

Highlands Newspaper

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Macon County commissioners ponder election redistricting options

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Macon County Board of Commissioners is comprised of five members representing three districts around the county. The members are elected for four-year stagger terms meaning that three seats, one from District I and

two from District II will be filled in November 2022 with the other two, one from District II and one

• See REDISTRICTING page 5



Volunteers Andy Hinton, Nicole Haylor (Chattooga Conservancy Executive Director), Don George, Andy Smith, Jake Hochberger, Jared Walker, Cina Noel, Buzz Williams and Eric Pierson work to transport the ancient canoe.

Preserving a centuries-old piece of history

Brian O'Shea

Plateau Daily News

A canoe that's potentially more than 200 years old was discovered last fall on the Chattooga River by some local paddlers along the Sandy Ford section of the river near Clayton, GA. The canoe

was found below Second Ledge rapid wedged against an embankment and an undercut rock on the South Carolina side of the river.

Volunteers from The Chattooga Conservancy offered to extract the canoe, and a similar canoe

• See HISTORY page 16

Commission votes to expand Medicaid

By Brittney Lofthouse

On Tuesday night, Macon County joined the ranks of Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, the Graham County Board of Commissioners, Swain County Board of Commissioners, Jackson County Board of Commissioners, and the Town of Franklin in calling on the state to act now to close the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners, comprised of four Republicans and one Democrat, voted 4-1 to approve a resolution in support of closing the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina through Medicaid Expansion. Commissioner Paul Higdon (Republican) was the lone dissenting vote, saying he feels resolutions are "useless" and it is not the responsibility of the county to

• See MEDICAID page 17

• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty	2	Events	12
Weather	2	Spiritually Speaking	18
Obituary	7	Police & Fire Reports	19
CatSpeak	6	Classifieds	21
Investing	8		

Bears are out, about and above looking for food



Recent hikers and visitors of Ravenel Park (Sunset Rock) have been run off by a momma bear and her cubs so they can get their paws on human food. So, the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust asks visitors not to bring food to Ravenel Park because of increased bear encounters. When heading out to hike, don't leave food in the car, leave it at home. This bear was in a tree on the Kelsey Trail in town. Some BearWise reminders: It's important to note that bears will typically defend any food source, particularly something as calorie-rich as pet food, garbage or birdseed. A person or a dog that interrupts a bear's dinner is asking for trouble. In addition, a person who comes between a defensive bear and an aggressive dog is putting their life at risk. When hiking with a dog, keep it leashed.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Remembering Jane

I had the honor to represent the Town of Highlands at the celebration of life and remembrance for Jane Woodruff. The celebration was held last Sunday in Atlanta. There were also a number of Highlanders in attendance in tribute to this remarkable woman.

As I had said earlier at the news of her passing, Jane Woodruff was a great Highlander. I was invited to say a few words at the celebration. Let me share some of the thoughts I expressed to her wonderful family and assembled friends.

I know many communities have been touched by her presence and philanthropy, but I, along with the Highlanders present, believed Jane viewed Highlands as her hometown. While she resided in several places over her lifetime, of course in Atlanta, her intense interest and presence here indicated she had a special place in her heart for Highlands.

I shared with the gathering my last visit with her a few months ago. It was at the Woodruff homestead next to the High-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

lands Country Club. I brought a group of town staff with me to share with Jane the plans for the new fire department. Like so many endeavors, Jane had played a key role in the town securing the property for the new station.

After sharing the plans with her, she offered us a Coca Cola which we all happily accepted. What was amazing to me was she would ask staff members about their families, and they would tell her about their par-

ents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Jane knew many of their family members, just as if she had lived here all her life. We talked about legendary town characters and stories. I sensed she really enjoyed reminiscing about the Highlands of old.

She never asked me any special favors as mayor. She simply wanted me to assure her that our town was running smoothly and doing well. I will always remember that afternoon and having a Coca Cola with Jane Woodruff.

I also told the assembled celebration that what surprised me in Jane's obituary was that she had been a Pink Lady; that is a member of the Emory University Hospital Auxiliary. It struck a chord with me since my mother had also been a Pink Lady. I know a lot about that wonderful volunteer group. Pink Ladies, like Jane Woodruff, were very humble people who believed in serving other people in critical moments of need. The Pink Ladies would serve hospital patients refreshments, deliver them mail, make sure their needs were met, and would take time to talk with the patients and family members just to let them know people cared about them.

I made the point to the group that Jane Woodruff's generosity and charitable gifts sprang from this simple and basic caring for others. Her service as a Pink Lady was one cornerstone of her Christian faith and commitment to helping others and charitable institutions.

In Highlands her generosity has created a legacy that will keep giving for years to come. Our hospital campus would not exist if it weren't for her many gifts. Our





• See MAYOR page 7

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Nope. It's your turn to tell the Mayor he has a new garbage problem."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 12-Aug	Fri, 13-Aug	Sat, 14-Aug	Sun, 15-Aug
			
76°F 64°F	78°F 62°F	76°F 62°F	76°F 60°F
A t-storm around in the p.m.	A stray afternoon t-storm	An afternoon thunderstorm	A p.m. t-storm possible
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...REDISTRICTING continued from page 1

from District III to be filled in November 2024.

Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon, who represents District III, has repeatedly shared his concerns over the elections and districts and on Tuesday night, asked Macon County Attorney Eric Ridenour for clarification on ways to address issues.

In North Carolina County Commissioners are elected in November of each even-numbered year. Commissioners are elected to either 2-year or 4-year terms. This varies by county.

County elections are held in conjunction with state and federal elections. To be eligible to serve as a county commissioner, you must reside in the county you wish to serve, be a registered voter and be at least 21 years of age. There are no other formal requirements, and there are no limitations on how many terms a commissioner can serve.

The typical county board in North Carolina consists of five or seven commissioners, although some counties

• See REDISTRICTING page 17



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At 2020's postponed 5k Race which was held May 15, 2021 in the middle of the recent gas shortage, of the 237 signups, 149 people of all ages ran.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

5K & 10k races are Saturday, Aug. 14; still time to sign up

The second Rotary Club of Highlands 5-10k Race in 2021 will be Saturday, Aug. 14 at Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park.

Normally, there is just one a year, but when the 2020 race was postponed due to COVID, it took place May 15, 2021. More than \$15,000 was raised from that race with total proceeds going to the Advanced Highlands Education Committee (AHEC) to support youth related needs at Highlands School.

Race Organizer and Rotarian Derek Taylor said the race's mission has always been to help the youth of Highlands and AHEC fits that bill.

"AHEC has shown its ability to have insight into the

school's current needs," said Taylor.

With no obstacles in sight, Taylor said so far 147 people have signed up and expects 250 or more to run.

The hope is to raise \$20,000 like in year's past.

This year's official Rotary Club of Highlands 5K race is at 6 p.m. on Aug. 14 with live music and free beer at the finish line.

To sign up go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Highlands/HighlandsTwilight5K10KAugust14th2021>

Those who wish to watch should bring a picnic, a blanket or chair and enjoy the show.

— Kim Lewicki



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• PRINCESS PUDDIN' SPEAKS •

The great calico hunter strikes again

In my youth, I was a renowned hunter of paperclips, buttons, bugs, and one time a tiny lizard that I found beneath

the curtains in the dining room. To this day, Mum has no idea how that thing got in the house.

I'm a mature kitty now, but I still hunt, mostly on the screened porch. You'd be amazed at the big dead bugs that appear there overnight. That's right. They're nowhere to be seen when we have dinner on the porch, so maybe they're bashful. All I know is that most mornings when I accompany Mum out there, I find at least one bug on its back with all its legs in the air.

But wait until you hear this story. I didn't capture the creature, but I was quick to point it out to Mum. And if Dad hadn't shooed me away, I would've wrestled it into submission. I'm working on building suspense here, so bear with me.

Banjo, my canine brother, wakes Mum up earlier and earlier these days. I should say, Banjo my senile canine brother. His wakeup time varies from 3 to 6 am, and trust me, Mum does NOT like to get up before six. One morning, we were downstairs at five. She let Banjo out and moved to her chair in the living room where she turned on the light. I was way ahead of her. I was over by the door leading to the screened porch meowing up a storm.

Usually, when I talk in the morning, it's because I want my small puddle of milk, so Mum said, "Enough, Puddin', I'll be there in a minute." And then she spied me on the table by the back door. I was standing up looking at the top of the door with my paw outstretched.

I looked back at Mum and saw her squinting as she moved closer to the door. There are all kinds of things hanging in the living room—paintings, an antique breadboard, and above this door, a decorative wooden airplane propellor. Draped atop one end of the propellor was something black. I knew what it was, but I could hear Mum murmuring, "What is that? Omigosh, it moved."

Ladies and gentlemen, it was a black snake! Seriously. Most of it was bunched at the end, but it had wrapped itself around so



that its tiny head peeked out from behind the bottom of the propellor and its tail hung down in front.

I expected Mum to run from the room screaming or at least lift me so I could play with the thing. Instead, she sat down in her chair and looked at it. She stared. It didn't move. I was the only one in the room moving and talking. About 15 minutes went by before Mum went upstairs to wake Dad. I thought it was awfully considerate of her to try to let him sleep, but in the end, she said she was afraid the snake would move and disappear—not something she wanted to chance.

You should have seen Dad stumbling down stairs in his pajamas. "A snake, a snake? Where?" He thought for a moment and sent Mum to get his

grabber and a plastic garbage bag. What a show. He tried to grab the thing several times without much success. And that's when it dropped to the floor and slithered behind the curtains.

I leaped. I jumped. I darted. But Dad kept shooing me away. Finally, Mum opened the garbage bag near the snake, and Dad sort of shooed it in there. So much for the silly grabber. Mum handed him the bag and he took the snake out to the middle of the woods in our backyard.

Only after that excitement did I get my puddle of milk. Dad went back to bed, and Mum sat in her chair staring at the propellor. She says she can't get that image out of her mind and it will be some time before she comes down in the mornings without looking up there for an intruder. There's no need for her to be that vigilant. If any creature dares to invade our space, the Great Calico Hunter will be sure to let her know.

• To contact Puddin' or her Mom, write inkpenn119@gmail.com. Kathy Manos Penn's cozy mysteries can be found on Amazon and locally at Books Unlimited in Franklin.

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• OBITUARY •

Dorice Lee Watson Pulte

Dorice Lee Watson Pulte, age 93, passed away into the loving arms of our Lord on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in Highlands, NC.

She died peacefully with daughter Nancy (Anderson) and her husband Ron by her side. Dorice was a longtime resident of Ft. Myers, FL., and had split her time between there and Highlands, where she had resided permanently for the last year with her daughter and son-in-law.

Born in Detroit, MI on Nov. 9, 1927, to parents Arthur and Dorothy Watson, Dorice was blessed to be a beloved sister, wife, mother, grand and great-grandmother and friend. She was a devout Catholic who loved her faith.

She married first husband, Joseph F. Pulte - a developer, builder, and rancher - in June of 1948, had six children together, and celebrated a 50th. anniversary with Joe before his death on July 24 of 1998. In 2008 Dorice married second husband, Herbert J. Ashe, and shared many wonderful years with him before his passing in August of 2013.

Dorice was known for her healthy lifestyle all her life, where she loved to swim, hike, read books, bike, walk, play tennis, pickleball (well into her 80s), play bridge, entertain, and to enjoy a glass of good wine, dark chocolate and a bowl of ice cream!

She was a friend to all who never met a stranger. Her favorite sayings in life were, "Man supposes and God disposes," and "



Old age isn't for sissies!"

Dorice was preceded in death by her parents, her two husbands, an infant grandson, Christopher Paul, a son-in-law, Kenneth Bowen, and a grandson-in-law, Rock B. Groupe. She is survived by her sister Donna Watson Dunn, of Bloomfield Hills, MI.; her six children - Mary Jo Pulte, Nancy Pulte Anderson (Ron), Jeanne Pulte Bowen, Judith Pulte Kalpin (Lanny), Joseph Pulte (Monica), and Daniel Thomas Pulte; and

numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were made by Bryant-Grant Funeral Home of Franklin, NC, with Ft. Myers Memorial Gardens providing a private family viewing on Friday, July 23, and a private graveside memorial service and burial being held at noon on Saturday, July 24, 2021. The Reverend David Haley, uncle to Ron Anderson, officiated at both services.

A Mass will be said in her honor at a future date.

If desired, friends and family of Dorice may make memorial contributions to: Our Lady of the Mtns. Catholic Church, 315 N. 5th. St., Highlands, NC. 28741; or, The Hudson Library, P. O. Box 430, Highlands, NC. 28741. Luke 20:36 "For they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels, and are sons of God." With all our love forever, Your Family

...MAYOR continued from page 2

child development center and civic center are other legacies of her caring for the people of Highlands. I don't have enough space to cite all the nonprofit and medical institutions that she supported both here and in so many other communities. But, like all Highlanders, I am so grateful for Jane Woodruff and the wonderful life of love, service and generosity

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Here We Co(vid) Again

The daily news has many people wondering if the pandemic will ever be over. As far as real estate in our area goes, sellers haven't had it this good in a very long time. Maybe Covid is a tiny silver lining in a massive dark cloud, a cloud that continues to press down on everyone in the world. There are sellers out there who con-

sider putting their home on the market, but they need to plan their exit strategy first.

I'm not saying COVID caused an inflated market, but for some areas, it sure didn't hurt. One of those areas is the mountains. For one thing, travel restrictions in 2020 had much to do with people heading for the hills. Travelers looked for destina-

tions to which they could safely arrive in one day. The vacation rental business soared to new heights, with many homeowners deciding to try a rental by owner situation for the first time. They weren't the only ones; hotels started turning their rooms into suites by combining spaces so that families could stay together without feeling cramped and give them a better rental experience.

Let's face it, the lockdown, whether needed to help stop the spread of COVID19 or not, caused hardships for which we were not prepared. Of course, we hadn't prepared ourselves for a pandemic either. We probably did the best we could with the information we had. Supply and demand of products (like the ridiculous toilet paper shortage) and business closures caused a diminished inventory of goods, and those are just two of the casualties. One thing most people didn't take into account was the lack of employees and the rise in the cost of everything. It all trickles down.

Don't we all wish we had stock in Zoom? In 2019, there were 10 million daily Zoom participants. That figure jumped to 350 million daily participants in December 2020. While Zoom is great for business meetings, online book groups, family get-togethers, etc., they can't create actual inventory. In real estate, we learned to show homes using Facetime, and even though our area is very familiar handling closings by mail, the rest of the country figured it out real fast. While America was learning how to do many things differently, many businesses suffered, and there were job losses. Some of the workforce never returned to work, so when America opened back up, the companies couldn't keep up with their customers causing them to cut hours, drastically change their business model, or close down. The murmurs continued, "Just give it more time." Or "We're behind you 100%." but then head to social media to rant about waiting longer than usual or the higher price. Whatever happens with all of the variants of Covid (we're up to five of those if you're keeping count.) I hope we don't follow Australia who is on their possible fifth lock-

down.

Real estate and vacation rentals in our area remain one of the least affected industries. Well, that is not entirely true. Rentals have been affected in many ways. Long-term rentals have become almost nonexistent in our area, but we have had the same problem for as long as I can remember. In other parts of the country, in most larger cities, the continuing of the eviction ban is a hot topic. The National Association of Realtors is totally behind the blocking of the

ban. "About half of all housing providers are mom-and-pop operators, and without rental income, they cannot pay their own bills or maintain their properties," NAR President Charlie Oppler said. So who deserves a break more than the other? It's up to the courts to decide.

According to the NC Vacation Rental Agreement Act, the definition of a STR is "the rental of residential property for vacation, leisure, or recreation purposes for fewer than 90 days by a person who has a place of permanent residence to which he or she intends to return." A quote from an article about the Town of Highlands recent comprehensive plan, "Petrosky noted that there are ways for the town to steer short term rentals, also known as vacation rentals by owner, in a productive direction but few ways for the town to effectively regulate the businesses." While I agree with Petrosky's analysis, vacation rentals are NOT also known as vacation rentals by owner. Not all STR property owners use platforms like VRBO or Airbnb as their source of finding rentals.

Real estate is still flying high these days. New homes on the market are popping up almost every day and are in due diligence within days. Buyers and sellers need to remember that this is not a race and to be prudent with pricing and offers. That sounds like a stupid thing for a broker to say, but it's the way I roll and the way I sleep at night.

I always go back to my Realtor's prayer, "Lord, please make my sellers (rental owners) not be greedy, and my buyers (renters) not be needy."



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



From left: Pat Allen, Pat Allen Realty Group; Pat Riley, president/CEO, Allen Tate Companies, Mark Bardo, regional vice president, Allen Tate Realtors; Phyllis Brookshire, president, Allen Tate Realtors; and Julie Osborn, Pat Allen Realty Group.

Pat Allen Realty Group Joins Allen Tate Realtors®

*Real estate leader expands coverage to North Carolina's
Highlands/Cashiers region*

Allen Tate Realtors® announced it has joined forces with Pat Allen Realty Group in Highlands, N.C., an independent residential brokerage firm serving Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire, and surrounding areas.

This announcement marks Allen Tate's entry into the North Carolina Highlands/Cashiers region and adds two new offices: Allen Tate Realtors Highlands-Downtown at 295 Dillard Road and Allen Tate Realtors Wildcat Cliffs/Cashiers Road at 5121 Cashiers Road.

The 64-year-old company operates a total of 48 local offices spanning the Charlotte, Triad, Research Triangle, High Country and Highlands/Cashiers regions of North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina. Allen Tate is the Carolinas' leading real estate company, with 19,949 closed transactions and \$6.15 billion in closed sales volume in 2020.

Established in 2010, Pat Allen Realty Group is a market leader for secondary and vacation homes, as well as primary residences. The firm has 16 experienced Realtors serving clients in Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire, Scaly Mountain, Cullowhee, Glenville, Lake Toxaway, and Sky Valley (GA). In 2020, Pat Allen Realty Group closed 131 transactions totaling more than \$101 million in closed sales volume.

Pat Allen and daughter Julie Osborn will join the Al-

len Tate leadership team as branch leaders and brokers in charge.

"Allen Tate Companies and Pat Allen Realty Group have had a mutual respect and admiration for each other since Pat Allen's days with Harry Norman Realtors. We're both family-owned, independent, community-based professional companies. We have grown together, and together, we will bring added exposure and unparalleled personal service to this special market. We will provide the tools necessary to maximize exposure to buyers throughout the Carolinas, to the Howard Hanna feeder markets in New York, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, and throughout the world," said Pat Riley, president and CEO of the Allen Tate Companies.

"We love the people and the culture at Allen Tate. We've had a great relationship with Pat Riley through Leading Real Estate Companies of the World®. As we've seen other small firms join franchise companies, it was important to us to remain independent," said Allen.

"In the past 2-3 years, the second homes market has grown exponentially. Our team has grown, and we want to continue to grow with quality agents. Joining forces with Allen Tate will give us exceptional resources that will allow us to effectively compete," said Osborn.

"We welcome Pat and Julie to the Allen Tate leader-

• See BIZ NEWS page 10

2021 Upcoming Events



at the
Center for Life Enrichment

August Schedule

- **Churchill at War: His Finest Hour?**
Monday, August 16 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Tim Riley Director and Chief Curator for the National Churchill Museum
- **Churchill and Russia: From Allies to Enemies** Tuesday, August 17 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Tim Riley Director and Chief Curator for the National Churchill Museum
- **iPhoto for iPhone and iPad**
Wednesday, August 18 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$80/90
Instructor: Loraine Smith
- **George Wallace and the Politics of Rage**
Thursday, August 19 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Dan Carter
- **Pinot Envy: Around the World in Eight Tastes of Pinot**
Friday, August 20 Time: 2-4 Cost \$40/50
Presenter: Cathy Huyghe
- **The American South Since WWII**
Monday, August 23 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: James Cobb of UGA
- **(FULL) The Gardens and Beauty of Pond Hollow: An Appalachian Treasure**
Tuesday, August 24 Time: 9-1 Cost \$35/45
Presenter: Canty Worley
- **Clean Up Your Mobile Device**
Wednesday, August 25 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: \$80/90
Instructor: Loraine Smith
- **Leadership Decapitation: Strategic Targeting of Terrorist Organizations**
Wednesday, August 25 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Jenna Jordan of Georgia Institute of Technology
- **Lessons of the Nuclear Age**
Thursday, August 26 Time: 10-12 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Todd Sechser of UVA
- **Democracy and Statecraft**
Friday, August 27 Time: 2-4 Cost: \$25/35
Presenter: Todd Sechser of UVA
- **Botanical Watercolors (Session III)**
Sunday, August 29 Time: 3-5 Cost: \$35/45 per session
Instructor: Freddie Flynt

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...BIZ NEWS continued from page 9

ship team. This team has excelled in the second homes marketplace and will be wonderful partners to learn from and grow with moving forward," said Phyllis Brookshire, president, Allen Tate Realtors.

In 2019, Allen Tate Realtors opened its first offices in Western North Carolina, joining forces with Blowing Rock Investment Properties. Allen Tate now operates full-service real estate offices in Blowing Rock and Boone, serving the northeastern part of Western North Carolina known as the High Country. The Highlands/Cashiers offices are located in the southwestern part of Western North Carolina, serving Allen Tate customers looking to purchase a primary residence or second- or vacation-home in the southern Appalachian Mountains and Nantahala National Forest regions.

In 2018, Allen Tate Realtors entered into a partnership with Pittsburgh, Pa.-based Howard Hanna Real Estate, creating the

No. 1 privately owned real estate firm in the nation, with more than 12,000 agents and employees in more than 300 offices across 11 states.

To contact an Allen Tate Realtor in Highlands/Cashiers, call 828-526-8784.

Allen Tate Companies is the Carolinas' leading real estate company, based on closed transaction sides, with 48 offices and

more than 1,600 Realtors® in the Charlotte, Triad, Triangle, High Country, Highlands/Cashiers regions of North Carolina and the Upstate region of South Carolina. Allen Tate provides real estate, mortgage, insurance, and relocation services throughout the entire homeownership life cycle. We are committed to providing and protecting quality of life for the communities we serve. Visit allen-tate.com for more information.

Big Brothers Big Sisters program presented a Rotary



A recent guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Highlands was Dorian Palmer, recruitment and development specialist for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina. While being a part of the program for over 15 years beginning as a "Little" until assuming his current position, Dorian explained how the program can enhance the life of the "Little" while also enhancing the life of the "Big" mentor.

Pierson named 'Trail Worker of the Year'



At its annual meeting in June, the Highlands Plateau Greenway honored Eric Pierson with its Trail Worker of the Year Award. Eric received the award from outgoing President Sonya Carpenter. Newly elected officers were Jim Ward, President; Sonya Carpenter, Vice President; Phyllis Davis, Secretary; and Steve Cathcart, Treasurer.



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The Dry Sink Main St. Highlands, NC

Community turns out for Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House Sat., Aug. 7



"We had a great day!" said Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart. "A large turnout of people and we took them on 15-20 rides around town. We also grossed a little more than \$6,000 in donations for our benevolent fund."

Photos by
Hudson Tilley, Kim Lewicki and
Brian O'Shea



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Booksigning at Shakespeare & Company Fri. Aug. 13 by local author

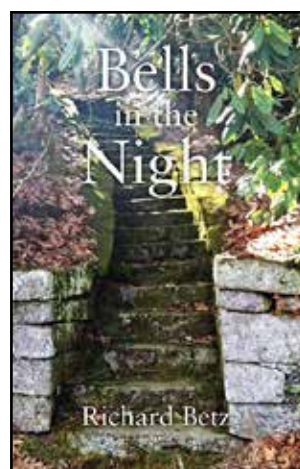
"Bells in the Night" through poetry, spans the seasons from January to December and distances from New England to the Blue Ridge Mountains and Outer Banks of North Carolina.

In the words of Randolph Shaffner, who wrote the Foreword for the book, author Richard Betz writes about our mortality and the frailty of life - "Life sings through our veins and unbalances us." Yet it's this very frailty that attracts him to each precious moment to be savored before it's gone, "pinching up every crumb of day" with "the taste of the purely physical on the tip of my tongue." It's what the Japanese call *Ichigo ichi-e* (treasuring the unrepeatable nature of a moment).

In his companion poems "Stonework" and "Building Walls" he laments with nostalgia the loss that comes with the passage of time. "Work that endures" yields to "hard work and little to show for it." The same holds for words, which "skitter and slip like living things, like the dappled sunlight under these trees that shift and change when the wind blows." What he used to think he was good at, he still strives to achieve: "to enclose some small holy space," which he hopes to preserve in a poem.

He writes of a rainy day at the beach with *Il dolce far niente* (the sweetness of nothing to do), of fishing as a glorious waste of time, hands filled to overflowing with blackberries, the day-darkness of blindness, sand dollars broken into change, and the high bright cerulean sky.

His poems ring with the clink of cowbells, the clang of a hemlock branch on a metal roof, tick-tock crickets, the soft fall of a poplar petal into a cobweb, the rasping and screeching of iron on iron, the whispering water of fallen mountains,



and the siren song of gravity.

He paints what he sees and what he doesn't, the visible and the invisible, beyond the margin of sight. His easel is filled with images of twig-legged shore birds, braids of foam, wind ripples of sand, pelicans stitching up waves, and the rumpled sea, of a black snake on a windowsill, the ghostly blue lights of condo windows jumping with televisions, and the vast emptiness of a January sky.

His poems struggle with contradictions, as he confesses, "I learned to live with paradox." In seeking passageways from one world to the next, from doubt to faith, he writes of birth and death, the squaring off of religion and philosophy, the shedding of our belongings, blindness as a dilemma for the theologian, and the bewildered Lazarus stumbling unbound amongst us.

He finds inspiration for his poems in the Bible and Karl Barth, in the haiku, the poems of the Chinese Taoist Han-Shan, the plays of Shakespeare, Homer's *Odyssey*, the poetry of the Polish-American Milosz, the songwriter Leonard Cohen, the artwork of the Japanese designer Ohara Koson, even the Japanese chef Masa Takayama, and Yogi Berra.

He writes with a delicate gentleness when he describes his daughter at birth, having "kissed the softest forehead my lips have known, and watched two eyes drift quizzically across mine." Yet all his poems strive for the glorious insomnia of complete wakefulness, a waking up to the glories of nature but also to the glory of an oncologist's report that reduces a merciful day "to such absolute joy."

Meet him, read the book, at Shakespeare & Company, Friday, Aug. 13 from 4-8 p.m.

NOTE

• Effective immediately MASKS are required in the Civic Center, Pool and Community Building and all other indoor Town Facilities.

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse will return in the Fall of 2021.

• Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, has cancelled services for the remainder of the season due to recent CDC guidelines. Call Mary Bean if questions at 1-828-506-0125.

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

Mon.-Fri.

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11 a.m.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind

the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body. With the many benefits of cardio, kickboxing is also a great stress and frustration reliever. We will be making contact with pads. If you have your own gloves and pads, please bring them. Kickboxing combines cardio and strength training to tone muscles and burn fat. Burn off stress and calories while having a great time.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30 a.m. \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meet-

ings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30pm. This will be a combination class with many different type of exercise.

Wed.-Sat. & Sat. & Sun.

• Live productions at The Playhouse. Wed.-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. For ticket information, visit highlandisplayhouse.org.

• The Bookworm at 555 Main Street is now open Thursday-Saturday 11a to 3p. For more information, call 828-526-3031.

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store at 432 Spruce Street is open Thursday & Friday 10a to 1p. Saturday 10a to 4p. The store will only be open during business hours.

Thursdays

• AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. An In Person Meeting with Covid 19 Preventive Measures is held each Thursday Noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member of AL-ANON call 828-342-6866. **Thursdays thru Sept. 9**

• Zahner Thursday Night Lectures: These free lectures serve to educate and inspire the public through a series of talks from well-known regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers. This summer, the Highlands Biological Foundation

Thursday night Zahner Lectures continue at 6 p.m.



In-person at the Highlands Community Building
(869 N. 4th Street; located by Highlands baseball field)

No registration required | Reception to follow

Join us on Thursday, August 12th at 6 p.m. for our 5th Zahner lecture of the season featuring Dr. Robert Warren, Associate Professor at SUNY Buffalo State, as he discusses how two non-native ant invaders succeed and how they impact native ants and plants in southern Appalachian forests.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

will host nine lectures focusing on a wide array of topics. The lectures will be held on Thursday evenings at 6pm between and they will be hosted through a mix of in-person and virtual formats. For a full schedule of lectures and how to participate in each (registration required for virtual lectures), please visit www.highlandsbiological.org or call the Highlands Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.

Thursday Evenings

• Free ESL classes at the Presbyterian Church 5:30-6:30 p.m. There is no registration required; students can just show up and participate. Set at a time that is convenient for students to attend after work, TL&LC also provides snacks for this kid-friendly event. The classes are for all ages, and anyone who wishes to learn English is encouraged to participate. For any questions, visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call (828) 526 - 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Every Saturday

• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Park on Pine Street. 8a to 12:30p.

Third Saturday

• American Legion 370

meets every 3rd Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

Thurs., Aug. 12

• The Community Care Clinic (CCC) has organized an evening clinic scheduled from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday at the CCC's parking lot next to the ball field on Buck Creek Road. The clinic is by appointment, open to all, and was also organized by the IFC and Vecinos. They will have Pfizer and J&J vaccines. Call 828.526.0890, 828.526.1991 or text 828.200.9717 for more information and appointments.

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 13-15

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Elizabeth Locke Jewelry Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Elizabeth Locke travels the world in pursuit of the uncommon elements to make up her designs. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

Fri., Aug. 13

• "Bells in the Night" by Richard Betz booksigning at Shakespeare and Company from 4-6 p.m.. It is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at Shake-

speare and Company.

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Ben and Marce Through Aug. 14

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Ring of Fire. From the songbook of Johnny Cash comes this unique musical about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, and the healing power of home and family. For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

Sat., Aug. 14

• Twilight K Run at 6 p.m.
• Saturdays on Pine. Twilight 5K concert. 6-8:30p.

Sun., Aug. 15

• Dinner with Steven Satterfield & Joseph Lenn at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30 p.m. Please join us in celebrating the height of the summer season in the mountains with James Beard Foundation award-winning chefs Steven Satterfield of Miller Union in Atlanta, and Joseph Lenn of

JC Holdway in Knoxville, TN. This dynamic duo, who also happen to be great friends, will present a multi-course menu full of summer's most delicious flavors alongside pairings from the Old Edwards sommeliers in the beautiful setting of The Farm. \$185 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online today: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/dinner-with-steven-satterfield-joseph-lenn-tickets-67065> or call 828-787-2525 to book.

Mon. Aug. 16

• HCHC Open House at 209 Hospital Drive, Level 2, #204 from 10-11:30a.

Tues., Aug. 17

• Highland-Cashiers Plateau Covid Community Forum at the Community Building on N. 4th Street in Highlands 5:30-7:30 p.m. Doctors and public health officials will be on hand to provide an update on COVID-19,

explain risks and benefits of the vaccine to discuss child vaccinations, and why masking and other public health measures are important. RSVP at hcainfo@hcahealthcare.com.

Wed. Aug. 18

• At 2pm on Wednesday the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church will feature vocalists from Georgia State University School of Music Featured will be Maria Margiolakou, coloratura soprano; Ryan Henry, baritone; and Rolando Salazar, pianist. Artistic/Stage Director for the performance is W. Dwight Coleman. There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual-come as you are. First Presby-

• See EVENTS page 14

At CLE: Churchill at War: His finest hour? and Churchill and Russia: From allies to enemies

Tim Riley, Director and Chief Curator of the Churchill Museum at Westminster College, will make presentations at the Center for Life Enrichment discussing two of Winston Churchill's most important roles during the 20th century: leading Great Britain and the British Commonwealth during WW II and Churchill's altering the West to Russia's threat after WW II in his famous "iron Curtain" address.

On Monday, August 16, from 2-4 p.m., Mr. Riley will examine Churchill's role during the War from Leading protagonist, standing alone against Hitler, to becoming the junior partner in a much larger alliance. How did Churchill's evolving roles change his view on the War, British War aims and influence his plans for the post-war world?

On Tuesday, August 17 from 10 to noon, he will discuss the



Tim Riley

journey of Churchill who sent troops to Russia post revolution to strangle Bolshevism at its birth, then shipped lend-lease supplies to keep Russia in WWII, before delivering the first shots of the cold war in his "iron Cur-tain" address at Westminster College on March 5, 1946.

Who better to discuss these crucial events of the last century than Tim Riley, who has served at the Director and Chief Curator of the Churchill Museum since May 2016.

Pre-register now to attend CLE's Churchill at War: His Finest Hour? and for Churchill and Russia: From Allies to Enemies lectures held in the CLE lecture hall in the Peggy Crosby Center on Monday August 16, from 2-4 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 17 from 10-noon. Cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

Book your dinner at OEI's The Farm for Sun., Aug. 15

Dinner with Steven Satterfield & Joseph Lenn at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30 p.m. Please join us in celebrating the height of the summer season in the mountains with James Beard Foundation award-winning chefs Steven Satterfield of Miller Union in Atlanta, and Joseph Lenn of JC Holdway in Knoxville, TN. This dynamic duo, who also happen to be great friends, will present a multi-

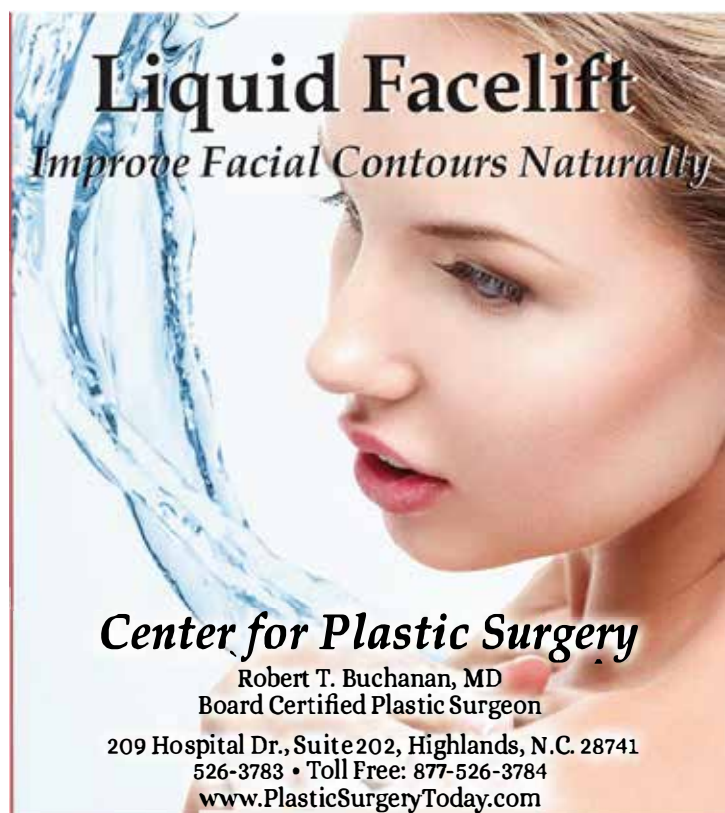


course menu full of summer's most delicious flavors alongside pairings from the Old Edwards sommeliers in the beautiful setting of The Farm. \$185 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online today: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/dinner-with-steven-satterfield-joseph-lenn-tickets-67065> or call 828-787-2525 to book.

Elizabeth Locke Trunk Show at Acorns, Aug. 13-15



At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Elizabeth Locke Jewelry Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Elizabeth Locke travels the world in pursuit of the uncommon elements to make up her designs. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.



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...EVENTS continued from page 13

terian Church is located at the corner of Main Street and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street. Due to the rise in positive Covid cases in Macon County, masks are required.

Aug. 19-Sept. 5

- At the Highlands Playhouse, Curtain's Up. This original tribute to the best of Broadway and beyond was created by our very own Playhouse artistic team, led by Marshall Carby and Jimmy Lewis. This all new - original concert - featuring some of your favorite Playhouse performers, will explore the classic musical theatre tunes we all know and love along with today's Broadway and West End hits! For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

Fri. -Sun., Aug. 20-22

- At Acorn's on S. 4th Street, Michael Hoffman Pottery Trunk Show. 10a to 5p.

Fri., Aug. 20

- Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Sycamore Flats

Sat., Aug. 21

- Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. ZuZu Welch

Thurs., Aug. 26

- A Highlands favorite, singer songwriter Mike Kinnebrew returns to The Orchard Sessions Live Concert series on Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy an enchanting evening at The Farm at Old Edwards nestled under heirloom apple trees while being entertained and transported with the musical stylings of Mike Kinnebrew. Mike's music is laced with familiarity and comfort, and his lyrics tell the story of his heart. His passion for music and its ability to engage is made evident by the swell of enthusiastic fans. Tickets are \$15-\$25. The \$25 ticket includes light bites, and a cash bar is available. THE Orchard Sessions concert series brings a stellar lineup of well-known musicians to The Farm at Old Edwards - located at 336 Arnold Road in Highlands. For more information about Orchard sessions - and to book online visit oldedwardshospitality.com/ORCHARDSESSIONS.

Interlude Series continues at First Presbyterian Church



Maria Margiolakou



Rolando Salazar

At 2pm on Wednesday, Aug. 18, the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church will feature vocalists from Georgia State University School of Music. Featured will be Maria Margiolakou, coloratura soprano; Ryan Henry, baritone; and Rolando Salazar, pianist. Artistic/Stage Director for the performance is W. Dwight Coleman. There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual - come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main Street and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street. Due to the rise in positive Covid cases in Macon County, masks are required.

Mike Kinnebrew performs Aug. 26 at The Farm



A Highlands favorite, singer songwriter Mike Kinnebrew returns to The Orchard Sessions Live Concert series on Thursday, Aug. 26 from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy an enchanting evening at The Farm. Tickets are \$15-\$25. The \$25 ticket includes light bites, and a cash bar is available. For more information about Orchard sessions - and to book online visit oldedwardshospitality.com/ORCHARDSESSIONS.

...EVENTS continued from page 14

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 27-29

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Simon Pearce Trees Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Handcrafted in Vermont, Simon Pearce believes in simplicity, quality and artisanship are tenets of a better way of life. Each piece of Simon Pearce's lead-free glassware carries a story that lends meaning, authenticity and grace to every use. From sapling-sized to stunningly stately; brilliantly clear or dusted with snow; wrapped, dappled or silvered: Simon Pearce signature glass trees come in many form. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

Fri., Aug. 27

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Trudition

Sat. & Sun. Aug. 28-29

• Mountaintop Art & Craft Show will be held in downtown Highlands at K-H Founders Park (Pine St.) from 10 to 5. The FREE event features regional potters, jewelers, woodworkers, fine artists, etc. plus food. For more info call (828) 526-9227

or visit www.mountaintopshow.com.

Sat., Aug. 28

• NO CONCERT

Fri., Sept. 3

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Silly Ridge Roundup

Sat., Sept. 4

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. A Social Function

Fri., Sept. 10

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Curtis Blackwell

Sat., Sept. 11

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Full Circle

Sun., Sept. 12

• Bel Canto at 4 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, followed by dinner at Highlands Country Club. for more information, or to make a donation, call 828-787-2867. Performance to feature Kara Shay Thomson, soprano; Mary Phillips, mezzo; Jonathan Burton, tenor; and Todd Thomas, baritone.

Highlands-Cashiers Covid Community Forum

Highland-Cashiers Plateau Covid Community Forum at the Community Building on N. 4th Street in Highlands, is Tues., Aug. 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Doctors and public health officials will be on hand to provide an update on COVID-19, explain risks and benefits of the vaccine to discuss child vaccinations, and why masking and other public health measures are important. RSVP at hcainfo@hcahealthcare.com.

With the Plateau communities on red alert with high transmission of Covid, Highlands Cashiers Hospital CEO Tom Neal inviting members of the community who are still concerned about getting the vaccine to talk to doctors and public health experts and get the answers they need. Any resident of the area is welcome.

The Speakers will include Dr Scott

Baker, Dr Patty Wheeler, one or more Blue Ridge Health Doctor, as well as Dr. De-whurst and Director Kathy McGaha from Macon County Public Health Department.

Topics that will be covered include: An update on Covid-19; Risks and Benefits of Covid-19 Vaccine; Should I Have My Child Vaccinated? Why to Mask and Importance of other Public Health Measures. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

In person space is limited to distanced capacity to keep the gathering safe so we are asking for a RSVP email to make a reservation at hcainfo@hcahealthcare.com. Those attending in person will be required wear masks and do a temp check on arrival.

If you have questions Covid Call Center at 828-526-1310.



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FREE Upcoming Event (refreshments served)

Friday Aug. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m., local poet Richard Betz will sign copies of his new collection, "Bells in the Night."



Highlands Bolivian Mission announces fundraiser on Sept. 15

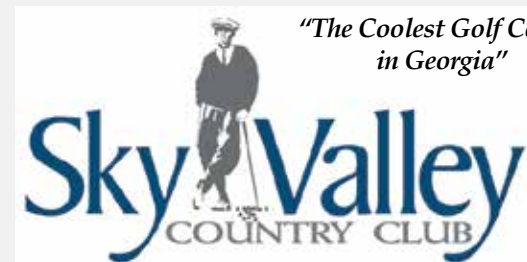
The Highlands Bolivian Mission has been helping residents of the lowlands of Bolivia since 1998. The mission was started by Dr. John Baumrucker as a medical mission, but soon developed into new avenues including home building and feeding the masses.

To help support the mission, the on-going mission is having an auction at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on Wednesday, Sept. 15 beginning at 5:30 p.m. There is an admission charge of \$100 donation to the mission per person and this includes drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and the silent and live auctions.

Reservations or more information can be made by calling Baumrucker at 828.200.0902 or by mailing a check to:

Highlands Bolivian Mission
P.O. Box 1358
Highlands, NC 28741

Donations of articles for the auction can be accepted. Call the above number for details. The mission is a 501 C3 tax exempt organization.



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www.skyvalleycountryclub.com

...HISTORY continued from page 1

found in the river 12 years ago, because part of the group's mission is to honor the area's cultural heritage and provide public education about the Chattooga River watershed, said Conservancy Founder Buzz Williams.

Williams and a group of volunteers spent last Sunday ferrying the canoe across the river to the Georgia side, and then hauling it up a half-mile of steep terrain -- and they're not finished yet.

The canoe is 21 feet, 10 inches long, and about 2 feet wide. It weighs about 1,200 pounds and is made from heart pine with what appears to be a metal axe. Williams said the shape is very similar to dugout canoes built by Native Americans -- long and flat on the bottom with about a foot of

"rocker" at both the bow and stern.

The canoe has gunwales (top edge of hull) and a two-inch hole in the bow for mooring. A metal, square cut nail is fixed in the bow for unknown purposes, which Williams said adds to the mystery of who made it.

"We found a canoe very similar to this one about 12 years ago and it was carbon dated to about 1760," he said. "Since this one shows more evidence of European influence, it may have been built by the Cherokee using tools obtained from early traders, or even by the traders themselves copying a native American design. The square-cut nail is a type that dates to the late 1700s. We most likely will never know who built it, but



Photos by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

we know it is very old, probably over 200 years."

The process for extracting the canoe involved building a cradle made of closed cell foam, plywood, and bamboo to keep the canoe secure and protect it during extraction.

Volunteers then took the cradle over steep and rough terrain to where the canoe was pinned, unpinned it, placed it in the cradle, and dragged it above the high-water mark. Then using boat dock flotation devices, ferried the canoe across the river.

"The canoe's location between major rapids prevented us from taking it upstream, so we had to detour over land to an upstream ford between two major rapids to get it over to the Georgia side and up another steep hill to a point where we can take it out to a road using a team of mules," said Williams. "We accomplished the uphill part of the extraction with the help of Eric Pierson with the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. who designed a rope and pulley system using a 6 to 1 mechanical

advantage assisted by volunteers to get the canoe up what was almost a 40% slope in places. We have moved it about a half mile with a quarter mile to go."

Pierson said moving the canoe took a lot of man/woman power.

"It takes a lot to move a 1,200-pound load up and over a mountain, across a river, and up over another mountain," said Pierson. "In doing so, besides just muscle, we utilized ropes and pulleys to rig up everything from a simple 4:1 mechanical advantage, to a compound 12:1 mechanical advantage system to haul the canoe along the trek."

He added that he was glad Williams called and asked for his help.

"I'm just happy that Buzz asked, and I was able to lend a hand in getting this canoe out," said Pierson. "It is fun being a part of such an awesome adventure that preserves a piece of history. I hope something can be learned from such a find and that people will be able to enjoy it."

Where the canoe will eventually find a permanent home is up for debate.

"Technically, the canoe is claimed by the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology since it was found in SC waters, but we are working hand in hand with the Eastern Band of Cherokee who also have a legitimate reason for claiming the canoe," said Williams.

In the meantime, once the canoe is fully extracted it will be housed at the Chattooga Whitewater Shop in Long Creek, SC, on loan from the SCIAA.

"We at the Chattooga Conservancy take the position that the old canoe belongs to all of us, and it is in our collective interest to honor and learn from our cultural heritage and protect it for future generations," said Williams. "Also, a huge thanks to the volunteers who endured many hours of tough going. We are almost there!"

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Summit Charter School Foundation 'toasts' to the trees

The deadline to participate in decorating a tree is August 15

On Thursday, July 29, supporters of the Summit Charter School Foundation attended a sold-out "Toast of the Trees" dinner at The Orchard Restaurant's Harvest Barn.

The event was sponsored by Moët & Chandon champagne and was a kick-off event for top level Benefactors and Corporate

Sponsors of the Foundation's new fundraiser, the Cashiers Festival of Trees, which is scheduled for November 26-27, 2021. Cashiers residents Sarah Palisi Chapin and Sarah Jennings represent the inaugural co-chairs.

The Summit Charter School Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that raises money to support Summit

Charter School, a now K-12 public charter school in Cashiers. Summit serves 253 students and 45 teachers, representing four counties in rural western North Carolina.

As a tuition-free public charter school, Summit receives significantly less public funding than a traditional public school and zero funding for capital improvements.

Cashiers Festival of Trees will be a multi-day, family-friendly event where guests tour and bid on decorated trees and holiday décor, enjoy a wide variety of holiday performances, create personalized children's crafts, celebrate literacy on a Dolly Parton Imagination Library Storytime Stage, shop one-of-a-kind gifts in the Gift Zone, and enjoy a pop up Build-A-Bear workshop. The event will take place in the Summit Center, the school's athletics and fine arts facility.

Giving Back

While raising funds for the school is the primary focus of the event, the Summit Foundation has decided to spread the holiday spirit of giving.

"When a non-profit decorates a tree, 20% of the item's sale will go back to the participating non-profit, creating a collaborative initiative to benefit our fellow

charities and their worthy causes. Supporting our entire community is very important to our cause and the school's overall mission," explains co-chairs Chapin and Jennings, in a joint statement.

Non-profits, businesses, churches, and individuals are encouraged to get involved. The deadline to submit a participant form is August 15.

For those interested in decorating a tree, but are not sure how to get started with a design, the Foundation provides a list of themes, as well as local designers to assist.

The festival has been organized in concert with the community's other holiday events, in a dedicated effort to drive cross traffic, and community collaboration.

To learn more about the Cashiers Festival of Trees, visit <https://www.summitschool.org/festival-of-trees>.

...MEDICAID continued from page 1

dictate decisions of the state.

Before considering voting in favor of the resolution, Macon County Commission Chair Jim Tate said he had a lengthy conversation with Senator Kevin Corbin, who assured him that he, too, supports the resolution. Sen. Corbin has been advocating for expanding the state's Medicaid program since he was a member of the House of Representatives and co-sponsored House Bill 655 which would have expanded the program for working families across the state. HB 655 passed the House, however the Senate failed to hold a vote on

The resolution states "closing the health insurance coverage gap would extend insurance to approximately 1,322 uninsured individuals in Macon County and 750,000 across the entire state as well as drive new business and healthcare activity in Macon County and create 62 new jobs within the county."

Prior to voting to approve the resolution, Casey Cooper, CEO of the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority spoke to commissioners about the benefit closing the health insurance coverage gap would have for residents across Western North Car-

olina, particularly when it comes to mental health and substance abuse treatment availability.

In July 2018, Tribal leadership approved funding for a new psych/detox inpatient unit on the site of the old hospital structure located next to the new CIHA campus. Demolition began on part of the structure in February 2019 and the Crisis Stabilization Unit is set to open fall of 2020. Finally, in 2020 the CIHA opened a new crisis stabilization unit with 18 inpatient rooms for behavioral health patients, four acute-care patient rooms that are equipped to support someone in a health crisis, and two large group therapy rooms.

While the original goal of the CIHA was to provide services to members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, hospital CEO Casey Cooper said that with additional funding sources -- through Medicaid expansion -- the CIHA would be able to offer mental health and substance abuse services to residents in need of care across Western North Carolina.

"We want to make services available to non-natives, especially for behavioral health and substance use, but the challenge is federal regulations require us to

only do that if the service can't be reasonably available elsewhere in the area," Cooper said. "Other criteria is we have to charge the minimum of cost and finally we have to demonstrate that it doesn't result in a decline in services for natives. We feel comfortable we can meet those criteria if more people in the community had health coverage."

When ACA first passed, the federal government incentivized states to expand Medicaid by promising to pay 100 percent of the state's cost for the first three years and 90 percent of costs after that. Still, North Carolina and other states chose not to expand because they didn't trust the federal government to keep that promise in perpetuity.

"At the end of year three, expansion would cost North Carolina \$5 billion a year but because of ACA the cost will be matched by the feds at 90 percent," Cooper said. "People say that's still too much but it's not a bad return for the match and the hospitals and insurance companies have agreed to fund 90 percent of the state match through assessments so now it's only \$100 million -- that's a \$350 million return on investment."

...REDISTRICTING continued from page 5

have as many as nine

As dictated by the state, County Commissioners are elected either at large, by a district, a combination of the two, or via a limited voting system.

For Macon County, com-

missioners are elected by a combination of the two, meaning that commissioners must live within a specific district, but are elected by all voters in Macon County.

District I consists of the precincts of Elijah, Flats, Highlands,

and Sugarfork. District II, the county's largest District, consists of the precincts of Iotla, Milshoal, North Franklin, East Franklin, South Franklin, Union and Smith-bridge and District III consists of

• See REDISTRICTING page 19





The Wisdom of Love

Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
Methodist Church

In the third chapter of the Old Testament Book of 1 Kings, young king Solomon asks God for wisdom to lead God's people. Pleased that Solomon asks for an understanding mind in order to govern the people wisely rather than for riches and a long life, God blesses the young king with more than he asked.

I've always thought Solomon showed a good bit of wisdom in asking for wisdom. His desire to be adequately equipped to meet the daunting moment revealed an encouraging posture of humility and self-awareness. It also bore witness to the king's properly ordered priorities.

In "Thoughts in Solitude," Thomas Merton offers a prayer that includes the following hopeful confession - "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you."

I hear the echo of a Solomon-like wisdom in Merton's prayer. Here is the recognition of human frailty that acknowledges our hope for getting it right depends on God. I've often found myself hoping Merton is correct, and that God is truly pleased by my desire to please God. And serving as a pastor in the midst of a global pandemic that continues to offer many challenges, I have frequently sought the wisdom and discernment to lead and serve faithfully in a season where opinions can vary starkly on the right response.

Trying to find our way through the fog of life's challenges can be exhausting, frustrating and even frightening. The way forward is not always easy to see, and we're not always in agreement on the right course to take. This can describe many different seasons of life, and I believe it is particularly true in our shared lives over these past several months.

Through these days of trying to navigate faithfully through a global pandemic, I've been reminded time and time again of Solomon's wise request for wisdom and Merton's hopeful prayer in search of pleasing God. And pondering the faithful wisdom revealed in both Solomon and Merton reminds me of my own deep yearning to faithfully discern God's will and to follow God's direction. On some days the way seems clear, on other days not so much.

But I'll keep praying and seeking and trying to do the best I can, joining with my fellow travelers with a similar passion for thoughtful discernment and a faithful response to the hour at hand. And if God will grant our request for wisdom in these days, and if our deepest desire is to do no harm, and if our behaviors and attitudes are born out of love for our neighbor, then I believe we can join Merton in his hopeful prayer. In other words, I believe if everything we do is motivated by love, it will be pleasing to God.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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10:45am Children's Program, Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:

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Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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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

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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

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Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 6. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 6

• At 10:08 p.m., Walter Trey Welch, 29, of Highlands, was arrested on a warrant for offenses committed in another jurisdiction. He was issued at \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Sept. 22.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 4.

Aug. 4

• At 4:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Biscuit Rock Road.

• At 8:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 10:20 p.m., the dept. was called to investigate smoke at a residence on East Forest Way.

• At 11:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Jessmine Lane.

• At 11:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Aug. 5

• A little after midnight, the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Horse Cove Road.

• At 5:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Whiteside Cove Road.

• At 12:01 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 12:12 p.m., the dept. was call to investigate the source of smoke on Bowery Road.

• At 12:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holt Road.

• At 1:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Split Rail Row.

• At 1:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

• At 5:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wyanoak Road.

Aug. 6

• At 10:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Big View Drive.

Aug. 7

• At 8:04 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on S. 4th Street.

• At 9:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

Aug. 9

• At 8:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders at a location on Main Street.

...REDISTRICTING continued from page 17

the precincts of Burningtown, Cartoogechaye, Cowee, and Nantahala.

Higdon's Concerns

Commissioner Paul Higdon, who lives in Burningtown and represents District III wants the county to look at other options for electing members to the Board of Commissioners because currently, someone residing in District II is able to run for commissioner every two years because there is a District II seat open for each of the staggered year groups. While District II can run every two years, commissioners in District III and I can only run every four years.

Higdon asked Ridenour to look at the possibility of the county doing something similar to the Macon County Board of Education, which has four district seats and one at-large seat. Ridenour noted that commissioner districts are divided based on population and in order to accomplish something like that, complete redistricting would have to occur.

Macon County Commissioner Jim Tate noted that he would be wary of redistricting due to the fact that it could make District I, which he represents larger, lessening the change that the board would have representation from the Highlands area.

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale noted that for redistricting to even be considered, the county would have to wait until the new census numbers are released, which likely wouldn't be until next year.

While redistricting is one option the Macon County Board of Commissioners could take — they do have other options -- Macon County could change the way it holds elections altogether.

Macon County could elect to have all commissioner seats elected every two years — or all seats elected every four years, without staggering terms. Another option would be for Macon County to switch the groups of districts that are staggered. For example instead of the staggered years being split into group A, one from District I and two from District II, and group B, one from District II and one from District III, the groups could be split into group A being District I and District III and group B being all of District III. This change would result in the board seats' terms remaining staggered and place all district's on a four-year cycle.

Ridenour and Board of Election Director Melanie Thiabult said they would continue to research the situation and provide additional options and clarifications at the September meeting of the Board of Education.

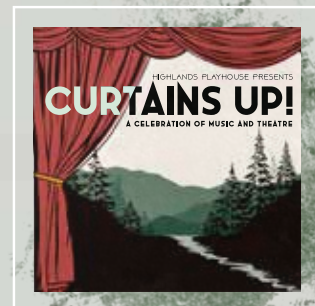


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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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HOSPITALITY MINDSET: Highlands Country Club is looking for a few individuals for food service, bartending and housekeeping, who have a heart for service, want to be respected as professionals and know how to earn to your ability. Competitive pay, tips for F & B staff, uniform provided, and meals per shift provided to all. Golfing privileges are available. Wonderful, busy working atmosphere. Appreciative management to work with each person. Go to www.highlandscountryclub.com, select the Career tab at the top of the tool bar to fill out an application. Or, call 828-787-2782 and leave a message for Greg. See the Club's reviews on Indeed. (st. 6/24)

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER NEEDED for local business. Most work can be done from home. Call or text Tim Sharp 256-683-5885. (st. 6/24)

THE HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking a part-time employee to work in the Welcome Center on Saturday and Sunday. The ideal candidate should have excellent knowledge of the Highlands and Plateau areas and enjoy greeting visitors to our town. Hours are Saturday 10a.m. – 4p.m. and Sunday 11a.m. – 3 p.m. For consideration, please send resume to visitor@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112. (st. 5/27)

POSH PAWS PET SPA IN HIGHLANDS, NC is now hiring dog bathers. No experience necessary. Fast advancement opportunities. Please call 828-526-9581 to inquire about position. (st. 7/29)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for

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JOIN OUR TEAM! Whole Life Market is now hiring for full/part time positions. Are you a fun, healthy minded individual looking for a positive work environment? We are an organic health food store/ juice bar. Experience is not necessary but any grocery store, barista skills are a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th. St, Highlands.

FULL AND PART TIME RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES WANTED. Contact Potpourri at 828-200-0044 to schedule an interview. Eyewear experience is a plus. (st. 5/13)

DO YOU LIKE TO CLEAN AND ORGANIZE? Private club seeking a few energetic individuals with a happy state of mind to join our staff in the housekeeping department. Early hours, routine schedule, competitive pay, benefits, one daily meal provided, and uniforms provided. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Country Club at 828-526-2181. (st. 5/13)

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THE SUMMER HOUSE BY REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN HIGHLANDS is looking for full and part time positions in sales and warehouse & delivery personnel. Must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and/or customer service experience preferred. Competitive starting pay. Generous benefits for full-time positions. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands. (st. 5/20)

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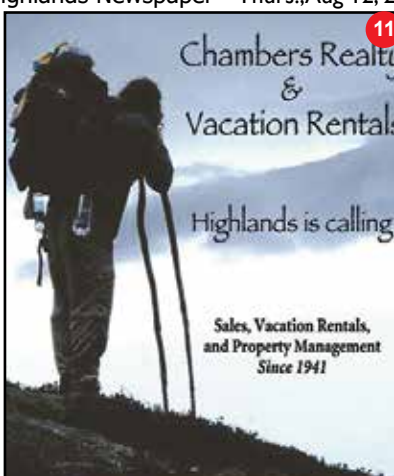
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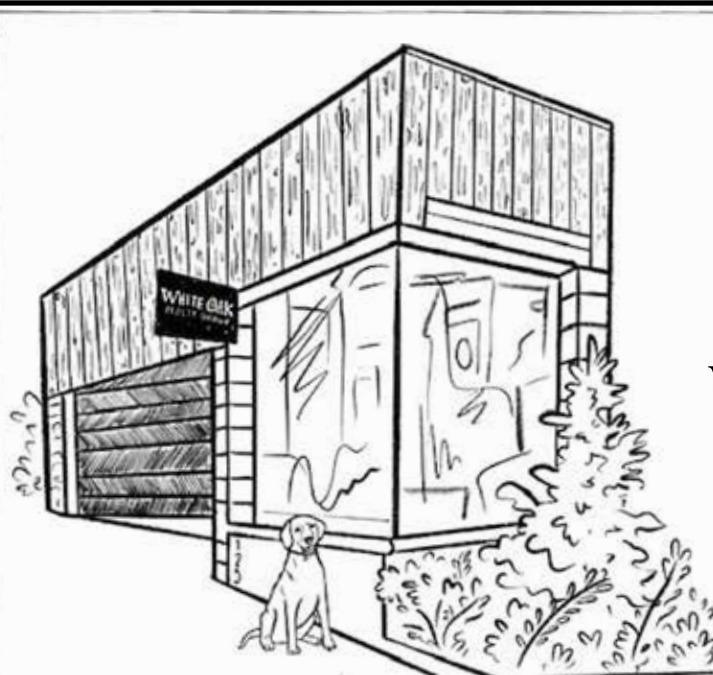
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