

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019

Community steps up for area teachers

By Brian O'Shea

Staff at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty have a close connection to both Highlands and Summit Charter Schools and took it upon themselves to donate \$100 to each classroom at both schools to offset the out-of-pocket cost of supplies for teachers.

"The state and county budgets don't provide enough money for the supplies teachers need," said Tricia Cox, Vice President of Berkshire Hathaway. "I hope the

little bit we gave offsets the out-of-pocket costs. Giving back is a way to be grateful for the blessings we have."

Rotary Club of Highlands also gives each classroom at Highlands School \$100 on an annual basis to offset the cost of materials for teachers. Rotary has been supporting teachers in Highlands for at least 15 years said Rotarian Derek Taylor.

Macon County Superintendent Chris Baldwin said the state allocated \$30.12 per student on

average daily membership (ADM), plus \$2.69 per ADM in grades 8 and 9 for PSAT Testing in 2018-'19.

Last year the school board allocated \$20 per student from the local appropriation in 2018-'19.

"This year we will be increasing the local allocation to \$25 per student in 2019-'20," said Baldwin. "The total amount will not be confirmed until after the tenth day of school. At that point, we will have a better idea of the actual number

• See COMMUNITY page 6

Historic sign to be set at Prince House

The Elizabeth Wright Prince House on the hill next to the skatepark was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior on April 17, 2017. To acknowledge this honor, the Highlands Historical Society applied for a National Register sign to be installed on the bank in front of the Prince House along U.S. Highway 64 east.

The NC DOT OK'd the rights-of-way encroachment, but the final word had to come from the Highlands Town Board since placement will also be in the town's rights-of-way.

• See PRINCE HOUSE page 19

HS Varsity 2019 Volleyball Team



Front row from left are Jeslyn Head, Alyson Dayton, Reese Schmitt, Morgan Olvera, and Tessa Wisniewski. Back row from left are Kedra McCall, Julia May Schmitt, Jordan Carrier, Bailey Schmitt, Ava Schmitt, and Anne Marie Moore. The Lady Highlanders next game is at home against Smoky Mountain on Thursday, Sept. 5.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

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Lawmakers tackle VRBO/AirBnB issues

By Brittney Lofthouse

Over the last few years, the popularity of short-term vacation rentals have sky-rocketed. With websites such as AirBnB and VRBO, anyone can post their home online for rent. With the increase in their usage, more and more cities across the country began to realize that the short-term

vacation rentals fell in a loophole in most state's vacation rental legislation and were virtually unregulated. Cities across the country began drafting their own policies and regulations.

Just last month Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor directed the town's land use committee and

• See VRBO/AIRBnB page 8

Local legislators are fighting the opioid crisis

By Brittney Lofthouse

The opioid epidemic is devastating communities around the nation, including right here at home.

Last week, the Macon County Sheriff's Office Patrol unit was forced to deploy Narcan, a drug that reverses the effects of an overdose, for the first time since the department began carrying the drug.

Local and state leaders have been grappling with how to attack the issue for years, but recently, a charge lead by North Carolina

Senator Jim Davis, looks to be making headway.

Sen. Davis first began his mission to address the state's drug epidemic by sponsoring and advocating for the NC STOP Act. Davis' legislation changed how pharmacies could prescribe narcotics and limited the number of pills being distributed at one time. According to Davis, since implementation, the legislation has been deemed effective in communities like Macon across the state.

• See OPIOID page 13

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Do away with AirBnB but keep VRBO?



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

View the community coffees with the mayor as town meetings. These sessions that include Q&A take place on the last Friday of every month at the Hudson Library.

The main focus at last Friday's coffee was VRBO. Before the session I had researched the issue and did a slide presentation summary. Here are some of the highlights.

There are two types of home sharing. One is VRBO, the acronym for Vacation Rental By Owner. This phenomenon is not new to Highlands. We have had a short-term vacation rental market for many years. In the past these vacation rentals were handled mostly by real estate professionals. Realtors continue to manage many of these rentals, but we also have an expanding market where homeowners do VRBO.

The other rental type is Air B&B. The acronym stands for Air Mattress, Bed and Breakfast. Air B&B started with young people renting a room in their house or apartment, maybe with an air mattress in

spare room, and providing breakfast for guests.

While I see VRBO as being something manageable, Air B&B has other issues. The town and county have rules and regulations about bed and breakfast businesses. Namely, inspections in the fire, safety and food have to be passed. Highlands has no such requirements for Air B & Bs.

At the coffee I pointed out zoning issues for both Air B&B and VRBO. For instance, renting part of a home in an R1 or R2 zone may violate the single-family occupancy requirement. I say "may" because there could be some ambiguity in the ordinance that staff and the Land Use Committee should review.

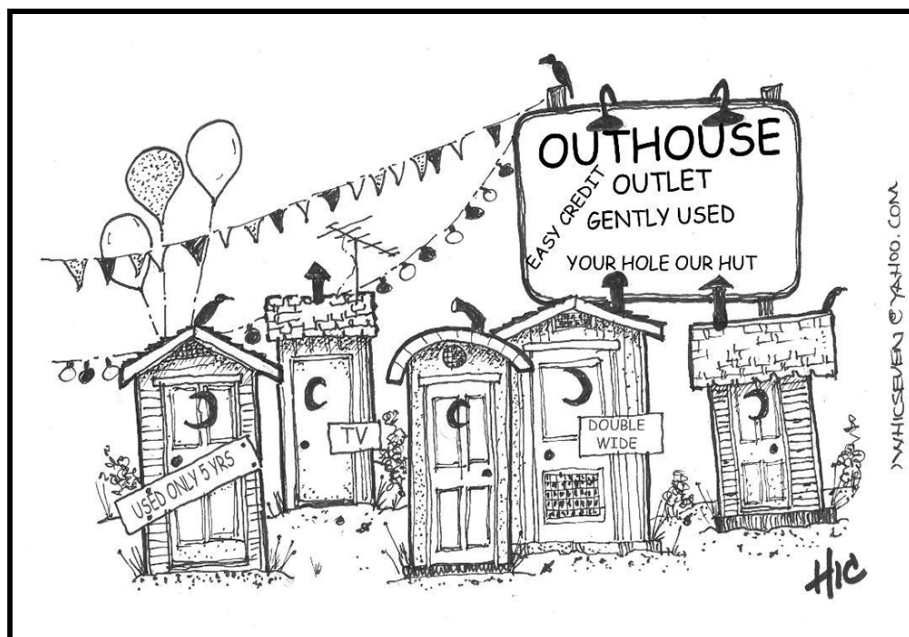
In regard to VRBO, it is legal according to current ordinances to do a short-term rental of a home, so long as the owner is not residing in the home at the same time. For instance, my wife and I have a full lower level of our home with two bedrooms and a bath. We can't rent that part and stay in the home at the same time according to current ordinances. Two separate family entities occupying one residence is basically a duplex which is not allowed in R1 or R2. Again, a review of these issues is needed.

At the coffee I proposed some basic regulations concerning VRBO and Air B&B. I proposed there be a town registration requirement for VRBOs and a responsible party identified in case of problems or emergencies.

Also, occupancy levels, parking issues, trash disposal, noise and public order requirements may need to be included. A prohibition of business type activities not allowed in residential areas should be reaffirmed and included.

Our driving concern should be the preservation of the character and quality of residential zones and thereby avoid the "motelization" of neighborhoods. I believe there was a strong consensus of those at the coffee that this is the direction to should take. The question will be how do we get there with fair and consistent policies?

• HIC'S VIEW •



• OBITUARY •

Philip Powell

Philip Powell, 86, of Highlands, NC and Crawfordville, FL, passed away, Tuesday, August 27, 2019. He was born June 12, 1933 in Hendersonville, TN to the late Charles Leslie Powell and Jean Rule Powell.


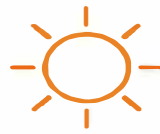

Mr. Powell was a carpenter and builder for many years. He liked classic cars and street rods, and blue grass music. He had a love for hunting with and training coon dogs. He was a member of the Gem City Car Club and a U. S. Army Veteran.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Mary Ann Powell, who passed away 12 years ago.

He is survived by his daughter, Karen Hendricks (Bryant) of Highlands, NC; a son, Charles Leslie Powell (Angie) of Crawfordville, FL; grandchildren, Hannah Kritzing (Jacques), Joshua Bryant Hendricks, Jennafer Henderson (Logan) and Krista Powell and a great-grandchild, Madeline.

A private service will be held at a later date. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Powell family. Online condolences are available at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• WEATHER •

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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC With a commanding view of the 10th hole, the lakes around the clubhouse, and the ridges beyond, the back deck is surrounded by rhododendron making it wonderfully secluded. The large covered deck also boasts a comfortable seating area and a separate dining spot. Light and bright inside with vaulted, beamed ceilings, gleaming hardwoods, a wet bar and a lovely stone fireplace. The large, updated kitchen opens to the great room.

MLS# 90948 | Offered for \$477,000



PANTHER MOUNTAIN Enjoy the peace and quiet while sitting out on the back deck overlooking the unobstructed view. You will fall in love with the coziness, charm and privacy this home has to offer. There are three bedrooms on the main floor in a split bedroom plan. The master opens to the deck and the great view. The great room is vaulted. Features an updated floor plan, neutral colors, and generator.

MLS# 90493 | Offered for \$459,000

CULLASAJA CLUB Located on the #17 fairway, this great 4BR/BA home is move-in ready. The main floor has a large, open kitchen, plus a dining and living room space with cathedral ceiling and a stone fireplace, as well as a large master suite with a private screened-in porch, an additional guest room with full bath, and a laundry room. Upstairs is an open loft area and a guest room with full bath. The lower level boasts a large den/family room and a bedroom with full bath.

MLS# 91186 | Offered for \$459,000

COLD SPRINGS Cold Springs is a great family community with amenities that include a spring fed lake, tennis court, stable, and paddock. This wonderful home is great for a couple or the perfect spot for an extended family. The front yard is great for children or pets and the back covered deck is very large and welcoming. In addition to the three ensuite bedrooms, there is a bright and light office/library. The kitchen is very large and open with more cabinetry than you can possibly fill.

MLS# 89105 | Offered for \$439,000



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HIGHLANDS FALLS CC This villa overlooks the 6th fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club and also looks out to the national forest. This is the only unit in the Club Villas with a garage. There are two bedrooms and two baths on the main level. The lower level which has two other bedrooms and a family room is accessed from outside but you could also put in an interior staircase or keep the access separate to give extended family a space of their own.

MLS# 89700 | Offered for \$425,000



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC Adorable cottage in Highlands Falls Country Club in a very private location on a cul de sac. The home has an older pedigree but has been updated with the addition of a large master suite plus a lower level which features a family room and additional guest quarters. The main level features an updated kitchen with a breakfast bar and opens to the greatroom with stone fireplace. Large back deck with view of Shortoff Mountain. Move-in ready!

MLS# 91516 | Offered for \$398,000

SHELBY PLACE Exceptionally well maintained, charming in-town three bedroom, three bath home with single car carport. Less than a mile from Main Street. Open living/dining area with fireplace. Granite counters in kitchen with SS appliances. Two bedrooms on main and master suite on upper level. Large deck. Lower level could be finished into additional living space. Located in Shelby Place subdivision with clubhouse and tennis court amenities.

MLS# 89855 | Offered for \$395,000

COLD SPRINGS This cozy 3BR/3BA post and beam home offers plenty of space for family and friends. The main level features living room with fireplace, kitchen, master bedroom, laundry room and hardwoods throughout. The upper level includes two bedrooms, a full bath, and large storage area which could be converted to a bonus room. The lower level features large windows and level access to the backyard. Amenities include tennis courts, stocked private lake, pastures and stable, and access to miles of USFS trails.

MLS# 91184 | Offered for \$377,000



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...COMMUNITY continued from page 1

of students at each school for 2019-'20." Highlands Principal Brian Jetter said Berkshire Hathaway's and Rotary Club's donations are most appreciated. "I think it's great they recognize how good our teachers are and how hard they work," said Jetter. Highlands Vice Principal Sarah Holbrooks spent a decade as a teacher and knows full well the difficulties teachers face when it comes to classroom supplies. "You can never have enough as a teacher," said Holbrooks. "You constantly have out-of-pocket expenses for all of the extras, and our teachers always go the extra mile. Donations like these means so much to them." She added that having such a supportive community is one way they are able to retain talented teachers. "They are so thankful for this," said Holbrooks. "Not often do you have the support from the community like we



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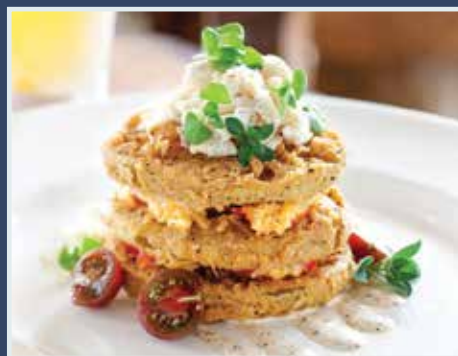
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...VRBO/AIRBnB from page 1

staff to review the issue of short-term vacation rentals. VRBOs (vacation rentals by owner) are convenient and often less expensive than traditional lodging, both factors contributing to their popularity.

There are 313 searches returned on AirBnB for Highlands and 672 for Macon County as a whole. For \$150 a night, you can rent a chalet downtown The Bascom Arts Center. The property even boasts being pet friendly, something most lodging options don't accommodate.

According to Highlands Town Planner, Michael Mathis communities across the nation have adopted VRBO ordinances, which has Mayor Taylor considering the option.

The issue essentially lies in property rights. While some argue that it is the right of a property owner to rent out their home as they see fit without interference from the state, others argue that it is also the property rights of other residents in the neighborhood to not have strangers in and out of their communities. Depending on the area, some residences may be in a zoning district that is strictly residential. A VRBO would be considered lodging and as such may need to be located in the appropriate zoning area.

Taylor said he doesn't want to see VRBOs eliminated as they are vital parts of the local tourism industry, but he does want to see regulations in place to ensure that VRBOs are not interfering with the quality of life of other residents.

Last year, an Asheville man was facing over \$1 million in fines for his two illegal AirBnBs. Asheville virtually bans all VRBOs so when Reid Thompson continued to use his residentially zoned homes for short-term vacation rentals, he racked up the fines.

While communities across the state such as Asheville and even Raleigh have adopted their own policies, their ability to do so is up for debate.

On July 1, Governor Roy Cooper signed an update to the state's Vacation Rental Act that prohibits local governments from forcing property owners to obtain a permit before renting out their properties.

The changes were outlined in S.483 "Vacation Rental Act Changes" which was supported by the Vacation Rental Management Association and the North Carolina Realtors with the intent of protecting private property rights and the ability to use your property as you wish within the state.

The new Vacation Rental Act amendments will now include the following changes:

"Cities and counties are authorized to perform periodic inspections for hazardous and unlawful conditions in buildings within their territorial jurisdiction when there is reasonable cause to believe that unsafe, unsanitary, or otherwise hazardous or unlawful conditions may exist in a residential building or structure."

However, cities and counties are not authorized to do any of the following, among other things:

"Adopt or enforce any ordinance that would require any owner or manager of rental property to obtain any permit or permission from the local government to lease or rent residential real property or to register rental property with the local government, except when an individual rental unit has either more than four verified violations in a rolling 12-month period or two or more verified violations in a rolling 30-day period, or upon the property being identified within the top ten percent (10%) of properties with crime or disorder problems as set forth in a local ordinance."

"Require that an owner or manager of residential rental property enroll or participate in any governmental program as a condition of obtaining a certificate of occupancy."

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WORD MATTER

A Question of Time

My wife often tells me I obsess over time. I'm the one who is never late for an appointment, often showing up WAY too early. I know the origins of this condition. It dates back to my days in radio.

As I've previously mentioned, I spent most of my thirties working in broadcast radio. I started as a reporter and ended up an operations manager. I always pulled a shift on the air, doing everything from news, sports and talk radio to spinning records, and programming both music and news/talk radio stations.

Whenever I was in studio, no matter what the specific job was, the single dominating presence was a large analog clock directly in my line of sight. Everyone I've ever met who worked in the medium understands that the clock is EVERYTHING. It dictated all components crammed into every hour of programming, from how long a news story or an entire newscast would be, to how long a specific song or a set of music would run between commercial breaks.

I worked at stations with national network affiliations, which meant the network had demands on our time. They ran newscasts, and commercials within those newscasts. And, when it was time for the network segments to run, they ran, period.

All of this is to explain why I consider time a much more valuable currency than anything else, including money.



Bud Katz

I'm not a futurist. I have no idea what will occur tomorrow, never mind in the next however many years. On this, I subscribe to the Yogi Berra school of thought: It's hard to predict anything, especially about the future.

Still, I wonder, what if we could buy more time?

This thought grew out of my total inability to conceive that we are well over half way through 2019. Where did it all go? Did I fall asleep in January and wake up yesterday?

I'm convinced, the longer I live the faster time flies by. Why is that? Do we have some clock within each of us? Does it connect us with the Universe and speed up as we age?

This wouldn't be bad if we knew we could acquire a few more days, weeks, months, or years. If this were possible, would you trade tangible wealth – money – for longevity? These are the only two currencies; money, which is fungible, and time, which is not.

I know people who believe our bodies come with just so many heartbeats. The problem, of course, is that we have no clue how many heartbeats our individual body has. The average resting heart rate is, for adults, 80 beats per minute. That's 4,800 per hour, 115,200 per day, 806,400 per week, and 41,932,800 every year.

We can't save heartbeats, just as we can't truly save time. An average, 75-year-old man or woman will enjoy 3.1 billion heartbeats over his or her lifetime.

That's a lot of heartbeats.

But, what if we wanted more? More to spend with loved ones. More to watch children and grandchildren realize themselves. More to be with that one special person. More to travel. More to breathe in the fresh forest air. More to stand at the seashore in knee-deep gulf or ocean water. More.

What would be a fair price for one more day? Week? Month? Year? Would we be willing to sell off stuff for another week or month? Would additional time come with a guarantee of good health? Could we give or receive it as a gift? Would we be able to use it now, or would we have to tack it on at the end?

What entity would provide this ... product? Service? Commodity? The government? Churches? Banks? Gas stations? Mom and Pop stores everywhere? Walmart?

How would additional time be credited to each of our accounts? Would we all carry ... time cards? Could we use our additional time everywhere, or only in certain places?

All of a sudden, this is getting very complicated.

Perhaps we should pay more attention to the time we have. Perhaps what time we have, however long we have, is already precious enough, and simply, out of respect for the whole human construct of time, should not be wasted, or spent on nonsense, or on unnecessary worry, gossip, hate, anger, envy, jealousy, or overcooked pasta, flat beer or artificial flowers.

Time is already a pretty awesome gift.

We should be thankful for what we've been given, and we should use it wisely.

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...VRBO/AIRBnB continued from 8

"Levy a special fee or tax on residential rental property that is not also levied against other commercial and residential properties, unless expressly authorized by general law or applicable only to an individual rental unit or property with a certain number of verified violations, and the fee does not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in any 12-month period in which the unit or property is found to have verified violations."

The bill passed both the House and Senate unanimously. Rep. Kevin Corbin

was not present for the house vote. Senator Jim Davis voted in favor of the bill.

Not sure if the new legislation strictly prohibits local governments from addressing short-term rentals at all, House Republican Dean Arp introduced a bill in early July further addressing the issue; however it was quickly pulled.

Arp proposed that any city or county ordinances governing short-term or vaca-

• See AIRBnB page 15

Wildcat Cliffs CC



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Fall Home Improvement 2019

Get More Bang for Your Buck with these Home Improvements

(StatePoint) Fall and winter down-time is a good time to think about home improvement projects. Whether you're getting your home in tip-top shape for your own enjoyment, or getting it ready to put on the market, not all home improvement projects are created equal when it comes to return on investment (ROI). Here are top areas on which to focus:

Interiors

The kitchen is the heart of the home and it's one of the best areas to renovate in terms of ROI, according to Remodeling magazine's annual Cost vs. Value Report, which puts the price tag of the average minor kitchen remodel at \$22,507, with 80.5 percent of the cost recouped upon resale.

To give the kitchen an updated appearance, replace the flooring, countertops, sink and faucet. A fresh coat of paint in a trendy shade, such as Living Coral, Pantone's Color of the Year, can add a vibrant pop of color to energize any kitchen. Not looking to go that bold? Consider an accent wall, or stick to a classic palate of gray and white in terms of cabinets and countertops. White on white is also a popular new style for kitchens and bathrooms.

Other features home buyers are paying close attention to are laundry rooms and such energy-saving elements as Energy Star appliances and windows, according to the survey "What Home Buyers Want in 2019" by the National Association of Home Builders.

Curb Appeal

The popularity of out-



Expanding and upgrading outdoor spaces is always a plus.

door projects remains strong and it's for a good reason. According to the Cost vs. Value Report, the biggest bang for your buck in 2019 will come from replacing a garage door. The report says the average price is \$3,611, and 97.5 percent of it is recouped when the house is

sold. Other outdoor projects with high ROI include adding manufactured stone veneer to the exterior (94.9 percent), adding a wood deck (75.6 percent) and replacing siding (75.6 percent). Looking for a simpler way to make an impact? Sprucing up the landscape by planting flowers or bushes or even just clearing the yard of debris will make a big statement.

No matter what updates you end up making, it's always a good idea to notify your insurance agent.

"Certain upgrades may change the value of a house, so homeowners need to make sure they're properly covered," says Bob Buckel, vice president of product

management, Erie Insurance. "There are a few things to look for. Ask your agent about guaranteed replacement cost policies that can cover the cost to rebuild a home in today's dollars following a covered loss."

Some upgrades may also make you eligible for discounts, Buckel adds, especially if they make the home more secure. "For example, Erie Insurance offers certain safety discounts such as for installing smoke alarms or an automatic sprinkler system."

Now you have a checklist of projects. But before you start, take a moment to assess which ones are worth your time and money.

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...OPIOID continued from page 1

"The prescription limits of The STOP Act having already reduced the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed in our state," said Senator Davis. "Mandating use of the Controlled Substance Reporting System will allow prescribers to track the source of prescriptions, the recipients of those prescriptions, and the number of prescriptions. The mandated use of the CSRS does not begin until 2020 so state government have time to upgrade the system to make it more user-friendly and to allow time for prescriber's computer systems to be upgraded. Improvements were part of The HOPE Act and The Opioid Epidemic Response Act. Dealing with this epidemic will require future legislative remedies as well."

The Opioid Epidemic Response Act can be considered the second phase of the state's attack on lessening the tragic effects of opioids in the community.

"The Opioid Epidemic Response Act is the NC legislature's bill dealing with the opioid epidemic," said Davis. "It basically does three things:

1. Eliminates the duplicate registration required of NC prescribers for buprenorphine. NC was one of the few if not the only state requiring state registration to be completed. The state registration was seen as an impediment to prescribers of buprenorphine, an important treatment therapy.

2. Decriminalization of drug testing equipment used to detect contaminants in controlled substances

3. Allowing state funds to be used in syringe exchange programs."

Davis has supported

the legislation and views it as a crucial next step in reaching communities across the state.

"North Carolina is losing between 4 and 5 individuals per day to the opioid epidemic," said Davis. "I was first made aware of the magnitude of the problem by former Waynesville Chief of Police, Bill Hollingsed, shortly after my first term in the NC Senate. He advised me of potential legislative efforts that were appropriate. Partnering with Attorney General Josh Stein's office we have gotten signed into North Carolina law The STOP Act, The HOPE Act, and the Opioid Epidemic Response Act. Each of these laws enhance our ability to address the addiction problems facing our society."

Sen. Davis was also mostly recently a sponsor of the Senate companion bill to the House's "Death by Distribution Act." The new legislation was signed into law on July 8, 2019. Under the new law, it would be easier to prosecute those distributors who sell drugs leading to overdose and death. Criminals could face

up to 40 years in prison with the "death by distribution" law.

Despite the progress made on the state level addressing legislation to equip law enforcement with the means necessary to fight the drug epidemic as well as provide vital resources to the community to help with treatment, Davis said his work isn't done.

"We are always examining additional appropriate steps that can be made to address the opioid epidemic," said Davis.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to host 'Crush the Crisis' opioid take back day

On Saturday, September 7, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will host "Crush the Crisis," an opioid take back event. Law enforcement officers from the Highlands Police Department and Macon County Sheriff's Office will be on site to assist with the collection and disposal of unused medications from 10 a.m. until noon.

Local law enforcement near the main hospital entrance will be collecting tablets, capsules and patches of Hydrocodone (Norco, Lortab, Vicodin), Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet), Tramadol (Ultram), Codeine, Fentanyl (Duragesic), Morphine, Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) and Oxycodone (Opana). Please note that needles, syringes, lancets or liquids will not be accepted.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is participating as part of HCA Healthcare's first national "Crush the Crisis" opioid take back day. More than 65 HCA Healthcare facilities across 14 states are uniting to collect unused or expired opioids for one day.

Opioid addiction is a growing crisis across the nation. The goal for 'Crush the Crisis' is to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid addiction and educate our community about the proper disposal of these medications. Opioid addiction can happen to anyone and we are providing this drop off opportunity confidentially and anonymously.

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A Reflection



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salad in town! If you wanted to go to the movies you took a slow road to Franklin. SweetTreats was still on the creek and little and big kids looked forward to creating their own concoction. If you wanted a drink you carried a little brown bag into the restaurant. Bars didn't exist here and tourists were shocked that around 9 o'clock you just moseyed on home!

Fast forward to today. Highlands is a mecca not only for those who want to escape the heat but also for brides and grooms and their attendees who have discovered our little town. We are a year-round town with restaurateurs who feed us, boutiques who clothe us, and hotels who give us shelter even through the snowy days. The Highlands Food and Wine Festival, held in November, has become so popular that tickets sold out in two hours this year! Christmas decorations fill the streets with festive lights and the spirit is contagious. January and February bring ice skaters of all ages as our

Kelsey Hutchinson Park transforms from music and art in the park and picnics and the farmers market on Saturdays to frolicking in the snow or trying to stay up right on ice skates. Wine dinners are looked forward to with renowned chefs and coveted wines. There is simply never a dull moment unless that is your choice for "wind down" time. New restaurants are popping up everywhere with sophisticated and fun bars. Music fills the air in the park and Village Square. Highlands Motor-ing Festival showcases shiny cars of years past. Faces have become younger and more people want to live here full time.

Even though the dynamics have changed, Highlands will always be special and memories will continue to be made for the next generations that follow. To know Highlands is to love Highlands.

• Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is certified in Resort and Second home properties. She chooses to remain an independent firm, allowing for personalized service and decision making. Her professionally trained brokers sell in any price range. Her firm was recently selected as a Leading Real Estate Company of the World. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau. Visit her on the web at Pat Allen Realty Group.com, call 828-526-8784, or 828-200-9179. The office is conveniently located at 295 Dillard Road across from Highlands Decorating Center.

...COMMUNITY continued from page 6

do here. Not only monetarily, but volunteering, committees, technology, lots of things. That's amazing and I think that's one reason we keep our teachers. Plus, donors know their money is going to good use."

Summit Charter School 1st-grade teacher Maggie Sowell spent some of her \$100 to buy books and other project materials.

"I think it's really great," said Sowell. "I got books with my students' favorite characters and I'm able to get hands-on materials for

STEM projects, which I otherwise wouldn't have been able to do."

Summit Art Teacher Grethen Kapity immediately went out and picked up a variety of goods for her classroom with her \$100, including posters, crayons, markers, duct tape, and storage bins.

"I'm so blown away with the generosity of the people at Berkshire," said Kapity. "It's so sweet they care about all of us, not just their kids, they did it across the board. It was all about the big picture."

What a great Labor Day weekend we had! You can still feel the energy in our mountain air. The streets were bustling with shoppers, restaurants and bars filled, hikers with boots on the ground, the Highlands Playhouse and Performing Arts Center filled with smiling faces, and blue skies and a gentle mountain breeze the envy of hot landers!

Having lived here full-time for 25 years, I have seen so many changes! We were a "seasonal" town and the exodus off the mountain began at the end of October! The taste of Highlands was in two tents in Bryson's parking lot! There were two red lights and traffic was minimal. Wolfgang's and Lakeside were open for lunch and dinner. Christmas decorations were red bows and Madison's was the Central House Restaurant, reminiscent of Williamsburg with waitresses donning white ruffled bonnets serving the best chicken



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Lawyers and Judges for Legal Aid

Thirty-two lawyers and judges gathered recently at breakfast in Highlands to hear about efforts to provide legal aid to those who cannot afford it. Jim Barrett, Executive Director of Pisgah Legal Services, of Asheville and Mayor Pat Taylor made presentations that focused on how it can be done and the pressing need for such services in our area. The Lawyers Committee who organized this effort were: Mike Campbell, Wade Coleman, Debbie Davidoff, Jon Golden, Stell Huie, Judge Carlisle Overstreet, Donna Santo, Stan Starnes, Wilbur Warner and Walter Wingfield.

The last four words of our Pledge of Allegiance "and justice for all" express one of the most basic yet highest ideals of our country. However, for many of our most vulnerable citizens, justice remains a promise that has yet to be fulfilled.

There is a misconception that if you cannot afford an attorney the justice system will appoint one for you. But this is only true in criminal cases. There is no such guarantee of a lawyer in civil actions. For the domestic violence victim, the low-income family at risk of losing their home or the elderly person on a meager fixed income who is taken advantage of by a predatory lender, there is no appointed legal representative.

Poverty is in plain view on the plateau – it is those you see every day who work hard and likely pay too large a portion of their income for housing. If there is sickness, an accident or perhaps a death, anything that interrupts the balance in their lives, many

...VRBO/AIRBnB continued from page 11

tion rentals would be nullified. Local governments also couldn't require such rental units to be registered or inspected arguing that local government legislation was creating "a patchwork of different regulations" for VRBOs. But he got pushback from his own party and opposition from other members of the House State and Local Government Committee, of which Rep. Corbin serves as chair.

"We had Rep. Arp pull the bill so that it can be worked on some more," said Rep. Corbin who said to the debate surrounding Arp's proposal as being extremely heated.

During the debate, Rep. Stephen Ross argued that Arp's proposal would undermine the value of zoning for residential neighborhoods and infringe on the property rights of those living near VRBOs.

"I have always been a strong advocate



Jim Barrett, Executive Director of Pisgah Legal Services and Mayor Pat Taylor who made presentations at a breakfast.

bad things can happen. Domestic violence is all too frequent in these mountains.

Pisgah currently provides legal services for these people in the greater Asheville area through staff attorneys and volunteers. Impressively, there are 300 lawyer volunteers who greatly expand the capacity of Pisgah to serve its clientele. These volunteers are a testament to the excellent job Pisgah is doing in their communities. We need to convince Pisgah to expand into our area, but it is expensive. Their Asheville board is supportive of the expansion, but only if it does not require funds raised in their current service area. So we must raise the necessary funds here. Pledges received at the breakfast exceeded \$40,000, and other lawyers, some who missed breakfast but want to help, will be sending in their pledges.

If you are interested in the cause of legal aid or in contributing or in helping to raise money, contact the Lawyers Committee, c/o Stell Huie, PO Box 2469, Highlands, NC, 828 526 9142 or Pisgah Legal Services, c/o Deborah Holt 828 210 3449.

for property rights and believe that property owners should be able to do what they want with their property, including renting it out," said Corbin. "But I also understand that there have been issues with short-term vacation rentals in neighborhoods and disturbances such as parties and too many guests, so I see both sides of the argument."

Rep. Corbin, who uses online short-term rental websites for property he owns in Macon County, says that while he thinks there should be some sort of regulation or rules surrounding the rentals, he is absolutely opposed to the overreaching policies – outright bans – cities such as Asheville have passed.

While Rep. Arp withdrew his original bill, he made it clear he plans to get input from local government groups to reintroduce a compromise bill.



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- The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am-5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.
- At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursdays 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

Monday - Saturday

- Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open from 10a to 4p.
- Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

First Mondays

- Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

- At the Nature Center. Free. Garden Tour. 10:30am. Enjoy a walk through the Botanical Gardens with our knowledgeable staff, viewing beautiful native plant life in diverse habitats.

- At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

Mon. & Thurs.

- The Joy Program at HUMC 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of

programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon.-Wed.

- Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

Mon. & Fri.

- Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:15 a.m.. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.
- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

- Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

Tuesdays

- At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Toad Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active - feeding time!

- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

- The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at The Bascom. Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

- The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30 am in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

Third Tuesday

- The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

- Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

- Lunch with the Docs at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital noon to 1 p.m. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345. Limited to 50 attendees.

Tuesday and Thursdays

- At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wednesdays

- At the Nature Center. Free. Mad Science. 2:30pm. Try your hand at scientific inquiry with a brief hands-on program aimed at youth ages 7+ (younger ages OK with supervision).

- At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner - Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays - Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit www.cbchighlands.com.

- Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

First Wednesdays

- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

- Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Wed. & Fri.

- Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

- Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays Sept. 5-Oct.

- The Church of the Incarnation next 6-week Grief Support Group meets in Jones Hall from 4-5:15 p.m. The Grief Support Group is offered to anyone dealing with grief. Anne Koenig, LPC, RPT-S, a local private practice counselor also affiliated with the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center Highlands will facilitate the group sessions. Anne has been in practice for several decades. She has led a number of groups, including groups to help relieve Post Traumatic Stress. For information and registration, please call the Church office at (828) 526-

2968, or Anne Koenig at (404) 357-0728.

Thursdays

- At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

- Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am.

Open to the public

- Kids Zone at Hudson Library, 3:30

- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita (828) 526-9510.

- Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

2nd Thursdays

- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

- At H-C Hospital, Lunch with the Docs noon to 1p. Events are limited to 50 attendees. RSVP to Kara Miller at 828-526-1345.

- Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Fourth Thursday

- At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

Fridays

- At the Nature Center. Free. Turtle and Snake Feeding. 11:30am. View our live animals at their most active -- feeding time!

- Live music in Town Square, 6-8 p.m.

First Fridays

- The Bascom at Sotheby's series features different artists each month with a reception the first Friday of every month at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty from 4-5:30p at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. The public is invited to come meet the artist, view the exhibit and have some wine.

- At the Rec Park Pool. Movie Float-in Night - all ages Pool opens at 6:30p and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. 526-1595.

Last Friday

- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a until noon.

Friday - Monday

- At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

Saturdays

- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

- The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or down-

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

stairs in The Bascom Library room.
 • At the Nature Center. Free. Creature Feature. 11:30am & 2:30pm. Experience one or more of our live animal ambassadors up close while learning about their adaptations.

• Free music in the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8 p.m.

Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

• Church in the Wildwood, hymn singing each Sunday through Labor Day weekend from 7-8 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 5

• Zahner Lecture Series "Coyote Settles In" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

Fri. Sept. 6

• At Hudson Library Are You BearWise? program on Friday at 11 am. This free program is presented by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. As fall sets in, bears increase movement to stock up on calories for the winter denning season. Come learn how you can live safely and happily with bears. Small changes can reap big benefits, and this is a great time to increase your bear knowledge. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031. Hudson Library, 554 Main Street in Highlands.

• Book Release and Author Talk "Whence These Special Places – the Geology of Cashiers, Highlands and Panthertown Valley," Friday from 6:30-8p at Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library on Frank Allen Road in Cashiers. Free admission. Limited seating. Early arrival is recommended. Books will be available for purchase.

Sat. Sept. 7

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will host "Crush the Crisis," an opioid take back event. Law enforcement officers from the Highlands Police Department and Macon County Sheriff's Office will be on site to assist with the collection and disposal of unused medications from 10 a.m. until noon. They will be collecting tablets, capsules and patches of Hydrocodone (Norco, Lortab, Vicodin), Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet), Tramadol (Ultram), Codeine, Fentanyl (Duragesic), Morphine, Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) and Oxymorphone (Opana). Please note that needles, syringes, lancets or liquids will not be accepted.

• Dazzling Dahlias benefitting the Highlands Historical Society from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

• At Hudson Library, noted mycologist James Pader is coming to Hudson Library on Saturday at 11 am to present a program on Cooking With Wild Mushrooms. Mr. Pader will talk about identification and cooking methods of various mushrooms at this free program. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. Shane Meade & The Sound

Sun. Sept. 8

• Bel Canto at PAC at 4. Dinner at HCC follows.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Greenway Dance" Sunday at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC. Picnic and dance from 2-4:30 p.m. Mr Jimmie Roberson from Maggie Valley, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus lev-els. Our next class Sept.16. Everyone is welcome. For

information call: 828-787-2324.

Wed.-Sat., Sept. 11-14

• It's all about fiber at the Macon County Agricultural Fair at Macon County Fairgrounds in Franklin. Fiber artists, producers and animals will be located inside the Fiber Tent each day during the Macon County Fair. The Fiber Tent will be located just outside the goat and sheep livestock area at the Fair. Fair goers are welcome to join a knitting or spinning circle each day in the Fiber Tent. Fiber workers and groomers may bring their tools, from scissors to shears, by the Fiber Tent this year to take advantage of daily sharpening and repair services offered by Spirit Fiber Works of Cleveland, GA. A different focus on fiber will be featured each day in the Fiber Tent.

Thurs., Sept. 12

• Zahner Lecture Series "Botanical Resilience Strategies in an Age of Climate Catastrophe" at the Nature Center at 6 p.m. Free.

Fri., Sept. 13

• Live music at Town Square from 6-8 p.m. Fox Fire Boys

Sat. Sept. 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take moderate-to-strenuous

5-mile hike, elevation change 900 ft., from Deep Gap to Standing Indian Mountain on the Appalachian Trail with spectacular views into Georgia. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 8:30 a.m., drive 42 miles round trip. Call leader Irene Brewi, 772-263-3478, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

• Shakespeare & Company Booksellers is hosting a reading and book signing event with Highlands local author Jeannie Chambers on Sat., Sept. 14 from 4-5 p.m. Shakespeare & Company is located at 204 N. Fifth Street, Village Square in Highlands, NC. Chambers' book is a middle grade historical fiction via time travel.

• Gentle Yoga with Christopher Baxter from 2-4 p.m. in OEI's upstairs yoga studio at 21 Church Street. Call 828-526-9887 to reserve your spot. / \$50 per person. Limited spots available.

• Live music at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8 p.m. Fletcher's Grove

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First Presbyterian Church

The Art of Prayer

Are you a praying person? The answer does not necessarily depend on the frequency with which you pray. The answer can depend on what happens when you pray.

Pádraig Ó Tuama, an Irish theologian, describes prayer in his little prayer book, "Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community," as something akin to a small fire lit to warm cold hands, or even cold hearts:

Prayer is a small fire lit to keep cold hands warm.

Prayer flourishes both with faith and doubt.

Prayer is asking, and prayer is sitting.

Prayer is not an answer, because not all questions can be answered.

Prayer is comfort. Prayer is disappointment.

Prayer is words and shape and art around desperation, and delight and disappointment and desire. No prayer is perfect. There is no system of prayer that is the best.

There is only the person praying, kneeling, walking, cursing, whatever.

The only way to pray well is to pray regularly enough that it becomes a practice of encounter."

Ó Tuama's insights describe praying as "a practice of encounter." Indeed, perhaps the first practice of praying involves an encounter with God to change some circumstance in life.

Yet, the Christian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard also said, "The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather change the nature of the one who prays." Praying, then, involves an encounter not only with God, but also with ourselves. The encounter with God in praying then summons us to change our attitudes, our ideas, our relationships, and our actions towards others and ourselves.

For example, a man had a deeply broken relationship with his son. He objected vigorously to his son's lifestyle. The man said, "I prayed to God to change my son. But instead, God changed me." Praying compelled this man to encounter God and his son in a new and positive way.

Pope Francis once remarked, "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works." No doubt that is not the only way prayer works, but surely praying encounters us to do our part, so that praying does not merely ask God to act. Praying can become an encounter with God that summons us to act to bring about some good.

Our hands, our hearts, our involvement might be cold making us utterly passive. Yet, by praying, a small fire can grow in us that summons us to live more intentionally aware of God, self, and others. Praying then summons us to also ask, "What can I, or we, do with God in this situation that can bear fruit for a better life?" Such praying indeed "becomes a practice of encounter."

Proverbs 3:5

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

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

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Service; Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High School;

10:45am: Child. Program, 10: 45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

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; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Mondays: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m.

Wed.: Choir: 6p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening

Worship, 6p. Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

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HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO

Getting used to being a star

My first taste of stardom came at my Royal Bash aka a book launch, but it didn't stop there. Once the Royal Mum and Assistant got the hang of booking beaucoup book signings for me, the demand for my presence increased by leaps and bounds. I could be found onstage somewhere every weekend.



The Royal Pooch
Lord Banjo

It's tons of fun to go to doggie shops where pet parents come in to get dog food or to give their four-legged kids baths. Not only do the pet parents ooh and ahh over me, but I also get to sniff their dogs and even sometimes their two-legged kids. The two-legged ones are fabulously friendly and like to get down on the floor and hug me—and I live to be hugged.

The Royal Assistant, however, has declared doggie shops off-limits ever since a fluffy Pomeranian lifted his leg on my poster at one stop. I agree his behavior was unspeakably rude. Do you think the little munchkin was jealous? Perhaps envious of my imposing size?

I'm happy Mum still considers coffee shops, bookstores, and card shops acceptable because I think they're great places to meet two-legged children. When parents get coffee or wander the shop, their kids

like to hang with me. Don't get me wrong, adults pet me and give me belly rubs, but they soon go about their business. The kids, though, sit with me a while. Even when they wander off, they tend to return to give me more belly rubs.

I wonder why it is that grownups never fail to ask how old I am and point out my graying snout and eyebrows. They also comment on my calm disposition and sweet demeanor, but the nonstop age remarks could give a dog a complex. The kids are way sweeter when they squeal, "Oh, his fur is so soft, look at his big brown eyes, or look at his gorgeous tail."

I also enjoy the times Mum takes me to events where she tells the story of how she and I came to be authors. The animal lovers exclaim over me and my royal purple robe and talk about how well behaved I am. You might think Mum's talks would be boring for me, but I find them quite exciting. Why? Because she lets me wander the audience while she speaks. The crowd is filled with dog lovers, so I can let one person rub my head and then move to the next. I see no need to linger when someone gets distracted and pays more attention to Mum than to me. There are always plenty more folks to visit.

One night, when the presentation was

over, folks began to ignore me and instead line up to speak to Mum. I couldn't fathom why they wanted to talk to my Assistant. Whatever their reasoning, I took that as my signal to lie down behind the podium and nap. Soon enough, Mum and Dad loaded me into the Royal Carriage and took me home to await my next engagement.

I enjoy all my outings in my royal duds,

but Mum's speaking engagements may have a bit of an edge. Having a captive audience make over me is la pièce de résistance.

Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find similar stories in his book, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," available at Mountain Paws in Highlands, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at ink-penn119@gmail.com.

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 21

• At 5:17 p.m., officers responded to a call of damage to Chandler Inn where someone hit and broke the rock wall around the sign. Damage is estimated at \$500.

Aug. 26

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Pierson Drive.

• At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza parking lot.

Aug. 27

• At 7:20 a.m., officers responded to a report of simple assault and damage to property at a location on Main Street where a 2019 Toyota Camry was damaged. Damage is estimated at \$400.

• At 7:30 a.m., James Christopher Dillard, 44, of Franklin, was arrested for simple assault and damage to property involving a club, blackjack and brass knuckles. He was issued a \$500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Sept. 24.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 28.

Aug. 28

• At 7:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

• At 12:43 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Church Street.

• At 1:39 p.m., the dept. performed an elevator rescue on Church Street.

Aug. 29

• At 4:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rhododendron Drive

Aug. 30

• At 2:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 6:30 p.m., the dept. investigated smoke on the Franklin Road.

Aug. 31

• At 3:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Holt Road.

• At 7:42 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Circle,

Sept. 1

• At 11:02 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road. There were no injuries.

• At 4:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Club Drive,

...PRINCE HOUSE continued from page 1

At the Thursday, August 22 Town Board meeting, Highlands Historic Society Archivist Ran Shaffner requested two things: permission to erect the sign one foot into the rights-of-way and to ask the town's crew to install it.



and read by traffic that is moving. Based on where you want to place it, people will have passed it before they can even read it. They would have to pull over somewhere and there isn't a place to do that."

However, Commissioner

Amy Patterson said the sign wasn't there to get people to pull over but rather to mark a destination "you might want to see."

Dotson thought the sign would be better served up close to or on the house.

In the end, the board voted unanimously to permit the encroachment of the sign and to direct the town crew to install it.

Shaffner said the National Register plaques and signs represent a "national" honor versus the town's three highway signs which are "state" signs.

He said there are 64 places in Highlands that are now on the National Register, with 55 of them in the town's three Historic Districts.

— Kim Lewicki

He said The William C. Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse, NY, approved the application for a National Register sign with a grant of \$1,100 for its production, and the Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio plans to deliver it late August or early September.

"The Historical Society's Board believes the attractive appearance of the sign at that location on U.S. 64 will add to the historic character of Highlands as recognized by both the state and the nation," said Shaffner.

Commissioner John Dotson was the only one to hesitate giving approval.

"The number of signs we have going up around town concerns me and it would seem that this sign is meant to be viewed

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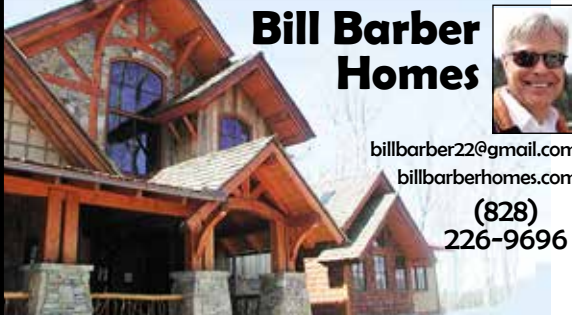
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SEEKING A YEAR-ROUND OR LONG TERM RENTAL Apartment/studio/house. 1 person, no pets, non-smoking, references available. 828-371-1155. (St. 8/29)

MASSAGETHERAPIST wanted for new holistic center in Franklin. Will train in Reiki. 239-822-2752. (st. 8/15)

NEEDED AN EXPERIENCED HEALTH CARE-TAKER for a very sweet female Alzheimer's patient for limited time each day not during normal working hours in exchange for free lodging and utilities in a fully furnished cottage located in Highlands Country Club. For additional information call 828 526-0469. (st. 8/8)

HELP WANTED



WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT is celebrating its 25th Anniversary! We are offering a \$500 sign bonus for an experienced server, line cook and pantry. The award winning Wolfgang's has received Best of Wine Spectator Award for 15 years and Southern Living's "Best Place for Dinner in Highlands". Come join part of our team - we pride ourselves in low staff turnover. wom2@me.com (st. 2/14)

THE LOG CABIN RESTAURANT is now hiring sous chef, line cook, host/event coordinator & servers. Relaxed professional work environment. Excellent compensation. Start immediately. 828 526-5777 (or just stop by) www.logcabinhigh-

lands.com (st. 8/29)

MOUNTAIN FRESH IS HIRING: - Line/buffet cooks, Bar/barista/wine/specialty foods, Servers, Dishwasher/prep, Pizza staff, Cashiers, More!. Apply in person or to HR@mfgro.com. Free meals and TRAINING PROVIDED AGE 16+ (st. 8/15)

WAIT STAFF FULL- OR PART-TIME. Experience preferred. Stop by at Wild Thyme Gourmet on Main Street in Town Square. (st. 8/8)

COLONEL MUSTARD'S SPECIALTY FOODS IN HIGHLANDS looking for an awesome person with a passion for food and cooking. Part time position available, includes some holidays and weekends. If you are a quick learner, friendly and hard-working, you'll fit right in with our team. Please stop by the shop to fill out an application or email resume to col.mustardshighlands@yahoo.com. (st. 7/11)

DUTCHMANS CASUAL LIVING STORE Looking for full and part time sales associate to join our team. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Please call Shannon or Gabbi at 828-526-8864. (st. 6/6)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE. Hiring all positions. Commitment to excellence in food quality and guest service. We are proud of the products and service we provide, we create experiences not just sell food. Offering defined, sane schedules and healthy work environment allowing for a balanced life. Very cooperative pay. Food service experience preferred. Tobacco free workplace. Contact us at Smokehouserecruiting@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

POTPOURRI BOUTIQUE STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for full time and part time sales persons. Retail sales experience with women's clothing and accessories preferred, eyewear experience a plus. Must be able to work weekends and holidays, except Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day. Fun, lively, fast paced environment. Please

stop by the store for application or email resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st. 4/4)

SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS, NC. Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

THE UGLY DOG PUB wants you to be a part of our team. We need managers, full-time servers, bartenders, and support staff with a positive attitude, ability to multitask, and a willingness to work as a team. Experience preferred but not required. Working nights and weekends is required. 828-526-8364 theuglydogstaff@gmail.com. (st. 3/21)

SERVICES

GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATION roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal. Call 371-1103. (st. 6/27)

WNC PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LLC - 828-347-1822. Year-round property maintenance and monitoring for vacation homes-rentals-residential • pressure washing-deck repairs-carpentry-small plumbing & electrical repairs-painting-etc. • lawn care & mowing • by the job or yearly contract • call for FREE estimate • insured.

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (9/26)

CAREGIVER/ GUARDIAN - Compassionate and Trustworthy. Over four years of service in caregiving; guardian for more than eight incapacitated clients. Hours are flexible to meet your needs. Dependable and punctual. Please contact me to see if I can accommodate your needs. References upon request. Catherine Robinson, 727 215-4195. Catherineguardian15@gmail.com. (st. 7/3)

HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and

will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (6/27)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 4/25)

MURPHY'S PAINTING CO. Interior & Exterior Painting, Sheetrock Repair, Wallpaper Removal, Log Homes, Decks. Insured. Free Estimates. 828-524-1391 or 828-332-0525.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE SIX ACRES ON BUCK CREEK ROAD behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843-460-8015. (st. 5/30)

2/2 CLAYTON HOME IN LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 1+ acre, Private. View. 118,000..706.782.9728 (st. 9/5)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm ... open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmars15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

COMMERCIAL SPACE RENTALS

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A COMMERCIAL/MIXED USE PROPERTY strategically and conveniently close to Highlands in Scaly Mountain. Property includes a post office, real estate office, individual home and five apartments. Directly across from new Dollar General store. For information, contact Jody or Wood Lovell with Highlands Sotheby's International Realty at 828-526-4104. (st. 6/20)

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS IBED/IBATH APT. - Unfurnished. Large Living room. \$700 per month. \$200 deposit. Call 828-526-1566.

LUXURY APARTMENT IN TOWN. Walk to Main Street. 1BR 1BA. \$3,500 per month. 3 month minimum. Sorry, no pets, no smoking. Adults only. 828-421-1709. (st. 5/10)

Do you know these people?

The Highlands Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in identifying these two individuals. If you have any information, please contact Sgt. Detective Andrea Holland at 828-526-9431.



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