

Highlands Newspaper

Volume 20, Number 28

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., July 13, 2023

So far, four candidates filed for three vacancies on Highlands Town Board

By Brittney Lofthouse

Candidate filing for the 2023 municipal elections began at noon on Friday, July 7, and will run un-

til noon Friday, July 21. Candidates who file will run in elections this fall that will take place in about 90 counties across North Carolina,

including Macon County.

In addition, beginning with the 2023 municipal elections,

• See **CANDIDATES** page 17

Hurricanes complete season; head for MSL meet

Steve Hott
Head Coach

On Thursday, July 6, the 44 Highlands Hurricanes (HHST) traveled down the mountain to swim against the Franklin Amateur Swim Team (FAST). In the closest meet between the two dominant teams in the Mountain Swim League (MSL) in memory, 160 member FAST prevailed 791 to 609.

Though a much larger team, some interesting numbers include the number of Junior Olympic qualifying swims. HHST 17. FAST 15.

The number of MSL All-Star qualifying swim: FAST 71. HHST 70.

The next meet for the Hur-

• See **HURRICANES** page 7



Highlands native MCSO deputy Daniel Long and partner Brandon Carter received "Life-saving Award" at MC Board of Commissioners meeting Monday night.

Sheriff presents deputies with life-saving award for "calm and quick" response

By Brittney Lofthouse

Highlands native Daniel Long was one of two Macon County Sheriff deputies credited with saving a man's life on June 23 when he was the first on scene to an emergency call due to an explosion.

"They saved my life last night," were some of the first words Taylor Holland heard her father David Holland say on June 24, the day after deputies responded to the call at his residence clas-

• See **LIFE-SAVING** page 22

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Short-term rental bill NC Senate Bill 667 is pending

The NC State Legislature which convened January 11, 2023 is scheduled to adjourn on August 31, 2023.

Between now and then numerous bills could become law.

One of the bills of interest to the citizens of Highlands as well as the Town Board is Senate Bill 667 – An act to limit the regulation of short-term rentals (STR) by local governments to protect private property rights and to establish guidelines for regulating Short-term Rentals.

The bill defines short-term rentals as all of the following that are offered to the public for a fee and for 90 days or less:

- (1) an individually or collectively owned single-family house or dwelling unit;
- (2) a unit in a condominium, timeshare, townhome, or accessory dwelling unit; and
- (3) an owner-occupied residential home. Also defines lodging operator and short-term rental marketplace.

The primary sponsor of the bill is Republican Sen. Timothy Moffitt with co-sponsor Republic Senator Tom McInnis.

Besides property rights, the idea behind the bill is that short-term rentals are part of the fabric that supports the North Carolina tourist economy.

The bill was filed April 6 of this year and the first reading passed April 10. At that point it was referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate where it is awaiting Senate action.

The bill prohibits cities from adopting or enforcing ordinances, rules, or regulations that:

- (1) prohibit the use of residential property as a short-term rental;
- (2) prohibit the use of accessory dwelling units as short-term rentals;
- (3) limit the number of nights a property can be rented as a short-term rental;

• See **SB 667** page 13

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

It's a tale as old as time: parking

It is the time of the year when I again get this question. Mayor, what are you going to do about the town providing more parking?

My response is always that Highlands has more parking places in the downtown area than almost any town of comparable size in Western Carolina. Heck, we have more parking than a number of towns with much larger populations.

I am constantly urged to lead the way in building a parking garage and pay for it by charging a fee. My response is that we would have to meter the entire town. No one would use the garage if parking were free on Main Street. I cite Blowing Rock, which spent about 2 million dollars for a 65-space parking garage way off their Main Street. It has been underused.

So, to build a parking garage of any size in Highlands would first require identifying a site close to the downtown. Second, how big would the garage be, 200 spaces, 500 spaces? Then there would be the cost of building the garage and operating it.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Who would finance the five or 10-million-dollar project? The Asheville Airport built a 1000-car facility for just under 20 million. We could anticipate any parking garage costing millions of dollars.

The Highlands Comprehensive Plan does present possible parking platforms in spaces around the business district and extend parking on Main Street from 3rd to 1st Streets. This type of parking is certainly an option in the future, but such a system

would not increase parking to a high level as some folks would want.

The fundamental question that the town will have to address in the coming years is how big should the business area be and at what capacity level is sustainable. I submit that we are close to being maxed out in how many people we can accommodate at a given period in the downtown area.

Not only do we face parking and trash issues, but also concerns about traffic management. Cashiers already has a critical traffic issue at the crossroads where on holidays and even at different times during a regular day, traffic is backed up for long distances at all entry points. We are seeing similar patterns emerge in Highlands. The question is whether we can manage higher and higher traffic loads in Highlands. Yes, we may be able to improve some aspects of traffic flow, but increasing capacity will have its limitations.

I don't see much that can be done to increase traffic capacity on US 64 from Cashiers to Highlands short of blasting parts for the mountains way like was done near Lake Toxaway a few years ago. The Gorge Road cannot be improved to any significant level to increase capacity. The US Forest Service even now restricts NCDOT from trimming back trees on the road because of bat habitats, so widening the road is off the table. NC 106 has similar restrictions, and current improvement plans are scheduled for around 2035 or even 2040.





The town could ask NCDOT to revise a 1990s plan to build a bypass from US 64 near the new fire department that would come out on 64 near the recreation

• See MAYOR page 8



"Dang-it, another vegan house."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 13-Jul	Fri, 14-Jul	Sat, 15-Jul	Sun, 16-Jul
			
77°F 64°F	80°F 63°F	76°F 62°F	78°F 60°F
A t-storm around in the p.m.	Cloudy with a stray t-storm	Mostly cloudy with a t-storm	Partly sunny with a t-storm
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Mattice joins Highlands Sotheby's

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is proud to announce that Lori Mattice has joined the firm as a Broker.

Lori brings over 40 years of experience in real estate. She began her career working in the banking industry and title insurance business, serving as a real estate closing officer. Following her career as a real estate closing officer, she opened a title insurance company where she served as President for over 10 years. After selling the company, Lori received her real estate broker's license and began her career in real estate.

In 2002, Lori started her own real estate company, Mattice Real Estate, where she specialized in the luxury home market. Lori is a Luxury Home Marketing Institute graduate, a certified Real Estate Negotiation Expert, and a Certified Leadership Graduate. Lori has consistently been ranked in the top 5% of top-producing realtors in the Tallahassee Board of Realtors.

Lori and her husband, Bill, a retired



Lori Mattice

banker, moved to Highlands three years ago and have fallen in love with the area and its friendly people.

"Lori brings years of expertise to Highlands Sotheby's. We are very excited to welcome her to our team," said Jody Lovell, Broker-Owner of the firm.

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty's downtown brokerage is located at 114 N. 4th Street,

Highlands, NC. Highlands Sotheby's International Realty operates three offices on the Highlands Cashiers Plateau including two offices in Highlands, and Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty in Cashiers, NC. As the exclusive affiliate of Sotheby's International Realty on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, property listings of Highlands Sotheby's International Realty and Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty are distributed worldwide on the Sothebysrealty.com global website. The Sotheby's International Realty network has more than 26,000 sales associates in approximately 1,075 offices in 81 countries and territories worldwide.

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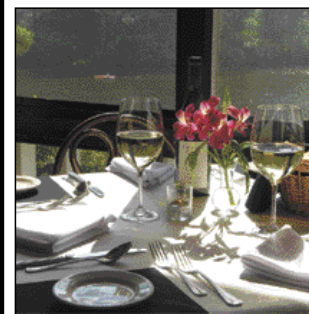
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Have you ever done something stupid?

By Lee Lyons

I know.... that is a stupid question, but this past week, I added to my list of stupid things.

I came back from a trip to Montana energized. Driving the Sun Road and Glacier National Park is a must do. I didn't do something stupid driving up there or I would not be alive to tell it. It was a couple of days after I got home and a little cough turned into acute bronchitis. I'll never fly again. I visited the emergency room twice and have to brag on our hospital. Where else in the world can you walk in and get help immediately?

The next nine days it was cough, hack, drink water, pills, cough syrup....you know the drill.

I had not left my house in over a week, hardly got out of bed, but finally, I felt good enough to go to the post office. On the way home, I decided to stop at Mountain Fresh and get some soup. I masked up, got meat loaf instead and went home.

The next morning as I was trying to take my morning meds and breathe through my nebulizer, I looked out the kitchen window and noticed something was missing. I walked out the door...my car is missing.

I called my sister first who was at her cabin in Highlands. For some strange reason, we had a conversation the day before about locking car doors.

I told her, "I never lock my car and half the time I leave the keys in it."

She was horrified. She lives in Atlanta. She does not have my sense of humor. She's not the type to play a prank, but just in case I asked, "Are you trying to teach me a lesson?"

Then I called the neighbors. They said the car was gone



Lee Lyons

all night. They thought I'd gotten well and gone out on the town.

Finally, I called the police. It will probably be in the police reports.

I said, "Officer, my car is missing. I can't believe it is stolen. I drove it yesterday around 6 o'clock to the post office and to Bryson's. The meatloaf is in the refrigerator. I've been sick so I know I haven't been anywhere else."

He asked about suspicious persons, the make of the car and said, "I'll drive around town and see if I see it."

I kind of rolled my eyes thinking, whoever stole the car would not have it parked in town.

He came back shortly with the keys and told me it wasn't at Bryson's. "It is parked and now locked in front of Mountain Fresh where it has been all night. We like to remind people not to drive while they are taking cold medicines."

Apparently, I told him Bryson's when I meant to say Mountain Fresh. Apparently, I pulled into Mountain Fresh, bought the meat loaf, walked home, got in bed and never thought about it.

The whole thing has unnerved me. Is it the cold medicine or something else?

Today, I went to the pharmacy to get another prescription and asked Tom, "Is something wrong with this aerosol spray. It won't puff?"

He simply turned it upright. A two-year-old could have figured it out. Then, I went to the post office, came out reading the paper, opened the car door and this lady screamed bloody murder. I screamed back. It wasn't my car.

I am now in my house. At least I think it's my house and I'm not leaving until all meds are finished.

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

ricanes will be the MSL Conference in Franklin on Saturday, July 15.

The Hurricanes were led by Asa Garner and Jr. Olympians Jazmine Abranyi, Dasha Halldin, and Lilliana Chambless, all who scored 24 pts. and won five events. Abranyi broke a team record in the 100 freestyle, Chambless broke two including the 100 Individual Medley (IM).

A trio of Jr. Olympians: Jack Sumner, Chase Kenter, and Ben Halldin all brought home 22 pts. Sumner and Kenter won three events, Halldin four. Sumner also broke a MSL and team record in the 100 butterfly.

Emilina Hernandez, Bella Batista, Anton Halldin, and Junior Olympian Corena Dearth scored 20 pts.

Wylie Hinton and Jr. Olympian Tate Wilson brought home 19 pts, and each got a 1st, a 2nd, and a 3rd place finish.

Justin Powell and Bo Curcuru scored 18 pts, Powell won an event and Curcuru won three.

Maxwell Basil, Annabelle Searles, Jr. Olympians Finneaus Garner and Aniah McKim scored 17 pts. McKim won three races, Garner, Basil and Searles won two.

Annie Wilkes and Jr. Olympian Paolo McRae brought home 16 pts. They each won an event.

Ian Batista scored 15 pts while the trio of Margaret Cole, Emma Denisoff and Penelope McRae scored 14 each. Ian won two events, Cole won three events, Denisoff and McRae won two.

Jayce Powell scored 13 pts, winning an event, as Blake Kenter and Elizabeth Burnette scored 12. Burnette dropped three seconds off her 100 butterfly to qualify for the 2023 Jr. Olympic Team.

Ivan Shchelgachov, Stefan Halldin, and Jr. Olympian Conner Hughes scored 11 pts. Hughes and Stefan won an event. Miley Zagal brought home 10 pts. with two wins; Max Jestin 9.5 pts; and Valerie Nadzorau 8. Aleks Petric scored 7.5 pts, Alex Lopez 6.5, Chris Burnette and Agatha Jestin each earned 6 pts. AnnMarie Hinton brought home 4 pts, William Burnette 3.5, Harrison McKim 3, and both Kenley Birchfield and Nicole Shchelgachov 1.

The Highlands Hurricane Swim Team is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool in the evenings. The only requirement to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25-yard (the length of the Recreation Park Pool) unassisted. For more information please call 828.421.4121.



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Current market conditions

I am constantly asked questions regarding market conditions. Has the seller's market changed to a buyer's market? Is inventory still limited? Is it taking longer to sell a property? Are prices still rising? As we have crossed the half-way mark for 2023, I thought it would be a good time to look at the current market conditions. Answers to these questions will tell what sort of market we are in.

Comparing all types of property in all areas covered by our MLS, the first six months of 2023 had sales of \$125 million as compared to \$143 million in 2022. That is about a 12% decline, yet it is still much higher than \$57 million for 2019, which was a record year before the covid frenzy started.

There were 122 units sold, down about 20% from the 152 units sold last year. The average days on market was 220 down from 321. The median list price was \$435,000 up from \$329,000. The dollar and unit volumes may have slowed; but there were fewer days on the market, and significant increase in the list price. There were fewer new listings, so the lack of inventory may be the reason sales were down. Lately, there have been several listings and sales included that were off the plateau, so these numbers are not specific to Highlands.

Looking just at single-family homes in Highlands, the number of new listings for the six months was down 6% to 147. The closed sales volume was down 12%; however, the pending sales volume is 32% higher than last year, indicating a significant market improvement with sales likely to exceed 2022. The median sales price is \$1,000,000 (half the sales were higher and half were lower) was up 14%. The average sales price is 9% higher at \$1,359,799.

Looking at some trends that indicated a slowing market, the average days on mar-



Carl Romberg
Landmark Realty

ket is now 141 days, up from 123 days last year. The months' supply of inventory is up from 2.15 to 2.96; and the number of available units is up from 204 to 228.

The total number of active listings (all property types) for Highlands is 487, down from 491 for last year. This compares to 1,000 active listings for 2019, so our inventory is still about half of what it was pre-Covid.

In summary, inventory is still very limited and prices have continued to rise.

Depending on the property type and location, the average days on market may be up or down with the same to be said about the number of available units and months' supply of inventory. Things may be slowing slightly, but it has not switched back to a buyer's market. The rise in mortgage interest rates has led to more cash sales occurring. For owners who are considering selling a property, you will need to weigh the options of waiting to see if prices continue to rise or to make a quick sale while inventory is low.

Regardless of the numbers, Highlands and the Plateau will continue to draw people to move or own a second home here. The world has been setting heat records, and although it may be warmer here than many years ago, it is still quite comfortable and sometimes cool in the summer. The scenery is magnificent and there are numerous outdoor activities. We have vibrant visual and performing arts options and dining and shopping for all budgets.

"If the statistics are boring, you've got the wrong numbers" Edward Tufte

• *Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com.*

...MAYOR continued from page 2

department. I, for one, and many of my fellow citizens would definitely oppose such a plan, a notion that has been done to address downtown traffic in so many other towns.

With new economic growth comes many additional challenges. In the coming months and years, our community will have

to grapple with these pressing issues. Do we save Highlands as a small village community, or do we transform it into a mini-Atlanta of the mountains? At the risk of being accused of having tunnel vision, I fall on the village side.

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• INK PENN •

Books can trigger a variety of emotions

My two recent reads evoked different emotions—one book was entertaining, while the other was thought-provoking. I found one delightful and the other distressing. Perhaps I should have read them in reverse order, so that I could more easily dispel the cloud created by the second one.

The girl who knew too much by Amanda Quick

Amanda Quick is a new author for me, and this book, the first in her Burning Cove series, was a great place to start. Set in the 1930s in an exclusive hotel near Hollywood, California, it entertained me with its spunky heroine and a few mystery men.

Rookie reporter Irene is on the scene for a murder or two and, of course, uses her investigative skills to ferret out the murderer and get the story. Along the way, Hollywood moguls and others try



Kathy Manos Penn

to shut down her investigation, but she has no plans to stop.

It's an intriguing mystery with a bit of romance thrown in, and there's more than one mystery solved by the time it's over. I enjoyed the way the author slowly revealed the backgrounds of the main characters as the story progressed. Wanting to know more about each of them was a big reason that I found this book to be a page turner. I wanted to learn their secrets as much as I wanted to find out who the villain was—and the villain was a shocker.

I highly recommend this book, but I suggest you be prepared to stay up late several nights to finish it. I sure did. This next novel will also keep you awake at night, but for different reasons.

I have some questions for you by Rebecca Makkai

I've been struggling to put words to how I feel about this book. It is unquestionably a well-written crime tale, one set in a New England boarding school.

Finally, I found an NPR review that captured its essence:

"This is a dark, uncomfortable story about murder, racism, sexual abuse, grief, the nature of collective memory, privilege, the way humans want to be at the center of tragedy even when they're not, and feeling like an outsider."

The story centers on a crime committed in 1995 at the school,

the murder of a promising senior girl. Twenty years later, Bodie Kane, the girl's roommate, answers the call to teach two short mid-semester courses at her alma mater.

Even before she gets there, the question tormented her: did they convict the right person? What follows is Bode working her way backwards and forwards as she examines what she remembers, what she may have blocked, and what she could have done differently. Mixed in with the crime at the center of the novel are references to the oh-so many crimes against women that we are now accustomed to hearing about.

It's a thought-provoking book, not just as you try to determine whodunit, but also as you consider today's social environment. What I found most horrifying—yes, horrifying—were the descriptions of what teenage boys said and did to their female classmates in 1995. Do the sexual insults and accusations hurled by these young men have any basis in reality? If so, today's teenagers inhabit a different world than the one I grew up in. "Dark" is a word that comes to mind as I attempt to describe this book, but somehow, that doesn't begin to touch it.

PS. Book IX in my Dickens & Christie mystery series—"Pawprints, Prose & Murder"—arrives at Shakespeare & Co. on 7/14, and e-book readers can find it on Amazon on 7/15.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at Shakespeare & Co. in Highlands, Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Highlands Festivals, Inc. board members presented a check to Friends of Founders Park President, Hank Ross for the benefit of Founders Park. From left is Steve Mehder, David Bock, Hank Ross, Debi Bock, Jack Austin.

Concerts: July 15-18



Saturday, July 15 - 5 PM, Highlands | Sunday, July 16 - 5 PM, Cashiers

"Three Graces"

Julie Coucheron, piano; Alice Hong, violin; Charae Krueger, cello



Monday, July 17 - 5 PM, Highlands | Tuesday, July 18 - 5 PM, Cashiers

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...SB 667 continued from page 1

(4) require the owner of the short-term rental to occupy the property for any period of time during a rental to an occupant;

(5) classify short-term rentals as a commercial use; or

(6) limit the operation of a short-term rental marketplace.

However, it does allow a city to adopt an ordinance, rule, or regulation that regulates short-term rentals by:

(1) requiring a lodging operator to obtain a permit to operate a short-term rental within the city's corporate limits and allows revocation of the permit for specified reason, and allows charging a permit fee;

(2) as part of the lodging operator permitting process, limiting the number of occupants allowed to stay in a short-term rental;

(3) as part of the lodging operator permitting process, restricting the number of occupant vehicles to one per bedroom;

(4) restricting the location of short-term rentals to areas of the city zoned for residential use, and requiring that the property remains in compliance with residential zoning requirements;

(5) requiring that short-term rentals comply with all applicable city ordinances and codes, including building codes and housing codes;

(6) requiring that all contracts for short-term rentals include a copy of any city ordinances regulating noise, waste removal, and parking or, in the alternative, that the lodging operator provides to the occupants a written summary of those ordinances.

(7) prohibiting the use of short-term rentals for any purpose other than that which is allowed in hotels, motels, and inns without the property owner's prior approval; or

(8) requiring a lodging operator or authorized agent of a lodging operator be within a 50-mile radius of a short-term rental during the time that an occupant is staying in a short-term rental.

Highlands has attempted to enforce short-term rentals regulations through its Unified Development Ordinance. Some of its regulations wouldn't be allowed if SB 667 becomes law - like considering STRs as commercial entities - but some aspects like the permitting process and others would be allowed.

It's unclear if SB 667 will be voted on before the close of the legislative session Aug. 31st.

- Kim Lewicki

Coro Vocati to present free concert at First Presbyterian

Coro Vocati Chamber Choir will perform in a free concert on Saturday, July 15, at 5 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands.

Under the leadership of renowned choral director and educator Dr. John Dickson, and in collaboration with pianist and organist Dr. Jonathan Crutchfield, the choir has established itself as one of the premier professional choral ensembles in the Southeast, featuring some of the region's most talented vocalists with polished performances celebrating unique and intriguing programming.

Coro Vocati is an ensemble of professional singers based in Atlanta, with a mission to create music at the highest level of choral artistry.

The group will also be singing during the 11am worship service at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, July 16.



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• 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.highlandsbiological.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 gath-

erings 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 11AM. 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 Hodg-

son. 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@maconncliteracy.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



*Saturday, July 22 & Sunday, July 23, 2023,
10 am - 5 pm each day*

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

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Juror Norma Hendrix

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

the 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 Story-time 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 Bascom 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).

Fri.-Sat., July 14-15

• Highlands Historical Society resurrects its Walk Through Memorial Garden Park. Tour the cemetery and hear from the ghosts of Highland's past at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15, children are free. Park at the Civic Center and for buses to the cemetery. Tickets can be purchased at the Highlands Historical Society Museum on N.4th Street.

Fri. July 14

• See EVENTS page 16

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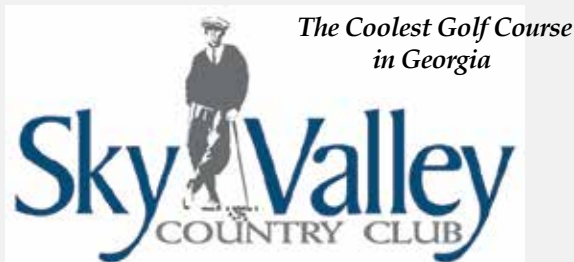
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Walk in the Park Highlands Memorial Park

Friday, July 14, 2023

4 pm - 6 pm

Saturday, July 15, 2023

4 pm - 6 pm

Tickets Available at Highlands Historical Museum

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• At Hudson Library, local photographer and author Cynthia Strain will be at the library on Friday at 11 AM for a talk about her recently released book "Highlands Through the Years." Come hear about our own beloved town of Highlands and about Cynthia's continuing photographic exploration. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event.

Sat., July 15

• Greenway Trail maintenance begins in the back parking lot of the Rec park at 9am. Please bring your loppers, pruners, gloves, and weed-eaters. We need your help to get our trail tamed! We will finish at noon and go to lunch at 4118. Please let Jim Chance know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly. jamesallenchance@gmail.com.

• In Dillsboro, 8th Annual Front Street Arts & Crafts Show that showcases local Artisans & Musicians once again over 40 booths on Front Street 10a to 4p.

• Coro Vocati Chamber

Choir will perform in a free concert on Saturday at 5PM. at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands on Main Street.

• Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit K-H Founders Park. Doors open at 5. Dinner is at 6. Tickets are \$80 and include low country boil dinner, dessert and 2 drinks. Rain or Shine. Tented event at the park. Live Music by Lazr Luvr of Asheville. Tickets are available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

Sun., July 16

• At PAC, Jenene - Pop to Broadwa at 7:30 p.m. For tickets go to highlandsp Performingarts.com

Tues., July 18

• Melanie Vickers will speak at 4p.m. at the Highlands Biological Center pavilion on Firding Apps on the smart phone. Beginning birders and experts are welcome. Question? 772-349-2045.

Wed., July 19

• **The Trey Clegg Chamber Singers will be featured**

in an Interlude Concert at 2pm on Wednesday at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. Founded by Trey Clegg, 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 are welcome! Thurs.

Sat., July 20-22

• PAC fundraiser. Satulah Mountain Home & Garden Tour 10 a.m. and 12:30-3p. five homes and gardens found on historic Satulah Mountain. Tickets are \$125 each. Shuttles run from the PAC every 15 min. starting at 9:45am. Last shuttle departs the PAC at 2pm. This is a walking tour so wear good walking shoes; rain or shine event.

Sat. and Sun., July 22-23

• Summer Colors Fine Art Show - A Rain or Shine Fine Art Exhibition and Sale presented by the Art League of Highlands-Cashiers (ALHC). 10 am to 5 pm each day. Indoors at the Sapphire Valley Community Center, 207 Sapphire Valley Rd, Sapphire, NC 28774. (Just east of Cashiers on 64) This is an exhibition and sale of works by more than 20 local and visiting artists featuring original works in oil, mixed media, encaustic and watercolor; as well as work by woodworkers, glass artists and more. In addition, live, pop-up music performances are planned throughout the weekend along with a kids' studio for budding artists.

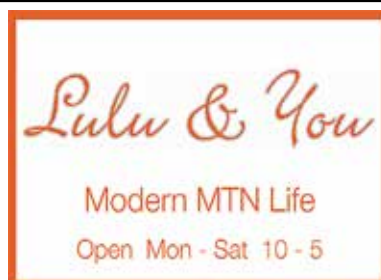
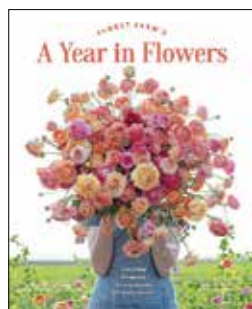
Sat., July 22

• 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 Stilletto from Greenville, SC. For tickets call 828-526-0863. Or email, info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org.

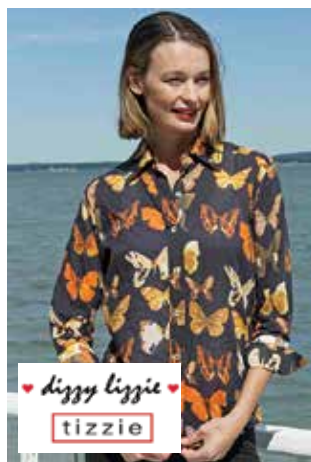
July 28-Aug. 19

• "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.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •



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...CANDIDATES continued from page 1

North Carolina voters will be asked to show photo ID when they check in to vote for the first time.

Macon County voters will head to the ballots to vote for candidates running for the Franklin Town Council and for the Highlands Board of Commissioners.

Both the Franklin Town Council and Highlands Commissioners are municipal offices serving their respective towns — and are separate than the Macon County Board of Commissioners, which are elected to serve the county as a whole.

County commissioner seats will not be on the ballot this fall.

On Election Day, scheduled for November 7, residents within the town of Highlands will be able to vote for three town commission seats.

The seats currently held by John Dotson, Marc Hehn, and Brian Stiehler are for four-year terms on the board.

As of press time, both Dotson and Stiehler have filed for re-election to their seats, with several new faces also joining the candidate pool.

Highlands resident Rachel Wilson was among the first to file for the open seats followed by another political newcomer but well known face, Jeff Weller.

In Franklin, voters living within the Franklin town limits will be voting for Mayor — a seat currently held by Jack Horton, and three council seats which are currently occupied by Joe Collins, Mike Lewis, and Adam Kimsey. Both Collins and Lewis have filed for re-election to their seats.

About 475 of the state's more than 550 cities, towns, and villages — also called municipalities — have elections in 2023. Municipalities are local governments that make decisions about development, policing, water and waste services, local taxation, and other issues that affect voters' daily lives.

"Service at the municipal level often has the most direct impact on the communities in which we live. We hope many candidates sign up to run for local office this year," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections. "We also encourage eligible individuals across the state to register and vote in their local elections."

To file for municipal office, a candidate must:

- Be 21 years old by Election Day.
- Be a registered voter of the municipality at the time they file for office. If not already registered, they can register at the time they file their notice of candidacy.
- Reside within the district or ward for an office that is elected by district or ward.



Rachel Wilson



Jeff Weller

- File a Municipal Notice of Candidacy (Fillable PDF) with their county board of elections and pay a filing fee set by the municipality (or submit a petition in lieu of paying the fee). See 2023-2024 Fact Sheet for Candidate Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee.

- File an organizational report for the candidate committee with the county board of elections within 10 days of filing a notice of candidacy or within 10 days of organizing the candidate committee, whichever occurs first, and comply with all other campaign finance requirements.

ing the candidate committee, whichever occurs first, and comply with all other campaign finance requirements.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Nurturing faith while on vacation

Ken Langsdorf
Lutheran Church of the Holy Family



A family vacation can provide great opportunities to nurture faith in our children and grandchildren. In simple yet intentional ways we can help children recognize God with them and assure them of God's care for them.

At the beginning of an adventure, we can pray a prayer of thanks for this opportunity and ask for safe travel.

As we hike in the mountains or play at the beach, we can share our great appreciation for God's amazing and beautiful creation. Simple phrases like, God really made an incredible creation for us to enjoy. Just look at these wildflowers! can guide thoughts about our Creator and inspire praise.

At night as we look up at the sky, we can reflect on how the stars we see are the very same stars that Abraham and Sarah saw. These are the same stars that Jesus and his disciples saw. What do you think they said to each other about these stars?

Sitting around a campfire is a great time to tell stories about your life and your growth in faith. Singing songs of faith around a campfire can make faith contagious.

At the end of the day, we can ask each other, Where did you see God today? And then offer a prayer of thanks for these glimpses of God with us.

Putting our faith into action really sends a message. Something as simple as picking up trash along the trail or beach can open up opportunities to talk about how we care for God's creation. Simple acts of kindness can draw us out of ourselves to see opportunities to care for others. A fun game of Who can we make smile today? makes children aware of ways they can show the love of God to others. When I was on vacation recently, I was sitting in a coffee shop looking out the window at the busy sidewalk. The little girl at the table next to me came up with her own game of waving at each person who walked by to see if they would wave at her. She got a lot of waves and smiles.

Sunday morning, while on vacation, is a great time to worship with a different denomination to see how they are similar and different. The conversation following worship can be a great teaching time about what you believe and why you worship the way you do. Of course, it is best not to put down another denominations' worship style. We can simply acknowledge that Christians have different ways of worshipping the same Jesus.

If you want a safe worship service to attend that may be different from your regular style, you are welcome to join us at Lutheran Church of the Holy Family, Highlands for our 10:30 worship service. We will welcome you warmly and guide you through our "Lutheran Christian" style of worship.

Family time while on vacation is precious time. I invite you to also make it a holy time as you find fun and creative ways to share your faith with your children.

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

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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.

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www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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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

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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,

Morning 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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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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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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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 July 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

July 1

• At 8:20 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106.

July 3

• At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 at Munger Road.

July 4

• At 7:44 a.m., officers responded to a call of an unattended death of a 29-year-old female at a residence on Stacey Russell Estate.

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a call of a burglary and breaking and entering and destruction of property at SweetTreats Deli on S. 4th Street. Various food items were taken from the storeroom and a door frame to the bathroom was damaged.

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a call of shoplifting at Wit's End on Main Street where jewelry valued at \$190 was taken.

July 5

• At 9:49 a.m., officers responded to a call of a breaking and entering and theft from a building on Mountain Fresh Grocery on Main Street where a screen door and padlock was damaged and product was taken from the walk-in cooler.

• At 10:59 a.m., officers responded to a call about some-

one breaking into a cable box and stealing the power supply at a power pole near 376 Foreman Road.

• At midnight, Brandon Ray Hopkins, 31, of Highlands, was arrested for burglary and breaking and entering. She was issued a \$2,500 secured bond. His trial date is pending.

July 6

• At 11:36 a.m., officers responded to a call of someone obtaining \$1,390 through false pretenses.

• At 5:46 p.m., officers responded to a call about an incident at Earth Cosmetics on Main Street.

July 7

• At 5:15 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 3.

July 3

• At 4:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

July 4

• At 7:43 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Stacey Russell Estate.

• At 4:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a golf cart accident on Claire Lane.

July 5

• At 5:14 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Stacey Russell Estate.

July 6

• At 6:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle acci-

dent on the Franklin Road.

• At 10:36 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on S. 4th Street.

• At 12:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mill Creek Lane.

• At 5:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Walhalla Road.

• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a LP gas leak at a residence on Poplar Street.

July 7

• At 3:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 6:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Keener Road.

July 8

• At 3:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Horse Cove Road.,

• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mtn. Road.

• At 7:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Smallwood Ave.

• At 7:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sagee Woods Rive.

• At 9:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a miscellaneous fire at a residence on E. Wingina Place.

July 10

• At 2:15 p.m., the dept. rescued an injured hiker on the Bartram Trail.

• At 10:29 p.m. the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Laurel Heights Road.

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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Arts Council invites submissions to 'River of Love' publication

The Arts Council of Macon County will accept submissions of original works through December 1, 2023, from Macon County writers and visual artists age 18 and older, for "River of Words," the second edition of the Council's Three Rivers Review series.

The three rivers of the title are the Cullasaja, Little Tennessee, and Nantahala, rivers that come together in Macon County and are representative of all the

county's areas, people and culture.

Written submissions of up to 2,000 words of creative fiction or non-fiction, in any genre, should reflect love in its varied forms.

Visual arts submissions of individual pieces of black and white art in keeping with the theme will be placed among written works throughout the publication.

Writers and visual artists are limited to one submission. The

work's title, submitter's name, street and email address, and phone number, with a 200-maximum word bio must accompany all submissions. There is no entry fee.

Complete guidelines and instructions are at www.artscouncilofmacon.org. Submit works by email or mail to The Arts Council, PO Box 726, Franklin, NC 28744. Refer questions to the Council, 828-524-ARTS, or email arts4all@dnet.net.

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

• CLASSIFIEDS •



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...LIFE-SAVING continued from page 1

sified as an explosion.

At approximately 1 a.m., dispatch received a call reporting an explosion at a residence in the Ellijay community.

Macon County Sheriff's Office, Macon County EMS, and Cullasaja Fire and Rescue all raced to the scene.

With no additional information, MCSO Deputies Brandon Carter and Daniel Long entered the residence, which was virtually in the dark since the explosion had nicked out the power, where they found an injured man who was severely burned and sustained life-threatening injuries to both arms.

The deputies said when they arrived on scene they observed both of his arms below the elbows were blown off.

According to the original dispatch call for help made by David's wife, David was in the kitchen making gun powder when the explosion occurred.

"Deputies Carter and Long calmly, quickly and without hesitation immediately worked to apply tourniquets to both of the victim's arms," said Sheriff Brent Holbrooks. "It is my belief that deputies Brandon Carter and Daniel Long saved David Holland's life that night. Their quick action and training prevented the victim from bleeding out before EMS could arrive."

David's brother Donald addressed commissioners and said the actions of the deputies and other first-responders made him appreciate the community even more.

"I just want to say how grateful I am that without questions, these men went straight into who knows what — with no

idea what they were going into and doing what they did — it makes me so proud to be a part of this community," said Holland.

Deputy Long was born and raised in Highlands and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2014. He served for six years as an 0351 Infantry Assaultman before leaving the service in 2020 and starting BLET. Upon completion of BLET, Deputy Long began working at the Macon County Sheriff's Office in October 2020.

Deputy Carter attended Basic Law Enforcement Training at Southwestern Community College, graduating in 2019. Carter began his career with Macon County in November, just prior to graduation and has worked as patrol deputy ever since.

"These two men exemplified courage and selflessness with their actions on June 23 and every day that they come to work prepared to do whatever necessary in their roles as public servants," said Sheriff Holbrooks. "I am honored to stand before you tonight and present these young men with the life-saving award."

Daughter Taylor Holland said it was all the family could do to keep David strapped to his hospital bed where he continues to recover because he wanted to attend the commissioners meeting in person to thank his heroes. He settled for expressing his gratitude via video call following the ceremony.

Sheriff Holbrooks presented Deputy Long with the award and will present Deputy Carter with his when he returns from vacation.



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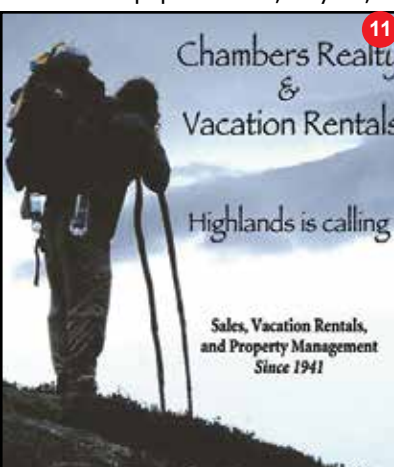
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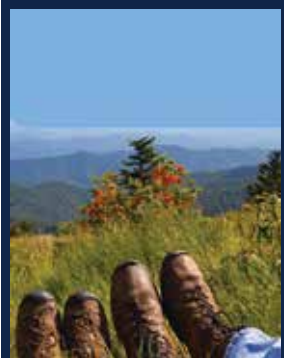
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