

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020

## FDs prevent housefire from spreading

*Homeowner and rattle-snake bite survivor says August just isn't his month*

By Brian O'Shea

Highlands Fire & Rescue responded to a structure fire at approx. 4:45 a.m. Thursday Aug. 13 at the 200 block of Foreman

Road in Highlands. HFR Assistant Chief Robbie Forrester said the home was fully engulfed when fire crews arrived.

Fire crews from Cashiers-

Glenville and Scaly Mountain Fire Departments also responded to help put out the blaze and prevent the fire from spreading to a guest

• See xxxxx page 12

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## Kirkin' o' the Tartan



Sunday morning First Presbyterian Church celebrated its annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan. Beadle Duncan Greenlee, carrying the Holy Word, led the parade followed by husband-wife pipers Margaret Tooke and Glen Morris, and Pastor Curtis Fussell. See story on page 8.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Allegations about candidate Cawthorn cause alarm

By Brittney Lofthouse

With just a few weeks before early voting for the 2020 General Election begins, the North Carolina District 11 Congressional race continues to make national headlines.

Political newcomer Madison Cawthorn, who just turned 25 earlier this month, beat out the Trump endorsed Haywood County Republican Lynda Bennett in the Summer runoff election. Cawthorn's victory was covered by news outlets across the country for a variety of reasons. 1) He was 24 at the time, meaning if elected he will be the youngest member of Congress. 2) He beat more than a dozen Republican candidates to win the party nomination, includ-

• See CAWTHORN page 14

## Day 1 for K-5 in Highlands



This first-grader at her socially distanced desk in her classroom at Highlands School. See story and pictures on page 16 and 17.

## HHS names Shaffner Archivist Emeritus

At 80 years old, Ran Shaffner has decided to retire from the Highlands Historical Society as its Archivist but it's not likely High-

lands has heard the last of him.

To honor all the work he has done chronicling the history of

• See SHAFFNER page 9

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### What to expect at the Town Board meeting

The August meeting of the Highlands Town Board will be held at 7 pm tonight. The town website has the ZOOM meeting access information.

I am adding an option to ZOOMING tonight, provided the technology works. I will be ZOOMING at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field. If anyone wants to make a direct public comment, or make a statement at the two public hearings, they are welcome to join me, provided a mask is worn. I will simply turn my monitor to the person so the entire board will be able to hear their comment. Also, as in the past ZOOM meetings, comments can be made using the ZOOM option and app. The ZOOM meeting information is on our town website. I advise calling Town Hall at 526-2118 and ask to be put on the public comment list. The list insures we do not overlook someone.

The agenda has two public hearings. The first hearing pertains to the annexation of the OEI Farm on Arnold Road. The second hearing relates to zoning the



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

annexed property to B-3.

Another agenda item will be a presentation by Tom Neal, the Chief Executive Officer for the HCA Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Tom will present a plan to the board on providing employee housing for hospital staff.

The board will also hear an update from Kaye McHan, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Director, concerning the status of the park concert series and the Labor Day Weekend fireworks. Kaye will also share the new chamber budget with the board.

Representatives of the Highlands Food and Wine Festival will also provide an update. Their May concert and festival was cancelled. Their next event is scheduled for November.

The Performing Arts Center will present a drive-in theater plan for their parking lot. This plan is only temporary during the pandemic. The drive-in will be achieved by using an inflatable screen that can be taken down after each performance. This portable screen and projection system can be setup anywhere, like in Founders Park.

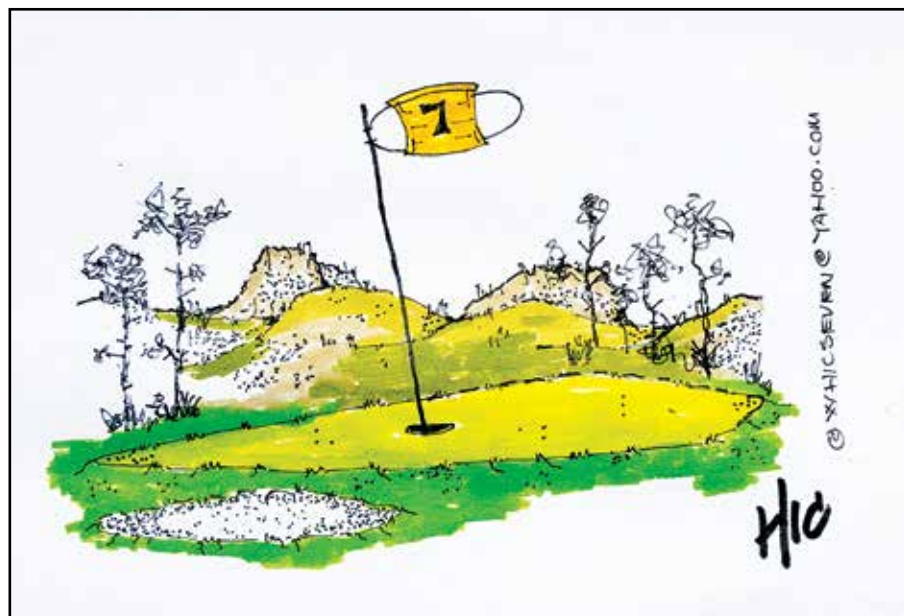
A draft of the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan is on the agenda. Rose Bauguess of the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission will present the plan.

A request for a public hearing to rezone the new fire department property is an agenda item. Currently the property is zoned B-3. The request will be for it to be zoned Governmental/Institutional. The board will also be asked to approve the relocation of the septic field for the fire department substation on US 64.

Finally, Lamar Nix, our public works director, will be making a budget amendment request to fix the problem of water draining onto US 64 near the Wells Hotel. The water runs down the highway and creates a winter ice hazard on the curb before Foreman Road. Lamar has been working with DOT and property owners to address the problem. Like always, solving a problem can require money, about \$15,000 in this instance.

ZOOM us in tonight.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • NOTICE •

The Highlands Newspaper office at 256 Oak Street is temporarily closed. We are going through some renovations and updates, and plan to be back open in a few weeks with new and improved facilities.

In the meantime, we are working out of our home office. To contact us – as always – please email [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com) or call 828-200-1371.

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 20-Aug	Fri, 21-Aug	Sat, 22-Aug	Sun, 23-Aug
70°F 61°F	71°F 58°F	74°F 58°F	77°F 59°F
Mostly cloudy with a t-storm	Showers and a heavier t-storm	Clouds and sun with a t-storm	A thunderstorm in spots
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 72° Low: 63°	High: 75° Low: 58°	High: 79° Low: 60°	High: 80° Low: 64°

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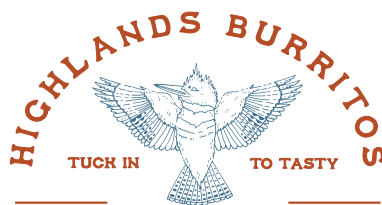
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# • LETTERS •

## Keep on the Sunny Side

Dear Editor,

Keep on the Sunny Side  
 Always on the Sunny Side  
 Keep on the Sunny Side of life  
 It will help us everyday  
 It will brighten all the way  
 If we keep on the Sunny Side of Life  
 – Written by Ada Blankhorn 1899

Ada's nephew was disabled and always wanted his wheelchair pushed on the sunny side of the street.

It was recorded by the Carter Family in 1928. It became their theme song. It has also been recorded by Merle Haggard, June and Johnny Cash and many others. It was featured in the 2000 movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou."

Kenny Youmans  
 Highlands

## Highlands! Ban the blower!

Dear Editor,

I know it would be difficult, and I know it might cause some work disruption, but I wish Highlands would ban the use of leafblowers, I wish Macon County would ban the use of leafblowers, I wish the great state of North Carolina would ban the use of leafblowers.

• See LETTERS page 7

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- ✓ and **job opportunities** in my community.

**2020census.gov**



## ...LETTERS continued from page 5

Surely the judicious use of rakes and brooms could adequately create enough neatness of yard and sidewalk and parking lot to satisfy the yen for neatness in citizens' lives.

Neatness is close to godliness, neatness knits up the uneasy and perpetual sense of spiritual disorder that clings like a greasy smog to our lives but surely we can come close to an acceptable level of neatness without the use of the execrable blower.

The blower makes a lot of noise. The blower volatilizes dirt and animal excreta. That people breathe in with every breath. The blower might spread disease.

Highlands! Ban the blower! Also fill up the Main Street hand sanitizers! Do your part.

Joe Cunningham  
Highlands

## Medicare recipients: beware of HCA/Mission billing practices

Dear Editor,

For each of the last four months, I have received notification letters from HCA/Mission regarding medical expenses they say had not been paid. Upon calling my Med Supp Insurer, Transamerica, I found that each of the four medical expenses had been paid very promptly weeks or even months before.

On each occasion, I called HCA/Mission to tell them my insurer had already paid the medical expense. I have now received an actual bill for one of the expenses that was paid back in April. I think this issue goes beyond extremely sloppy accounting practices.

I believe HCA/Mission is trying to scam and scare seniors on Medicare into paying a medical expense that has already been paid. I have not had this problem with any other health carrier nor did I ever have this problem with Mission before HCA acquired Mission.

I will be submitting a complaint to the North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein. I would be very surprised if other seniors on Medicare have not experienced this same situation.

David Christopher  
Scaly Mountain

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# Kirkin' o' the Tartan celebrates Scottish heritage

On Sunday, Aug. 14, the community turned out to watch the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands during its annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans parade which celebrates Scottish heritage.

Adhering to COVID19 restrictions, masked church members followed the Beadle, bagpipers and those carrying tartan flags, as they distantly walked west from the church on one side of Main Street crossed and walked east down the



Pastor Curtis Fussell leads the gathering in prayer while Stell Huie looks on.

other ending up at K-H Founders Park.

Once assembled on the stage at the park, Pastor Curtis Fussell read the onlookers the Scots Confession and Prayer:

"Almighty God, bless these symbols of the Scottish heritage, and grant that those who wear them, and the families they represent, may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You; through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"We proclaim that we are all united in the covenant of Jesus Christ for there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

"We rejoice, O God, in the opportunity to dedicate to you these symbols of the unswerving loyalty, steadfast faith, and great achievements of our ancestors. We take pride in their stamina as individuals in the face of adversity, in the tenacity of their loyalty to their families and clans, in their undying faith in you. In the blessing of these symbols, bless us with loyalty, faith and achievements in the preservation of our heritage. The blessing of God and the Lord be yours, the blessing of the perfect Spirit be yours, The blessing of the Three be poured out on us generously."

As far as scholars can tell, the Kirkin' o' the Tartan is a purely American tradition that celebrates Scottish heritage. It was begun in 1941 at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC by the great Presbyterian minister and chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Dr. Peter Marshall.

However, popular legend has it that the Kirkin' o' the Tartan began in the years following the great defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden in 1746, when tartans were

banned. Families supposedly took small scraps of cloth to church (the kirk) to surreptitiously have them blessed during the service. However, no historical evidence has ever been uncovered to lend even the slightest validity to that myth.

The point of Sunday's event was to honor the heritage of Scottish Americans, plain and simple.

Of course, the history of Scotland is anything but simple. It goes back to the Stone Age (8300 B.C.). The Gaelic language was introduced around 750 B.C. The various Norse dialects, French, and English have played their roles as well. Recorded history in Scotland began about 80 A.D. when Roman soldiers invaded.

Out of this tradition and heritage came the Presbyterian Church. In 1572, the "Golden Act" was established which gave form to Presbyterianism. In the 18th and 19th centuries many immigrants came to America from Scotland and many by way of Northern Ireland. Some eventually came to Pennsylvania and down the Shenandoah Valley, settling in the mountains of Western North Carolina. They brought their Presbyterian religion and culture with them, remnants of which can still be found today throughout much of Appalachia.

Wearing Highland dress was banned in the last half of the 18th Century, following the third Jacobite rebellion. Banned also were the playing of the bagpipes (great pipes), carrying weaponry, and other behaviors associated with war. However, there is some evidence that these measures were not fully enforced, particularly on the wealthy who supported the winning side.

Still, whether due to proscription (repealed in 1762) or the cost of the fabric, the wearing of the tartan appears to have become largely unfashionable for more than half a century.

The early 1820s brought a rebirth in interest in Highland dress, when King George IV (and later Queen Victoria) became enamored of Scotland and all things Scottish.

As chiefs and lords scrambled to be appropriately adorned in their family's traditional tartan for state affairs, royal visits and the like, many weavers and suppliers were not always scrupulous in pulling the right bolt of cloth (ells) from the shelf. It was during this period that many official clan tartans were born.

Among the Scots and Irish, the bagpipes have a long tradition as a military instrument in battle, a device for calling the clan together, and a herald for ceremonial occasions. The instrument most recognized as a bagpipe today are really the great pipes or Highlands Pipes (as opposed to the much smaller and mellower lap pipes played for dances and entertainment).

Traditionally, the Beadle was the parish official employed to usher and keep order during the service. Part of those duties may have included securing the Bible when it was not being used.

During the Middle Ages all books, including Bibles, were rare and highly prized objects. Today, the role of the Beadle is entirely ceremonial. The Beadle carries the Holy Word into the sanctuary at the start of the service, leading the procession of banner carriers and piper. Following the benediction, the Beadle leads everyone out of church.

— Kim Lewicki



From left: Beadle Duncan Greenlee, and bagpipers husband-wife pipers Margaret Tooke and Glen Morris.



— photos by Kim Lewicki



## ...SHAFFNER continued from page 1

Highlands in various publications and being on call at HHS as archivist to answer any question regarding Highlands' past, HHS is bestowing him the title of Archivist Emeritus.

Though in "normal" times, his retirement and his new status would be celebrated publicly, during these COVID times, his retirement and new title is being announced via the press.

But for decades, the history of Highlands has run in Shaffner's blood – writing a history of Hudson Library and The Heart of the Blue Ridge as well as going through the painstaking process of having areas in Highlands designated historical districts and being instrumental in having historical markers erected in town.

Thanks to Shaffner and his association with HHS, the organization is now recognized not only regionally but also nationally for its contributions to education (the Harbison marker), exploration (the Michaux marker), medicine (the Lapham marker), folklore (the Moccasin War marker), and the National Register (the Prince House marker).

In October 2019 Shaffner was named North Carolina's Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians for "mammoth contributions to researching, recording, and perpetuating North Carolina's rich history."

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Highlands Historical Society, I would like to publicly congratulate our founder, Dr. Ran Shaffner, on being recognized by his peers as the 2019 Historian of the Year," said President of the HHS Obie Oakley, Jr. at the time. "His contributions to his chosen field and especially to the wonderful town of Highlands extend well beyond this one year. From only an idea, he has led a great group of volunteers to establish an incredible star in the crown of this community."

"I may be retiring from the role of HHS archivist, but emeritus lets me stay officially involved as a backup for incoming archivist Stuart Ferguson and associate archivist Phil



Ran Shaffner

Potts. It also allows me to continue answering historical questions for the public online," said Shaffner.

Ferguson said Shaffner's will be big shoes to fill.

"Ran's Heart of the Blue Ridge is a magisterial account of Highlands, and has become the go-to source for just about everything, no matter how obscure or important (without discounting the other fine accounts of the town's history by others including Isabel & Tony Chambers, T.W. Reynolds, Gert McIntosh, as well as memoirs.) Ran has contributed so much

to the Highlands Historical Society, and to our understanding of the community," said Ferguson.

Prior to coming to Highlands, Shaffner was a professor of literature but as he operated Cyrano's Bookshop on Main Street his interest in Highlands history piqued.

"My customers at Cyrano's Bookshop told me so many stories about the people and events in Highlands that I put them into a history of the Hudson Library. That library, like the town itself, had grown up in phases from childhood to adolescence to adulthood. Like a person, it had a personality and character that made it, the town, and the people of the town unique in the history of North Carolina.

"But a 200-page book about a library couldn't hold all the fascinating stories I'd heard, so an 800-page book about the town was born. I was no longer a teacher of literature but a historian by default. It's ironic that the only course I almost failed in my education was history, which would interest me for the next 40 years," said Shaffner.

The publication of Heart of the Blue Ridge was instrumental in the reactivation of the Historical Society.

On June 22, 1979, a small group of Highlands residents began to meet because they shared a concern for the history of the town. The area was changing rapidly and historic structures were disappearing. These concerned citizens

## ...WORD MATTER continued from page 13

believe we all have more than just a right to vote. I treat voting as an obligation. Second, I'm a fan of the United States Postal Service. I'm not alone in this; a PEW Research poll has revealed that 91% of Americans like the USPS. That's 91%, which means the grumbling you hear about the post office comes from a relative few cranky whiners. Dollar for dollar, or stamp for stamp, the USPS is one of the most effective and efficient organizations in America. This year, for at least two reasons – Covid-19 and that election – they'll be tested as never before.

Every election is the most important ever. So is this one. It doesn't matter who you vote for, where you live, anything like that. What matters is that, if you're eligible and if you're registered, you should vote, and your vote should count.

As I mentioned at the top of this column, these are strange times, made stranger by this, hopefully, once-in-a-lifetime public health event. Why God, or the universe, decided that we'd have a hotly contested national election in the same year as a major, serious, global, viral pandemic, is anyone's guess. But, here we are. Or, as some folks like to say, it is what it is.

Please, vote, and make sure you do whatever is necessary

to cast your vote and get it counted, wherever you live. Simply put, it matters, a lot.

More about voting soon.

## ...SPIRITUALLY from page 15

of all, and He knows all that is happening in this world and in your world. He has a redemptive will in any and every situation. He knows your need before you even ask or articulate it. What is meant for evil in this world of free choice He can and will use for good.

We can sit on boards, sit on councils and sit in our living rooms and golf carts and never sit before Him. Seems unfair to Him does it not? May I encourage you to be still for a few minutes or an hour today. Facebook can wait but we need our face in the Book. Listen with your heart for the muffled voice of love and encouragement and enjoy. Or, continue on listening to any and every other voice and not enjoy.

"Be still, and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Rev. 8:1

formed the Highlands Historical Preservation Society, Inc., intent on performing a survey of historic structures in Highlands. When an inventory of 173 homes was completed in 1981, the Society fell into inactivity.

"The Highlands Historical Society has been my love for the past 20 years. I was thrilled when it won a State award for its accomplishments in 2002. Six more awards from the Society of North Carolina Historians have been associated with its archives, its museum, and its publications," said Shaffner.

Shaffner attributes his receiving last year's Historian of the Year Award to decades of the Historical Society's promotion of the Highlands' history and appreciation of the heritage of Western North Carolina.

"I'm retiring as the Society's archivist because at 80 it's time. But as Fred Rogers used to say, 'Often when you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else.' I look forward to more research, more publications, and hearing more stories about Highlands and its people, which make life worth living just to hear them told as only Highlanders can tell them."

— Kim Lewicki

## Highlands Mountaintop Art & Craft Show

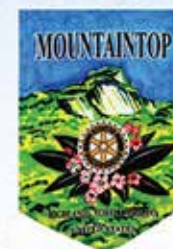
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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Drain the Comps!

When the lockdown occurred due to the COVID-19 in March, we as local real estate brokers thought that we would have to write off sales for the remainder of the year. However, we could not have been more wrong. As soon as the lockdown was lifted, a floodgate of buyers swarmed the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau looking for a sanctuary from cities with higher rates of the virus and the looting and riots. This surge in demand has created a seismic shift in both inventory and pricing on the Plateau.

Year to date, sales volume is up 47% and unit sales are up 34%. But most astonishing is that since June 1st to date over the same time last year, sales volume is up 70% and unit sales are up 63%. Inventory is shrinking quickly with multiple offer situations the

norm rather than the anomaly.

This increase in demand for property in this area has staying power for many reasons. Our hidden gem has been discovered, and having a home has increased in not just dollar value but in peace of mind and safety value.

Lifestyle, culture, safety and community... aspects in real estate so coveted by many. When deciding where to put down roots, many factors are in the eye of the beholder - climate, adventure, or proximity to extended family - and for all of us, it's about taking advantage of every moment - living somewhere that matters.

The Highlands/Cashiers Pla-



Jody Lovell  
828.226.6303

teau has been, and continues to be, highly sought-after and in great demand because it is rare - it is one of a kind. Nowhere else in the world can you have a town with a sparsely populated area, passing of four phenomenal seasons, breathtaking beauty and a

full breadth of cultural activities. Maybe most importantly, there's a true community, and a mind, body and spirit approach to life.

My advice to buyers is if you find a retreat close to your criteria, act on it immediately. Otherwise, this ascending market may price you out someday.

Thank you to our local

• See **INVESTING** page 22

## together WE CAN MAKE A difference



*"As mayor of Highlands and a long-time resident, I want you to know I support the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and the tremendous impact they're having in the areas of COVID-19, improved access to healthcare, education and other initiatives that are making us a safer, healthier community, and I encourage everyone to learn more about how they can help too."*



Pat Taylor  
Mayor, Highlands, NC

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## CATSPEAK

## • PRINCESS PUDDIN' SPEAKS •

**I'm never visiting the vet again!**

I mean it, I tell you. I can deal with being poked and prodded and getting a shot or two, but that's my limit. This year, I saw a new vet because my regular gal is on maternity leave. The new vet—who does she think she is—says I'm too heavy. Me? Too heavy? What does she know?



More likely, they're just plain jealous. I mean most of us house kitties lead pretty cushy lives. And now that our pet parents are home all the time, it's dawned on them just how much they do for us. Yes, as I lie here stretched out on Mum's desk, thinking deep thoughts, I know

I'm right. Jealousy is the root of all evil.

I can see that solving this problem will require extreme focus. And I cannot think on dry food alone. I need treats, I tell you—more treats.

PS. After listening to my objections, Mum called the vet to see what I weighed last year. Guess what? I haven't gained a single ounce—I weighed twelve pounds last year too. Let the treats resume!

Only last year, my regular vet said my weight was perfect. Well, maybe not perfect, but acceptable. There may have been some mention of not gaining any weight. Mum says she's never had a cat who weighs as much as I do, but I know lots of kitties weigh more than me.

All you have to do is watch those cat videos on youtube, and you know that my weight is fine. But nooooo. The new vet says I weigh twelve pounds, and that's too much. Too much?

Now, when I jump on Mum's desk, which I do over and over again, all day every day, she tries to limit my treats to only one or two. I think I need to start nudging her hand as she tilts the treat container so a few more fall out. Need I remind you that I am "leaping" on the desk? If I were overweight, would I be able to do that? I don't huff and puff; I leap, gracefully, and I never miss.

I still dash up and down the stairs too, especially when I hear the top coming off the milk jug or my can of cat food coming out of the pantry. Not only do I have boundless energy, but I also have amazing hearing.

Banjo, my canine brother, complains about being called old, but he gets to eat all he wants. Half the time, he finishes my dabs wet food, so how much can I really be consuming?

There's even talk of no longer feeding me canned food. Does Mum honestly think I can survive on dry niblets alone? I know I've mentioned in a previous column that she claims the virus shrunk her clothes. Do you think I should suffer because she has a weight problem? I don't think so.

I think it's a conspiracy—pet parents against we perfect four-legged creatures.

• 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](mailto: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 Mountain Paws. Her mom's cozy mysteries are available on Amazon!

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# ...FIRE continued from page 1

cottage toward the rear of the property.

No firefighters were injured on the call and the home was vacant at the time of the fire. The cause is still under investigation.

Homeowner Scott Vuncannon said he thought his friend and HFR Chief Ryan Gearhart was calling him by mistake so early in the morning.

"He told me my place was on fire and it was totally engulfed," said Vuncannon. "It was surreal, I was shocked and basically totally caught off guard."

Vuncannon said the first people on the scene were HFR Firefighters Eric Pierson and Davis Picklesimer, who later told him the roof had caved in by the time they arrived but proceeded to try and stop the fire from spreading.

Vuncannon said it was sad that a home built in the 1950s had burned down, but he was thrilled fire crews were able to save the guest cottage behind the main house.

He added that he was also thankful he

had rescheduled a family photo session earlier this month because of a doctor appointment. If he hadn't, the photos would have been destroyed in the fire.

"Nobody was injured, no firefighters were hurt, for them to be there and save our cottage, they are great," said Vuncannon.

There was no storm at the time of the fire, but there were storms and lightning the previous night. The cause is still under investigation, but Vuncannon said he was told it was possible for lightning to strike and smolder for a couple of hours before igniting.

His insurance company also told him there have recently been several reports of lightning strikes in the Highlands area.

## Rattlesnake Rescue

This is not Vuncannon's first encounter with HFR. In August 2018, he went hiking with his dog, Boone, on the Ellicott Rock Trail headed toward the Chattooga River. Over four miles into the trail, Vuncannon was bitten by a rattlesnake.

"I was almost to the river when I stopped and took a sip of water," he said. "I looked over and saw movement, and then I got struck in the leg by a rattlesnake. First the snake and then the fire, August in Highlands just isn't my month."

Vuncannon said he used a bandanna to tie a tourniquet around his leg below the knee and knew he needed to get out of there. With no cell service he began to make his way back to his car at the trailhead, over four miles away.

"I stood up and started praying, I could taste the poison, I started sweating and my vision got blurry," he said. "I made it about 650 steps before I collapsed. Then I started pulling and crawling on my hands and knees, but I kept throwing up and passing out so I didn't get far."

The snake bit Vuncannon at approx. 1



Highlands F&R returned numerous times Thursday to monitor the smoldering ashes.

p.m. Scott's wife, Nan, arrived in Highlands at 4 p.m. and was surprised Scott was not home yet and later told him she had a bad feeling. Luckily, sitting on the kitchen table was the hiking guidebook opened to the Ellicott Rock Trail.

After repeatedly calling Scott's cell phone with no response, Nan went to the Highland Hiker to see what she could learn about the trail Scott had taken.

That's where Nan bumped into May Lindsay Schmitt, who after hearing Nan's concerns about Scott called HFR Chief Ryan Gearhart.

Gearhart dispatched Eric Pierson to locate Scott at the trailhead off Horse Cove Road. Upon arrival, Pierson spotted Scott's vehicle and hit the trail eventually reaching him at 7:30 p.m.

"He showed up and gave me water, built me a fire to prevent hypothermia, and kept reassuring me paramedics will be here soon," said Scott.

Rescue crews arrived at approx. 9:30 p.m., including members of Cashiers-Glenville Fire Department and the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, who strapped Scott to

a 2-wheel-drive off-road motorcycle, called a Rokon, and transported him out.

"It took three hours to get to the trailhead, I was in real-bad shape at that point," said Scott.

Scott was then airlifted to Mission Hospital in Asheville by Mountain Area Medical Airlift (MAMA) team Nick Cook and Lois Hancock where he spent two weeks in the ICU.

"I don't remember coming to until three days later," said Scott. "The doctors weren't very optimistic given my condition and told my wife I had about a 5% chance of surviving. But after 12 days of antivenom and a lot of prayers, I made it."

It took Scott over three months to fully recover and get his strength back because the snake's venom damaged his internal organs.

"Now I'm great, I'm back to 100%," said Scott. "I've been back and hiked the trail where I was bitten, it was kind of surreal."

He added that he will be forever thankful to those involved in his rescue.

"Eric Pierson, Davis Picklesimer, Justin Kingsland, Ryan Gearhart, Lois Hancock, and Nick Cook

were some of the main people involved in my rescue," said Scott. "However, there were 24 guys, 12 from HFR and 12 from Glenville/Cashiers area that helped save me. They are all heroes and very-special people in our lives, and of course May Schmitt and Libby Skelley Hackney were very helpful to my wife."



The cottage directly behind the main house was saved.

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# • WORD MATTER •

## Please Vote, and Do It Early

We live in a strange world at a strange moment in time.

For example, and in case you haven't been keeping up, there are weather events occurring every day causing floods in some parts of the country. I've even heard from visitors frustrated by the rain we've been having on the plateau, even though, as we know, the plateau sits inside a temperate rain forest.

There are still protests, counter protests, mostly peaceful, flowing from the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

Sports ... well, not so much as in any other summer in memory, but golfers are golfing, Major League baseball and NBA basketball are happening here and there, without fans in attendance, and the upcoming college and NFL football seasons are ... who knows what's going on with them.

School either is in session or will soon be, in actual classrooms or on computer screens. Tough on parents, tough on teachers, tough on staff, very tough on students.

For most of us there's still a pandemic going on, and it's not getting better in several places, including both Carolinas, Georgia and Florida.

There are fires raging in California, but, it's summer, and it's dry out there, and both we and they have seen this before.

The cicadas are back, but it's August and they return every year, right?

There is an election coming. Officially, it's on Tuesday, November 3rd but the chances are between slim and none we'll have a final tally of votes by Wednesday, November 4th. This is due partly to the pandemic, and partly because the Postal Service is telling us that there's no way they can handle tens of millions of absentee ballots requested by people who don't want to stand in long lines or risk being in a crowd of people who may or may not be Covid-free, or who may or may not wear masks or physically distance.

That election arrives in about seventy-six days. So, as a public service I want to pass along some information.

First, if you plan to vote absentee, DON'T WAIT! Contact your county Board of Elections office and ask for an absentee ballot REQUEST form NOW! You must formally request an absentee ballot before you can obtain one. Here in North Carolina, you can get the request form online at NC-



**Bud Katz**

SBE.gov or from your county elections office.

Second, fill it out COMPLETELY and return it as quickly as possible either by mail or, if you're able and willing, in person. In some venues the transaction can be handled via email as well. There is a huge file of Frequently Asked Questions about this, also at NCSBE.gov.

The North Carolina State Board of Elections has posted on their website that as of last Monday they have already received more than EIGHT TIMES the number of requests for absentee ballots they received in 2016. That's going to get worse – much worse – thanks to Covid-19.

If you are a regular reader of Word Matter you know two things about me. First, I

• See WORD MATTER page 9

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## ...CAWTHORN continued from page 1

ing Senator Jim Davis, Bennett who had endorsements from President Trump, Former Congressman Mark Meadows, and other

big names such as Ted Cruz, and Meadows' former Chief of Staff Wayne King 3) He is a young, attractive, charismatic man with an



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inspiring story about overcoming adversity — a message centered around a 2014 car accident that left him paralyzed.

However, with the national spotlight shining bright on Cawthorn, details about his personal life and questionable campaign strategies quickly replaced the headlines about his primary victory.

### Questions about his education

When Cawthorn first hit the campaign trail, his marketing materials and his own website stated, “Madison was homeschooled in Hendersonville and was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy by Rep. Mark Meadows in 2014. However, Madison’s plans were derailed that year after he nearly died in a tragic automobile accident that left him partially paralyzed and in a wheelchair.”

Voters began sharing concern about the misleading information surrounding Cawthorn’s car accident and the impact it had on him attending the Naval Academy. While marketing materials would suggest Cawthorn’s chances of attending the Naval Academy ended due to his car accident, that is actually not true.

Cawthorn was nominated to the Naval Academy by then Congressman Mark Meadows. Receiving a nomination from an elected official is a requirement for consideration into the Naval Academy. Meadows’ routinely nominated individuals from the district upon request. As it related to Cawthorn, Congressman Meadows was a friend of the Cawthorn family, so a nomination made sense.

While he was nominated, according to a deposition from a lawsuit stemming from the accident which left Cawthorn paralyzed, Cawthorn was actually rejected from the Naval Academy and was made aware of his rejection prior to the car accident. Which means that his car accident didn’t derail his plans of attending the academy; being rejected earlier in the year did.

The same deposition also showed that Cawthorn ended up attending a Fall Semester at Patrick

Henry College, a small Christian school, however he dropped out after a semester following a break up with his girlfriend. By his own testimony, Cawthorn said that his best grade in school was probably a D — which he says was not typical for him or his academic success and attributed the difference to the accident as well as his then fiancé leaving him for another man.

### Cawthorn’s social media

Around the same time as questions about Cawthorn’s education arose, screenshots from his social media pages began to circulate as well. From shirtless photos at the pool, to smoky-filled rooms with a cigar in his mouth, Cawthorn’s social media, which has since been “scrubbed” mirrors what you would expect from most 25-year olds, however, most 25-year olds aren’t running for Congress. Of the images being shared from Cawthorn’s Instagram is most notably a 2017 visit to Adolf Hitler’s vacation house in Germany known as the “Eagle’s Nest.”

The photo caption refers to Hitler as “the Fuhrer” and says that a visit to the site — a popular tourist destination documenting the horror “Strange to hear so many laughs and share such a good time with my brother where only 79 years ago a supreme evil shared laughs and good times with his compatriots,” the caption states.

Cawthorn’s Democratic opponent Morris Davis, a retired Colonel and former Federal Prosecutor from Buncombe County, has condemned the images and referred to them as concerning.

Cawthorn’s campaign went on the defensive Sunday night to address the criticism by releasing a video on social media. In the video Cawthorn suggests Davis’ attacks on him were baseless as he would never support something that resulted in the death of people “just like me” referring to his disability.

### Sexual Assault allegations

Two women have come forward  
• See CAWTHORN page 19



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## The Necessary Sounds of Silence

**Dr. Gary Hewins**  
Sr. Pastor  
Community Bible Church

It is very safe to say that 2020 is turning out to be a bit different than what we expected on New Year's Eve. We knew this would be an election year, so we had an idea of what goes along with that. We didn't know we would have rioting in the streets, deep racial and political divides, a global pandemic, social distancing, shuttering of businesses, and economic uncertainty. We had no idea so many would lose those they loved in the way that they have. Who could have forecasted our current school schedule and the way that so much has been altered?

So much upheaval and turmoil generate so much noise, so much chatter and so many conflicting ideologies. So how are you (we) handling this ongoing crisis? There are so many voices that want our attention. So many voices seek to invoke fear, cast blame and even promote conspiracies. Depression and anxiety are on the rise, suicide hot lines are receiving exponentially more calls for help. What to do? Even those not so in tune with the Bible can sense a sort of early apocalyptic feel in this particular cultural moment. It is becoming even more difficult to imagine a full-on tribulation period here on earth. As challenging as this current season is today, it is like a "day on the beach" when compared to what will one day inevitably takes place. Perhaps we each need an enhanced strategy for dealing with noise, uncertainty, sickness and death.

There is a voice that also beckons us to listen closely. This voice is often muffled by the ongoing noise in culture. Like the Elijah of old it isn't in the earthquake or in the windy storm or in the fire (1 Kings 19). The rational, poised, encouraging still small voice of God is most audible in the silence. Remember silence? We live in a time when we need to make silence a very intentional act. The voices in the media, the voices in our head, the voices in culture need to be silenced so we can be still. Stillness today cannot just be physical; it must be spiritual. Spiritual stillness takes practice and anything worth enjoying does require steadfast practice. Allow yourself the luxury of being silent, still and reflective today. Open up the Bible, close your ears and mouth and start reading, the book of Philippians or Psalms or the Lord's Prayer. Read the Beatitudes slowly. Fill your mind with truth and empty yourself of noise and clutter. Clarity is so much more soothing and restorative than clutter and chatter. The world has a system and that system seeks to keep you out of balance and uptight. God has an agenda too; He wants to enjoy seeing you at peace. Christ is the Prince of Peace that ascended the throne of the Father and remains the King of Kings. He not only has peace for you, but He is the Peace you and I are wanting. There is a throne and there is One who sits on that throne. He is Lord

• See SPIRITUALLY page 9

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

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

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# First day of school for Macon County and Highlands

By Brittney Lofthouse and Kim Lewicki

Half of the students in the state returned to in-person instruction Monday for the Fall 2020 semester, but before students even made it to the classroom, Macon County Schools learned a member of the staff tested positive for COVID19.

"As of late Friday afternoon, we were made aware that one of our staff members had tested positive for COVID19," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin at Monday night's BOE meeting. "As a result of that positive test, we now have additional staff members who have to sit out of work for the quarantine period of 14 days since being exposed to that person."

Dr. Baldwin said the district knew this was an issue schools would be facing.

"We also had additional exposure Monday that will impact our staffing moving forward," he said. "It is something we will be monitoring closely and we will be communicating with the health department daily to find out who might need to be quarantined for a period of time.

Following Monday night's announcement, Wednesday afternoon, the district sent out an email reconfirming the positive COVID19 testing and noted that more information will be forthcoming.

"Dr. Baldwin also confirmed that other staff members were exposed on Monday, August 17th after parents who had tested positive entered the school building. Macon County Schools is working diligently with the Macon County Health Department to contact trace for other possible exposures. When a complete list of staff members are identified, the locations (schools) will be named," read the release.

Dr. Baldwin said the school district didn't know the parents were positive until after they entered the school and were made aware when staff notified school leadership, but parents should assume that COVID-19 is in "their" school because it will be.

Obviously, parents want to know which schools in the county have been affected. Dr. Baldwin said he would release information once the health dept. has released all the information to him.

Wednesday afternoon, updates con-

cerning schools in the Franklin area were sent out.

"As anticipated, with the re-opening of schools, we experienced positive cases of COVID-19 at Macon Middle School, Mountain View Intermediate School and South Macon Elementary School Cafeteria Teams.

"These individuals have been in quarantine since the beginning of the week and have not been on campus to expose students.

"As a precaution, members of those cafeteria teams have been sent home to quarantine according to contact tracing protocols. With the help of CareNet, bagged lunches will be served Thursday."

Dr. Baldwin said that most parents have been supportive of the district's health and safety guidelines and encourages parents to respect those guidelines moving forward.

"We ask parents to please follow the screenings in the tool kit," he said.

In addition to parents, Dr. Baldwin said there were students turned away from schools due to a fever, some of which have

since seen the doctor and tested positive for strep throat.

The MC Health Department held a free drive-thru testing clinic at Macon Middle School Thursday, Aug. 13 and had dedicated time available for teachers and school staff to be tested. With testing delays on the state level, it is unlikely all of those test results have been returned to the health department.

Emily Ritter with MC Public Health announced Tuesday that an employee at the Health dept. tested positive and that cases of COVID are increasing in Macon County so everyone should abide by precautions.

Regarding Highlands School, Principal Brian Jetter said they had a great first day. He said students, parents, teachers and staff abided by all the new processes and procedures as required to keep students as safe as possible.

"All of the Highlander family have taken this with the seriousness that it deserves to protect everyone's health in an enclosed environment. All temperatures

• See SCHOOL page 18



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The first day of in-person school at Highlands School for K-5th was Aug. 17. Middle School students begin Aug. 19 and High School students start in-person Aug. 21

– Photos by Kim Lewicki





## ...SCHOOL continued from page 16

were within the normal range for students, parents, teachers, staff, and administration,” he said. “First days always seem to teach us. This year’s first day showed us some things that work, and some things we needed to change, and we have done so.”

Changes to COVID procedures at Highlands School include: allowing two at a time in the elementary bathrooms by marking off alternating sinks and stalls, and putting signs on the bathroom doors; wedging the entry doors open so no one has to touch the door handles; cancelling morning break for high school. High School students will now pick up their breakfast and take it to class like the elementary and middle school students do. This eliminates two passages in the High School hall. Jetter said to keep the number in the hall down and allow social distancing, he had staggered break release times but it took too long and ran into lunch prep in the cafeteria; also we figured out which spray tip to use to effectively and efficiently use the electrostatic sprayer, and determine how long it takes to do each room and hall “touchables.”

New teachers at Highlands School include elementary teacher Pamela Taylor and elementary teacher assistant Diane L. Brailsford.

Elementary teacher Cynthia Henderson resigned as did teacher assistant Joy Griffin.

David Parrish has been named Head Coach for Middle School Boys Soccer; Marci Sherwood and Marlene Fairchild, were hired as non-certified substitutes.

Macon County’s Virtual Academy begins Monday, Aug. 24. VA students are picking up their I pads this week. The last number of students in each Virtual Academy class is as follows: K-0, 1st-1, 2nd-2, 3rd-5, 4th-2, 5th-1, 6th-6, 7th-10, 8th-9, 9th-3, 10th-4, 11th-3 and 12th-2. Principal Jetter said those figures could change.

Ms. Miller is teaching all elementary virtual classes except for 1st grade which will be taught by Ms. Mason who is teaching one of the two in-person 1st grade classes and the one Virtual Academy first-grader.

Melanie Miller will be teaching Virtual Academy for grades 2nd-6th. It will involve a live Google Meet with each grade level for 30 minutes at the following times: 2nd grade: 8:15-8:45a; 3rd grade: 9-9:30a; 4th grade: 9:45-10:15a; 5th grade: 10:30-11a; 6th grade: 11:15-11:45a.

She has allotted additional time for live Google Meets with classes depending on the needs from 12:30-2p. AIG students have been allotted the 2-3p slot.

Miller said this is a tentative schedule, but Mr. Jetter requested her do Google Meets with every class every day.

“As we get going and see how things go, the schedule will be adjusted accordingly. This at least gives us a starting point,” she said.

Middle and High School Virtual Academy students will take online courses with both their in-person teachers and the North Carolina Virtual Public Schools that will coincide with courses they would take in-person, if available.

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## • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

### OnGoing

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open every Friday and Saturday 10a to 4p.

### Sat. Aug. 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 8-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., for experienced hikers only, from Kimsey Creek to Deep Gap, walking along the creek most of the way to Deep Gap. There are three bridges to cross, the last being in bad repair. Also, the trail goes across rocks that slide into the creek. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Call leader Katharine Brown, 421-4178, for reservations.

• Indivisible Highlands plans to appear at the Highlands Post Office to show support of the USPS at 11 a.m.. We will have signs and maintain social distancing. Join us!

### Wed., Aug. 26

• At CLE, Loraine Smith will teach the class Best Apps and Websites for Seniors from 10:30-3:30. Cost is \$75 for members/\$85 for

non-members. Make sure have a charged device and your Apple passwords. All computer classes are held in the CLE lecture hall so that proper social distancing can be observed. Call 526-8811 to register or visit the CLE website at [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com).

### Fri. & Sat., Aug. 29

• Mountaintop Art & Craft Show (previously the Village Square show) will be held in K-H Founders Park (Pine St.) Highlands from 10a to 5p.

### Sat., Aug. 29

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike, elevation change 700 ft., to Bee Cove Falls in South Carolina. This hike has some moderate ups and downs on an old logging road off 107 near the Fish Hatchery. View this 80' multi-tiered falls in a pretty area near the edge of the escarpment of the mountains. Meet at Cashiers Rec. Park at 10 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leaders: Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079,

for reservations.

### Thurs. Sept. 17

• Chef Andrew Figel of ...on the Verandah presents: “Favorites Through the Years.” Cost for each event is \$50 for members/\$60 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811 to register.

### Thurs. Sept. 24

• Cooking Demo and Lunch at Lakeside Restaurant. Cost for each event is \$50 for members/\$60 for nonmembers. Call 526-8811 to register.

### Sat. Nov. 28

• Highlands Twilight 5K and 10K is at 9 a.m. Sign up for November! Help us SAVE THE RACE! so AHEC (Advance Highlands Education Committee) can purchase more laptops for Highlands School. All proceeds will go to the school for technology. Signup, donate or sponsor. Let’s exceed last year’s \$25,000. Details and signup at [www.highlandstwilight-5kand10k.com](http://www.highlandstwilight-5kand10k.com). Contact Derek at 828-200-9226 with questions.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### After 116 years, some people still do not know us

It is a fact that in 2020, many people across the United States and here in Highlands, NC do not know who Big Brothers Big Sisters are! And in this time of covid, it is even more essential that our children get every benefit of programs like BBBS to help them cope with realities that before this time none of us would have dreamed of!

Big Brothers Big Sisters in the simplest terms is a “one on one” mentoring program, the oldest, largest, and most effective youth mentoring organization in the U. S. The leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century, Big Brothers Big Sisters is known for relationships that have a lasting impact on the lives of young people, ages 6 through 18. Highlands has had an active program since 2002 and is presently serving \_\_\_\_ matches of “Bigs” and “Littles” in the plateau area of Highlands and Cashiers.

The vision of BBBS is to be able to provide successful mentoring relationships for all children who need and want them, which contributes to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities for all concerned.

The kids in our program are matched with mentors who are thoroughly screened and have similar interests. National research has shown that positive relationships between young people and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters have a direct and measurable impact on the children’s lives. By participating in the program, Little Brothers and Sisters are more confident in their schoolwork and performance, able to get along better with their families, 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 27% less likely to begin using alcohol, and 52% less likely to skip school. But I think the most important statistics

about BBBS is that 77% of our “littles” said they are doing better in school because of their “bigs”, and 90% said they felt better about themselves because of their “bigs.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters offer children trips and experiences they may not otherwise have access to like trips to the Atlanta and Chattanooga aquariums, lama hikes, and other adventures. A swimming outing at our Highlands Recreation Center along with corm hole games was a big hit last year.

Big Brothers Big Sisters wants to do one thing and one thing only. To help a child achieve all that he or she can be.

Find out more about the program for a child of yours or a child you know by contacting Danielle Hernandez, program Coordinator at 828-399-9133. Find out what BBBS can do!



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from May 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

**May 12**

• At 11:28 a.m., a person failed to pay a fine to the town of Highlands.

**Aug. 3**

• At 2:33, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on N. 1st Street.

**Aug. 6**

• At 3:06 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 and Stacy Russell Road.

**Aug. 13**

• At 6 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Foreman Road and US 64 east.

**Aug. 10**

• At 3:05 p.m., Benjamin Donald Ingle, 31, of Highlands was arrested on a warrant from another jurisdiction. His court date is Aug.

18.

**Aug. 14**

• At 3 p.m., officers received of a shoplifting event at Bryson's Food Store.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 10.**

**Aug. 10**

• At 9:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Westview Way.

• At 12:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 8:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

**Aug. 11**

• At 11:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 2:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

• At 5:34 p.m., the dept. was called to help search for someone

on Shortoff Road but it was cancelled.

**Aug. 12**

• At 11:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

**Aug. 13**

• At 4:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Foreman Road.

• At 12:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

**Aug. 14**

• At 10:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 11:06 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• See **POLICE & FIRE** page 22

**...CAWTHORN continued from page 14**

ward to share stories of situations with Cawthorn in which they felt violated. The first incident, which occurred in 2014, became public on Thursday. Katrina Krulikas posted on Instagram a statement describing a date she had with Cawthorn when she was 17 and he was 19. During the date, she said, Cawthorn attempted to forcibly kiss her, although she had rejected his earlier attempt to do so.

According to Krulikas, her decision to tell her story now, six years after the incident is because Cawthorn's campaign contacted her earlier this year in attempt to smooth things over. The campaign's attempt did not sit right with her, so she decided to speak out.

Cawthorn adamantly denies any wrongdoing and admits he did reach out to the victim this Spring saying he "apologized if his attempt to kiss her when he was a teenager made her feel un-



Madison Cawthorn

comfortable or unsafe."

Francesca McDaniel describes a similar incident that occurred several months later, on May 29, 2015. She was at Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden, N.C., for her home-school graduation ceremony. Cawthorn was the featured speaker for the ceremony.

Cawthorn, a friend of McDaniel's brother, offered her a ride to her friend's house after a family dinner. During the drive, he asked why she seemed not to like him. McDaniel responded, "I don't like you because I think you're a huge player." She alleges he asked other personal questions: whether she was a virgin and why she was with her current boyfriend.

According to McDaniel, Cawthorn's actions with her were similar to his actions with Krulikas. He allegedly talked about his genitalia and said he could still have fun. Cawthorn pulled off the road and into the first overlook on the parkway. He leaned toward her seat,

reached for her face with both hands, pulled her in, and kissed her. McDaniel resisted: "No, I have a boyfriend." Cawthorn persisted. He told her nobody had to know. He kissed her again. She pushed him away with two hands to his chest. She turned and tried to grab the passenger door handle. At that moment the lock snapped shut, but at the same time he assured her that they would head to the party.

Additional women have since shared stories of similar encounters with Cawthorn, although he has not responded to them as he has Krulikas's initial complaint.

Cawthorn has taken to Facebook to counter recent allegations, saying the Democratic party and Nancy Pelosi are behind the recent attacks.

Election day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. North Carolina allows any voter to request a ballot by mail. You can also vote in person. North Carolina offers early voting Thursday, October 15 to Saturday, October 31. Polls will be open every Saturday during that time, not just the last Saturday. Voters are not required to show photo ID.

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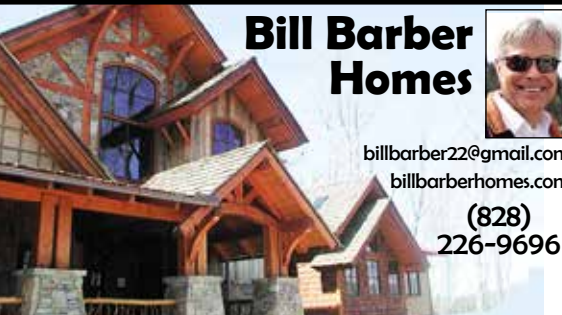


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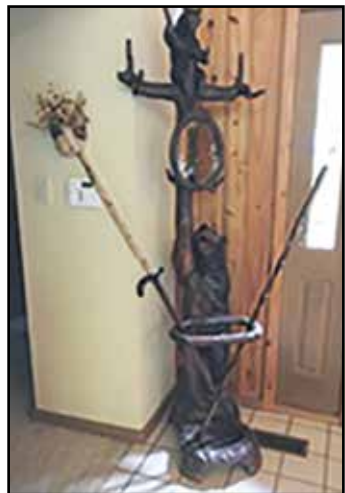


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**LANDS** is hiring for full or part time sales positions for the 2020 fall/christmas season. We're looking for team oriented people who can offer great customer service to our fine customers. If you are friendly, detail oriented, like helping others, enjoy cooking, gadgets, and lots of interesting merchandise, come by and fill out an application, or submit information to: contact\_us@thedrysink.com. Jobs available now (st. 8/20).

## HIGHLANDER MOUN-

**TAIN HOUSE RESTAURANT/**

**INN STAFF NEEDED!** All positions including waitstaff, kitchen and housekeeping. Call 828-526-2590 or email your resume to info@highlandermountainhouse.com (Formerly Main Street Inn) (st. 8/13)

**HIGHLANDS DELI** is hiring kitchen staff, starting immediately for the summer and fall. Please pick up applications at SweetTreats/Highlands Deli - 115 S 4th Street. (st. 8/13)

**WOLFGANGS** is looking for

a Line Cook with a solid track record for dinner prep and service. Need to be creative. Also waitstaff, backer. Best award of Wine Spectator. Please email mindygreen@me.com for either position. (st. 5/28)

**THE LOG CABIN** restaurant, downtown Highlands, is hiring all positions including sous chef, front of house manager, servers, line cooks and handyman/landscaper to start immediately. Call 828 526-5777 or email jason@logcabinhighlands.com. (st. 6/11)

## LUXURY LODGE MAN-

**AGER** needed for live in position. Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain, offer cooking classes and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Must have impeccable references and some experience in hospitality/maintenance. mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 6/11)

## LOCAL TREE COMPANY

**HIRING -** Jesse's Tree Service, LLC, local to the Highlands, NC area is seeking both tree climbers and grounds/cleanup crew. Pat experience a plus but company will train. Salary is based on experience. We are looking for reliable, drug-free, hard working individuals. Driver's license and a clean driving record a plus. If interested, please call owner, Jesse Finley at 828-342-1974 to set up an interview. (8/13)

## NOW HIRING PART-AND

**FULL-TIME ASSOCIATES FOR**

**RETAIL STORE.** Must be willing to work weekends and holidays. Call Shannon at 526-8864 or email Shannon@dutchmansdesigns.com (st. 6/4)

## NOW HIRING AT WILD

**THYME.** We are looking for a sous chef, waitstaff, dishwasher and hostess. Must have positive attitude and reliable transportation. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet in Town Square on Main Street in Highlands. Please no phone calls. (st. 5/28)

## OEI HOSPITALITY

**GROUP, HIGHLANDS NORTH CAROLINA** is currently recruiting

for the following positions: Servers, Bartenders, Host/Hostess, Bussers, Sous Chef, Cook, Pastry Cook, Dishwashers, Housekeepers, Houseman, Laundry, Turndown Attendants, Reservations, Bellman, Night Auditor, Fitness Manager, Spa Attendants, Pool Attendants, Spa Concierge, Cosmetologist, Licensed Massage Therapist, Gardener's Assistants. Benefits available for all FT employees (medical, dental, vision, long term/short term disability, life & 401K) Limited Housing Availability. Please apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers or email strudics@oldedwardsinn.com

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Nectar Juice Bar (located inside Whole Life Market) is now hiring! Are you looking for a fun, healthy-minded individual looking for full-time, year-round work? Experience is not necessary, but kitchen or barista skills a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th St., Highlands.

## CHESTNUT HILL

is an upscale Assisted Living Community in search of a Dietary Cook, CNAs, Med Techs, Wait Staff and Housekeeping. Send resume to Lindabettiff@aol.com or call 828-526-5251. (st. 2/13)

## RANDEVU NOW HIRING

- Line Cook, Waitstaff and Hostess. Please call 828-743-0190. (2/27)

## SALES ASSOCIATE HIGH

**END RETAIL CLOTHING**

**STORE IN HIGHLANDS AND**

**CASHIERS, NC.** Full time, part time and seasonal. Inquire to 828-200-0928. (st. 3/38)

## SERVICES

**I INSTALL TILE! TILE** is Healthy & Non-Toxic. Specializing in Shower/Bathroom, Kitchen/Backslashes, Entrance Ways/Patios & Flooring. 25yrs experience. Also offer grout cleaning. Licensed & Insured. Mike Bertone/Owner of Bertone Tile Design & Flooring LLC. 828-526-4943 or text: 321-303-7560. (8/27)

## HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS

**HANDYMAN:** Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor

plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 828-200-4071. (6/11)

## HIGHLANDS HANDI-

**MAN -** Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling, and will monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (st. 3/26)

## GUTTER CLEANING,

**METAL ROOF & FABRICA-**

**TION** roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 6/27/19)

## HIGH COUNTRY PHO-

**TO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning

photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 6/4)

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**ROOM FOR RENT -** Spa-

cious Scaly Mountain Home w/ caring roommates. \$500/month. 610.955.9356. (st. 7/9)

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**BY OWNER -** Nice year-

round 3BR/3BA home. Excellent view of lake. Adjacent to Lakeside Park in Rocky Knob. 3,700' elevation. 7 miles from Highlands on the Atlanta side. Gated and paved road. \$659,000. Call 888-706-4551. (9/10)

## HIGHLANDS CONDO -

1 bed plus bonus room with 2 bathrooms, activity room, one-car garage. 239-597-2959. (st. 7/16)

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## SIX ACRES ON BUCK

**CREEK ROAD** behind Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Sign on property. 843-460-8015. (st. 5/30)

## 2/2 CLAYTON HOME

**IN LOWER CLEAR CREEK.**

1+acre, Private. View. \$118,000. Call 706.782.9728 (st. 9/5)

## ...POLICE & FIRE REPORTS continued from page 19

• At 3:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

• At 7:20 p.m. the dept was called to provide public assistance on Buck Creek Road, but the call was cancelled.

• At 7:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 10:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

## Aug. 16

• At 7:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

## Aug. 17

• A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a resi-

dence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 6:44 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

• At 10:20 p.m., the dept. investigated smoke at a residence on Cherokee Drive.

• At 11:35 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Logging Trail.

## ...INVESTING continued from page 10

brokerage community and to the buyers and sellers who are navigating the new COVID world while achieving our clients' goals and making their dreams come true for their next chapter in life!

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