have zoning by 2022

- MCSO makes two child porn arrests Highlands PD assisted in investigation & arrest – The Highlands Police Department assisted the Macon County Sheriff’s Office last week in making two arrests stemming from months-long investigations launched in the Fall of 2020 involving child pornography allegations in Macon County.

- Sanctions for commissioners’ ‘code of ethics’ violations discussed; adopted - At the January Town Board meeting, Commissioner Marc Hehn, after alluding to a verbal run-in with another commissioner, asked for information about the town’s Code of Ethics.

- NC DOT outlines biz district paving plan -- Work to begin mid-March

March

- Bear Shadow moves to Winfield Farm in Scaly

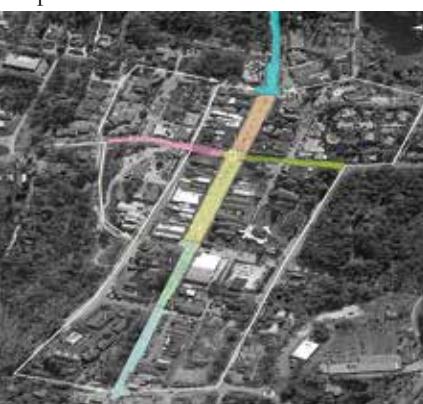
- Hillside developer withdraws application for SUP; starts over

- Planning Board OK’s Bryson subdivision

- CNA school to help full positions in Mission Health

- Repairs to US 64 at Bridal Veil Falls to begin 3/29 Traffic detouring to Buck Creek Road

- Macon County School System to get \$4.67 million for COVID relief -- The NC Association of Educators has ideas on how to spend it.



- NC DOT Paving Project begins on Main St -- NC DOT’s paving project started Monday night with crews milling a small

portion of Main at 1st Street until rain closed them down. Tuesday was rained out but it stopped temporarily early Wednesday morning so crews returned to that area to finish the milling. The plan was to mill at night and return the next day to pave, but rain has altered plans. After the 1st to 2nd block is completed, crews will move down block by block over the coming days, weather permitting, with milling at night and paving during the day.



- ‘Radar’ Houston retires from town after 35 years – Houston was presented a plaque of appreciation from Mayor Pat Taylor and Public Service Director Lamar Nix at the first in-person Town Board meeting of 2021 on March 18.

- Town Board amends its ‘Code of Ethics’ – At the March 18 Town Board meeting, commissioners amended the town’s Code of Ethics to include a sixth element regarding disclosing closed session information to the public under the threat of censure. As outlined, the purpose of a code of ethics is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for board members and to provide guidance in determining what conduct is appropriate in particular cases. It should not, substitute for the law or for a board member’s best judgment.

- Do you know this man? – Highlands Police Department is asking for the community’s help in identifying the suspect in a case of vandalism and theft from the Car Spa car wash in Highlands.

April

- Balancing the good and bad of STRs – Nationwide the vacation rental industry has been under attack and Highlands is no different. Citizens claim the industry has transformed their quiet neighborhoods into noisy vacation districts with more vehicular traffic, excessive noise and even trash being left out on the street

- NC may join others and expand Medicaid – With millions in federal funding now available for states who expanded Medicaid under the COVID19 relief bill,

the 12 states, including North Carolina, that have not already done so have began to revisit discussions.



- Repairs at Bridal Veil and the paving of business district have finished up early – For a little over a week, motorists travelling US 64 west were greeted with traffic lights and one lane for travel but with work finishing up early, US 64 west is open and it’s business as usual.



- Living for 100 years is no small feat -- Mildred Zachary Wilson, joined here with her sisters Lillian Waller and Lucille Potts has seen some changes in her 100 years. Last week she celebrated her 100th birthday twice – once on Monday and again on Thursday with luncheon celebrations that included a host of extended family members and friends. Daughter of Lyman and Dora Zachary, Mildred was born on April 5, 1921, and upon graduation from Highlands School married to Curt A. Wilson. Together they created Wilson Electric, now Wilson Gas Service of Highlands and Cashiers

- Town to budget \$3.5 million for FY ’21-’22 capital improvements

- Jawbreaker kingpin Steele is sentenced – District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch said a Franklin man will spend 70 to 96 months in prison for his role in a two-state distribution of large quantities of illegal drug

- New doctors now hired at Blue Ridge Health – After more than eight months of searching for “just the right fit,” The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) and Blue Ridge Health are

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT, •

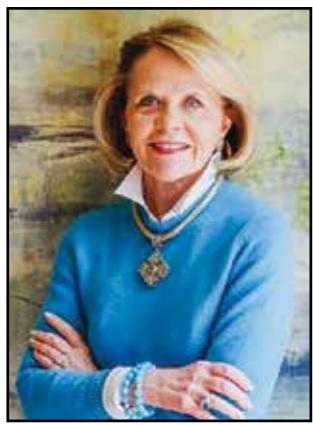
Local Real Estate Watershed Continues

The local real estate buying boom that started as a result of the pandemic continued in 2021. This frenzied phenomenon was caused by a combination of factors:

1. Shifting consumer values due to COVID;
2. Historic wealth growth;
3. The redefinition of a home as no longer a place just to rest after long days elsewhere.

The desire to distribute wealth and to invest in the paramount goal of protecting families in a sanctuary where one can work, play and enjoy continues to contribute to the ongoing demand for mountain retreats in this area. The question as to whether 2022 will build on this momentum or slow down this process is occupying many prognosticators' thoughts while they peer at their crystal ball. After reading many articles, here are my thoughts:

1. Declining inventories combined with a lack of new product will continue to push prices up for desirable properties over the next few years;
2. Turnkey properties will continue to spark the highest interest due to constraints in the construction industry due to labor shortages and supply chain issues;
3. The migration from big cities to high-quality small town hidden gems will continue and will spotlight this area;
4. Affluent buyers will choose to own two primary residences with different lifestyle options;
5. The feeder market for this area has expanded widely beyond the traditional



Jody Lovell
Highlands Sotheby's
International Realty

Southeast region.

Per the Highlands/Cashiers Multiple Listing Service, 2021 sales were down 6.43% in volume and slightly up 5.73% in the number of transactions. Residential sales were up 18% in the number of transactions and only down 1% in volume over the same time period as last year. The average home price rose 18% in 2021 to \$992,417, and the median home price rose 17% to \$695,000.

Thus, my humble prediction is that demand will remain high and inventory low for the foreseeable future (five years or longer) here on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau. We are forever grateful to our clients and friends for Highlands Sotheby's International Realty's best year ever in twenty-two years on the Plateau! We hope that 2022 brings you joy and peace.

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, the Number One Producing Firm on the entire MLS in 2021 closing in on 300 million dollars in sales. Jody was the Number One Broker again on the MLS with \$139,877,000 in sales-almost double the next producing broker. When choosing a real estate firm or agent, ask to see the rankings which tell you who is implementing the most effective tools and resources for their clients. Call us today so that we can show you how we can release the power of the Highlands Sotheby's International Realty brand for you! 828.526.4104.

...SHOP continued from page 1

Cop program.

During the weeks before Christmas, officers, first-responders and high school students met 30 Highlands kids at Walmart to shop for toys and gifts for their friends and families.

Kids are nominated by school faculty, members of the public, public safety personnel, and law enforcement officers (who have dealt with the family during an incident). Each child gets \$100 to spend on

toys, bicycles, food, snacks, sporting equipment, and other gifts as they wish.

Each year, officers get a chance to meet and learn about these kids and their families. One child was excited to get fishing gear to go fishing with friends; another child wanted to spend the whole gift card on a gift for their father. Other kids purchased bicycles, dolls, books, and movies.

"Sometimes, law enforcement officers

• See SHOP page 19

...BEAR SHADOW continued from page 1

at 10 a.m.

General Admission tickets will be available for \$300 for a three-day pass, and VIP tickets will be available for \$750 for a three-day pass.

A limited number of Platinum VIP tickets will also be available for groups of six.

Single-day tickets will be released at a later date.

Base Camp shows are scheduled for

Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 from 5 – 10:30 p.m. and on Sunday, May 1 from 12 noon – 5:30 p.m.

"On the heels of a successful gathering at Highlands Food & Wine last month, we are excited to look ahead to the spring and bring Bear Shadow back to Highlands and the surrounding communities for another weekend of music and revelry," said Casey Reid, partner of Eleven Events and

• See BEAR SHADOW page 11



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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

Annual Financial Checkup

Consider these financial planning points to help keep your financial plan on track



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

Every year at this time, it's a good idea to perform a "financial physical" to help ensure you start the year off right. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Review Your Retirement Saving Goals

It can be difficult to predict what you'll need in retirement, especially if you're early in your working career. But generally, plan to replace at least 75% of pre-retirement income.

Even if your retirement is decades away, you or a financial planner, should use a retirement calculator at least once a year to estimate whether you're on track to reach your goals. An even better way is to use a Monte Carlo calculator to help determine if you're on track.

Your retirement plan sponsor will likely have retirement calculators and other planning tools on their website. You can also check out the interactive retirement calculator at aceyourretirement.org, which includes a digital "retirement coach" that can help walk you through some personalized retirement plan action steps that may help you achieve your retirement goals.

Increase Your Retirement Plan Contribution

While the ultimate goal is to max out your retirement account contributions, don't stress if you aren't there yet. Focus first on making sure you contribute enough to receive your full employer match if your plan offers one — otherwise, you're missing out on free money. Then, aim to increase your contribution by at least 1%-2% each year, working up to saving 10%-15% of your pretax income each year.

Finally, make sure to review current retirement plan contribution limits (\$19,500 in 2021, plus an additional \$6,500 catch-up contribution if you're age 50 or older). While you might not have been able to contribute the maximum amount in the past, you may have more to save now.

When you first opened your retirement plan at work, you may have skipped this step. Or you may want to make adjustments if your family status has changed.

Make sure your designated beneficiaries align with your will if you have one. This is one of the biggest mistakes planners see, beneficiaries that don't line up with a client's Last Will and Testament. In the case of the death of the account holder, the beneficiary choices will be honored regardless of what the Will says.

Also, please note that when it comes to employer-sponsored retirement plans, the law requires written consent from your spouse if you decide to name anyone besides them as the beneficiary.

Begin to prepare for your 2022 tax filing

Begin by gathering what you'll need for your tax preparer. Here are a few:

- Pay stubs
- Mortgage payment receipts
- Receipts for items you plan to as an itemized deduction
- Mileage logs for vehicles used for business
- 1099-G forms for state and local taxes
- 1099 forms for dividend or other income including gains from stock sales

Hopefully this will provide a basic track for you to run on. In the meantime, please have a safe and prosperous 2022!

The opinions expressed in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest you discuss your specific situation with a qualified tax advisor. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Crossover Point Advisors, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial.

Review or Name Your Beneficiaries

...BEAR SHADOW continued from page 9

Festival Director. "Live events are back in full swing; Our stellar lineup for Bear Shadow gives music lovers a jam-packed festival of top talent all in one weekend under the canopy of the Blue Ridge Mountains."

Bear Shadow, produced by Highlands Festivals, Inc. and Eleven Events, is a music festival named in honor of the bear-like shadow that appears behind the region's Whiteside Mountain in the fall and spring. The festival features a variety of live musical acts for nearly any musical taste, from bluegrass and indie rock to country rock and soul.

Bear Shadow 2022 Lineup

Friday, April 29

Susto: Hailing from Charleston, SC, indie rock band SUSTO recently released its fourth studio album, Time in the Sun. Although the name SUSTO roughly translates to mean an intense fear of the soul, the band's music is layered with all the complexities of the human experience, including fear, pain, nostalgia and hope.

Band of Horses: Grammy-nominated rock group Band of Horses will headline the Friday night lineup at Bear Shadow. With a pure sound and deep lyricism, the band is set to release its sixth studio album, Things Are Great, in January 2022. Things Are Great introduces two new band members and is described as "a return to ... the raw ethos that lies at the heart of Band of Horses."

Saturday, April 30

49 Winchester: From the heart of Appalachia, 49 Winchester unapologetically marries alternative rock and roll and soul rooted in mountain music. With honest and introspective lyricism, 49 Winchester's "gruff and gritty" Southern fried rock promises to deliver a soulful electric live show.

Wild Rivers: From Toronto, Ontario, Wild Rivers is a folk band with a soft-rock sound reminiscent of Fleetwood Mac, Neil Young and warm evenings around a campfire. With pop, indie, rock and folk intricately woven into the fabric of each song, the threesome offer an exceptional live experience. The band have released two EPs and one studio album, with a second album set for release in February 2022.

Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real: Headlining the Saturday show at Bear Shadow, Grammy Award Winning Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real are a rock group with a classic country rock and bluegrass sound. The son of Willie Nelson, Lukas Nelson and his band have released seven studio albums and have been the regular backing band to legend Neil Young since 2015.

Sunday, May 1

Opener: Consisting of musicians from vastly different musical backgrounds, including traditional roots, classical and jazz, metal, electronica and punk, Kitchen Dwellers' eclectic sound blends classic sounds with new-age flair while paying homage to everything in-between. Though the wide array of musical influences may imply that their name hails from the saying "everything but the kitchen sink," the band got their start from a tradition of hosting jam sessions in the kitchen.

Opener: American folk duo *Jamestown Revival* was founded by childhood friends Zach Chance and Jonathan Clay. Their folksy Americana sound and lyrics that tell stories from their life experiences have landed features about the duo in Rolling Stone and The Wallstreet Journal, and appearances at music festivals across the country.

Headliner: *Trampled By Turtles* is a renowned bluegrass and folk-rock band from Duluth, Minnesota. Of their nine studio albums, four have topped the Billboard charts at number one, including their fifth release, Palomino, which maintained a Top 10 position on the Billboard Bluegrass charts for a solid 52 weeks. Trampled by Turtles will headline Sunday's festivities at Bear Shadow.

Winfield Farm is located about 7 miles from Main Street in Highlands, in Scaly Mountain,

and organizers plan to provide continuous, complimentary shuttles from the Town of Highlands.

In addition to the three-day lineup of musical headliners, exclusive excursion activities and additional musical performances will be added to the weekend activities.

All events are rain or shine. However, in the event of severe inclement weather, event organizers reserve the right to cancel individual performances or events in order to maintain optimal safety for all attendees, staff, talent, and vendors.

Last year, Highlands Festivals Inc. gave over \$10,000 to Highlands Cashiers Land Trust from Bear Shadow proceeds. In 2022, the Highlands Biological Foundation will be the recipient.

- Highlands Festivals, Inc. is a non-profit organization that owns the annual Highlands Food & Wine and Bear Shadow festivals in Highlands. The organization is dedicated to promoting Highlands, as a world-class culinary, retail, shopping and outdoor lifestyle destination.

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Laurel Garden Club Offers Grants for 2022

Applications Now Being Accepted • deadline for grant applications is January 31.

The Laurel Garden Club of Highlands awarded grants to five non-profits in 2021. They are now accepting applications for 2022 grants. The 2021 grants were awarded to The Bascom, Highlands Biological Foundation, the Peggy Crosby Center, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, and The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center.

The 2021 grants amounted to \$10,200, making a grand total of \$198,512 that Laurel Garden Club has given back to the community since 2002. The funds are raised by selling the cookbook, Celebrate Highlands (out of print) and moneys from the Kitchen Tours.



The purpose of the grants is to help provide community beautification, protection, and conservation of Highlands' natural resources and scenic mountain landscapes. The club is an educational and non-profit organization. Proceeds from fundraising efforts benefit projects that comply with the club's stated purpose.

For more information, please visit the Laurel Garden Club website at: <http://www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com/guideline-for-grants.html>

Applications are available at: <http://www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com/grant-application.html>

Hummingbird LOUNGE

Now open for
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11:30 am - 9 pm



View Menu at
OldEdwardsInn.com/dine

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ice Rink Schedule

- Thursdays 1-8pm, Fridays and Saturdays 1-10pm and Sundays 1-5pm,.Cost is \$5 per skater.

Rec Pool Schedule:

- Adult Swim: M-F 6:30a-1:30p AND Tues & Wed 3:30-7p. Call ahead for Public Swim Weekend schedule due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

American Legion

- No meeting in December, Next meeting Monday, January 3, 2022. 9 AM Highlands United Methodist Church. All veterans invited

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.maconcliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconcliteracy.org

Second Mondays

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

Mon-Fri

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

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 that engages every muscle in the body.

- New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45 starting Monday, January 3rd. for more info call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon. & Thurs.

- Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 pm \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call 828.349.2081.

Mon.,Wed.,Thurs

- Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 am-1 pm.

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 with Tina Rogers 8-9 am.

- Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meetings are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St. on Mon. at 5:30 pm and on Wed. & Fri. at noon,

And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Tues. & Thurs.

- New Zumba class from 4:30-5:15p.
- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30pm.. A combination class with many different types of exercise.

Tuesdays

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

First Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

- Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 am to 5pm at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Location subject to change, please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19> or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

- AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope to solve their common problems. An In-Person meeting is held each Thurs, noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member call 828-342-6866.

2nd Thurs. thru - May

- Story Telling & Listening at Shakespeare & Co. in Village Square from 2-4 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 7

- Due to increasing demand for testing, Optum has agreed to offer Covid-19 testing offer additional testing at the Highlands Community Building.

Fri. Jan. 14

- Due to increasing demand for testing, Optum has agreed to offer Covid-19 testing offer additional testing at the Highlands Community Building.

Mon., Jan.17 - Wed., Jan. 19

- Emergency Council 2nd Fuel Sign Up from 10am - 2pm at Highlands Emergency Council 71 Poplar St Highlands, NC. Highlands Emergency Council 2nd Fuel Sign Up. Must be a Highlands Resident and Must Bring Proof Of Income.

HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition (HNC) is comprised of individual homeowners and homeowners associations working together to advocate for a future of the Town of Highlands that preserves its residential neighborhoods, maintains its shared sense of community, and protects its natural resources.

HNC supports the current Town zoning ordinances (UDO) that prohibit short-term rentals in R-1 and R-3, and only permits "Tourist Homes" in R-2 with a special permit.

HNC believes these ordinances are legally enforceable and will withstand legal challenge, and HNC will support the Town in enforcing and defending these ordinances.

HNC supports changes to the current UDO that clarify the Town's historic and longstanding prohibition of short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods.

HNC believes the recent election and the responses to the Community Plan survey reflect the overwhelming desire of Highlands voters and homeowners to retain neighborhoods composed of residents, not short-term renters.



JOIN US www.highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com

This is the true effort to Save Highlands!

...2021 continued from page 8

extremely pleased to welcome two new physicians to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau – Ann Davis, MD and Kristy Fincher, DO.



- Highlands School announces its Val & Sal – From left: Highlands School 2021 Salutatorian Madelyn Drummonds and Valedictorian Jordan Carrier. Madelyn is

attending NC State University and Jordan is attending UNC Chapel Hill.



- NC 'Litter Sweep' collects over 4MM pounds of garbage; Highlands helps.

- School employees to get hazard pay
- As the Macon County School System enters the final weeks of hybrid learning during the unprecedented COVID19 pandemic, the board of education voted unanimously to provide school staff with hazard pay for working during the last year.

May

- U.S. teachers retiring at a record rate
- Local schools seeing the trend; scramble to fill positions.



- King & Queen for the night – The Highlands School Junior/Senior Prom was held at The Vineyard in Scaly Mountain. Crowned king and queen, were Collin Stoltzfus and Megan Rehmeier

- Commissioners lift outside mask mandate

- Mama Bear attacks dog to protect cub – Around 10 a.m., last Friday, May 21, a dog was attacked by a mama bear when it got too close to her cub

- 'Help Wanted' is a sign of the times
- Just about every business in Highlands and Cashiers is looking for employees.

- Tax hike needed to build new Franklin HS – Macon County Commission Chairman and Highlands representative Jim Tate said that he is prepared to sell his constituents on a tax hike to fund a new Franklin High School, even though they will never use it "because it's something that needs to be done."



- Gas shortage hits Highlands, Cashiers – According to U.S. officials, the at-

tack on Colonial Pipeline appears to have been carried out by an Eastern European-based criminal gang named Darkside.

June

- Highlands PD has litter in its sights
- 'Initiative' uses a visual clue to encourage Highlanders to get vaccinated.



- Mtn Findings gives 1st ever 4-yr scholarship to graduate – From left Mountain Findings Board members with scholarship recipient Abigail Nichols and her parents: Suzy Jackson, Keith Crawford; Barbara, Abigail and Todd Nichols; Helen Moore and Glenda Bell.

- MC Commission says 'yes' to FY '21-'22 tax increase for school construction; employee salaries – Taxes to go from 37.4 to 40 cents per \$100 valuation

- Highlands can now be 'Bear Certified' – The Town of Highlands is now the first BearWise Certified Community in the state of North Carolina.

- Town Board passes FY '21-'22 budget 4-1; waives online utility payment fee
- Very little has changed since the FY '21-'22 budget was finalized in early May and again in late May when commissioners voted to hold the required public hearing prior to passage at the June Town Board meeting

- Highlands Hurricanes win again; add two more to the National Team

- Vehicle break-in is on Highlands Police radar – Investigators with the Highlands Police Department are investigating a vehicle break-in which occurred last Saturday afternoon at the Lake Sequoyah Dam.

- Sheriff Holland to retire; not running in 2022 – After serving five terms as Sheriff and three decades in law enforcement, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland

• See 2021 page 15

WHOLE LIFE MARKET

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Mon-Sat

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...2021 continued from page 14

land has announced that he will NOT be seeking re-election in 2022.

July



- Bronze bells are positioned at church – A crane hoists 4,500 lbs. of bronze bells onto the spire of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5th and Main streets.



- New pickleball courts are met with enthusiasm – Mayor Taylor addressed the crowd during Monday's pickleball court ribbon cutting at the Highlands Rec Park.

- New exhibits show Highlands in a new light – Though somewhat confusing, since the Highlands Historic Village campus on N. 4th Street has been open for numerous years, the recent Grand Opening referred to the opening of the revitalized exhibits inside – exhibits that are now professional enough to rival any museum around.

- Highlands Town Board candidates line up for November election

- Peers honor their own – Cathy MacIntyre-Ross long-time Highlands high school English teacher was named Teacher-of-the-Year for 2020-'21 and Highlands School Media Specialist Terry Stamey was named Support-Person-of-the-Year by their peers. Both retired this year

August

- Town Board mandates masks be worn inside town facilities – At a special called Town Board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to require masks be worn by employees and visitors inside any town facility, effective immediately. Those facilities include: Town Hall, the Commu-

nity Building, the Civic Center, the Police station, the Fire & Rescue Department and the ABC Store.



- Crews break ground for renovated PAC complex – the groundbreaking ceremony kicking off the construction for phase two of renovations at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Phase two entails building a new theater, phase one was the installation of a new parking lot on Laurel Street.



- Beloved Highlands benefactor dies at 95 – Jane Woodruff. "Mrs. Woodruff loved this community, and she was a great Highlander. Her generosity and longtime support of this community will be an enduring legacy of devotion to her fellow citizens and community institutions." – Patrick Taylor, Mayor



- Preserving a centuries-old piece of history – A canoe that's potentially more than 200 years old was discovered last fall on the Chattooga River by some local paddlers along the Sandy Ford section of the river near Clayton, GA. The canoe was

found below Second Ledge rapid wedged against an embankment and an undercut rock on the South Carolina side of the river

- Commission votes to expand Medicaid – On Tuesday night, Macon County joined the ranks of Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, the Graham County Board of Commissioners, Swain County Board of Commissioners, Jackson County Board of Commissioners, and the Town of Franklin in calling on the state to act now to close the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina.

- MC Board of Ed mandates masks -- fired inside school facilities and school transportation. Face coverings will not be required outside, or during vigorous physical activity.

- Town Hall is closed due to a COVID outbreak

- Highlands School students to see 10 new faces this year

- Effective Jan 3, '22 no more STRs in R1

- Owner of Ganilla's in Wright Square is arrested for fraud

September

- The STRs issue continues to fester – The short-term rental issue has snowballed since last week when the Town Board backed Town Attorney Jay Coward's interpretation of the R1 zone definition and voted via consensus 4-1 to disallow STRs in that district effective Jan. 3, 2022.

- Highlands reinstates masks in business district

- Wildlife euthanizes an injured female bear -- According to Cynthia Strain with BearWise, the injured bear had been seen around Highlands for three to four weeks. People said its tongue was hanging out and it appeared to have a broken jaw and was obviously in pain and starving.

- High-speed chase ends in crash and arrest on Buck Creek Road -- Around 9 Friday morning, Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland was beginning her morning patrol when Macon County dispatch called over the radio that a stolen wrecker was driving from Franklin and believed to be heading toward Highlands.

- Economic ramifications of STR ruling -- Since Tuesday, Aug. 24, a committee calling itself Save Highlands has galvanized support from homeowners and businesses to fight the town's recent decision to ban short-term rentals in Highlands' R1 district effective Jan. 3, 2022. The group has retained the Asheville, NC law firm of Allen, Stahl, and Kilborne, with attorney Derek Allen acting as lead counsel and are filing a lawsuit against the Town of High-

lands challenging the town's regulation of STR properties specifically in the R1 zone.



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

- MCSO reports COVID cluster in detention center, one inmate hospitalized.



- Community walks to honor the fallen on 9/11.

- Citizens speak out in favor of STRs in R1 – They ask commissioners to rescind hasty decision to ban STRs in R1.

- HCLT saves 100 acres so far for 2021 – Total of 3,645 acres in Macon & Jackson counties.

- Macon gets ambulances and staff from FEMA – COVID outbreak causing staff shortages

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

October

- NC growth prompts redistricting of electoral map.

- 2020 Census shows record growth for Highlands

- Mask mandate causes dispute at Highlands School – Kathy Revis pulled her child from Highlands School last

Highlands heralds in first snow on Jan. 3, 2022

AccuWeather said Highlands would get snow in the wee hours of Monday, Jan. 3 beginning at 4 a.m. By most accounts it wasn't snowing at 4 but by 6 o'clock in the morning it was blowing a blizzard and when it was over three inches had accumulated. Temperatures fell from the 50s the evening of Jan. 2 to the low 20s by morning.

The photos taken during the snowfall 6:30 a.m. are by Jim Lewicki. Bob Sutton took the daytime snow shots. Highlands is a winter wonderland anyway – and any time – you look at it!



K-H Founders Park on Pine Street.



Landmark Realty on Main Street.



Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern on Main Street.

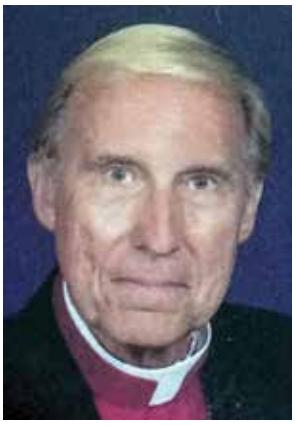


Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street.



Town Square on Main Street.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Waiting for ideal conditions at the threshold of 2022

**Archbishop
John S. Erbelding**

Almost always we intend to do many things we never get around to doing. There may be many reasons for this. Sometimes we underestimate our capacity and hesitate to begin; sometimes we overestimate it, and make more commitments than we could possibly carry through. And sometimes we sit and wait for supposedly ideal conditions before we begin. But so-called ideal conditions rarely come.

If the men and women who have most enriched the world had waited for ideal conditions before beginning their work, we should have had few inventions, few masterworks, few discoveries. People have written and painted, thought and planned, worked and searched, often in poverty, sometimes in illness, frequently in unsympathetic surroundings. There rarely comes a time in the life of anyone when all difficulty and all distraction are removed. There rarely comes a time in the life of any of us when we cannot find some excuse for not doing something we could or should be doing.

Often people who intend to be generous wait until they have more money. But it is surprising how their obligations keep up with their income. Often people who intend to write spend much time sharpening pencils and clearing desks, waiting for an uninterrupted day, waiting for the mood to move -- and for many other things which are ideally desirable, but which seldom come all at once.

We often wait for a more opportune time to set our lives in order. We wait for convenience; for pride to soften; we wait until we think our habits and our appetites will be less demanding, or until our determination to overcome them will be stronger, and so the hours pass, the days pass, the years pass, and so does life itself, finding us still nursing our intentions, for the postponement, the putting off, that always waits for better times and circumstances, that always waits for ideal conditions, may be the postponement that lets life waste itself away, and we end life with the saddest words on our lips, "if only."

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;
10:45am Children's Program. Youth 12:15 – 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoualas

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-8152
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday Services in the Chapel:

Rite I 8a with choir: 9:30a; with choir 11a.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 a.m.

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242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
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Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

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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 a.m.

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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

Macedonia Baptist Church

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April
mountainsynagoguemc.com.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418
Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. noon; Sun. 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I. 8a. Rite II. 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Dec. 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Dec. 7

• At noon, officers received a report of theft from a motor vehicle on Oak Lane where an Ipad was taken out of the car.

Dec. 14

• At 10:42 a.m., officers were called about a breaking and entering and destruction of property at a residence on Bowery Road. Radios, VCRs and DVD players were taken. An interior door was damaged.

Dec. 21

• At 4:30 p.m., a burglary breaking and entering with damage to property was reported at a residence on Dixon Drive where thousands of dollars of jewelry was taken. A door frame and door were damaged.

• At 10:51 p.m., Peter Edward Ashley, 39, of Guyton, GA, was arrested for speeding while driving under the influence when he was pulled over on N. 4th Street. He was issued a \$500 secured bond. His trial date is Jan. 14, 2022.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 28

...SHOP continued from page 9



30 Highlands area children were invited to "Shop with a Cop" over the Christmas holidays.

have to arrest a child's parent. The arrest can cause negative impacts for the child, who may lose trust in law enforcement," said Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland. "The Shop with a Cop program is crucial in promoting trust between law enforcement and the children in our commu-

nities. Whether the child has been impacted by a law enforcement action or was chosen due to other circumstances, the shopping experience provides us with an opportunity to show the kids that we care about them and we are here for them."

Dec. 28

The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Dec. 29

The dept. was first-responders to a location on Church Street.

The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

The dept. responded to a fire alarm at Skyline Lodge.

Dec. 30

At 8:42 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Main Street.

At 12:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

At 7:51 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Morewood Road.

Jan. 2

At 5:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 east.

Jan. 3

At 2:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Owl Gap Road.

At 9:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a downed power line at Morewood Road.

Jan. 4

At 5:57 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

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**"Thy Kingdom Come,
Thy Will Be Done"**

Matthew 6:10



EVENT HOSTED BY DR. MARK FORD

**First Baptist Church
IN
HIGHLANDS**

Almighty God has been sidelined in the darkness of the public square. That needs to change. Join with Christians from our region to pray for His light to penetrate the darkness so that His grace and salvation can be seen by all. *Come Join us!*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18th - 6:00PM

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OFFICE AND PROGRAMS MANAGER

Center For Life Enrichment (CLE) is looking for an organized self starter to join our team. CLE's Office & Program Manager will be responsible for managing daily office communications, marketing programs and ensuring programs run smoothly. Part time position \$20/hr. (Jan. 6)

HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE DIN- ING ROOM SUPERVISOR

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

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

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HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

...2021 continued from page 15

month after he was allegedly told by a substitute teacher that he was a murderer for not properly wearing his mask inside of the school building.

• HCHF is recipient of HCC's Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament proceeds – This year the Tournament raised in excess of \$250,000 benefitting the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation. Proceeds will go toward the funding of the Blue Ridge Highlands Cashiers Health Center, the foundation's number one priority project.

• MC Commissioner Chair Jim Tate not seeking re-election.

• FBI called in about explosives in home – Four Macon County residents are under arrest after a probation check located copious amounts of methamphetamine, drugs, firearms, and live explosives at a residence in the Highlands/Scaly Mountain area of the county.

• 'Save Highlands' seeks justice to protect personal property rights – Asheville, North Carolina, law firm Allen Stahl + Kilbourne has filed a legal complaint on behalf of Save Highlands against the Town for its decision on August 24, 2021, to ban all vacation rentals in R1, effective January 3.

for vested STRs.

- It's official: Hotwire Communications will manage Highlands' fiber high-way.

November

- Landslide victories and record turnout seat new Town Board -- Incumbent Mayor Pat Taylor was re-elected after receiving 343 votes to challenger Marc Hehn's 145 votes. Hehn, who currently sits on the Highlands Town Board, will be able to retain his seat as a commissioner. There were also two write-in candidates this election cycle.



• Highlands Macon County soccer teams are 1st place champions in their age divisions.

- Commissioners, sheriff push for Medicaid expansion in NC.

- Redistricting makes Transylvania County part of District 50.

- Macon County is in a new Congressional District – Cawthon to seek election in different district; Sen. Kevin Corbin considering a run. Sen. Corbin is running again for NC Senate not Congress.



- An expanded PAC is taking shape
- Lawsuit against town halted with 'stay' – Coward suggests grandfather status

- Highlands Food & Wine Festival brings hundreds to town

- Current STRs in R1 could be allowed

- At combination Town Board/Planning Board meeting, the draft ordinance regarding housing in Highlands was presented by Attorney Craig Justice of the Van Winkle law firm. Justice presented several "surprise" findings.



- Planning Board says 'yes' to STRs in some form in all zones – Monday night about 40 people turned out to listen to members of the Planning Board work through proposed changes to the Unified Development Code regarding short-term rentals which was presented at the Nov. 17 joint meeting between the Town Board and the Planning Board.

December

- Highlands annual Olde Mountain Christmas Parade Returns.

- Candidate filing is halted Primary moved to May; new filing period not set

- Area FedEx driver arrested in 15 Highlands-area break-ins.



- HS teacher Melanie Miller retires in style after 30 years.

- Macon County gains nearly \$4 million



- King & Queen for the night – Highlands School seniors Jeffrey Olvera and Hayley Borino were crowned at Saturday's Homecoming Dance held at the First Presbyterian Church.

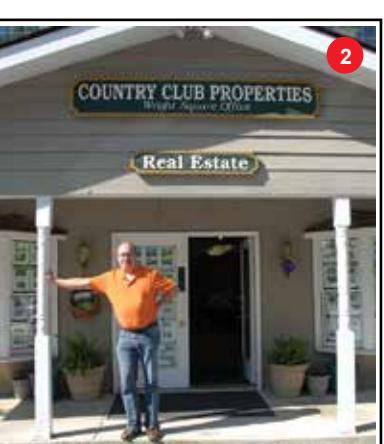


- Fire destroys home on Spruce St. Friday Dec. 17.

- Real estate sales hit all time high in town and county in 2021 -- "In 2020, we went out on around 620 site visits. This year we went out on 1,130. That is a 55% increase from last year amounting to approximately \$45,000,000 in the new construction assessment which gives us a real property base of approximately \$7,675,000,000," she said. "In 2020, we added around \$31,000,000 to the tax base and now that \$7,675,000,000 figure means we have had an increase of 45% from last year."

SILVER EAGLE

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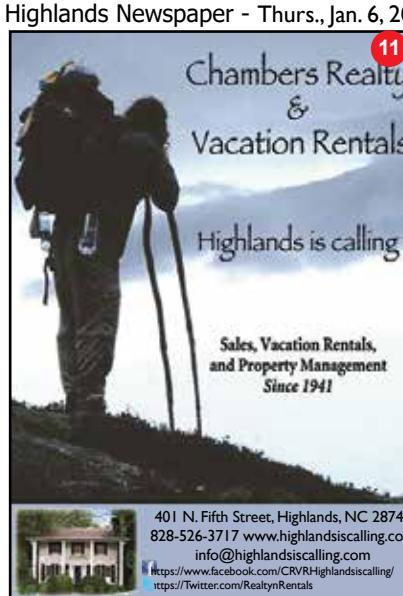


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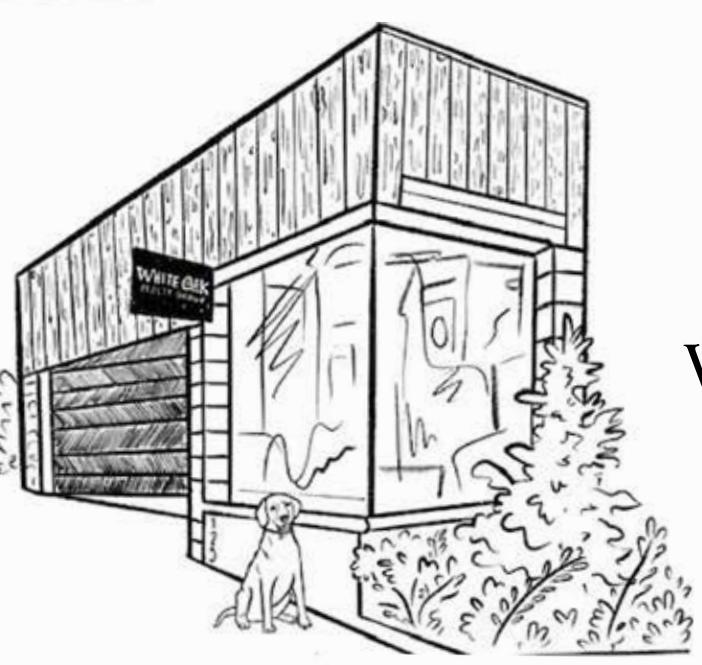
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