Don't Forget to FALL BACK Sunday!

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Letter from HS IDs a small sub-group

Given the high marks US News and World Report consistently gives Highlands School, some parents were shocked when the school sent them a letter last week letting them know Highlands School has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Consistently Under-performing (TSI-CU) school by the NC State Board of Education.

"This is the key sentence in the letter," said Principal Brian Jetter. "'TSI-CU schools in North Carolina are those that have a sub-group (students with disabilities) that is consistently under-perform-

•See LETTER page 10

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ACA health insurance 'Open Enrollment' is OPEN

Open enrollment for 2022 health insurance through the Affordable Care Act began Nov. 1.

Certified Application Counselors with Get Covered WNC, a service of Mountain Projects, are standing by to help mountain residents in Haywood, Jackson, Marcon, Swain, Graham Cherokee and Clay counties, including the Qualla Boundary make the most of the opportunity.

In this new enrollment year, there are more insurance companies and more plans to serve the healthcare needs of Western North Carolinians. Now's the time to apply for new coverage, or to update current coverage and review new insurance plans. Get Covered WNC counselors know how to

•See OPEN page 8

Mayor Pat Taylor

Commissioner Amy Patterson

Commissioner Eric Pierson

Landslide victories and record turnout seat new Town Board

By Brittney Lofthouse

A somewhat contentious campaign season ended with just under 500 voters casting ballots in the Highlands municipal elections. This amounts to a little more than 50% of eligible voters.

There are 998 registered voters in the town with 491 casting ballots this election – a much higher turnout rate than in years' past.

"The turnout was fantastic for Highlands," said MC Board of Elections Deputy Director Gary Tallent. "It's usually only about 20% in a good election year."

Incumbent Mayor Pat Taylor was re-elected after receiving 343 votes to challenger Marc Hehn's 145 votes. Hehn, who currently sits on the Highlands Town Board, will be able to retain his seat as a commissioner. There were also two write-in candidates this election cycle.

In large part, Highlands' voters took advantage of early voting which gained 296 of the 491 total votes cast; 185 voters cast ballots on Election Day, which concluded at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2. The Town of Highlands also received seven absentee ballots.

Voters were allowed to cast

•See LANDSLIDE page 10

MC BOC commits to $2 million in pay raises

By Brittney Lofthouse

Employees in Macon County will see a significant boost to their paychecks this month as the Macon County Board of Commissioners approved over $2 million in pay raises after finalizing a classification study as well as an additional $6.9 million in bonuses using federal COVID19 relief funding.

Macon County received $6.9 million in funding from the American Recovery Plan — a small piece of the $156.5 million sent to Western North Carolina from the federal government in September. With limited avenues for spending the funds, Macon County Manager Derek Roland proposed utilizing the county's $6.9 million allocation of federal COVID19 relief funding to

•See RAISES page 8

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• The Plateau's Position •

•Mayor on Duty•

My vision of Highlands

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

Let me recap some ideas I presented in the recent mayoral campaign. They form my vision of Highlands.

Since we started this journey together eight years ago, many things in Highlands have changed. One thing has not. The willingness of the citizens, the community, the town staff, and especially the Town Board to continue to come together to accomplish many good and positive things. Working together is a cornerstone of this community and one I hope lasts far into the future.

Like many other unique communities, we face challenges. As Highlanders we have confidence in the future and know we can step forward to preserve what is so special about this unique place we call home. All of us treasure and value this one-of-a-kind ecology and environment. Residents have embraced the teachings of such scientists as Thomas Harbison and Bob Zahner and have supported the important work of the Highlands Biological Station and the Land Trust in preserving the ecosystem. Along with many of you, I am committed to preserving this unique community, its character, its people and to keep it a special place to live, work and experience the best life has to offer.

As Highlanders, we have always embraced progress and community engagement starting over a century ago with the Highlands Improvement Association. Even then, people recognized what a special place this was and sought to preserve it. We have long been a retreat that has attracted individuals with creative talent and community spirit. As we continue to embrace this spirit we will make progress toward maintaining a sustainable, vibrant economy. Sustainability and progress are not mutually exclusive and we can, and must, maintain a balance between the two.

Over the many years we have accomplished amazing things for such a small community. Highlanders have built roads, a sustainable grid with water, sewer and electricity, created a school, a library, a hospital, and founded churches and non-profit institutions that help thousands every year. And now, we have a world class fiber network. For me, all of these accomplishments have made Highlands one of the best possible places to live and visit.

I am enthusiastic and optimistic about our future and how we will meet the challenges and

embrace new opportunities. As mayor, I will continue to stay on duty, keep an open door, and communicate with members of the community. I will continue to write this weekly column, do the Ask the Mayor radio show and hold community coffees. I will also explore new ways to interact with the citizenry.

These past eight years have been a wonderful trip and tremendous honor for me. I am confident that we can continue to work together for sustainable progress for the future of Highlands. There still remains much work to be done. The STR issues and the adoption of the Highlands Comprehensive Community Plan are two immediate challenges. I know the Town Board will work with the community to make decisions for the overall public good.

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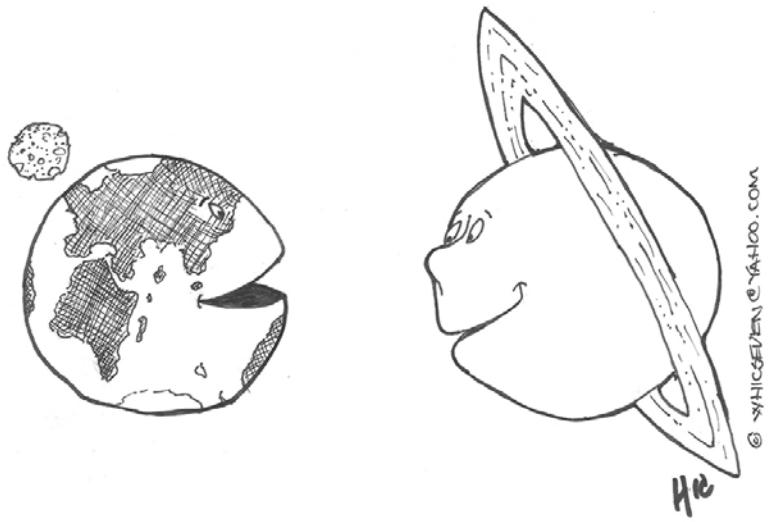
We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

•Hic's View•



"I have some inconsiderate, slob tenants I'm trying to evict. Any advise?"

•Weather•

Thu, 4-Nov	Fri, 5-Nov	Sat, 6-Nov	Sun, 7-Nov
44°F / 31°F	48°F / 28°F	51°F / 32°F	58°F / 35°F
Cold; a little morning rain	Mostly sunny and chilly	Mostly sunny	Plenty of sun
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High: 46° Low: 35°	High: 54° Low: 32°	High: 58° Low: 28°	High: 60° Low: 30°

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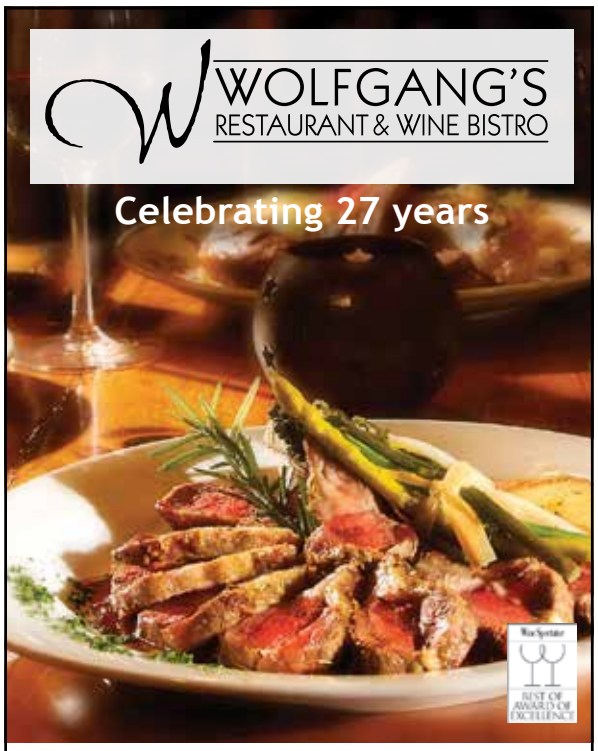

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À La Carte Serves 6–8

Sides 35
Smoked turkey breast (4-5 lbs) 60
Smoked whole turkey (12-14 lbs)..... 70
Prime beef brisket (5 lbs)..... 120
Homemade Pie..... 22

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• See OBITUARIES page 18

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• Letters •

An 'R'tickle about a Highlands STR that did not happen

Dear Editor,

Unlike some previous STR letters you readers have been subjected to, this one actually contains some verifiable facts and a bit of Highlands' history. This one is also less hysterical than some previous letters. It does not claim without any supporting evidence that the town will lose about $150,000,000 if the town does not allow innumerable unregulated "vacation rentals" (aka STRs).

I assume that you are acquainted with the term "the silent majority." This would seem to imply as in the case of banned STRs that the raucous ones are the minority.

This is about Jane and Bill and the 1930s Highlands Motor Hotel.

About 10 years ago, I had the honor and pleasure of knowing Jane and Bill and getting a tour of the of the remodeled motor hotel. Please refer to Macon County GIS mapping pin number7540527023 for the location in Highlands.

As told to me by Jane, her grandfather bought in the early '30s an inexpensive half-acre in Highlands. It did not cost much because it flooded after every heavy rain. Then the owner of the parcel on the other side of the street needed to get rid of a lot of dirt in order to make that parcel more level. Jane's grandfather had it dumped on his half-acre, which then no longer flooded.

He built a bent "L" shaped structure of nine, small rooms and intended to open it to the public as a motor hotel. It was never opened and sat unused.

After Jane inherited the structure, she was very creative in joining and decorating some of the rooms. She claimed that all furnishings were bought at Mountain Findings.

It seems that Highlands may soon have permitted and regulated STRs. Hopefully, with a "three strikes (complaints) and you are out" stipulation!

Now, the permitted and regulated choice may be accepted as a reasonable alternative to the August board approved ban on STRs in R1 residences.

Larry Brannan
Highlands

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Don't go the way of Charleston

Dear Editor,

After living in Charleston for 22 years, my husband and I chose to make our home in Highlands and are now full-time residents. During our last few years in Charleston, short term rentals (STRs) became a hot-button issue because of the wide-spread negative effect on the community.

We personally experienced an uptick in trespassing, noise, and parking problems -- and the loss of friends and neighbors, who got fed up and moved away as we eventually did.

But the effects were much worse in working-class neighborhoods, where people typically rented rather than owned their homes. Landlords either sold out or revamped their properties to capitalize on the STR market, and whole neighborhoods of long-time residents were literally driven out of town. In their wake, several small churches closed because they no longer had a local congregation to sustain them.

Shortly before we left, Charleston enacted sweeping restrictions on STRs in the downtown area, but it was too late for us. Charleston had become a city we no longer enjoyed living in.

Before choosing Highlands as our new home, we carefully reviewed the town ordinances to make sure that residential areas were protected from STRs, and we believed – and still believe - that the prohibition against "commercial overnight accommodation" is intended to do just that.

So I'm surprised and disappointed to find myself writing a letter-to-the-editor on this topic and feeling that my new neighborhood and community are at risk.

I am asking the Mayor and Commissioners to maintain and enforce the ban on short term rentals in R-1 areas and to continue to review and monitor them in mixed use areas. I cannot tell you how important this is in order to maintain the livability of our community.

Patty Uffelman
Highlands

Help us protect Highlands from STRs

Dear Editor,

My name is Kenneth W. Dohn and I am a member of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition. We are a group of neighborhoods and individuals dismayed that the best of what we all love about Highlands is being hollowed out by investors who have seized on our town as a great business opportunity. We know Highlands is so much more than that. We welcome you to join us in protecting, advocating for and preserving this special place.

At present, ever multiplying short term rentals are degrading a key element of our town; that is our residential neighborhoods, by exchanging homes once filled with families and generations of friends with commercial ventures that advertise and collect tax just like a gas station or a gift shop. In some Highlands neighborhoods, STRs now make up 25% of houses on a street.

•See LETTERS page 16

The MAYOR is on DUTY

Thank You!

"The outpouring of support from the voters of Highlands has been humbling and the past eight years have been a wonderful trip and tremendous honor for me. I look forward to continuing to work together for sustainable progress and growth for Highlands. Thank you for your confidence, your friendship, and your vote." Pat

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...OPEN continued from page 1

navigate the process of finding the best plan, and can guide clients through the process.

Each year, insurance companies adjust insurance plans to reflect past usage and new trends in the healthcare marketplace. Get Covered WNC encourages participants to avoid automatic renewals and to actively update applications each year, which can lead to greater savings and better coverage.

"There are new calculations for premium tax credits that have made plans even more affordable for many people,"said Jan Plummer, Coordinator for the Get Covered WNC program.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues, and peak flu season is approaching. During the COVID emergency open enrollment period, 80% of people who lost job-based or other qualifying health insurance have found comprehensive plans for $50 or less per month through the ACA (Affordable Care Act).

In addition, people who have taken the COBRA option after losing job-based coverage can consider options for ACA plans. If more affordable plans are available through the ACA, COBRA coverage can be cancelled with no penalties.

Free unbiased assistance with health insurance eligibility, enrollment, and other community resources is available by calling Mountain Projects at 828-452-1447.

Get Covered WNC serves the seven counties of Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Graham, Cherokee, and Clay, including the Qualla Boundary.

Get Covered WNC is supported by the Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust and the Dogwood Health Trust.

...RAISES continued from page 1

provide premium pay for all county employees through October 2024.

While Macon County received $6.9 million — other counties allocations vary — as do how those counties intend to spend the funding. Jackson County received $8.5 million, Haywood County received $12 million, Graham County received $1.6 million, Clay County received $2.1 million, Cherokee County received $5.5 million, and Swain County received $2.7 million.

The Department of Treasury issued guidance detailing its interpretation and implementation of eligible uses, but the statutory language specifically authorizes use of the funds. Each of the following is a separate allowable use of the funds for the recipient:

• To respond to the pandemic or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;

• For premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work (as determined by each recipient government) during the pandemic, providing up to $13 per hour above regular wages;

• For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the pandemic (relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency);

• To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure;

The recipient government must send the Treasury periodic reports with a detailed accounting of the uses of the funds (States and territories must also provide all modifications to tax revenue sources since March 3, 2020).

The language explicitly prohibits funds from being deposited into a pension fund.

States and territories are also prohibited from using the funds to offset, either directly or indirectly, a tax cut made since March 3, 2021.

Each county will be responsible for deciding how the funds can be spent. Graham County announced in August, that all full-time county nurses and EMS staff will receive a one-time lump sum bonus of $25,000.

Roland said that due to state statutory limitations on the function of NC governments — the county would be limited on which of the allowable uses can be utilized.

With the strict guidelines associated with the funding, and the need to provide an incentive to address county staffing shortages, Roland made the recommendation to allocate the full $6.9 million for premium pay for all county employees by providing all part-time and full-time county employees with a $2 per hour premium pay bonus until October 2024.

The premium pay bonuses will be paid out in seven lump sums throughout that time period.

According to Roland, unlike other counties, Macon County's plan provides employees with premium pay spread out over several years rather than one lump sum. The plan was designed to address the current staffing shortage and then also provide retention and recruitment incentives in the years to come.

Seasonal part-time employees will be considered eligible for premium pay. To receive the premium pay, the individual must be employed at the beginning of the specified season and remain employed through the end of the specified season. For seasonal part-time employees, the premium pay period will begin on the first day of the specified season and end on the last day of the specified season.

The premium plan policy was unanimously approved by commissioners and will be retroactive dating back to April 26, 2021.

SAVE HIGHLANDS

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Fellow Lovers of Highlands,

As you are all well aware, Highlands is an inclusive family of year-round residents, seasonal homeowners, visitors, restaurateurs, artists, landscapers, retailers, housekeepers, entrepreneurs, builders, realtors, plumbers, electricians, and many others. All these groups are inter-woven into the fabric that makes this town so special, and while some may not realize it, all of these groups benefit from vacation rentals.

For four decades the Town of Highlands communicated to countless property owners and visitors that there were no restrictions on vacation rentals. The Town has happily accepted rental tax revenue and welcomed renters for decades. That changed this summer when a small but vocal HOA voted to bring legal action against the Town of Highlands. On August 19th, the Town meeting opened with the statement "this is the beginning of a long discussion on vacation rentals." By the end of that meeting, the Board had voted to ban them. The people and the businesses of Highlands were blindsided.

In response, Save Highlands was created. Sadly, we are being positioned as faceless investors. The truth is that we have been part of the community for decades and many of us are full-time residents. One member has had property and family rooted in the town since the 1920s, another since the 1880s. We are not a group of faceless investors. We are your neighbors and, just like you, we want what's best for this Town.

On October 13, the Save Highlands group of homeowners took the first legal step to retain personal property rights in the Town of Highlands. To be clear, this is not an action we wanted to take. Unfortunately, neither Mayor Taylor nor anyone from the Town of Highlands have come to the table with negotiations or made any attempt to find common ground. In effect, all remaining options for cordially protecting the rights of property owners and saving Highlands have been exhausted. We firmly believe the law is on our side regarding this issue.

Banning rentals will not only have a crippling financial effect on Highlands, but also fracture its people unnecessarily. In fact, it's already happening. This action has created an artificial divide between neighbors when together we could address the issue thoughtfully, taking the entire community's input into consideration.

A vacation rental ban will have a substantial negative effect on tax and business revenue and lead to a devastating loss of income for countless Highlands residents. Banning rentals could mean a loss of $13,500,000 direct income and a $115,000,000 total economic loss. These financial implications are far reaching and affect us all.

While the Town is currently booming - fueled by the travel dynamics of the pandemic and a recovering economy - the financial effects of a vacation rental ban will be felt this winter and exponentially when the economic climate isn't so strong. We want balance. Vacation rentals are a complicated subject for any town, which is why they were specifically addressed in the Draft Community Plan.

And while loud voices have stated that vacation rentals are "simply against the law," that is simply false. The Town of Highlands Use Regulations do not even mention vacation rentals. Even the State of North Carolina defines vacation rentals as "residential use." But more than that, we feel that who we invite into our homes should be in our hands as the property owners – not the decision of the government.

We love this town and its people. And we believe if we come together as a community, we can create an inclusive, well-planned future to save Highlands for generations to come.

Sincerely,
The Save Highlands Committee

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...LETTER continued from page 1

ing (CU). At the same time, the state "dings" the school for doing what the state approves. The "ding" is that we are required to send out the letter to all parents of students at the school."'

Schools are identified as TSI-CU, when one or more of the same sub-group receives a grade of "F" on the NC statewide system of annual School Performance Grades for the most recent and the previous two years.

At Highlands School some in the sub-group are Hispanic, and the barrier is language for the most part, said Jetter. However, more are native English speakers who have intellectual disabilities.

In 2018-'19, Highlands School was put on a watch list using 2017-'18 data. Schools on the watch list were at risk for identification as TSI-CU in 2019-'20. For the 2019-'20 identification, 2017-'18 and 2018-'19 data was used and for the 2020-'21 and beyond, three years of data is being used.

TSI-CU schools are identified annually and can exit this identification by receiving a letter grade of "D" or better for the identified subgroups in the most recent two consecutive years

Though schools are eligible to exit Jetter said he doubts that will ever happen.

"If we had just one student with a math disability, we'd have to knowingly require that student to take Math 4 (trig/calc/algebra) knowing he couldn't pass it. If he didn't pass Math 4, he wouldn't graduate. So it's a 'pick your poison' decision...not have the student graduate, or send letters home because the state allows another pathway to help the student get the 4th math for graduation."

Of the school's 370 enrolled students, 11 are in the "students with disabilities" subgroup.

Highlands School has developed a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how it will improve student achievement.

• Grade 3-8 math and reading teachers will use the beginning of the year STAR Math and Reading benchmarks that assess students on objectives by individual students in the NC Common Core.

• Grades 3-5 reading teachers will identify non-proficient readers and will recommend them for reading intervention.

• Grades 6-8 math and reading teachers will teach non-proficient math and reading students during the Wheel. Teachers will notify parents in writing of knowledge gaps.

• STAR Math and Reading progress monitoring will be used for students who don't score at the benchmark.

"The state allows schools to have alternate completer routes for students with math disabilities," said Jetter. "For instance, students who have been diagnosed with a math disability, may use courses designated by the state to complete the four required math courses for graduation. A student with a math disability may take Personal Finance or Construction instead of Trigonometry or Algebra II to complete the four required math courses."

Meanwhile, US News and World Report has Highlands School elementary school rated #34 out of all elementary schools in NC, and #1 out of all elementary schools in Macon County.

The US News and World Report also has Highlands School high school rated at #2,519 out of all high schools in the nation; #65 out of all high schools in NC; and #1 out of the high schools in Macon County.

– Kim Lewicki

...LANDSLIDE continued from page 1

ballots for two of six candidates on the Highlands Town Board, with the top two vote-getters being Patterson and Pierson.

Highlands Town Board incumbent Amy Patterson was re-elected with 261 votes. Eric Pierson, who lost his seat two years ago, got it back with 238 votes.

While not elected to the board, challenger Thomas Craig received 139 votes, Pat Allen received 128 votes, Mary Bynum received 91 votes and Nicolaus McCall received 40 votes. There was also one write-in candidate for the Town Board.

Candidates will be sworn in ahead of the December board meeting.

In two years, three seats will open, that of Commissioner Marc Hehn, John Dotson and Brian Stiehler.

• Biz/Org News •

Bel Canto proceeds are disbursed

Joi Chapman, the new music teacher at Highlands School receives a Bel Canto check from retiring chair, Stell Huie. Huie said that this is part of $90,000 in Bel Canto grants this year.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL INVESTORS ARE SUING THE TOWN IN ORDER TO

"SAVE HIGHLANDS"

- Are they saving the Town from our neighbors who simply want to live in and enjoy the historically peaceful environment of our residential neighborhoods?
- Or are they *sacrificing* our neighbors so they can maximize profits by providing illegal overnight accommodations instead of legal long-term rentals?

- Are they saving the Town from our peaceful neighbors who suffer from the intensive Commercial Use brought on by nightly short-term renters?
- Or are they *sacrificing* our neighborhoods in favor of mini-hotels whose constant turnover brings additional disturbances – linen, cleaning, and maintenance services after each check-out?

- Are they saving the Town from our residents who need affordable long-term housing that has been all but eliminated by short-term investors?
- Or are they *sacrificing* a diverse community that includes employees who would live here if they could afford to?

- Are they saving the Town from our charitable neighbors who support and fund our community organizations?
- Or are they *sacrificing* our community organizations who will lose this vital support once our neighbors leave in search of a more peaceful place to live?

- Are they saving the Town from those of us who simply want to find a parking spot, dine in a restaurant, enjoy our once-peaceful plateau without crowds of short-term renters and wedding guests?
- Or are they *sacrificing* the historic fabric, scale, and character of our Town for more and more tourists which leaves everyone frustrated?

LET'S BE HONEST

The only thing "Save Highlands" want to save is their ability to maximize short-term profit while *sacrificing* the character of Highlands and the peace and quiet of our neighborhoods.

HIGHLANDS
NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION
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www.highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com

• Highlands Area Events •

Rec Pool Schedule:

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri, 6-10a; Mon.-Fri. 11:15a to 1:30p & Sat. 10-11a.; Water Aerobics; Mon.-Fri. 10:15-11:15a.; Public Swim: Tues. & Wed. 3:30-7p, Sat. 11a to 6p; & Sun. 1-6p. Please call ahead to make sure the pool is open for Public Swim due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

Sun. - Wed.

• COVID Testing 9a to 5p. Sun. & Wed. in Highlands at the Community Building. Mon. & Tues. at the Village Green in Cashiers. To register go to https://lhi.care/covidtesting. For information, call 877-562-4850.

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 10:15-11a.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.

Mon. & Thurs.

• Drive-thru flu clinics at the public health center located at 1830 Lakeside Drive in Franklin Mondays and Thursdays from 1–4 p.m. The cost for the regular dose is $36 and the high dose (recommended for those 65+) cost is $73. Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. For additional information call 828.349.2081.

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 Meetings" 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 Mon. at 5:30 p.m. and on Wed. & Fri. 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.

• New Zumba class from 4:30-5:15p.

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

Tuesdays

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

2nd Tues. thru December

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, held the second Tuesday of each month through December. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. Reservations are required and masks will be required. Register online at vayahealth.com/calendar (click on the desired class to register) or call the library at 828-526-3031.

First Wednesdays

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring Walk-in Wednesdays Hiring Event. Interviewing for RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals and Support Services Professionals. 1-3:30 p.m.. 190 Hospital Drive, front entrance. On the spot offers. Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions. Bring updated resume. Casual wear.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 a.m. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Learn the proper form and technique to execute jabs, hooks, uppercuts, and front and side roundhouse kicks in a non-contact setting. No martial arts background necessary.

• Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 a.m. to 5p.m. at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Note: The clinic will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. Location subject to change, please check https://myspot.nc.gov/ for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at https://myoptumserve.com/covid19, or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

• 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 is held each Thurs., 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 call 828-342-6866.

• 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. 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

Fri.-Sat. Nov. 7-28

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Foodie Film Series with a different episode of Rob Brydon and Steve Coogan eating their way acorss the globe in four brilliant films 3 and 6 p.m. Visit www.highlandsplayhouse.org for ticket information and detailed showtimes.

Fri., Nov. 5

• Community Shred Event at the Rec Park from 9a to noon. Donations will be collected for local nonprofits.

Sat., Nov. 6

• Book signing at Shakespeare & Co. in Village Square. Angie Jenkins with her new book, Memories of Highlands' Early Years from 2 to 4 p.m.

Nov. 27-Dec. 24

• Santa in the Park

Sat. Nov. 27

• Chamber event: Lighting of the Park 6-8 p.m..

National Theatre of London's 'Follies' is this Saturday at PAC

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present an encore screening of the National Theatre of London's production of Stephen Sondheim's Follies on Sat., Nov. 6th @ 1pm. Tracie Bennett, Janie Dee and Imelda Staunton play the magnificent Follies in this dazzling production which won two Olivier Awards for Best Musical Revival and Best Costume Design (by Vicki Mortimer). Featuring a cast of 37 and an orchestra of 21, directed by Dominic Cooke and filmed live on stage at the National Theatre in 2017. Run Time: 2.45. Tickets are available online: www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com, 507 Chestnut Street Highlands NC 28741

'Foodie Film Series' starts Nov. 7 at the Playhouse

Highlands Playhouse is serving up four courses of comedy, travel, food, and wine this November for their annual Foodie Film Series. Enjoy the hilarious duo, Rob Brydon and Steve Coogan, as they eat their way across the globe in four brilliant films.

Kicking off the 2021 Foodie Film Series is **The Trip**, the original film in this delicious collection - When Steve is commissioned by the food supplement of a Sunday newspaper to review half a dozen restaurants, he decides to mix work with pleasure and plans a trip around the North of England with his food loving American girlfriend. But when his girlfriend decides to leave him and return to the States, Steve reluctantly, he calls Rob, the only person he can think of who will be available. Rob, never one to turn down a free lunch (let alone six) agrees, and together they set off for a culinary adventure. Screening November 5th - 7th, with showings at 3PM and 6PM.

The second adventure in the series has Rob and Steve in Italy from Piedmont to Capri, following in the footsteps of the great Romantic poets in the early 19th century on the Grand Tour - **The Trip to Italy** is screening November 11th - 13th, with showings at 3PM and 6PM.

In the third series, our lovable guides are commissioned to do another restaurant tour, this time in Spain - **The Trip to Spain** is screening November 19th - 21st, with showings at 3PM and 6PM.

The final film in our Foodie Film series is set in Greece where Rob and Steve conduct a restaurant tour that follows the path of the Odyssey - **The Trip to Greece** is screening November 26th - 28th, with showings at 3PM and 6PM.

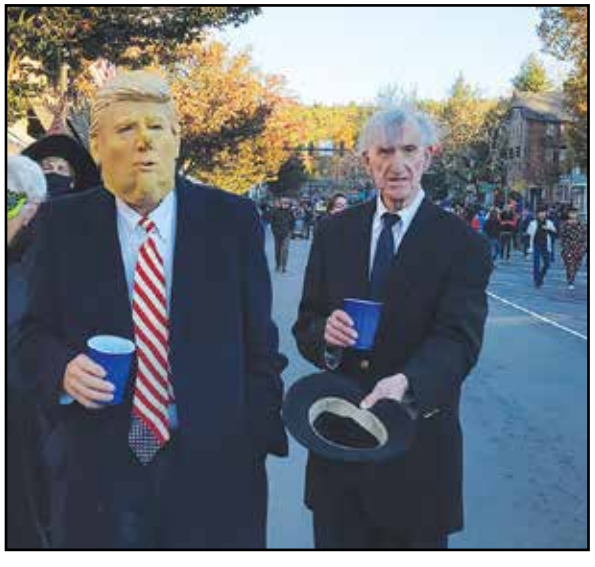
Each film funnier than the last, audiences will be entertained while exploring some of the best dishes in the world. Scott Daniel, Executive Artistic Director of the Playhouse, said this of the films, "I believe The Trip collection is the perfect balance of exploration, education and entertainment, both the cuisine and the comedy are divine. Food and laughter are what brings people together, and these films are going to do exactly that".

Visit www.highlandsplayhouse.org for ticket information.

Halloween Highlands' style. Sunday, Oct. 31

Families and kids of all ages turn out for Highlands annual Main Street Halloween extravaganza.

– Photos by Kim Lewicki



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Change vs No Change

Pat Allen BIC
Allen Tate Realtors/
Pat Allen Realty Group

What a gorgeous changing of the leaves we have experienced in the last 2 weeks! It's always difficult to predict the peak when we are asked by our clients or friends waiting for the "perfect" time to see the glorious crimson, orange, and gold magic we are privy to each year in these majestic mountains. We realize we have absolutely no control over the metamorphosis and sit back and wait, knowing it will happen, depending on the affecting climate conditions of the year: the rain, the temperatures, and the wind.

It brings to mind the political climate we find ourselves in and not just the division in our country but sadly in our own little town. STRSs (better known as short-term rentals) in Highlands have stirred controversy never seen before. We now find ourselves in lawsuits to try and settle the ban that the Town Board approved in a brief Zoom meeting with no discussion of ramifications.

Buyers and investors who purchased homes to be rented to offset their mortgages were stunned to learn of this. And suddenly we are a town divided. Are there too many weddings, creating noise, parking infringements, and piles of trash left behind by the young and restless? You can answer that based on your own experiences. The families who rent here year after year respect the beauty of the town and look forward to sharing it with their children and grandchildren each year. It is sad to think those days and traditions are at risk of ending because of the irresponsibility of a few.

Once the "No more STRs in Highlands" word got out, people began cancelling 2022 rental reservations and home buyers began to sit on the fence, choosing to wait and see the outcome, before pursuing an In-Town home purchase. To be divided and in limbo is not a good place in which to be. The situation needs to be resolved quickly and, unfortunately, it is now in the hands of attorneys.

Unlike the changing leaves, over which we have no control, we have a situation at hand that can be controlled. We have unfortunately created a cloud of indecision in a short period of time that must be resolved and controlled responsibly. Both sides offer valid arguments and somewhere in the middle we must meet so the beauty of our community is restored.

• Pat Allen is Broker-in Charge of Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and was the number one selling team with Julie Osborn in Highlands in 2020. She may be contacted at pat@patallenrealtygroup.com or on her cell at 828-200-9179 or office at 828-526-8784. Her office is located at 295 Dillard Road with a second office located at 5121 Cashiers Road at the entrance to Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.

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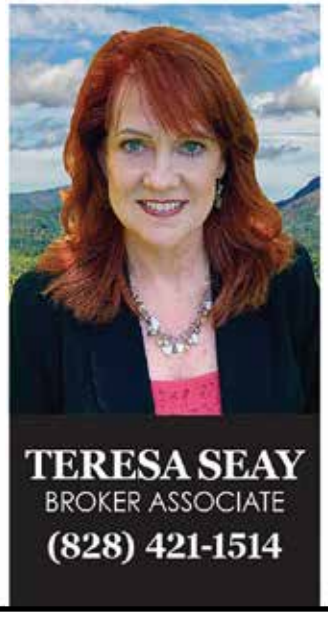

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...LETTERS continued from page 6

These mini hotels violate long term zoning regulations that prohibit overnight accommodations in residential neighborhoods.

Zoning laws aren't punitive, instead they are a crucial guide for the planned growth of our town so that there is an appropriate place for all areas of life. When you buy a piece of property you accept and are bound by the rules that go with it.

Investors knew what zoning category applied when they bought these properties for STR rentals and what the law said. Their real estate agents knew it too. Perhaps they thought "we won't get caught" or "what difference does it make, I want to make money."

Well, it makes a huge difference. It's the difference of living in the neighborhood promised by the zoning laws or living on a street of small hotels. That's not a neighborhood. Many homeowners like me purchased our homes trusting and depending on the R-1, R-2 and R-3 laws to protect our investment and the quality of life offered by those laws.

To those who think short term rentals should be allowed all over Highlands, I ask WHY SHOULDN'T THERE BE A ZONE TO LIVE IN THIS TOWN THAT IS FREE OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY?

We are glad there are those zones designated as R-1, R-2. R-3. We DO NOT oppose short term rentals in zones where they ARE allowed. So much is at stake. If we lose the character of our neighborhoods, there is no getting it back. Please join the effort to save our town. Highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com

Kenneth W. Dohn
Satulah Ridge

There are many ordinance issues that need addressing

Dear Editor,

My family has over 60 years history with Highlands, ranging from our teenage years to our now senior years. Over time we have seen Highlands change from a quaint town where the restaurants and shops would close down for the winter right after New Year, into a year-round community.

I currently serve on the Board of a local Highlands POA as well as one in Tennessee. where my other home is located. I have concern for what I see happening. The discussion and confrontation relative to the "Short-term Rentals" (STR) is not good for Highlands.

Looking at the "bigger picture," I really feel the Highlands' problem is larger or more than just the STRs. Unless something changes, the town will be enforcing STR restrictions in the R-1 Zoning areas – that is, restricting STR activity in areas that are currently zoned R-1. I am in full agreement with the Town enforcing its laws and Ordinances that it has on its books.

During the short time I have lived here, I have seen several instances of what I consider "unequal or non-enforcement" of ordinances or regulations by the town. I want to encourage the town to be consistent across the board in its enforcement processes for all Ordinances.

How is the town "fully enforcing" the new Garbage Ordinance? They do get feedback from town employees collecting the garbage. The town may also be depending upon property owners to report their neighbors? While that actually may work, my concern is pitting neighbors against neighbors is not the best solution.

The "bear-resistant container" issue is settled. They are required. One housekeeping issue that is being ignored in the ordinance is where it states "All receptacles shall be removed from their positions adjacent to the street or sidewalk after the contents have been emptied on that same day."

It makes for an ugly town or neighborhood when trash cans are left lying alongside the streets for days on end.

Secondly, the town removed the "Community Dumpster" located near the pool. The dumpster was a value/plus for many of Highlands's residents.

I use the example where a part-time owner leaving Town on a Sunday or Monday could easily conform to all the household garbage rules but would not be here to "remove their container from the street" after a Tuesday pick up. The town convenience dumpster provided them a viable solution.

Removal of this dumpster has made it very inconvenient as the Macon County sites are more remote. I personally would like to see the dumpster back.

My second topic was about town roads. Our main subdivi-

• See LETTERS page 17

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HOTELS!

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...LETTERS continued from page 16

sion road incorporates a mixture of both "public and private" designated roads. The lower portion of the road is designated as "public" while the upper section of this same road is designated as "private."

The town was asked to take over the upper road in 2017 but declined because they stated the road was not up to town standards. I'm not going to argue that.

First, from what I understand, a majority of this private "substandard road section" in our subdivision was actually paved by the town when the sewer lines were installed under the subdivision streets.

The question was, if the town spent that much money to repave it then, why was it not paved to the "required standards" at that time and dedicated as a "Public Road?"

Next, I questioned the "equality in application of Town Ordinances." Across town last year, there was another road "accepted/dedicated" by the town. Looking at the information submitted in the town meeting minutes, this road definitely did not meet town standards. I do not believe it was paved, and the plat drawings showed it did not have the required 40' right-of-way as spelled out in the ordinance. My question again, how was this road accepted and our request not? I was only asking for equal treatment.

Then I moved my discussion into the zoning enforcement area. There is a house in our neighborhood that I believe is under foreclosure. There seems to be an issue with "encroachment by the house into the 10' Building Setback from the property line." That is, the house is actually built less than 10' from the property line (Section 8.2 Residential Development). This has to have been a known issue for many years. There looks to have never been any enforcement action or variance for this violation. I do believe that it still is in violation. Does the town just continue to ignore it?

And finally, I talked about the Short-Term Rental (STR) discussions currently underway.

My subdivision is zoned R-1, Single Family Residential. Approximately 20% of the homes are currently STR properties. Many have absentee landlords. They seem to be managed very well. That is, most owners fully respect others and the neighborhood covenants with the exception of several outstanding garbage container issues.

Several other homes are considered long-term rentals. Of these, it is suspected some of them are divided for multi-family (duplex or triplex) employee occupancy, with like two or three family units living in the same house. My concern here is the subdivision, which in today's market has moderately priced houses, could easily turn into a neighborhood of STRs, similar to "Bed & Breakfasts" or into multi-family and/or employee housing units.

Like many of the comments I have heard provided by others seeking the R-1 zoning enforcement, I thought I had purchased in a single-family residential neighborhood.

John Richardson
Highlands and Tennessee

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Follies

by Stephen Sondheim

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We are bound together in community

For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." (Mark 12:44)

By Pastor Angie Ballard
Holy Family Lutheran Church

For years on Halloween, our family has had a number of trick-or-treaters. And each year we try to buy the "good candy" to hand out, primarily chocolate. If I am to be honest, I will admit I have a few types of candy that I am particularly fond of, which I tend to put at the bottom of the bowls, in the hope that perhaps a few pieces will be spared after Halloween. Sure enough, my plan is usually successfully, and after we close the doors, extinguish the jack-o-lantern, and turn out the lights, I reach into the bottom of the bowl and collect my stash which I hide somewhere in the kitchen. At times I feel a bit guilty about this, knowing that I have purchased the treats under false pretenses only to keep them for myself. But it is only once a year, right? It's not as if I do this all of the time or in other areas of my life; or is it?

Did you know that charitable giving as a percentage of income decreases as wealth increases? What does it say about our society that over the last half century as individual wealth has increased, personal giving has decreased? Maybe now is a good time to re-evaluate our perceptions of stewardship. Whether it is to the church or some other cause, when we think of stewardship as primarily about giving money, then we could be missing the point about what it is that God desires for us, which is to be stewards of all that we have and are.

We are not individuals cut off from the rest of the world, but rather, we are part of a community, a group of people gathered and bound together by mutual need and caring.

Over the past 18 months we have all heard the idiom "We're all in this together" in regards to the COVID 19 pandemic. While the phrase is meant to convey a message of communal accord and unity, I believe its efficacy falls short for most of the world. In fact, we need to look no further than the skyrocketing costs of health care, insurance premiums, and pharmaceuticals for validation of an us-them mentality. Combine the aforementioned economic gap with the ongoing politicization of mask wearing, vaccine requirements and a backlogged supply chain and we can see how easy it is to give in to our uncertainties and cultural messages of scarcity only to focus on looking out for number one. It can seem quite overwhelming and downright depressing, can't it? So, what are we to do? What is the Good News?

As children of God, we have been given gifts of community and fellowship as we are called to care for one another in our households, communities, and congregations. As followers of the Risen Christ, we are commanded to love one another as we are blessed with various abilities and assets and drawn together to care for one other and the world. One opportunity to do just that is the Highlands Community Thanksgiving scheduled for Tuesday, November 23rd at Highlands Rec Park. Although we will not be able to physically dine together due to COVID, meals will be available for pick-up and delivery and volunteers are needed to pack meals, hand out meals, deliver meals, direct traffic, and clean up. This is the perfect opportunity to do God's work together by caring for one another. And in doing so, perhaps we will experience again and anew God's blessing of us in and through the family of faith. Clearly, I'm going to need to rethink my candy strategy next year; and my stewardship as well.

Proverbs 3:5 • PLACES TO WORSHIP • **John 3:16**

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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting:7 p.m.

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CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298
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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Pastor Jim Kinard
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Wednesdays –Supper at 6 p.m.

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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 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, Rector • 526-8152
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday Services in the Chapel:
Rite 1, 8a; with choir, 9:30a; with choir, 11a.

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
828-526-31• 75 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.:Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.;Worship 11 a.m.
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m., Choir:6p

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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter743-9814
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
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.;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 Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA
Rev. Angie Ballard • 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
Franklin • 828-634-1312
Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Cct. -April
mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

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.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418
Mass: Wed. noon (Latin), Thurs. noon, Fri. 9a; Sat. 4p; 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: Tues. noon (Latin), Thurs. 9a,; Fri., noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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

• Police & Fire Reports •

Highlands Police entries from Oct. 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 21`

• At 8:56 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west and 2nd Street.

Oct. 26

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east at Pinecrest Road.

• At 1:11 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

• At 1:57 p.m., responded to a call of a breaking & entering at a residence on Leonard Road.

Oct. 27

At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west at 3rd Street.

At 5:08 p.m., officers responded to a call of damage to property at Mountain Fresh Grocery where a door valued at $200 was damaged.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 26.

Oct. 26

• At 1:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Franklin Road.

• At 9:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible chimney fire at a residence on Pinecrest Road.

Oct. 28

• At 12:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lost Trail.

• At 12:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders tot a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 1:21 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on the Dillard Road.

Oct. 29

• At 7:51 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 7:52 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Dillard Road.

• At 8:05 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on the Cashiers Road.

• At 8:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to at residence on Hickory Knut Gap Road.

Oct. 31

• At 7:11 a.m. and again at 4:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Knut Gap Road.

• At 11:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• Biz/Org News •

Allen Tate Names Ryan Bears as Highlands/Cashiers Sales Manager

Allen Tate Companies (www.allentate.com), the Carolinas' leading real estate company, has named Ryan Bears as sales manager/broker for the company's Highlands-Downtown and Wildcat Cliffs/Cashiers Road offices.

In his new role, Bears will play a key role in the development of the high-performing brokers affiliated with the firm, as well as attract quality new talent. His high-tech approach to the industry will position him perfectly to train agents on a wide variety of tools that were introduced during the merger of Pat Allen Realty Group and Allen Tate Realtors® in August.

An accomplished real estate professional, Bears has worked as Realtor with Pat Allen Realty Group/Allen Tate since 2018. In his leadership role, he will continue to list and sell residential and commercial properties as a Broker/Realtor.

Prior to his real estate career, Bears worked in finance and as sales manager for a large contracting company. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications/public relations from Newberry College, where he was a member and officer of Kappa Alpha Order.

He is a supporter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, serves as a member of the Highlands ABC Board and has coached the Highlands Middle School basketball team for four years.

"Ryan is an individual with high integrity and high energy. He is passionate, kind, humble, and always willing to help. We are honored to welcome him to the Allen Tate leadership team," said Mark Bardo, regional vice president, Upstate SC and Highlands/Cashiers regions.

A native of Florida, Bears moved to Highlands in 2004 where he attended and graduated high school, and then returned to the community in 2015. Bears makes his home in Highlands with his wife Maci and daughter Ansley. He enjoys family time, college football, golf and travel.

To contact an Allen Tate agent in the Highlands/Downtown office, call 828-526-8784.

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

The Town of Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment currently has three vacancies. The Zoning Board of Adjustment membership consists of five members and two alternates. A minimum of five members must reside within the corporate limits and two members may reside outside the corporate limits in Highlands Township and must own property or a business within the corporate limits.

Applications can be submitted in person at Town Hall at 210 N. 4th Street or by email to the Town Clerk - gibby.shaheen@highlandsnc.org. The application can be found online at www.highlandsnc.org under Boards and Committees Vacancies.

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Ryan M. Bears
Broker
Cell: 803-271-5426
Office: 828-526-8784
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Pat Allen REALTY GROUP
Pat Allen, Broker in Charge

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

ESTATE SALE

AT 1121 WILSON ROAD, Highlands. Nov. 5-7. 10a to 2p. Furniture, linens and tools.

FAMILY CONSOLIDATION of inventory from antique booths, personal & household items, furniture and great stuff! 2 DAYS ONLY - Sat. 11/6 & Sun. 11/7, 8 am - 2 pm. 236 HEMLOCK WOODS DR., HIGHLANDS, WILDWOOD MTN. SUBDIVISION. Look for the signs, see you there!

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RUSTIC DINING ROOM TABLE – six cane seat chairs, 7.5 feet long. Seats 10. $3,000. Call 256-683-5885. (st. 9/2)

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COMIC BOOKS – Buy / Sell. Call Bob @ 302-530-1109 (9/30))

HELP WANTED

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REAL ESTATE GROUP

SILVER CREEK IS HIRING – Top real estate firm continues to expand and is searching for qualified, energetic candidates to fill three full-time positions in our Cashiers office. Available positions include: Front Desk/Office Administrator; Content Writer; Videographer; Photographer. For more information, please email info@ncliving.com. (st. 6/17)

FULL TIME LIFE GUARD – The Town of Highlands has a full time life guard position open. This position will work directly with the Pool Director making sure that the pool is running smoothly. They will also be responsible for supervising the part time life guards. They will need to be able to show leadership and ensure the safety of the patrons at the Highlands Recreation Pool by preventing and responding to emergencies. This job will start at $15/hr. with full benefits, including health and dental insurance, along with retirement. Qualifications required are current certification in Life Guard Training, CPR and First Aid. They must also be able to demonstrate knowledge of rescue techniques, procedures, and equipment. Apply at www.highlandsnc.org or stop by Town Hall to get an applications. Any questions please call Emilie Nickerson at 828-526-2118 or email at emilie.nickerson@highlandsnc.org. Town of Highlands is an equal opportunity employer.

HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE hiring a LEAD BARTENDER. Looking for a bartender who is passionate about hospitality and all things beverage. Someone who loves to take ownership of their role, has a strong work ethic and wants to grow with a company that is doing great things in Highlands. Competitive pay, flexible schedule and great environment. Applicants please email trg@highlandermountainhouse.com (st. 10/14)

THE HIGHLANDS RECREATION DEPARTMENT is looking for an Ice Skating Rink Attendant and life guards. The Ice Skating Rink Attendant is responsible for opening and closing the ice rink and providing good customer service. Life Guard training will be provided for anyone 15 or older. Flexible hours available, may include after school and weekends. Application packets will be available at the Highlands Rec Center, the Highlands Pool or online at http://highlandsnc.org. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Retirees welcomed! (9/16-10/7)

THE ROOSEVELT TAVERN – A new upscale casual establishment in Cashiers, NC. NOW HIRING ALL RESTAURANT POSITIONS. Including Chef, General Manager, Servers, Server Assistants & Line Cooks. Great pay, flexible hours, relaxed work environment for people who can work independently. Established company with great history and following in the area. 18 Chestnut Square, Cashiers. 828 482-8743. Route64restaurants@gmail.com. (st. 9/2)

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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• Classifieds •

HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE NOW HIRING – Waitstaff, cooks, bartenders, full and part-time, flexible. Competitive wages. Email info@highlandermountainhouse.com or call 828-526-2590. (st. 8/19)

LIBERTY LOVING EMPLOYEES WANTED! If you love freedom, customer service, having fun and are a positive, happy individual, we want to interview you! Looking for 1 - 2 retail customer service team members in Highlands. Positions include traditional retail duties and being awesome with the public - young to old..
Also looking for one full-time bartender in Highlands, so experience is preferred. Willing to train the right person to be the personality of the establishment. Characters welcome, charisma required, boring is unacceptable. All positions require honesty, dependability and a service oriented personality. Must be presentable and drug-free, with a clean criminal record. Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. ~ Winston Churchill. Email us at libertynlibations@gmail.com.

GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED positions open at Caffe Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Rebecca Long at 828-507-1487 and leave a message. Need ASAP. (st. 8/26)

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)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com_

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

EXPERIENCED RETAIL MANAGER NEEDED – Submit resume to: potpourriHighlands@yahoo.com. Good bonus and benefits. (st. 9/9)

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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WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT Looking for full-time hostess (great pay) dishwasher, prep cook, pantry and waitstaff. PM shift only. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/4)

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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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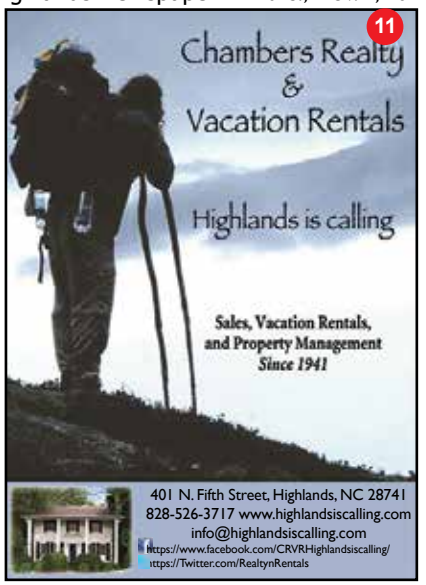

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A native of Saratoga, New York, Andrea has delighted in the warm personalities and warm weather of the South. With over 20 years in real estate, she has a passion for helping buyers see a home's full potential and an unwavering commitment to customer service. She provides a consultative approach in assisting clients through each step of the buying and selling process. Andrea is keenly aware of the influence and the marketing reach of the Sotheby's International Realty brand; she leverages the Sotheby's network, targets home buyers, and generates results!

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