

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, Oct. 31, 2019

The seven Town Board candidates line up for final Q&A: number 6

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. There are three seats open on the board.

Each candidate has been asked to answer six questions.

This week we will feature answers to the final question – question 6 by the candidates in alphabetical order.

Question 6:

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is important to the sustainability of Highlands. As in every other sector in town, affordable housing for hospital employees is an issue and is said to be one of the reasons the hospital is 20 employees short. Do you think the town should assist in this and other hospital matters?

Also, is there anything else you would like to impart to your future constituents?

John Dotson

• See Q&A page 9

• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2	CatSpeak.....	7
Weather.....	2	Leaf Looker Shopping.....	12-13
Letters.....	2	Word Matter.....	15
Obituaries.....	8	Events.....	16-17
Investing at 4118 Ft.....	10	HS Sports.....	19

Physical upgrades continue at HBS' Nature Center

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Upgrades at the Highlands Biological Station (HBS) are in full-swing and things are starting to take shape along the North Campus. One addition visitors won't be seeing is HBS' cold water syphon installed at the bottom of Lindenwood Lake.

What is a cold-water syphon?

Imagine a giant-bendy straw that goes from the bottom of the Lake and empties into Mill Creek. HBS Project Coordinator Sonya Carpenter said the reason for the syphon is two-fold.

"It's part of our obligation too the Army Corps of Engineers for our upgrades and it's a way to impact thermal pollution," said Carpenter.

Lindenwood Lake is man-made and when Mill Creek was dammed up to create the lake, it increased the surface area of water that overflows into the Creek. The problem is, the water on the surface gets much warmer than water at the bottom of the Lake.

If the warm water from the

surface flows into Mill Creek, it causes problems to habitats more accustomed to cooler temperatures. With the syphon in place, it sucks water from the bottom of the Lake and only transfers cooler water into the Creek.

"The water at the surface is exposed to more solar radiation," said Carpenter. "The transfer of the colder water out into the Creek minimizes artificial impediment and keeps our mountain streams cold and clear as they should be."

Other project updates

Other upgrades on HBS' North Campus include building a teaching pavilion next to Lindenwood Lake, improving the entrance to HBS from Lower Lake Road, creating a pollinator garden on the slope adjacent to the Lake, and making some upgrades to the nature trail that loops around the Lake.

A crane was recently used to put the roof on top of the new-teaching pavilion's steel frame. Carpenter said the pavilion will

• See HBS page 19

Highlands annual Halloween extravaganza has been rescheduled for Fri., Nov. 1



Trick or Treating on Main Street and on S. 4th Street is a long tradition in Highlands. This year due to impending weather, Halloween will be on Friday, Nov. 1st. Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 5:30 and the fun runs from 6-8 p.m. Costumed folks of all ages can wander the streets unencumbered visiting shops for treats or dancing in the street. Free hot dogs are available, too. — Photo by Kim Lewicki

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Broadband, paving and voting

This past Friday was the last Community Coffee with the Mayor for this year. I can't thank the Hudson Library enough for hosting these monthly sessions from March through October. I also want to thank all the nonprofit organizations that provided support and refreshments. They are: the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Highlands Biological Station Foundation, the Highlands Historical Society, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the Highlands Literacy Council, the Hudson Library Board of Directors, and the International Friendship Center and Food Pantry.

About 60 people were at this last coffee to learn about the Highlands Fiber Optic Network that is now under construction. I want to thank Matt Shuler, the town's GIS and Internet Communications Director and his Altitude staff for putting on a great program.

I suspect we will have Matt, along with representatives from Wide Open



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Networks, back at a coffee in the spring to update us about the network. Once the network is completed around April, a phased operational effort will begin and continue through the summer.

After developing coffee programs for six years, I can already predict some of the major topics for 2020. High on the list will be budget priorities. One big budget item will be road paving, so let me state where we are as the year comes to an end. Two projects that will be done in the spring are already funded. Satulah Road will be paved up to where it becomes a private road. That paving is the last phase of the Satulah water tank project. The other paving project will be Split Rail Row. That paving is the last phase of the waterline project on Split Rail. Both the water tank and the waterline are now operational.

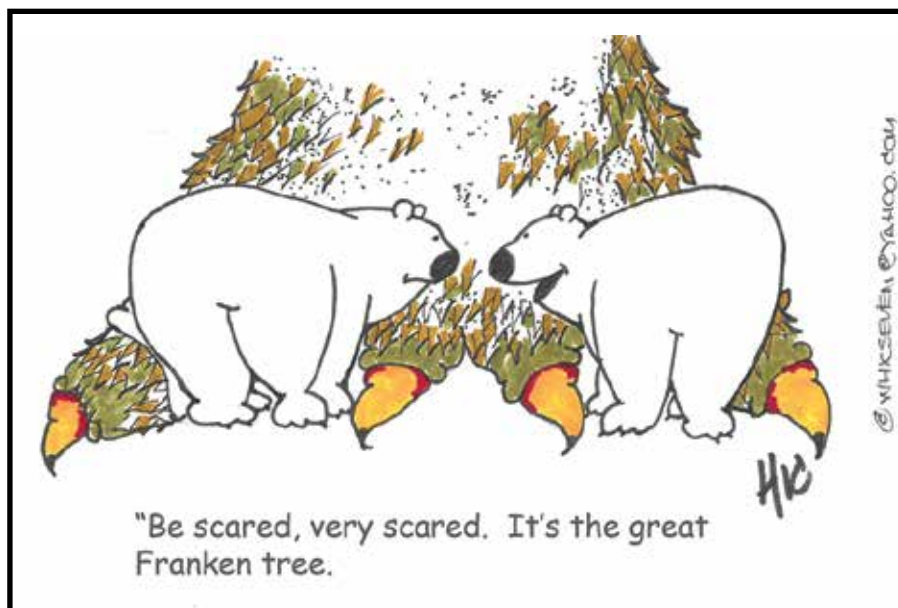
People have asked me why the recent paving on Cullasaja Drive was stopped halfway? My response is that we had other pressing paving needs like Hickory Hill and Oak Lane. The worse part of Cullasaja was paved this year for about \$250,000. The lower half is the top paving priority for next year.

We will also probably have a coffee next year on healthcare access. The issue of critical care and retention of physicians continues even after the sale of Mission to HCA. On a related topic, I anticipate having a program concerning our emergency respond capabilities. By spring, the new fire station should be underway. There will be related issues concerning ambulance service and staffing.

If anyone has a topic for a community coffee, please let me know. I see these sessions as town meetings where ideas and issues can be addressed.

Please remember to vote before, or on Tuesday, November 5. My friends at the polls estimate there will be a turnout of about a third of the registered voters. I hope they are wrong and my prediction of at least 50% is realized. If you are registered but don't vote, keep that in mind when you become concerned about a problem in town.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• LETTERS •

Town's and citizens' attitude toward short-term rentals is disturbing




Dear Editor,

I have been disappointed while reading that so many residents of Highlands are opposed to short term/vacation rentals in this community. My mother was a seasonal resident of Highlands for over 25 years and coming up in the summer to visit her are some of the best memories of my life. In her later years and since her passing, my family and I have been coming to Highlands every year during the week of Thanksgiving.

About 6 years ago we stopped staying at area hotels and resorts and chose to rent someone's home. This allowed us to prepare a proper Thanksgiving Day dinner and just feel more at home while visiting. I had no idea that people were up in arms at the thought of sharing their neighborhoods with short term visitors. I can assure you that vacation rentals in Highlands are not inexpensive but we budget for this trip faithfully. I also

• See LETTERS page 10

• WEATHER •

Fri, 1-Nov	Sat, 2-Nov	Sun, 3-Nov
		
53°F 29°F	54°F 26°F	51°F 26°F
Plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Sunny
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 61° Low: 26°	High: 59° Low: 32°	High: 57° Low: 22°

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Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703,

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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 warm and inviting home has been updated and has room for everyone. The great room boasts a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. The large master on the main level opens up to a wonderful covered screened sitting area with another stone fireplace. An open kitchen with stainless appliances and granite counters is adjacent to a large dining area and a second sitting area. Upstairs are two additional bedrooms with a great loft.

MLS# 92290 | Offered for \$729,000



NEW ON MARKET: Spanning three levels and showcasing breathtaking views, this unique log lodge-style home is truly remarkable. The main level boasts a soaring vaulted ceiling and features heart pine floors and oversized windows that draw in stunning natural light and perfectly frame the views. An open-plan great room, dining, and kitchen space will be the hub of daily life and is centered around a large stone fireplace. There are multiple areas for dining and entertaining.

MLS# 92321 | Offered for \$2,597,000

NEW on MARKET & PRICE CHANGES!

PRICE CHANGE: Come see this cozy home with the prettiest view of all the Golf Villas in Highlands Falls CC! Light and bright inside, there are vaulted, beamed ceilings, gleaming hardwoods, a wet bar, and a lovely stone fireplace. The large, updated kitchen opens to the great room and has a fabulous amount of cabinet and counter space. The master bedroom has a vaulted ceiling, a large walk-in closet, and private deck access.

MLS# 90948 | Was \$487,000 NOW Offered for \$459,900



PRICE CHANGE: Located on the 11th fairway overlooking the green, you can enjoy the mountain views and cool summer evenings from the covered, vaulted screened porch or watch the golfers sink that putt. The great room has vaulted and beamed ceilings with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. The kitchen has been updated with new countertops and stainless steel appliances. Golf or Social membership is optional but necessary to enjoy club amenities.

MLS# 91526 | Was \$550,000 NOW Offered for \$450,000



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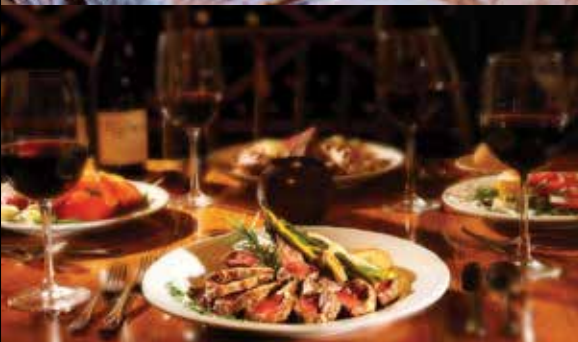
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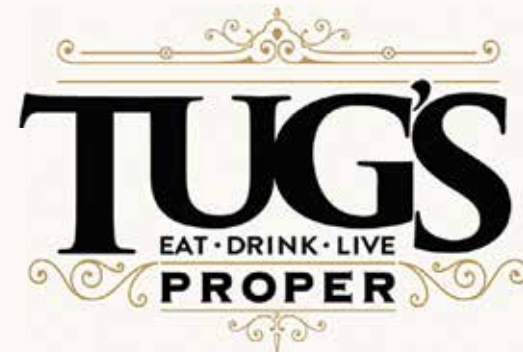


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PRINCESS PUDDIN'

• CATSPEAK •

Princess Puddin's Perspective on Black Cats

I'm happy to be a beautiful calico cat who's considered to be good luck. How cool is that? But what about those poor black cats? How did they get such a bad rap? The answer requires a brief history lesson.



We cats started hanging around humans 10,000 years ago when you first started growing food instead of hunting it. Cats were observant and noticed rodents wherever corn and wheat were stored, and rodents meant a meal. Soon enough, cats grew to like people and vice-versa.

Most everyone knows that the Egyptians worshipped cats. They realized that we made fine pets but still had minds of our own. Does that sound like the cats you know? I mean, do we come when called?

The Egyptians also worshipped gods and goddesses that were part human and part cat. The goddess of violence and fertility, Bastet, was one of those combos, and one of her favorite colors was black. Don't ask me how you combine violence and fertility. Humans come up with the strangest ideas, but Bastet is why black cats were seen as special. Note, I said special, not bad luck or evil.

Perhaps it was this pagan affinity for cats that caused medieval Christians to distrust us. Distrust is too mild a word. Heck, they accused us of participating in orgies with the devil. From then on, it got worse for cats, especially black ones. We were all described as favorites of the devil and of witches, and you know what happened to the witches, don't you?

Years later, cats were better appreciated with intelligent people like Charles Dickens and Mark Twain holding us in

high regard. Having a few admirers still didn't do away with most people's fear of cats, black ones in particular, and Edgar Allan Poe's horror story "The Black Cat" didn't help matters. I mean, honestly -- he described a dead black cat driving some poor

human mad, and people believed him.

Even today, black cats remain unpopular. Because they're the least likely of all cats to be adopted from shelters, August 17 is Black Cat Appreciation Day in the US, and the UK has Black Cat Day on October 27 for the same reason.

I guess superstitions die hard, and just as people avoid walking under ladders or living on the 13th floor, some also avoid black cats. Seeing black cats as Halloween decorations along with witches and monsters like Dracula and Frankenstein likely reinforces this aversion.

There's never been any proof to support these wrong-headed beliefs about black cats, but then, when have humans ever needed proof? My mum, of course, has never believed any of this hooey. She once had a stunning black cat named Sheba and loved her dearly. Just because Mum went on to own a white cat and two calicos doesn't mean she thinks there's anything wrong with black ones.

The fact is all cats are magnificent creatures, and black cats are exceptionally striking; though, of course, not quite as striking as we calico kitties. I know I can't solve this black cat problem myself, but I have a suggestion for the Humane Society: Run a one-month ad campaign in August to coincide with Black Cat Appreciation Day or in October to counteract all the Halloween hoopla. The slogan? A black cat for every lap.

• See CATSPEAK page 10

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• OBITUARIES •

Toby Patrick West

October 16, 2019 was a very sad day in the southern design community with the passing of Toby Patrick West, an internationally acclaimed interior designer and antiquarian for the past 32 years.

Toby was born on November 15, 1960 in Atlanta, GA. Most of his adult life was spent in Atlanta and Highlands, NC. He founded Toby West Limited, a successful design, antiques and furnishing business in Atlanta with his life and business partner, Tom Hayes. The business was in the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center for 24 years. Later Toby opened a shop in Highlands, NC where he became known for his antiques and accessories in the Adirondack style. Most recently, Toby and Tom opened Toby West Antiques and Interior Design in Cashiers, NC.

Over the years Toby became a very respected and admired interior designer. His work was featured in numerous national publications such as Veranda, Southern Accents, House Beautiful and Mountain Living. He also participated in many design showhouses in the mountain community receiving great acclaim. His God-given talent made him an icon in his field of design.

Toby is survived by his life and business partner of 35 years, Thomas Mandeville Hayes, who he married on January 8, 2018. He is also survived by his mother, Lavone Cantrell; stepfather, Hugh Cantrell; two brothers; a step-sister; and his in-laws, Sylvia and Randy Allmon of Texas, and Bob and Dana Hayes of Ohio.

Toby requested a Celebration of Life be held in the Spring at their Joe Webb log cabin gardens in Highlands. Burial of his cremated remains will be at the Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery. Toby West was Tom's north, his south, his east and west. May he rest in peace now and wait for Tom to join him in their next life together. Together forever.

A memorial donation may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com

...LETTERS continued from 2

feel that those who are coming to visit must be spending heavily by shopping and dining at local restaurants because stores and eateries are packed the entire week we are here. I have watched visitors create entirely new "seasons" in Highlands which has to be good for the local economy...right?

I just really want Highlands residents to know that many of us who rent short term are also deeply endeared to this very special place. Renting a vacation home helps me remember happy times and also allows me to create lasting memories for my own family, much as my mother did for me. We are here to enhance the area and hopefully create additional revenue so that Highlands continues to flourish well into the future. Thank you,

Jeanne Marie Piazza
Tampa, FL

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...Q&A continued from page 1

Having a hospital has always been a very important asset to the town, but it is not an asset OF the Town of Highlands. The administration of the Highlands Hospital - now the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has never been within the purview of the Town of Highlands. By agreement and in support of the hospital, the Town provides water and sewer to the facility and adjoining Chestnut Hill.

Highlands has always been a more costly place to live, and virtually everyone who owns or has owned property here has benefitted from the higher values. "Affordable housing" has been the topic of many discussions over the years and it has always come down to land prices and construction costs.

From the various country clubs to Old Edwards Inn, larger businesses and operations have had employee housing needs and each has taken it upon themselves to resolve their respective housing problems.

The demographics of Highlands do not fall within the guidelines for Federal assistance and the Town of Highlands should not put itself and the taxpayers money in the "affordable housing" business.

Marc Hehn

Yes, the Eckerd Living Center provided excellent care for my mother. That experience afforded me the opportunity to see firsthand the outstanding services available on the Highlands Cashiers Hospital campus. I have taken four patients to the Emergency Room in the last 20 years and always received excellent service. I want to do all possible to keep it that way while acknowledging the need for more Family Practice Physicians and medical staff. I will encourage our Town Board to be a true partner in the effort to attract medical professionals to our area and housing is part of that puzzle. My top goal is to insure out community has

excellent health care. The Town can best assist as a true partner with the Highlands Cashiers Hospital Chief of Staff, the Highlands Cashiers Hospital Board of Trustees, the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, the Dogwood Trust and Hospital Corporation of America to attract medical professionals. The Town needs to have the energy to develop projects that will attract health-care workers, the money is available from our partners. It is estimated \$65,000,000 will flow annually from the Dogwood Trust for healthcare projects in Western North Carolina. The Highlands Town Board needs to be proactive in developing projects that will help our town.

Nick McCall

Affordable housing in Highlands is a subject that does not get as much exposure or attention as it should. This problem has been building for years and it can be contributed in part to the desire and push for exclusivity. I can remember back in the days when Highlands was filled with homes owned by middle income families and property was much more affordable. But with the demand for property ever increasing and the supply decreasing, the real estate market and land values in Highlands have skyrocketed.

This in my opinion is a double edge sword and has helped to create the problems we now are facing with VRBOs and finding affordable housing for workers. It is not that difficult to understand why our hospital is facing such alarming staffing shortages, or why this has been one of the hardest seasons ever for local businesses regarding employees. Just turn to the back of this paper and look at the help wanted section. What is difficult is solving this crisis.

I do say when it comes to healthcare or lack thereof and staffing issues at our hos-

• See Q&A page 11



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Highlands Performing Arts Center

507 Chestnut Street Highlands, NC 28741



...CATSPEAK continued from page 7

Now, I know one lucky kitty who's worn out from too much thinking and typing. Time for me to head to Dad's lap for a recovery snooze.

• *Princess Puddin' Penn resides in Georgia with her dad, her mom Kathy Manos Penn,*

and her canine brother Lord Banjo. Please send comments, compliments, and questions to ink-penn119@gmail.com. She appears in "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," a book that can be found on Amazon, at Books Unlimited in Franklin, and at Highlands Mountain Paws.

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Provence vs. the Plateau

By Carl Romberg
Landmark Realty Group, BIC

Back in the early 90s, I became enthralled with Peter Mayle's book "A Year in Provence" and all his subsequent books. I had just renovated a couple of houses and the thought of spending time in France and renovating a house that was more than 50 years old would be a dream come true. The realities of starting a family, work, and finances didn't afford the opportunity to buy a house in a foreign country or even a visit to Provence. It had been on my bucket list for years, and last month I finally had the opportunity to visit France and spend time in the countryside of Provence.

The trip was everything that I thought it would be. After a few nights in Paris, we took the high-speed train to Avignon and rented a car. Set atop a mountain with beautiful views in all directions, the village of Gordes was our home base for the next four nights. In the mornings we would have our cappuccino and croissant. We would take a short day-trip to a nearby town having a leisurely lunch and drinking Rose like the locals. We would come back to the hotel to lounge by the pool under the olive tree in the afternoon. In the evening, we would sit on the bar terrace with other guests and

watch the sun set over the horizon with the changing colors of the sky. After the sun was down, we would walk to one of the restaurants in the village center. It was while walking back one evening it hit me how similar this was to life on the Plateau.

The village was smaller than Highlands, but it had numerous restaurants, a few shops, a luxury hotel/spa and plenty of airbnb rentals. The people were all very friendly and helpful. The elevation and views were completely different than here, but the proliferation of real estate companies was an obvious similarity. I would venture to say there was more firms per-capita than here, which is hard to comprehend. Just like here, they all had photos of the properties in the window with all the important information – bedrooms, baths, and price and how many minutes it would take to get to town.

A number of tourists would arrive every day. There were road rallies that brought out some antique cars. An occasional tourist bus would dispense a crowd of people for long enough to buy a trinket and ice cream cone. The cyclists were plentiful, but not on motorcycles. Bicyclists of all ages would climb the mountain to enjoy a lunch; then

• See INVESTING page 19

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...Q&A continued from page 9

pital it really is a crisis. I have many ideas on solving this critical issue and its importance is another reason I entered this race.

I believe the town could and should get involved regarding this issue in any and all ways it can when it comes to the health and lives of the citizens not just inside the town limits but all those in the surrounding communities. The town simply cannot afford not to.

There is nothing in this world I am more passionate about than the people of Highlands and this amazing place we get to call home. I take great pride in where I come from and it would be the greatest honor to be able to serve the community that has given so much to me. Thank you all for your consideration of electing me to serve the people on the Highlands Town Board.

Eric Pierson

For the 20+ years that I have been involved in local government, affordable housing is a topic that is always brought up. We have looked into this issue and discussed it many times, and the conclusion is always the same: affordable housing in Highlands is just not feasible. Granted, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is a very important entity to have, however, it is a private company and taxpayer monies should not be used to supplement it. Besides, how are we to know that housing is the main reason they are lacking 20 employees. Old Edwards, Wildcat CC, Cullasaja Club and several other large employers in the area have been responsible and created their own housing for employees, which are vital for them to operate. The Town should be supportive of the hospital, where we can, but again, it is a private entity and it is not for the town to be involved in hospital mat-

ters.

Michael Rogers

Yes, the hospital is critical to the sustainability of Highlands. If our residents do not feel they have adequate health care and cannot get to the doctors they need in an emergency situation, we may lose a huge component of our economy as they will quit coming to Highlands.

I am not sure the town should be involved in housing per se, but to help the hospital obtain and or build housing would be something I would be in favor of. The hospital has the property, as well as the sewer and water, to build the housing. We need to see if we can get Federal and State assistance for this project.

Hank Ross

The Town of Highlands and our community in the past have provided tremendous support to the hospital. The nature of our support has changed now that it is no longer a nonprofit. Community contributions and direct operational influence has ended. Although the hospital is outside of the town limits, Highlands currently provides water/sewer and this should continue. Our local fire and rescue department is also a great asset to the hospital.

After serving on a local workforce housing committee, I have a greater understanding of the difficulty of constructing low income housing. The most successful formula is to build a multi-unit development with a mix of high, medium and subsidized low income units. Tax breaks are part of the formula, however Highlands does not qualify due to the absence of nearby grocery and drugstore national chains. I believe that the large number of apartments or condos needed for a project of this type is not

• See Q&A page 14



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SAMPLE BALLOT

PCT 08 HIGHLANDS

Sample Ballot
Macon County, North Carolina
November 5, 2019

M004

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line.
C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

Board of Commissioners
(You may vote for THREE)

- ☐ John (Buz) Dotson
- ☒ Marc Hehn
- ☐ Nick McCall
- ☐ Eric Pierson
- ☐ Michael David Rogers
- ☐ Hank Ross
- ☐ Brian J. Stiehler
- ☐ Write-in
- ☐ Write-in
- ☐ Write-in

End of Ballot

MARC HEHN
TOWN OF HIGHLANDS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Early Voting Continues

**Through Friday
Nov. 1
Mon-Fri
10a to 6p**

**The Polls are open
6:30a to 7:30p
on Election Day
Tues., Nov. 5**

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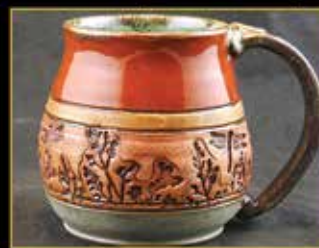
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MARC HEHN

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marc & Betsy Hehn

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Authorized by Marc Hehn, candidate for Town Board & Paid for by the candidate

...Q&A continued from page 11

something many in our community would embrace.

I am not in favor of Highlands providing financial support or water/sewer to HCA sponsored workforce housing located outside the town limits. However, I am in favor of encouraging more affordable housing within town using zoning to allow more basement, garage and other small quarters in commercial and residential areas. Having an adequate living wage and affordable housing is a national problem and corporations such as HCA need to address it.

I look forward to serving the citizens of Highlands if elected. We are so fortunate to live in this special town and can work together to make it even better.

Brian Stiehler

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is important to the sustainability of Highlands. As in every other sector in town, affordable housing for hospital employees is an issue and is said to be one of the reasons the hospital is 20 employees short. Do I think the town should assist in this and other hospital matters?

I think that the hospital is one of the most important aspects of the Highlands

Community. Like every single business in Highlands, attracting and retaining employees is a serious challenge. While I think it would be great to have local "affordable housing," I am not sure how realistic that is. If it was feasible, I am unsure how the town would fit into that equation. We will always rely on the surrounding towns of Franklin, Clayton and others to supply labor to our area. I do not think that will ever change. As for assisting the hospital, I think the best thing we can do to support it is use its services, just like we should support all businesses in Highlands. The hospital is incredibly important but it is also a for-profit business venture which limits the support it can receive from outside entities. There may be opportunities for community groups to take an active role in this kind of support but for now, I think the town needs to proceed cautiously in how it gets involved. If there is an opportunity that presents itself, I would certainly be in favor of studying how the town could help our hospital.

• Don't forget to vote Tuesday, Nov. 5. Polls open at 6:30a and close at 7:30p.

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•WORD MATTER•

On Gratitude

A good, life-affirming exercise for anyone at this time of year is to consider for what and for whom one should be grateful.

My wife and I end every day sharing with one another five things for which we are grateful. It accomplishes two things; first, it affirms the positives in our lives rather than the negatives; and second, it clarifies the things that should be a source of ongoing gratitude for us. Mostly, they are little things, some of which we have no control over. Good weather, good news, an unexpected phone call or visit from a friend or relative, etc.

People, I believe, have an inherent need to express to themselves or to others, some thanks about which we feel blessed, or happy, or content. When I consider this concept, I think about the notion of enough.

While I was a student at Western Carolina University several years ago I noticed some words silk-screened onto a fellow undergrad's t-shirt. Those words have had an enormous impact on my life. They were, it turns out, from an anti-poverty ministry. They read, "The opposite of poverty isn't wealth. The opposite of poverty is enough."

These words articulated a kind of philosophy I've believed and lived both before and since I actually saw them in writing.

All of this has to do with how we choose to view the world. And, make no mistake – our view of the world is entirely up to us. We, each of us, get to choose through what lens, we view things. Positively or negatively? Filled up or empty? With a smile or with a frown? With joy over life's simple pleasures, or with sadness over things we can't control?

There was a time when the most important word in my personal vocabulary was more. I wanted more, of everything. As a kid, I recall wanting more mashed potatoes, whether I was still hungry or not. I always wanted a greater allowance, for doing nothing, mind you, except for simply being. I wanted more clothes although I had plenty. And I wanted more muscles, because I had none. I just wanted ... more.

After four years in the Air Force, which constituted the greatest physical, emotional and maturational growth period



Bud Katz

in my life, I started to focus on, not more, but better. I wanted to improve, to become, to learn, to have, better. I always had a decent work ethic but was uncertain how to translate hard work into this notion of doing and being better. It took me a while to figure that out. I continue to work on it to this day.

In 1943, a fellow Brooklynite, the psychologist Abraham Maslow, created a pyramid revealing a human being's hierarchy of needs. At the bottom – the foundation – were our basic physiological needs of existence: breathing, food, water, etc. Next up, our needs involving security, including family, health and property. These were followed by our needs for love and belonging, such as friends, family and physical intimacy. The fourth level was about our needs for esteem, like confidence, achievement, respect for and from others. This is the level to which most people aspire. But there's a top to Maslow's pyramid. He referred to it as self-actualization. People who reach this level typically have one, perhaps two of these attributes; morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts. It's the rare individual who can ascribe all of these attributes to him- or herself. Like most, I'm still working on them.

But that self-actualization level reminds me of my fellow-student's t-shirt, and those ideas of poverty, wealth and enough. Maslow focused on our needs, not on our wants.

As we will soon be sharing family, friend- and fellowship, plus a meal commemorating Thanksgiving, I plan to focus on this idea of enough, and offer a prayer for those who aren't, at least as of yet, able to make that leap.

In closing, permit me a moment of personal self-actualization. Midway through my eighth decade of viewing the grass from the green as opposed to the brown side I find it difficult to identify just one aspect of life for which I am most grateful. I'm grateful to still be alive, of course, to still be in love with my best friend, to still feel gratitude toward our family and friends, and to still be experiencing reasonably good health.

And those, dear readers, should be enough for anyone.



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Hank Ross For Highlands Town Commissioner

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- Promote long range planning of our recreation facilities and infrastructure
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After 8 successful years on the Town Board, I am asking for your support for another term. We have a lot to be proud of.

In those 8 years, I've raised \$180,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Most importantly, I feel like I represented Highlands taxpayers on the board.

We have a lot more work to do, and I would be honored to continue serving as chairman of the TDC. Please consider voting for someone with proven leadership in Highlands!

Feel free to call me anytime at (828) 787-2778 with concerns or questions facing your town.

Paid for by the committee to elect Brian J. Stiehler

• 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-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.
- Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to



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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.-Wed.

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

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. & 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.

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., 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 go to website www.aawnc80.org or 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

- 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

- 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.

Fri., Nov. 1-22

- Families with young children ages 3-5, are invited to

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Friday 11/1 - Thursday 11/7



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

join the Highlands Nature Center's Education Specialist, Paige Engelbrektsson, every Friday morning 10-11a as she combines stories, walks, and activities for their little ones. Different topic each week. Adults must accompany their children. The suggested age for children is 3 to 5 years old. Families who wish to participate in this free outdoor educational program should be prepared to go outside rain or shine. It's free. No registration is necessary. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road. For more information, call (828) 526-2623.

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 title and prices. 526-1595.

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.

Tues., Oct. 29

• At the Nature Center. Free. Halloween Enchanted Forest. 6-7:30p. Celebrate Halloween the natural way! Guided tours of the Botanical Gardens will lead you trick-or-treating around the trail to meet some native animal characters.

Thurs., Oct. 31

• Hudson Library is celebrating Halloween with a Kids Zone Halloween Party! from 3:30-5pm, kids can enjoy a variety of Halloween-themed activities. Designed for kids 5-12 years old, but younger children can have fun too. For more information call the library at 828-526-3031.

• Highlands Annual Trick-or-Treating on Main Street. 6-8 p.m. Street closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 1

• The Highlands Emergency Council will host a United Health Care Representative to assist with Medicare recipients Friday from 10am to 2pm. HEC is located at 71 Poplar Street next to Wilson Gas.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "All Aboard! Train Dance," Friday night at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin, NC from 6:15-8:45 PM. For information call: 828-787-2324, 828-332-0001.

• At the Franklin Library on Siler road, Festival of Local Authors from 4-6 p.m. One author is Samantha Narelle Kirkland of Franklin featuring three books: Something Small, Europe in Low and Ride the Sea.

• At 5:30pm PAC presents: Great Art on Screen presented in collaboration with The Bascom. Gauguin in Tahiti: Paradise Lost. Tracing the legendary life story of Paul Gauguin The option dinner following the screening will be at the Log Cabin. Please call the Log Cabin for reservations: 828.526.5777 (be sure to mention Great Art on Screen.)

Sat., Nov. 2

• Dogwood Crafters presents A TASTE OF DOGWOOD, a food tasting featuring recipes from our newest cookbook, "A Collection of Recipes." The event is held at the shop in Dillsboro from 10AM - 2PM.

• The Jackson County NAACP will honor the finalist and announce the winners of its 2019 Biennial Individual and Organizational Humanitarian Awards. The event will take place in the Community Room of the Jackson County Public Library, Keener St., Sylva NC 28779.

• At 1pm By Experience will present musical theater's 42nd Street, captured live from London's West End at PAC. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Thurs., Nov. 7

• USA flags will be placed on veteran's graves in observance of Veterans Day starting at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please contact Phil Potts 828-200-9753 or ppotts63@frontier.com for more information.

Fri., Nov. 8,

• Local veterans with Wreaths Across America and AHEC are gathering at Highlands School at 8 a.m. for a flag-raising event with the 5th Grade Class.

Great Art on Screen at PAC, Fri.



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present two events this weekend. The first on Friday, November 1 at 5:30pm: Great Art on Screen presented in collaboration with The Bascom. Gauguin in Tahiti: Paradise Lost. Tracing the legendary life story of Paul Gauguin who left France for Tahiti, feverishly in search of deep immersions into lush nature, for feelings, visions and colors, ever purer and brighter. Audiences join this journey from Tahiti to American museums including New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, National Gallery of Art in DC, and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts where Gauguin's greatest masterpieces are now preserved. The option dinner following the screening will be at the Log Cabin. Please call the Log Cabin for reservations: 828.526.5777 (be sure to mention Great Art on Screen.) Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or at the door. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Live capture of '42nd Street' on Saturday at PAC



On Saturday, November 2 at 1pm By Experience will present musical theater's 42nd Street, captured live from London's West End. 42nd Street is the song and dance, American dream fable of Broadway. Featuring the iconic songs 42nd Street, We're In The Money, Lullaby Of Broadway, Shuffle Off To Buffalo, Dames and I Only Have Eyes For You, this is a musical unlike any other. 42nd Street follows young Peggy Sawyer, fresh off the bus from small-town America and just another face in the chorus line on Broadway's newest show. But when the leading lady gets injured, Peggy might just have the shot at stardom she's always dreamed of...

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

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Prayer for the persecuted

By Pastor Mark Ford

First Baptist Church Highlands

This Sunday November 3rd is the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. Be aware, Christians are not the only religious group that is persecuted. Religious and ethnic groups of every stripe are suffering just because of what they believe and whom they are. But as a Christian I can speak to this particular tragedy with a bit more clarity. Groups like Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs, Amnesty International, and World Christian Database monitor the persecution and hate-crimes against the Church world-wide. Here is the overall consensus regarding the status of violence against Christians.

First, it is estimated that 70 million Christians have been martyred in the course of history, with more than half in the 20th century alone. This has occurred at the hands of communist, fascist and nationalist-religious governments. During the last 20 years, some figures estimate that 100,000 to 160,000 Christians have died for their faith each year – or 1,093,000 souls total. That figures to somewhere around 322 Christians killed for their faith every month – almost 11 every day!

Second, 214 churches and Christian properties are intentionally destroyed every month. There are documented 722 forms of violence against Christians that add to the sufferings of the followers of Christ – things such as beatings, imprisonment, destruction of religious materials, rapes, ostracization from communities and families, loss of jobs, etc.

And I can hear the background voices now. Yes, there are those among the Christian faith – pseudo Christians I call them – who have perpetrated violence against other faiths and groups. I find them reprehensible and unbiblical in their zeal and hate. But their actions throughout history are not to distract from the realities of a growing persecution of the Christian faith world-wide – a fact noted by our own State Department and monitoring groups mentioned above.

Therefore, I would encourage all of us to focus our prayers this Sunday and beyond for all peoples that are being persecuted for their faith and ethnicity. As Christians we are not to resort to sword or force of any kind to persuade people of our belief in Christ as the risen Son of God and way of salvation. The power of this truth should be enough to convince people of the way of salvation in Jesus Christ. We are to be salt and light and be courageous in our witness and testimony regarding our faith.

But given the growing persecution of the Christian faith, we can be assured that such a witness will garner for us the same angst and hate even here in our own communities. Our faith does not barter or compromise but stands firm on the Word of God. Jesus told us in John 15 that the world hated him and persecuted him, and we could expect the same as His followers.

A final word to the churches in America. We are experiencing little persecution at the time, but the horizon indicates some changes in our standing before a watching world and coming rejection and persecution for us. This may be good news. Ironically, the fastest and most significant areas of growth in the Church are places where persecution is the worst – China, Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and even North Korea! The Church in the U.S. could learn from these parts of the Body of Christ. Our expenditures of attractional means

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

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

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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.

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.

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

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Hewins

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• HS SPORTS •

Varsity VB, Soccer, Golf and MS BB

By Kedra McCall

High school volleyball competed in the first round of state on Saturday, October 26th. They came up short but left all that they had on the court. This game finished out their 2019 season. They look to return next year on the note they left on and to continue to grow from there.

High school boys soccer played Blue Ridge, Cherokee, and Hayesville. They pulled out a hard-fought win over Blue Ridge and a strong defeat of Cherokee. Lastly, they lost a tough game to Hayesville for their senior night. Due to weather this game was moved to a day earlier to ensure they celebrated their five wonderful seniors: Pablo Jimenez, Carlos May Gomez, Patrick Woods, Dillon Schmitt, and Jonathan (Bill) Miller. They were recognized for their dedication and passion on and off the field. They play at Cherokee as a makeup on Thursday, October 31st at 4 pm. They will

then wait for state brackets to inform them of any further play.

Anna Stiehler competed in the state golf matches October 27 to 29. Sunday was a practice round which led into Monday where she finished the day as number 4. On the second day of competition she continued to show off her hard work and skill, finishing the day as number 15. Anna finished 15th out of more than 70 1A and 2A competitors as a freshman. She blew all expectations out of the water and continues to grow from here.

Middle school basketball had their first scrimmage against Rosman. Both girls and boys learned and developed from their scrimmages. Their season is just beginning and they will continue to grow stronger as units. Their first home game will be on Tuesday, November 5th. They will play Nantahala with girls starting at 4 and boys following.

Come out and support your Highlanders as seasons finish up and others begin

...HBS continued from page 1

also have a living roof.

The boardwalk throughout HBS' campus is coming together, too.

"The boardwalk goes around the Lake and connects to existing trails in a more user-friendly way," said Carpenter. "Families, children, adults, anyone can walk around and enjoy their visit."

The pollinator garden includes a ter-

...INVESTING continued from page 10

take the easy ride back down the mountain. There were very few trucks and it was a very peaceful and quiet place.

The temperatures are more extreme there than here. Summer days are not as cool as here, but the winters are very cold. Many Europeans have second homes or vacation there in the summer and by the end of October, the resorts and shops close for the winter -- much like Highlands did for many years.

One of the great things about Highlands and the Plateau is returning home. It was a fantastic trip, but it reminded me how fortunate we are to have all of this lush beauty around us. We have options for our

raced living-wall that Carpenter said will mimic a natural meadow only using native plants. As of October, there are approx. 8,000 plants in the garden.

"We're adding pollinator-friendly plants to the garden to create additional habitat," said Carpenter. "And we're hoping it serves as an example of building technologies that are more harmonious with our landscape."

cappuccino and pastry. We can take a day-trip to a nearby town for lunch. It's a different view, but the view from my porch is every bit as good as the one from the hotel (and my martini is better). We have many options for eating out. Like there, we also have a slower pace of life than most places can offer these days. And there is no doubt that the people here are some of the friendliest anywhere. I have clients tell me that all the time. I guess I can say I am living my dream, without the old house and the stories that come with a renovation.

• You can reach Carl on his cell at 678-936-9309 or email him at carl@landmarkerg.com

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

such as entertaining worship, stylistic adjustments to be relevant, and compromise that avoids being offensive have not succeeded. Our generations of young adults and youth are leaving the church and few returning as in days past (Barna). We have so striven to not be irrelevant, to be acceptable and not offensive, that we have lost our distinctive message of hope and salvation in Jesus Christ alone. This is the message of the believers under the heat of persecution, suffering without compromise. But it's working. We should pray for them...but also pray that we can be more like them, and willing to suffer with them.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Oct. 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 18

• At 12:27 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Cardinal Cleaners ad US 64 east.

• At 7 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road at Bowery Road.

Oct. 22

• At 10:26 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

Oct. 17

• At 6:21 p.m., the dept. was first-re-

sponders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 22.

• At 9:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 7 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 2:20 p.m., the dept. helped search for an individual on Buck Creek Road.

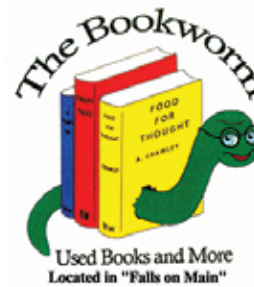
• At 10:01 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 4:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Turele Pond Road.

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

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