

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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The multi-faceted STR issue continues

In a special meeting June 30, the Highlands Town Board passed the Highlands Comprehensive Community Plan in a 4 to 1 vote.

Under state mandate municipalities with zoning had to ap-

prove a Comp Plan by July 1, 2022 or jeopardize their ability to enforce current zoning ordinances.

The Comp Plan is not a policy or regulatory plan. Here in Highlands, that document is the Unified Development Code

(UDO).

The Comp Plan is simply a road map of suggestions regarding the future of Highlands which was based on input from the community.

• See STR page 11

Hurricanes win last home meet of season

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team win last home meet of the summer season

On Thursday, July 7, the Highlands Hurricanes hosted the Cherokee County Aquatics Club (CCAC) and the Smoky Mountain Aquatics Club (SMAC) from Murphy and Waynesville.

The Hurricanes won 585-206-130, respectively.

Outstanding performances included Aniah McKim breaking the pool record in the 100 free-style, and Jack Sumner breaking the pool record in the 100 backstroke.

Also scoring for the Hurricanes were Finneas Garner 28 pts; Corena Dearth and Aniah McKim 25; Jack Sumner and Bella Batista 24; Jasmine Abranyi, Emilina Hernandez and Emma Denisoff 23; Chase Kenter and Alex Lopez 22; Margaret Cole and Ma-

• See HURRICANES page 15



Barrett McKim with his dad Kyle at the burn center in Augusta, GA.

McKim family endures the path to recovery

On Thursday, June 23, Barrett McKim, a science buff was conducting an experiment to change the color of different rocks and

fool's gold, when the alcohol he was heating up on a Bunsen burner caused the apparatus to blow up.

• See McKIM page 4

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Staffing shortages plague area law enforcement

According to Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland, her department is down two out of 13 full-time officers, with no applications on file. Chief Holland said that she has a new recruit currently in BLET, set to graduate in August, however the new officer will have to complete training before being released to the road, which doesn't help the town during now, which is the busiest time of year for visitors.

The Highlands Police Department is facing the same issue as most law enforcement agencies across the county -- fewer and fewer recruits each year.

When Southwestern Community College failed to meet their 10-person minimum requirement to begin their BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) Course this week, Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell knew he needed to ask the town to take a different approach to address staffing shortages within the police department.

"We had two recruits that were supposed to start BLET this week, but because SCC couldn't fill the

class with at least 10 students, they have pushed off the starting until September," said Chief Harrell.

Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland said his agency also expected to have two new recruits after completing BLET, which he had hoped would help address staffing shortages within his agency. As of this week, Sheriff Holland said he has 10 vacancies.

SCC noted that the course was two students shy of the required 10, which they hope will be ready to begin in September.

"Curtis Dowdle and our Public Safety Training Center team work with area law enforcement agencies year-round to identify recruits for our Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy," said Tyler Goode, Director of Public Relations for SCC. "We were two recruits shy of the minimum 10 students required to start a class, so -- after collaborating with those same agencies -- we decided to push the start date back to September in order to enroll a few

• See SHORTAGES page 16

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Town to hear attorney suggestions to STR ordinance tonight

Tonight is a Special Meeting of the Highlands Board of Commissioners. It will be held at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field at 6pm. The meeting can be accessed at the town website via Youtube.

The purpose of this public meeting is to review proposed unified development ordinance amendments regarding short term rentals. Bob Hagemann of Poyner Spruill will present proposed amendments to the board. These amendments were generated by the board's work group and also discussed by the entire board in an attorney/client closed session. At that meeting the board asked Bob to create draft proposals for final review before being sent to the planning board for their review.

Tonight Bob will guide the board through the draft proposals and answer questions from the board. The board may make final adjustments to the drafts during this period. There will be no public comment at tonight's meeting.

I also anticipate that the board will set



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

at the meeting tonight a date and time for a public hearing in regard to the amendments that will be sent to the Highlands Planning Board for their recommendations. The planning board members will receive the drafts as soon as possible after tonight's meeting. They will also be posted on the town's website.

The planning board is scheduled to have its regular meeting on Monday, July 25 where they will begin the review process. If needed, the planning board can continue the review process at their August 22 meeting.

I anticipate the town board holding a public hearing concerning the planning board's recommendations on August 25. My caveat is that unforeseen circumstances could change the schedule that I have outlined above. If more time is needed for a complete review, that option will be available.

In my last column I asked any group that might have a compromise position on STRs to let me know or bring it before the public for consideration. At the time of this writing, I do not know whether the newspapers will publish a compromise proposal that I have not seen.

I know that on social media some folks have criticized me for calling for a compromise proposal at this time. My intent was to try to ascertain any new approaches to solving this divisive community issue. Some may think I am passing the buck or am late in calling for a compromise.

I received a statement from the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition that pretty much confirms their previously held position. I have received no proposals from the Save Highlands Group.

I suspect my concern is correct that when it comes to short term rentals in R1 and R2 there is no middle ground. A person is for them or against them with possibly some conditions in between.

The coming weeks will be contentious and stressful times for many folks in the community. Is the mayor under stress? You bet, but I have been in stressful situations many times before. The town will work through this problem.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 14-Jul	Fri, 15-Jul	Sat, 16-Jul	Sun, 17-Jul
			
77°F 59°F	77°F 59°F	78°F 59°F	75°F 60°F
Cloudy	Partly sunny, a stray t-storm	Humid with a thunderstorm	A shower and thunderstorm
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 83° Low: 65°	High: 87° Low: 67°	High: 84° Low: 65°	High: 80° Low: 63°

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Presenter: Johnathon Haupt
- **The Faith of Pat Conroy** Tuesday, July 19, Time: 10a-12p
Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Jonathan Haupt
- **The Sensory Appeal of Native Plants** Tuesday, July 19, Time: 2-4p
Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Gregg Tepper
- **The Art of Making Fruit Jam** Tuesday, June 21, Time: 2:00-4:00p
Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Dr. Elliot Engel
- **Churchill: A Passion for Painting** Wednesday, July 20, Time: 5:30-8p
Cost: \$50/\$70
Presenter: Tim Riley
- **Winston Churchill: Science and Statesmanship** Thursday, July 21, Time: 10a-12p
Cost: \$25/\$35
Presenter: Tim Riley
- **Apple Witch** Thursday, July 21, Time: 10a-12p
Cost: \$40/\$50
Presenter: Loraine Smith
- **Tips & Tricks for iPhone/iPad** Thursday, July 21, Time: 1-3p
Cost: \$40/\$50
Presenter: Loraine Smith
- **"Beethoven and Me"** Friday, July 22, Time: 1:00-12p
Cost: \$30/\$40
Presenter: Gary Motley
- **Decoupageing Oyster Shells** Tuesday, July 26, Time: 10a-12p
Cost: \$45/\$55
Presenter: Coletta Clark

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THE CURIOUS MIND
KNOWS NO BOUNDS

012330

...McKIM continued from page 1

Luckily, he was wearing safety goggles, but the explosion ignited the synthetic shirt he was wearing and then traveled the length of his body.

Barrett has second- and third-degree burns on his neck, torso, arms, hands and thighs – basically 50% of his body – which will require multiple surgeries involving skin grafts.

His mother, Caroline, tried to tear his shirt off as it was burning. She has second- and third-degree burns on her hands. They are both in residence and undergoing treatments at the burn center in Augusta, Ga.

Husband and father Kyle McKim tells their follow-up story:

“Going forward we are still looking at many more surgeries for Barrett. We have had five to this point. Each time is a debridement where they scrap off all the scabbing on the surface because we are learning that skin grows from the inside out. These are very painful surgeries for him.

“They have used several things that encourage skin growth including cadaver skin, xeroform (mesh gauze covered with petroleum jelly) and even true silver used as wraps and in liquid form as silver nitrate. The doctors still believe skin grafting will need to be done to certain portions of his body.

“They have amazing advancements in the burn specific medical field now. They will most likely take an area of skin from Barrett's thigh, the portions where he was not burned, and they use something akin to a cheese grater to get it off, then they run it through a machine that expands and stretches it so that it may be used on a larger area of his body.

“They also do something called re-cell where they take another graft of his skin, add it to a solution and basically spray it back onto his body, all to encourage new cells to start growing and expanding.

“We are told the areas where they take the grafts from can be as painful or even more painful than the burn itself. After each graft he is immobile and restricted to his bed for 72 hours, to hopefully not disturb the graft and give it a better chance to attach.

“We are becoming all too aware that this is not a sprint, this is a marathon. Skin healing and re-growing is a very slow process that requires a lot of attention and time.



Barrett's family is with him 24/7 offering words of encouragement.



Caroline will require multiple surgeries as well.

“They are also currently monitoring fungal or bacterial infections because he is basically a damp, warm, open wound bed on 50% of his body and that is where bacteria tend to thrive.

“Even after all of his skin is to a point where it is closed and nothing is left open, we will still have a lot of physical therapy to get through in order to get movement again in his arms, hands, fingers, and his neck.

“He will be in compression wraps for many months to protect his skin from the elements and promote growth. We will also be returning to the Burn center here in Augusta frequently for follow up visits and continual physical therapy.

“Caroline is doing very well and had a second surgery today. They are going to check her hands again next week but they are healing well, right hand will need a little more physical therapy to get movement back but they are optimistic that in 6 months or so she'll be back to normal.

“We believe God has truly met us along the way, first with sparing Barrett's life, to allowing our home to be within a short 45 minute helicopter ride of the best burn center in the nation, to having a truly wonderful head surgeon who has had decades of experience and wants nothing

more than for our boy to heal correctly, to an amazing pediatrician who listens and anticipates, to a fabulous group of physical therapists who work to gain his interest, to a string of incredible nurses who have become friends and who have met us with every need, to a family who has incredibly stepped up and taken over at home and taken in our other children so that we may focus on Barrett, to the community and really the country at-large who have been blessing us with gifts, places to stay, food, time and most of all prayers that we know God is answering on a daily basis.”

A GoFundMe has been set up in the McKim name to collect donations to help the family financially while they work through Barrett and Caroline's recovery.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fz72a-support-for-barrett-mckim>

– Kim Lewicki



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LETTERS

Something is not right in Highlands

Dear Editor,

I remember years ago when my grandfather sold lots, most people would buy the adjacent lot for protection. Those buyers had common sense to ask questions about Homeowner's Association rules and regulations and knew they had to keep them updated. However, I have never seen or heard of these rules having to be enforced. Most arguments were resolved amongst neighbors and friends or the association board.

We need to let HOAs enforce rules in neighborhoods so that when people buy there, they know what to expect. The NC Real Estate Commission and the listing forms as well as the offer to purchase forms are very clear about HOAs so the buyer understands what to expect. Every property in the town limits isn't in a HOA nor has a POA, but some of the biggest opponents to short-term rentals come from neighborhoods who do or should have their own rules.

Between then and now people have gotten rude. This isn't the Highlands I grew up in. We all cared about each other.

Now if people have a problem, they hide behind the government and get involved in petty disagreements. They look out their windows to make sure the neighbor is doing the right thing, if not, they are going to call the law.

I'm sure they will have their decibel meters, making sure that the sound is within the law, 80hz, then count the numbers of people going in and out of the house because the house should only have two people per bedroom, (plus two -- where did that come from)?

We will all have to make sure we have a DNA matches, because if someone is not adopted, or closer then a 5th generation cousin they won't be allowed in the house.

Will the town rely on Peeping Toms? Maybe we're

• See LETTERS page 8



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...LETTERS continued from page 7

going to be like those countries who encourage people to spy and report on their neighbors.

Our office lost a sale this week because of the new R-2 regulations.

In Mayor Taylor's recent column, he wrote that current properties could continue as they have been because they would be grandfathered. Sounds easy, doesn't it? However, one cannot continue as they are now with the added restrictions and registration and permitting process. It takes time and money to go through the process, but most of the property owners who wish to continue renting will follow the process just to be able to rent. Others will balk, do it by themselves, or sell their property because the house they wanted to have upon retirement doesn't make much sense now -- not if they can't be able to rent when they want.

Back to the lost sale. Under the new ordinance, which is now under scrutiny, the buyers would be able to rent their home for the number of nights the seller rented the home. The seller of this particular home has had her house in the Chambers Rental program for over 10 years with no complaints and a great rental history using us as the property manager. However, her rental history should have no bearing on the next owner's rental history.

In addition, owners of properties who have just started renting in 2022 shouldn't be told they can't rent because the previous owner didn't make the decision to rent their home.

Back to the time and money part.

The new registration and permitting process calls for lots of leg work for the property owner. Some of the information is easily obtained from the county records, but it still takes time. Other things require statements from licensed plumbers and other professionals, who are all pretty busy. Their statements aren't free, and they shouldn't be free, because it is taking their time to make the service call to check on septic systems and sewer connections.

Furthermore, if we're going to make properties who want to rent have these statements, all properties should have them. It is not fair to single one from the other. Just because someone does not rent doesn't mean they don't overuse their existing wastewater system. Don't forget the new requirement of presenting the recorded plat, location of house, parking site plan, septic location, lift station on the plat, etc.

Losing this sale won't break us or the other broker involved, and we hope another buyer will come along soon. What it did was unnecessarily cause hardship for two different real estate offices, two different brokers,

and the attorney's office who apparently wasted its time and efforts just trying to do their job. You may say "Well, that's just a part of the industry you're in" and yes, sales fall through, but this particular sale fell through because the zoning was changed after the buyer had made the offer and after the due diligence period had ended.

Something smells in Highlands.

Tucker and Jeannie Chambers
Highlands

An 'STR' compromise isn't needed

Dear Editor,

Highlands residential neighborhoods deserve to be protected from corporate and out of town investors, who see them as sources of easy revenue at the expense of the neighbors' rights to live in a neighborhood zoned residential and free from commercial activities.

I certainly understand a home owner's desire to rent out their home occasionally, but when that occasional rental turns into a full-blown short term rental business where the renters flip every night or two, my understanding is gone.

Unfortunately, the short-term rental industry does not agree. They demand the right to rent out our neighbors' homes no matter the zoning or our tolerance for disruption happens to be. How will this end?

If you want to live in a tourist mecca that has no community spirit or character, it will suit. But if you want a town that is made unique by the contributions of generations of stake holders, you are out of luck. Tourists don't support non-profit organizations and they don't care where the workers live. They don't volunteer at the food bank or attend chamber music. And guess what? When our neighborhoods are overrun with short term rentals, this vast stronghold of volunteers, donors, and local work force will leave.

The Mayor asks us to compromise. My compromise would be to honor the purpose and intent of the UDO developed years ago which was to set aside zones that would be commerce free, and that includes free from renting out overnight accommodations but welcoming of long-term rentals.

If a homeowner, who is not a corporate investor or speculator, wants to rent their home on occasion, that should not be a problem. But if the rental is intended to be an income-producing business which is

• See LETTERS page 10

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LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

...LETTERS continued from page 8

clearly a commercial activity, it should not be allowed.

Vague? Not at all. That is how week-end vacation rentals have operated for years in Highlands. The introduction of corporate rental agencies such as Airbnb that has dominated the vacation rental market for the last three years does not care about the character of our neighborhoods or our town.

We need to take back our local values

and respect for each other's rights to live peacefully in our homes and neighborhoods. Offering our homes as a rental a few times a year should not be a problem. The two can live together. I trust our commissioners to figure this out. Whatever action our commissioners take, remember it will only apply inside the town limits.

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Say no to STRs in residential neighborhoods

Dear Editor,

I own two lots (45 and 48) at the far end of Satulah Rdge Road. I want to make it totally clear, that I am vigorously opposed to short-term rentals (STRs) and/or other commercial developments in single family neighborhoods.

The town of Highlands is quite unique in Western North Carolina. It is a beautiful, well kept and vigorous town. It is an absolute gem. One of the reasons it exists this way is because of the R1,R2 residential restrictions which make it clear that these are residential areas comprising low density, single family residential homes with no commercial activity.

In my case, if and when we build a small house on our properties will be determined by the fate of this proposed legislation.

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On the corner of 3rd & Spring

There is little doubt in my mind, that opening up our development (Satulah Ridge) for short term rentals and other commercial activity will clearly negatively impact the intrinsic values and desirability of our two properties and those of our neighbors.

Please do NOT tamper with our gorgeous town of Highlands

**Richard W. Moyer
Owner of lots 45 and 48
Satulah Ridge Road
Highlands**

Grandfather R1 homeowners first

Dear Editor,

As if being sandwiched between two AirBnBs is not enough distraction, throw in three or four STRs in our rather tight (closely knit) neighborhood! That's a bit much.

BTW, I have yet to see a renter pick up their dog's litter from our properties.

Have you considered what more chaos could ensue should STRs be granted fuller range?

Think of the more than 3 million unvetted illegals now flowing throughout these United States. They seem to stay most anywhere they please; their shady (but rich) sponsors picking up the tab. Who would or could monitor all that?

My vote is to "grandfather" in the R-1 homeowners first! We have been paying those higher established taxes ever since we got here. Revere that.

**Harriet Laurence
Highlands**

Tourists be gone!

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of the previously decided, though for a technicality, enacted restricting of STRs rentals to nonresidential districts and also prohibiting them in residential districts R-1 and R-2.

I have lived on Center Drive on Little Bear Pen for some 19 years and feel that I have a pretty significant stake in this community both financially and emotionally.

There appear now to be two different types of owners of property in Highlands within the residential districts. One group, represented by people like me, are in Highlands for our love of the community, the people, the beauty of the mountains and the friends that we have made over the years both in our neighborhood and within our social clubs and civic boards.

The other type of property owner that has suddenly appeared over the last few

...STR continued from page 1

However, at the June 30th meeting Commissioner Marc Hehn requested some language regarding short-term rentals (STRs) in the Comp Plan to be addressed by Attorney Hagemann with Poyner Spruill who had zoomed in.

Since the Comp Plan isn't the place for specifics, and also because the STR issue and ordinance language has not been finalized, his request went unanswered. Hence, he voted against the Plan.

Attorney Hagemann was there to get official permission to

...LETTERS continued from page 10

years doesn't really have a name other than some words followed by a comma and then the letters LLC. They know their CPA, their Real Estate Broker, their Attorney and how to sign into their online account at either AirBnB or VRBO to see how much money (\$\$) was just Direct Deposited into their Money Market account and how many nights have been booked for their next unknown, unseen, couldn't care less about renter.

The former group supports the town's charities, arts programs, civic associations, benevolent outreaches, looks out for each other and their property when they are away and just generally CARES about Highlands, NC.

For the most part, they also vote depending on their declared full time residency.

The latter group, the LLCs, only obligation is to just register annually with the Secretary of State, give Uncle Sam his cut and make sure their house (or houses) stays filled to the brim for as many nights a year as possible and then be ready to collectively whine and cast aspersions at anybody who would dare complain about suddenly living next door to or across the street from a rolling house party or if not that just a never-ending revolving door of new faces, new pets and different license plates on different cars – oh you mean like a hotel? or motel? Like right next door? Or right across the street? Every weekend? Are you kidding me?

Lastly, there is also a growing cadre of Almighty Dollar worshippers attached at the hip to these LLCs and though most don't actually live in our little town, they have adopted the Golden Goose as their own to pamper, feed and protect at all costs.

The more crowded the restaurants the better. The more crowded the streets the better. The more traffic the better. The less peace the better. Better/Better/Better, More/More/More.

So, I guess the question is: Will this summer be the time looked back on as the time when Highlands was lost forever? Or will it be looked back on as the time that Highlands was rescued from the jackals and permanently restored and placed back up on its perch as the most beautiful and civilized little town in America? A place you would actually want to plant roots and live in and contribute to and protect-not as a Golden Goose but as a dear, treasured friend?

**Bob McEver
Highlands**

• See **LETTERS** page 15

request Attorney Craig Justus be released as Highlands' attorney in its STR legal battle with Save Highlands, which he received.

Meanwhile, between the time the town's STR ordinance was passed and subsequently named null and void due to it being incorrectly advertised and now, it's possible some of the language in that fated ordinance will be amended – which could possibly stave off a costly legal battle.

At the June 30 meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor announced another special meeting set for tonight, July 14 at 6 p.m. in the Community Building – “to review proposed amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regarding STRs.”

Those proposed amendments will then be sent to the Planning Board for review and recommendation at its July 25 meeting.

Once the Planning Board's

recommendations are sent to the Town Board and if the Town Board accepts them, a Public Hearing will be set for the STR amendments to the UDO.

As per the mayor's column in the July 7 edition, it's looking like “compromise” might be sought.

“Some folks have told me that a compromise needs to be found concerning STRs. So far there has been criticism from all

• See **STR** page 13

How Many Short-Term Rentals Are Enough?

According to the Community Plan adopted June 30, there are 2,223 housing units within the Town limits.

According to STR listings, there are approximately 425 active listings within the Town limits.

This means nearly 20% of all housing units in Highlands are being operated as mini-hotels - mostly in residential neighborhoods!

Enough is enough!

Anyone who tries to drive through downtown, shop in local stores, or get a dinner reservation clearly understands the negative impact on the quality of life of those who live in Highlands in homes they own and do not rent.

Homeowners in Highlands have had enough. An overwhelming majority of voters in last November's election sent a clear message: NO Short-term Rentals in our neighborhoods.

Prohibiting short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods supports Highlands' long-standing zoning policy that commercial activities – i.e., those engaged in for profit, are not compatible with or appropriate for single-family residential neighborhoods.

Highlands Neighborhood Coalition
Neighbors and Neighborhoods Working Together

hncoalition@aol.com

www.highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com



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Each Class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.

• 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.

Through July 24

• The Mountain Theatre Company's production of Jersey Boys, the story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons at The Playhouse on Oak Street. Wednesday - Saturday @ 7:30p and Saturday & Sunday @ 2p. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Thurs., July 14

• Special Town Board meeting to consider changes to the STR ordinances passed at the May Town Board meeting at 6 pm, in the Highlands Community Building.

Fri., July 15

• At The Bascom, Collector's Talk with Kirk Moore: Sense of Place, One Person's Travels Through the Southern Imaginary Landscape at 3p. FREE.

• In K-H Founders Park, a fundraiser for The Literacy & Learning Center 4-8 p.m.. Live Music, Cash bar, Food Truck. All proceeds to benefit The Literacy & Learning Center.

Sat., July 16

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Carol Misner Art Trunk Show featuring Carol Misner's botanical paintings, 10a to 5p. Each piece is her unique interpretation of the flora, in monochromatic tones, reflecting the simple beauty, gracefulness, and fragility of the botanical it portrays. (828) 787-1877.

• At First Presbyterian Church, Coro Vocati Choral Ensemble concert at 5pm. The group will also sing during the 11am worship service on Sunday, July 17. Coro Vocati is an

ensemble of professional singers based in Atlanta, GA, with a mission to create music at the highest level of choral artistry. All concerts are free, and the public is cordially invited to attend.

• A Pro 1973 Roe Rally in K-H Founders Park at 1 p.m. Come out in support of codifying Roe vs. Wade. Come support people's right to choose for themselves.

Wed., July 20

• The Trey Clegg Chamber Singers will be featured in an Interlude Concert at 2pm at First Presbyterian Church. The Chamber Singers is a group of 20 voices from among the 70 voices of the Trey Clegg Singers, Inc., Atlanta's premiere multi-cultural choral ensemble. All concerts are free, and the public is cordially invited to attend.

Thurs. July 21

• At First Presbyterian Church a free Family/Children's Concert and performance entitled "Just Jazzin' Around" featuring the Gary Motley Trio at 3p.m. sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Music Festival. An ice cream social provided by Kilwins' will follow in Coleman Hall.

• Chapter BJ is sponsoring a luncheon on at Highland Falls Country Club. All local and visiting PEO's are invited to attend. Please contact Paula McDonald 706-372-3004 for more information.

• "Light in the Darkness" with Steverthen Holland at Discover Church in Franklin from 7-9 p.m. Info and registration at SmokeyPartners.com 828-349-3200

Fri-Sun, July 22-24

• At Peak Experience, a Suzy Landa Jewelry Trunk Show. Meet the Artist. 2820 Dillard Road. Friday and Saturday 10-5, Sunday noon-4. 828-526-0229

Sat. - Sun., July 23-24

• SUMMER COLORS FINE ART SHOW – A Rain or Shine Fine Art Event indoors at the Sapphire Valley Community Center, 207 Sapphire Valley Rd, Sapphire, NC, 10 am to 5 pm each day. Presented by the Art League of Highlands-Cashiers (ALHC).

Sat., July 23

• At Acorns, Carringer Farms and Marie's Custom Ornaments Trunk Show 10 am - 5 pm. Meet the creators behind Carringer Farms and Marie's Custom Ornaments.

• At Potpourri Eyewear on Main Street, a GUCCI trunk show from 11a to 5p. 828-526-8886.

Sun., July 24

• La Fete de Champagne. Go to OldEdwardsHospitality.com/chefdinner to reserve a spot.

Wed., July 27

• Erick Baker at The Farm at Old Edwards on Arnold Road from 6-8 p.m. \$40 ticket includes light bites, and a cash bar is available. book online visitoldedwardshospitality.com/orchardsessions.



Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

CONCERTS: JULY 15-18

Friday, July 15 – 6 PM, Highlands

Saturday, July 16 – 5 PM, Cashiers

The Ulysses Quartet

Sunday, July 17 - 5 PM, Highlands

Monday, July 18 - 5 PM, Cashiers

The Gryphon Trio

...STR continued from page 11

sides of the issue directed toward town commissioners. What does the Save Highlands group see as a compromise position that the town should approve? What is the position of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition?" asked the mayor.

Taylor said as mayor he is open to receiving proposed compromises but wants those compromises to be shared in public view.

In her letter-to-the-editor in today's issue, Bowery resident Lila Howland who is a member of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition but who wrote as a full-time resident and not for the coalition suggested no compromise is needed.

"My compromise would be to honor the purpose and intent of the UDO developed years ago which was to set aside zones that would be commerce free, and that includes free from renting out overnight accommodations but welcoming of long-term rentals," she wrote.

However, in her letter Jennifer Huff of Save Highlands said

"Save Highlands remains ready and willing to negotiate the terms of the amendment with any party who extends the invitation."

Mirroring what has become a battle cry for the Coalition, Howland went on to say that "tourists [those who stay in STRs and hotels] don't support non-profit organizations and they don't care where the workers live. They don't volunteer at the food bank or attend chamber music."

In a communication with Cathy Henson, president of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition she agreed saying "there is also a qualitative difference between homeowners (and long term renters) and nightly hotels guests renting STRs. The former are members of the community; the latter are not. The former donate to local nonprofits and volunteer with local organizations; the latter do not. The former are invested in each other and the Town, the latter are not."

During this almost year-long discussion it has been noted by those in support of STRs, that tourists spend money in High-

lands' shops, restaurants and area venues, thereby supporting Highlands' economy through sales tax and room tax which ensures job security for Highlands workers including the livelihood of housecleaners, landscapers, handymen and more.

Meanwhile, thinking the June 30 special meeting might include a STR discussion, during the public comment period, some people spoke out about STRs.

Ellie Hogan, a Realtor, said she was against STRs in residential zones because she isn't happy with the situation that has developed near her property and because the properties of those who are allowed to continue STRs in R1 will be more valuable than hers.

David Bee, with Highlands Vacation Rentals and Save Highlands, also spoke saying Save Highlands continues to fight for the rights of all STR owners and man-

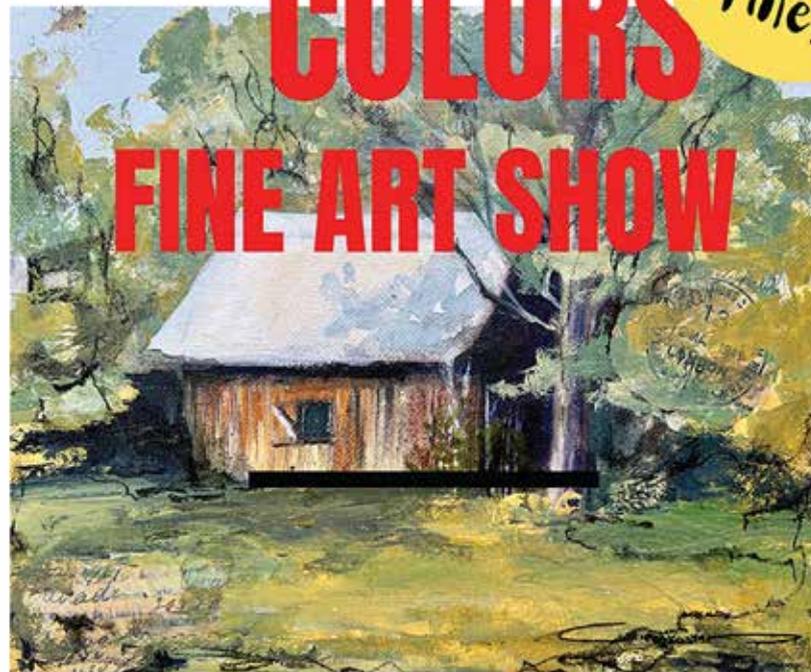
agers and all Highlanders, who he said have shown overwhelming support for short-term rentals.

Though general in nature, he said verbiage in the Comp Plan says Highlands should "encourage lodging and tourism-related rentals while limiting any negative impact on existing residents and businesses; monitor and mitigate the impact of STRs on the Highlands community."

• See STR page 14

SUMMER COLORS FINE ART SHOW

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something
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Saturday, July 23 & Sunday, July 24, 2022 - 10 - 5

The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers presents an *indoor exhibition* and sale of work by talented local and visiting artists.

Sapphire Valley Community Center

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Nothing to Fear...

At Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1933 inaugural address, he made one of the most remembered sound bites of the last century. "There's nothing to fear but fear itself."

It's the unknown that invites fear. Very similar to saying, "I'm not afraid of the dark, I'm afraid of what's in it." Also, in his speech that day, FDR laid out his New Deal, which incorporated all kinds of things to get

America going during the depression years. In our region, we should be grateful for all the work the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) accomplished because of the New Deal. Establishing FDIC in our banking systems is another lasting achievement. It seems like in today's world, including real estate, the new deal has been replaced with "What's the deal?"

Almost a century ago, our country was trying its best to come out of the depression,

an era that shaped the lives of generations. This time around, we're dealing with the PPP - politics, pandemic, and panic. The stock market graphs look like those crazy air-dancing inflatables we sometimes see in front of businesses.

There's another P word that has turned our country into what looks like a piranha pond at feeding time. Pugnaciousness. WWII brought unity to our deflated country after the depression, but I sure hope it doesn't take a world war to reshape this time. Pugnacious. Not only does everyone have an opinion, but instead of agreeing to disagree, all opinions come with a stick to draw a line in the sand. The old bully saying, "It's my way or the highway" attitude. But I digress.

The whole mindset of PPP drifted in like feathers after a pillow fight. Apples and oranges, they say you can't compare the two, but mixed, they make a pretty good fruit salad. The oranges add their juice to keep the apples from turning dark and the apples add some sweetness and crunch to make it interesting. See how that works? Sometimes different things all mixed together make it better. Our country and our town need a fruit salad.

We all need to accept that we lost one-to-two years because of the pandemic, and stop being so angry about it. 2020 was a ghost year, completely panic-driven and that panic consumed all of us. The real estate train left the station and continued at full steam ahead all throughout 2021. All over the country, buyers were looking for places to move their families far from the maddening crowds. Some time, about mid-2020, the realization may have hit some of you as it did me, what if all the homes in Highlands were filled at the same time? We've seen what July 4th week and now Thanksgiving week is like. How can our town take care of all the people with the current infrastructure in place? What if our town was filled to the brim with year-round residents and no short-term rentals? Would it be a 1950s-like community with never-ending afternoon cocktail parties? No, because people are always going to have something to complain about. There will still be parking problems, loud neighbors and not enough workforce housing. We need a plan. Oh wait, there IS a plan. There's a brand new, shiny Highlands Community Comprehensive Plan. We must be careful not to let any kind of codes/ordinances cause code enforcement to become a weapon; when one neighbor calls

in false claims against another neighbor, wasting taxpayer's money, causing ill will.

We have a plan, our new deal. Now, we need to know how the new deal will affect us. Over the next few months, we will learn the outcome of short-term rentals in Highlands. Please let our Mayor and the Town Board know how you feel about short-term rentals before the end of July. Whether you're a full-time resident, in or out of the town limits, a weekend visitor, a second homeowner, a business owner, etc., it is very important they hear from everyone.

In June of 2022, Airbnb started prohibiting party hosting in their homes. Our office has had a no-house-party rule for decades. It took them a while; another reason third-party rental companies are not my favorite as they don't have the oversight like local a local company that facilitates rentals.

Real estate sales and vacation rentals are down from last year. This is not localized, it's all over the country and PPP is only partly to blame, as rising interest rates were put into place to help the unstable economy.

What we are seeing is a more normal season in 2022, better than 2019. 2020 and 2021 were both anomaly years. Let's focus on the good parts of those years and move forward. Short-term rentals are very much a part of the new deal, and there is nothing to fear.

...STR from page 13

He said the town has nuisance ordinances in place to monitor, noise, parking, and trash.

"Save Highlands is deeply invested in protecting the individual property rights that Highlanders have always enjoyed, and it urges the Town to honor these rights, and to consider the widespread support of STRs and their role in sustaining the Highlands economy," he said.

Realtor Pat Allen also suggested the town enforce the nuisance regulations it already has in place and urged the "silent majority" to turn out and speak up.

Letters-to-the-editor in today's edition reflect both sides of the story.

In her letter, Howland made it clear that she considers STRs a commercial enterprise, especially since AirBnB is used in many cases.



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty
& Vacation Rentals



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66 Highlands Plaza (across from Bryson's Food Store)

...STR continued from page 14

However, it should be noted that AirBnB is simply a marketplace akin to the vacation rental marketplaces that have existed in Highlands for 40 years as components of area real estate companies.

"Airbnb, Inc. is an American company that operates an online marketplace for lodging, primarily homestays for vacation rentals, and tourism activities," reads its website.

Happily, "party houses" which have caused much of the problem in Highlands and nationwide are specifically prohibited by AirBnB now that it has officially codified its "Party Ban" as of June 28, 2022.

"In August 2020 we announced a temporary ban on all parties and events in listings globally," state AirBnB. "The temporary ban has proved effective, and so we have officially codified the ban as our policy," states AirBnB.

According to STR agencies in Highlands "party house" aren't knowingly allow here, either.

The definition of Residential zones is at the crux of the STR issue in Highlands and it has been hotly debated.

Highlands has three residential zones which are very different from each other in allowed uses, location, and lot sizes.

As per the codified UDO the definition of Residential is: Buildings for residential use, such as attached and detached single-family dwellings, apartment complexes, condominiums, townhouses, cottages, etc., together with their associated outbuildings, such as garages, storage buildings, gazebos, etc., and including customary incidental home occupations."

The R-1 Residential District is exclusively a low-density residential district for single-family dwellings with customary accessory outbuildings, together with such other related uses which are of a residential character or contribute to the residential character of the district. Those lot sizes are a minimum of .75 acres.

The R-2 Residential District is a medium-density residential district for single-family dwellings, with customary accessory

outbuildings, including manufactured homes and home occupations, together with such other related uses which are of a residential character or contribute to the residential character of the district. Tourist homes and private schools are permitted as special uses. The minimum lot size in R2 is .50 acres.

R3 is a multi-housing area where apartment and condominium buildings are allowed.

Obviously, those against STRs consider them commercial uses – not home occupations or residential in nature – whereas those for STRs see STRs as "other related uses which are of a residential character," because people are living, eating, and sleeping in the homes even if for a short-term basis.

In his letter in today's issue, Tucker Chambers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals, points out numerous questionable aspects of the STR-related ordinance the town passed erroneously at the May Town Board meeting.

He suggested HOAs and POAs in troubled areas could have taken care of many of the complaints, and that the permitting/registration process in the town's May ordinance was over the top.

"The new registration and permitting process calls for lots of leg work for the property owner. Some of the information is easily obtained from the county records, but it still takes time. Other things require statements from licensed plumbers and other professionals, who are all pretty busy. Their statements aren't free, and they shouldn't be free, because it is taking their time to make the service call to check on septic systems and sewer connections," he wrote. "Furthermore, if we're going to make properties who want to rent have these statements, all properties should have them. It is not fair to single one from the other. Just because someone does not rent doesn't mean they don't overuse their existing wastewater system."

At tonight's meeting, Attorney Bob Hagemann will present draft proposals. The board may make final adjustments to the drafts during this period. There will be no public comment tonight.

– Kim Lewicki

...LETTERS from page 11

Let's talk compromise

Dear Editor,

Save Highlands recently read Mayor Taylor's comments urging us to come together with the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, as well as other interested parties, for the purpose of discussing a compromise on the STR ordinance amendment.

As always, Save Highlands remains ready and willing to negotiate the terms of the amendment with any party who extends the invitation.

Indeed, Save Highlands has steadily asked for a seat at the negotiating table since the issue arose last fall, though our requests have been largely overlooked.

Save Highlands welcomes the opportunity to engage in efforts to compromise with the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, or with any other group or individual seeking a middle ground to accommodate the interests of all Highlanders.

Jennifer Huff
Save Highlands

...HURRICANES from page 1

mie Pfohl 21; Conner Hughes and Ian Kittrell 20; Penelope McRae and Nikita Denisoff 19; Elizabeth Burnette and Jayce Powell 17; Alex Petric-Sakonjic 16; Paolo McRae, Blake Kenter and Justin Powell 15; Max Justin and Asa Garner 14; Lilliana Jandera-Chambless and Ian Batista 13; Chris Burnette, Elizabeth Dodge and Katherine Wise 12; Sadie Bysura 10; Mason Johnson 8; Valerie Nadzorau 7; Jelehna McKim 6; Annabelle Searles 5; William Burnette 4; and Shaedon Urena 1.

Next stop 2022 MSL Conference Championship in Franklin Saturday July 16.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool in the evenings. For further information please call Head Coach Steve Hott at 828.421.4121.



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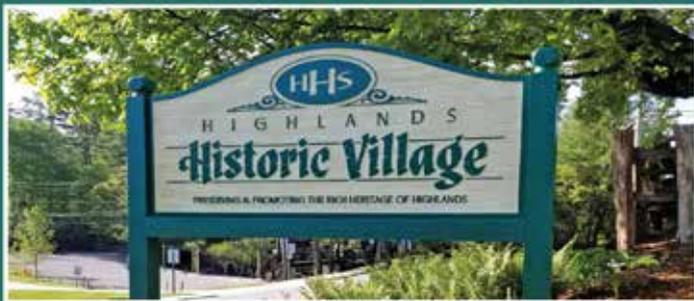
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...SHORTAGES from page 1

more recruits.”

SCC, which has seen a decline in enrollment numbers in the BLET program over the last few sessions, said they recognize the importance of holding the courses to ensure proper staffing for local agencies.

“We try to avoid canceling BLET academies because we know how much our local agencies depend on us to provide well-trained professionals, and we are hopeful we’ll be able to resume training with a full class in September,” said Goode.

According to data provided by Harrell this week from the NCT&S database, in 2020 there were 2,255 enrolled in BLET. In 2021, there were only 550. There were also 1,000 less law enforcement certifications issued in the state in 2021 compared to the previous year.

At the same time that fewer individuals are enrolling in BLET and fewer certifications are being issued, the state also reported that the ratio of new officers compared to those who retired or resigned increased. In 2020, there were 353 more officers retiring than BLET produced and in 2021 that number nearly doubled to 666 more officers retiring or resigning compared to officers coming out of BLET.

On average, more officers retire than are produced through BLET in NC. From 2016 to 2020, the state average 257 more officers retiring or resigning than new

• See SHORTAGES page 17

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...SHORTAGES continued from page 16

officers coming out of BLET, however in 2021, that number shot up to 666 exacerbating an already existing staffing issue within law enforcement.

Law enforcement staffing shortages in Macon County is part of a larger national trend. A 2019 nationwide survey of over 400 police agencies conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum, reported that 63% of police agency executives advised that the number of police applicants decreased over the previous five years.

"Law enforcement is embroiled in probably the most difficult time in American history," Chief Harrell wrote in a letter to the Franklin Town Council. "Approximately 2 plus years of societal and media vilification for a very small number of horrific, gross, and unacceptable incidents has left an incredible mark on our reputation. We no longer enjoy the same quality reputation we once did, and all of law enforcement and the communities we serve are paying an irrefutable price for a few."

The Franklin Police Department is authorized for 17 sworn positions and according to Harrell the department currently has 6 vacancies (35%) and is anticipating more in the near future. FPD has recently had several retirements of long-term officers as well as some resignations, resulting in the current staff deficiencies. As a way to entice new recruits, Chief Harrell asked the town to consider looking at pay incentives to make the FPD more competitive with surrounding agencies.

"We have had several potential BLET Academy candidates and other sworn officers make inquiries about wanting to work with us, but when they hear of the pay, they have quickly rerouted their interests to better-paying departments, with better incentives and bonuses," said Harrell. "I am convinced that if we raise the bar/pay, we will increase the quality of candidates that want to work for an organization that is committed to providing for their employees above the status quo, therefore getting better productivity and services for the people we serve and protect."

Compared to surrounding agencies, Franklin Police Officers start off at a base salary of \$34,192 which is currently \$3,157 less than the town of Highlands' starting pay and \$6,109 less than the Macon County Sheriff's Office, the other two departments within the same county.

Compared to Macon County, Highlands Police, Sylva Police, Jackson County Sheriff, Andrews Police, Waynesville Police, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol, the starting salary for an officer with the Franklin Police is the lowest. The be-

ginning salaries for comparable positions among the various departments also show that Franklin is the lowest in the area with a Detective position being \$2,119 less than Franklin than in Highlands and \$6,566 less than the Macon County Sheriff's Office. The starting salaries of every other position are also less at the Franklin Police Department, including the Chief Position. The starting Chief salary for Franklin is \$58,478 for Franklin, \$64,688 for Highlands, and \$71,634 for Sylva. The maximum salary for Franklin's Police Chief or Fire Chief is less than the minimum salary of the Franklin Town Manager position. Both Chief positions max out at \$86,324 while the Town Manager position starts at \$86,397.

In addition to falling behind in terms of starting pay for employees, Harrell noted that it is difficult to compete with surrounding agencies that provided a cost-of-living-adjustment for employees as a retention incentive, especially during unprecedented times of inflation and cost of living increases such as the cost of gas and groceries. The town of Franklin's 2022-'23 budget, which began on July 1, 2022, did not include a COLA for employees.

Chief Harrell asked the town council to implement an "aggressive recruitment mission" consisting of an approved Management and Council incentive bonus program or signing bonus program for all new applications. He asked that the pay be given to recruits upon successful completion of a 9-month probationary period. He also asked the council to launch an immediate salary study of surrounding agencies to determine an appropriate and competitive salary scale for the Franklin Police Department.

"While I cannot speak to all the needs of other town departments, I can say with confidence, that my ask is necessary," said Chief Harrell. "We are in desperate need of experienced police officers and officers-in-training to help shoulder the weight being carried by our remaining sworn staff who should be recognized and applauded, especially under such unprecedented times."

Anyone who's at least 20 years old and interested in a fulfilling career as a law enforcement officer can contact Daniel Reid at 828.306.7055 or d_reid@SouthwesternCC.edu. SCC can help connect you with area law enforcement agencies to sponsor your enrollment.

Both current and aspiring law enforcement professionals can also earn an associate degree in Criminal Justice through Southwestern. For more information on that program, contact Tony Johnson at 828.339.4210 or t_johnson@SouthwesternCC.edu.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



A Vacation with Lasting Results

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Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

Montana is a beautiful state. My wife and I have visited Montana twice now during the winter, of all seasons. There seems to be some sort of restful magnetism that woos us there. The vistas and Yellowstone National Park and the wolves and bison and everything else created that seems to reflect a splendor not seen elsewhere that calls us. I think Montana is majestic eye-candy for sure, but there really is a better reason to go to Montana even in -19 degree weather.

Montana in the winter offers a quicker path to solitude. Big expanses, fewer people, and great opportunities to explore and be still in an otherwise hurried and harried world. Montana is quieter and slower and I, perhaps like you, need “quiet and slow” every now and again.

If I had to guess, Highlands was started in part by those who wanted and needed to “get away” from something or someone. We, too, have vistas and the like that do afford a weary seeker some solitude. Solitude can be allusive in a bigger, denser city. But is solitude the real goal to seek in a “destination” vacation spot? Solitude sounds good but I think there is something even better to pursue within it.

There is something in solitude that we all need. Silence. Solitude is a way to silence but solitude can not guarantee silence. Sometimes we mistake solitude for silence. Silence is not necessarily the absence of sound around us. Many travel to our plateau, settle in after a few days, and seek some alone time to decompress. Alone doesn't guarantee silence. One can be totally alone in a quiet and beautiful environment and still listen to the ongoing dull roar within themselves. Silence around us does not mean silence within us.

How do we get to inner silence and why would anyone want or need to do so? True silence affords us the optimal opportunity to hear with our heart. A quieted heart has very acute hearing. Silence and solitude can really work together to make some pretty beneficial things happen. A quieted heart is not often employed but when it is, rest happens at a deeper level. Idleness leads to restlessness. Rest is a result of the right activity.

Many people avoid solitude and in turn silence because each only heightens our awareness of things we would rather repress, silence ourselves or even deny. Silence sometimes means facing a confrontation within us. The key to solitude and silence is to invite one particular person into the mix. The beautiful creation around us can be medicinal but when combined with a personal invitation to the Creator, great things can happen. People often go to Montana and/or Highlands to reflect and rediscover a peace recently lost or diminished.

After 25 years of ministry, I can say the following with

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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

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www.christanglicancashiers.com

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School; 10:30am Worship Service.

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children's Program. Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

June 15

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 east and Sherwood Forest.

June 30

• At noon, officers responded to a call of injury to real property where the skate park at the Rec Center was spray painted.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 5.

July 5

• At 1:34 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 1:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

• At 3:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 3:54 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on US 64 east.

• At 6:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a gas leak at a residence on Summit Trail.

July 6

• At 10:36 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut Street.

July 7

• At 1 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 10:25 a.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

• At 2:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lucerne Dr.

• At 8:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on NC 106.

July 8

• At 10:47 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Dr.

• At 2:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 4th Street.

• At 2:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

• At 4:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain Rd.

• At 5:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horsecove Road.

July 10

• At 11:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Worley Rd.

July 11

• At 8:15 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Skyline Lodge Rd.

• At 11:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ravenel Ridge Rd.

• At 12:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire at a location on N. 4th St.

• At 12:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Worley Rd.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

continued from page 18

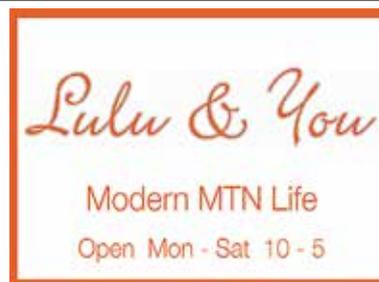
confidence: many seek peace in lieu of the Prince of Peace. Many seek answers more so than the One with all of them. Many "get-away" only to discover that the Lord is everywhere. Here is a short couple of verses once written to a small group of people in Greece seeking a "get-a-way" of their own.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7).

There is much to enjoy in this beautiful part of our country. As you appreciate a long-range mountain view, be reminded that mountains can melt away in the presence of the Lord. As you navigate a well-manicured golf course, know that he has afforded you a mulligan of forgiveness through His Son Christ. As you waded into cool mountain streams, know that His voice is like 10,000 waterfalls. Be alone, but not without Him. Be quiet but not to the extent He cannot speak to your heart. Consider the words of the Psalmist: "Be still, and know that I am God..." Psalm 46:10.



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PLANET
BY
Lauren G

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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)

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

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

MINISTRY STAFF POSITION AVAILABLE. Highlands United Methodist Church is looking to hire a dedicated, enthusiastic and gifted Christian leader to serve as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Please contact Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas at randyhumc@icloud.com. (6/23)

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

THE DRY SINK IS HIRING! We have several entry level positions open. We are fun, fast-paced, hard working, and we love our customers! If you love to cook or just enjoy helping folks, pop by for an application at 450 Main St. Highlands, or email Sam at shays@thedrysink.com. We are open 7 days a week, 10a-5p Monday-Saturday and 1-5p Sundays. (st. 5/5)

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

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22



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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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to see clients-in-need at a reduced fee; Counseling Center will reimburse the difference between reduced fee up to \$75. **PREFERRED:** Strong Clinical skills, including areas of assessment; diagnosis; crisis & case management; Independent decision-making skills; Experience and desire to lead workshops and/or groups as outreach to the Highlands community **CRITICAL NEED FOR THE AREA:** Specialty in Substance Abuse; Bi-lingual (Spanish & English)(st. 4/7)

HIGHLANDS PHARMACY has full and part-time positions open for a Certified Pharmacy Technician and a clerk/merchandiser. No nights, no Sundays, and great co-workers. Pay and benefits determined by position, qualifications, & experience. Apply in person or contact Sherry Sims 828-526-2366. (st. 4/7)

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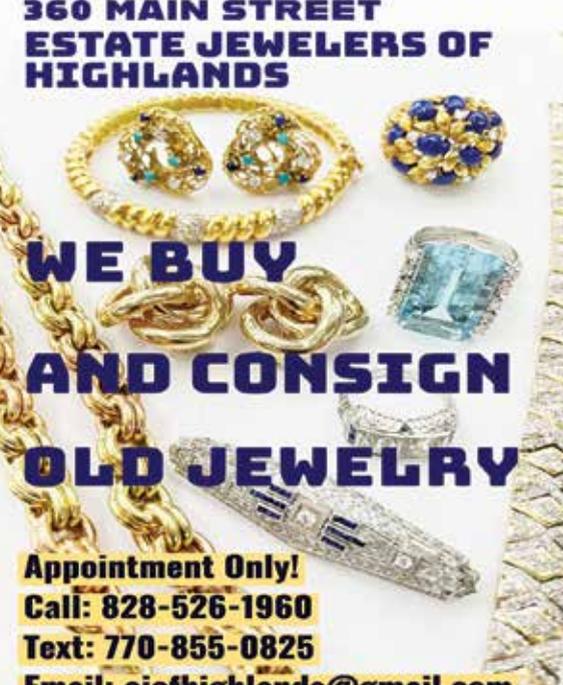
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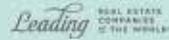


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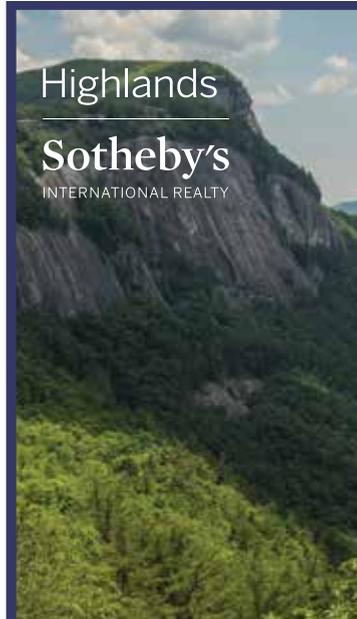


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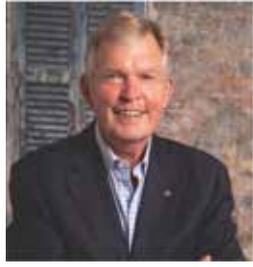
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