

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020

Town employees to get a COLA raise and doubled Christmas bonuses

When commissioners finalized the FY '20-'21 budget in July, the annual Cost of Living Adjustment raise usually given to town

employees was temporarily nixed.

Due to the pandemic, commissioners didn't know if citizens would be able to pay their utilities

or if anticipated sales tax revenues would decrease. Therefore, they agreed to reassess the situation later.

• See RAISE page 11

Highlands PAC scales back plans

The expansion project at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands has been scaled down to something equally exciting but with a decreased price tag.

"After working very hard on an outstanding design, in the end, we realized without going into debt we couldn't afford it," said PAC Executive Director Mary Adair Trumbly. "We will not go into debt, so, we started over with JLL, they designed us a theater that we could afford to build. It is smaller but a very cool design and will accomplish everything we want in our theater."

The PAC Board of Directors and its Building Committee engaged Jones, Lang, Lasalle Americas, Inc. ("JLL"), a top construction project management company. JLL recommended two Atlanta firms: Choate Construction Company and Lord, Aeck,

• See PAC page 10

Halloween Happenings



A festive pumpkin patch at a residence on Shortoff Road. — Photo by Kim Lewicki

Halloween in Highlands is for kids of all ages! With that in mind there are a few events for all.

There are two theme movies this weekend at PAC's "drive-up" outdoor movie theater – Parkin' at the PAC. Friday night, Oct. 30 it's The Goonies at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12/person with children under 12 free.

Saturday, Oct. 31 it's Hocus Pocus – free for everyone (parents & kids). There is also a Trunk & Treat parade 6:15-7pm when children in costumes can parade around the perimeter of the parking lot. Masks will be required, as will social distancing. Only 32 cars (with unobstructed view) are allowed so call to reserve a parking space at 828-526-9047.

At the Highlands Biological Garden there will be a Ghostly Garden self-guided tour dawn to dusk Fri., Oct. 30 through Sun., Nov. 1.

For more information, contact Paige Engelbrektsson at 828-526-2623.

Halloween night families are encouraged to visit The Literacy Council on NC 28 south for drive-up treats from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce is delivering candy to business members for distribution during normal business hours on Sat., Oct. 31.

Highlands annual Main Street Halloween celebration on Halloween evening has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

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• ELECTION COUNTDOWN •

This is our final installment of our coverage of the candidates on the ballot: MC Board of Commissioners

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Macon County Board of Commissioners has two seats on the November ballot – however with no

challengers, Paul Higdon will be automatically re-elected. So, just the Franklin district is on the ballot, with one Republican and one Democrat vying for the open seat.

Betty Cloer Wallace, a dem-

Early voting continues thru October 31

There are two locations:

The Highlands Civic Center and the Macon County Robert Carpenter Community Building.

Hours are Monday-Friday 8am-7:30pm, open this last Saturday from 8am-3pm.

ocrat, and Josh Young, a Republican, are both vying for the seat left open when Karl Gillespie

announced he would be running for the House of Representatives.

Young, a local business owner and father of five said he is running for office because he wants to take a more active role in

• See ELECTION page 6

ACA health insurance open enrollment begins Nov. 1

It is still the law

This year's Open Enrollment for Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance may very well be the most challenging yet, with millions across the U.S. in need

of health care after losing their job-related health insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pisgah Legal Services (PLS), and

• See INSURANCE page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Toters, Comp Plan, COVID & more

We have had a good early voting turnout. I hope everyone will cast a ballot either during early voting which ends at 3 pm on Saturday, or on Tuesday, November 3rd, Election Day. As I have said before, we need a strong turnout to let officials at the Macon County Courthouse know we vote on the plateau. I would love to see a 100% turnout, or there about.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The staff at Town Hall has been getting calls about the bear resistant totter requirement. The ordinance requiring these totters was passed by the Town Board in August of 2019. Implementation of the ordinance was scheduled for August 1 of 2020, in other words a year from the time of passage. In August this deadline was postponed in order to give some folks an opportunity to get totters that were on back order. There seems to still be a back order of the small 30-gallon totters. Implementation of the ordinance has again been rescheduled to November 16. I want to thank the overwhelming number of residents who purchased the bear resistant totters

months ago.

Last week the kick-off of the Highlands Comprehensive Plan went very well with a 73% attendance at several stakeholder meetings. There will be more meetings to follow, including ZOOM sessions.

It is critical that residents participate in this process which will set the vision for Highlands for the coming decade. I completed the community survey this past week. I encourage everyone to go to the town website and click on the Highlands Community Plan. There is a button to access the survey. The survey is well designed and takes only a few minutes to complete. As I have said now many times, this will not be elected officials' plan, but rather a community and citizens plan. During this planning process, my goal is to cut back on the talking and listen to the Highlands stakeholders participating in the process.

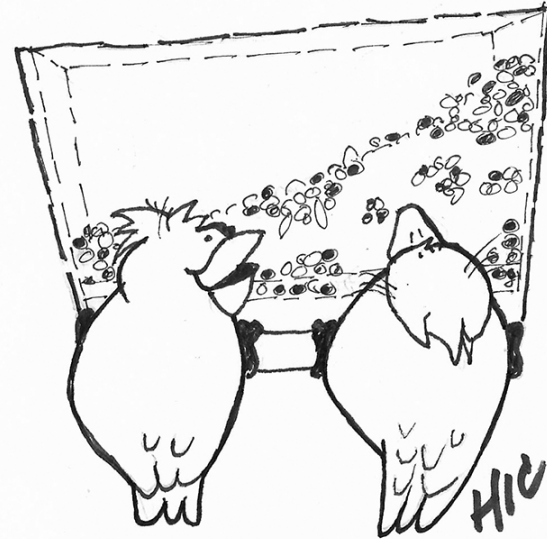
From all incoming reports, we may be facing a national surge in COVID-19. It will be more important than ever to practice the 3 Ws. They are; wash hands frequently, wait and social distance, and wear a mask in public places. We have seen very high participation in mask wearing in businesses and on commercial sidewalks.

Again, let me stress that the wearing of masks on sidewalks and streets in residential zones is not a part of the town mask ordinance. The mask wearing requirement applies to businesses and on sidewalks in commercial zones.

I have been in conversations with folks at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce concerning holiday events. These events will not be like they have been in past years due to COVID-19.

There will be a Christmas Parade, just at a different time and format. Details will be announced soon. Highlands will continue to have beautiful Christmas lights throughout the town, but the town lighting will be modified. Representatives of the chamber will be presenting specific plans at the November Town Board meeting.

• HIC'S VIEW •



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• WEATHER •

Thu, 29-Oct	Fri, 30-Oct	Sat, 31-Oct	Sun, 1-Nov
70°F 43°F	56°F 33°F	53°F 38°F	57°F 26°F
Tropical rainstorm	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Times of clouds and sun
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 87° Low: 54°	High: 59° Low: 33°	High: 60° Low: 35°	High: 59° Low: 37°

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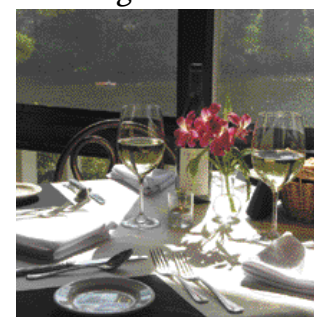
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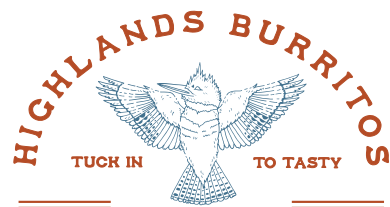
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• LETTER •

Daylight Saving Time

Dear Editor,

Yipes! It's that time of year again. Sunday November 1, we have to adjust our clocks. Do we move up an hour or back an hour? I can never remember. And is it only twice a year? It seems like more.

Benjamin Franklin was the first to mention Daylight Saving Time. It was spring of 1784. He was visiting Paris, France and mentioned "time change" in an essay he wrote. He suggested Parisians change their sleep schedule to save money on candles and lamp oil.

The first city in the world to adopt Daylight Saving Time was Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada July 1, 1908. Soon other cities in Canada adopted Daylight Saving time. Germany adopted Daylight Saving time April 30, 1916 to conserve coal during World War I. The USA adopted Daylight Saving Time 1918 also during World War I. However, Arizona, Hawaii, and Puerto refused to honor Daylight Saving Time and they don't.

The proponents of Daylight Saving Time argue that longer evenings motivate people to get out and get involved. The extra hour of daylight can be used for outdoor recreation like golf, soccer, baseball and other activities. The tourism industry profits from longer evenings. The retail industry benefits because people have a tendency to shop more.

The facts are though that lack of sleep causes more auto accidents, more workplace injuries, suicides, heart attacks, strokes and miscarriages among other health problems. Maybe it has something to do with stress. I know I get a little stressed trying to decide to adjust clocks forward or backward.

Many states have passed a state law to have only one time during the year. Some states want year around Standard Time and some want year around Daylight Saving Time. The states are waiting for Federal approval. I say what's the big deal? Let each state do what they want. Today when it

•See LETTER page 24

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...ELECTION continued from page 1

shaping the future of Macon County.

"I'm running for public office because I care," said Young. "I have a deep love for this special place I call home. I want to be a voice for all of Macon County. I feel that I can bring a breath of fresh air to our Board of Commission. A typical commissioner meeting has very few participants other than our county affiliates. I want to encourage other Maconians to become involved. I have found it is easy to complain about problems and issues plaguing Macon County. Instead of complaining, I decided to file for office."

Young is a 5th Generation Maconian and has been married to his high school sweetheart for almost 12 years. The couple

has five children.

"I was taught how to work at a young age on our family's Christmas Tree Farm and that work ethic has molded me into the person I am today," said Young. "I spent eight years as a lineman for Duke Energy before I stepped away in pursuit of the American Dream! I started Young Tree Service in May of 2015 and have been blessed beyond belief with great employees and an incredibly supportive community! I am active in our community as I serve on many youth athletic boards as well as coaching numerous youth football, baseball, softball, and basketball teams. I enjoy the outdoors, spending time with family, and cooking."

Betty Cloer Wallace is a 6th generation

Macon County farm family and is retired from education and government. Wallace is a tree farmer (planted 14,000 native hardwood seedlings) and wildlife preservationist. She is also the author of Tuckasegee Chronicles, a historical series set in Little Tennessee River Valley.

"My lifelong experience and credentials in public service administration have been a lifetime of preparation for serving as a Macon County Commissioner," said Wallace. "I want to work toward practical and sustainable change and to up-end the status quo voting bloc that has controlled our Board of Commissioners for many years. We must change our current economic and social trajectory if we want to keep our young families here and move forward as a county. I'm an advocate for a strong multi-party system to maintain balance in our local government as in all other areas of our lives."

"At the moment, Macon County is clearly out of balance, lop-sided toward the "tea party" far-right while a contingent of far-left "progressives" pull in the opposite direction. This extreme divergence on both extremes of our local political spectrum has split our local political parties into five distinct factions, which is hurting our ability to sustain a moderate common ground in local government that we need, and must have, to move forward as a viable and economically competitive county. We must work toward a transparent local government by and for the people, rather than by special interests and top-down authoritarianism."

Wallace has served as the Associate Superintendent, Macon County Schools; Director of Western Regional Education Center; Superintendent of Vance County Schools (15 schools, 1,100 employees); Deputy Assistant State Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; US Department of Education Fellow, Washington, DC; Associate Superintendent, Northwest Arctic Borough School District; Adjunct Professor, Western Carolina University and Southwestern Community College; served on numerous boards and commissions for industrial recruitment and school facilities planning in Macon County and WNC; and is author of Poisoned Apple, the Bell-Curve Crisis (in

our schools).

Local Government relations are crucial for Macon County as the county, the town of Franklin, and the town of Highlands work closely on several projects. What are your thoughts on these current relationships and how can they be improved?



Josh Young



Betty Cloer Wallace

Young: "We are all in this together," said Young. "It is important to keep a good rapport with other local municipalities within our county and outside our county. There is always room for improvement. I want to see our local infrastructure support business growth and local development within our county. I would like for it to be easy for businesses to plant seeds here!"

Wallace: "Our county commissioners have pleasant social relationships with the municipal governments of Franklin and Highlands with annual meetings for discussion, but practical interaction and joint planning are scarce," said Wallace. "A serious study

of overlapping responsibilities is needed to eliminate duplication, inefficiency, and confusion about who is responsible for what; and many citizens are especially confused about the overlapping governmental duties of Macon County and Franklin. Issues needing better county-town cooperation include facilities and space needs, water and sewerage management, broadband equity countywide, and better public information communication regarding the TDA and TDC tourism development groups, the Economic Development Commission, and town and county planning boards and committees.

"The large Nantahala community should consider working toward incorporating itself as a town in order to have a more influential seat at the table for funding and oversight along with Franklin and Highlands."

As an elected official – how would you improve educational opportunities for Macon County?

Young: "Our kids deserve the best. Period," said Young. "We have to work with our State Legislatures to ensure we have the proper funding to keep our kids on the cutting edge of education! As I understand it

• See ELECTION page 7



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...ELECTION continued from page 6

the county is responsible for the brick and mortar (facilities) while the state furnishes money for education. However, the county is constantly helping assist Macon County Schools System fund many areas in which our state allotment does not cover. As commissioner I want to work closely with our school board and teachers and most importantly listen.”

Wallace: “Our Early College and SCC programs are doing well and leading the way toward showing the need for expansion of broadband internet access, but our PK-12 schools need expanded and more adequate facilities,” said Wallace.

“County commissioners are responsible for providing school facilities, while state and local school boards are responsible for operation of our schools. Our local school board is often reduced to requesting additional funding from our county commissioners simply to stay afloat, which should not be necessary every year. Together, these two boards and “we the people” have a moral obligation to our children and grandchildren to do better, to provide schools that give every young person the best chance for a successful future.

“Decisions are long overdue about improving facilities and infrastructure at Nantahala, Highlands, and Franklin High School in a fair and equitable manner. We spend far too much time plugging holes rather than long-range planning and setting priorities. As our state legislature continues its juggernaut toward privatization of our public schools, we cannot simply blame the state for cutting our funds. As a county, we must fill the gaps to the degree that we can financially do so, and go even beyond the basic essentials to the degree that we can afford it.

“Unfortunately, we have consolidated our elementary schools so that the majority of young students are taken out of their home communities and must commute long weary miles elsewhere. Many adults would not

suffer through such long hours of busing to get to their workplace every day, but yet our children are forced to do it. We could initiate long-range planning to decentralize our large elementary schools and return students to smaller community schools, while at the same time plan for reconditioning our middle and high school facilities in Franklin, bringing them up to standard and expanding them. It would take time to decentralize, but that’s what long-range planning is for; and we should consider restructuring grade-level offerings at each school level, which is not as formidable as it might seem

“if done in conjunction with facilities planning. Our basic education needs, including technology, should supersede all other aspects of our county finances, if we expect to meet our moral obligations and prepare our children for a future here in Macon County or elsewhere, depending on what they want to learn and do. Having the basic education to allow for choices is the most important legacy we can provide for our children”

What is your stance on Macon County’s current broadband issues and how would you address it?

Young: “I have spent years in the utility industry and have a deep understanding of the many challenges we face in rural America,” said Young. “We just don’t have the population to entice large corporations and guarantee a return on their investment. We have lots of hard to access neighborhoods, lots of rock (underground) and hard to maintain rights-of-way that may only service a few potential customers. This drives the cost each customer would pay through the roof.

During our virtual learning period, we had a horrible time with my children connecting to the internet. If we had any, it was slow. Covid has put a huge spotlight on our broadband needs and Representative Kevin Corbin is actively fighting for us on a State level.

el. He is helping to remove some of the barriers between State and local governments to minimize some regulation and bring more funding to Western North Carolina. Broadband is so important to help keep our local business competitive.”

Wallace: “High-speed internet access is as vital now and as much a giant leap forward as when the TVA brought rural electrification to our homes in the 1930s and as when highway programs of the 1950s brought us paved secondary roads and interstate highway connections,” said Wallace.

“In order to close the distance learning homework gaps among our communities, to provide communication with our healthcare providers, and to provide opportunities for jobs at home, we and our local officials must (1) be knowledgeable of the massive federal technology grants approved by Congress this month, (2) provide local internet infrastructure that can adequately use those grants countywide, and (3) work toward dovetailing federal,

• See ELECTION page 8

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...ELECTION continued from page 7

state, and local funds with private providers to narrow the digital divide.

"Private providers large and small are simply not working out for the public, so ultimately, we should work toward broadband as a basic public utility such as we have with electricity carried to every house. Congress recognized the digital divide in March 2020, by passing the Broadband DATA Act, creating a more accurate and detailed map of broadband availability, helping counties such as ours have the information needed to determine our specific focus and cost of deployment; and just this month Congress approved multi-billion \$\$\$ legislation that provides funding through FCC, USDA, and DOE for rural high-speed broadband as part of the next stage of federal stimulus

relief. So, our local government officials and the private sector must be ready locally with accurate data mapping and local providers identified to ensure that no Macon County community is overlooked. To date, Macon County has made some effort, but not nearly enough; and with federal assistance newly approved, we have no excuse for delay in providing countywide access. Unfortunately, Frontier failed to meet FCC broadband requirements for the Connect America Fund for rural areas that stipulated reaching 80% of rural locations by December 2019, leaving us with several disparate choices, and so we must now look at all current options.

"We can (1) help Morris Broadband continue to expand in our county, or (2) bring in one or more companies with competitive pricing, or (3) look at satellite access, albeit cost and limited access would be problematic.

"Fortunately, Congress is asking our largest broadband providers to expand coverage areas and temporarily suspend some customers' data caps, in order to accommodate access, especially for remote education that requires daily interactive communication; and we can all benefit from that, both businesses and individuals. Looking even further into our future in Macon County, albeit not that far away, we will eventually need to create local 5G infrastructure to be able to handle Virtual Reality (simulated experiences for interactive learning) for our schools and families and for local industry training, not to be confused with our current web-based distance learning or online learning."

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing Macon County?

Young: "I have several issues that really bother me," said Young. "If you look around, we are overrun with vacant buildings. Lots of large and small shopping centers all over Franklin. I also feel that, employees are one of our greatest assets! I feel one of the largest issues facing Macon County are the county employee wages. The private sector pay far exceeds the county pay rate. I also see broadband to be a huge issue. Broadband is imperative to help keep our local business competitive."

Wallace: "Jobs that pay a living wage plus benefits and opportunity for retirement is our greatest need, and we must analyze

the factors hindering us from attracting industries here, large and small," said Wallace.

"Our poverty rate (30.1%), median household income (\$39,000), needy schools, children in low-income households (58%), a growing homeless population, reduced medical and health care facilities and professionals, lack of affordable housing, lack of broadband internet access, and growing crime statistics related to drug trafficking are the main factors that prospective businesses and industries look at beyond a potential workforce. Industry scouts considering our current data are not impressed with our general need for education infrastructure, our "welfare queen" numbers, our crime statistics, and our "dollar store" economy."

Anything else you would like for your voters to know.

Young: "I want to be a county commissioner to represent The People of Macon County," said Young. "I am not a politician. I am a tax-paying citizen of Macon County. I work with my hands for a living and likely will show up to many meetings with my dirty work boots. I hope to bring an unbiased, independent mindset and a new energy to the Board of Commissioners. I am prepared to make tough business-minded decisions to represent the taxpayers of this county!"

Wallace: "Facilities are greatly needed for expanded law enforcement detention facilities, additional courthouse space, expanded services for seniors and disabled citizens, and a civic center large enough for graduations, entertainment, arts and crafts fairs, gun shows, and trade shows," said Wallace. "Space and cost studies should be carried out jointly for these large-ticket projects, public hearings held, and priorities determined by our citizens through referendum by ballot.

"The most important offerings we have here to entice business and industry are (1) relatively cheap land with large open spaces, (2) a willing workforce, especially young people who want to stay here or who have moved away and want to come back home if they had jobs, and (3) access to transportation systems in Atlanta, Asheville, and Knoxville. But we have to take the initiative to look for new businesses and industries and to let them know what we have to offer."

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



The Bascom gets donation from the The Art League

On October 19, The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers made a donation to The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts. Pictured are John Bauknight, President of the Art League and Billy Love, Director of Education and Outreach, The Bascom.

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...PAC continued from page 1

Sargent, an architecture and design firm.

After the PAC Building Committee began weekly meetings with JLL, Choate, and Lord Aeck Sargent redesigned and re-engineered PAC so the expansion was realized.

Trumbly said the Board has approved an initial agreement with these entities and the value engineering and complex architectural design work has begun.

Initial construction will begin in June 2021 and is expected to be completed in time for the summer season of 2022.

The original plans called for two theaters, — a 400-seat theater and an 85-seat movie and black-box theater.

The new plans include one 300-seat theater and the spiral staircase and balcony have been eliminated.

"We developed a new, and I think better concept, with a reduced size," said Building Committee member Wade Coleman. "We did this because of budgetary restraints and right now we have money in hand and time

commitments to maintain," he said.

Trumbly said though the theater was hit financially because of the pandemic, the expansion is still possible through the generosity of the community.

According to Asst. Planning Director Michael Mathis, since the plans and how the proposed structure will sit on the property has changed, PAC will have to resubmit its plans to the town.

Though no problems are anticipated, under the terms of Conditional Use Zoning, under which the PAC falls, the new plan must be presented to the town and the zoning terms amended.

Trumbly said Covid-19 did have an impact on the organization as far as presenting shows is concerned, but not significantly.

However, not knowing where the country is headed pandemic-wise and "with people not wanting to gather in such large groups, a smaller theater made sense," she

said.

"We are fine as far as funding goes; we are actually at the pre-Covid-19 funding level," she said. "Our sponsors and supporters have been amazing and without them there's no way we could do this. We're a performing arts center and people want to come here to be entertained. The arts are a main fiber of society and we're going to give it to them."

Meanwhile, the show goes on at PAC.

Currently, under COVID-19 safety measures, the PAC has a maximum capacity of 25 people with chairs and tables set up in a socially distant manner. Shows include live satellite broadcasts from the MET Opera and London Theater.

The PAC also hosts a "drive-up" outdoor movie theater -- Parkin' at the PAC -- each week from Thurs.-Sat., at 7:30 p.m.

For more information or to donate to the Performing Arts Center, call Trumbly at 828.526.9047.



An exterior depiction of the front of the building looking east on Chestnut Street.



An exterior depiction of the front of the building from Chestnut Street.



An exterior depiction of the building from the back parking lot on Laurel Street.



The configuration as per COVID regulations in the current PAC auditorium.

...RAISE continued from page 1

er in the year with amending of the '20-'21 budget a possibility.

That time has come.

At the October Town Board meeting, Town Manager Josh Ward had good news for town employees. The COLA raise will be reinstated starting January 2021.

"Revenue and sales tax are up and homes are being sold, so the financial picture is better than it was in July," he said. "Sales tax proceeds were strong beginning in July and August; utilities are being paid; overall our numbers are up."

So, effective Jan. 1, 2021, commissioners voted unanimously to give town employees a three percent COLA raise.

In addition, Ward suggested upgrading the town's Christmas bonus policy.

Currently, the annual Christmas Bonus for full-time employees is based on longevity: less than one year: \$200; between one year and 10 years: \$250; between 10 and 20 years: \$300; 20+ years: \$350

That would cost the town a total of \$18,900.

Ward suggested an option that several surrounding governmental agencies use — that of providing 1% of an employee's sal-

ary as a bonus.

If the town did that it would cost \$33,204.97 or \$14,304.97 more than the current bonus expenditure.

Commissioners weren't keen on that idea due to inequities in the scenario.

"Someone here for two years at a high salary would get more than someone here for 15 years at a lower salary," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

At Commissioner John Dotson's suggestion doubling the current plan would cost the town about the same as the "percentage" scenario but would be fairer.

Commissioners voted unanimously to double annual Christmas bonuses which are based on longevity instead of salary percentage. It will cost the town almost the same as the percentage scenario.

So for Christmas 2020, full-time employees employed less than one year: \$400; between one year and 10 years: \$500; between 10 and 20 years: \$600; 20+ years: \$750.

Part-time employees will get a \$50 gift card.

— Kim Lewicki

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Gov. Cooper calls on local leaders to help address 'troubling trends' in coronavirus

Extends Phase 3 until at least Nov. 13

NC governor extends Phase 3 restrictions following worst spike in cases since start of pandemic.

Citing "troubling trends" in coronavirus cases, including two days last week of the highest case counts since the pandemic began, Gov. Roy Cooper extended Phase 3 restrictions for three weeks on Wednesday and asked local municipalities and counties to institute and enforce more restrictive measures.

Cooper called on law enforcement and local leaders in 36 counties to address their recent spike in coronavirus cases.

In a letter to local officials, Dr. Mandy Cohen, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, and Erik Hooks, secretary of the N.C. Department of Public Safety, encouraged counties to implement

civil penalties or impose fines for violations of local mask orders.

The letter suggests specific actions local authorities might take such as prohibiting the sale of alcohol earlier than the state-wide 11 p.m. mandate or closing bars and nightclubs that may be hot spots for transmission.

Cohen and Hooks sent the letter to officials in counties identified by the White House Task Force as a county of concern and where there have been 300 or more new cases in the last two weeks.

They also sent the letter to officials where the case rate exceeds 50 per 10,000 people and to officials in the three most populous counties: Wake, Mecklenburg and Guilford.

Although some local law enforcement agencies have refused to enforce mask orders and other

COVID-19 restrictions, Cooper remains convinced local law enforcement can play a role, even informally.

While they may not use their authority to enforce a mask order, local law enforcement may go to retail establishments and use trespassing laws to remove offenders, he said.

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, Cooper's challenger in the gubernatorial race, said in a press release on Twitter that the governor is "passing the buck" and "attempting to use local governments to punish businesses and individuals doing what they can to survive."

Cooper said his administration is "putting the onus on the retail establishments to make sure that the people who are in their restaurant, grocery store or drug-store ... that all of them are wearing the masks."

The call for stronger local enforcement comes in the midst of a spike in cases, particularly those linked to family gatherings, parties and religious gatherings, Cohen said.

Under the current restrictions, which were set to expire last Friday and will now continue until at least Nov. 13, social gatherings remain capped at 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.

Despite the fatigue from the restrictions and precautions, people must remain vigilant, Cooper said: "I know that it is tiring and difficult to keep up our guard, especially when we are gathered with people we love, but it is necessary."

New data presentation

The upward trend contributes to the state's 250,000 reported cases. More than 4,000 North

Carolinians have died since the start of the pandemic. Data about the virus, including rates of infection, testing, and deaths, is available on the Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 North Carolina online dashboard.

On Wednesday, Cooper announced an expansion of the dashboard to include demographic data such as race, gender and age of hospitalized patients. Hospitalizations are trending up in the state, but hospitals have capacity, Cohen said.

"This has been a really hard year. I understand how much everyone wants to be with family and friends without having to worry about a virus," Cohen said. "Ignoring the virus does not make it go away. Just the opposite."



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

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Catchings speaks at Rotary



Patricia Catchings

and enthusiastic group of volunteers to assist patrons buying these myriad of used books.

Catchings further pointed out that

The Bookworm Supplies books to

The Highlands Cashiers Hospital,

The Eckerd Living Center and REACH, as well as to the Little Free Library located in Kelsey Hutchinson Park.

The Rotary Club of Highlands just completed

a Grant to The Bookworm to add an additional Little Free Library in our Highlands Community and other such Little Free Libraries for these free books are planned for our Highlands residents.

Rotarian Rick Siegel introduced Patricia Catchings, Trustee of

The Hudson Library of Highlands, to the Rotary Club of Highlands combined in-person and virtual meeting on Tuesday, October 13th.

Patricia oversees the operation of The Bookworm, a used bookstore on Main Street, with all revenues directly supporting The Hudson Library.

All books sold at The Bookworm are donated by residents and recently those donations have increased significantly.

The Bookworm is currently following all CDC and Macon County Health guidelines and is staffed entirely with a dedicated

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...INSURANCE continued from page 1

its Enrollment Partners of WNC, are again offering free assistance from Nov. 1 – Dec. 15, helping people in the 18-county mountain region review their options and sign up for ACA health insurance for 2021.

Still the Law

With the upcoming election and uncertainty in the Supreme Court, there is confusion and concern about ACA insurance in the future.

Jim Barrett, Executive Director of Pisgah Legal Services, says, “What we want folks to understand is that the ACA is still the law. If an individual or family needs ACA health insurance for 2021, get ready to sign up during Open Enrollment which begins Nov. 1st and ends Dec. 15th.”

He continues, “If they sign up now, we have every reason to believe – based on law and insurance contracts – they will be insured for 2021 as long as they pay their premiums according to the terms of the plans they purchase.”

Make a Free Appointment Today

Appointments can be made online at www.pisgahlegal.org/aca or by calling (828) 210-3404. For the safety of consumers, staff and volunteers, all appointments are currently being conducted by phone. Depending on where you live in WNC, some of Pisgah Legal’s ACA Partners may be offering in-person appointments.

Shannon Cornelius, Pisgah Legal’s Health Justice Program Director, says, “We expect this year’s ACA Open Enrollment to be more difficult since North Carolina is one of the only states that has not expanded Medicaid. We are very concerned that a significant number of local people are going to fall into the ‘Medicaid Gap,’ which means they do not qualify for Medicaid, and they also don’t qualify for tax credits that

make health insurance more affordable through the ACA.”

She continues, “Before the pandemic, more than a half a million North Carolinians were in the Medicaid Gap. Now add to that the 250,000 people in our state who have lost their job-related health insurance this year. People are suffering, but this important legislation still has not been passed.”

What to do?

Cornelius says its best to explore all your options. “We strongly encourage people who need health insurance to contact Pisgah Legal Services. Our skilled staff, volunteers and partners can help them understand their options, accurately calculate their household income – which may be especially challenging during COVID-19 – and explore additional avenues and resources that may be available to them.”

Financial assistance is still available to those who qualify. Last year, more than 90 percent of North Carolinians who enrolled for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace (www.healthcare.gov) received financial assistance to make their plans more affordable. Subsidies are based on household taxable income and may be difficult for consumers to calculate themselves. Pisgah Legal can help with this process and can factor in unemployment benefits if needed. Pisgah Legal can also answer questions about other coverage, such as COBRA, and help people apply for Medicaid and CHIP.

Pisgah Legal and other Enrollment Partners of WNC participating organizations give local residents free, unbiased health insurance information and enrollment assistance in the NC Health Insurance Marketplace. These organizations include: Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Blue Ridge Community Health Services,

Legal Aid of North Carolina, Mountain Projects, Inc., Western Carolina Medical Society, and Pisgah Legal Services.

The ACA – also known as “Obamacare” – is the law that ensures access to quality, affordable health insurance on the Health Insurance Marketplace. With these plans, consumers are protected and:

- Can’t be denied coverage for a pre-existing health condition and can’t be dropped for getting sick;
- Insurers can’t charge higher premiums to women; and
- Insurers can’t sell standard plans that don’t pay for essential health care benefits.

Since 1978, nonprofit Pisgah Legal Services has provided free civil legal aid to help people with low incomes seek justice and meet their basic needs including preventing homelessness, stopping domestic violence and securing health care. Pisgah Legal Services provides a broad array of free, civil legal services in 11 WNC counties, and offers immigration law services in 18 counties. Last year PLS served more than 18,000 people across the mountain region.

PLS has offices in Asheville, Burnsville, Brevard, Hendersonville, Marshall, and Rutherfordton and will be opening a Highlands/Cashiers office in the near future. Pisgah Legal has 32 attorneys on staff and relies heavily on the pro bono legal services of more than 300 volunteer attorneys.

Pisgah Legal Services continues to serve clients during the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information, visit www.pisgahlegal.org to apply for help online or make a gift in support of this important work.

• HC HOSPITAL NEWS •

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Offers Opportunity to Celebrate Advances in Treatment and Look Ahead to Enhanced Screening Options Coming to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it's important to focus on prevention and treatment of this disease that, sadly, still affects one in every eight women. The news surrounding breast cancer is promising however, as compared to the grim statistics of decades ago.

I will remind everyone that COVID-19 is not a reason to postpone or skip your mammogram. Every virus safety precaution, from screening every patient and team member who enters our building and requiring universal masking, to meticulously cleaning our facility with greater frequency, has been instituted here so you're safe when you come for care.

Not only do more than 90 percent of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer survive to the important five-year post-diagnosis milestone, our approach to treatment is far more patient-centered than it was even 30 years ago. Women who undergo treatment for breast cancer are advised about lifestyle practices that can enhance their comfort during treatment and support their survival, such as sound nutrition and making physical exercise a daily part of life. In addition to traditional chemotherapy, which has certain harsh side effects, the development of targeted therapies that spare healthy cells has advanced significantly, as has the ability for us to customize treatments for multiples types of breast cancer that are fueled by different agents.

In my September column I referred to the new 3D mammography project we're getting underway here at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH). I'm excited to be working with contractors on construction plans for a space that will be state-of-the art in the medical technology it holds, as well as how it's designed for patient comfort and care expediency.

The fact that we'll be equipped with 3D breast tomosynthesis capabilities means that in addition to standard mammography, which is recommended for most women, we'll be able to offer this important complementary screening option that is especially critical for women with dense breasts.

Breast tissue is made up of different ratios of fatty and glandular (related to milk production) tissue. Glandular tissue is more challenging for radiologists to interpret, whereas fatty tissue is easier to read. A woman's tissue distribution can change over her lifetime as well, so the 3D mammogram option will be a key screening we can offer to our community members so they can stay close to home for care.

HCH and our community are the beneficiaries of these upgrades thanks to the fact that we're part of the larger HCA Healthcare/Mission Health system. Most



Tom Neal
CEO/CNO
H-C Hospital

community hospitals simply don't enjoy benefits like this.

We must also remember that a critical aspect of breast cancer imaging comes down to the quality of the X-rays being acquired and who is reading the X-rays, the radiologist. I'm proud to highlight the fact that we have earned the very meaningful accreditation from the American College of Radiologists for our mammography. This means that our radiologists are reading X-rays that meet their high standard for quality. Additionally, we also have access through our relationship with Mission Health to board certified radiologists who have fellowship training in breast imaging. I cannot overemphasize the importance of these two elements as essential to early detection of breast cancer.

tection of breast cancer.

In addition to being diligent about getting breast cancer screening, we know that performing breast self-exams is an important preventative practice that enables women to find an abnormality or lump early. We have also learned that the earlier breast cancer is found, the better the chances a woman has for a full recovery, and that the likelihood of needing adjuvant treatment (chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy, etc.) is reduced. In partnership with their physicians, women can make an impact on lowering their breast cancer risk now more than ever.

Take good care of yourself and remember to put your mammogram at the top of your "to do" list each year. Know also that HCH is here to provide breast cancer services, education, and support.

In closing, I want to remind you to stay safe. COVID-19 continues to be present, and it is important that we continue to practice social distancing, wearing a mask and washing our hands.

I also want to make you aware of our Insurance Assistance Hotline, which offers help for those struggling with being uninsured during the pandemic. Our trained professionals are there to assist those who need help applying for emergency medical coverage, from COBRA insurance to Medicaid. You can contact them Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm at (833) 541-5757.

• *Tom Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Neal is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive health-care experience. Prior to his role at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems (CHS) and served as Chief Executive Officer of both Berwick Hospital Center in Berwick, Pennsylvania, and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Ronceverte, West Virginia. Tom has an MBA from the University of Louisville, MHA from the California College of Health Sciences, BSN from Regents College of New York and an ADN from Jefferson Community College.*



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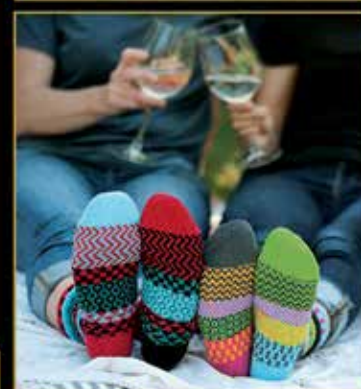
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Staging a Home: Where Should You Focus?

I recently had the “pleasure” of preparing to list my home for sale. My home was under contract within 30 days and we then went through the selling process. I have been living in this home for 22 years and had no idea how difficult it would be to eliminate things, stage the house and showing it 25 times within 30 days. I have been a full-time Realtor for 48 years and I now remember and fully appreciate what sellers need to go through to prepare for selling.



Lynn Kimball
828-421-8193
Lynn@bhhsmmr.com

Before eliminating things, you may want to start with looking at what you have and what you might use in the staging process. When it comes to staging a home, where should you focus? It is a good question, especially if you are taking on the task yourself. A professional staging company can set a home up with ease but an individual homeowner may have a tough time with this. Knowing what to do and where to focus is essential when preparing a home for sale.

Staging Basics

The basic elements of staging require cleaning and decluttering all the rooms in a home. Potential buyers want to see a clean home and at the same time not be overwhelmed by too many things. This means packing away personal mementos, removing knick-knacks and clutter from counters, and keeping photos to a minimum. With the new contemporary designs, less is more. With more traditional homes, you will still want to declutter, but leave a few things that make it look homey. These steps are the foundation of staging. However, understanding what rooms make the most impact and arranging them to look their best is the next step in the process.

What are the most important rooms?

Sellers should focus on the living room, kitchen and outdoor covered decks and/or porches when listing a home for sale. The living room, kitchen and outdoor living areas are a home's main gathering spots. This is where families relax and where entertaining takes place. It is also the room where staging has the best and most fruitful impact. Once the room is clean and decluttered, consider moving furniture around to maximize space and showcase how it can be used. Consider how a family could gather and converse the best while seated. It is also important to

take note of window treatments, making sure that natural light can come into the room. It is not unusual for homeowners today to see no window treatments/drapes, etc, except for privacy window treatments that are almost hidden when they are raised.

Other rooms such as bedrooms, family rooms, sitting rooms.

Although these are not the most important rooms in a home to be staged, it is still recommended to declutter, thoroughly cleaned,

look at placement of furnishings and remove pieces of furniture that are not used and take up too much space.

Staging garages and laundry rooms

Staging a garage should not be overlooked when preparing a home to sell. A garage is a place to park a car but it is also much more. As a result, the more useful a garage can be, the better. Make sure you get your garage looking its best prior to the first showing.

Staging a garage

While the garage may not be the cleanest room in a home this does not mean that it cannot be cleaned. Furthermore, just like staging any room in a home the garage should be decluttered and organized. If there is room for shelving and/or cabinets then they should be installed. Likewise, if you have bicycles, golf clubs, kayaks, fishing rods, and the like, they should be stored in a way that showcases just how much storage your garage has.

Work areas hold appeal

If there is space for a workbench and a tool area it should be highlighted. Whether there is room to build, space to fix, or equipment for changing the oil on a car, the more useful a workspace is the better. Every buyer is looking or something different in a home and your garage might be just what attracts someone to your home.

Laundry rooms are also important

They can be a catch-all for cleaning products, clean and dirty laundry, mops, brooms, etc. While living in a home it makes sense to use a laundry room for these reasons and more. However, when it comes to staging it is best to declutter, make it clean and to give the potential buyer a nice feeling and not of drudgery and

Lakefront Cullasaja Club Home



MLS# 93237 | \$2,757,000 | 6 BEDROOMS | 6.5 BATHS

This beautiful Highlands home is sited on Lake Ravenel within prestigious Cullasaja Club. A picture of good taste and style, it has a gazebo and private dock, and is surrounded by the most enchanting scenery of gardens, trails, and babbling water features. The home has captivating views and was designed for entertaining. A two-story living room has a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, a built-in bookcase, and a wall of glass that opens to a covered deck. The kitchen adjoins the dining area and boasts rich cabinetry, granite countertops, and stainless-steel appliances. An intimate master suite has a stunning bath plus a deck with hot tub. Five guest bedrooms make hosting easy. A large wraparound deck, complete with stone fireplace, overlooks the garden, water features, and gazebo. With 350' of lake frontage on Lake Ravenel, this private retreat has many options for enjoyment.



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• THE PAST & THE PRESENT •

It's the Courts, Stupid!

A funny thing happened on the way to the most consequential election in modern American history, an October surprise. Donald Trump lost the first Presidential debate to Joe Biden, offended many in the process, and then contracted Covid-19 and briefly if crucially was taken off the campaign trail. The obvious outcome of all this and more is the blindingly apparent conclusion that Donald Trump won't be reelected.

Moreover, it seems increasingly likely that Republicans will lose both houses of Congress and also the Presidency in November. Even attempts to preempt a Democratic victory by declaring the election rigged seem doomed to failure. Yet here's the surprise. Anticipating defeat, almost all die-hard Republicans and forever Trumpers now have a different line of attack. It's now all about the courts.

Largely absent are futile attempts to label the Biden's as a "crime family," Joe Biden as a sexual predator, corrupt politician, or demented, sleepy old man, weak on crime and law enforcement, or "not qualified" to be President. Even dire warn-

ings about socialism and "the radical left" seem less resonant. Although Fox-like echo chambers, Rush Limbaugh-style radio shock jocks, and end-of-the-world conspiracy theorists like Glenn Beck forever will find socialists and "radical leftists," really one word to them, rampant among Democrats, Joe Biden likely will be elected not by a growing progressive wing but by millions of conservative-leaning voters, many of whom will have defected from Republicans.

Yes, right-wing Republicans who dwell in these isolated information colonies will still parrot these Trumped-up charges but with increasingly lesser effect. Biden Republicans allied with centrist Democrats will carry this election, then probably embrace a moderate agenda, one built around health care, voting rights, restoring environmental safeguards, and depoliticizing law enforcement. All defeated Republicans then will be



Milton Ready

able to do is once again become an oppositional party as they did in the Obama administration after the Democratic landslide of 2008. In this, too, their influence likely will be lessened.

Anticipating an ominous, even oracular defeat and fearful of losing their status as a major political party, Republicans have pivoted to two bunker issues, the Constitution and the courts, particularly the Supreme Court. Thus you will hear endless cries of "packing the Courts," in itself an admission of defeat, of protecting the "original Constitution," one Republicans have never followed only masked themselves in, and of protecting governmental checks and balances, again an abuse Trump Republicans know much about. Now have you heard the one about the originalist, the activist, and the contextualist who went into a jurisdictional bar in Washington?

For example, what if President Biden used executive orders to expand his powers as Trump did? Only the courts could stop him. Or if Chuck Schumer becomes majority leader of the Senate and behaves

like Mitch McConnell to pack the courts? Only the Supreme Court could stop him. And if "that woman," Nancy Pelosi, passed laws that protected Roe vs. Wade, got rid of the Hyde Amendment, moved to expand and protect voting rights, legislated an improved Obamacare plan, and reformed tax laws so that they were more equitable? Only the courts could stop her. Correspondingly, Amy Coney Barrett's hurried nomination and appointment to the Supreme Court, another ambush by Mitch McConnell, insures the survival of the Republican Party and of its agenda, both now threatened by this election.

Thus, while the courts, now packed with conservative judges, hold off anticipated Democratic attempts to overturn Republican initiatives, the Party then would have time to rid itself of Trump's amateurish right-wing acolytes, pseudo-conservatives, regroup, consolidate its grass roots strength in state legislatures, and return to mainstream Republican principles of free trade, reducing the deficit, of a strong military, and of rejoining international alliances and associations.

That's really what this election is about, the future of the Republican Party and the dissolution of the modern two-party system.

...INVESTING continued from page 18

hard work.

Keep in mind that you still need to LIVE in the home until it sells. Many of these suggestions are easier for some than others. It all depends on the way we live. Remember though that this should last only a little while until you sell. In this current real estate market in the Highlands-Cashiers Plateaus and surrounding mountain towns is booming like never before, so the best you can do with staging will make the difference of how quickly you might sell.

•Lynn Kimball has over 48 years of real estate experience, with over 35 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Associa-

tion of Realtors and previously served as a Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations: 488 Main Street in Highlands, 132 Hwy 107S in Cashiers or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location in Highlands across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@bhhsmmr.com

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Wonderful flat lot and walk to town with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a 2 car garage, wood floors, heated tile master bath, generator. Lush rhododendron in back and sides for privacy. Oil furnace with wood stove backup. Offered at \$699,000. mls #94369



This highly unique property consists of over 90 acres of rolling land, flanked partially on one side by USFS land. The property has about 27 acres of open pasture with the additional acreage wooded with streams and flanks the Chatooga River on a stretch of whitewater. The main house features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with wormy chestnut floors and painted paneling, huge stone fireplace in the living room, and gourmet kitchen. Guest or caretakers house is ready for some renovation but has good bones. Offered at \$4,500,000. mls #94082



This cute cottage is close to downtown Highlands off the Dillard Road. Sits on over an acre of wooded land overlooking a stream and waterfall. The living and dining room has vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors and stone fireplace. The glass enclosed porch includes a sitting room and bookcases. The master bedrooms are private with views of the woods and stream. Offered at \$499,000. mls #95003



Home features a cathedral living room with stone fireplace that enjoys a great mountain view, a dining room with stone fireplace, upgraded kitchen with granite and appliances. a wow screened porch. 3 bedrooms 3 baths, the baster is huge and the bath has a whirlpool tub and shower. storage garage and a 1 bedroom 1 bath guest house with wormy chestnut paneling. Flat usable yard and a gathering area with firepit. Offered at \$1,375,000. mls #94975



This home is in perfect condition and features a charming, open plan with heart of pine floors and loads of glass to bring the outside in. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, plenty of parking and a lovely porch. Fully renovated with a lovely fireplace and an almost new roof. Walking distance to town and affordable. Offered at \$625,000. mls #95097



Wonderful long range mountain views from home on 4.74 private acres. Open concept layout. Beautiful wood floors, cathedral ceilings, gorgeous stacked stone fireplaces from floor to ceiling on each level. Full house generator. Double attached garage with plenty workspace and storage. Wrap around covered deck. Handicapped accessible. Offered at \$925,000. mls #95026



Highrocks features gated access to a large private 3.6 acre lot with stunning views of Whiteside, and the valley vistas beyond. The house features multiple stone fireplaces, water features, a custom kitchen, main level has living room, dining area, master bedroom, a Carolina room with fireplace that is accessed off of the kitchen. Antique wood floors, updated baths, lower level has guest quarters with media room and wine cellar. Large 2 car carport with guest efficiency above. A network of trails explore the landscaped grounds. Offered at \$3,999,000. mls #93220



The view will knock you over with 4 building sites with the same view. It has a very nice 2 bedroom modular home on one lot and a rustic cabin. This property joins National Forest with views of GA, SC and NC. Roads are cut to each lot and gates are in place. A deep well and spring and underground power and phone lines are in place. Offered at \$795,000. mls #81838.



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



2,700 SF+- Commercial building located near Highlands Falls Country Club. Great exposure and wonderful setting overlooks a bold creek and room for dwelling or addition. Offered at \$575,000. mls #92946



Great looking home on 1.54+- acre with stream running through front yard. All rooms are large with lots of glass. Open living, dining, kitchen have Cathedral ceilings. This is a quality home, build to last. Underground power, full house generator, gas HWH, gas furnace, central a/c, sound system, video security system, 2 fireplaces and plenty of storage. USFS lands steps from the back door Driveway is paved and spacious. Easy parking, turn around. Less than four miles to middle of Main St. Offered at \$525,000. mls #95077



This beautiful, quiet parcel is 36-39+- unrestricted acres backed by USFS. All of it above 4,000 ft. Includes a 3 bedroom, 3 bath solidly built home and a pretty pond. Living area/great room/loft layout with lots of glass. Old road bed on property provides walking access through land up Shortoff Mountain to USFS lands. Offered at \$1,700,000. mls #93768



Apple Mountain Shoppes is investment property that doesn't fade away in these volatile times. Great high traffic location on Highway 64 near all of the Country Clubs and the Briar Patch Shop is this great complex for you to own and operate or just rent out for a steady income. Offered at \$1,199,000. mls #92678



Come see this completely renovated cottage on .85 acres with Big Creek running in the back yard off the deck. Vaulted ceilings, wood floors, lots of privacy with all the living on the main level. Fire pit, carport and workshop. Offered at \$475,000. mls #95095.



Investment Property! This little cottage shines! New upgrades from top to bottom! Offered fully furnished. Airbnb income \$4000-\$6000/mo. Attention to every detail has been made so all you have to do is move right in! Seldom do these cute cottages come on the market. Classed as Commercial/Residential. Offered at \$390,000. mls #95070

Work begins on Highlands' state mandated Comprehensive Plan

For years the town has talked about developing a Comprehensive Plan. Now that the state has ordered one on the books by July 1, 2022, the crunch is on.

Planning done town and countywide over the years hasn't been in vain – those documents will be used as a jumping off place in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Reference materials include the town's Planning Department website; the 2005 Land Use Plan; the 2010 Parking Study Recommendations, the 2012 Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the 2005 Macon County Recreation Master Plan.

A few months back, the town hired Stewart, Inc., to oversee the process of putting a comprehensive plan for the growth of Highlands together. It will entail incorporating plans already in place as well as eliciting input from stakeholders and citizens in the community.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, Stewart, Inc. met with six

stakeholder/steering committee groups categorized by type with a Town of Highlands Commissioner assigned to each group and then held a public input program at the Community Building for citizens.

The Stakeholder/Steering committee groups were:

Group 1 – Parks, Recreation, Conservations, and Environmental Groups. Members were Lester Norris, Matt Canter, Gary Wein, Chris Wilkes, Jim Tate, Ellie Hogan, Jim Costa, Robin Tindall, and Commissioner Amy Patterson

Group 2 -- Schools and Boards, MC School System, Private School Representative, Medical Rep, and the Highlands Planning Board. Members were Joe Allen, Sarah Holbrooks, Brian Jetter, Ronnie Beale, Rick Trevathan, and Tom Neal.

Group 3 – Developers, Builders, Realtors, Appraisers, Hotels/Accommodations, Land Planners, Engineers, and Surveyor. Members were John Underwood, David Bee, Sabrina Hawkins, Jeff Weller, David Bock, Stuart Foster,



Participants at last Thursdays public input meeting afixed sticky notes to the map to designate what they wanted Keep, Create or Toss regarding Highlands. Blue notes (Keep) said: Greenway Trails, Provide greenery, Green space and Protect water supply. Yellow notes (Create) said more Community gardens, Exclusively pedestrian downtown district, Ecological, economical transit, Sidewalk needed to Post Office and to the Lodge, a Unified Pedestrian Plan and Pink notes (Toss) said Parking on Main Street and Exotic Invasives.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

and Commissioner John Dotson

Group 4 -- Transportation, Utilities, and Town Staff. Members were Brian Burch, Josh Ward, Lamar Nix, Michael Mathis, Sonya Carpenter, and Commissioner Donnie Calloway.

Group 5 – Business Groups, Economic Development, the Chamber, and Downtown Property Owners. Members were Tommy Jenkins, David Young, Richard Delany, Wolfgang Green, Ashley Clark, Betty Holt, Kaye McHan, Debbie Bock, and Commissioner Brian Stiehler

Group 6 — Neighborhood/Unincorporated Community Leaders, Citizen Boards, HOAs, Churches, and Historic Representatives. Members were Dave Latta, Marot Teed, Bill Stiefel, Randy Lucas, Ran Shaffner, Andrea Smith, Ric Siegel, Kay Craig, and Commissioner Marc Hehn.

Unfortunately, the public input program for citizens was poorly attended but Town Manager Josh Ward said he was “very pleased with the Stakeholder/Steering committee meetings turnout and participation.”

Those who did attend the

public input program at the Community Building last Thursday were presented with a huge map of the Town of Highlands. Using blue, yellow and pink sticky notes, participants were asked to designate things they wanted to keep (What should stay? What do you love? What adds value to the community?), create (What do we need more of? What would you add or make?), or toss (What don't you like? What causes problems or should be gotten rid of?), regarding Highlands.

Why the need for a Comprehensive Plan?

The State Legislature adopted amendments to the General Statutes in July of 2019, which created a new Chapter 160D. The reasoning was to consolidate county and municipal land use standards of Chapters 153A (county) & 160A (municipal) into a new Chapter 160D. Chapter 160D, requires all counties and municipalities to update their unified development ordinances and comprehensive plans by July 1, 2022, in order to comply with the standards.

A Comprehensive Plan is used as a guide for future direction

and growth for a county or municipality. Highlands has always had a Land Use Plan, but not a Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan includes not only land use, but all other aspects of county or municipal government, said Ward.

Stewart, Inc. has laid out a four-phased process.

Phase 1 was project initiation which is when the town OK'd the project and the hiring of Stewart, Inc. That took place late Summer of 2020; Phase 2 is taking place now, the fall and winter of 2020 and involves analysis and visioning; Phase 3 will be winter 2020 through spring 2021 during which the Comprehensive Plan will be developed and Phase 4 will involve the phasing in of the plan and its adoption spring and summer of 2021.

The Community Plan will function as the official comprehensive plan for the Town of Highlands and will be a tool used for guiding the growth, redevelopment, preservation, public improvements and other priorities of the town. The plan will con-

• See COMP PLAN page 23

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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• INK PENN •

A book for Cat Lovers

Since the cat and dog in my cozy mysteries talk to their owner, It will come as no surprise to my readers that I love cats and dogs. What may surprise you is how many folks out there enjoy books where the animals talk. Several readers who have written reviews of my cozy mystery series have mentioned they weren't sure they'd like a book with talking animals but were pleasantly surprised at how natural it seemed. Readers often say Dickens & Christie say the things they imagine their animals would. Naturally, I love hearing that.

One reader went in search of other books where the animals speak and found "Love Saves the Day" by Gwen Cooper. When she told me how much she enjoyed it, I had to read it too. What a sweet book. It's not a mystery, except in the way that all

books are a mystery of sorts—a mystery about how a family will solve a problem or how a romance will work out.

Prudence, the cat in "Love Saves the Day," talks to her pet parents but they hear only meows and a funny growl here and there—no words. We, the readers, have the privilege of hearing what Prudence thinks. Alternate chapters in the book are written by this sweet cat rescued from the mean streets of New York City.

The blurb on the back cover invites you to learn Prudence's story. "When five-week-old Prudence meets a woman named Sarah in a deserted construction site on Manhattan's Lower East Side, she knows she's found the human she was meant to



Kathy Manos Penn

forever."

Hearing her describe the vacuum cleaner as a cat-seeking monster or explain how she's comforted by clothing that smells like her pet parent are moments with Prudence that make you laugh and cry. If you don't already own a cat, you may find yourself

adopt. For three years their lives are filled with laughter, tuna, cat-naps, music, and the unchanging routines Prudence craves. Then one day Sarah doesn't come home. From Prudence's perch on the windowsill, she sees Laura, the daughter who hardly ever comes to visit Sarah, arrive with her new husband. They're carrying boxes. Before they even get to the front door, Prudence realizes that her life has changed

yearning for one after reading this book.

It's a story that stays with you, and because of that I found the author on Amazon and discovered she's written several books about cats, a few of them nonfiction. Her first book "Homer's Odyssey" is about a blind three-week-old kitten she adopted. Somehow, I think I'll have to get that one too.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries on Amazon. Locally, "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

...COMP PLAN continued from page 22

tain a refined vision for the town and goals, policies and strategies to manage growth, reinforce its identity and character and provide high quality public facilities and services for all citizens.

Through a public process, Stewart, Inc. will develop a shared vision and goals for the future. The last Land Use Plan update was completed in 2005, and much has changed. This update will provide an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to look back and review progress that has been made. Those involved will then be able to think forward to weigh in on the priorities and vision for our town, explains Stewart, Inc. on the Highlands community plan website.

The Community Plan impacts many facets of life: where people live, work and play, how they get around, the character of the town, conservation and environmental protection efforts, parks, housing, future businesses and more. A good plan requires a lot of public feedback from the community.

Stewart, Inc. asks that the citizenry get involve by filling out the survey and attending public input meetings whether in-person or virtual.

According to Jake Petrosky, project manager with Stewart, Inc., in addition to numerous public engagement opportuni-

ties, there is a core project team that will be leading the Highlands Community Plan effort. This project team includes Highlands town staff, consultants, and a Steering Committee. Periodically throughout the process, the project team will be engaging with com-

munity stakeholders, and town governing bodies and commissions.

Citizens are encouraged to go to www.highlandscommunityplan.com to fill out a survey to let their view be known and to attend the The Highlands Community Plan

Survey & Virtual Meeting set for Nov. 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Connection info will be on the website at www.highlandscommunityplan.com/get-involved.

— Kim Lewicki

I love it when she discovers
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★★★★★

...LETTERS continued from page 5

is 9 PM in Highlands, North Carolina, it is 6 PM in California. That seems to work OK.

Peggy Boquist, wife and legislative assistant for state senator Brian Boquist, who supports a bill to lock in daylight saving year-round, said "Changing the time on our clocks twice a year does only one good thing, in my humble opinion: It reminds me to change the batteries in my smoke alarms."

Personally, I don't really care. Just don't make me change all my clocks twice a year.

Kenny Youmans
Highlands

*A*merica is
hurting, divided
and on the brink
of chaos.

It didn't have
to be this way.

Honesty, dignity,
social justice,
compassion
and science
still matter.

Your vote matters.

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Jury trials set to resume across 43rd Prosecutorial District

After months of delay, jury trials resume on a limited basis next week in the 43rd Prosecutorial District, made up of the state's seven westernmost counties and overseen by District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch.

The first jury trials in the district start Monday in Haywood County.

In March, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley ordered a statewide halt to jury trials to help combat coronavirus spread. She extended the restriction through Oct. 15.

Though jury trials have not taken place, North Carolina's judicial system has continued its day-to-day functions, such as accepting pleas, holding traffic court and granting protections to victims of domestic violence.

In anticipation of the gradual resumption of jury trials, Chief Justice Beasley directed senior resident superior court judges, in consultation with local officials, to craft court safety plans. The state's Administrative Office of the Courts and the public health director for each county reviewed and approved all safety measures.

The 43rd Prosecutorial District has two senior resident judges: Bradley B. Letts oversees 30B, made up of Haywood and Jackson counties; Bill Coward oversees 30A, made up of Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain counties.

The judges retain discretion to suspend jury trials in their counties in connection with COVID-19, based on local needs and conditions.

In this prosecutorial district, precautions in court include:

- Requiring face masks or shields.
- Separating summoned jurors 6- to 10-feet apart.
- Maintaining proper social distancing during breaks and deliberations.
- Limiting seating for spectators to des-

ignated spaces and holding one seat open for the press.

- Presenting exhibits to the jury electronically or in a collective fashion; no paper distribution is allowed.

- Providing COVID-19 medical screenings of jurors, court personnel, attorneys witnesses and other involved parties.

- Restricting county court sessions to one week only.

- Finding substitute sites for court if a particular county's courtroom is too small to maintain social distancing.

Haywood County has adequately sized courtrooms, as well as a jury assembly room that provides still more space, Assistant District Attorney Jeff Jones said.

Jurors will be seated in both the juror box and in the audience area of the courtroom, providing 6- to 10-foot distancing; additionally, the courtrooms have been refigured with safety in mind.

The one-week restriction for jury trials has shaped the types of cases that can be heard.

"Those selected for trial are factually brief and do not require a large number of witnesses," Jones said.

After Haywood's session, Jackson and Clay counties are scheduled to hold jury trials for one week each, beginning Monday, Nov. 2.

Assistant District Attorney John Hindsman Jr. said Clay County has adequate space for court proceedings, but jury selection will move from the courthouse to the recreation center/gym.

Haywood County has a second session for jury trials beginning the week of Nov. 9. Cherokee County will hold jury trials the week of Nov. 16, in the usual venue.

Macon, Swain and Graham counties start jury trials in the new year.

Nestled gourds on Main Street



A richness of fall colors on on display along Main Streets in Highlands.

• MC HEALTH DEPT. NEWS •

Animal Services Limiting Services Until November 2nd, 2020

Due to COVID-19 cases within Macon County Animal Services and in preparation to continue essential service delivery at Macon County Public Health, Macon County Animal Services (a section within Macon County Public Health) will be limiting services until at least November 2nd, 2020.

Macon County Animal Services will continue to provide essential services including conducting bite investigations and caring for and treating animals in their care. Macon County Animal Service's lobby will be closed to the public.

Animal surrenders, adoptions, picking up stray animals, and responding to nuisance calls will be discontinued until November 2nd, 2020.

Those who are looking to adopt or re-home animals are encouraged to reach out to Appalachian Animal Rescue Center should they need these services. These measures are to ensure the safety of our staff, shelter volunteers, and the community.

The entire state of North Carolina is under a "Safer at Home" executive order, currently under phase 3 with masks required to be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19; however, anyone of any age can become infected with this illness.

Therefore, we ask that community members strictly follow the governor's orders and continue to practice social distancing, as well as safe hygiene measures such as hand washing and frequently cleaning touched objects and surfaces. The public can monitor the different phases of re-opening and learn more about the restrictions at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance>.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources. For more information, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS' website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which also includes future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

MCPH regularly updates our Facebook page with accurate and current information regarding COVID-19; we encourage the public to check our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MaconPublicHealth for up-to-date information.

Symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, cough, other lower respiratory illness (shortness of breath). If you believe that you may have COVID-19, please call the Health Department at 828-349-2517. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am – 4pm, closing daily for lunch from 12pm-1pm, until further notice.

WIC Still Enrolling and Providing Benefits During the COVID-19 Pandemic

More families than ever are finding it hard to put healthy food on their dinner tables. For young children, a lack of good nutrition can put them at risk for health problems and problems in school.

North Carolina's WIC program helps low-income families meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and post-partum women, infants and children up to age 5.

"While adding more fruits and vegetables to these families' diets is an important part of our program, participants get more than food from WIC," Danielle Miller, Macon County WIC Director said. "WIC offers families nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding promotion and support, supplemental foods, and even healthcare referrals."

The North Carolina WIC Program currently serves over 200,000 participants each month. Studies show that children who participate in WIC are more likely to receive regular preventive health services and are better immunized than children who did not participate in WIC. WIC participants receive helpful one-on-one counseling with a nutrition professional. Group nutrition classes may also be offered by trained staff on topics ranging from healthy drink choices to grocery shopping on a budget.

Breastfeeding promotion and support is an important part of the WIC Program. All WIC agencies have trained staff ready to assist moms in making informed decisions about how they feed their babies.

WIC also teaches moms the basics of breastfeeding. Better educated moms mean healthier babies.

Medicaid beneficiaries who participated in WIC had lower infant mortality rates than Medicaid beneficiaries who did not participate in WIC.

WIC participation also decreases the incidence of low birth weight and pre-term births. "WIC is so much more than people realize," said Miller. "The nutrition education and healthy foods that WIC provides really give children a healthy start in life, which is so important."

The WIC Program is available at Macon County Public Health Department at 1830 Lakeside Drive in Franklin, NC. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WIC is currently enrolling women and children via phone appointments, with limited in-person visits should they be necessary.

WIC is available to pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women, as well as infants and children up to age five (5), who meet the following criteria:

- Are a resident of North Carolina
- Are at nutritional risk, as determined with a nutrition assessment, conducted by a competent professional authority.
- Have proof of income less than 185% of the current Federal Poverty Level; OR verification of adjunct eligibility by Medicaid, FNS (Food Stamps), and/or TANF (Work First).

For more information please call (828) 349 - 2448. You may also visit the WIC Web site at www.nutritionnc.com.

• THANK YOU •

Five months is a long time to wrestle with putting into words what each of you mean to us. While it is impossible to express our grief and loss, it is just as impossible to put into words our gratitude for what each of you did for our families during such a tragic time. The past five months have been excruciating for us all; David and Dawn's children and families, their many coworkers and friends. If you were blessed enough to have David and Dawn in your life you already know the huge personalities and enormous presence David and Dawn both had in the lives of the people they loved and that loved them. We feel the sting of emptiness in this world every single day because David and Dawn are gone, we always will.

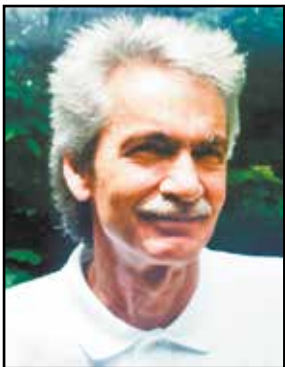
From the depths of our hearts, we thank each and every person for your calls, texts, visits, food, donations both to the families and Education Fund, shirt design and purchases, to the ladies at Flats Middle Creek Baptist church for the food after the service, to the ladies that helped serve the food after the service, for every single act of love shown to us, we thank you.

We wish to express a special thank you to the following people: Sheriff Robert Holland and all of Macon County Sheriff's Department, each of you went above and beyond and you have left us speechless both by your actions and your friendships. Our families thank you Sheriff for everything you did for us during this time and especially for making the Children's Education Fund possible. Macon County Residents are beyond blessed to have the caliber of people who possess such astounding character protecting us every single day. David Moffitt and Moffitt Family Funeral Care for your professional and heartfelt compassion, for lovingly leading our families through the hardest time in our lives. Chief Tommy James and members of SVSM Fire Department for your tireless efforts setting up and cleaning up the department for David and Dawn's Memorial Service. EVERY SINGLE AGENCY which is believed to be every agency in Western North Carolina, for your involvement in the procession. You will never understand the comfort that you brought our families. The Georgia Agencies waiting on the procession at the Georgia line, you literally took our breaths away! A special thank you to Backlot Cinemas for the amazing gift of a video of the procession and service. Kedra McCall for not only the idea of the Prayer Circle but for making it happen and to each person present at the Prayer Circle, you will never know the immense love we felt.

While our families have suffered agonizing and heart-breaking loss, we have also experienced the greatest love we have ever known. Tracy said it best when she said that God reaches out to us through people in our most difficult times. He reached out to us through all of you. Each of you need to know that in the midst of our broken hearts and darkest hours you made a difference, you touched us so deeply. You need to know that your faces are forever engraved in our memories for the love and comfort you brought us. What we wish we could do is to share with you our feelings, let you feel our feelings, if only for a few seconds, only then would you be able to truly know how eternally grateful we are. May God abundantly bless each and every one of you.

– The Families of David and Dawn Head

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Joe, Joan and Jesus

Paster Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist
Church

Joe Namath is a likeable personality, but I think I liked him better when he was wearing #12. Then, there's Joe Theisman. I attended one of the Washington vs Dallas games in the early 1980's. I don't remember who won that game played at the old RFK stadium, but probably the Cowboys!

And Joan Lunden? What a dear! The very capable, engaging co-host of Good Morning America for almost 20 years.

All three experts. Professionals. Believable and authentic. But have you noticed? Now all three are "Pitch-Men/Women" for various health care entities, including Medicare and long-term care facilities. The logic for using these three is obvious and simple. Namely, in their other careers they have had quite a loyal following. Now, since they are all Senior citizens, it is assumed that other Senior citizens will continue to follow their lead. This will probably work. I wish them all well and Godspeed.

All of this brings me to another consideration. Are you aware that there are "Pitch-Men/Women" regarding the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Or, to say it another way: There are men and women talking all about the Gospel but who have never been "sacked" by a 280 pound defensive heartache or tragedy. Nor has their faith been tested under the glaring studio lights and sensitive microphones which call for precision, articulation and accuracy. In those conditions, one cannot simply wing it or speak in generalities.

To illustrate: There are those who say, "It is the will of God for every Christian to be healed of all sickness and, if one isn't healed, then they lack faith." I wonder what these folks do with the Apostle Paul (who, by the way, was THE Apostle of Faith) and who was NEVER healed?

Then, there are those who conclude that in the midst of economic loss, domestic chaos and the heartbreak of losing loved ones through death, that God is against them. What do they do with Job?

Spin-doctors and pitch-men/women have as their job to 'sell' their products. There is always fine print, but their job is not the fine print, but making the offer attractive. It seems that so very many in our culture are duped by this very practice.

But, the Gospel doesn't need spin doctors. It doesn't need pitch-men/women. It doesn't need to be made attractive at the expense of the fine print. Jesus Christ was-is painfully clear. He offers Abundant life. He offers Eternal life. He promises peace that passes understanding. He gives Himself fully to the Believer in the Person of the

•See SPIRITUALLY page 27

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

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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

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

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

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

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 Mondays and

Wednesdays

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

7

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wed: Choir: 6p

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(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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John 3:16

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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

Outdoor Worship Services 8:30 & 11

Please see our website - highlandsmethodist.org and

our Facebook page for more information

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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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.

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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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. 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 14

• At 4:16 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

Oct. 22

• At 9 a.m., officers received a report of an aggressive dog on Brushy Face Road.

• At 1:19 p.m., officers received a call for service at Our Lady of the Mountain

Catholic Church.

Oct. 23

• At 2:21 a.m., officers responded to a call about a vehicle being abandoned on NC 106 with a false tag and no insurance.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 19

Oct. 19

• At 12:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

Oct. 20

• At 4:59 p.m., the dept. assisted with a welfare check on Whiteside Mountain.

Oct. 23

• At 10:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

• At 11:06 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 8:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

Oct. 24

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

• At 4:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a gas leak at a residence on US 64 west.

Oct. 25

• At 6:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Circle.

• At 7:24 p.m., the dept. conducted a search in the Cliffside park area.

Oct. 26

• At 5:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Oct. 27

• At 6:13 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Lake Road but the call was cancelled.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 26

Holy Spirit. And yet, He is quite forthcoming that in this world we will have tribulation and that all the godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But...be of good cheer because He has indeed overcome the world. No spin. No pitch. No generalities. Just Truth which He himself takes full responsibility to fulfill.

Joe Namath and Joe Theisman were expert quarterbacks. Joan Lunden was

an expert broadcaster. What they did on the field and in the studio was what they did best. In many ways they simply had no equals.

Jesus Christ is the Expert Savior. That's what He does best. And, indeed, He has no equals whatsoever.

The next time you see a Medicare or Nursing home facility advertisement, I hope you will remember that.

The Pastor
of Walnut Creek Baptist Church
in Franklin, NC
is calling for everyone
to unite in a universal mission of

PRAYER

on

Sunday, Nov. 1 at 10:15 a.m.

Let's band together as God's people
and have a day of prayer for the
coronavirus, the upcoming elections,
the riots and unrest, and for **Revival**
in the United States.

2 Chronicles 7:14

To avoid this:



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Toters can be purchased locally at
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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**



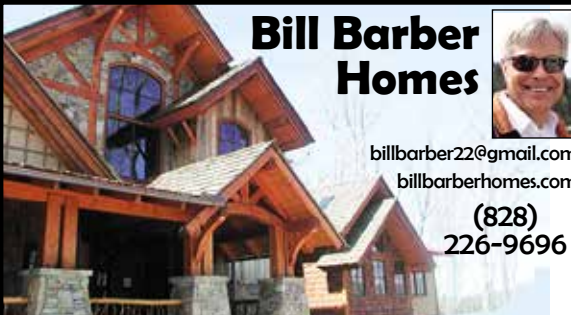
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TO BUY COLT PYTHON.THE OLD-ER THE BETTER. Call 526-9803. (st. 7/2)

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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EXPERIENCED GROUP EXERCISE INSTRUCTORS -- Indoor Cycle, Barre or Group Exercise. \$50 per hour. Must have at least 1 yr experience. Old Edwards Spa, Highlands NC. Send Resume in PDF format to Kyra Russell krussell @olderdwardsinn.com (st. 10/29)

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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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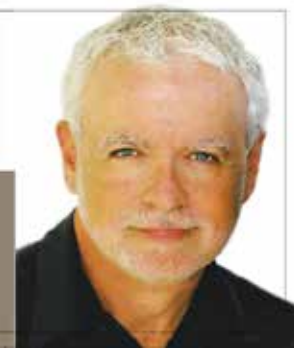
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