

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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The seven Town Board candidates line up for Q&A number 4

Running for re-election Tuesday, Nov. 5 are Commissioners, John Dotson, Eric Pierson and Brian Stiehler. Opposing them are Marc Hehn, Nick McCall, Michael Rogers and Hank Ross.

Each candidate has been asked to answer six questions. This week we will feature answers

to Question 3 by the candidates in alphabetical order.

Question 4:
Should the Town of Highlands regulate or allow Food Trucks other than just for the Highlands Food & Wine Festival Food Truck event?

John Dotson
At this point food trucks are disallowed from operation within

the city limits other than the Food and Wine Festival.

Over the years, the Town Board has seen fit to regulate food trucks for a number of reasons. One of those, and not the least, is that food trucks require oversized parking for themselves and also parking for potential customers.

• See Q&A page 14

Who will fund Highlands School kindergarten teacher: state or county?

By Brittney Lofthouse
The North Carolina Senate is in its second week of session and has yet to take up consideration of hearing a vote on overriding Governor Roy Cooper's veto of the budget. With no vote, the state continues to operate without a budget, even though the new fis-

cal year began on July 1. Without a state budget, the Macon County School System is uncertain about what the future holds for teacher positions throughout the district.

Macon County Schools is now nearly eight weeks into the school year and are playing a guessing game when it comes to budgeting.

"We are uncertain about the number of teaching positions we will receive, but we have hired three teachers and an assistant to comply with the K-3 class size legislation," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "If we don't receive

• See TEACHER page 19

Purchase means Zachary Field to expand

Once again, the Macon County Buck Creek Athletic Complex, also known as Zachary Park, will undergo an expansion to meet the recreation needs of Highlands and Macon County.

At their recent October meeting, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to purchase a piece of property adjoining Zachary

Park.

Macon County purchased a 1.74-acre parcel on Lyman Zachary Road from Rena and Robby Stauffer for \$71,880 which is the current tax value of the property. Money will be taken from the general fund balance for the purchase of the property.

"The property adjoins the Buck Creek recreation facility and

will allow the county recreation program to expand the Highlands facility," said Vice Chair Ronnie Beale when making his motion to purchase the property. "The property is flat and will provide an outstanding recreational facility for that end of the county."

Commissioner Carl Gillespie seconded Beale's motion to purchase.

• See ZACHARY page 20

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Highlands School Girls Middle School Volleyball team.

First-ever undefeated MS VB team wins conference

By Biran O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands Middle School girls volleyball team maintained their undefeated season against Blue Ridge at home on Oct. 8 and sealed their reign as 2019 Conference Champions rocking a 10-0 record.

"It feels amazing to have our first undefeated season," said Highlands Coach Angela Swain. "This team has done so much. I had a feeling from the start we would be quite successful, but to go undefeated, I'm so proud of

• See VOLLEYBALL page 27

Ran Shaffner named '2019 Historian of the Year'

On Sat., Oct. 12, Highlander Ran Shaffner was named 2019 Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians at its 77th Annual Awards Ceremony

on the Davidson College campus: "For Dr. Shaffner's mammoth contributions to researching, recording, and perpetuating

• See SHAFFNER page 9

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Early voting is on at the Rec Park

The municipal election early voting is underway at the Highlands Recreation Center. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. I hope we have a tremendous turnout for this election that will determine the representation for three commissioner positions.

There has been a movement in the NC Legislature to change the municipal elections to even years to coincide with county, state and national elections. The rationale for this switch has been to counter record of low voter turnouts for odd year municipal elections. I hope this will not be the case for Highlands this year. We have about 900 voters, and I hope everyone votes.

I want to keep neutral in the races since I am not up for election this year. Nevertheless, I feel the need to respond to one issue that is afloat. People are asking me if town water is acceptable. I respond that it is excellent and is under constant monitoring. Our water plant is a certified NC water laboratory, and our licensed operators test and continually monitor all wa-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

ter produced by the system. The state also monitors our testing by the hour. The state does quarterly tests of town water samples. By law the test results are published in the newspaper.

Tonight is the October Town Board meeting. I will give a report of a meeting with NCDOT officials who came to Highlands last week to see firsthand several state and town road issues. Since most of our roads in Highlands, as well as across the state, are built, maintained and operated as state roads, NCDOT has to be our partners in almost any road project in town.

I came away from the meeting again realizing state roads and highways pose real challenges in the Western Carolina mountains. Construction costs are higher than in the flatlands. Maintenance on narrow mountain rights-of-way is constant. Roads in the mountains are dangerous just because of the terrain with steep grades and severe curves.

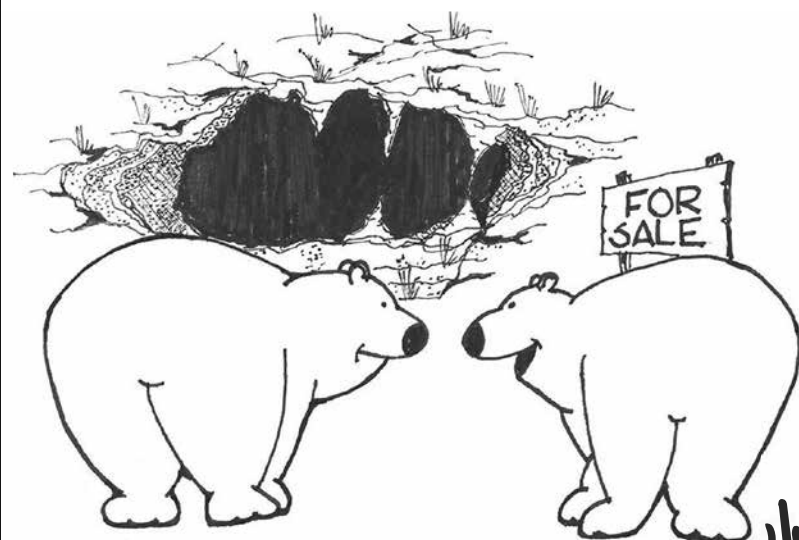
My report will include information about several ideas and proposed projects. The NCDOT engineers looked at the Arnold Road/US 64 intersection, as well as that complicated intersection on NC 28/South and Satulah streets. The group also looked at the intersection on US 64 and Little Bear Pen. We also went to Big Bear Pen to review the constant erosion problem that the unpaved road poses, as well as several unpaved state roads in town.

I wish I could report tonight that all our road issues can be resolved immediately, but that's not the case. State funding, priorities and other issues make road initiatives long-term efforts.

Speaking of paving roads, the town road paving projects for this year should be coming to completion this week. Cullasaja Road was paved last week. It required more asphalt applications than initial estimates due to the need to level some severely eroded areas. Our town engineer, Lamar Nix, was very pleased with the result and believes the road will be serviceable for many years to come.

See you tonight.

• HIC'S VIEW •



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• LETTERS •

About short-term vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods

Dear Editor,

My husband and I bought property and built a home 17 years ago in a neighborhood zoned R-1 and became permanent residents of Highlands. We would not then or now have chosen to buy, build or live where

our neighbors rotate out every weekend or month. It is concerning that many neighborhoods in Highlands currently zoned residential are being allowed to accommodate an abundance of short-term rentals. Those

• See LETTERS page 18

• WEATHER •

Fri, 18-Oct



63°F
36°F

Mostly sunny

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High: 68° Low: 36°

Sat, 19-Oct



62°F
50°F

Plenty of sunshine

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High: 69° Low: 41°

Sun, 20-Oct



65°F
57°F

Rain

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High: 65° Low: 50°

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



NEW ON MARKET: This graceful home is a masterpiece of design with interesting architectural pieces throughout with its wormy chestnut walls, heart of pine flooring, and native stone. The sprawling gourmet kitchen with a butler's kitchen off to one side opens up to a family room with stone fireplace, sun room and spacious decking overlooking Chattooga Lake. The master suite is on the main level with an office area.

MLS# 92139 | Offered for \$2,250,000



NEW ON MARKET: Move to the country in beautiful Scaly Mountain! Perfect three bedroom, two and a half bath home with a lot of privacy, one-car garage with a work shop, a one-car carport, and a large back deck to watch and enjoy nature. On the Atlanta side of Highlands, yet close enough to town. Near level 1.5 acre lot. This won't last long!

MLS# 92106 | Offered for \$192,000

NEW on MARKET & PRICE CHANGES!

PRICE CHANGE: Located in the luxury community of Lake Toxaway Estates, this stream front home is a convenient drive by car or golf cart to the clubhouse, marina, golf course and other amenities. Upon entering you are greeted by the great room where the warm undertones of the posts and beams, stone fireplace and wide plank Brazilian cherry floors combined with a wall of windows and French doors create an inviting setting.

MLS# 90638 | Was \$1,750,000 NOW Offered for \$1,675,000



PRICE CHANGE: Newly remodeled home in Highlands Falls Country Club (where membership is optional). Three bedroom, four bath home with a lower level family room and office/bonus room with a full bath. Built in 2001 and completely renovated in 2019. New kitchen, appliances, bathrooms, wood floors, two stone fireplaces located in the great room and lower level family room, covered decks on both levels. Membership is required to enjoy club amenities.

MLS# 91190 | Was \$695,000 NOW Offered for \$675,000



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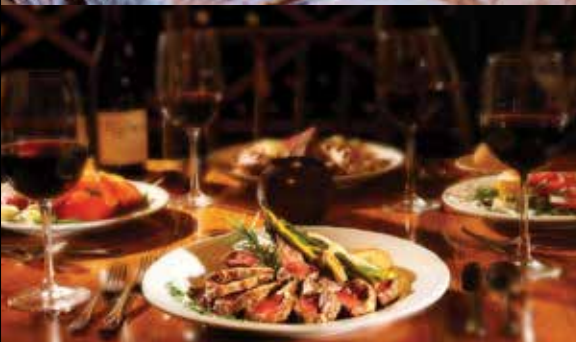
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- 12-foot ceilings in the great room with wood beams and high baseboards
- Kohler fixtures and stone in kitchens and baths
- Carrera or travertine tile in baths and heated floors in master bath
- Stainless steel appliance package from KitchenAid
- Whirlpool appliances featured in the laundry room
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Pricing includes a full membership to Old Edwards Club, valued at \$80,000, as well as the new family-friendly amenities offered at GlenCove by Old Edwards.

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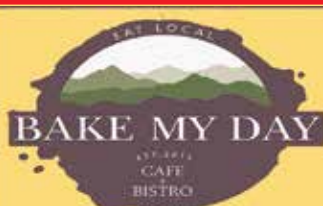
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HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN Excellent location for this newly renovated in town three bedroom, three bath home. Large back deck for entertaining, detached, oversized two-car garage, which could be turned into a guest cottage. Incredible private flat back yard with its own art studio. Landscaped yard is beautiful and perfect for pets and kids. This would also make a great vacation rental. Conveniently located in town; walk to Main Street restaurants, shops and venues!

MLS# 88180 | Offered for \$840,000

CASHIERS This building was previously used as a commercial building but could easily be converted back to residential building. Currently there is no kitchen, and the bathrooms do not have showers or bathtubs. This vintage property was completely renovated in 2018. New metal roof, new American standard HVAC system, new Pella windows, new beams, and decking. Once converted, would be a great rental property! The lower level has a separate entrance.

MLS# 91851 | Offered for \$729,000



HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN "Old Highlands" awaits you in Highlands CC at this fabulous 3BR/3BA cottage. An additional room can be used as an office or a library/study. Gorgeous stone fireplace in the formal dining room, fireplace in the living room, and a cozy fireplace in the upstairs bedroom along with a little deck. Lovely screened porch. Detached garage along with workshop, and basement with laundry. Very cool home with a historic feel, built in 1935.

MLS# 91540 | Offered for \$799,000

WILDWOOD MOUNTAIN You must see this beautiful, completely renovated home by Coppage Builders which offers a custom kitchen with stainless appliances, breakfast nook and separate formal dining room. Handsome hardwood floors throughout and a vaulted wood ceiling in the living room with a cozy stone wood burning fireplace add to the appeal. The master bedroom and two guest bedrooms are all on the main floor. Upstairs are two bonus rooms that could have multiple uses.

MLS# 90566 | Offered for \$585,000



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• OBITUARIES •

Melba Opaline Keener Egan

Ms. Melba Opaline Keener Egan, 93, of Wilmington, DE and Highlands, NC passed away Friday, October 11, 2019.

Melba was born July 2, 1926 to the late Henry Brownlow Keener and Irene Peek. Melba retired from Environmental Services after many years of service. Melba loved the mountains, gardening, crocheting, puzzles, cooking and baking. She was also a member of the Goldmine Baptist Church and she was of the Baptist faith.

Melba is survived by her three daughters, Rhonda Gardner (Jerry) of Winston Salem, NC, Patricia Egan of Wilmington, DE and Kathy Reid of Wilmington, DE.; Six grandchildren, Jerry Gardner, Jr, Tommy Gardner, Lisa Cave, Laura Leech, Jeffrey Reid, Lesley Salvatore; Twelve great-grandchildren, Jake Salvatore, Julia Salvatore, Luke Salvatore, Mason Cave,



Logan Cave, Tyler Cave, Cameron Reid, Carson Reid, Connor Reid, Keely Leach, Tommy Gardner, Jr. and Dalton Gardner; a sister, Olive Keener Todd of High Point, NC; Stepmom, Virgie Keener; two half-sisters, Mary Lee Simmons (Randall) and Caroline Winn (Terry) and half-brother Grady Keener (Bev). In addition to her parents, Melba is preceded in death by her half-brother, Stacey Keener.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Shortoff Baptist Church in Highlands, NC with Rev. Andy Cloer officiating. Burial will follow at Miller Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:30-2 p.m. prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences can be made online at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Egan family.

Lucy May Reese

Lucy May Reese, age 82 of Atlantic Beach, FL joined her family circle in heaven on Sept. 27, 2019.

She was preceded in death by her son Richard, Reese, husband Louis Reese, sister, Faye Reese Sewell, her brothers RL Reese, Jr., and Dallas Ray Reese Her sisters-in-law, Sue Ledford Reese and Ila Sue Johnson Reese. Her mother Myrtle Cora Henderson Reese and her father, RL Reese, Sr.

Lucy was born in Highlands in May 1937 at home with the assistance of the only midwife in town, Mrs. Paul Henry. She was very loyal to all she called family and would anything to help anyone in need. Always cheerful and happy, it just seemed to go with her beautiful natural red hair or



maybe her Scot-Irish heritage. She loved traveling with her sisters and taking care of her grand and great grandchildren all of whom she loved very much.

She leaves behind a sister, Anne Wilson of Clemson, SC and a brother, Furman Reese (Barbara) of Oakway, SC; two daughters, Debra Santoro of Atlantic Beach, FL, and Rebecca Reese of Knox-

ville, TN; her five grandchildren, Heather, Michele, Niccole, Tiffany and Tahj and 10 great-grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by all of her friends and family.

Graveside services will be held in May 2020 at Highlands Memorial Park.

...SHAFFNER continued from page 1

North Carolina's rich history, we, the North Carolina Society of Historians are deeply honored to be able to assign him the title of 2019 Historian of the Year," said judges.

In Highlands Shaffner has made it his life's work to document and immortalize Highlands' history – its families, its enter-

prises, its progress and even its legends.

He speaks often at events around town most notably when he is requesting the town's blessing on a historical project he is undergoing – NC DOT markers, Legends and Lore marker, or getting areas in town designated historical districts.

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Whenever he speaks about Highlands history whether to the Town Board or citizens at some gathering, one is immediately pulled into the story he tells to illustrate his cause. Since he is totally submerged in Highlands past, he easily and gleefully peppers stories of people, their families, their

occupations, their homes, their escapades with little known tidbits which add a layer of color not found in most historical accounts.

He is a member of 15 historical associations, museums, preservation organi-

• See SHAFFNER page 19

View lots in Wildcat Ridge Estates



3.13 AC
Gated Community
MLS# 90338 • \$180,000.



1.79 AC
4,000' elevation
MLS# 90582 • \$175,000.

View lots in Cowee Ridge Subdivision



1.70 AC
View of Whiteside Mtn.
MLS#88501 • \$225,000.



2 AC
Long-range views.
MLS# 90801 • \$179,000.



**Great family home on
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Playing Catch Up!

Real estate has been amazingly busy and just "keeping up" has been a challenge! As I've indicated before, buyers are looking online and contact us before they arrive allowing us to set up appointments in advance. This is always desired because so many sellers use their homes in season or have renters in them.

I must say that I prefer Realtor.com for searching and not Zillow. Zestimates are erroneous and if you consider that none of their employees have ever been here to see any of our properties listed, they base their data on county records with no regard for upgrades, mountain views, additions, firepits, etc. So please don't let Zestimates influence your offer or opinion of value of the properties you search! Realtor.com pulls information from our MLS system and local brokers are responsible for that content.

A change that brokers have seen this year has been multiple offers on the same property. If a home doesn't need updating and is priced at market value, there is a likelihood of this happening.



Pat Allen
Owner/BIC
Pat Allen Realty Group
Cell: 828-200-9179

With the majority of buyers being out of state they don't know contractors or handymen here to do upgrades and aren't here to oversee if the work is being done correctly or in a timely manner. Buyers have also heard "horror" stories of building a home and don't want to go through the stress of it all.

If you are going to list your home it is worth upgrading. Your home will sell faster and money you spend upgrading will come back to you. If you know of any defects fix them

BEFORE listing because they will come out in a home inspection and will have to be done any way or the buyers can walk away.

We are also seeing more buyers getting loans since interest rates are so low. This complicates matters because with such an increase in sales there are not enough appraisers to appraise them all...many are 5-6 weeks out in getting to them. Banks choose their own appraisers and many come from other areas such as Sylva or Waynesville and they don't factor in our desired location.

If the home doesn't appraise for the contract price the buyers can terminate or ask for a price reduction. I had this happen once a few weeks ago and the sellers had to lower the price by \$10,000.

We also deal with inspectors who use the word "mold" in a report and buyers get scared that it is "bad" mold. The only way to determine the type of mold is to send it to a lab for evaluation.

Much of it is common mold mixed with mildew and can be eradicated fairly easily. If sellers would keep air circulating in a house or run a dehumidifier it would really cut down on the growth. The mold issue is has prompted mold businesses to pop up. Just be sure and get references and several estimates because their costs are over the board!

Due to the Internet we now find that real estate in our area is not seasonal and we stay busy year round! That's a good thing!



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Serenity and peace await in this enchanted setting! Listen to Big Creek as you stroll green & private grounds complete w/water feature. Charming & spacious home w/lots of windows bringing nature inside. Enjoy the warmth of the stone fireplace & the spacious master bedroom & bath on the main floor. Other bedrooms & baths upstairs w/a bonus room allow for privacy for guests. Nap on screen porch while listening to Big Creek in back yard. Lovely home! Lots of storage & privacy!

Offered for \$575,000. MLS 89009



Julie Osborn,
SFR, SRES, MBA
Broker

Unique Highlands Masterpiece

This 3 bedroom, 5 bath home in desirable Cold Springs is sited on +/- .91 private acres of lush English gardens w/a lovely view of the horse pasture from a large deck for entertaining or simply relaxing. Soaring ceilings in the spacious great room filled w/natural light & stone fireplace that is adjacent to a library/office area that leads to a large master suite complete w/fireplace & his & her baths. Priced below appraised value; this is a must see!

Offered for \$599,000! MLS 91336

Exquisite Big Buck Manor

The drive along Buck Creek's legendary trout stream & cascading waterfalls will take you worlds away to one of the finest estates in Highlands. Surrounded by national forest, the private, gated 35 acre manor filled w/hardwoods & rushing water welcomes you w/automatic street lamps that light the paved driveway leading past a +/-2500 sq ft 3-story fully furnished Guest House capable of sleeping 10. The +/-7300 sq ft main house consists of 5BR,5BA & 2 half baths & is finished w/the finest details!

Offered for \$2,900,000. MLS 91392

Wildcat Cliffs Dream Home!

The long and gated driveway leads to a lovely home framed with beautiful flora that beckons you to come inside and explore luxurious mountain living. The soaring ceilings are framed with a stone fireplace and loft overlooking the grand living area. An oversized master suite has French doors leading to a large deck for entertaining and his and her baths are a real plus! A chef's kitchen with granite and custom cabinets is bright and sunny with natural light. Enjoy the best of the best!

Offered for \$1,250,000. MLS 91067

The Grand Dame of Sky Valley!

This grand home is perfect for a large family to make mountain memories or a vacation rental that would allow several couples to share. Located in a serene area in Sky Valley CC. Don't miss the "steal of the century," priced at only \$899,900!! Bargain priced for superb quality & construction! Enjoy the club community where membership is optional but amenities are great. Enjoy gourmet meals in the newly renovated clubhouse or of golf, croquet or tennis in a setting reminiscent of Europe!

Offered for \$899,900 MLS 90955.



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•WORD MATTER•

Short-term Rentals – Big-time Concerns

For most of us, the investment in our home is the largest we will ever make. For those of us who live in a place people like to visit, like Highlands, our home is like a refuge, where we can retreat from the crowded town and more heavily trafficked roads than might be the case when the visitors aren't here. If we live in a community, especially one with an established property owner's association (POA), we understand that for at least part of the year, we are going to be engaged with seasonal residents; those who for weeks or months at a time enjoy what Highlands has to offer alongside those of us who call Highlands our full-time home.

We understood this particular dynamic involving part-time residents when we came here; indeed, many of us were part-timers before becoming year-around

residents. What we didn't understand was homes in residential communities becoming hotels.

This is a manifestation of America's "sharing economy." Web applications such as AirBnB and VRBO (Vacation Rental by Owner), enable property owners to rent (share) their homes on a short-term basis with people who want more than what traditional hotels offer in their accommodations.

Chances are, if you're in a deed-restricted community with an active homeowner's association, your association's board is joining the town, the county, and the state legislature in trying to manage the energy between an individual property owner's rights and the rights of the community.



Bud Katz

The state is interested in being the only voice on this issue. The term is "bigfooting." They're basically stating, in whatever turns out to be their final version of regulation on short-term rentals, that once the Governor signs off, theirs is the law, and all others can default to the state's position.

How about a big, fat NO, to that particular nonsense.

The government entities closest to the people should, in matters involving local property ownership, prevail over that of the state.

I'm not enamored with regulation, but I'd take things one step further. If a community association, a POA, takes a position for residents regarding property rentals of

any length, and has some mechanism in place to enforce that position, and, if the residents approve said regulations by a vote consistent with the association's by-laws, then the town, the county, the state, the feds, and the International Court in the Hague can all go and pound salt.

The town's and county's regulations can certainly apply to properties outside the purview of a deed-restricted community association, but, that's where this issue should end. A vacation rental here on the plateau doesn't necessarily equate to one in Charlotte, or on the Outer Banks. Sure, they'll have some similarities, but these are markedly different types of political subdivisions and will have attributes unique to those places.

No matter which package of regu-

• See WORD MATTER 18

For those on a journey

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Cathy Garren 828-226-5870

575 Satulah Road (In Town)



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www.highlandssir.com | \$699,000 | MLS# 91812

Old English Farmhouse cottage located in the old historic Satulah neighborhood on a dead-end street. With 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, this home is made for those who want to be in town and have a mountain view. The views, neighborhood and upgrades are best experienced on a private tour.

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Turn of the Century 480 Winfield Farm has 4.7 acres and borders USFS land. View, frog pond, awesome perennials, fenced garden plot, fire-pit, porches, room for yard games, dogs, kids, horses? Main house has 3+BR/2.5Bath with 1 car attached garage, Stone wood burning fireplace, wood floors and Large master suite on Main. Guest house is perfectly placed on property and has 1 BR/1Bath with 2 car garage, a canning basement with keeping room. All has been renovated, updated, and made neat as a pin. Offered at \$659,000. MLS#89185



Renovated and income producing, this building has been updated and is well suited for retail, gallery, or office. Located on Highway 64 in a high profile corridor. Current lease detail available upon proper interest. Offered at \$399,000. mls #91069



This property has 3 residences. All 3 are income producing. The main house is known as Jewel of the Woods Lodge and features soaring ceilings, fireplace, dry sauna, two bonus rooms and mountain views. The property has terraced gardens, two barns, one with apartment and the other storage building with apartment upstairs. Great long term and vacation rental history. Great farming opportunity for row crops. Offered at \$990,000. mls #91704



12.06 ACRES on the top of a flat knoll, several acres cleared, perfect for a small horse farm or family enclave. 1960 brick Ranch will stand up to the elements, or is a blank canvas ready for a major renovation for today's standards. Views of Little Yellow and Whiteside Mountain. The possibilities are boundless! Offered at \$990,000. mls #92112



Mountain estate features main house, party shed, guesthouse, pasture, pond, and waterfall! Main house has class and charm, living room with fireplace, large covered porch to view the apple trees, pasture, and pond. All amenities you need on main level, including master bedroom and bath, loft, kitchen, dining, greatroom and porch. Additional rooms that can be used as sleeping rooms. One bedroom guest house. Offered at \$565,000. mls #91631



Spacious family home is located atop a small knoll on 2.5 acres with ridge line view with low maintenance yard. 4 bedrooms, 3 and 1/2 baths, large office and 2 car garage. emergency generator will keep you comfortable in power outages. The inside is move in ready and in excellent condition. all paved access and in a great small subdivision. Offered at \$755,000. mls #90687



Do not miss this lovely move in ready home with all of the bells and whistles. Main level has an open greatroom, with fireplace, custom kitchen, and large garage with a room above. Exquisite master suite with fireplace and fantastic screened carolina room with fireplace. Lower level has family room with fireplace, morning kitchen, wine cellar, and 3 additional bedrooms with 2 baths. This house has a lovely setting and has additional lot available for purchase if you want your own kingdom. Offered at \$998,000. mls #89480



Holt Road, located on over an acre in a wooded glen, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, plus a charming guesthouse that has an efficiency layout is all in move in condition. Main house has bedroom and bath on the main level, with living room with fireplace, kitchen, dining and a lovely glass porch to let in the light. Lovely covered porch overlooks the ponds and fountain. Rear deck and potting room. a magical setting and lovely grounds. Offered at \$695,000. mls #91651



3 bedrooms, 2 baths, Split bedroom plan with renovated kitchen and baths. Professionally decorated and in Move in condition. Offered at \$450,000. mls #89768



Charming 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath has a large private lot with pond. paved road to driveway, plenty of parking. easy living one level plan. move in condition with high ceiling in great room and a lovely covered porch overlooking the pond. Offered at \$345,000. mls #91546



Ready to move in with this 3 bedroom 2 bath on a gentle lot with a view of Satulah Mountain. This house has been totally renovated with quality craftsmanship and materials. Custom kitchen with new appliances, cathedral ceilings in the greatroom with stone fireplace, Wonderful Carolina room with fireplace. A great home with city water and a great setting. Offered at \$799,000. mls #91112



Little Bearpen. 5 Bedrooms, 4 baths, not your plain Jane ranch. Very unique with heavy logs, lots of stone and wood. Lovingly restored with central heat and air and meticulously maintained by the current Owner. Offered at \$875,000. mls #81152



Wonderful views and over 4 acres of privacy with this charming mountain cottage. Main floor master with bath. 2 bedrooms upstairs with shared bath. Huge deck to enjoy the layered mountain view. Offered at \$350,000. mls #92120



This home is a must see sitting on over 3 acres of land with great panoramic views to the west. This all glass contemporary home is a one owner well built with 3 fireplaces, 2 levels of decks, walls of glass to see the views and lots of land for privacy or development. this home is convenient to the hospital, country clubs, highlands and cashiers. Offered at \$795,000. mls #87715



Located in Queen Mountain on 4.6 acres with mountain view, this lovely home features a circular driveway with easy access and privacy. Double doors flow into a foyer with a dining room with open kitchen, study/bedroom and bath on one side, living room screen porch and en-suite on the other side. Terrace level features another bedroom suite with walk-in closet and bath. guest/art studio annex features a living room with kitchenette, sleeping area and bath plus a guest loft. Offered at \$325,000. mls #89873

ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• THE INK PENN •

An oldie but a goodie

I've been reading mystery novels for too many years to count so it's no wonder that many of the authors I've followed are no longer with us. One such is Virginia Lanier, author of the Bloodhound series. Hers is an amazing story.

Her 2005 obituary in the "Valdosta Times" explains:



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As she told the story, Virginia Lanier dropped a book in disgust in 1993, telling her husband that she could write a better story than the one she had just finished. Her husband challenged her to do so. For every reason she could think of not to write a book, Mr. Lanier either had a reason why she should or bought her what she needed.

She must have run out of reasons because she set about writing her first book, "Death in Bloodhound Red." Amazingly, she contacted Pineapple Press, a small Florida publishing company she found in the classifieds of her local paper and pretty quickly got a contract. Her book was published in 1995 just before she turned 65, and it won the Anthony Award for best mystery novel that same year.

Even more amazingly, HarperCollins purchased the paperback rights to that first book and the five subsequent ones. The sixth and final book, "A Bloodhound to Die For," was published in 2003. Like many authors, Lanier was an avid reader all her life. She had plenty of jobs, all unrelated to writing. How fortunate for her fans that her husband challenged her to write.

I can remember hearing that she had started writing late in life and wondering whether she'd died when I didn't run across any more of her books. In fact, I think I missed the last one so it's going on my library list asap. In the days before Google, how would I have found out that an author who lived in the small town of Fargo, a South Georgia town with a population of less than 400, had passed away?

I enjoyed her stories of Jo Beth Sidden, a young woman who raises, trains and sells bloodhounds. Jo Beth and her dogs are called upon for search and rescue or just plain search missions in the Okefenokee Swamp area. She tracks lost children, criminals, and in one story a missing cat. She's a tough female character who can handle herself and her dogs — not to mention mosquitos, snakes, and obnoxious redneck deputies. Her abusive ex-husband is also part of the mix.

Yes, plenty of newer mystery series are available, but I recommend you go retro and give this award-winning author a try. To make it easier for you, here's the full series in order: "The House on Bloodhound Lane," "A Brace of Bloodhounds," "Blind Bloodhound Justice," "Ten Little Bloodhounds," "A Bloodhound to Die For." Unfortunately for those who prefer to read via their Kindle, these books are not available in electronic format. They're that old.

• *Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.*



Kathy Manos Penn

...Q&A continued from page 1

Virtually all the parking lots in town that could accommodate such an operation are privately owned and have restaurants existing within those complexes.

While I do think the Town Board should revisit its ordinances from time to time, other than the Food and Wine event, I am not inclined to designate public parking to such operations.

Marc Hehn

This is a minor issue for me. The town can only enforce the zoning regulations that are in place at the time. Any additional regulations would have to be recommended by the Planning Board and approved by the Town Board. There is not enough time to consider any additional regulations of food truck operations before the November Food Truck Festival.

With so many issues, the Town Board has to have priorities. Dr Patti Wheeler, the Chief of Staff at the Highlands Cashiers Hospital says we need four 4 more family practice physicians in Highlands and Cashiers today. We also need nursing staff and other personnel at our hospital. If I am elected, I will ask the Town Board to develop a list of projects that will help our hospital attract the physicians and healthcare professionals we need to keep our hospital viable. Starting in the Spring, there will be an estimated \$65,000,000 available every year in grant funding for healthcare projects in Western North Carolina. Our town must become proactive in developing projects that will provide our Chief of Staff with the tools she is asking for. The money is there, we just have to prepare plan(s) highly competitive project(s).

Nick McCall

The question of allowing food trucks to operate inside the town limits of highlands, is a question I believe should be answered by the people with consideration given to the commercial district.

I wear two hats on this issue; the first being a lifetime resident and growing up in this town and a second being a business owner in the restaurant industry.

My opinions as a business owner would be against allowing them at all. If you consider the amount of rent each of the local restaurants pay, being able to operate without overhead expenses doesn't make for a level playing field. This would be in line with the transient business issue which has been looked at by previous boards.

Looking at it from a resident of the community, I find myself completely against the idea and also confused and filled with many questions.

If the citizens are concerned about the short-term rental issues for reasons such as their existence diminishes the community aspect of their neighborhoods, would it not also diminish the community in a profound way to see the restaurants that have served and been a part of our lives for so long, the entire ideal of a community, being put out of business by food trucks that simply come and go and add nothing to the local community?

To operate a business in downtown Highlands businesses must abide by a vast amount of rules and regulations ranging from what colors can be chosen when painting, or what type of siding and how big your sign can be, how much parking or how many seats you are allowed. To simply allow competition that does not have to abide by the same rules does not make much sense to me. These businesses selflessly give back so much to the local community,

...Q&A continued from page 14

by supporting the local school, donating to fundraisers, hosting events, basically anything they can to help out when asked. Do we really want to ask them to now compete with this outside industry?

I've always been of the opinion that if you let one in you open the door for others. I know recently there has been an addition of a food truck, which according to town officials, basically found a way around the standards and ordinances in place. We need to clarify and fix our ordinances to prevent loopholes like this in the future. I could take a hotdog cart and put it in my alley since it would be on private property, but I care far more about this town and community than I do personal gains. My motto still remains don't change the who we are out of who we are.

Eric Pierson

Personally, I like food trucks. I have eaten from a number of them while visiting other areas. As for their place in our town, I think it is an issue that would need a good bit of discussion and input from citizens and merchants alike. I have had many people say they would like to see food trucks

in town as well as some that oppose them being here at all. I don't believe the town could just openly allow food trucks into the community. There would have to be some regulation from the Town i.e. where they could be located as not to interfere with public traffic, possibly limiting the number that could be in town, etc. I think this is an item that the Planning Board (and eventually the Land Use Committee) should take up, to start those discussions with community members, and see the direction that the public is wanting to go.

Michael Rogers

I think Food Trucks are much needed during our busy season. There are times when the capacity in Highlands is stretched to its limits and getting into any place to eat is nearly impossible. During those peak times food trucks would be a wonderful option to have. If you are a working person getting into a place within a reasonable time frame doesn't happen. I would like to see high end food trucks that serve a quality product at a reasonable price during our busy season, as I don't believe this would take away from any restaurant during those times.

Hank Ross

Any public vending should be regulated including food, drink or merchandise, so yes, food truck operations need to be regulated when operating in our town. Food trucks should be allowed for additional special events other than the Highlands Food & Wine Festival. The special events should be limited in number and approved by the town by permit.

In most communities, food trucks are required to have fire and food handling certificates, liability insurance and be located within 100 feet of a public restroom. Permit fees should be substantial and a higher cost if you do not own a local Highlands restaurant.

Food trucks can add to the enjoyment of festivals and large gatherings such as the events in Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park. In the future, I and lots of children hope to see an ice cream truck pull up during the "Saturdays on Pine" concerts.

Brian Stiehler

While there may be time and place for food trucks, I would have to say my initial reaction is that I would be opposed to the

idea of allowing food trucks in town.

We have a number of great restaurants in Highlands and new eateries seem to open each year. I would rather focus on and support these businesses who employ local people, pay a business license as well as Federal/State and Local taxes.

I am not a proponent of anyone conducting business in Highlands on property they don't own. Again, just like the short term rental issue, let's financially support those who have a vested interest in our town and community. I have a huge admiration of all business owners in Highlands. What most people don't understand, is that owning a restaurant or retail shop is incredibly challenging due to our seasonal nature and high monthly rental fees. It's not fair to allow outsiders into Highlands to conduct business without the overhead that our current businesses have. Let's support those who are always there for us.

• Next week Question 5:

What are your opinions concerning "beautifying" Highlands commercial district with trees or increased lighting?

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• HS SPORTS • with Kedra McCall

Last week high school soccer played Hayesville and Polk. While neither game ended as they hoped – with a win -- they played hard. Their next home game is on Thursday, October 24th. They will play Blue Ridge starting at 6pm. Their senior night will be on October 30th.

High school volleyball played Tallulah Falls, Nantahala, Murphy, and Cherokee. JV beat Tallulah Falls and Cherokee but fell short to Murphy. Varsity beat Nantahala and Cherokee but weren't able to pull out the wins over Tallulah Falls and Murphy. Volleyball seniors were honored between the JV and Varsity games. Jeslyn Head, Bailey Schmitt, Morgan Olvera, Kedra McCall and Sayla Roman (manager) all finished their last home volleyball game with a win over Cherokee. The conference tournament starts on Monday, October 21st.

Middle school basketball has begun their practices and will soon begin their season with games.

Come out and support your Highlanders!



Highlands varsity volleyball team celebrated Senior Night on Tuesday. The Lady Highlanders defeated Cherokee at home 3-0. Highlands Seniors from left are Morgan Olvera, Jeslyn Head, Team Manager Sayla Roman, Bailey Schmitt, and Kedra McCall.

– Photo by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

...WORD MATTERS continued from page 12

lations ultimately prevails, don't expect the matter to be resolved anytime soon, and don't expect all parties to be thrilled with whatever comes down the chute.

Short-term vacation rentals in established residential communities carry with them the distinct probability that problems are going to occur. Adherence to parking and posted speed limits become suggestions as opposed to stone tablet rules to one- or two-week renters. Noise, pets, unsupervised youngsters ... these concepts are difficult when dealing with residents, never mind transients. Rules with regard to relativity (no more than five unrelated people in a single structure, for example) fall victim to "Oh, I forgot to tell you" events, such as the Sturdley Family Reunion, where 31 adults and 63 children cram into a five bedroom, five-bathroom rental house, along with nine dogs, seven cats and four ferrets, and a par-

tridge in a pear tree, for a week of, no doubt, quiet contemplation. This kind of stuff actually happens when a property owner seeing only dollar signs ignores warning signs, like requests for a dozen keys and placement of a temporary trash dumpster in the driveway.

All kidding aside, this concept – short-term rentals of private homes within deed-restricted communities – is way more complicated than might initially be understood. Highlands Newspaper had an exhaustive view and review of the issue, along with a thoughtful column from the Mayor of Highlands in its September 26 issue, which can be found at www.highlandsinfo.com.

Stay tuned as local and state authorities mud wrestle, er, muddle along and try to come up with something that works for all interested parties.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Town Board candidates: Beware

Dear Editor

I read, with interest, the comments of the candidates for the Town Board on how they viewed the short-term rental issue and neighborhood concerns. We bought our first home in Mirror Lake in 1971, never rented it, purchased the home we live in now in 1985 and for the first 2-3 years we rented it for a minimum of one month and did so through a reliable real estate firm who could evaluate prospective renters, advise them of neighborhood issues and exercise some control over the process. That does not seem possible with the STRs as it stands today.

Our quiet neighborhood is zoned R-1 and presently there are two homeowners allowing STRs and one more in the works. The issues are noise, garbage (where trash is put out when renters leave and the bears get into it before

trash pickup), traffic, as we have a one lane road and renters are not aware of how we give and take out here to accommodate each other and they just sit there waiting for us to accommodate them.

In 2003 we retired from Atlanta and chose to make Highlands our home. It's the full time and many seasonal residents who serve on, lead, and contribute to the many non-profit boards and churches in our wonderful town, not STRs. We feel we are entitled to a voice in dealing with this issue.

We are only two votes, but you can rest assured they will NOT be cast for any candidate unwilling for the town board to take a long hard look at this issue and try to come up with some reasonable regulations going forward.

**Bill and Rosemary Stiefel
Highlands**

of us who live in these neighborhoods are watching with caution as the short-term rental market proliferates. There are multiple examples of other resort towns such as Hilton Head, NC, Sarasota, FL, Sedona, AZ, Charleston, SC, etc., that have seen the nature of their residential neighborhoods shift dramatically because of the influx of short term rentals, resulting in a loss of value to the properties of homeowners, and worse, a loss of enjoyment and pleasure the homeowners take in their properties, neighbors, and neighborhoods.

As the Land Use Committee and our Town Commissioners collect information about the number and nature of short term rentals in our town, I hope the committee members and commissioners will keep in mind that the ambiance and quality of life in these neighborhoods are very important to the character of Highlands, and they are at risk.

**Lila Howland
Highlands**



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...TEACHER continued from page 1

these positions from the state, they will be funded this year out of our fund balance or from the county."

But since the system needs more teachers than those four positions currently "on the books" if it receives more funding, classrooms will be disrupted due to required expansion.

One of the positions that is uncertain is a Kindergarten teacher position at Highlands School. Added out of necessity to meet the needs of growing classroom sizes, without a formal budget from the state, Baldwin noted that how or even if that position will continue to be funded is a "best guess" scenario right now.

The Kindergarten position at Highlands was added to comply with the K-3 class size requirements mandated by the state, and although it is required, funding for the position is not guaranteed. If and when a state budget is passed, if funding

for the new positions is not included, the district will have to turn to either its fund balance or to county commissioners just to be able to keep the position for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Baldwin said that in addition to uncertainty with teaching positions, all schools in the district have also had to adjust their instruction supply requests due to not knowing how much money the state will be allocating. Instructional supplies range from everything from copy paper to classroom supplies, to administrative needs.

If a budget vote isn't held in the Senate before October 31, it is unlikely the state will have a budget before the end of the year. North Carolina Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger said that there will be a 24-hour notice prior to a budget vote, and as of press time, no such notice has been given.

...SHAFFNER from 9

zations, the vice-president and newsletter editor and webmaster for the Friends of Mountain History; and, he is a co-founder and archivist of the Highlands Historical Society.

He is the author of many pieces of work that range from books, DVDs, pictorials, newsletter articles, newspaper articles, nomination documentation for historical markers and National Register nominations.

Eleven years of research, interviews, and writing produced Heart of the Blue Ridge: Highlands, North Carolina, which Walter Evans in the N. C. Historical Review called "the definitive history of Highlands, NC."

For all his efforts to preserve and champion history, especially that of the



Highlands plateau, the North Caroliniana Society honored Shaffner with membership in 2016.

In 2017, for his overall achievements locally, nationally and internationally, he was granted the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award and now he can add 2019 Historian of the Year to his cap.

MARC HEHN

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Empty Bowls 2019 event packs the house in support of Highlands Food Pantry

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Hundreds showed up to Empty Bowls 2019 to support the International Friendship Center's annual fundraiser for the Highlands Food Pantry on Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church. Attendees dined on a variety of soups from local restaurants and were able to take home a souvenir bowl handmade by potters from The Bascom and artists throughout the area.

The amount raised is still being tabulated, but all proceeds go to the Food Pantry that aids those in need on the Plateau.

IFC Director Andrea Smith



said Empty Bowls is critical to keep the Food Pantry well stocked.

"It's very important because all of the money goes toward more and a better quality of food,"

said Smith. "The community has been wonderful, it's beautiful to see the support everyone shows by coming here."

...ZACHARY continued from page 1

chase the property.

Currently, the Macon County Buck Creek Recreation Complex includes a baseball field, soccer fields, parking, concession stand,

bathrooms and meeting room on over eight acres. The additional property will allow for another soccer field and extension of the walking trail at the recreation complex.

"This property will be used for recreational fields and an extension of the current walking trail," said Chairman Jim Tate. "I have had two groups that have approached me about this property; first for the use of soccer and second for use by the Highlands School cross country team. The extension of the walking trail will provide a cross country track on one parcel of land that can be used for the high school cross country program."

"The property is also very close to our hospital," added Tate. "We hope to reach out to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Foundation to help us get the walking trail built."

The Macon County Buck Creek Recreation Complex was completed in July 2003. The park was made possible by the Zachary siblings when they sold the family homeplace to Macon County. The siblings said they wanted the children of Highlands and Macon County to have a place to play. Their property was one of the few relatively flat pieces of property in the Highlands area suitable for sports fields.

In 2007, Macon County purchased two pieces of property, the Potts and Crawford properties, adding 3.754 acres to the park's original 4.80 acres.

In 2013, Tate was instrumental in a land swap for a parcel not contiguous with the park boundaries for an almost equal part that was contiguous. The parcel made more expansion possible.

Macon Community Funding Pool opens application cycle

Macon County non-profit organizations have until November 15, 2019, to apply for county funds through the Macon County Community Funding Pool (CFP). Application forms and instructions are available on the Macon County website, www.maconnc.org. Hard copies may be made available at Macon County Public Library on Siler Farm Road in Franklin, the Hudson Library on Main Street in Highlands, and the Nantahala Public Library on Nantahala School Road. Please call ahead to make sure a copy will be ready for pickup.

For more info, contact Karen Wallace, 524-3600, or Bobbie Contino, 342-7872, to discuss their proposal. non-profit to serve as their fiscal agent.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Male beauty pageant raises funds for Bolivia



Dr. John Baumrucker as chef/TV personality Julia Childs.

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Contestants, audience members, and judges all knew what they were getting into attending the annual All Male Beauty Pageant to support the Highlands Bolivian Mission. The Pageant included evening gown, talent, and lingerie portions of the show.

But it's all for a good cause as proceeds go towards the Highlands Bolivian Mission. This year the event raised almost \$10,000 said Mission Director Dr. John Baumrucker who portrayed a drunken Julia Child skit during the talent portion.

"I want to thank all the people that made this event a success and the audience that made it all worthwhile," said Baumrucker. "The boys in the foster home, the poor who receive our help with food and

medical support; and the folks in the jail that get encouragement, Bibles, and medicines from our volunteers are the real winners."

The Bolivian Mission began in 1998 and over the years has donated over one million dollars' worth of medical supplies and equipment, but recently has focused on the foster home for abandoned street boys. The home houses between 23 and 25 boys at any time and stresses education as the way to a bright future. There is a wood-working shop that teaches skills that will be useful as adults as a hobby or as a job.

The nine-brave contestants who donned evening gowns and lingerie included Anita Date (winner), Florence Nite-in-Gale, Anita Curtain, Amazon Prime, Hermione Granger, Polly Darton, Blondie, Chantilly Lace, and Maye B. Tunité.



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Big turnout at Fall Festival in support of Highlands School

Highlands School gym was packed earlier this month for Fall Festival 2019, the largest fundraiser of the year for the Parent Teacher Organization.

Fall Festival Chairperson Andrea Chalker said the event raised over \$9,000 and has been a tradition for over 50 years.

PTO contributes money toward graduation expenses for the seniors and every teacher that volunteers receives a small donation for classroom materials and supplies. The remaining money is used to fund teachers' requests throughout the year.

— Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News



2019

**Written by
Ernest Thompson**

Directed by Lance Trudel

Thursday & Friday, October 17-18 @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 20 @ 2:30 & 7:30 pm

****No Show October 19****

Thursday-Saturday, October 24-26 @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 27 @ 2:30 pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street
Tickets: 828-526-8084 www.highlandscashiersplayers.org



Live via Satellite



**Saturday
October 19
1pm**

**The Lehman
Trilogy**

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street
Tickets available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door
or by calling 828.526.9047

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation presents grant awards to improve area's health and wellbeing

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation presents Grant Awards to Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Highlands, Cashiers, and Surrounding Communities.

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (The Foundation) hosted its inaugural grant awards ceremony October 9, presenting awards to 25 organizations totaling \$1,267,260 to area organizations.

Grant awards spanned the Foundation's focus areas using the basis of social determinants of health and information obtained through research and community listening sessions. The grants were announced by focus areas as follows: \$488,220 for health and access to health

care;

\$433,000 for education; \$366,040 for community vitality and economic stability.

Foundation Chairman, Dr. Walter Clark welcomed grant recipients, donors, board and community advisory members in attendance. "This evening marks a strong beginning for advancing our Foundation purpose to improve the health and wellbeing of our surrounding communities. Over the past eight months the Foundation board and community advisory members have worked extensively, and our donor community has contributed generously toward uplifting the important work of these organizations."

Programs and Grants Committee Chair, Stephanie Edwards,


emceed the event by announcing each organization's funded project and congratulating the recipients for their fine work. "We are honored to support the dedicated leaders and volunteers of our caring and compassionate grant

recipient organizations. You are moving the needle toward improving lives in meaningful and lasting ways. We are proud to partner with you. Together we look forward to increasing awareness of the many ways you positively impact our communities."


One grant recipient, Teri Walawender, Principal of Blue Ridge School explained in detail how their Foundation grant is at work helping students succeed. "The grant funding allowed us

• See HCHF page 27

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•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse Fri & Sat 1, 4, 7; Sun. 1 & 4; Tues-Thurs 1, 4, 7. See ad.

• 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-Thurs 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 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

• 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 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

• 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

• Live music in Town Square, 6-8 p.m.

HCPs 'On Golden Pond' opens tonight at PAC



Betsy Miller, Julie Benson, and David Spivey rehearsing for "On Golden Pond." - Photo by Marty Boone

Tonight, October 17, is opening night of Highlands Cashiers Players' play "On Golden Pond," directed by Lance Trudel and featuring veteran actors David Spivey, Julie Benson, Betsy Miller, Randy Lucas, and newcomers Tim Henderson and Grey Martin.

Come see and feel the love between couples and families and fall in love with living on the lake in the summertime. Doors open at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 18 with performances beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will NOT be a performance on Saturday, Oct. 19, so be sure to mark your calendars because there are two options on Sunday, Oct. 20 -- 2:30 matinee and a 7:30 evening performance.

Doors will open at 2p and 7p for each performance. For more information, please call the box office at 828-526-8084 or see our website highlandscashiersplayers.org. HCP Good plays, Well Done.

National Theatre of London's 'The Lehman Trilogy' at PAC this Saturday



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of The Lehman Trilogy on Saturday, October 19 at 1pm.

The story of a family and a company that changed the world, told in three parts on a single evening. Sam Mendes directs Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley and Ben Miles* who play the Lehman Brothers, their sons and grandsons. On a cold September morning in 1844 a young man from Bavaria stands on a New York docks. Dreaming of a new life in the new world. He is joined by his two brothers and an American epic begins. 163 years later, the firm they establish—Lehman Brothers—spectacularly collapses into bankruptcy, and triggers the largest financial crisis in history.

Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or at the door. Highlands PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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 downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

• 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.

Thurs.-Sun., Oct. 17-20 (no show Oct. 19)

• HCP presents On Golden Pond at PAC on Chestnut Street at 7:30 Friday and Saturday and 2:30 and 7:30 on Sunday. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Thurs., Oct. 17

• The annual Scholarship Golf Classic will be hosted at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The event kicks off at 7:30am with breakfast and practice on the range tee and practice green. A 9am shotgun start is followed by cocktails, lunch and awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 18-20

• Trunk show at Peak Experience featuring Jewelry Artist Suzy Landa. 10a-5p. Fri. and Sat. and noon to 4p on Sunday. 2820 Dillard Road. 828-526-0229.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 18-19

• Dave Drake Studio Barn Fall Sale 10a to 5p. Enjoy wonderful and beautiful handmade pottery with an added bonus of demonstrations including wheel throwing, sculpture, hand building, carving, and sgraffito.

• At OEI's Acorns on S. 4th Street Fat Hat Clothing Trunk Show 10a to 5p.

Fri., Oct. 18

• At Summit Charter School, Open House at 8:30 AM. Now enrolling K-11 for the 2020-'21 school year! Come walk the beautiful public school campus, tour the classrooms, meet the faculty and learn more about becoming a Summit Bear. For more information or to RSVP, please call 828-743-5755 or email mhudson@summitschool.org.

Sat. Oct. 19

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike to Rhapsody and Aunt Sally Falls in the northeast corner of Panther-town Valley Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m., drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Sue Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Sat., & Sun., Oct. 19 & 20

• Fall Colors Fine Art Show at the Highlands Rec Park from 10a to 5p each day.

Sat., Oct. 19

• Jackson County NAACP Membership Meeting and All Other Western NC (District 1) NAACP Branches at 1pm at the YMI Cultural Center on Eagle Street in Asheville 28802. <https://ymiculturalcenter.org>

Sun., Oct. 20

• Shortoff Baptist Church will be having bluegrass gospel singing at 5 pm. The group will be Cross Creek from Rabun County. Everyone is welcome.

Mon., Oct. 21

• Jackson County Republican meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the new North Jackson County Republican headquarters at 52 Front Street, Dillsboro, NC. For information call Chair George Durden's mobile phone at 813 817-7318.

Tues., Oct. 22

• Haywood Regional Medical Center and Harris Regional Hospital will hold a free vein seminar at noon in the board room at Harris Regional Hospital. Lunch will be provided. Space for the educational program is limited, and registration is required. To register or to learn more about the procedure, call 828-452-VEIN (8346).

Wed., Oct. 23

• At CLE, "Understanding Brexit: Why it Happened and What it Means for the United States Presenter: Stephanine Barczewski, Professor of History, Clemson University. Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35.

Halloween at the Nature Center is Oct. 29



On October 29th from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, the Highlands Biological Foundation will host our annual Halloween Enchanted Forest at the Highlands Biological Station Botanical Gardens. All are welcome to come celebrate Halloween the natural way and receive guided tours through the Botanical Gardens that will lead you trick-or-treating around the trails to meet some native animal characters. The event is weather dependent. Those wishing to participate in this free event should meet at Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands. For more information, please call the Highlands Nature Center at (828) 526-2623. Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

Fall Colors Fine Art Show

Saturday Oct 19 & Sunday Oct 20, 2019 10-5



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Religion Without Life: Vapid Faith



Fr. Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church
Cashiers

In an effort to expand and aid our common understanding, the English word “vapid” principally means: lacking or having lost life and being without spirit. Synonyms would include: flat, tedious, empty, and dull. This is an important idea to keep in mind when we consider the general spiritual estate of our country.

The intrepid individuals who fled religious and political tyranny and settled in North America, were inspired by and largely founded our country upon a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ. The religious passion of our American forbearers was decidedly lively and committed. It was anything but dull and tedious. If anyone cares to read early American church history, they would conclude that our “Christian faith” should never be thought of as vapid. However, during the course of time, in our era and in our country, faith has in large measure become religiously or spiritually vapid. Why do you think that is?

Prosperity, liberalism, and pluralism are mostly to blame for our current state of lifeless religion. We should have seen it (vapidity) coming. Moses rallied the Chosen People of Israel on the far side of the Jordan River before they would cross into the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy chapter 8, God through Moses repeatedly encourages his people to “remember.” Our almighty Father and Creator, the Giver of all good things, knew of the human propensity to forget, especially when times are good, that all of our blessings have their origin in God alone. So the Lord’s admonition to “remember” was as much to say, “please don’t fool yourselves, give credit where credit is due, and act accordingly. Thereby and therefrom things will steadily improve.” Like nations before us, we didn’t get the message. American prosperity has helped to cause a spiritual amnesia which has contributed to our religious vapidity.

Liberalism, the political philosophy that values individual rights ahead of the group and all of it ahead of God, contributed to lifeless religion. Freedom from tradition and the Judeo-Christian values that undergirded our country’s moral fabric were derided and relegated to the trash bin of history. God became obsolete in liberalism and vapidity grew like a cancer, even in many of the Christian churches of America.

Pluralism, the step-child of liberalism, where all truths are welcome and all truths are relative, followed quickly. Of course, the whole idea of multiple “truths” is oxymoronic and we’re morons if we accept it. Nevertheless, pluralism has served to heighten our current state of spiritual vapidity. When everyone’s truth is seen as having equal validity, we all lose, especially God.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

Proverbs 3:5

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
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Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

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

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

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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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
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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Sept. 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 23

• At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on at Main and 3rd streets.

Sept. 27

• At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Cobb Road,

Oct. 8

• At 11:42 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 4th and Church streets.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 8

Oct. 8

• At 1:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.
• At 4:16 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on someone on Wyanoak Road.

Oct. 9

• At 9:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rocky Ridge Dr.

• At 5:39 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a resident on Flat Mountain Estates.

• At 10:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Oct. 10

• At 9:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wilson Road.

• At 12:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Court.

• At 8:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bearpen Road.

Oct. 11

• At 2:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 3:23 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Kelsey Court.

• At 6:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on fire on Hickory Hill Road.

• At 4:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Biscuit Rock Road.

Oct. 12

• At 6:17 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

Oct. 13

• At 3:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

...HCHF continued from page 23

to secure a school nurse and a school social worker. We have seen that when a student becomes ill or suffers from mental health disruptions two scenarios play out – the student cannot attend school leading to absenteeism, which is directly linked to poorer academic performance; and the student's parent must leave work causing missed wages leading to more strain on family resources. Also, good mental health, and access to mental health resources, are critical to a student's academic success. Left unmet, mental health issues are linked to negative academic outcomes, behavior problems and delinquency. The Foundation's grant is a pivotal move forward to ensuring our student's health, wellbeing and increased academic success."

In addition to the Blue Ridge School Foundation, grant recipients for the first 2019 grant cycle include the following organizations listed by focus area category: Health and Access to Healthcare: Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic; Cashiers Glenville Fire Department; Clay County Public Health Department; Community Care Clinic of Franklin; Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers; Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands; Macon County EMS; REACH of Macon County, Vecino's Farmworker Health Program; Education: AHEC (Advance Highlands Education Committee,) Cashiers Valley Preschool, Hampton Preschool and Early Learning Center, Highlands Community Child Development Center, Southwestern Community College, Summit Charter School; Community Vitality and Economic Stability: AWAKE, Inc., Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau, Cashiers Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fishes and Loves Food Pantry, HIGHTS, Hospice

House Foundation of WNC, International Friendship Center/Highlands Food Pantry, The Literacy Council, Peggy Crosby Center.

Robin Tindall, Foundation CEO, concluded the event with closing words. "This has been an eye-opening transitional year, marking the beginning of what will become transformational change over time as ongoing grants are made. We are deeply grateful for your dedicated work toward innovative solutions to improve the health and wellbeing of our surrounding communities. You can expect that our Foundation will continue to invest in helping people and

strengthening our communities for many decades to come." She also expressed gratitude to those who made these grants possible.

The Foundation's second grant cycle is now open until 5:00 pm, October 18. The grant application and further information is available on the website: www.hchealthfnd.org

• *The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation was established on February 1, 2019 as a 501 (c) 3 public charity with a purpose to improve the health and wellbeing of Highlands, Cashiers, and surrounding communities. As the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital conversion foundation we are committed to continuing a several-decade legacy of generosity and vision to ensure vibrant and healthy living for our year-round, seasonal and visiting families and individuals. Through partnerships with organizations, key stakeholders and caring donors, The Foundation aims to make positive and lasting change through investing in projects and programs that advance innovative solutions and improvements in peoples' health and wellbeing. For more information please visit the website: www.hchealthfnd.org or call 828-482-6510.*

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 26

Be that as it may, all is not lost. If you have seen the purple and white yard signs that begin "If my people..." you may remember that it is quoting from the biblical book of 2nd Chronicles, chapter 7. Whereupon it says that with a unified, concerted prayer of recognition and repentance, God will hear and heal a land and people. If we believe that nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37), that nothing is too hard (Genesis 18:14) for God, then we ought to take him at his word and pray. Pray therefore that religious vapidty will come to end, that our land would be healed, and that real hope with honest truth would be restored—and all to his glory.

...VOLLEYBALLY continued from page 1

my girls."

Blue Ridge didn't hand the win to Highlands, giving them a run for their money by taking the second set. But Highlands finished it and sealed the deal winning 2-1.

"We played really well, and it feels great going undefeated for the season," said Highlands Allie Buck. "We just stuck to it and played fundamental volleyball the way it's supposed to be played."

In other fall sports news, Highlands

Middle School soccer team hosted undefeated Blue Ridge also Oct. 8 and ended the Bobcats winning streak with a final of 2-1.

Highlands finished 3rd in the Tri-State Conference with an overall record of 9-6.

Highlands Coach Jake Page said his players did well against a tough team that's well coached.

"I thought the guys played great, and really competed," said Page. "We battled and that is what I was most proud of."

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