

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Highlands Town Board candidates line up for first of 5-week Q&A

This week starts the five-week Candidate Q&A. Each candidate was asked the same question.

There are two candidates running for the mayoral seat – incumbent Mayor Pat Taylor and Commissioner Marc Hehn.

There are six candidates running for the two open seats on the Town Board – Incumbent Amy

• See Q&A page 8

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Oral rabies bait-drop program to begin Oct. 4

Macon County is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services' and NC Department of Health's oral rabies vaccine bait program for raccoons, foxes and coyotes.

This bait-drop vaccine program has been shown effective in reducing the number of rabid raccoons and other animals. In the past 10 months, Macon County has had 14 confirmed cases of animals with rabies, which is a large increase from previous years.

The Wildlife Services' bait drop will occur in Macon County between Oct. 4 – 20 and will be delivered by airplane and ground vehicles across the county.

The baits are plastic packets of oral vaccine coated with an oily, fish-scented substance to attract.

• See BAIT-DROP page 14



This house on Carl Chastain Road was beyond repair so the owner offered it to HFR for a live-burn training. – Photo by Brian O'Shea

House is set on fire to train firefighters

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Area fire departments gathered at a house on Carl Chastain Road to conduct live burn training

exercises on Saturday. Firefighters had the opportunity to hone a variety of skills including forcible entry, ventilation, search techniques, and how fires spread said Highlands

Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart.

"We can set up a fire, knock it down, set up another, knock it down," said Gearhart.

• See FIRE page 16

Macon gets ambulances and staff from FEMA

COVID outbreak causing staff shortages

By Brittney Lofthouse

When speaking to the Highlands Board of Commissioners earlier this month, Warren Cabe, Director of Macon Emergency Services, expressed serious concerns regarding staffing and COVID-19 surges within the county.

"EMS currently has eight full-time vacancies out of our 41 full-time positions," said Cabe. "We have a large roster of part-time/as needed employees and through the use of those staff members and liberal use of overtime funds, we, for the most part, have been able to maintain our existing levels of service through the month of August. Our staff is in contact almost daily with CO-

• See FEMA page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Fundraisers, bears and tractor-trailers

There are a number of community events that have recently taken place in Highlands.

Our community is enriched by so many nonprofit initiatives.

This past weekend was the 10th Annual Three River Fly Fishing Festival. At a reception for the fishermen participants I spoke with former Mayor David Wilkes who was the founder of the event. We reflected on how the festival has grown and developed over the years.

This fishing event generated over \$27,000 this year for the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. This fund makes sure graduating students from the Highlands School receive a scholarship to attend a college or technical school.

I have been a fisherman in this event several times. Another value added component is that it celebrates the natural resources and beauty of this wonderful mountain region. What a tremendous way to support an important cause and also experience the natural wonders of this special place.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

On Sunday the Empty Bowls event was held by several churches at the Presbyterian Church Coleman Hall. Proceeds from this event also went to a worthy cause, the Highlands Food Pantry. As a potter I have also participated in this event since its inception in Highlands over a decade ago through the initial organizing efforts of the Bascom Visual Arts Center. Let me also give a shout out to all

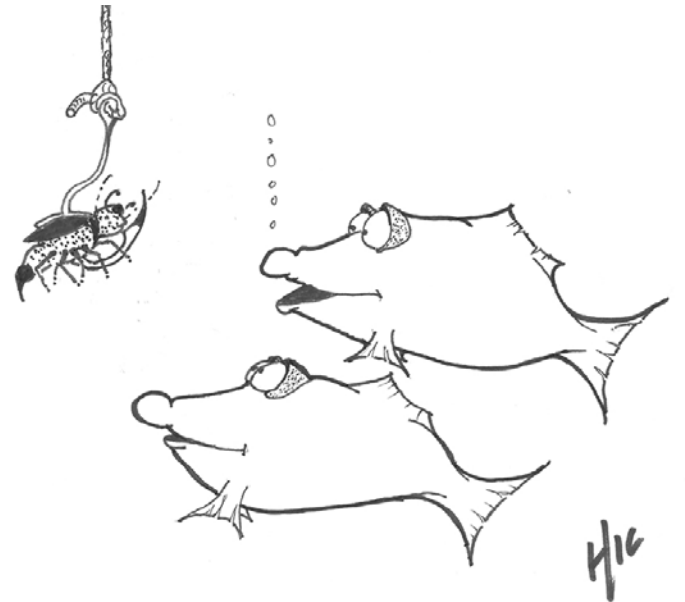
the potters who donate their work to the event. It takes a lot of work to produce and fire the empty bowls. I also appreciate the work of volunteers who prepare the soup and food that fill the bowls.

The BearWise program is now complete. To obtain information about the program and how to address issues concerning bears, please go to the town website. Click on information and BearWise will appear on the ensuing menu. The BearWise page will also have a map where folks can identify bear sightings. There have been quite a few postings on the map lately since this is a active time of the year for bears. On the map you can also confidentially make a request for support and more information. A Bear Task Force volunteer will contact you and provide addition support and advice.

I appreciate businesses and residents who have consistently used the bear-resistant roll carts as a part of the effort to limit bear interactions in town. The BearWise measures have helped address the issues of bears roaming our community. It is a good program for us and the bears. Everyone is invited to a ceremony on October 5th at 9 am by the Lake Sequoyah Dam area. NC Wildlife representatives will present the town our official BearWise signs.





Motorists will notice that the truck sign on Main Street by 200 Main has been changed to read no trailers over 30 feet permitted on the Franklin Road. These new signs are at the entrances in both Highlands and Franklin. We can hope they will reduce the number of 55-foot tractor trailer trucks attempting to travail this dangerous highway stretch.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Bugs and worms, bugs and worms. Yuck.
How about a pizza night for once?"

• WEATHER •

Thu, 30-Sep	Fri, 1-Oct	Sat, 2-Oct	Sun, 3-Oct
			
74°F 53°F	74°F 54°F	73°F 55°F	72°F 55°F
Partly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Times of sun and clouds	Mostly cloudy
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 80° Low: 57°	High: 79° Low: 56°	High: 78° Low: 57°	High: 74° Low: 57°

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• OBITUARY •

Fred C. Wooldridge



Fred C. Wooldridge, 85, passed away on September 19, 2021, in Highlands, N.C.

After moving to Miami Beach, FL, from Louisville, KY, his birth place, he worked for Florida Power and Light for several years as a Lineman Helper.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent six years in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Staff Sergeant specializing in Communications.

He attended Miami-Dade Community College and received an Associate Degree in Criminology.

From November, 1961 to October, 1989, Fred served as a police officer in the Miami Beach, FL Police Department.

He started out in the Juvenile Division as a School Liaison Officer, then progressed to Road Patrol, then Commander of the Criminal Investigation Unit and the Patrol Division. He was promoted to Major in October of 1980. As such, he commanded the Safe Streets Unit, was Project Director for the Chief of Police, and Executive Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division and the Special Burglary Task Force for the residential Miami Beach area. His most interesting or exciting position was when he became an Undercover Narcotics Officer and served in that capacity for more than three years, often masquerading as a dope dealer, complete with long hair and scruffy beard, at times finding himself in dangerous territory with people of questionable character. After that assignment he became Commander of the SWAT team and was a graduate of Miami SWAT School. During his time as a police officer he attended the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.

Upon his retirement in 1989 Fred decided to take his experience as a SWAT commander and open up a rappelling business in Highlands, NC, where he taught people to rappel from the beautiful mountaintop cliffs in the area. He kept up this business for 13 years as a summertime escape from FL.

After this career Fred decided to try his luck at writing and became a writer for Highlands Newspaper as a satire

writer. With his sense of humor, he sometimes alienated people who had different mindsets but most of his followers looked forward to his weekly column. Along with this new career he wrote two books, one a humorous collection of short stories called "I'm Moving Back to Mars" and then a serious novel called "Deceived".

Fred was a member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and assisted as an usher. He loved the Town of Highlands and enjoyed summers there and spent the rest of his time in Florida.

He leaves behind his wife of many years, Maddy, and three children, Ken, Cindy and Jeff, and nine grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Donations in Fred's honor can be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundation or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

A memorial Mass will be at 9 AM on Friday, October 1, at Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Highlands.

Bryant-Grant Funeral and Crematory is serving the Wooldridge family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Remembering Fred

Fred Wooldridge will be missed. He was a bigger-than-life kind of guy who had no problem letting the world know how he felt about ... well, everything. So much so, that he began writing a column for Highlands Newspaper starting way back on Aug. 8, 2003 – our third edition.

He wrote under the heading of Laughing at Life for years but his last column on Oct. 13, 2016 was under the heading The Fredster. Somewhere along the line he took a more satirical, look at life.

With his columns, he helped build readership for Highlands Newspaper from its fledgling start that resulted in a lively, back and forth batting of issues through letters-to-the-editor from readers which were always a fun read.

•See FRED page 6

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...FRED continued from page 5

As recently as 2018 we received queries about Fred. "Where's Fred?" "Will Fred be writing a column again?"

At the end of his last column for 2016 entitled "Washed Up," he said if he was still up to it, his columns would return the Spring of 2017.

Fred and Maddy returned to their seasonal home here in Highlands that spring,

but he decided he wasn't up to a column. And who can blame him? Writing a weekly column for more than 13 years is hard work!

Jim and I will be forever grateful to Fred. He was part of the fabric of Highlands Newspaper for a long, long time.

Fred Wooldridge, you are missed.

— Kim Lewicki

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



2021 Grants Committee: Gail Hughes, Jean Hyde, Jan Pavlis, Kay Johnson, Bonnie Evans, Margaret Lauletta, Nelly Rice, Donna Woltzen, Anne Schaeffer, and Debbie Thompson. Seated: Co-Chairs Nancy Harrison, Lindy Colson Harrison and Jo Hill, and Emily Adkins. NOT PICTURED: Margi Eichman,

Cullasaja Women's Outreach invests a record \$290,230 in Highlands and Cashiers

Cullasaja Women's Outreach (CWO) recently announced the results of its 2021 fundraising effort.

This thriving, independent collective of 115 women is awarding \$290,230 in grants, solely for the benefit of Highlands and Cashiers area not-for-profit organizations. Since its founding in 2006, CWO has invested over **\$2,180,000** in the local community.

Funds raised this year are being awarded to 28 organizations through a sophisticated grants process chaired by Lindy Colson Harrison, Nancy Harrison and Jo Hill. Individual awards range from \$4,000 to \$20,000. Grant recipients for 2021 include: Big Brothers Big Sisters; Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau; Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic; Cashiers Historical Society; Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society; the Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers; Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands; Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry; Friends of the Albert Carlton Library; Friends of Panthertown; Highlands Biological Station; Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival; Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; Highlands-Cashiers Players; Highlands Community Child Development Center; Highlands Emergency Council; Highlands Historical Society; Highlands Playhouse; Hudson Library; International Friendship Center and its Food Pantry; Junior Appalachian Musicians® Blue Ridge; Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc.; Performing Arts Center Youth Theater Group; Peggy Crosby Community Service Center; Pisgah Legal Services; Summit Charter School; The Bascom; and, Vision Cashiers Ramble Storywalk Project.

"During our site visits, we realized that many local organizations continue to feel the effects of 2020," noted Grants Co-Chair Jo Hill. "We hope that our 2021 grants stand as reassurance of our commitment to furthering hope, unity and unfaltering support to this community."

"Our Outreach represents one small community of women joined in great love and exceeding in generosity," remarked Executive Director Margaret Eichman. "We hope that our giving serves as an example for others to think beyond the boundaries of their own backyard, to reach out to those in need by enabling safety-net services, educational programs and civic projects to lift up the broader community." "Seventy percent of Cullasaja Women's Outreach 2021 grants support health and humanitarian services, and educational programs for local children," added Lindy Colson Harrison. "From a seedling of an idea in 2006, Cullasaja Women's Outreach has grown into an extraordinary garden of goodwill," noted Nancy Harrison. "Our charitable grants are our way of saying *thank you* to those who work tirelessly to better the lives and lessen the burdens of those around us."

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You can start by checking out the internet for their user friendly, yet professional website that provides reviews and testimonials from previous clients. After contacting an agent and finding them helpful in talking with you and/or sending you information that is pertinent to your requests, feel free to ask for references. In a small area like the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, you may simply ask others around town about their experience with or knowledge of a particular Realtor®.

Down to the fine points and specifics, “What should you expect from this Realtor?”

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- In order to best serve you and not waste your time, the Broker should ask you questions and give you their undivided attention regarding your desires in a property, preferred location, comfortable price range, mortgage pre-qualifying, etc.



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- Show only properties that are best for you, no matter the commission fee.

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- Broker's responsibility is to educate you on property values, market conditions and contract provisions for your protection. Before you make an offer, broker should encourage you to take the time you need to be comfortable in making these important decisions*. (*with Buyer understanding that in our current market conditions, desirable properties are going under contract within hours to a few days of coming on the market).

- Be skillful in negotiating, handling volumes of paperwork and patiently lead you through the negotiating and closing process.

- Help with list of professionals needed during due diligence period; provide applications and meet with home inspectors (and other specified inspectors), contractors (for new building or modifications) for bids on repairs/improvements, surveyor, septic/water inspectors, provide documentation/info to mortgage lender, appraiser, insurance company and closing attorney.

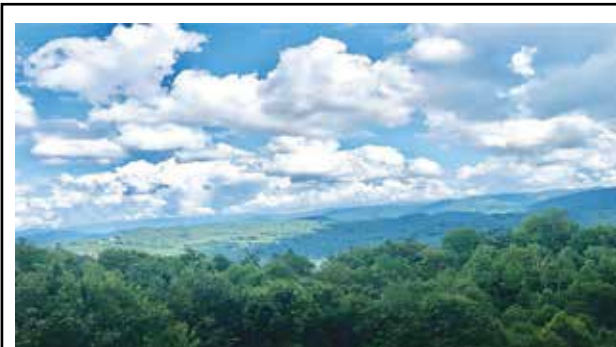
- Provide information to transfer utilities, review closing statement prior to closing, transfer of keys/garage door openers, provide list of professionals who may assist you as a property owner.

The best advice is to find a broker who will treat you like family from the moment of your inquiry through the entire closing process and offer any help you may need as a property owner and a new member of our mountain community.

• Lynn Kimball has 48 continuous years of real estate experience, with 36 years serving the Highlands

Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and is a member of the Berkshire Hathaway Honor Society, which is made up of the Top 16% of the network's approximately 55,000 agents across the globe. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signa-

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...Q&A

continued from 1

Patterson, Pat Allen, Mary Bynum, Thomas Craig, Nick McCall, and Eric Pierson.

The candidates' answers will be displayed alphabetically.

Question #1:

Yes or no. Are you in favor of Short-Term Rentals in the R-1 district? It is understood that a "yes" answer will require amending the current ordinance to allow. Please explain your answer.

Pat Allen

Highlands is a resort town and therefore does not have enough hotel rooms to accommodate the number of tourists who visit each year. Yes, we need short-term rentals to allow families to vacation here or attend various events. Without tourism Highlands does not have enough full-time or part-time residents to support businesses and housekeepers and other workers who depend on this for their livelihood. Why should the Chamber plan events if there are not enough hotel rooms to accommodate those who want to attend?

But with short-term rentals comes responsibilities of the homeowners and these have not been regulated or enforced by the town, creating the current situation on both sides: those for and those opposed.

Regulations should include registering your home with the town so they know who to call if there is an "incident" that requires law enforcement or excessive noise. The homeowner should have in their rental agreement that the home is strictly limited to the number of bedrooms and parking spaces allowed to the homeowner. Also, the agreement should state that there is to be no excessive noise after 11 p.m. and if law enforcement is called, the renter who signed the rental contract will be fined \$250 per incident and the homeowner should be notified immediately and will have the right to terminate the agreement and have the renter leave the premises. In addition, any homeowner who rents should be required to have two bear-resistant

• See Q&A page 9

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...Q & A continued from page 8

trash cans to allow cans to close completely.

As far as the ordinance in question: Why did the town allow rental companies and homeowners to register their homes in May of 2020 and years past allowing short-term rentals and collect the tax revenue from such if in fact the ordinance prohibited short-term rentals?

Until recently the form to fill out for short-term rentals was on the Town website so the ordinance was still allowing them. To "ban" something that has been allowed for many, many years and give four months notice is extreme and has caused lawsuits to follow. Many families return every year and rent the same home. Most people can't take 90 days vacation to accommodate the town's proposed "no less than 90 days" rule!

Regulations should be put in place and enforced. There is always a solution, and my goal is to find one that is win-win for all.

Mary Bynum

I cannot say yes or no to the question of whether I am for or against Short-Term Rentals (STR) at this moment. However, I am definitely against the deadline to no longer permit STRs as of January 3, 2022. It does not give time to consider the far-reaching economic impact on our full- and part-time residents and business owners. All sides need to be represented in a fair process.

I have been a resident and business owner in Highlands for more than 40 years and I have always respected our zoning laws. However, sometimes laws need to be changed and/or understood more clearly.

Although this is a controversial issue, I think it holds the possibility for positive growth and compromise. If I am elected, my personal opinion does not matter. I will be representing the voters and people of Highlands. "WILL WORK FOR YOU!"

Thomas Craig

Yes, and I don't agree with the second part of this question. The status of STRs in R-1 districts is an unresolved question with both sides "lawyering-up." My answer on this question may result in a change in the UDO, but a change is not required. It will take much smarter legal minds to resolve if STRs are allowed in the current UDO.

Residential rentals have been a part of Highlands for as long as I can remember. I've heard that STRs are ruining the "fabric of Highlands." To me that fabric is like a patchwork quilt with residential rentals being one of many patches that make up the whole. But like any use that grows beyond anticipation it's the duty of the Town to

restrict, or control, that use for the overall good of the community. We cannot allow this to become a zero-sum solution

Marc Hehn

This is not a question about my feelings and opinions, rather a question about what the law actually allows as interpreted by the courts.

When Highlands Uniform Development (Zoning) Ordinance was amended in 2012 it specified commercial activities are not allowed in an R-1 Zone. The University of North Carolina School of Government provided me with a (2010) North Carolina Appellate Court case (Russell v. Donaldson) that suggests Short Term Rentals (STRs) are a residential use, despite the fact that a property is advertised as a STR and a financial benefit is received.

I applaud the Town Attorney who (as I suggested) hired an expert attorney in North Carolina Land Use Law that is going to help the town sort out this matter. It would be my recommendation that the town follow the advice of our legal team.

There is a path forward that will allow more regulations and a way to deal with renters who destroy the residential character of our neighborhoods. There are other egregious zoning violations that the Town has ignored over the years through selective enforcement. We can do better and we have to have more code enforcement officers.

I think my education with a Master's degree in City & Regional Planning and 45 years of experience will assist in working through these challenging legal issues.

Nick McCall

The current situation we have dealing with short-term rentals (STRs) is a complex issue. Living here my entire life and owning a restaurant downtown, I truly understand both sides of the argument. I personally do not like short-term rentals taking over neighborhoods. Preserving the community and character of Highlands is the exact reason I am running to be a commissioner. However, I am not in favor of banning short-term rentals for a number of reasons.

Simply banning STRs, destroying businesses in the vacation rental industry and devastating our housing market is not a reasonable action. The Issue of legality the town has in banning in R1 is also a problem.

The North Carolina Supreme Court has already ruled, that the current definition we use in our UDO does not in any way prohibit STRs in the R1 district. In 2011 the term short-term rentals was taken out of the UDO language. There are currently several

• See Q&A page 11



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Authorized by Marc Hehn, candidate for Mayor & Paid for by the candidate

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE

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

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse will re-run in the Fall of 2021.

Rec Pool Schedule:

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri, 6-10a; Mon.-Fri. 11:15a to 1:30p & Sat. 10-11a.

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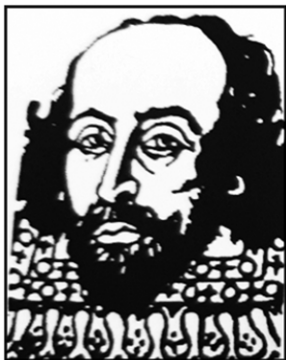
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At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square, Bill Lee and Jane Chalker will discuss their book "Haiti Time" at 3 p.m. Copies will be available in return for donations allocated to the Episcopal Church of Incarnation's mission in Haiti.

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• 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/covid-testing>. For more 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. Burn off stress and calories while having a great time.

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 Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Tues. & Thurs.

• 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 Tuesdays 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 for this event, 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.

Wed.-Sat.

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

• The Bookworm at 555 Main Street is now open Wednesday - Saturday from 11AM to 3PM. For more information, call 828-526-3031.

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

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 a.m. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

• **AL-ANON Meetings.** The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. An In Person Meeting with Covid 19 Preventive Measures is held each 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 of AL-ANON 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

Every Saturday

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

Third Saturday

• American Legion 370 meets every 3rd Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

Thurs., Sept. 30

• Orchard Sessions Live at OEI's The Farm featuring Shelly Colvin. Book online at oldedwardshospitality.com/OrchardSessions

Fri. - Sun., Oct. 1-3

• At OEI's Half-Mile Farm, a mixology event with ASW: Southern Pot-Still Pioneer. ASW's hybrid approach to making whiskey, combines traditional, Scottish-style double copper pot distillation, with innovative, Southern-style grain-in distillation. This unique process has paid off for the growing Atlanta company, and the whiskey world is taking notice. **Weekend Events in Woodland View Room:** Social Hour Friday evening from 5-6 pm featuring a special tasting of ASW's finest spirits, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, craft cocktails available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern and live music. Saturday Afternoon Presentation from 3-4 pm Kelly and Jim will present the story of ASW's creation alongside samples of some of their special spirits. Social Hour Saturday evening from 5-6 pm hosted by Kelly and Jim and featuring craft cocktails available for purchase made with ASW spirits, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music. Hosted weekends are for Half-Mile

Farm guests only. To attend these complimentary events at Half-Mile Farm from October 1-3, book your stay today at <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking/step-1>

Fri., Oct. 1

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

Sat., Oct. 2

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2 mile out and back easy hike on the Cove Forest and Anselm's trails on Saturday. There are several gentle ups and downs. We will meet in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, GA at 10 a.m. and carpool to Patterson Gap out of Dillard, Georgia on Betty Creek Road. After the hike we will drive a short distance up Betty Creek Road to Barker's Creek Mill to see the mill operate and have lunch. Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome. Bring food and fluids as needed. There is no charge. Reservations are not needed. For more information, call hike leader David Stearns at 828-349-7361.

• At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square, Bill Lee and Jane Chalker will discuss their book "Haiti Time" at 3 p.m. Copies will be available in return for donations allocated for the Episcopal Church of Incarnation's mission in Haiti.

• The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center (SMPCC) invites you to help celebrate its 20th Anniversary at its biggest fundraiser of the year on Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin. There is no charge to attend, but please pre-register at smokypartners.com or by calling 828-349-3200. Guest speaker, Melissa Ohden (melissaohden.com), is a saline abortion survivor, and will tell her inspiring story of survival and forgiveness. SMPCC has clinics in Franklin and Cullowhee, and provides all client services, including pregnancy testing and limited OB ultrasounds, at no charge.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Bill Matlocks and The Strut.

Oct. 8-24

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Music in Motion. This WORLD PREMIERE production takes you on a journey through the silver screen with hits from Hollywood's greatest movie musicals. For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

Fri., Oct. 8

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

Sat., Oct. 9

• At The Bascom, an artist talk from 3:30 – 5:30pm. Curator Gregor Turk will be talking about his work as an artist and a curator.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Nitrograss.

...Q&A continued from page 9

town commissioners that were also on the board in 2011, so one would have to ask them why this change was made.

Another issue is taking such a bold stance as a complete ban now, while allowing the activity for so long seems irresponsible. I grew up on Harris Drive and there have been STRs on that road well over 10 to 15 years. The fact that the town has simply turned its head regarding the issue for years, should not constitute placing the responsibility of resolve on or at the expense of property owners on either side.

There's also the issue that if STRs are banned in our UDO by the current definition in the position of the town board this would also mean that all employee housing and long-term rentals would fall into the same ban.

Keeping the ruling to ban STRs will have noticeable economic implications, as STRs and their guests, contribute millions and millions of dollars to this economy through occupancy tax and patronizing our local merchants and restaurants.

With that said, I am in support of and

believe that there must be rules and regulations put in place for all STRs. Those should include the requirement of having a local representative or representing agency, overseeing the rental property. This creates accountability and would insure, visiting guests are informed of any rules and expected decorum of the neighborhoods. There also should be penalties put in place for noncompliance.

I truly believe that we can find a solution to this problem, by bringing both sides to the table. Doing what we have always done as a community, working things out civilly. If elected, I will work with both sides for a solution. And then change the verbiage in the UDO to reflect what the consensus of the people involved decide.

Amy Patterson

The answer really depends on the definition of a short-term rental. Currently the Highlands UDO does not define a short-term rental. Without a definition a short-term rental could be anything from 1 day to 90 days. I believe that seasonal rentals

• See Q&A page 17



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(StatePoint) In case you missed it, wallpaper has made a comeback in the interior design world. This is for good reason. Today, there are literally millions of designs from which to choose. Not only that, new types of wallpaper can make application and removal easier than ever.

Need a little inspiration? The world's largest custom, print-on-demand fabric, wallpaper and home decor digital marketplace, Spoonflower, recently challenged home decorating bloggers to “facelift” a small space using wallpaper. Having successfully completed their updates, these DIY-ers are sharing tips and insights for enhancing your own spaces:

- Create a focal point. Bethany Sy, the blogger behind Reality Day Dream, who enhanced the wall behind her mantel with wallpaper says, “A little color and pattern can create the perfect focal point in any room.”

- Think beyond walls: With a little creativity, wallpaper doesn't just have to be for walls, you can use it to update furniture too. Take a cue from Victoria Ford, the Prepford Wife blogger who recently refreshed an old dresser with the Bee Life Toile wallpaper designed by independent artist, Lucinda Wei. “This dresser has lived many lives in our homes and it was time for it to get a little update with a design that was irresistible and perfectly on brand,” says Ford.

- Complement your current style: As Ashley Dusing of Our 1917 Farmhouse notes, wallpaper can be paired with any room's current design elements to enhance its

overall style. “We selected a wallpaper with a vintage style to complement our mid-century bedroom decor and offer a bold pop of color. It was everything this bedroom (turned office space) needed.”

- Consider your needs: Before selecting wallpaper, think about your home decorating habits. For example, Spoonflower offers three wallpaper options: Prepasted Removable Smooth wallpaper, Peel and Stick Removable wallpaper and Non-Pasted Traditional Pebble wallpaper. If you love to mix things up every year or every season, Charlotte Smith of At Charlotte's House says peel and stick is the way to go. She recently wallpapered the fireplace surround in her family room, but already has sights on the future. “I used removable peel and stick wallpaper so I can easily change things up in a year or two if I want a different vibe.”

When redesigning your space with wallpaper, consider shopping with a company that supports independent artists, such as Spoonflower, which connects artists and makers with consumers in the creative economy, and pays a commission to an independent artist with every purchase. With over one million unique designs available and the ability to upload your own design, you can easily use wallpaper to create your own signature style at home. To learn more or to shop styles, visit spoonflower.com.

Whether you wallpaper an entire room, create an accent wall or revamp a piece of furniture, adding style and personality to your interior spaces can be easy with this impactful DIY project.

Interior Enhancements That Make a Great First Impression

(StatePoint) First impressions are everything. And while a lot gets said about exterior curb appeal, what one sees upon entering your home matters just as much.

Whether you simply want to wow guests and the members of your household, or you're looking to make a splash in the housing market with an updated, modern look, check out these interior enhancement ideas.

1. Go clean and modern. Did you know that it can be easy to change out your existing ho-hum balusters? Check out the Concealed Iron Baluster Installation Kit from L.J. Smith Stair Systems. The kit is used for installing 1/2-inch square hollow iron balusters to open treads and level runs, resulting in a clean finished look that's totally contemporary and on-trend.

2. Refresh moldings. Looking to upgrade base and



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Leesa Manley

Gene Borino

Fall Home Improvement

crown moldings? You don't need to replace them entirely to get a fresh new look. Save time, money and effort by simply covering them over with CoverTrim from Ornamental Decorative Millwork. Designed to install over existing moldings, these primed and ready-to-paint pieces are made of durable medium density fiberboard for an easy DIY job.

3. Elevate hardware. Replacing door hardware is a simple way to upgrade the look of your doors and add a personal touch. Designer brand Bravura Hardware offers premium, environmentally-friendly, scratch-resistant crystal door hardware that conveys elegance and style with sleek, smooth edges. Bravura also offers a design-your-own-hardware tool so homeowners can customize, combining knobs, levers and rosettes with a choice of seven backplate designs and seven finishes.

4. Get sophisticated. The new line of Hollow Iron Balusters from L.J. Smith Stair Systems can add a touch of sophistication to stairways. One of the styles features a single acrylic orb, a second design features sophisticated ornate detail, and the third boasts an expanded center diameter. The marquis center of the fourth option pairs well with the manufacturer's plain half-inch square baluster. For

homes with staircases directly in the foyer, this is a project that can make a particularly striking impact.

5. Upgrade interior doors and windows. Instantly upgrade the appearance of interior doors, windows and cased openings with Craftsman Crossheads from Ornamental Decorative Millwork. The one-piece, pre-built crosshead comes in five common widths and can be installed in less than 10 minutes. Made of poplar and factory-primed, once painted, it can be secured quickly above a door or window for a fast, custom-looking upgrade that enhances the style of any room in the home with minimal effort.





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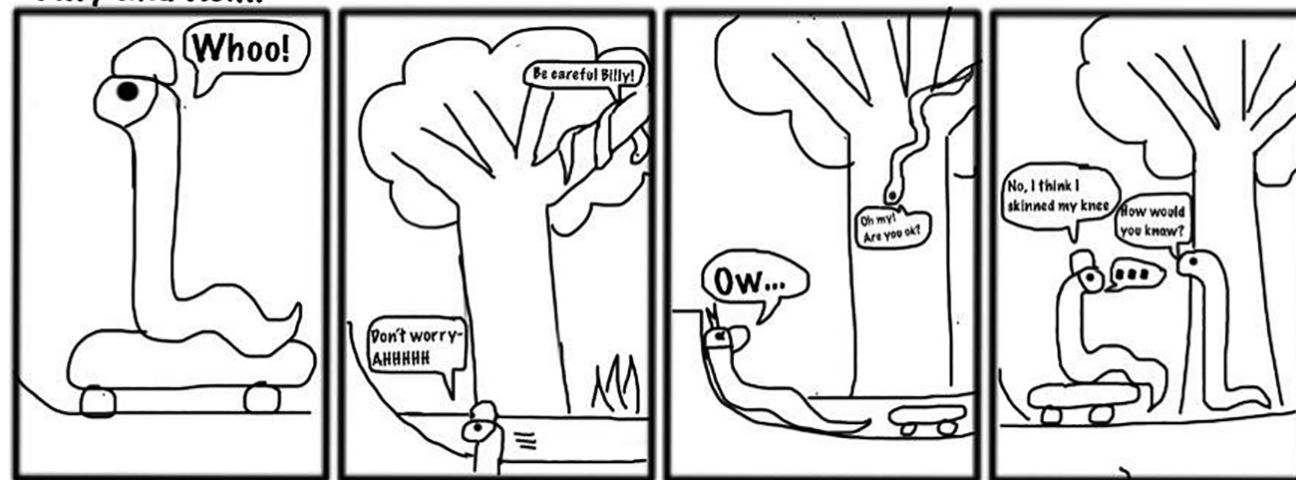
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Billy and Kemi



By Mariella Bishop

Mariella Bishop, is 11 year old and she loves to draw and create, including creating comic strips.

This past summer she participated in camps at the Highlands Biological Station and got to know the two non-poisonous snakes (Remi & Billy) that live under the stone walkways next to the Teaching Pavilion at Lindenwood Lake. I find snakes alarming but she seems to love them, so when we walk over along Lower Lake Road we usually take a detour to look for Remi & Billy hanging out and sunning themselves. Mariella has drawn this cute and funny strip imagining Remi & Billy at the Rec Center skate park, so I thought I would share it with you.

— Michael Bishop (Dad)

...BAIT-DROP continued from page 1



Rabies bait-drop vaccine to begin Oct. 4.

tract raccoons. Once the packet is bitten, the raccoon ingests the vaccine and will develop antibodies against rabies.

The vaccine has been shown to be safe in over 60 different species of animals, including domestic dogs and cats. If your dog or cat eats a large quantity of these baits, it could cause a temporary upset stomach but does not pose any long-term health risk. The vaccine does not contain the live rabies virus.

It is recommended that anyone who

finds a bait leave it alone to allow wildlife to find it. If the bait is on your lawn, driveway or other area unlikely to attract raccoons, you can wear a glove and move the bait to an area of thicker cover where raccoons are more likely to find it.

If you come in contact with the liquid vaccine, you should wash the affected area with soap and water and call the USDA Wildlife Services Rabies Information Line at 1-866-487-3297.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Three Rivers Fly Fishing Festival raises \$27,000



From left: Scott Offen, Derel Brushaber (Guide), Dennis Simeone; Scott and Dennis not only are the winning guided team, they are the only team to have fished in ALL TEN tournaments to date!

The 10th Annual Three River Fly Fishing Festival was our most successful event to date, raising over \$27,000 for the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund – more than we've ever raised before! Many thanks to those who participated in the tournament, attended the benefit concert at the PAC, and bid on the auction items so generously donated for the cause.

The Three River Festival Committee was integral in putting on the best event we've ever had. They are: Pat and Bee Gleeson, John Muir, Steve Perry, Jim Aschmeyer and Becca Rieder. Thank you all for your amazing work this year!

Readers, please take the time to read the festival's thank you ad. Local businesses and individuals made it possible to once again put on this event with no costs, allowing every dollar to go directly into the Scholarship Fund. Thank these folks if you see them and support them as they have supported the community.

Hilary and Chris Wilkes
Three River Festival Co-Chairs

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Pat Taylor



"When you say local, to me that means right here in Highlands. I think it's important to be a hands-on member of the community you live in. In addition to being Mayor for 8 years, I've served on the Planning Board, the Appearance Commission, and as an Area Magistrate. All, right here in Highlands where I have lived for over 22 years."

Pat

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- ✓ Developed the Broadband Project to insure high speed internet to Highlands
- ✓ Fully Developed Founders Park
- ✓ Covered the pool
- ✓ Renovated the Rec Center gym, workout, aerobics and bridge rooms, and pickle ball courts
- ✓ Completed the downtown wall replacements
- ✓ Completed work on the water intake at Lake Sequooyah and refurbished the dam.
- ✓ Built the Buckhorn water tank to ensure good, clean water to Highlands
- ✓ Extended the hospital commitment to 10 years of operation (Dogwood Award Recipient)
- ✓ Lead the COVID pandemic response and helped facilitate the vaccine clinics.
- ✓ Reorganized the ABC board from 3 to 5 members to optimize representation.
- ✓ Coordinated the BearWise initiative and disposal of garbage.
- ✓ Worked to make the new Highlands Fire Department a reality
- ✓ Initiated major road resurfacing and improvements
- ✓ Implemented green policies including hybrid police cars, LED street lighting, and enforcement of watershed ordinances.

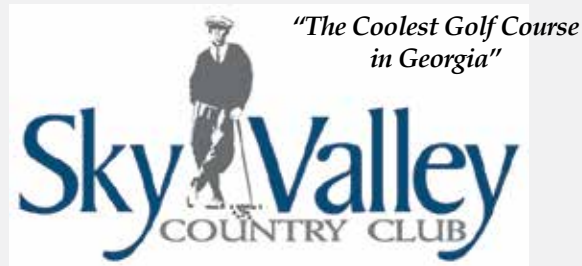


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...FIRE continued from page 1



Savannah Shaheen Breedlove, 18, and Seth Schmitt prepare for the live-burn training. Schmitt volunteers at HFR and is Captain of the Satolah FD. Breedlove has been a volunteer firefighter in training for 4 months at the Satolah Volunteer Fire Department.
— Photo by Brian O'Shea

down; and we work on different things each time," said Gearhart. "It helps the more experienced firefighters stay sharp, and they can show the rookies about atmospheric changes, thermal layers, and teach them the importance of staying low in a controlled environment."

Gearhart said after all exercises are completed in live-burn training, the structure is fully set ablaze and is burned to the ground.

Firefighters from HFR, Satolah Volunteer Fire Department, Cashiers Glenville Volunteer Fire Department, and Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Department participated in the exercise.

Savannah Shaheen Breedlove, 18, lives in Highlands and graduated from Highlands School in May 2021. She has been a Firefighter in Training for four months at the Satolah VFD and was eager to participate in Saturday's training.

"Doing live fire exercises teaches you a lot," said Breedlove. "It gives you a feel of what a real fire is like and teaches you things

you need to know when going into real emergencies,"

She added that she volunteers at Satolah VFD because she wants to help people and thought it would be fun.

"As I'm going through training, I am learning fire behavior and how to work the fire nozzle and also how to put on an air pack," said Breedlove. "The gear is heavy but going in is exciting."

Gearhart said the opportunities for live-burn training depends on the availability of houses that need to be demolished. In the case of Saturday's exercise, it was the third weekend in a row area fire departments were able to conduct live-burn training.

Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain VFD hosted two similar events the previous two weekends.

The house used for Saturday's training caught fire several months ago and was damaged to the point beyond repair and needed to be demolished. The homeowner contacted HFR and offered it up as training for firefighters and Gearhart happily accepted.

"The homeowner contacted us and asked if we wanted to train in it," said Gearhart. "You never know when you're going to get chances like this so we take them when we can."



On the right is HFR Firefighter Eric Fielding helping out fellow firefighter with his gear.
— Photo by Brian O'Shea

...Q&A continued from page 11

of several weeks to several months could be allowed and still preserve the rights and character of the R-1 neighborhoods. That would allow folks who do not want to own a home in Highlands to become part of our seasonal community but prevent neighborhoods from being overrun with weekend tourists.

What is defined in the current ordinances is that R-1 is a single-family residential district. The term family is also defined. A rental that includes more than one family or multiple unrelated individuals is not allowed, and that restriction should be enforced. This would eliminate “party” houses that are the source of many of the noise, parking and nuisance problems.

Eric Pierson

I do not believe I can provide a simple ‘yes or no’ to being in favor of short-term rentals. Regardless of my personal opinion, being a representative of the town, one should ultimately do what is in the best interest of the community as a whole. The battles over short-term rentals are not unique to Highlands. It is an issue that affects communities all across the US. There are endless pros and cons for and against them. I feel that ultimately, this matter will

be fought in the courts for quite some time. With the recent determination that STRs ‘are a commercial entity’, I think the Town is obligated to uphold its current ordinances, further showing that this will be an ongoing legal issue. With that being said, I think short-term rentals show that there is good cause for neighborhoods within a community to establish HOAs and or Restrictive Covenants that either allow or restrict this use in areas where they are wanted...or not wanted.

Pat Taylor

To answer your direct question, my answer is “no.” I took an oath as mayor to uphold the laws of the Town of Highlands. The Town attorney advises that STRs are not permitted in R-1. I must support that position. It appears that this law will be challenged in court. The result of that litigation will be determinative. If a compromise can be reached to avoid or settle the litigation, I will certainly consider supporting it.

However, the above response is a statement that I make as a current elected official. As a candidate for mayor, I would add the following.

I am hopeful that the zoning issues of

• See Q&A page 22

...FEMA continued from page 1

VID patients and inevitably we will have staff that need to be isolated and miss work due to illness.”

Cabe cautioned that based on staffing, equipment, and the county’s current positivity rate, healthcare officials in Macon County are more concerned than ever.

“I wanted to present all of these items to present my concerns that the pre-hospital healthcare system all the way from the call takers to the transport crews are as close to a single point of failure as I have ever seen in my career,” said Cabe.

Since addressing Highlands leaders, Cabe said that the county’s emergency services department now has an additional vacancy bringing the total to nine.

In response to a resource request submitted to FEMA, nine counties across North Carolina will receive help in the form of 25 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances each with a two-person crew of EMS providers.

The ambulances and crews have been assigned to assist nine county Emergency Medical Systems that are experiencing greatly increased calls for service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“These ambulances and crews will

provide necessary relief to our extremely busy EMS systems,” said North Carolina Emergency Management Director Will Ray. “While it’s not the full complement we requested, we know medical resources are extremely limited across the nation right now, and we are grateful for this assistance from our federal partners.”

The ambulances have arrived in North Carolina and crews were given personal protective equipment and communications gear.

The number of ambulance crews assigned to each county follows:

Brunswick County – 2; Franklin County – 2; Graham County – 2; Guilford County – 3; Macon County – 2; Mecklenburg County – 5; New Hanover County – 4; Pender County – 2; Robeson County – 3

North Carolina submitted a request to FEMA on Sept. 10 for 40 Advanced Life Support and 10 Basic Life Support ambulances and crews --25 ambulances and crews were provided. The ambulance crews will remain assigned to these counties for 10 days. After that period, needs will be reevaluated to see if changes are needed.

As of Tuesday night, there are 4,958 total cases in Macon County, with active positive at 407 and deaths are now at 58.

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OCT 1

Curtis Blackwell

OCT 22

Ol’ Dirty Bathtub

OCT 8

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OCT 29

Silly Ridge Roundup

OCT 15

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Saturdays on Pine

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Rev. Curtis Fussell
First Presbyterian Church

Look past the giraffe's knees!

For years I cut the grass on my lawn the same way. The way I cut the grass, threw the clippings onto my driveway and the road. What a mess I made for myself and others! I would then have to do extra work with a leaf blower to clear it off the driveway and the road.

One day it occurred to me that I didn't have to cut the grass as I always did. I could start from the other end of the lawn and have the mower throw the clippings back on the yard, not on the driveway or the road. You know what my problems was? "I was too busy looking at the knees of the giraffe."

I like that expression. It's a new for me. A similar one to it is, "You can't see the forest because of the trees." These expressions tell us that opportunities abound right in front of us, but because we are too close to the situation, we miss seeing the opportunity, or perhaps the giraffe or the forest. We can miss an opportunity all because we are too focused on ourselves, or too focused on a detail, or too distracted by our worries.

The prophet Elijah had to flee into the desert from the evil king Ahab. In the desert Elijah moaned, "Lord, I alone am left." Elijah thought he was the only one in the whole world who still worked for God. But Elijah was wrong. He was just too close to the knees to see the giraffe! God told him, "Listen, there are seven thousand more who are allied with you."

It can easily happen to any of us. We blow an incident way out of proportion. We allow something to overwhelm us, as though that was the whole of our lives. We can be so distracted by something small that we miss the whole picture.

Don't miss the big view! We are all vulnerable. We all make mistakes. One mistake is not the whole of our lives. One mis-spoken word is not the whole of your relationship with someone. It is essential to see the whole, to focus on the blessings and the good.

God treats us in this way. We are not angels, yet God treats us better than angels, God calls us his own children. Why? Because God looks past our faults and sees the whole, the true person we are. Strive then to see the whole goodness of God in your life. Have hope for your whole life to be blessed by God. Look past the knees and see the whole giraffe. God will fill your eyes with delight!

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

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

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Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298

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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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www.christanglicancashiers.com

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Testimony Meeting: 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

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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 Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

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

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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

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Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m., Choir: 6p

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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

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mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Sept. 19. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 19

• At 4:34 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Mitchell's Lodge parking lot.

Sept. 25

• At 8:03 p.m. officers responded to a call a The Park on Main about an assault on a female when a male grabbed her by the neck and broke her cell phone.

• At 8:25 p.m., David Camell Hutchison, 45, from Arden, NC, was arrested for assault on a female and injury to personal property. He was arrested at Park on Main. He wasn't issued a bond. He was taken to the MC Detention Center. His trial date is Oct. 28.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 21. Sept. 21

• At 9:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 1:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.

• At 6:25 p.m. the dept. responded to a motor vehicle

accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 22

• At 1:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a resident on Turtle Pond Road.

• At 8 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Road.

• At 1:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fuel spill on N. 4th Street.

• At 11:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 23

• At 4:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

Sept. 24

• At 6:02 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Moon Mountain Road.

Sept. 25

• At 9:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 26

• At 1:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• LETTERS •

Our neighborhoods aren't hotels

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the letter (16 Sept), about short-term rentals, from the manager of the Old Edwards Inn. I was surprised, and appalled, at the dismissive phrase which he used about our Highlands neighborhoods.

He called our neighborhoods "additional [hotel] room inventory." Even if that really is his attitude, you'd think he'd try to be more respectful.

Highlands' neighborhoods are where families build multi-generational memories, make friends, enjoy time alone and together, appreciate the mountains, support local institutions like the PAC, the Bascomb, the churches, the Chamber Music Festival, and the town's businesses, including the OEI.

Our neighborhoods are not "additional [hotel] room inventory." If the Old Edwards Inn needs additional room inventory, they should build another hotel, where the zoning code allows it.

**Bob Irvin
Highlands**

All that is needed are responsible homeowners

Dear Editor,

From experience and observation, I would like to add a few words to the continuing discussion about short-term rentals.

I live in an area where long time rentals are common and have found that our neighborhood treats those who rent for a season or a month as if they live here, and are invited over, included in picnics, etc,

As for the short-term rentals, I can certainly see the benefit to the restaurant owners, shops and the Chamber of commerce, but that is not really the point.

What benefit is it if the shopkeepers make a killing and the homeowners living near STRs have speeders on their quiet roads, garbage left out for the critters, late night parties, cars blocking roads, cars parking on gardens and grass, rude drunks, etc.

If a person owns a home meant for short-term renters, then that person is ultimately responsible for the behavior of his or her guests. Garbage needs to be properly stowed and put out for the truck—then returned to hiding when empty. If there is a wild party going on in that home, that person needs to be responsible for letting renters know about ten o'clock quiet and how to be a responsible neighbor. If property damage is involved, the homeowner needs to have it repaired. That homeowner needs to be available for complaints and can deal with those responsible.

I would hate to see those who are good neighbors be forced out because of unreasonable behavior of renters. Those who benefit from the STRs might be happy to have the money now; but once Highlands is trashed the money will disappear with the responsible homeowners.

Thinking ahead I think this can be worked out amicably as soon as every homeowner is a responsible homeowner.

**Glenda Bell
Highlands**



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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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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)

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://highland-snc.org>. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Retirees welcomed! (9/16-10/7)

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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
• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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Churchill. Email us at libertynlibations@gmail.com.

GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED positions open at Caffè 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 lindabtriff@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)

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC - Retail Sales Associate, Catering & Conference Services Mgr, Sales Mgr, Asst F&B Mgr, Banquet Server, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Sous Chef, Cook, Asst Pastry Chef, Kitchen Asst./Utilities, Reservations, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer, P/T Marketing Asst. Apply online: www.olderwardsinn.com/careers

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)

LUXURY LODGE MANAGER NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION. - Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 2/11)

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)

RE FOR SALE 4/BD, 2 BA HOME ON 2 BEAUTIFUL ACRES located between Highlands and Cashiers in a nice residential area. Property borders a creek and includes a storage house with cellar. Garden area and beautiful lawns, too. \$650k. Contact Tina @ 828-342-9312. (St. 7/29)

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best panoramic views in Highlands, 10 acres of land backing up to the national forest, a beautiful 5,000 sq ft main house with an available 2 bedroom guest house and a putting green and horseshoe pit for \$990,000! Better hurry before my wife changes her mind. Please text or ring Paul at 678-516-8388. (st. 7/1)

SERVICES STOP PAYING AGENCY PRICES - Call me! Private, Personal and Professional caregiver, companion or sitter. I am available to work with each clients needs, days and hours. 828-507-1692. (st. 9/30)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? I can do it. Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (st. 9/16)

HOME MAID CLEANING SERVICE LLC: - Quality work, experienced & insured. For a free estimate call, (828) 371-1702. Check out our website at, www.homemaidscleaningservicenc.com. (9/2)

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - Interior & Exterior painting, sheetrock repair, wallpaper removal, log homes, decks. Insured/ free estimates. Call 828-524-1391 or 828-332-0525 (11/4)

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HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Will also monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-5984. (8/5)

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Tile Design & Flooring LLC. Home: 828-526-4943 or Text: 321-303-7560. (7/29)

GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-1103. (st. 9/17/20)

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

...Q & A continued from page 17

STRs in residential zones can be resolved by the Town Board and citizens in the coming months. The board has listened and heard the views on both sides of the issue.

With that said, I am concerned about the spread of STRs in our residential neighborhoods. It is a national and state issue that as a town we need to review and resolve. Our neighborhoods, composed mostly of full-time and seasonal residents, have been a cornerstone of civic and community engagement in Highlands. So many of our organizations, nonprofits and institutions depend on citizen involvement and participation. Civic engagement is critical to our quality of life. I do not want to see our neighborhoods morph into becoming solely ghost and clerk-less hotel zones.

Our full-time population from 2010 to 2020 grew by only 60 full-time residents to a total of 984 permanent residents. A critical mass of permanent residents needs to be sustained. We will have to balance the economic drivers of STRs with sustaining a critical mass of permanent residents in residential zones. Like so many challenges, we must preserve what makes Highlands a great place to live with needed progress and economic development.

Clearly, STRs, especially through Airbnb and VBRO are national business enterprises. Overall, I support restrictions, regulations and registration of these businesses in residential areas. As for the downtown business areas, I support and will promote the construction of additional hotels where zoning requirements can be met.

The question for Oct. 7:


Yes or no. Should entities outside the town limits get sewer and water before offering those services to those inside the town limits? Please explain your answer.

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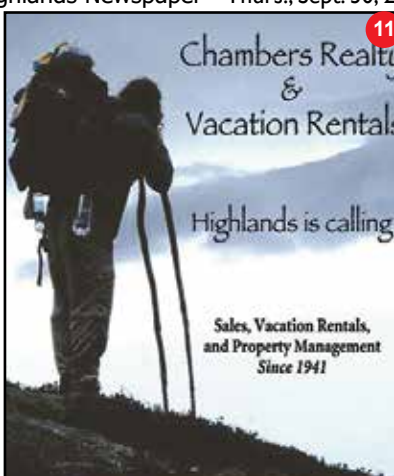
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Map labels include: Dog Park, Civic Center, Historic Village, Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC), K-H Park, Hudson Library, Mtn Fresh Market, Highlands Plaza, and various streets like Main St, Spring St, and Oak St.

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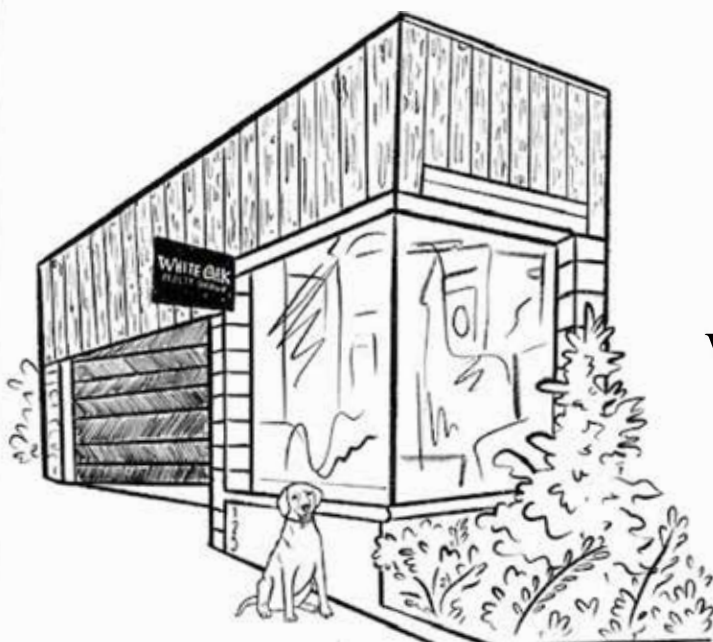


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