

Highlands Newspaper

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

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020

Federal election results are still coming in but local winners are clear

By Brittney Lofthouse

Nearly 75 percent of voters in North Carolina cast their ballots in

the 2020 election — a year where record numbers of voter turnout is being reported across the country.

As of Wednesday morning, less than 100,000 votes separated

• See **ELECTION** page 11

Career and Professional Development Center opens in Highlands

The International Friendship Center (IFC) of Highlands, NC is launching a Career and Professional Development Center to help address the issues of unemployment and underemployment which have been exacerbated during the global pandemic and create serious challenges for the residents of Macon and surrounding counties. The service will link potential candidates with current job opportunities coupled with career coaching and mentoring to help candidates match their skills to the right job opportunities.

“The impact from COVID-19 on local immigrant families and other underserved households in our community as well as the impact to public health,

• See **CENTER** page 6

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Explore Brushy Face with downloadable trail guide

By Julie Schott

Spending time outdoors, especially in green spaces, is good for you. It can lower a person's stress levels, decrease blood pressure and reduce the risk of asthma, allergies, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, while boosting mental health and increasing life expectancy.*

Many of us are finding comfort these days by spending more time enjoying the outdoors. How lucky are we to live here

with so many natural amenities right in our backyard!? And now, one of Highlands lesser known treasures, Brushy Face Preserve, can be explored using Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's brand new trail guide and map! You can download yours today directly from our website by clicking this link: http://www.hicashlt.org/uploads/2/5/8/7/25878494/bfp_trail_guide_and_map.pdf.

Nestled amongst some of

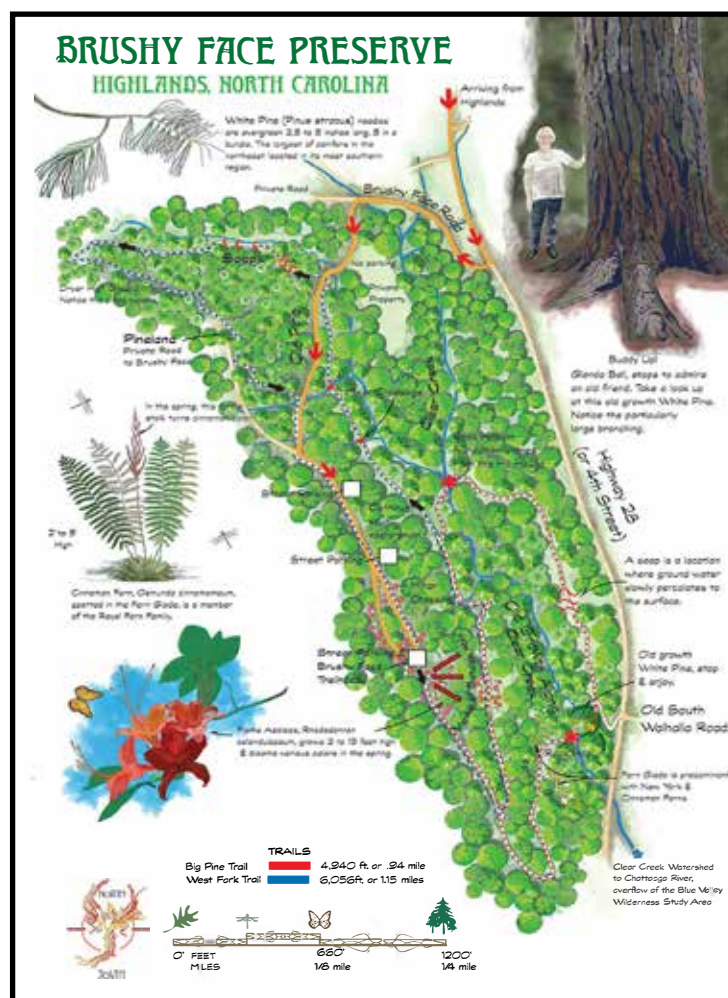
• See **BRUSHY FACE** page 8

Commissioners begin reviewing Smart Cities Project Proposals

At a special called meeting Tuesday night, Highlands Town Board began the process of going over three bids submitted by three companies for the completion and operation of its Smart Cities Project (broadband highway).

The town took out a 15-year loan of \$4.6 million – a total of \$6 million with interest – to build the broadband highway which will enable providers to service any home or business in town.

• See **PROPOSALS** page 10



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Operator for broadband highway in the works

Bids have been opened for the lease and operation of the Highlands fiber optic network which is in the final stages of construction. The town received complete bids from NC Broadband Group, BalsamWest and Hotwire.

The next step will be to select the best bid and move forward with developing and signing a 25 year contract. The board started this process last Tuesday with a special meeting to review the bids. The process of selecting an operator will continue without delay. This selection process will also be on the agenda of the November board meeting. I anticipate additional special meetings to address contract issues.

The town has been working to build a fiber optic network for over five years. This initiative is called the Highlands Smart Cities Project. With fiber to the home (FTTH), this community will be in a strategic position for the future. Frankly, WNC communities are continuing to struggle with full broadband access. This project is a smart



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

city project in that residents, businesses and the town will eventually be able to monitor and manage utilities like water and electric. The town electric and water systems will be enhanced by this monitoring system, and residents will have similar options within their homes.

I believe there are several issues to be considered in selecting the private provider. First, revenues from the lease need to pay back the investment that the town has made in constructing the network. Second, the services need to be reliable and include various options for customers. When the town started the project five years ago the goal was to have an open network. Consequently, we attempted, unsuccessfully, to do a 10-year lease with Wide Open Networks. Since that time I have come to realize that almost any network that provides ample broadband is an open network for consumers. For instance, there are many options available right now for streaming TV channels. For customers, changing TV streaming service is just a click away on the internet. Finally, I hope we can find a network operator that will be a good community partner by providing services that promote community interaction and engagement.

We anticipate the network being completed by the end of the year. Rainstorms have slowed work down. Currently, the contractor is doing the tedious task of fusing the glass fiber together to unify the network. The contractual agreement for the provider may take about as long to complete. Once the contract is signed the company will have to begin staging and setup an office. That process may take as long as three months, so new customers will follow sometime in the first or second quarters of the new year.

On another note, road paving projects funded for this year's budget got underway this week. It should take a week or two to complete the paving. The contractor has as many as ten trucks delivering the asphalt needed for paving a road. The paving should move rather fast, barring no rain and storm events.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 5-Nov	Fri, 6-Nov	Sat, 7-Nov	Sun, 8-Nov
61°F 38°F	64°F 43°F	63°F 52°F	66°F 50°F
Partly sunny	Partly sunny and beautiful	Rather cloudy	Mostly cloudy and mild
RealFeel® High: 67 Low: 38°	RealFeel® High: 69 Low: 42°	RealFeel® High: 66 Low: 49°	RealFeel® High: 65 Low: 52

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

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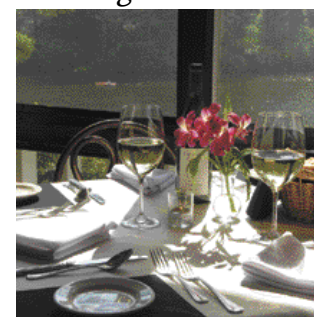
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• OBITUARIES •

Mary Lou Dendy

Mary Lou Dendy passed away on Thursday October 29th, 2020, two days before her 93rd birthday. Born in Michigan in 1927, she moved with her family to South

Carolina and spent much of her youth at the John de la Howe School, to which she was devoted later in life.

She married Lewis "Preacher" Dendy in 1947 and they

lived for 70 years in Highlands, NC on a hillside in the house they built together.

Mary Lou is survived by her three children, Robert Dendy of Highlands, Dorothy Dendy Smith of Black Mountain, and Barbara Dendy of Winston-Salem; her four grandchildren, Eric Smith and his spouse Jessa Decker-Smith of Denver, Jeffery Smith of Asheville, Natalie Dendy of Franklin, and Michelle Pendergrass and her spouse Travis of Franklin; and four great-grandchildren, Taylor, Eli, Amos, and Hazel. She was known for a while as "Grandma Lou," but when Natalie was small she couldn't say both words and instead said "Moo," and from that point onward she was known to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as Moo.

Mary Lou was a renowned confectioner and canner, sought out for her jams, jellies, and pickles. She and Lewis farmed their land to grow cucumbers, garlic, apples, beans, and many other fruits and vegetables, and she also gathered wild strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries to make into condiments. She was a quilter, making prize-winning quilts and keeping her family supplied with warmth in winters. She was a devoted member of the Satulah Club in Highlands, and she was an avid hiker and adventurer, and along with her husband she was a collector of gems, rocks, and minerals, as well as antique glass and other curiosities that she excavated herself. She was a self-taught expert in the flora of the Highlands Plateau and knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the native peoples of southern Appalachia.

Mary Lou gave countless hours at Fibber Magee's Closet in Highlands, a non-profit resale store. A gardener to the end, she was tireless in tending the earth, and she was known for wrangling huge stones into borders and walls for her garden plots and doing so well into her 90s. She was a patron and friend of many animals both wild and domestic; she adopted and cared for numerous cats, and faithfully fed the crows, foxes, jays, sparrows, raccoons, deer, and other animals that visited her back yard. She was an accomplished whistler. Fiercely independent and more than a little stubborn, Mary Lou lived out her values and her interests, giving herself and her time to the things that were important to her.

Mary Lou attended several Highlands churches over the years, including Shortoff Baptist church both early and late in life. A memorial service is planned for the summer of 2021. Memorials may be made to the John de la Howe School Foundation at 192 Gettys Road, McCormick South Carolina 29835.

•See OBITUARIES page 7

• HIGHLANDS DINING •



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...CENTER continued from page 1

the economy, and the education system has shed light on the need for additional training and access to jobs with fair pay to support the marginalized families in our communities. We envision this bi-lingual service to provide education and training focused on job-readiness, job retention, and financial literacy. This will be achieved through committed partnerships with regional entities including the Emergency Council, Literacy and Learning Center, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Hudson Library, NC Works and Southwestern Community College,” said Taylor Ashley, executive director of the IFC.

Grants to develop and launch the program have been made available by Cullasaja Women’s Outreach, Nantahala Health Foundation and Regions Bank. “We are grateful for these three generous gifts. They will

allow the IFC to develop this program to meet the employment needs of area business owners: retail operators, hospitality, golf and leisure organizations, and area construction and landscape companies while helping the people in our area who need and want to work,” said David Moore, chairman of the IFC.

If you are a business leader in the area, please participate in either of two virtual focus groups to be held via Zoom on Thursday, November 12th at 12 Noon and Tuesday, November 17th at 5:30PM.

To sign up for this virtual meeting contact taylor@internationalfriendshipcenter.org.

“We want to understand from our business leaders the recruitment and retention challenges they face as well as any immediate skills and/or training needs they can identify,” stated Kaye McHan, CEO/president Highland Chamber of Commerce.

This innovative and transformative program aims to expand upon the current social and food services offered by the IFC to provide a path for our clients and their families toward a more secure, healthy, and fulfilling life.

Programs and services, partners and outcomes for the Career and Professional Development Center are listed below.

Programs & Services

- Job Search Skills
- Mentoring & Coaching
- Resume Critiques
- Mock Interviews
- Job Database
- Workshops
- Certifications
- Job Fair
- Financial Literacy

Partners

- Emergency Council
- Highlands Chamber of Commerce
- Literacy and Learning Center
- Hudson Library
- NC Works
- Southwestern Community College

Outcomes

- Growth in Income
- Job Placements
- New Skills Developed
- Certifications
- Workshop Attendance
- Increased Savings
- Decreased Debt

About International Friendship Center

Our mission is to assist people experiencing hardship and to address concerns and challenges facing immigrants in our community by fostering understanding among all people, facilitating social and human services and providing nutrition to the needy through The Highlands Food Pantry.

For more information, contact Taylor Ashley, Executive Director, International Friendship Center by email ataylor@internationalfriendshipcenter.org, or call 828-526-0859.

CATSPEAK

• PRINCESS PUDDIN’ SPEAKS •

My take on Christie the cat

I’m not sure what the big deal is about the cat in Mum’s cozy mysteries. I mean, she’s just a plain old black cat. Big deal. She may be sleek and pretty, but she can’t possibly be as stunning as I am. After all, I’m a calico, and that’s about the most special kind of cat there is. Just because Christie can talk to her pet parent in the books doesn’t mean she’s any smarter than I am. I talk to Mum all the time. Is it my fault she can’t understand me?

The truth is Christie’s personality is patterned after mine. That’s right, she’s the make-believe version of me. Mum says I’m her muse when it comes to writing Christie’s dialogue and behavior. Goodness’ knows how Mum would know what to write if it weren’t for me. So, let’s talk about all the things I do that turn up in the Dickens & Christies cozy mystery series.

First, like me, Christie has her very own desk drawer to curl up in. Mine has a purple towel tucked in the bottom of it. The only problem is that lately, Mum’s been sticking other stuff in there too—small candles and boxes of notecards. I’m pretty talented at curling into a small ball, but soon there’ll be no room for me. Based on how feisty Christie is, I can’t see her putting up with a similar encroachment on her territory.

I’m also darned particular about how my food is served, as is Christie. I require that small dabs of wet food be placed in my dish. I take a few licks and sit back until Mum takes the fork and “fluffs” my food, as I call it. The food must be centered and fluffed before I’ll deign to touch it again. If fluffing is not done to my satisfaction, I leave the food behind for Banjo. Christie leaves it for Dickens, her canine companion. Those boys love our food.

Then there are the treats. Mum keeps mine in a container in the office, and there’s a small dish on the desk where she can dole them out for me. My dish has a black and white cat



painted it. I haven’t heard of Christie having anything that special, though her treats are also dispensed in an office. Leaping on Mum’s desk and demanding my treats is a

feat I perform several times a day. I meow at Mum until she gets the message and pours some in my dish.

What happens if she doesn’t get the message? Why I get more demanding. I’ve even taken to reaching out my pretty white paw to pat Mum’s cheek until she does her job. Imagine her thinking that tapping on her keyboard or writing in her notebook is more important than feeding me. Pffft.

Like Christie, I’m also rather adept at cleaning Mum’s desk with the swipe of a paw. Not only do I clear it of pens, pencils, and paper clips, I once even knocked Alexa off—I got quite a scolding for that. Haven’t heard of Christie going that far. The other thing we two felines have in common is our sleep pattern. We both curl up in our Mums’ laps and sleep on their beds at night, and sleeping on dog beds is way better than sleeping on our own.

Don’t tell my Mum, but I think it’s kind of cool to be the inspiration for a fictional cat. There’s only one major difference between me and Christie, and that’s her special backpack. Her Mum goes on walks and Christie rides in her backpack. I’m not at all sure I want to ride in a backpack, so I’ll leave that to my made-up counterpart. And now, I need a treat or two or three, and Christie probably does too.

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 inkpenn119@gmail.com. Her mom’s cozy mysteries are available on Amazon!

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

Gary Finley



Gary Finley, 69 years old, of Highlands, NC passed away on August 2, 2020. He was born in New York, but has lived in both Franklin and Highlands for the past 39 years and he loved these mountains.

He was an Air Force Veteran and was proud to serve his country. He had a love for music and woodworking. He played the trumpet and banjo from a very young age and won many awards. Many of the wooden signs in the area were freehand carved by him, using a router and chisels. He also hand-carved beautiful fireplace mantels, clocks, lamps. He also built furniture and custom-made cabinets. He hand carved all scenery and people and built miniatures of a blacksmith shop, woodcarvers shop, and old jail. He wanted to re-create a whole 1800s town but did not get time to finish it.

He helped promote Art and Craft shows in the area for many years. He donated many of his carvings and crafts to raise money for several local charities. He was raised by his biological parents until he was 3 years old and then in an orphanage and foster homes until he was 8. He was adopted

by Joseph and Lorraine Finley and grew up on their 100-acre farm in New York. His father, Joe, retired as a New York State Assemblyman and owned a second home in Highlands which is how Gary came to live in this area.

He made many friends throughout his life, had a very outgoing personality and loved talking about politics. He will always be missed by his family, who loved him dearly. His family knows

that his faith in God was stronger than anyone they have ever known and are sure his childhood had plenty to do with that. His family knows he is with his Father in Heaven now.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Joseph Finley, his mother Lorraine Finley, his sister Sandy Richards and his half-sister Rebecca Milliman. He is survived by his wife of 42 years Kathie Finley, his oldest son Erik Finley and wife Dedy, his daughter Justyne Reese and husband Aaron, his youngest son Jesse Finley and wife Jennifer, his brother Don Kunes, his sister Sharon Day, his adopted brother Lee Finley, and 7 grandchildren.

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Winter hours begin at MC convenience centers and the Highlands Transfer Station

MC Solid Waste Dept. began its winter hours at its nine convenience centers Monday to coincide with daylight savings time.

All centers will close at 5:30p each day except for regularly scheduled closing times that are earlier like on Sunday.

The Highlands Transfer Station on Rich Gap road will be closed every other Saturday beginning Saturday, Nov. 14.

For more information, call the Highlands Transfer Station at 828-526-2073.



Summit Charter School campus in Cashiers

Enrollment for Summit Charter K-12 for '21-'22 school year is now open

Summit Charter School is now enrolling K-12 for the 2021-22 school year!

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Summit is a tuition-free public charter school in Cashiers that engages students in learning experiences that stimulate discovery, inspire excellence, and nurture a positive influence in an ever-changing world. Summit's primary goals are to graduate students who are academically prepared, engaged in the community, healthy, and strong in character.

Tours will also include the school's

new high school building as well as the Summit Center, which features a gym and classrooms for music and art education.

Summit's current enrollment includes students from Jackson County, Macon County, Transylvania County, and Haywood County. Learn more about the school's individualized education and place-based programs at www.summitschool.org or on Tuesday, November 10 at 4P.M.

For more information or to RSVP, please call 828-743-5755 or email kpusch@summitschool.org. All Open House festivities will follow strict health and safety measures.

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

...BRUSHY FACE continued from page 1

the world's oldest mountains, located on the Atlantic Ocean side of the eastern continental divide, Brushy Face Preserve is home to diverse flora and fauna including old growth forest, which contain some trees estimated to be over 200 years old.

Hikers can enjoy this moderate trail which offers a gentle grade, two creek crossings via a rock hop, a lush fern glade and forest understory largely populated with flame azaleas.

The preserve is only about a 10 minute drive from downtown Highlands but it feels like you are secluded in your own private forest oasis. Oh, and did we mention the plentiful parking?

The best part about this fabulous place is that it will be conserved forever thanks to

a collection of families who chose to protect it. In 2001, the Brushy Face Mountain Consortium was formed and 75 acres were given to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust in 2015 to be conserved in perpetuity! Since taking ownership, HCLT's AmeriCorps-led volunteers have built the entire trail by hand.

There has never been a better time or place to socially distance while connecting with your loved ones and with nature.

During a time when self-care is so important, we hope you will help us maximize our natural treasures for the benefit of all. To learn how you can contribute, contact julie.hitrust@earthlink.net. To learn more about our mission to conserve our valuable natural resources for all generations visit www.hicashlt.org.

• A LETTER TO MAYOR TAYLOR •

Mayor, I would like to remind you and the Town Board that I suggested in February that we take proposals to operate the Fiber Project rather than contract with Wide Open.

At the March 5 meeting I offered several comments and was stopped when I got to page 8 of the 37- page contract that I was sent the night before the meeting. I was even told that I had not come prepared. I believe the staff now agrees with me the default section of the contract with Wide Open was not in the best interest of the Town. And, I would think everyone is now glad we took proposals.

At our April 16 meeting, there was an update from the IT/ Communications Committee. The Minutes read, "Wide Open Network came back with significantly different Contract and with the help of MIS/GIS Director Matt

Shuler and Attorney Jim Baller Wide Open was informed there was no Contract. Commissioner Patterson continued that there were several companies interested so an RFP should be ready to go out by next months meeting".

I asked our Town Manager if I could read the letter from Wide Open and he said no. I appealed to the Mayor and he agreed to let me read it but not have a copy. I then asked to read the Broadband file and the Town Manager refused so I appealed to the Town Attorney. After Months, I was allowed to read the file. I have retained my own attorney and made a request to the Town Manager for more information including the contract from Wide Open is referred to in our April 16 Minutes. The Town manager told me Friday that there is no such contract.

I can't get a straight answer from the Town Manager how

much we have spent on this project or how much we are losing on Altitude. He prefers to call it an investment.

At our meeting on June 18, I made several comments on the RFP and only one was accepted. Then we had to redo the RFP. So, here we are 8 months after I suggested we take proposals.

I do appreciate those of you who listened to my comments in March and Tuesday tonight.

After reading what I have been provided so far, which specifically does not include a business plan or financial projections which the Town Manager will not allow me to read, these are my comments on the RFP's.

I think we need to put everything on the table and make a good decision. Mayor, we all need to reread and make public the let-

• See LETTER page 17



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...PROPOSALS continued from page 1

On Monday Oct. 26, the town received three proposals in response to its Smart Cities Project RFP. All proposals were deemed responsive.

The first round of bids received about two months ago were not accepted because the scenarios were based on profit-sharing with the town, something MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler said is not allowed by the state.

"The first set of bids couldn't count as responsive bids because the providers proposed profit sharing – giving the town a percentage of their revenue -- and we are not allowed to do that because the town isn't allowed to sell broadband and if it was profit-sharing, the state would still consider us selling broadband," he said.

The second set of bids received were from NC Broadband Group, BalsamWest and Hotwire. They differ from each other con-

cerning services to the public, leasing options to the town, whether they are "open" or whether they offer symmetric or asymmetric options.

Only NC Broadband proposed an open network whereas BalsamWest and Hotwire did not.

An Open Network concept is appropriate for both fiber and WiFi access networks, especially where exclusivity cannot be allowed. The shared maintenance costs make it appropriate for rural areas, where traditional Internet service providers (ISP) may be reluctant to provide a service. Open access networks are also viewed as a feasible way of deploying next-generation broadband networks in low population density areas where service providers cannot obtain a sufficient return on investment to cover the high costs.

Ryan Sherby with BalsamWest and Jonathan Bullock said they are single-provider bidders.

"We are a market demand service and we want to offer a long-term sustainable plan for the town that is good for us, and it, too," Bullock said.

He also said Hotwire offers asymmetric internet connections not symmetric internet connections.

A symmetric internet connection means that the data speed and file transfer rate is the same in both directions. That is, the connection provides the same download and upload speeds, at the same time.

An asymmetric internet connection means that the data speed and file transfer rate on the network is different in each direction curtailed for the user's needs – something Hotwire proposes.

North Carolina Broadband Group is an affiliate of ITC Holding Company. ITC has been in business for over 120 years and has successfully managed billions of dollars in telecommunications assets including current investments in the telecommunications industry. ITC has long standing relationships with many financial institutions and institutional investors.

It is an "open network" and would offer access to the network to other providers interested in bringing such services to the community.

Balsamwest has the backing of its owners, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and Drake Enterprises.

The initial deployment connected Drake Enterprises, EBCI, 70 rural schools, universities and community colleges through a variety of foundation and public partnerships.

Today Balsamwest has grown beyond serving its owners and the educational institutions of the region and now serves hospitals, regional lending institutions, governments (state, county and local), other competitive local exchange carriers cable TV providers, cellular towers, wireless internet service providers, small businesses and expanded into fiber to home residential customers as of May 2019.

Hotwire has 20 years of experience in the construction and delivery of fiber-based communications services – from the start, they partnered with local communities to bring service to their residents and businesses. Pioneering early public/private partnership for ubiquitous fiber deployment and smart city applications,

Hotwire has successfully worked with a number of cities to deploy fiber-based broadband to residential, government and commercial customers – including the City of Salisbury, NC, City of Plantation, FL and City of Miami Beach, FL.

An abbreviated summary of each proposal presented to the Town Board follows:

North Carolina Broadband Group

- Will begin connecting customers within 90 days of contract adoption;
- Will build remaining 13% Fall 2021;
- Services Internet up to 1Gbps, Plan to have VoIP phone service;
- Will offer Town \$3,650,000 over 25 years;
- Will offer an Open Net-

work.

BalsamWest

- Will begin connecting customers in 6 months after contract adoption;
- Good Faith Effort to build out 17%;
- Services: Internet Up to 1 Gbps (residential), Voice, Transport, Data Center Services;
- Will offer Town \$5,390,000 over 25 years.

Hotwire

- Will begin connecting customers 3 months after connection of upstream bandwidth;
- Will build underground in 3 years with customer commitment;
- Services Offered: Internet Up to 10 (residential) Gbps, Voice, Television, Home Automation, Home Security;
- Will offer Town \$10,200,000 over 25 years.

Commissioner Marc Hehn has been opposed to the broadband highway from the start.

"I don't think the town should spend money to compete with the companies now available in town," he said Tuesday night.

But it's the town's stance that the existing companies either don't want to or aren't capable of supplying the kind of fire power that will propel Highlands' remote possibilities into the future – which is a major component of its economic plan.

Hehn had several requests prior to any serious contract negotiations taking place – interview each bidder, to have the town's local, state and federal lawyers in on the interviews, to see the bidders' financials, to ensure they are properly insured and to enlist the help of an anti-trust lawyer to make sure the town isn't stepping on local providers' toes.

He also said he wanted to make sure each bidder was capable of taking on the project.

"We don't want them to default along the way and leave us hanging," he said.

All the commissioners agreed to Hehn's suggestions.

Town Attorney JK Coward

• See PROPSALS page 11

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...PROPOSALS continued from page 10

said getting other lawyers involved was a good thing "because these will be very involved contracts."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said to make sure all the bids are apples to apples, she wants the town to ask them all the same questions.

Commissioners envision an hour-long interview with each bidder with all parties present – likely virtual – possibly as early as next week.

Based on the outcome of the interviews and input from various lawyers, the town will then enter into contractual agreements which will likely take some hashing over.

Meanwhile, Mayor Taylor said the town anticipates the physical network being completed by the end of the year. Rainstorms have slowed work down.

"Currently, the contractor is doing the tedious task of fusing the glass fiber together to unify the network," he said.

He said the contractual agreement for the provider may take about as long to complete.

"Once the contract is signed the company will have to begin staging and setup an office. That process may take as long as three months, so new customers will follow sometime in the first or second quarters of the new year," he said.

– Kim Lewicki

Local Organizers file application for new bank charter in Highlands – Pending Regulatory Approvals –



Robbie Roberts

Richard "Tony" Potts, a long time Highlands banker, and local investor Robby Roberts, announced that they, along with several other organizers, has filed an application with the North Carolina Office of the Commissioner of Banks and the FDIC to charter a new local bank in Highlands, North Carolina. The proposed name is Highlands Banking Company.

According to Roberts, they anticipate opening in early April of 2021, pending meeting equity requirements and final regulatory approvals. "We are excited about starting a local bank in Highlands that is focused on the community and the surrounding Highlands area," Roberts stated.



Tony Potts

Potts also commented "We feel there is a need for a bank that is locally owned and managed in Highlands. We plan to meet that need with responsive personal service, local decision making, and innovative technology."

The proposed management team includes Roberts as Chairman and CEO, Potts as President, Susan Gibbs, Chief Operating Officer, and Deanna Mote, Chief Financial Officer. Other organizers and proposed board members include Ted Gammill, James Tate, and Jimmy Garner.

For more information, go to the website www.highlandsgroupnc.com.

...ELECTION continued from page 1

President Donald Trump and Vice President Joe Biden from claiming victory in North Carolina, a state Trump definitively won in 2016.

Macon County was above the state voter turnout, with 76.39 percent of the county's 27,162 registered casting their ballots. That leaves just around 7,000 voters in the county who did not vote this election, surpassing the previous county turnout record of 68 percent by nearly 10 percent.

The number of voters participating in the 2020 election is expected to rise slightly over the next week or so, as mail-in ballots post marked by Tuesday, November 2, will be counted toward election totals. Those mail-in ballots will be crucial in determining close races and might even be the deciding factor in which Presidential candidate wins the Electoral College votes for the state.

Despite uncertainty on the National level, races closer to home were wholly de-

cided, with no room to question the winner.

Kevin Corbin, who decided to run for the Senate after two terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives, beat out Democratic challenger Victoria Fox with 73,467 votes to 36,759.

"My campaign is very appreciative to have all seven counties," said Corbin. "I am very excited to be able to serve in the North Carolina Senate and continue representing Western North Carolina."

Karl Gillespie, who left his seat on the Macon County Board of Commissioners to run for North Carolina's District 120 seat on the House of Representatives secured his seat with a comfortable 34,745 votes to Democrat challenger Susan Landis' 12,098.

Macon County Republican Josh Young secured his seat on the board of commissioners with 14,709 votes to Democratic challenger Betty Cloer Wallace's 5,339.

The Franklin area seat of the Board of

Education featured three candidates, with incumbent Jim Breedlove comfortably winning re-election for what he says will be his last term.

"I am deeply appreciative and very humbled by the level of support shown to me by the many voters in our community," said Breedlove. "I will stand by my ongoing pledge and promise to always be guided by the principle of making decisions that are in the best interest of the students. I value and welcome your comments and suggestions both now and in the future as we move forward together in strengthening education in Macon County."

Both the Highlands and Nantahala seats on the board of education were also up for election. With no challenger, incumbent Melissa Evans was re-elected for Nantahala and newcomer Hillary Wilkes won for Highlands, replacing Stephanie McCall, who did not seek re-election.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Oak Lane Greenway trail and bridge moved due to property encroachment



From left: Tom Shaffner, Steve Cathcart, Jim Ward, Andy Chmar, Oliver Young, Eric Pierson, Heather Young, Drew Weigner, and Jim Chance. Not shown: Sonya Carpenter and Ran Shaffner.

This photo exemplifies the fact that the Highlands Plateau Greenway has moved the bridge at the entrance to the Oak Lane Trail downstream to take it off private property. The rest of the trail there will be completed on future work days with apologies for any inconvenience until then.

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Home Inspectors: Pros and Cons

The mass exodus of buyers wanting to live in our magical little town continues! We have never been this busy – even before 2008. The dynamics in our area are also changing. Younger people have realized they can work from home and older adults feel safer in a less dense area, with many moving here full time. We welcome them all! We have gone from a buyers' market where the average days on market were over 400 to a sellers' market with average days of 4! This has created chaos for brokers, appraisers, attorneys, mortgage lenders, surveyors, albeit good. Just trying to keep up is a challenge for all!



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Pat Allen Realty Group
Cell: 828-200-9179

Once an offer is accepted our work begins. We go into due diligence, which is an investigative period, and the first step is a home inspection. There are two sides to an inspection. There will always be issues that arise and many resulting from second-home owners not being here to maintain their home. We are definitely living in a rain forest with moisture and humidity loved by various molds and mildew. If heat and air and not allowed to circulate you will find this underneath the house, in the attic, and on the furnishings. Moisture comes up from underneath into the hardwood floors causing them to buckle. Gutters get clogged easily and water pours straight down into the foundation and over time causes major issues with water getting in the crawlspace. Common mold and mildew can be mitigated by encapsulating the crawl space with heavy plastic covering the floor and walls and installing a commercial grade dehumidifier.

Inspectors find so many issues and homeowners are shocked to learn that there are many issues that need attention. Decayed wood is commonly found due to excess moisture as well as rotted deck posts. There has never been a better time to sell than the present but you need to be open to the results of an inspection. Buyers want to know the house will be in good shape when they move in. A credit can be given to allow the buyers to get their own repairmen or

the buyers can ask that it be done before closing.

The other side of an inspection and the one I don't agree with is the terms: "could lead to," or "appliances are at the end of their life," or "the roof is outliving its age."

My response to this is: Is it working now? Does the dishwasher clean the dishes? Is the roof leaking? What is the current status? This is where a good broker comes in. We can negotiate not only the sales price but repair requests that are fair to both parties.

Thanksgiving is approaching and we, at Pat Allen Realty Group, want you to know that we are thankful to all who have given us our best year ever! We are thankful to live in a magical place with wonderful people who share our desire to give to others less fortunate. We give thanks to the restaurant workers who feed and serve us, plumbers who work in the freezing weather and come when we panic, electricians who light up our homes, linemen who work in the worst conditions to restore power, first-responders who put our lives above theirs, our humane society who protects and rescues precious dogs and cats, and non-profits who work hard to make sure families are fed, clothed, and educated.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families and may we soon be thankful that Covid is over.

• Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and certified in Resort and Second home properties. Her firm was selected as a Leading Real Estate Company of the World and is affiliated with Luxury Portfolio International. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau. Visit her on the web at Pat Allen Realty Group.com, call 828-526-8784, or 828-200-9179. The office is conveniently located at 295 Dillard Road with a second location at 5121 Cashiers Road at the entrance to Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.

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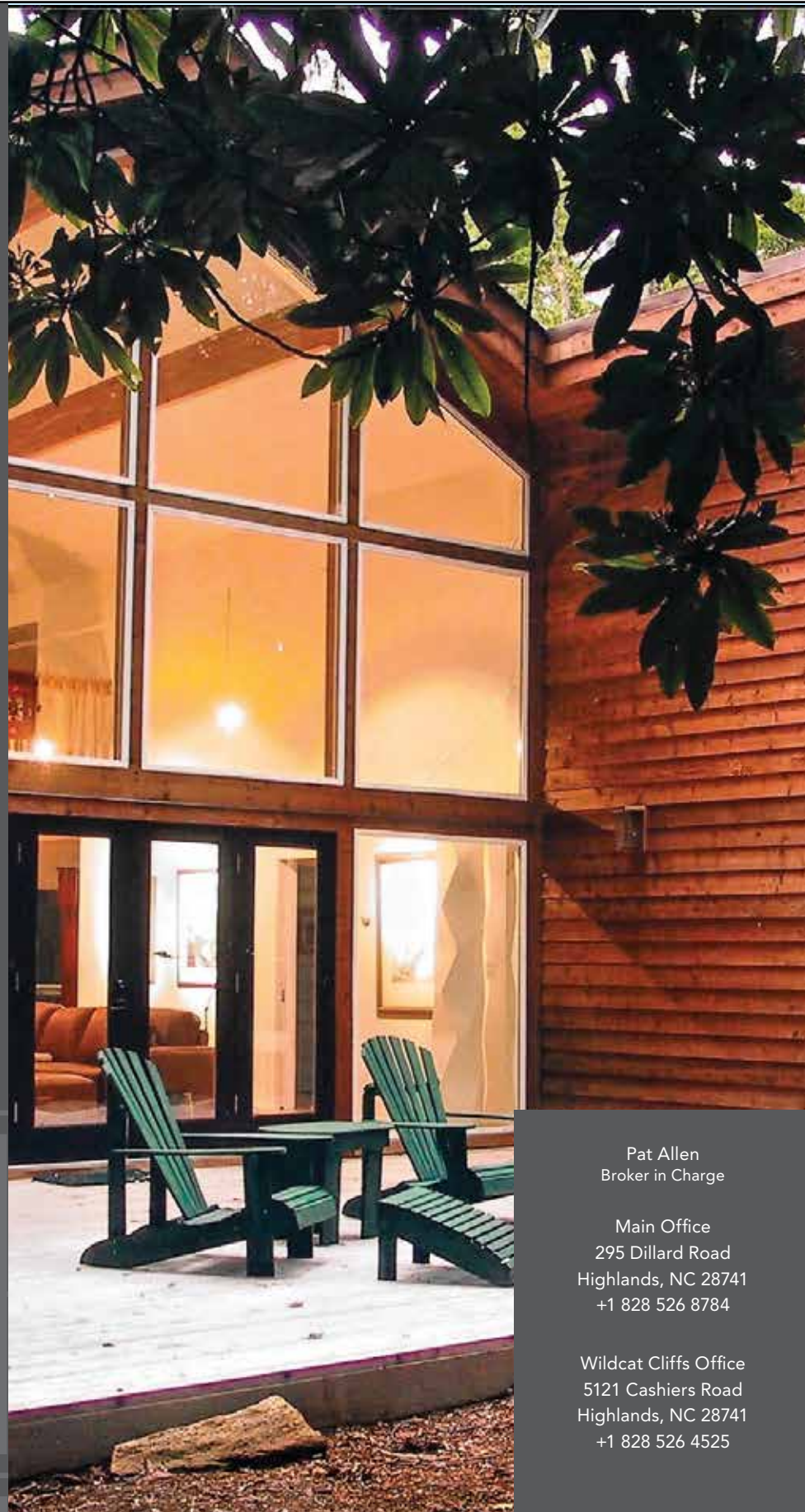
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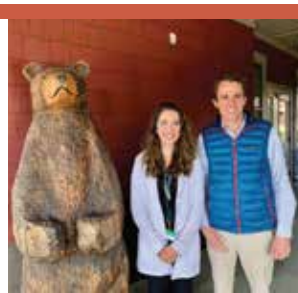
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• THE PAST & THE PRESENT •

Remember Our Veterans

As this nation we just dealt with perhaps the most important election in our lifetime while struggling with how we can live with an equally epochal pandemic, but don't ignore what comes just afterward, namely Veteran's day.

It seems probable that we'll still be counting votes, crying fraud and foul, suing and threatening each other, and trying to find some common ground in well into November 11th. Yet don't forget those who served, fought, and died to allow us to quarrel, vote, and freely hate each other in this messy democracy that is America. You might also want to recall that, from November 3rd to the 11th, perhaps even more than an obscenely typical number of 140 veterans will commit suicide because of increasing anxieties now roiling our society.

A lot of statistical and anecdotal evidence suggests that, as an issue, patriotism has become as polarized, divisive, and as politicized as the Amy Coney Barrett nomination to the Supreme Court. It shouldn't be.

Then, too, after almost 19 years of endless warfare, a weariness and wariness has infected mainstream patriotism. It appears not only to have declined overall but also changed.

Fourth of July parades seem less well attended and enthusiastic if held at all, fewer flowers sprout up on veterans tombstones in many cemeteries, and not as many trucks and SUVs display American flags and, tellingly, Marine symbols.

Mark Adams, a veteran, noted that today people seldom buy you a drink for your service as they did after 9/11, and, when they do, "they're not buying it for you. They're



Milton Ready

buying it for the man that's not there," typically the ghosts of those who served in past wars thought more noble. And that's crucial.

Who fights for America anymore? With no draft, a pernicious global recession, and an increasingly diverse society, we now have a professional army drawn largely from a lower class, a military that distances itself from the interlocking of war and society through a common cause like fighting Nazis or

Communists.

The violence of our wars is now hidden behind suburban niceties, obscured in poverty, and largely untold in poems, songs, prose, and paintings.

Not surprisingly, our military has become an increasingly privatized force run by career professional officers, an enterprise paid for by career politicians in congress and used as a blunt instrument later to be discarded and abandoned. We're just as willing to use our armed forces to break up riots in our nation's capital or cities as rescue an American held captive by ISIS. Moreover, returning veterans also have played a significant role in the increasing militarization of police and law enforcement and their estrangement from mainstream society. We need to bind our veterans to us more closely.

This November 11th remember that our 18 million veterans are not losers but neighbors, not suckers but sons and daughters, not the detritus of war or society but an integral part, and that present and future veterans probably have a greater stake in this election than any of us. Their very lives may depend upon it.

MC Public Health extends flu clinic

Macon County Public Health is extending its flu clinic through part of November. As part of the original fund that was allotted for COVID-19 emergency response, the county commissioners approved funding that will help to increase the coverage of citizens vaccinated against the seasonal flu by covering the cost of influenza (flu) vaccines for Macon County residents without insurance.

The flu shot clinics will be from 2-5pm on the following dates: Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 Monday, November 9th, 2020 Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

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Tropical Storm Zeta downs trees and knocks out power last week

By Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

Tropical Storm Zeta was downgraded from a category 2 hurricane to a tropical storm before it slammed into the mountains on Oct. 29, but with it came strong winds and heavy rainfall that knocked out power for hundreds in Highlands and closed roads throughout the Plateau.

Highlands Public Works Director Lamar Nix said the Town received one call for assistance at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28 and things stayed quiet until about 4 a.m. From that point on it was consistent calls for downed trees, power outages, and blocked roads.

"We've been at it all day since about 4 this morning," said Nix. "We had one tree just lean on a line

on Highway 106 and it knocked out half the town for a short time around midmorning. But trees and lines were down all over. I'd say we had about 10-15% of customers with lengthy outages. That's maybe a couple hundred people."

Heavy rainfall flooded roads including 5th Street, Horse Cove Road, and Leonard Road.

"All the areas that flooded are in a floodplain and are prone to flooding, but there's not much you can do except wait for the water to go down," said Nix. "Any time you get one of these big storms, you know it's going to happen, you just don't know how much."

Nix added that he believed this was the first time 5th Street has flooded since culverts were installed as part of a Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project in 2012.

"The culvert was doing its job, it was just too much water too quick for the culvert to handle it," said Nix.

Nix said preparation is key when a storm like Zeta is on its way, particularly having extra power line equipment such as poles, transformers, and connectors.

"You have to be thoroughly supplied," said Nix. "Highlands is remote, and if you don't have something you need, it will be too far to go get it. You need to have this stuff on hand."

The sun was shining by late afternoon on Thursday, most of the flooding had dispersed, and the roads had been cleared.



Restoring power after a storm in Highlands involves maneuvering downed trees and limbs before getting to the heart of the problem.

These shots were taken at the end of 5th street.

Upper Left, a member of the Highlands electric crew is reconnecting the power a resident's home.

Below, the Highlands electric crew had to use a back hoe to move a tree out of the driveway of a residence before they could get to a power pole to restore power.



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• LIFE ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

Memorial Day and the Poppy Red (A story in honor of Veterans)

The “Poppy Red” is a flower that grows wild in the fields of Belgium. The “Poppy Red” was made famous by a poem written in 1915 called “Flanders Fields” written by a young Colonel, John McCrae, a medical doctor in the Canadian Army.



Kenny Youmans

It was written immediately after a horrible 17 all-day and all-night battle in which most of the young Canadian soldiers were killed. The setting was Flanders Fields, Belgium, where wild poppies grew.

In 1918, a young American girl, Moina Michael, from Good Hope, GA, wrote a poem in response to “Flanders Fields.” Her poem went like this;

“We too honor the Poppy Red;

It grows in a field where valor led;

It seems to signal to the sky,
That the blood of heroes will never die.”

This young lady, was the first person to wear a “Poppy Red” on Memorial Day. She got her friends to wear a “Poppy Red” on Memorial Day and soon they started selling “Poppy Reds” to raise money for the disabled veterans. At one time there were millions of Americans wearing a “Poppy Red” on Memorial Day.

In 1923, the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) started selling “Poppy Reds” to raise money for the disabled veterans of World War I. Millions of dollars was raised for the rehabilitation and employment of disabled servicemen in honor of Memorial Day.

The “Poppy Red” also became popular in parts of Europe. There was a lady visiting from France who was so

impressed, she went back home and soon France started selling “Poppy Reds” to raise money for the widows and orphans of World War I in honor of their Memorial Day.

In 1948, the U.S. Post Office had a first-class stamp in of honor Moina Michael for what she did for Memorial Day in America.

Some of you may remember the “Poppy Red.” I know many of your parents and grandparents knew all about the “Poppy Red.” My mother always wore a “Poppy Red” on Memorial Day.

Note of Interest

Molina Belle Michael was born in Good Hope, GA, August 15, 1869.

Her father, John Marion Michael, fought for the South in The Civil War.

Her uncle on her father’s side, General Francis Marion, fought in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). He was known as the ‘Swamp Fox.’

On her mother’s side, her uncle, John Wise, was governor of Virginia.

Moina Michael was a professor at The University of Georgia. She received a number of awards.

In 1944, a liberty ship in World War II was named SS Moina Michael in her honor.

In 1969, the Georgia General Assembly named a section of U.S. Highway 78 the “Moina Michael Highway.”

In 1999, she was named to the Georgia Women Achievement Hall of Fame.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

...LETTER continued from page 9

ter from Wide Open that says why they were not interested in operating the system we built and they planned. If you will recall, Wide Open says they were never informed that Northland was upgrading their system to 1G. I have known since September, 2017 that Northland was upgrading their system and Highlands Cable also offers 1G. The Town Manager told me on Friday that Balsam West offered to upgrade their service to 1G. I don’t understand why we are competing with private businesses. We know that the entire Town does not have sanitary sewer service, the water system has \$35M Capital Improvements Plan and we are making our citizens purchase their own roll cart garbage cans.

Since reading our Broadband file, I found a note in the file that reads “there would be less risk if we treat this as a sale.” I think the first thing we need to do is hire an Anti-Trust Lawyer that will advise if the Town has any exposure from the five companies in Highlands have offer broadband service. Unfortunately, I have had to defend an Anti-Trust claim in the past and let me tell you be prepared to be named personally.

I spoke to the Town Manager and there is a provision in our Note with Truist Bank that reads the interest rate will be renegotiated if their interest income becomes taxable. In my work experience, as a Public Utility Manager, I had to be concerned whenever a large industry was one of our ma-

for users as there is an IRS Rule that triggers the designation of Tax Exempt Bank Notes and Bonds. We need to clarify if the interest rate will change.

I think we need to interview and rank the proposals while we are waiting on this research.

We need to ask all of the proposers for financials demonstrating they have the ability to do build out the system and install drops.

We need to be prepared at the interviews to discuss our insurance requirements and their ability to obtain a Performance Bond.

**Marc Hehn,
Commissioner
Town of Highlands**



Highlands Community Plan Survey & Virtual Meeting

The Town is updating the Community Plan!
We want to hear about your priorities for the future both in and around Highlands. Your input is crucial for the creation of a successful plan, which will serve as a policy guide for the Town's future decisions, investments, and initiatives.

Virtual Workshop

Save the Date!

November 5th 5:30-6:30

Connection info will be on website

More information available and public survey
available at
[www.highlandscommunityplan.com/
get-involved](http://www.highlandscommunityplan.com/get-involved)




Use this code to take the
community survey, or visit the
website to the left.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Post-Election Fatigue?

Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

It is the morn of election day 2020 and I am asking myself some questions. Actually, I am processing what we all have just been through. What an unusual time in an unusual year under unusual circumstances.

Who isn't tired, or tired of something right now? Sources of physical, emotional, cultural and political fatigue abound throughout our land. We deserve a break. Watching paint dry even seems appetizing to me right now. I even thought about setting up a deer stand this week, not to hunt anything but to just sit still and listen to the sounds of "silence". I celebrate those who passionately engaged in the election process, but I am also ready for different commercials and the absence of campaign signs.

President Abraham Lincoln was really on to something when he officially declared a day of Thanksgiving just a few weeks after our elections. This Thanksgiving has the potential to be incredibly medicinal if we make it more than we ever have before. It would not do this nation any harm to count our blessings right now rather than accentuate our differences. So, along those lines, I offer to you some things to be thankful for that may have slipped our minds during the insanity that is 2020. Perhaps you should add a few of your own?

1. We are a nation with free speech and free elections. There are some parts of the world void of both such freedoms.
2. We are a nation of diversity and that can make life really interesting. Our diversity doesn't have to pit us against one another, it can be celebrated.
3. You are breathing right now, when many others are really struggling to do so.
4. We live on a plateau on which many people long to live. Our houses sell fast, our surroundings are beautiful and the people here are hearty, hospitable and helpful.
5. Many among us have the means to help others who are struggling emotionally, financially, spiritually and physically and we can be a blessing to people in deep pain.
6. There is a God who loves you with an everlasting love, whether we realize it or not. He wants a friendship with you even today.
7. College football wasn't cancelled.
8. It rains here. Ok, it rains – big time. But, in some parts of the world there is a drought right now.
9. Regardless of the results of our elections, God is still on His throne and He is a Sovereign King.
10. We are not at war. (at least with an outside force)

•See SPIRITUALLY page 19

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY 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.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Wes Sharpe, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Early Service; 11a Worship Service;

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

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

Sundays: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; 9:45am (masks required) Early Worship Service; 11:15am (masks optional)

Worship Service; Sundays 10:45am-Children's Program,

Sunday Youth-4:30pm – 6:30pm Dinner

provided COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447,

Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Sunday Services Live-Stream at 10:30 a.m.,

Morning Prayer Weekdays on Facebook live at 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist at noon in the garden on Mon and Wed

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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

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.: Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening Worship, 6p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

In-Person Indoor Worship with limited seating, and an allowable capacity up to 30% pending appropriate social distancing. 9:09 and 10:50 worship

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2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30

All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Mass: Thurs. 12:10; Fri. 9am; Sun: 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Thurs. 9am, Fri., 11am; Sun. 9am

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S., Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Oct. 25 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 25

• At 2:30 a.m., officers were called about sexual battery at a residence on NC 106.

Oct. 26

• At noon, officers were call about a larceny at a construction site at N. 5th and Spruce streets where a generator valued at \$900 was taken.

Oct. 27

• At noon, officers were called to S. 4th Street regarding a civil issue with original business.

• At 3:15 p.m., officers were called about someone soliciting to procure prostitution by soliciting for an in-room massage at #1 Nails.

Oct. 28

• At 8:20 a.m., officers were called about someone communicating threats at Old Edwards Inn.

• At 11:16 p.m., officers were called about a simple assault where someone broke into a residence and grabbed the victim and threw her on the bed.

Oct. 29

• At 1 a.m., Taylor Irwin Bastienne, 62, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault on N. 5th Street. He wasn't issued a bond or a court date.

• At 3:59 p.m., Jordan David Speed, 24, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI, resisting arrest and communicating threats. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond. His

trial date is Nov. 10.

Oct. 30

• At 8 a.m., officers were called about an internet/phone scam at a residence on Old Farm Road.

Oct. 31

• At 1:59 p.m., officers were called about a theft from a residence on N. 5th Street where several items were taken from a home including money with total valued at about \$500.

• At 6 p.m., officers were called about destruction of property and someone inhaling fumes for intoxication at Highlands Inn and Lodge.

• At 6:50 p.m., Lloyd Burton Bruce, of Greenville, NC, was arrested for destruction of property at a hotel, drug equipment violations and inhaling fumes for intoxication. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond. His trial date is Nov. 25.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 27

Oct. 27

• At 7:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Dr.

At 9:19 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a resident on Walden Way.

At 10:10 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Shelby Dr.

• At 10:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Skyline Lodge road.

At 1:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Dr.

Oct. 28

• At 1:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja

Club Drive.

• At 344 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Oct. 29

• At 7:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a mutual aid call from Scaly FD but it was cancelled.

• At 3:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ridge Trail

• At 3:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

• At 4:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Highgate Road.

• At 7:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an electrical problem at a residence on Buttermilk Road.

Oct. 31

• At 6:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on NC 106.

• At 3:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on a power line on Hickory Hill Road.

Nov. 2

• At 4:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Morewood Circle.

• At 5:50 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spruce Lane.

To avoid this:



We have required this:



Bear Resistant Toters were required by August 1st, 2020.

Toters can be purchased locally at Reeves Ace Hardware, at Home Depot and online.

Citation Warnings will be issued for the next two weeks and starting November 16th citations will be issued for those not in compliance.

For more information, please feel free to call Town Hall at (828)526-2118 or look at the ordinance online at: www.highlandsn.org

**210 N. 4th St., Highlands
(828)526-2118
www.highlandsn.org**

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

11. We are living and we are learning, and we are citizens of the greatest nation on earth.

Thanksgiving this year needs to be about more than a meal. We need to celebrate. We need to rest. We need to reflect, and we need to thank God for what we have and from what he has spared us. We need a deeper sense of gratitude for we are a people most richly blessed. This Thanksgiving, we need to be a nation, called to enjoy a great feast but more so a greater fullness only found in the riches of earnest gratitude toward a God deeply committed being

the "giver of every good and perfect gift" (James 1:17).

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:1-5



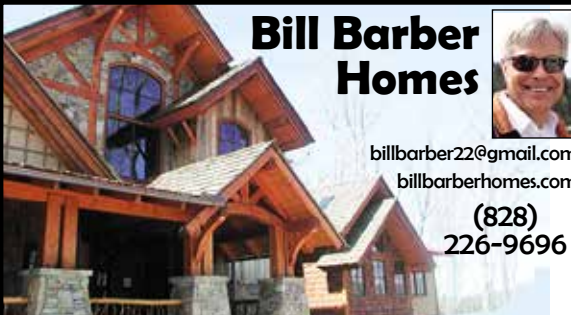
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FULL HOUSE GALLERY in Highlands Plaza is accepting CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE. Please call or text Susan at 828-526-6004. (st. 3/19)

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CHESTNUT HILL IS AN UPSCALE ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY in search of a Dietary Cook, CNAs, Med Techs, Wait Staff and Weekend Receptionist. Send resume to Lindab-tiff@aol.com or call 828-526-5251. (st. 2/13)

HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE & THE RUFFED GROUSE TAVERN 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 Sweet Treats/Highlands Deli – 115 S 4th Street. (st. 8/13)

WOLFGANGS is looking for hostess, waitstaff, and backer. Best award of Wine Spectator. Please call Jacque at 828-526-3807 for either positions. (st. 5/28)

THE LOG CABIN is looking for servers, line cooks and dishwashers. call or stop by – great pay. Start immediately. Call or stop by 828 526-577. (st. 6/11)

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.

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)

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0159. (st. 3/26)

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

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