Highlands Newspaper

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Highlands PD has litter in its sights

Though the Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the town holds litter pick-ups a couple times a year, it's clear twice a year isn't enough. Highlands' byways are consistently littered with garbage.

At a recent Town Board meeting, citizen Griffin Bell implored the town to do something about the abundance of litter on NC 28 south even though much of the problem on that road is outside the town limits.

• See LITTER page 19

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From left Mountain Findings Board members with scholarship recipient Abigail Nichols and her parents: Suzy Jackson, Keith Crawford; Barbara, Abigail and Todd Nichols; Helen Moore and Glenda Bell. – photo by Kim Lewicki

Mtn Findings gives 1st ever 4-yr scholarship to graduate

Every year the board of the Mountain Findings Thrift Store disburses its proceeds to area nonprofits including the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund whose total is disbursed among annual graduates.

•See SCHOLARSHIP page 6

House Bills 829 and 401 have towns concerned

By Brittney Lofthouse

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor and other municipal leaders across North Carolina are closely watching legislation in Raleigh that could keep Highlands and other cities from regulating short-term rentals such as Airbnbs and VRBO.

House Bill 829 would change a 2019 law that's currently the central focus of an N.C. Court of Appeals case in which a homeowner is seeking to overturn Wilmington, NC's regulations.

"These kinds of restrictive laws coming from the state will not be welcomed in area municipalities," said Mayor Taylor at May's Town Board meeting.

On the surface, the one-page bill, which carries the simple title of "Chapter 160D Technical Correction" only deletes nine words from a 2019 land-use law that lim-

•See HOUSE BILLS page 14

Robin King Austin of the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau Vaccine Initiative with a number of volunteers at K-H Founders Park's new Community Immunity Thermometer. – Photo by Kim Lewicki

'Initiative' uses a visual clue to encourage Highlanders to get vaccinated

Vaccination figures are climbing but not fast or high enough.

Macon County is the leading region in Western North Carolina's 19 counties with a vaccination rate of 39.3%.

The Highlands Plateau which for vaccine purposes includes Sapphire, Lake Glenville, Cashiers, and Highlands is at 37%.

Good figures, but not enough to reach herd immunity, say authorities.

That's the idea behind the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau Vaccine Initiative's Community Immunity Thermometer erected in

•See INITIATIVE page 10

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• The Plateau's Position •

•Mayor on Duty•

Planning for Highlands long term

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

The summer season is off to a great start. Concerts, car shows, movies, shrimp boils, art shows, farmers markets are all back in full operation, not to mention the wonderful restaurants and shops that are fully open.

In the coming weeks the Highlands Community Plan will undergo multiple levels of review. A completed draft of the plan could be on the town website as early as tomorrow. A public presentation and discussion of this draft is scheduled for June 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Highlands Conference Center. If folks miss this in person meeting, a virtual meeting to review the draft is scheduled for July 1 from 5:30 to 7:30.

The Highlands Planning Board will review the draft at their monthly meeting on June 28. The planning board will also have a special meeting on July 13 to meet with the Stewart company, the consultants who guided the development of the plan. Barring delays, the plan will be presented to the town board at their July 15 meeting, where I anticipate a public hearing concerning the plan being called for the August meeting.

I look forward to seeing this initial draft that stakeholders have developed through the various meetings and from the analysis of the community survey data. The final plan will be a road map for addressing several major challenges and opportunities for Highlands.

At the May Town Board meeting, the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan was approved. Like the impending Highlands Community Plan, this transportation plan looked into the future to determine county transportation needs all the way to 2045. None of the recommended projects for the Highlands area have been funded. It may take as long as a decade for certain projects in the county to get on the priority list for funding. The transportation plan under go periodic review, but the document determines needs far into the future.

A project in the county transportation plan that I hope can get somewhat quick funding is the construction of sidewalks. One is on US 64 from the Bascom to Mirror Lake Road, and another one on NC 106 from Highlands Plaza to Hummingbird Lane. These two corridors have several neighborhoods where folks currently walk on the road shoulders when headed into town.

A recent newspaper article on the housing issue stated that Western Carolina is projected to grow 26% in the coming decades. What was not said was that Macon County is projected to have a 37% increase in population. With that kind of growth there will be a need for improved transportation, planning and infrastructure development. Now is the time for county and municipal leaders begin planning for this growth, not when it creates major problems.

On Saturday and Sunday, I drove downtown to see how commerce was doing. I noticed something that may portend for a major change for the future of Highlands. I have also noticed the phenomena on other recent occasions. We seem to have a new wave of young professional people visiting and also moving to Highlands. With ample access to broadband these newcomers will be able to live and work in this small, remote community. While some worry about the current surge toward short-term rentals, in the future the trend may might be toward young professionals moving here to live, work and contribute to this wonderful community. The retirement model which has been a major community dynamic may be waning as a new paradigm unfolds.

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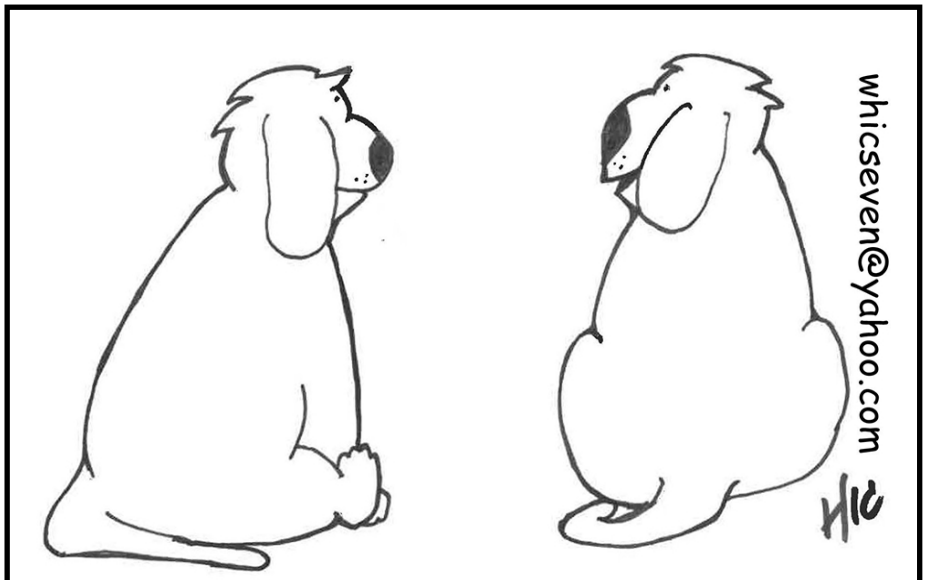
•Hic's View•



"Sit, stay, heel, fetch, good grief. For once I would like a challenge like, take out the garbage."

•Weather•

Thu, 3-Jun	Fri, 4-Jun	Sat, 5-Jun	Sun, 6-Jun
68°F / 56°F	73°F / 54°F	73°F / 56°F	75°F / 61°F
Cloudy, a shower and t-storm	A t-storm around in the p.m.	Periods of sun	Periods of sun
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 73° Low: 59°	High: 82° Low: 62°	High: 83° Low: 64°	High: 84° Low: 67°

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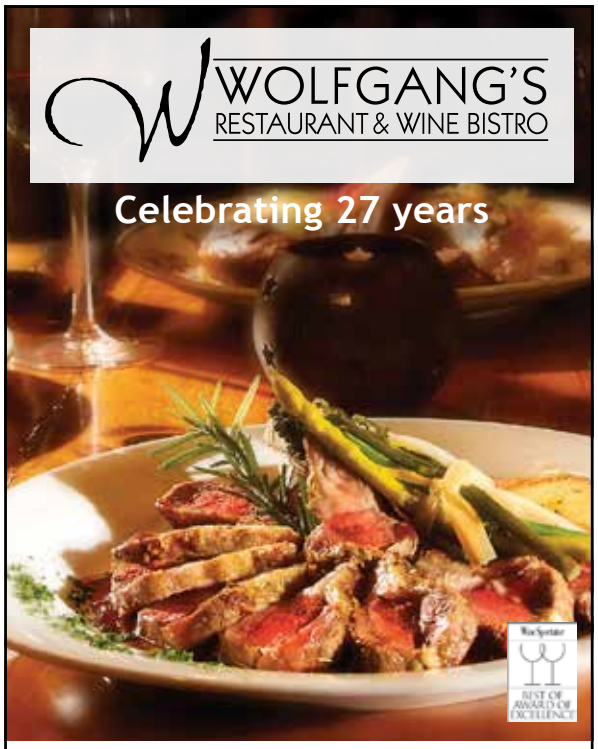

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• Business/Organization News •

Help alleviate hunger: Plant for the Plateau

From Highlands to Cashiers, businesses, organizations, and community members are planting to help in the fight against food insecurity.

"Food insecurity affects our children's ability to learn, how they feel, and it also adds stress to their family life. When a child goes to bed hungry, they feel sad, and it affects their development, self-esteem, and energy," says Andrea Smith of the Highlands Food Pantry, referencing the 27% of children in Western North Carolina that are food insecure.

The 2020 pandemic brought this community together with wholehearted support for Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry. "We have been blessed with strong financial contributions and grants. We have a strong group of core volunteers who work tirelessly to meet the needs of our community. Twelve local churches take a month each year to meet and greet our clients, load their cars, and give them hope," says Susie Davis of Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry.

Both Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry in Cashiers and the Highlands Food Pantry express gratitude for community members willing to plant extra rows in their gardens.

"Although we receive a generous amount of staples and meat from the MANNA FoodBank, fresh produce is always lacking. We strive to serve healthy food, and any and all fresh produce gives our clients the extra nutritious food groups so greatly needed. Good fresh produce in this area is expensive for our clients, and they are always thankful when we can provide it for them," said Davis.

Smith agrees.

"The donation of fresh produce has a very positive effect on our community. Our members love to be able to take home fresh fruit and vegetables to provide healthy and tasty meals for their families," she said.

Avenues and strategies with which residents and groups choose to tackle planting for the plateau are as unique as the organizations themselves.

In Lonesome Valley, residents chose to share from their community garden in 2020, donating produce to Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, and are doing so again in 2021.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to once again work to plant for the plateau to assist with food insecurity within our community. Lonesome Valley is filled with folks that just want to help our local community and sharing crops from our garden felt like a natural fit," says Sarah Jennings, special events and marketing director at Lonesome Valley.

The Cashiers United Methodist Church is offering its garden space to individuals in need of fresh vegetables. There are four available beds for personal garden use. Email plantfortheplateau@gmail.com by June 10th for more information.

"We believe in community and gardening together to provide food for ourselves and those in need is a hands-on community builder," says Laura Plush of the Cashiers United Methodist Church.

In Highlands, the Rotaract Club is working to provide fresh produce and food-based education to Highlands Food Pantry clients.

Rotaract is applying for a district grant, with the support of their parent club, the MountainTop Rotary Club of Highlands, to provide container gardens with veggie starts and culinary herbs, free of cost, to Highlands Food Pantry clients.

These container gardens will be assembled with herbs and edible annuals that can grow successfully in this region, either in a yard, on a porch, or indoors in a sunny window. Distribution of these container gardens will take place at the food pantry during normal shopping days later this summer.

Rotaract club members will help with distribution and will provide engagement and education in the form of dialogue and instruction sheet handouts, both in English and in Spanish.

"This initiative hopes to encourage people to learn about accessible ways of gaining food sovereignty in their daily life. There is also the goal of providing fresh and nutrient-dense greens, vegetables, and herbs for people to then eat at home and learn how to incorporate into their lifestyle and seasonal eating habits," says Rachel Kinback of Rotaract Club.

Interested residents or organizations are encouraged to simply plant and donate.

"Any and all fresh produce is needed, including green beans, corn, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, potatoes, and fresh greens. Because we distribute food twice a week, there is little waste or spoilage," says Davis.

Fresh produce is considered a premium.

"The fresh produce that is most needed is a variety of fruits and vegetables, such as bananas, apples, oranges, grapes, onions, potatoes, peppers, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, garlic, and cucumbers," says Andrea Smith.

Community members who would like to learn more about planting for the plateau are invited to join the Plant for The Plateau Facebook group or email plantfortheplateau@gmail.com. For those that lack a green thumb or space to garden, there are plenty of other avenues to raise awareness, volunteer, and donate.

"The food pantry always needs the contribution of any foods that are not out of date and can be added to the current distribution. This includes canned goods, beans, rice, cereal, and personal care items. Many clients affected by food insecurity have few leftover funds for soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and skincare products. These items can be dropped into our large contribution box on the front porch of the pantry," says Davis of Fishes & Loaves.

Monetary donations are needed too.

"The food pantry is always in need of monetary donations. Monetary donations help us keep our shelves, refrigerators, and freezers filled with healthy fresh foods for our community members; more volunteers would allow us to expand our hours to make it more convenient for our community members," says Smith.

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..SCHOLARSHIP continued from page 1

However, this year, in addition to giving $8,000 to the town's scholarship fund, the board decided it wanted to "step out of the box a bit by doing something in a big lifechanging way not just a one-time only thing," said board member Edith Pendleton.

So, for the first time $40,000 was awarded Highlands School Class of 2021 graduate, Abigail Nichols, who will be attending UNC-Charlotte to study Elementary Education.

"I am super thankful, l and I wasn't expecting something this big," she said.

Nichols has been saving for college by working two jobs and babysitting and this scholarship will make a world of difference for her.

To continue receiving the scholarship in subsequent years, Nichols has to send her grades to the Mountain Findings Board to show she is in good academic standing each year.

Applicants were filtered through the Highlands School Guidance and Scholarship Committee. Part of the application process included an essay which propelled Nichols to the top.

Essay Prompt:

Looking back over your high school years, what are some of the things you did that make you feel good about yourself, things you may have done to overcome, and what are some of the things you would do differently?

"Looking back over my high school years, it has not always been easy. I've struggled greatly with self-image, confidence, and self-identity. I've often put on a face in front of my friends and family in hopes of making them proud of me. Over the past year, I have found ways that have helped me deal with negative thoughts and emotions that have led me to a healthier place.

"To serve others, I have enjoyed going on mission trips over the last four years with my church. I love the idea of being able to help others who are in need. Also, I have a passion for horses and enjoy riding and training them. While my friends enjoyed playing sports in high school, I enjoyed being at the stables. I was able to form a deeper connection with not only horses but also with nature.

"One of my favorite things to do is workout. Since the beginning of last summer, I've lost 35 pounds. This has greatly encouraged me and made me want to be the best I can be. Through working out, I have been able to push aside negative thoughts and emotions in times of stress. I love the idea of working hard for something I want. I want to be physically and mentally strong. I will continue to further my love for working out and use it to encourage others.

"Looking back, I wish I would have cherished more the time with my friends and family. Since the beginning of my senior year, I've worked two jobs, babysat on the weekends, and attended school. There's not much time to sit down and relax when you have to make money for college. I am thankful for the time spent in high school, but I am extremely excited about college."

Pendleton said Mountain Findings still intends to donate to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund each year, but this new scholarship will stand on its own as long as Mountain Findings has the funds to do so.

– Kim Lewicki

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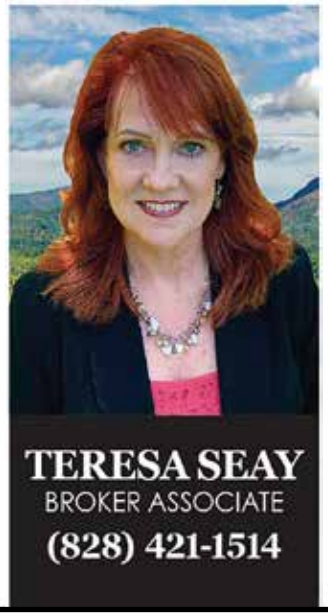

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The Winds of Change

Pat Allen
Pat Allen Realty Group

Just like the weather changes from one day to the next, so do the days of our lives. Some changes are welcomed, and some are not. Some bring joy and some bring pain and devastation.

As I become older, I realize that change is inevitable and how we handle a change determines our future. When I first began my real estate career in Highlands 19 years ago, I was one of many who thought I could do this profession part-time and still lead a "normal" life.

I started at Harry Norman Realtors here in Highlands as an agent and hit the ground running. Six months later the president of the Atlanta-based corporation, Lewis Glenn, asked to meet with me and offered me the position of broker-in-charge. I was flattered and scared at the same time! There were more experienced brokers in our office, but he said there was something he saw in me that assured him I could do the job.

I knew what a change that would be for my husband and myself. We were inseparable and loved to travel. I really had to delve deep into my mind and soul but decided to take the position after my husband, also named Pat, said he felt it was a great opportunity.

I met my goal of increasing the market share here and stayed there for seven years. But once Harry Norman Realtors went from being an independent firm to a franchise, I made the decision to open my own firm, Pat Allen Realty Group.

The franchise mentality is not for me as I want to grow with decisions I make and not those of a corporation telling me what numbers I need to make no matter what it takes. That turned out to be a great change for me.

The changes due to Covid prompted my thoughts of how everyone's lives were affected through no fault of their own. So many people lost loved ones and were left with a void that can never really be filled. I experienced this void when my husband passed away suddenly four years ago. This was an unexpected change that left me numb and filled with great sadness. Like others in this situation, I somehow picked up the puzzle pieces and slowly made them fit, one by one, creating a life worth living again. That is the hardest change I've ever had to make.

A major change in your life may result in selling or buying a home. A good broker is there to guide you with that change and should have your best interest at heart. It should not be about making a sale but about helping you make a positive change.

With many people forced to stay home to work, brokers now see a demand for homes with an office area. People have realized that life in a small town offers a quality not found in big cities. There is a sense of peace and serenity on this plateau I call home. It's not just a tourist destination anymore and parents now want to expose their children to outdoor life, a less dense population, and a safer place. Parents have more time to spend with them, allowing them to understand their wants and needs. That is a nice change for all families.

Covid changed the world…it reminded us that we are not in control. All the wealth we have accumulated, the social status we have achieved, and the prestigious colleges our kids attended doesn't matter when faced with life being taken away by a deadly virus or a senseless mass murder. It is about the simple things and living life to its fullest with the main achievement finding and showing love, for that is the meaning of life.

• Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is certified in Resort and Second home properties. She is an independent firm which was recently selected as a Leading Real Estate Company of the World and Luxury Portfolio. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau and she and her daughter, Julie Osborn, were the TOP SALES TEAM in Highlands for the year 2020. Visit her on the web at Pat Allen Realty Group.com, call 828-526-8784, or 828-200-9179. The office is conveniently located at 295 Dillard Road with a second location at 5121 Cashiers Road at the entrance to Wildcat Cliffs Country Club with Julie Osborn as broker-in-charge.

Highlands School students were asked to *'Imagine the Future'*

continued from the May 27 edition

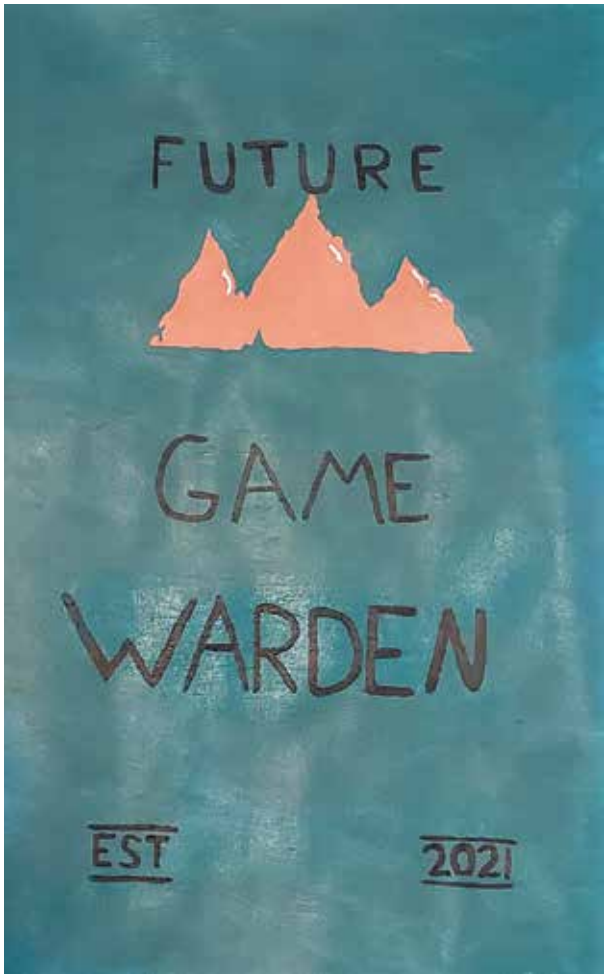
Last week the Grand Prize winners, and the first, second and third place Art and Literature winners as well as some Honorable Mention winners of Highlands School's "Imagine the Future" contest were featured in the Imagine the Future spread.

Highlands School students were challenged to "Imagine the Future" by writing a poem, painting a picture, making a video, – using whatever art form inspired them to inspire others.

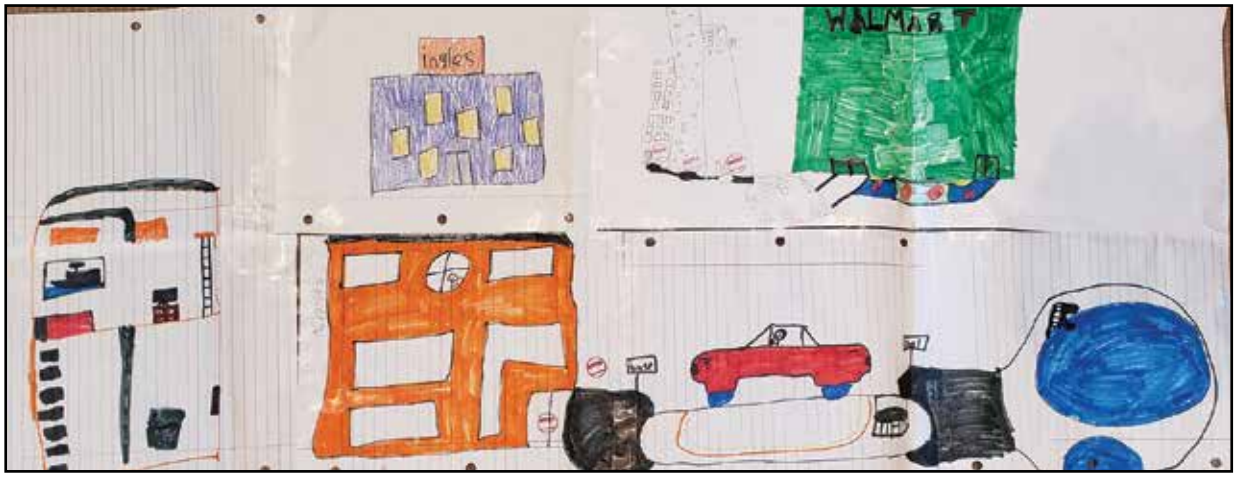
This week we finish with the rest of the Honorable Mention Art and Literature winners as well as some "Powerful Lines" not presented last week.

To see last week's presentation, go to www.highlandsinfo.com click on Local News annd go to the May 27 edition, pages 14-18.

Art Honorable Mention: Lawson Shuler "Mechanic," 11th Grade. He won $25.



Art Honorable Mention: Reese Brewer, "Game Warden," 11th Grade. He won $25.



Art Honorable Mention: Harper Ramey, "Engineering/Architecture," 3rd Grade. He won $25.

Powerful Line

How could we die from a death so feminine?

– Rebekah Wiggins, 12th Grade

Literature Honorable Mention:
Aniah McKim, 7th Grade. He won $25.

The Assist

"I'm bored," complained Amon, my best friend. He's a stocky kid with blonde hair. "Our one day to go play soccer, and a storm like this had to hit."

"A-n-d (saying it slowly for emphasis) we can't even play video games!" I added. I'm Dustin, a kid with a thinner build, and dark brown hair.

"The weather channel said they estimate we're not supposed to get power back for at least 8 hrs!" informed my mom.

"Then what're we supposed to do?" exclaimed Amon. "We have to get some practice in after our losing streak." (Our MS soccer team had been on a 10 game losing streak.)

"Well, maybe y'all would win some games if you worked together," replied mom.

Amon and I exchange an evil glare from across the room.

"I don't understand. Y'all are best friends off the field, but on the pitch you are each other's nemesis!" Mom said.

"We both want to be the best," I explained.

"Yes, and it's obvious! Y'all don't even pass to each other! Do you want to win games or not?" said Mom.

"I just want to go play soccer," said Amon, changing the subject.

"Same," I replied.

Both of us were now staring outside at an enormous black ominous cloud.

"It doesn't look like you're going to be able to play today, so find something else to do." Mom said.

"But what?" Amon said.

"I don't know. You can play board games," Mom said.

"Who does that anymore?" I said, "board games are for old people."

"Hey!" Mom said sarcastically.

Amon laughed.

"No, but really," said Amon, "what can we do that's fun?"

"Let me tell y'all a story," Mom said, "It's about your grandpa, Dustin."

• See IMAGINE page 11

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..INITIATIVE continued from page 1

Founders Park Saturday afternoon.

The thermometer shows the percent of vaccines given through May which is at 37%. Robin King Austin with the Initiative is hoping the thermometer will inspire citizens of the Highlands Plateau to get vaccinated.

"I'm hoping to see it [mercury] get to 80%, but I am happy with any increase we can get no matter how small."

The Initiative uses census track data from the state of North Carolina to get the numbers. This means the second-home owners from various states who got their vaccine here in Highlands aren't counted in that tally. So obviously more people in Highlands' midst are vaccinated.

Interesting, 58% of residents in the northern tract of the Highlands Plateau have gotten the vaccine.

Austin is asking people to write Governor Roy Cooper and ask him to offer a lottery to encourage people to get vaccinated. The idea is everyone who gets vaccinated gets a lottery ticket with the winner getting cash prizes. So far, California, Ohio, Maryland, Oregon, Colorado and New York are offering vaccine lotteries.

Businesses across the country are also in on the game offering free food, or drinks with proof of vaccination.

Austin says the reasons to get vaccinated are obvious: to protect yourself and others from death, long term effects of the virus, loss of ability to work; to protect your business from shut down, protect your employees and customers; to help America heal and reach herd immunity so the virus can't spread; and to prevent the formation of nasty, more contagious variants of Covid.

"We have a long way to go so we can't give up," said Austin.

To register for the vaccine call the H-C Plateau Covid Vaccine Initiative at 526-1310.

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OEI Orchard Series runs through the season

On Thursday, June 17, Erick Baker is part of the Orchard Sessions at The Farm at Old Edwards from 6 - 8 pm.

Guest-favorite singer-songwriter Erick Baker from Knoxville, TN returns to Highlands for this special Orchard Sessions event. Settle into comfortable seating and relax into a summer evening under the heirloom apple trees at the Farm at Old Edwards.

The music of popular self-taught singer-songwriter Erick Baker, from Knoxville, TN will fill the magical mountain air in the stunning surroundings of the orchard, while you enjoy light bites and a cash bar. Old Edwards Hotel Guests & Members $15. General Admission $25 (bookable two weeks prior to the event) Cash Bar & Complimentary Light Bites will be served. $15 - $25. Tickets: https://www.simpletix.com/e/erick-baker-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-t-tickets-67598

..IMAGINE continued from page 9

Both boys groaned, and fell back onto the couch.

"Come on, it's interesting. It's about soccer," Mom said, sitting down on the stool next to them, as she began to tell the story.

"One time my dad..."

"Wait, wait, wait, wouldn't that be your grandpa, Dustin?" interrupted Amon.

She ignores this comment and continues.

"One time my dad was on his way to the World Cup in Morocco. He was traveling with his team (Germany). His friend, Hans, who was always joyful and having fun, wasn't having a good time. He seemed deep in thought. Your grandpa and Hans were always in competition."

She glanced up at where we were sitting, slumped on the couch full of boredom. Nevertheless, she continued to tell the story.

"When they got to the airport, your grandpa asked what was wrong. Hans didn't reply and didn't speak to your grandpa for the rest of the day. At their first workout there, Hans didn't pass to your grandpa, and upset about this, your grandpa didn't pass to Hans. At their first game, Hans scored twice and your grandpa scored a hat trick, putting them at the top of their group."

At their next game, Hans had a wide open shot and missed."

"Oh, shoot!" he yelled.

Your grandpa, witty as he was, replied saying, "Well, wasn't that what you just did?"

"He meant this half sarcastic and half out of frustration."

"Germany won their next two games, finishing at top of their group, and advanced to the next stage. In their next game, Hans scored, but they still were not playing as a team. That night your grandpa tried to get him to talk again, but all tries failed."

"By the semi-finals, both had amassed a lot of goals. Your grandpa had a total of 13 goals. If he scored in the finals, he would hold the record for the most goals in a single World Cup. Hans had 12 goals."

Again, she glanced up to see us, we are now very interested. She smiled and proceeded.

"The night before the final against Argentina, your grandpa finally got Hans to talk. He knew they wouldn't be able to beat Argentina unless they worked together."

"Why have we not passed the ball to each once this tournament? I'm just a little worried that if we don't work together tomorrow, we will lose," said your grandpa.

"Well, I've just become a little envious of the fame you've begun to have," he replied.

"The next day was the final. At the half, they were tied 2-2, even though they still weren't really playing as a team. Neither Hans nor your grandpa had scored."

"In the final seconds, your grandpa got a beautiful long pass, creating a break-away. With Hans not far behind him, it was just your grandpa, the goal-keeper, and Hans. As the distance between your grandpa and the goalie collapsed, he contemplated what to do. Before taking the shot, he noticed that Hans had caught up with him, and was by the far post of the net. The words, shoot, pass, shoot, pass replayed in his mind. Finally he faked the shot and tapped the ball to Hans. All Hans had to do was bunt the ball into the net, and this is exactly what he did."

"After realizing what your grandpa had just done, Hans' countenance suddenly changed and he thought to himself "He could've scored, he could've scored, BUT HE DIDN'T!"

"The team's morale was immensely increased, and soon the whole field was covered with people and players."

"That night Hans caught up with your grandpa."

"Thanks for what you did out there, that meant a lot to me," he said.

"No problem," your grandpa replied. "We won as a team, mission accomplished."

"The end," mom said, looking up and smiling.

"Can you tell us another one?" Amon asked.

"I think that's enough for today," she replied.

Soon after, we had another soccer game, Amon and I played as a team, passing to each other and we won 4-2.

As I walked by my mom after the game, she grinned big at me.

"Mission accomplished." I said.

Mom's story stayed on my mind all the next week, so I asked my parents if I could go to the FIFA Museum. When we were there, I saw my grandpa's 2030 World Cup jersey. #7 with a plaque that read "Aniah McKim."

Powerful Lines

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle they have said
Some people listened, but most just ignored.

– Alyson Dayton, 12th grade

For my future I see a sunny day
Down life's road two years finally free,
Finally beat cancer now I can play
You could find me walking around with glee.

– Logan Petrone, 12th grade

You think you know me?
Come try living in the deep end.

– Carter Mosely, 7th Grade

• Highlands Area Events •

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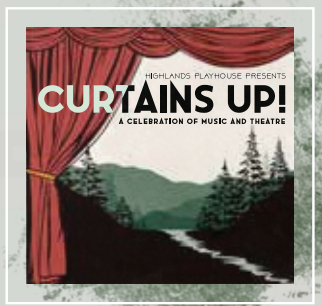

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NOTICE

• The Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, will not be holding June services. Please check papers and radio for possible July opening. Questions? 1-828-506-0125 and leave message.

Ongoing

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse Friday-Sunday.

• American Legion 370 meets every Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

• 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 Friday and Saturday from 10a to 1p.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. In person meetings have resumed and are held at 12 Noon Wednesday And Friday at 1st Presbyterian Church Library, 471 Main St., Highlands. On line meeting information can be found @ www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Every Saturday

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

Thurs., June 3

• At CLE, Gardening for Beauty and Nature: Ecological Landscape Design and the New American Garden (FULL) Time: 10-12 Cost $35/$45 Presenters: Florence Holmes and Canty Worley. Register at www.clehighlands.com or call 526-8811.

• Highlands Biological Foundation Virtual Lecture Series: Climate Conversation at 6 p.m. "Climate change and the future forests of Great Smoky Mountain National Park" with Dr. Jason Fridley, Professor, To register, go to www.highlandsbiological.org or call us at (828)526-2623.

Fri., Sat., Sun., June 4-6

• MOVIE at Highlands Playhouse – "Here Today," starring Billy Crystal and Tiffany Haddish. Showtimes: Fri. & Sat.: 4p and 7p, Sun.: 1p and 4p. Tickets are $12 plus tax available on line or at the door.

Fri., June 4

• Friday Night Live: 6-8:30p. Byrds & Crow

Sat., June 5

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Peggy Ratusz

Fri. June 11

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Frank & Allie

Sat. June 12

• Author Deena Bouknight will have a booksigning of her book "Light Fracture" at Shakespeare and Company Bookseller in Village Square in Highlands at 2 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Hurricane Creek.

• Fox Brothers Disco Pig Party at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30. Warm southern nights in June beckon for southern barbecue! Enjoy a lip-smacking evening at the Farm at Old Edwards on Saturday, June 12 with pitmasters Jonathan and Justin Fox. They're the tour de force behind the award-winning Atlanta restaurant Fox Brothers Barbecue. Get your taste buds ready for their unique Southern-style barbecue infused with their home state of Texas flair. Enjoy pulled pork, brisket, wings – you know - Bar. B. Que. That's Saturday, June 12 at the Farm at Old Edwards. $155 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online: https://www.simpletix.com/e/fox-brothers-dinner-at-the-farm-tickets-6544 or call 855-421-2919 to book.

Sat., June 13

• Highlands Motoring Festival. Cars in the Park. (Pine Street) 10a to 4p

Tues., June 15

• 8th annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Croquet Tournament, at Country Club of Sapphire Valley. Play & Lunch $125, Lunch only, $25. Sponsorships available. Register at bbbswnc.org/2021Croquet

Wed., June 16

• The first stab at the Highlands Community Plan will be presented at the Highlands Community Building next to the ballfield from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thurs., June 17

• Erick Baker: Orchard Sessions at The Farm at Old

Got a hankering for BBQ?

Fox Brothers Disco Pig Party at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30. Warm southern nights in June beckon for southern barbecue! Enjoy a lip-smacking evening at the Farm at Old Edwards on Saturday, June 12 with pitmasters Jonathan and Justin Fox. They're the tour de force behind the award-winning Atlanta restaurant Fox Brothers Barbecue. Get your taste buds ready for their unique Southern-style barbecue infused with their home state of Texas flair. Enjoy pulled pork, brisket, wings – you know - Bar. B. Que. That's Saturday, June 12 at the Farm at Old Edwards. $155 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online: https://www.simpletix.com/e/fox-brothers-dinner-at-the-farm-tickets-6544 or call 855-421-2919 to book.

• Highlands Area Events •

Edwards at 6 - 8 pm. Guest-favorite singer-songwriter Erick Baker from Knoxville, TN returns to Highlands for this special Orchard Sessions event. Settle into comfortable seating and relax into a summer evening under the heirloom apple trees at the Farm at Old Edwards. The music of Popular self-taught singer-songwriter Erick Baker, from Knoxville, TN will fill the magical mountain air in the stunning surroundings of the orchard, while you enjoy light bites and a cash bar. Old Edwards Hotel Guests & Members $15. General Admission $25 (bookable two weeks prior to the event) Cash Bar & Complimentary Light Bites will be served. $15 - $25. Tickets: https://www.simpletix.com/e/erick-baker-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-t-tickets-67598

Fri. June 18

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Johnny Webb Band

Sat. June 19

• K-H Founders Park Annual Shrimp Boil. Drive Thru. 5-7 p.m. Rain or shine.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Americana Jones

Fri. June 25

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

Sat. & Sun., June 26 & 27

• Mountaintop Art & Craft Show (previously the Village Square 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. June 26

• NO CONCERT

• Sat. Author Deena Bouknight will have a booksigning of her book "Light Fracture" at the Hudson Library in Highlands at 11 a.m.

Fri. July 2

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

Sat. July 3

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. TBA

Sun., July 4

• Chamber event: Fireworks and Concert.

• Saturdays on Pine: Moon Dance. 6-8:30p.

Fri., July 9

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

Sat., July 10

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Kurt Thomas Band

Fri., July 16

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

Peggy Ratusz at Music in the Park Saturday

Peggy Ratusz and her band will entertain park goers Saturday, June 5 at K-H Founders Park from 6-8:30 p.m. Bring a picnic, libations and chairs and blankets.

2019 Upcoming Events at the Center for Life Enrichment

June Schedule

- **What Makes a Country Song Country?**
  Monday, June 7 Time: 10-12 Cost: $25/35
  Presenter: Alex McCaulay of WCU
- **Why is the U.S. the World's #1 Power: Why Will It Stay #1?**
  Tuesday, June 8 Time: 10-12 Cost: $25/$35
  Presenter: Al Tuchfarber
- **Trowel to Fork: Edible Gardening**
  Tuesday, June 8 Time: 2-4 Cost: $40/50
  Presenter: Lisa Dailey
- **From Chaos to a New Normal**
  Wednesday, June 9 Time: 10-12 Cost: $25/35
  Presenter: Al Tuchfarber
- **The Ecology of Satulah Mountain- Day Hike with Gary Wein**
  Friday, June 11 Time: 10-1 Cost: $30/$40
  Presenter: Gary Wein of Highlands/Cashiers Land Trust (Bring Bag Lunch and Water)
- **Superbugs**
  Tuesday, June 15 Time: 10-12 Cost: $25/35
  Presenter: Jamie Wallen of WCU
- **iPhoto for the iPhone and iPad**
  Wednesday, June 16 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost: $80/90
  Instructor: Loraine Smith
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer: From Pacifist to Protester**
  Thursday, June 17 Time: 2-4 Cost: $25/35
  Presenter: Daryl Hale
- **An Onslaught of the Senses: Sights and Smells of the American Civil War**
  Friday, June 18 Time: 10-12 Cost: $25/35
  Presenter: Mark Smith of University of S.C.

Register online at http://www.clehighlands.com or call 828-526-8811

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Hellooooo Hiiiiiighlaaaaaands!! If you don't know me, my name is Jimmy Lewis and I am a returning actor/Assistant Artistic Director at Highlands Playhouse. My first summer with the Playhouse was back in 2013. That summer was on of the best experiences of my life. I fell in love with our beautiful mountain town and quickly realized how much of a community the town truly is. When we were told that people would stop us in town to say hi, I didn't think that anyone would actually want to say hello to a silly actor like myself. But thank goodness I was wrong. Having people yell, "HEY BOPPER!" from outside Kilwins as I walked down Main Street, or even in 2019 when a 10-year-old audience member said, "Hello Baby!" to me as I had breakfast at Blue Bike Café; are moments that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Getting to know the town members and patrons year after year is one of the biggest reasons I enjoy coming back. Highlands Playhouse has also become family to me and has allowed me to create some of the strongest friendships I have had in my life. And above all, I've been lucky enough to watch the Playhouse continue to grow and transform into the powerful arts organization that it currently is today! When I'm not in Highlands over the summer, I am a NYC based actor and have been lucky to perform at theaters across the US and perform internationally with the Disney Corporation on their cruise ships and on two concert tours through Japan. If you see me walking through town this summer, please feel free to give a wave or say hello! Hope to see you all at the Playhouse and thank you for supporting the arts in Highlands!

..HOUSE BILLS continued from page 1

its local governments from requiring permits for rental properties — but the implications of the simple change has municipalities across the state concerned about the looming impacts.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities has taken a hard stance against the legislation saying that HB 829 would "further muddy the water" for how cities and towns can pass ordinances to balance the demand for short-term rentals with the rights of other homeowners.

HB 829 erases the line "under Article 11 or Article 12 of this Chapter" from the planning codes. By deleting these seven words and two numbers, some say the justification cities stand on to maintain many of their rental regulations could topple. If references to Article 11 and Article 12 are dashed, the courts

•See HOUSE BILLS page 15

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Highlands AERIAL PARK

..HOUSE BILLS continued from page 14

may conclude cities can't require zoning permits or possibly adopt other regulations under any article of the planning code.

The bill's primary sponsor is Rep. Dean Arp, a Republican out of Union County. During public session toward the end of May, Rep. Arp addressed the legislation and said that the intent of the bill was to address the Wilmington lawsuit currently in the Court of Appeals -- however opponents of the bill say it not only fails to do that, it further convolutes the rights of cities and towns to address short-term rentals within their jurisdictions.

"This was done in the cover of night and changed the rules of the game to affect a certain lawsuit," Arp said on the House floor. "All we're doing is putting it back to the way it was so it doesn't help one side or the other."

Opposition to the bill comes with concern that municipalities will lose the ability to regulate the rentals — which drives up the prices of rentals within a town.

Most of this rental market, about 65 percent, is controlled by one company. In the past five years, Airbnb listings in North Carolina have ballooned to 660%, from 4,700 to 31,200 according to the analytics firm AllTheRooms. The next most popular platform, Vrbo, has about half as many listings statewide.

The STRs (short-term rentals) - made easily accessible through phone apps - can help funnel tourism dollars into communities. However residents have also derided the rental platforms for introducing noisy neighbors while eating into the local housing stock.

In what's called the "Airbnb effect," researchers have found that a 1% increase in Airbnb listings can raise an area's rent by 0.018% and home prices by 0.026%. These percentages may seem trivial but can add up in a soaring vacation rental market.

HB 829 passed the House in a 66-45 vote, predominantly along party lines. Representative Karl Gillespie voted in favor of the bill. The bill was then sent to the Senate on May 12, where it was referred to committee for review.

According to North Carolina Senator Kevin Corbin, it is unlikely the bill will move out of committee, especially with such a strong resistant from the League of Municipalities and the N.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association.

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott said that while he isn't familiar with this exact legislation, he is cautious of any state regulations on local government operations.

"I have concerns about most legislation involving towns which come from the NC Legislature," said Mayor Scott. "The urban-rural divide is serious."

House Bill 401

One such piece of legislation that did not meet the state's mandatory crossover deadline, making it dead in the General Assembly this session is House Bill 401 (Companion Bill Senate Bill 349).

In late March, a bipartisan group of state legislators introduced companion bills that would eliminate single-family zoning in North Carolina.

House Bill 401 and Senate Bill 349 both call for "middle housing" – townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes – to be allowed in any neighborhood currently zoned for detached single-family homes.

Had the middle housing bills become law, developers would no longer need special permission from local governments to build townhouses, duplexes, triplexes or quadplexes in single-family zones.

The bill also allowed accessory dwelling units, smaller homes that share lots with larger, primary houses, to be built statewide

The North Carolina League of Municipalities, which represents more than 500 towns, has lambasted the legislation as a disingenuous overreach of state government.

While the bills did not meet the crossover deadline and will not advance further this session, Highlands Mayor Taylor said such legislation is an example of state overreach for local government operations.

"It is under the guise of addressing the workforce housing issue," said Mayor Taylor. "Filling residential zones with large apartment complexes or duplexes or triplexes is the idea behind the proposal. My concerns are twofold. First, it preempts local government zoning decisions. For that matter, the current legislation limiting a local government's ability to have STR ordinances is in the same vein. Second, in a community like Highlands, developers would build these units not for the low end of the rental spectrum. They would maximize their investment by using them as high end STRs."

The Highlands Community Plan, which requested input from citizens and businesses in town, addresses the short-term rental issue.

The "for and against" tally is about 50-50.

The plan will attempt to offer ways to deal with the issue.

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• Hospital News •

We should hold nurses in our hearts all year

We owe all frontline healthcare workers a huge debt of gratitude for their selfless devotion to their patients, willingness to risk contracting the COVID-19 virus themselves or bringing it home to their families, and amazing ability to adapt expertly to the ever-changing realities that the virus constantly presented.

I'm used to focusing on how grateful I am to the nurses of the facilities I've spent my career serving, but this year, I can't help but salute the extraordinary nursing staff of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and the Eckerd Living Center (ELC) in an even more emphatic way.

There's no question that what all healthcare providers have given over the last year, during the pandemic, is inestimable. They've risked their own health to continue caring for patients who suffered with a disease that was, often, as mystifying as it was frightening. This type of courage is a hallmark of every dedicated nurse I have known, it's at their core, which is why many couldn't think of doing any other kind of work. That said, this pandemic has stretched our nurses to their physical and mental limits. In that way, it has been an exhausting and discouraging time for nurses, and many are at risk for burnout.

At HCH, we're working to do our part in not only honoring our nurses in May, but supporting them all year round by creating a workplace that respects their expertise and supports their professional growth. We're also invested in proactively bringing young people who are interested in pursuing a career in healthcare into the field. To that end, we offered a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) accelerated five-week training program right here at the hospital in March, and we plan to offer a second one in July. The details are still getting finalized, but check our website and Facebook page for more information this month.

Tom Neal
CEO/CNO
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Another exciting thing about the CNA training program is that we can offer students full-time employment with benefits while they are being trained, and continued employment once they pass the exam at the end of the course.

The other important update that's great news for our community is that our new 3D mammogram machine is now operational, and we're proud to be able to offer women the most advanced type of mammogram services available. The technology is superior to traditional mammograms because it enhances the visibility of tumors, and also allows radiographers to interpret the mammograms of women with dense breast tissue more easily. About 40% of women have some breast density, while 10% have very dense breasts, which makes it harder for tumors to be identified.

It's also important for women to know that the COVID-19 vaccine has been known to cause lymph node tenderness and swelling in the armpits of some women, which is also a breast cancer indicator. Experts are advising that women wait to have their mammogram until several weeks after their second vaccines, but since mammograms are such vital screenings, it's wise to talk to your doctor about how best to time your mammogram around your vaccine.

I hope the community joins me in recognizing the profound dedication, strength, and compassion that defines our exceptional nurses. They have truly gone "above and beyond" as we've faced this historic pandemic, like never before. With the vaccine now available to us, I'm happy to say that we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel, and our nurses deserve our heartfelt thanks for their very real sacrifices.

• *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 healthcare 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.*

Memorial Day 2021 celebrated at Veterans Plaza on Oak Street Monday, May 31

Above:
Sgt. Jonathan Phillips and Sgt. Timothy Broughton from the Highlands Police Department posted the colors Monday morning. Past Commander Ed Jones was the bugler.

Left:
Veteran Stell Huie watched the ceremony from within his restored WWII Jeep parked at the site.

– Photos by Kim Lewicki

"Ladies and gentlemen and veteran comrades, this day is sacred with the almost visible presence of those who have gone on before us.

"We honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country and of those others who have dropped their burdens by the wayside of life and are gone to their eternal rest.

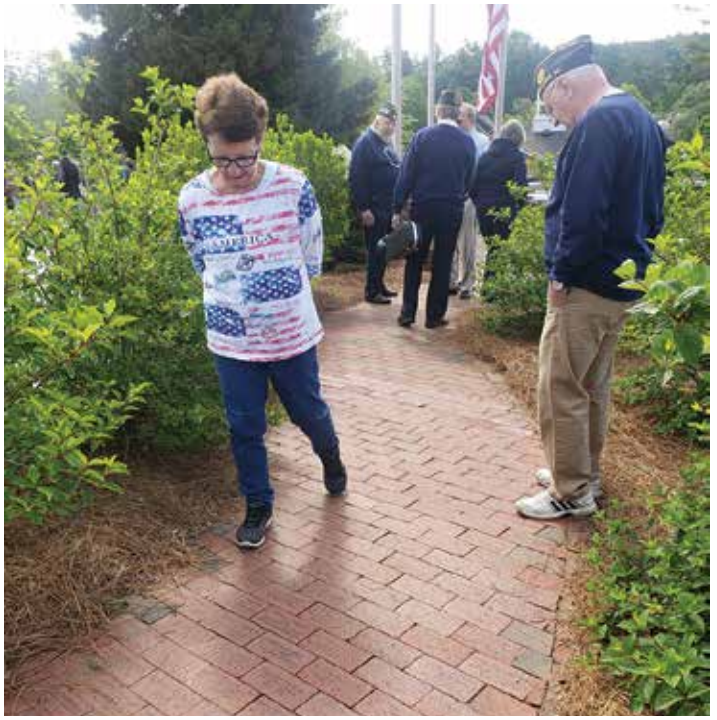
"May the ceremonies of today deepen our reverence for our departed friends and comrades. Let us renew our pledge of loyalty to our country and its flag. Let us resolve by word and deed to emphasize the privilege and duty of patriotism.

"May no veteran go unloved; may no veteran walk alone; may no veteran be forgotten until they all come home.

"Today, American Legion Post 370 in conjunction with the Town of Highlands honors those whose bodies consecrate our country's soil.

Your presence is a tribute to all who served; because of them, our lives are free and our nation lives."

– Ed McCloskey, Commander, American Legion Post 370



Participants were urged to walk the "Walkway of Honor, which is the walkway whose bricks are engraved with the names of veterans. At the signpost of the Veterans Plaza on Oak Street is a 24/7 box which contains order blanks for a veteran's brick which will be placed in the walkway and dedicated Thursday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.

On Memorial Day, bricks for James G. Petrone, Kevin Petrone, W. Taliferro Thompson and Magnus S. Thompson were dedicated.

. . .

Veterans who are not members of Highlands Post 370 and are interested in joining, can speak to one of the post's members. The post meets the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Highlands United Methodist Church 9:09 Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. When the pandemic mandates are in the rear-view mirror, the service will resume at 9 a.m. where breakfast is cooked by a Navy cook.

• Spiritually Speaking •

Explaining the Holy Trinity

Pastor Steve Ridenhour
Lutheran Church of the Holy Family

This past Sunday, Christians who follow a liturgical calendar, celebrated Holy Trinity Sunday. Many are surprised to learn that the term "Holy Trinity" is not found in the Bible. But the early church fathers understood that God is revealed to us in three distinct and equal ways, and they used the term Holy Trinity to teach about: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The early church adopted the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed and the Athanasian Creed as tools for describing the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

The teaching of the Holy Trinity reminds us that God is our father and our creator. God has created each person in the world and all that exist. Out of divine love, goodness and mercy, God provides all we need from day to day. We are called to share this generosity with the world.

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity reminds us that Jesus is true God and true man born of the virgin Mary. Jesus lived among us and revealed to us how much God loves us. He died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin. Not because we deserve Jesus' forgiveness, but out God's love for all humanity. Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, as he had promised and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God. Jesus promises new and abundant life to all who believe in him. Jesus promises that he will be with us always.

The celebration of the Holy Trinity reminds us that God comes to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe in God through Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we are called to gather as a community of faith. The Holy Spirit empowers us to forgive others. We are enlightened by the Gospel to love and serve others as Jesus first loved and served us.

While the term "Holy Trinity" is not found in the Bible, references to our triune God are found from Genesis to the Book of Revelation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and with teaching tools like the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, the Christian faith has been shared with the world for centuries. Thousands have come to believe.

We celebrate the teaching of the Holy Trinity. We give thanks for the early church fathers who worked diligently to help others come to faith. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to call us to share the good news of our God who is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 3:5 **John 3:16**

• Places to Worship •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School:10 a.m., Worship:11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting:7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School:10 a.m.;Worship:11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Aryan Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY
Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.:Worship
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
9:30am Sunday School; 11:30am Worship Service; 6pm Mon.

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:11a.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 - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am; 10:45am Children's Program, Youth-12:15 – 2:30pm (Lunch provided)
Tues: Women's Bible Study 10am-noon
Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY
706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd. Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968
Sunday Services Live-Stream at 10:30 a.m.,
Morning Prayer Weekdays on Facebook live at 8:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist at noon in the garden on Mon and Wed

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS
828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor• 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.:Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-31• 75 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.:Worship 8:30a Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.;Worship 11 a.m.
Mondays: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m.
Wed: Choir:6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School:10 am, Worship Service:11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: • 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship:11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Morning 9AM
Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM
Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376
In-Person Indoor Worship with limited seating, and an allowable capacity up to 30% pending appropriate social distancing. 9:09 and 10:50 worshipservices.

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA
2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
We wear masks and social distance.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School:10 a.m.;Worship:11, Choir:6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.:7 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418
Mass: Wed. noon (Latin), Thurs. noon, Fri. 9a, Sun., 11a

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School –10 a.m.;Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
Sun.: School:10 a.m.;Worship:10:45 a.m.;Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School:10 a.m.;Worship:11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study:6 p.m.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Mass: Thurs. 9am, Fri., 11am; Sun. 9am

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
1448 Highway 107 S., Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services
Sept 6-Oct 25-Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School:10 am, Worship Service:11 am

..LITTER continued from page 1

The Town Board didn't have a workable solution at the time, but since then Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland has devised a way to deal with litter.

At the May Town Board meeting, Chief Holland said she has been working with the Macon County Probation Office to address the problem of litter and trash on Highlands' roadways by working with the county's Community Service Program.

Community Service is a state-mandated program for people on probation for crimes committed.

"We've agreed and have entered into a contract to deal with those on probation in Highlands and outside the town limits in the Highlands Township who have been ordered to do community service," said Chief Holland. "Right now they have been traveling down to Franklin to do that community service and if it's a DWI, then it's hard for them to get there because they don't have a license. This makes it more difficult for them to get their community service hours in."

So, working with Community Service the Highlands Police Department has come up with a plan so probationers can get their service hours in by washing the outside of town vehicles but mostly picking up litter.

"The main thing we are most excited about is that they will pick up trash along the roadways in and out of Highlands – NC 28, NC 106 and the Franklin and Cashiers roads -- but just within the town limits of Highlands," she said.

Holland said the program won't take up much of the department's time; officers will instruct the probationers where to go and will sign off on the hours they log in.

"Other than checking on them every 30 minutes, we won't have to watch them to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to be doing. This isn't like the inmate program. We just need to make sure they are there," she said.

The department and the probationers will sign an agreement saying they will be honest, and both will acknowledge the number of hours they worked which the Police Department must sign off on.

In addition, the department will provide the trash bags, the vests, signage, everything needed to get the job done. Afterwards, the department will pick up the trash bags and take them to the town shed for disposal.

"The benefits are that it will help us deal with the trash problem on the roadways," said Holland. "We've all seen the trash on the roads. There are a lot of people coming into town, who don't have an investment in Highlands; the beauty we see is the beauty they are leaving so I think this will help us."

Holland said though the main focus will be on the main roads, if the department is notified of side streets with litter those can be done, too.

"But to start, we will stick to the main roads until we get word of other areas that need attention," she said.

– Kim Lewicki

• Police & Fire Reports •

Highlands Police entries from May 26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 26

• At noon, officers received a report of identity theft that happened to a resident on Laurel Street back in March.

May 29

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident at Potpourri on Main Street where and article of clothing was taken.

May 30

• At 12:35 p.m., officers responded to a report of simple assault at Highlands Express where a man was physically assaulted by another.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 25.

May 25

• At 10:46 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive W.

• At 10:24 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Hawks Nest.

May 27

• At 11:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. Big Bear Pen Road.

• At 6:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Hill Road.

• At 7:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row.

May 29

• At 1:39 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

May 30

• At 3:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pinecrest Road.

• At 3:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 South.

• At 7:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

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First stab at county budget is $55 million

By Brittney Lofthouse

Macon County Manager Derek Roland presented his 2021-'22 budget proposal to county leaders Tuesday night. Roland's proposed budget keeps the county's tax rate of .374 flat and totals $54,641,096.

Roland informed commissioners that the local economy did not struggle during the COVID19 Pandemic as expected and in fact, reported the largest growth in county history.

"The successful vaccination effort has resulted in financial and economic forecasts continuing to improve in North Carolina and many states across the US for FY '22," said Roland. "On March 11, 2021, Moody's Investor Services upgraded the economic outlook for local government entities from negative to stable. The upgraded economic outlook comes as no surprise to many NC counties who like Macon, have continued to experience unanticipated revenue growth for the majority of FY '21."

At the time of Roland's budget message, North Carolina like many states across the country, appears to be "turning the corner" with respect to the COVID-19 Pandemic. On May 14, 2021, the Governor's Office reported that 46% of North Carolinians 18 years and older were fully vaccinated and nearly 51% had received their first shot. The statewide vaccination effort, combined with a decrease in daily cases, deaths and hospitalizations has resulted in relaxation of strict policy measures previously enacted to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On May 13, 2021, the Center for Disease Control, issued guidance that fully vaccinated individuals can safely do most activities without wearing a mask or social distancing.

"Pandemic management will remain vital to a continued recovery, given the relationship between the coronavirus and economic performance," said Roland. "While the push for mass vaccination is expected to support continued recovery, new outbreaks or new strains of the virus could potentially lead to economic contraction thereby weakening local government revenues. Conversely, if the virus remains contained and economic growth continues sources such as Moody's point to local government revenues materially exceeding pre-pandemic highs."

At an estimated $10,526,046 or 19% of total revenue in FY '22, sales tax revenue will increase by $2,462,105 over the current fiscal year original budget amount in Macon County's budget. In a recent survey performed by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to which 75 percent of North Carolina counties responded, estimates show the average sales tax growth in North Carolina for FY '21 to be 10% over prior year actuals.

"The survey results mirror guidance released by the North Carolina Office of State Budget Management and the North Carolina General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division, both of which estimate 10.3% growth for North Carolina Counties in FY '21 sales tax receipts," said Roland. "Through January of FY21 Macon County sales tax collections was up 19.4% over FY '20 actuals. In applying a projected increase of 10% over prior year actuals to each of the remaining months (February-June) we are projecting to finish FY '21 at 15.8% or $1,393,956 above FY '20 actuals. Moving forward into FY '22 we will budget 3% growth on the projected $10,219,832 to end FY '21 generating an additional $306,214 in sales tax revenue in FY '22."

• Classifieds •

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

GREAT DEAL! Five acre view lot in private, gated community of Highlands Gate Estates off Hwy 64 West. Community water, electric and cable. $99,000. Call Merritt Shaw at Highlands Cove Realty (828) 421-7593. (5/13)

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FATHER/DAUGHTER looking for 2 bedroom long-term lease. No pets, non smoker. Contact Matt @ 7274212771. (st. 5/20)

FOR SALE

A GREAT CAR for you due to my husband's passing. 2006 BMW 330ci, 98,400 miles. $8500. Call 526-4067. (st. 5/27)

HELP WANTED

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)

DO YOU LOVE SILVER JEWELRY, GEMS, CRYSTALS AND MINERALS? Silver Eagle on Main Street has 2 sales associate positions available. Retail sales experience preferred. Flexible hours, competitive wages, friendly atmosphere, generous employee discounts. Stop in or call 828-526-5190 and ask for Ben. (st. 5/27)

SPARTINA 449. Now hiring Full time and part time positions. Apply at 394 Main St. Highlands. 828-787-1178. (5/27)

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)

FAST ON YOUR FEET? Private club seeking personable individuals that enjoy pleasing people to join our staff in the Food & Beverage Department, such as, server, bartender, and other various positions. Great pay, plenty of hours to be had, and one daily meal per shift. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Country Club at 828-526-2181. (st. 5/13)

CALLING ALL MERMAIDS! Spartina 449 now hiring part time key and sales position. Apply in person. 394 Main St, Highlands. 828-787-1178 (st. 4/29)

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT AND LEARNING CENTER - Are you looking for a summer job? We are still looking to fill the following positions: Kitchen Staff, Cabin Counselor, Health Center Coordinator (must be 21+, EMT certified or higher), CIT Mentor (21+), ASCENDER Mentor (21+) You can find more details about these positions and apply on our website: The MountainRLC.org. Please reach out with any questions or concerns at youthcamp@themountainrlc.org. I look forward to seeing your application! (st. 4/1)

Old Edwards Inn & Spa, Highlands NC -- Gardener's Assistant, Assistant F&B Manager, Banquet Captain, Banquet Supervisor, Banquet Server, Restaurant Reservationist, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Cook, Pastry & Bread Cook, Dishwasher, Reservations Specialist, Front Desk Agent, Bellman, Night Auditor, Room Attendant, Houseman, 2nd Shift Laundry, Retail Associate, Spa Attendant, Spa Concierge, Massage Therapist, Cosmetologist, Contract Positions-Fitness Instructor (spin), Makeup Artist. Benefits and PTO for FULL TIME. Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

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CASTING CALL! The Highlands Playhouse is reopening and we are looking for talented and committed team members in a variety of roles. Leadership and box office staff positions are available (both full and part-time). Experience in business management/customer service and an interest in the arts is a must! The Highlands Playhouse is an 83 year old institution offering movies year-round and live entertainment in the Summer and Fall. Please send resumes and inquiries to HighlandsPlayhouse@gmail.com (st. 2/18)

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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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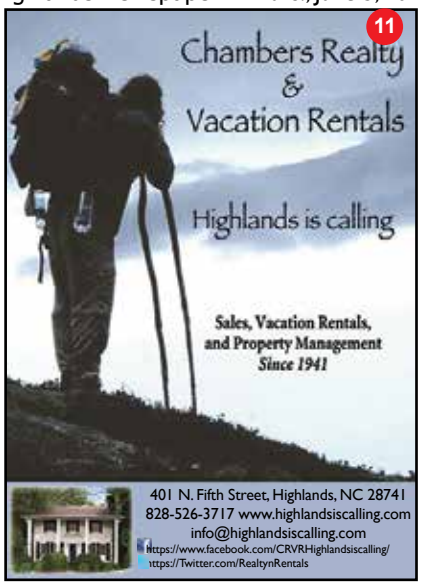

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