

Highlands Newspaper

Free Every Thursday

Volume 20, Number 33 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., Aug. 17, 2023

DuBois tapped as new Assistant Principal at Highlands School

By **Brittney Lofthouse** via poll last week to appoint Alyssa DeBois as the new Assistant Principal at Highlands School. The Macon County Board of Education unanimously voted

Originally hailing from Sacramento, CA, DeBois earned her
 • See **DUBOIS** page 17

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Community turned out for annual fire department open house



On Saturday, Aug. 5 sirens could be heard throughout the afternoon but this time it was all in fun. About 400 people turned out for the annual open house which included a free hotdog lunch, a tour of the new fire house, a bounce house and rides through town on a firetruck. About 20 rides were given with as many tours of the facility. Donations are always accepted and the \$2,800 raised this year is going to a member of the force who is battling kidney cancer.

ZB gives OK for the Log Cabin Restaurant to reopen

Also OKs changes to Highlands Inn Lodge

At the July Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting last week, two properties owned by CPH 96 Log Cabin, LLC on Log Cabin Lane – Highlands Inn Lodge and The Log Cabin Restaurant were the subject of two Special Use Permit (SUP) applications.

Though only interior upgrades to the Joe Webb cabin restaurant are planned – new furnishings, wall coverings, light fixtures and a complete kitchen and bathroom remodel - an SUP is needed because the restaurant has been closed more than 12 months.

The only exterior change will be to the parking lot whose asphalt
 • See **LOG CABIN** page 13



Volunteers at work at Highlands School on Saturday.

Volunteers give HS, campus a makeover

By **Cynthia Dendy**

On Saturday, Aug. 12, about 30 volunteers - parents, grandparents, teachers, students, alumni, and community members - joined together for a day of giving back

to Highlands School.

Between 8:30am and 4:30pm the entire property was mowed and weed-eated, flower beds were weeded, interior paint was

• See **MAKEOVER** page 8

HNC steps up attack on STRs

The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, the group in Highlands who is against short-term (STRs) rentals in residential districts, is having a meeting Sunday, Aug. 20 at the Community Building to organize and ascertain who is with them prior to the up-

coming November election.

Their premise is that STRs are bad for Highlands on all fronts.

They believe STRs should not be allowed in residential districts 1 and 2 - which make up the majority of residential housing in High-

• See **HNC** page 8

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• MAYOR ON DUTY •

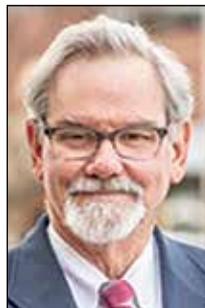
Tonight's Town Board lineup

Thursday night is the August meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners. It will begin with public comment at 7 pm. The meeting can be accessed remotely by using the YouTube link on the town website.

When I predict the length of the meeting based on agenda items, the reverse effect is always in play. I have long given up on telling Sallie whether we should eat dinner before or after the meeting. If I tell her the agenda is short and I will be home for dinner real soon, it guarantees a dinner time of about 9 or 9:30. Telling her the agenda is long and we should have dinner before the meeting usually translates into me returning earlier than expected.

So, the agenda for this meeting is rather short, but who knows how long the meeting will last?

The homeowners on Little Bear Pen will be first on the agenda to do a presentation about installing a warning light at the entrance to their subdivision that empties out to US 64 on a hazardous curve.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Next on the agenda will be a report from our town attorney concerning talks with the county attorney about the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands lease. At the last meeting, the board directed Mr. Hagemann to consult with the Macon County attorney concerning issues and options related to the lease. He will file a report and present options and recommendations at the meeting.

Another item for review will be the ADA compliance for the proposed section of the NC 106 sidewalk.

A question was posed at the July board meeting concerning the ADA requirements for the section of the sidewalk that would be built on the Shelby Place easement. This issue has been researched by the town attorney. Our staff has also consulted with the company that did the recent town ADA study and with state ADA experts. The board will discuss how to proceed based on the report of the town attorney and staff. The options are to continue with the current route or move the sidewalk to the other side of the street, where ADA issues would be less challenging. A third option is to not move forward with the sidewalk project.

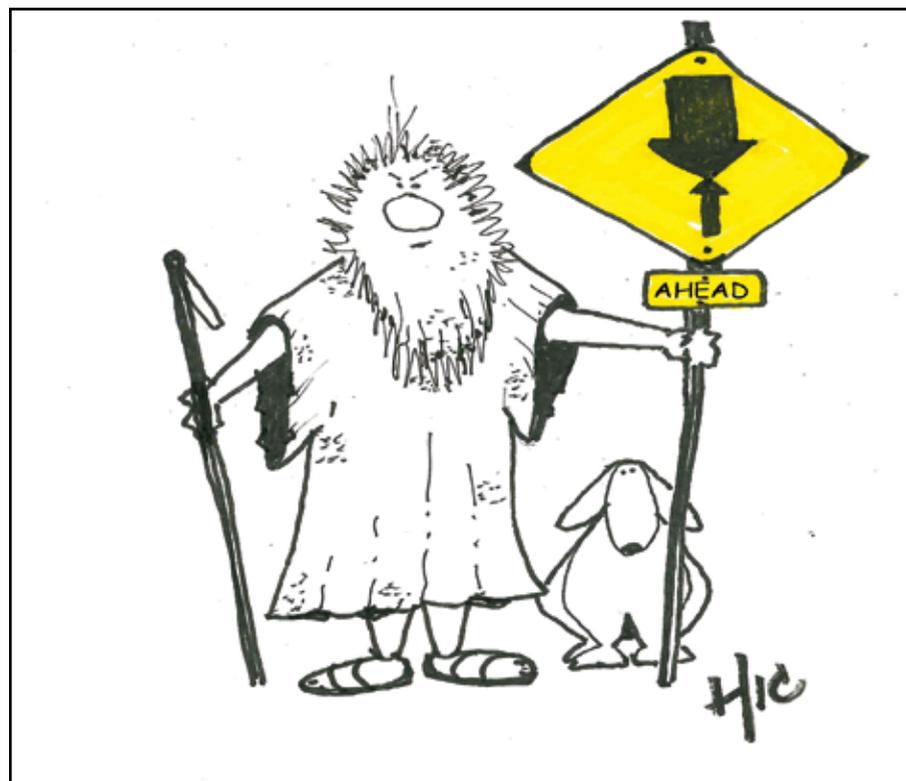
At the July board meeting, a discussion was held concerning Town Board committees. Currently, there are a number of committees that research issues prior to the full board taking action. We have committees for recreation, public safety, public works, finance, and technology. Each committee has three members, and all meetings are open to the public.

The staff will report to the board about scrapping the committee structure and having work sessions that include all board members. These work sessions would also be public meetings.

In my opinion, there is merit to having all board members involved in these kinds of deliberations prior to an issue being placed on the agenda for a vote. The board will review several possible formats before such a new operating procedure is adopted.

See you Thursday tonight at the meeting, or I will wave to you on YouTube

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Highlands varsity soccer loses to Mountain Heritage

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

The Highlands boys varsity soccer hosted Mountain Heritage in the season opener on Monday and ended with a loss 7-3.

“We played well, but not at the final level that the team is capable of,” said Highlands Coach Caleb Brown. “There is much more to come as our conditioning, and ball possession gets better throughout the season. Everyone on our bench got some time out on the field, including our freshman players, which had some goal scoring opportunities.”



Highlands Bryan Jarquin stops a Mountain Heritage drive and sends the ball up to the Highlander offense.

Highlands goals were scored by JD Head, Landon Green, and Isaiah Vilardo.

“We saw a lot of positives in moving the ball around by passing through balls on the

ground as well as creating chances when one of our players back was to the opponents goal by laying the ball off to a forward facing attacking player,” said Brown. “We grew into the game

defensively and had some great tackles on our backline to save us from giving Mountain Heritage goal scoring opportunities. All in all our main priorities were our conditioning, finishing created chances, positional awareness, and defensive marking/communication.”

Brown added that the “Man of the Match” was Highlands Bryan Jarquin.

“Last night (Monday) Bryan Jarquin came in and played a position that he has not usually played,” said Brown. “He was a menace all around the field. From making good open field tackles to regaining possession at midfield or in the attacking third. To create

• See **SOCCER** page 10

Highlands varsity loses tough season opener to Smoky Mountain



Highlands Aislynn Wyatt-Luck tips the ball over a Smoky Mountain block.

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

The Lady Highlanders hosted Smoky Mountain on Monday night and ended up with a loss after a 3-1 best of five final.

“With it being our

first game, I knew it wasn't going to be perfect,” said Highlands Coach Kaitlin Bishop. “We did some really good things and saw some things we definitely have to get better at. We have a group

that plays hard and that is going to benefit us a lot, I mean this group really gets after it.”

Bishop said they have a lot of girls playing in new positions after losing 7 seniors last year.

“Building confidence as a team and individually is something we are really trying to do right now,” she said. “This group is younger, but they play with so much grit which is so fun to see as a coach. This team is scrappy in the best of ways, and I am really excited to see the accomplishments we make this season.”

Despite the fact many players were in new

• See **VB** page 10



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Beyond fuel and holiday assistance, the Highlands Emergency Council addresses fundamental needs by offering food, clothing, furniture, and pet food to families experiencing hardship. They believe that no one should go without essentials, and their commitment to providing these necessities showcases their dedication to making a difference in the lives of those facing adversity.

To learn more about the Highlands Emergency Council and how you can contribute to their invaluable work, contact them directly at
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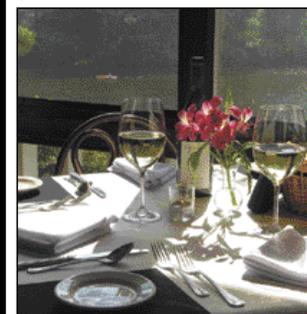
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• OBITUARY •

Richard John Haight



Richard John Haight, age 59 left this earth peacefully on August 6, 2023. Rick was born on September 24, 1963 in Atlanta GA. He is predeceased by his parents, Irving Richard Haight and Jean Marie Van Wagenen Haight.

Rick moved to Highlands NC in 1994 to start his landscaping business Four Seasons Landscape. He met his wife, Donita Cline, in Highlands in 2005.

Always a career landscaper and nurseryman, Rick chose the Highlands area for the beautiful climate and mountains. Rick loved landscape design and had an affinity for plants, rocks, and flowers. He lived each day with joy and determination. He will be greatly missed by his community and his family. They take comfort in knowing that his landscaping creations will live on for generations.

When Rick was not landscaping for work, he would come home to his beautiful yard in Highlands, to do more landscaping work "to relax." His other hobbies included riding his motorcycle, listening to music, and spending time with friends and family.

In addition to his ability to grow flowers, Rick had a knack for helping those around him to grow and prosper. In sharing and teaching his belief of choosing love over fear, has helped his family, coworkers and community. He has helped to grow a solid company of good people who love landscaping almost as much as he did. While Rick is gone, his teachings will remain in the people that he inspired.

Rick was predeceased by his sister Barbra. His surviving siblings are Jimmy Haight, Janet Evans, Ann Marie Haight and Wendi Richardson.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Donita Cline and his three sons, Blake Dourron (age 34), Nick Haight (age 26) and David Cline (age 19). Blake and his partner Dani gave Rick his first grandchild, a boy (10 months old), Elijah Hendrix Richard Dourron.

Services for Rick Haight will be held at Macon Funeral Home in Franklin NC on Friday August 18th at 2pm. We will begin receiving friends at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers please donate to one of Rick's favorite charities. Shriners Hospital: lovetotherescue.org or St Jude: stjude.org. Cards can be sent to P.O. Box 2443, Cashiers, NC 28717.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home handling the arrangements.



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...MAKEOVER continued from page 1

touched up, trees were removed, bushes were trimmed, 300 bags of mulch were spread, and much more!

A special thank you to the following companies who assisted:

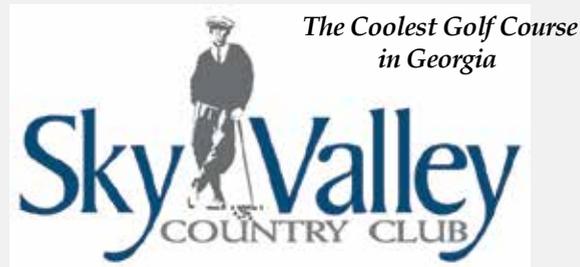
- DP Painting (Dennis Perkins and crew) for pressure washing the playground and other areas around the school. These guys worked until dark Friday evening to get the playground cleaned in time for mulch to be spread next day.

- Bryson's Food Store for providing the PTO a great deal on biscuits for the volunteer breakfast.

- Highlands Lawn & Garden and Stoneyard 28 for donating the majority of the 300 bags of mulch.

- Bryson Grading and Paving for providing heavy equipment and a dump trailer.

And a special thanks to the community who joined together to beautify the school just before teachers returned.



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...HNC continued from page 1

lands.

They believe if STRs weren't allowed, there would be more housing available for long-term renters.

They believe that the natural resources and local infrastructure including fire, health and public safety systems in Highlands are negatively impacted by STRs.

This is an issue many municipalities are struggling with and for which many are lobbying legislators. They would like a portion of the room tax money to help fund infrastructure and services impacted by tourism.

Currently, by law, all the room tax

money levied visitors at lodging facilities in Highlands, goes to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands. This money is used to promote tourism, issue grants to nonprofits and fund services for the town like plantings, etc.

However, the HNC blames STRs for the number of tourists which they consider is detrimental to Highlands.

And finally, they believe that the results of the Nov. 7 election are critical to the future of Highlands specifically regarding STRs.

• See HNC page 10

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...HNC continued from page 8

There are three open seats on the Town Board.

On the ballot is Tucker Chambers - though the challenge to his residency will be determined Aug. 22 - Rachel Wilson, Jeff Weller, Kay Craig, and incumbents John Dotson and Brian Stiehler.

Incumbents Dotson and Stiehler are against STRs and voted with Commissioners Amy Patterson and Eric Pierson when the issue of curtailing and possibly amortizing STRs came up over the last two years. The is a stance Mayor Pat Taylor has held fast to, also.

The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition invites those who believe in their standing to attend the meeting on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the status of NC SB 290 is pending in the legislature.

The premise of the bill is that STRs are non-commercial lodging facilities that support tourism which is considered an economic engine in NC.

The bill outlines the same regulations Highlands adopted over the last two years regarding garbage, parking, noise, the num-

ber of occupants allowed per bedroom per house, the proximity of a property manager and more.

The Granicus software the town purchased to determine the number and location of STRs within the town limits will help staff regulate STRs.

As per the Unified Development amendments, STRs in existence prior to Sept. 15, 2022, have been allowed to continue and must abide by the regulations. New STRs aren't allowed after that date.

"I'm still working with Granicus to implement this new software," said Zoning Director Michael Mathis. "Highlands Police Code Enforcement Officer Leah McCall has the same access to the software as I do."

At the July Town Board meeting, when Commissioner Dotson asked how many complaints have been logged since Sept. 15, 2022, Mathis said, "10-15."

At the time, Police Chief Andrea Holland said at least one of those complaints didn't involve renters, but rather the owners'

family. Holland said noise complaints can be difficult because the infraction is usually over by the time they respond the next day.

"We have talked about allowing a night shift officer to review the data, so they can immediately respond to complaints. However, that's something we'll have to run by Chief Holland," said Mathis.

Unlike other cities that allow STRs with regulations, Highlands doesn't have a "three-strikes you're out for 3, 6, or 12 months" policy at this time.

"As it stands, our ordinance fines STR violations like any other zoning violation - \$100 per day until the violation is resolved. But our ordinance doesn't allow us to shut them down - temporarily or permanently - based on the number of violations," said Mathis.

Complaints logged into the Granicus software was also discussed last month - specifically the issue of allowing anonymous complainants.

"I believe we're going to require the complainant to sign their name," said Mathis.

- Kim Lewicki

...SOCCER continued from page 4

chances in the opponent's half by passing good balls through the defensive line or laying the ball off to forward facing players. Bryan all around had an extremely influential match, which is why he was subbed off momentarily. Bryan's performance last night really stood out to me. We had other players have great games as well, but Bryan's performance really stands out in my mind."

Brown said he thinks we can expect good things from this team over the season.

"We look to be a strong team this year," he said. "We play tough out of conference games to start the season, which is good for us because playing a good opponent gives us perspective on the areas of major improvement we need to focus on. We have a strong core group of upperclassmen, but we also have some promising freshman and underclassmen. Give us a few more weeks of practice, and a couple more games and we will be firing on all cylinders."

...VB continued from page 4

positions, there are a lot of things the Lady Highlanders did right.

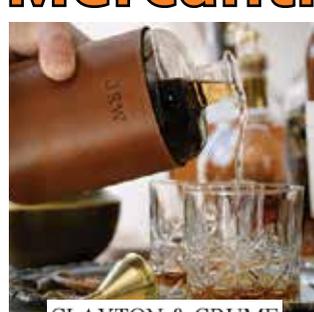
"We did a good job of keeping the sets close, we never let them just take over," said Bishop. "We made some really big hustle plays that kept us in the games. We had a couple different times we could have thrown in the towel and gave up, but this group never did. They fought hard till the end, even when things didn't work out in our favor they kept battling."

Highlands junior varsity fared better in their match against Smoky Mountain and won 2-0.

"They played very well for it being their first game," said Bishop. "This group is a hard-working group! Very excited to see where their hard work and dedication take them this season!"

Highlands next plays Aug. 16 on the road against Rosman, JV begins at 5 p.m. and varsity at 6 p.m.

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AUGUST 18
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HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

Community Meeting

WHEN: Sunday, August 20, 2023 at 3pm

WHERE: Highlands Community Center
869 N 4th Street (next to the ball field)
Highlands, NC 28741

You are welcome to attend if you believe:

That there should be SOME solely residential neighborhoods in Highlands to preserve the longstanding character of our town.

That our elected Town officials should act promptly to protect the residential character of R-1 and R-2 neighborhoods by prohibiting all short-term rentals.

That more available housing for residents can be achieved by prohibiting short-term rentals in R-1 and R-2 neighborhoods.

That our natural resources and local infrastructure - including our fire, health, and public safety systems - are negatively impacted by short-term rentals and the huge number of tourists they bring to our small town.

That the November 7, 2023 election is critical to the future of Highlands.

If you share our beliefs, please join us!

Questions? hncolition@aol.com
www.highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com



HIGHLANDS
NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

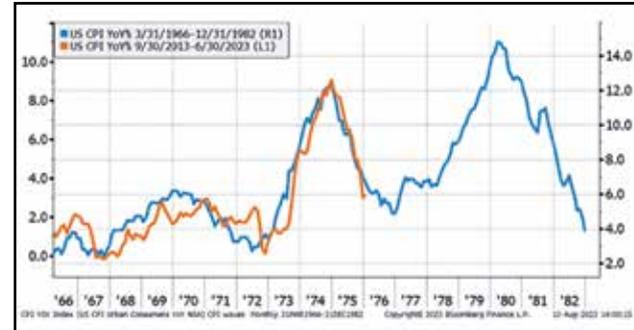
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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

Why rates may not come down

Inflation's recent history

Right now, I'm listening to CNBC talking about inflation dropping faster than the Fed expected and will stop raising rates soon. However, IF inflation keeps tracking the period of 1966 – 1982 below, we may be in for more. History doesn't always repeat itself, but it often rhymes.



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

This is the Federal Reserve Bank's biggest concern - a second spike in inflation. As you can see from the chart, this is how things played out in the beginning of the 80's, and then Fed Chair Paul Volker raised the Fed Funds rate until inflation was under control. While you can argue about the economic effects of government spending, the fact is inflation was quite low and under control until the government spending spree started.

The Fed and interest rates

As I've mentioned before, the Federal Reserve's primary method of achieving their mandate - full employment and inflation at 2% - has been to raise or lower the Fed Funds rate to either stimulate or slow the economy. Currently at 5.25% - 5.50%, this is a target rate at which commercial banks borrow and lend their excess reserves to each other overnight.

However, if the larger banks have adequate reserves (and they do), and they're not borrowing overnight, does this rate really mean as much as people think. I'm not sure, and I think you can make the case that this is why we haven't yet entered a recession.

We've never been here before

If history does repeat and we experience a spike in inflation forcing the Fed's hand, the "overnight" rate will likely remain elevated, even if we enter a recession. But, this time may be different for two additional reasons - 1) \$8 trillion of Treasuries and Mortgage backed securities on the Federal Reserve's balance sheet, AND 2) our incredible amount of national debt at \$31 trillion!

We've never been here before, and how this plays out, who knows.

What is really driving rates

In 2008 the Federal Reserve employed a new way of controlling rates - Quantitative Easing (QE). At that time, coming out of the housing crisis, they needed a way to control long term rates and recapitalize the banking system, so they began printing money and purchasing treasuries and mortgage-backed securities and parking them at the Fed. From 2008 - 2022, these purchases amounted to \$9 trillion.

The U.S. bond market is approximately \$30 trillion, and if you recall Econ 101, when you have less supply, prices rise. AND, when bond prices rise, interest rates go down. So, by taking these bonds/securities out of the market, the Fed lowered supply, which raised bond prices, which lowered interest rates and let the housing market heal.

Increasing supply

Starting in September of 2022, the Fed reversed course and entered Quantitative Tightening (or QT). In QT, the Fed not only stopped buying treasuries and mortgage back securities, but they stopped replacing them as they matured allowing them to "roll off" their balance sheet. In turn, this has increased supply, and long-term rates have increased significantly causing the economy to slow.

But they're just getting started and they're still a massive amount of supply that will likely come to the Bond Market in the next decade! If this happens, rates will NOT come back down, in fact they will likely go higher.

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• THANK YOU •

Low Country Boil was a success

On behalf of the Friends of Founders Park, Inc. board of directors, we sincerely want to thank our community for the amazing support for Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

Last month, we held our sixth annual Low Country Shrimp Boil to raise funds for the park. All proceeds go to annual color, landscape maintenance and other improvements to help keep our park a beautiful and safe place.

A great time was had by the sellout crowd of 280 patrons. The event was a huge success and made possible by our event's committee and volunteers. Also, the event's success was made possible by our sponsors and donors as follows: Highlands Festivals, Inc., Paula Jones, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation of WNC, Inc., Suzanne Dansby, RB Haynes, Ginger and Skip Meislahn, Charles and Laurie Lowe, Alfred & Marleen Salo, Dry Sink, Ugly Dog Pub, Inc., The Business Spot, Main Street Nursery, Carlos Vazquez Landscape, Inc., Tate Landscaping Services, Inc., Highlands Newspaper, Laurel Magazine, WHLC, The Highlander Newspaper,

Rotary Club of Highlands, Town of Highlands, Friends of Founders Park - Board of Directors, and our Shrimp Boil Volunteers.

It is hard to imagine Highlands without our beautiful downtown park. Its continuing success is made possible by all that use and support it. Friends of Founders Park is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit dedicated to the success of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park (www.foundersparkhighlands.org).

Board of Directors, Friends of Founders Park, Inc.

...LOG CABIN continued from page 1

has eroded away. It will be paved and properly marked with parking spaces which will amount to .45 acres of impervious surface.

The restaurant will have 10 employees at its largest shift and 86 tables, so 34 parking spaces are required - 29 due to seating and 5 for employees.

The brick walkway will be preserved and reworked to bring it and everything else about the interior of the restaurant ADA compliant.

The Highlands Inn Lodge is also being renovated and upgraded much in the same

way. The outdated furnishings, wall and floor coverings and light fixtures will be upgraded and made ADA compliant.

The SUP is required because the plan is to increase the number of standard rooms from 52 to 60. Four of the current seven, two-room suites will be converted into standard rooms - three suites will remain.

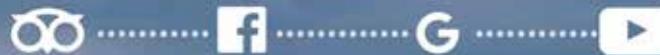
The porte-cochere will be reworked, plantings installed and in the end, the impervious area of the 1.11 acres will de-

• See LOG CABIN page 19

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Massage Therapist:

Brenda Lopez

Upstairs and Across the
Walkway at Falls on Main
Highlands

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6.-9:45a, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Public Swim Mon. thru Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. and Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ONGOING

• The "Kids Hike Highlands" trail passport program has been refreshed for the 2023 season. Pick up a copy of the Kids Hike Highlands passport map at one of the four prize locations or you can download a copy at www.highland-

sbiological.org.

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds

open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817 2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

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

1st Tuesdays

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

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

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

6:45-7:45. For more info, call 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. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tuesdays

• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings, For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

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

Tues. & Thurs.

• Zumba class with Gay Chaplin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thurs. through Aug. 10

• Highlands Biological Foundation's free Zahner lectures at the

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) at 6 p.m. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org.

Thurs-Sat.

• Highlands Historical Society Museum at 320 N. 4th Street is open 10a to 4p through October.

Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open 10a-1p through October.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

• 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.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Chair Yoga – from 4-5 PM. If you are interested in greater strength and flexibility but have difficulty getting up and down from a sitting or reclining posture.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga – from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience,

3rd Fridays

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bas-

com at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8 p.m. through Sept. 3. 828-506-0125.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

• Soiree for Pre-K at the Vineyard at High Holly, 5:30 p.m. until. \$250 per person. Eight per table. Includes Dinner, drinks and dancing. Featuring Steel Toe Stiletto from Greenville, SC. For tickets call 828-526-0863. Or email, info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org.

Through Aug. 19

• "Rock of Ages" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Thurs., Aug. 17

• At The Bascom, Community Barn Dance, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 General Admission, 12 and under Free. Jackson Grimm and the Bull Moose Party. Cash Bar. Free Popcorn. To reserve tickets go to TheBascom.org or call 828-526-4949.

Fri., Aug. 18

• Free Exclusive Documentary Screening of "Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut" to be held at The Village Green from 3-5 p.m., at Lewis Hall at The Village Green in Cashiers, you can be among the first to view

• See **EVENTS** page 16



HIGHLANDS

ELEV. 4118 | THE HEART OF HAPPINESS

Free!

Community Shredding Event

Dispose of your sensitive documents and help our environment!

Thursday, August 31, 2023
Highlands Plaza
(Near Bryson's Food Store)
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Donations will be collected to support
The Gordon Center and
Highlands Child Care
Development Center.

For more information:
events@highlandschamber.org
828-526-5841

This event is made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/
Visit Highlands, N.C.

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the documentary screening of "Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut". There is no charge for this community event, everyone is welcome. Lite refreshments will be available.

Sat., Aug. 19

At K-H Park, annual 5K run 6-10p.

• The Highlands Emergency Council 31-year celebration at the Highlands Community Building from 4-7 p.m. There will be a silent auction, live music, beer, wine and appetizers as well as a raffle. For more information, call 838-526-4357.

Sun. Aug. 20

• Highlands Neighborhood Coalition Community Meeting at 3 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center on N. 4th Street.

Tues., Aug. 22

• Would you like to be a mentor? Mission's Parent Mentor Orientation Training is for parents who understand the unique experience of raising a child with a disability, mental health challenge, or special healthcare need. Since 1985, Mission Children's Hospital Family Support Network (FSN) has connected parents to volunteer parents who are uniquely qualified to help because

of shared experiences. At our upcoming Parent Mentor Orientation Training, parents are trained to offer support in meaningful ways for families undergoing a new diagnosis, transition, or crisis. This training offers volunteer parents the tools they need to support others and become an official FSN Parent Mentor. Training is being offered from 5:30-8pm; sessions will be at Mission Children's at 11 Vanderbilt Park Dr., Asheville. To register, call 828-213-0047 or email mhav.family.support.network@hca-healthcare.com

Wed., Aug. 23

• Author and Highlands Newspaper columnist Kathy Manos Penn booksigning "Pawprints, Prose and Murder" at 1pm, then she's with Cathy Pickens and the Mystery Book Club from 2 to 4pm. Refreshments from the Secret Garden.

Thurs., Aug. 24

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6-8 p.m., Nicole Witt a nationally-touring, award-winning Nashville songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for the soaring melodies and clever turns of phrase that have brought her national acclaim in the country, bluegrass, and Christian music scenes. Tickets are \$40. <https://www.simplertix.com/e/nicole-witt-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-124435>

www.simplertix.com/e/nicole-witt-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-124435

Aug. 25-Sept. 2

• The annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse theme this year is "Historically Cashiers" and features a classic mountain retreat in The Club at High Hampton. For more call 828-743-7710.

Fri., Aug. 25

• Please join us on Friday at 11 a.m. in the Hudson Library Meeting Room for Community Coffee with the Mayor. The topic will be: "Future Issues Facing Highlands."

• Hudson Library is excited to welcome Nancy Silberkleit, co-CEO of Archie Comics, for a Books & Bites program on Friday at 1 PM. She'll talk about the history of Archie Comics, her remarkable story of becoming CEO, and the power of comics and graphic novels to inspire a love of reading. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

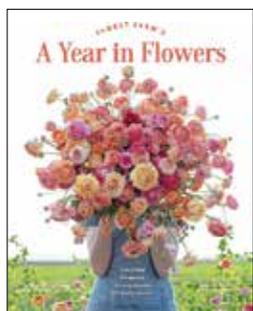
Tues., Aug. 29

• At Hudson Library, Author Talk: Dorothy Padgett author of Jimmy Carter: Elected President with Pocket Change and Peanuts, on Tuesday at 2 PM. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

Thurs., Aug. 31

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC will host a free community shred event 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Highlands Plaza, near Bryson's Food Store on NC 106. To ensure a smooth process, we kindly request participants to transport their items in plastic bags or bins. Allowed: paper products with staples or paper clips, spiral notebooks. Not Allowed: 3-ring binders and cardboard. Donations on-site to support two local organizations, The Gordon Center and HCCDC.

• At The Vineyard in Scaly Mountain, A Cause for the Paws Summer Fling 4-7 p.m. Food, artwork, live and silent auction, prizes and live music. Tickets are \$50. All proceeds to benefit the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Tickets available at Rosewood Market in Highlands and at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Silver Threads, Creekside Gazebo, AARC Thrift Store all in Franklin and Christie's Home Decor in Otto.



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Cost: \$20-\$45 per person

Call 828-526-8800 or email scalymtncrafters@gmail.com to schedule a class!

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

...DUBOIS continued from page 1

bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her journey in education started on west side of Oahu, where she completed her student teaching and spent her first two years as a teacher. Her dedication to fostering students' growth led her to assume various roles, including Instructional Coach and Elementary Teacher, both in Hawaii and Arizona.



Alyssa DeBois

For the past decade, DeBois has called Arizona home, where she has made notable contributions to the field of education. In her most recent role as the K12 ELA Content Coach for the JO Combs Unified School District in Gilbert, Arizona, she showcased her commitment to supporting and enhancing educational programs. Her experience also includes teaching 5th, 1st, and 3rd grades, demonstrating her adaptability and expertise across different grade levels.

In pursuit of her passion for leadership in education, DeBois pursued a Master's in Educational Leadership from

Northern Arizona University.

DeBois is not only dedicated to her career but also values her family life. She is married to her husband, who is set to become the incoming General Manager for Sky Valley Country Club. They will be celebrating their 10-year anniversary in September and are proud parents to two children, Nani and Knox, ages 8 and 6, respectively. DeBois said her entire family is excited to embrace the new journey at Highlands School and explore the opportunities that North Carolina has to offer.

Expressing her eagerness to join the Highlands School Family, Alyssa DeBois shared, "I am looking forward to meeting with and getting to know all of you. My passion for education, combined with my experiences, has prepared me to contribute positively to this community."

Principal Holbrooks said that Highlands School is excited to welcome DeBois as the new Assistant Principal and eagerly anticipates the positive impact she will bring to the school community.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Take a moment and experience God's perfect love

Brent Metcalf
Mission and Direction
Pastor
Christ Church of the Valley,
Cashiers

A few weeks ago, my family went to Tennessee and visited the Tuckaleechee Caverns. While exploring the cavern, seeing what is under the surface is fun. The different rock formations, streams, and even a 100-foot waterfall is impressive. My favorite part is the streams and lakes. I guess part of me feels nostalgic and like I am living the adventure as a kid of the 80s watching the movie Goonies. A group of teenagers sets off on an adventure, looking for lost treasure. The search leads them into caves and caverns. The entire time I am in a cavern, I wish I could sneak off from the tour group and go on a self-guided adventure exploring other areas of the cavern.

At one point of our tour, they allowed us to play in a small stream. The water wasn't very deep but skipping rocks and playing in the water for a few minutes was fun. I had my sandals on, so I walked out into the stream.

While playing in the water, this teenage boy in our group came running down to the stream. He knelt and started cupping the water in his hands and drinking it. Honestly, the water did look super clean and was tempting on such a hot day. I'm sure he thought this water looked refreshing and clean, gushing up from the depths of the earth. In the back of my mind, I started thinking he may regret that decision later in the day. Who knows what was in the water? And with the dim light of the cavern, there would be no way to see if the water was clean or dirty.

Psalm 34:8 NIV

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*

Taste is a powerful sense. Good and bad taste leave a lasting impression in our memory. This passage reminds us that the Lord is good and that it is possible to experience his goodness. By experiencing God's love and grace, we learn to seek and take refuge in him.

Many things promise satisfaction and fulfillment that we can pursue, but they all will leave us empty or, worse, potentially sick. God is the only one that will bring peace and satisfy our souls.

We came out of the cavern into the light, and I realized something. My feet, sandals, and lower legs were covered in dirt from splashing around in the underground stream. The caverns were limestone, and the water was filled with rock sediment. What looked clean and refreshing was chalky, dirty water. I will admit I laughed thinking about the teenage boy drinking chalky, muddy water.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. 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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Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector
464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 28717
CAC@christanglicancashiers.org & 828-743-1701
Sundays: 9:30 am Adult Christian Formation;
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Worship
Wednesdays: 6 pm Bible Study, Prayer, Potluck
Thursdays: 10 am Healing Eucharist

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
www.cashiers.church
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
Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays
4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &
Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY
706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morn-
ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am 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; Women's 10:30 am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Emily Wilmarth, pastor
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 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
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sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

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.

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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 Aug. 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Aug. 7

• At 8:50 a.m., officers were called about someone trespassing, a burglary/breaking and entering and theft at a residence on Azalea Circle, where someone returned to the property after terms of release ordered him not to, entered the home and took items.

• At 11:57 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Split Rail Row.

• At 6 p.m., James Peter Carlton, 54, of Highlands, was arrested for trespassing, burglary/breaking and entering and theft from a building. He was issued a secured bond. His trial date is pending.

Aug. 8

• At 11:03 a.m., officers responded to a report of drug and narcotic violations at a convenience store at 22 Dillard Road where a clear plastic baggy containing a crystal like substance – a possible controlled substance – was found.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 7

Aug. 7

• At 5:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

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

• At 9:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Worley Road.

Aug. 8

• At 3:20 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Worley Road.

• At 3:21 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Wyanoak Road.

• At 2:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a

fire alarm at a residence on Webb Branch Road.

Aug. 9

• At 9:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a report of smoke at a residence on Worley Road.

• At 6:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 7:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

Aug. 11

• At 11:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a report of smoke at a residence on Hickory Drive.

• At 1:37 p.m., the dept. responded to an accident where a vehicle hit a building on Hospital Drive.

• At 6:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Cove.

Aug. 12

• At 10:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a report of smoke at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 2:51 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on Webb Branch Road.

• At 4:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a report of a tree on fire due to a lightning strike on Cherrywood Drive.

Aug. 13

• At 10:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

Aug. 14

• At 12:43 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Biscuit rock Road.

• At 2:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a report of smoke at residence on Billy Cabin Road.

• At 5:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush pile on fire at a location on Laurel Branch

Aug., 15

• At 4:43 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lake Court.

...LOG CABIN continued from page 13

crease by 1,580 sq. ft.

The motel, which has been operating since bought by the new owners, will stay open during its refurbishing.

In both cases, the Zoning Board voted unanimously to issue the Special Use Per-

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

Has this ever happened to you? Have you found something attractive and satisfying that might not be best for you?

For me, there are times when I have pursued things that looked satisfying and fulfilling but left me feeling empty.

In high school, I gained a sense of identity from success in sports. I measured my sense of identity off my success or failure in sports. When we gain identity from the wrong places, it is like drinking chalky, dirty water. We think it is good for us, but

mits.

Applicant David Better said he didn't know when the work on the restaurant will start. Board members said they look forward to seeing another restaurant in Highlands.

- Kim Lewicki

ultimately, it can make our souls sick and cause us harm.

My hope for us is that we will experience God's perfect love, that you can truly taste and see that the Lord is good. Maybe that begins by having a conversation with someone you trust about God. You may have questions; you may have had a bad experience in your life that has shaped your view of God. I hope you will take a step and have a faith conversation with someone you trust and truly experience that God is good.

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Upcoming Program Highlights



Botanical Ecotour: Wildflowers at Dixon Woods

Presenter: Adam Bigelow, Monday, August 21, 9:00-12:00, \$50/\$60
Join Horticulturist Adam Bigelow for a slow, gentle stroll in Dixon Woods Park, Highlands-Cashier Land Trust's newest hiking trail network surrounding Dixon Pond.



Regime Theory and American Politics for the Next Generation

Presenter: Daniel Franklin, Tuesday, August 22, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40
Presenter Daniel Franklin will lead a riveting lecture on Regime Theory and politics for the next generation.



Digital Photography With Your iPhone/iPad

Presenter: Loraine Smith, Wednesday, August 23, 10:00-12:00, \$40/\$50
Learn where photos are stored, the "rule of thirds," how to take photos in different styles and settings, how to adjust settings, and how to take good selfies, videos, angles, etc.



What Is A Just War?

Presenter: Peter Lindsay, Friday, August 25, 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40
In this lecture, Professor Lindsay will outline the moral framework that guides (or should guide) nations and soldiers. When are nations morally justified in going to war, and how, once they are at war, must they conduct themselves?



Two-Day Art Workshop: Hands-On Color Concepts for Artists

Presenter: Norma Hendrix, Monday, August 28 and Tuesday, August 29, 1:00-3:30, \$200/\$210
This two-day workshop will provide artists with a clearer understanding of seeing, interpreting, and mixing strong color palettes.



Author Cocktail Reception and Book Talk: The President's Wife

Author: Tracey Enerson Wood, Wednesday, August 30, 4:00-6:00, \$70/\$80
Join international bestselling author, Tracey Enerson Wood, for cocktails and conversation about her latest novel, "The President's Wife."

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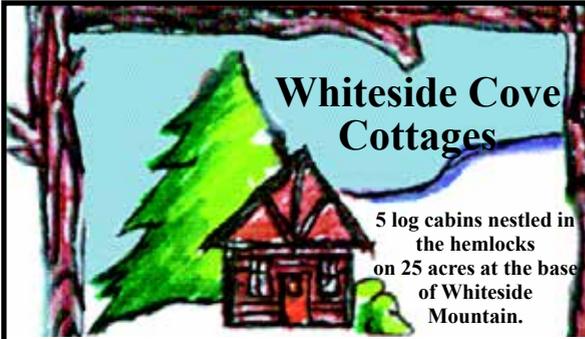
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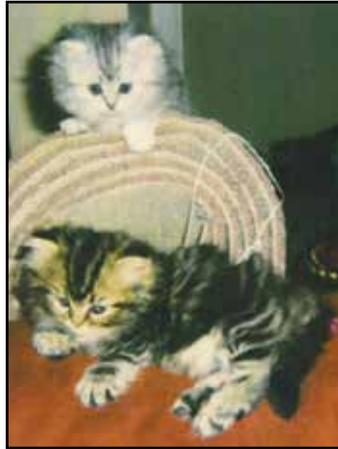
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Rotary works for the community



From left: Rotary President Dave O'Harra, Scaly Mountain Women's Club president Rachel Wavra and Rotary Bingo Chairman Bob Baxter.

Rotary Bingo Chairman Bob Baxter presented a check for \$1,125 to Rachel Wavra, club member and president of the Scaly Mountain Women's Club (SMWC) at a recent club meeting. The SMWC partnered with Highlands Rotary for the popular Bingo fundraiser on July 27, raising over \$12,000 for the SMWC community scholarship fund. The Rotary Club of Highlands hosts the Rotary Bingo fundraiser for groups who are trying to raise funds for different causes. The club pays the winners of the bingo games with the proceeds. The Rotary Club makes no money from the event!

The Rotary Club of Highlands recently heard from fellow Rotarian Robin Tindall, CEO and Executive Director of Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation. Robin has served the community for nearly 14 years, formerly as Executive Director of the H-C Hospital Foundation and then with the HCHF since 2019. HCHF has given more than \$9 million to over 70 organizations under her leadership, such as Blue Ridge Health Clinic, Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau, and the Community Care Clinic. The primary purpose of the HCHF is to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents of Highlands, Cashiers, and surrounding communities. HCHF also provided grants for school nurses, free dental care, and collaborates with the BEE Kind initiative for mental health awareness. Funding for the HCHF is through community generosity and grants from a variety of sources. Robin plans to retire from the Foundation at the end of 2023.

Tindall talks about HCHF at Rotary



Rotary President Dave O'Harra and Robin Tindall.

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