

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Sept. 9, 2021

Economic ramifications of STR ruling

Since Tuesday, Aug. 24, a committee calling itself Save Highlands has galvanized support from homeowners and businesses to fight the town's recent decision to ban short-term rentals in Highlands' R1 district effective Jan. 3, 2022.

The group has retained the Asheville, NC law firm of Allen, Stahl, and Kilborne, with attorney Derek Allen acting as lead counsel

and are filing a lawsuit against the Town of Highlands challenging the town's regulation of STR properties specifically in the R1 zone.

To pay for the endeavor, a

•See **ECONOMIC** page 8

Covid is calling the shots

The town is feeling the crunch as Covid continues to affect life as we know it.

The Highlands pool is only open sporadically since most of its lifeguards are on the Highlands School Volleyball team which has been quarantined due to a Covid breakout.

Town Hall is closed except by appointment due to a breakout there and masks are mandated on town sidewalks in the business district and inside all business establishments.

To communicate where the school system stands, a dashboard has been set up showing the number of Covid cases and its ramifications.

In the accompanying charts – charts for both staff and students – cumulative figures are from the first day of school, Monday, Aug. 23 through Friday, Sept. 3.

•See **COVID** page 5

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ART WORK:

Highlands grad grows skills alongside UWG faculty mentorship

By Julie Lineback

The University of West Georgia recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its Newnan campus to celebrate a new sculpture and mural designed by art students Trinity Dendy and Ariana Culver. The projects – commissioned by UWG's School of the Arts (SOTA) with generous support from the Hollis Trust – are prime examples of the university's strategic plan in progress.

"To remain relevant to our students and communities – and competitive in the higher education marketplace – we must continuously elevate our spaces," UWG President Dr. Brendan Kelly said. "This includes making contributions to Newnan's art and culture landscape with projects like this sculpture and mural,

which are the result of students engaging in a few weeks of intensive experiential learning and maintaining a relationship with community partners, namely the Hollis Trust."

The Hollis Trust is the legacy of Edgar Hollis Jr., a Newnan native who had a distinguished career in Washington D.C. When he passed away in 2006, a portion of his estate went to a charitable trust dedicated to the Newnan area.

"We're very fortunate to have a great working relationship with the Hollis Trust," said Dr. Chad Davidson, SOTA director. "They have always recognized the powerful, transformational essence of art."

Community and rela-

•See **ArtWork** page 15



Trinity Dendy, a 2018 Highlands School graduate, with her winning sculpture on the campus of West Georgia's Newnan campus.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

STRs, paving projects and more

Saturday will be the 20th anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers, September 11, 2001. Hope everyone will take a moment as we usher in a beautiful fall weekend to and remember those innocent people who lost their lives.

I know that the short-term rental issue is a huge topic on social media and throughout the town. I have had a tremendous amount of email and communication concerning the issue. I have read and thought about all the emails both for and against short term rentals. Going forward, the challenge will be how to resolve issue for the long term good of Highlands. There are many questions to be answered and difficult decisions to be made. The town will thoroughly review all ordinances related to short-term rentals and consult with experts. Legal processes are already underway, therefore, as mayor I will limit my discussion on the matter. I have been reluctant to respond to questions that folks have asked me on both sides of the issue. I will depend on the review process involv-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

ing the staff, board and legal experts to resolve this critical issue.

Also, the state DOT is now reworking the handicap system at key intersections in the downtown area. The curbs and sidewalk grades are being brought up to current ADA standards. The work will continue for several weeks and may cause some traffic and pedestrian issues. The goal is to get the work done by the start of leaf season.

Also, I recently talked with the DOT traffic engineer who has been working to change the ordinances concerning tractor trailer trucks on the Gorge Road. Soon, new signs will be erected that clearly informs truckers that trailers over 30 feet are not allowed on US 64 between Highlands and Franklin. The current ordinances and signs are confusing to many truckers who proceed to the route with 55-foot trailers in tow. These new rules and signs will make it easier for the state patrol to enforce the rules and issue citations.

Will the new signs stop all 55-foot tractor trailer trucks from going on this dangerous stretch of road? Probably not, stupid behavior is always possible, but they should help reduce incidents of trucks getting stuck at the gorge.

The DOT will also be paving the lower part of Big Bear Pen from Upper Lake Road down to Chestnut. This project will improve safety on this part of the road, eliminate recurring washouts and improve the problem of sediment that accumulates on Chestnut Street. This part of Big Bear Pen will be slightly widened to allow cars to pass without having to pull on to the narrow shoulder or go into the ditch. This project will connect to the town paving of Upper Lake and Lower Lake Roads. The remaining upper part of Big Bear Pen, approximately one and a quarter miles, will remain unpaved.

The town paving projects for Upper and Lower Lake should begin in the coming weeks. The Bear Pen paving will be scheduled by DOT at a later date.

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• HIC'S VIEW •







whicseven@yahoo.com

HIC

"life is complicated, politics, taxes, health, VCRs, and plastic but I don't have to worry I'm a dog."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 9-Sep	Fri, 10-Sep	Sat, 11-Sep	Sun, 12-Sep
			
71°F 45°F	72°F 46°F	71°F 49°F	75°F 50°F
Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Partly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and pleasant
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• OBITUARY •

Phillip 'Kirk' Howard

A 62 years old, resident of Franklin, NC passed away August 31, 2021 at home in Franklin, NC after a brief battle with Lymphoma.

Kirk was born February 8, 1959 in Macon, GA to Mary Elizabeth Phillips Howard and Marion Gerald Howard. He attended Benedictine Military School in Savannah, GA and Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA where he earned a BA in Journalism.

Kirk grew up in Huntington, Long Island in NY and Skidaway Island, GA. He later lived in Atlanta, GA, New Orleans, LA, Highlands, NC and Franklin, NC.

He moved to Highlands in 1999 where he worked at Bucks Coffee Café, Lucas Patton Design, Cabin Couture and The Ugly Dog Pub.

He is survived by his partner of 31 years Steve Connor of Franklin, NC and devoted Boston Terriers Rico and Louis and no other family.

A memorial gathering will be held at the Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands September 13th from 5-7 for family and friends.



...COVID continued from page 1

Charts with current figures were tallied as of Friday Sept. 3. Each Friday a new dashboard will be sent out by the school district.

The charts represent staff affected per school and students affected per school.

The charts give figures for the number of staff or students quarantined; the number who tested positive; the current number of staff or students quarantined and the current number who have tested positive.

As of Friday, Sept. 3, Highlands School had two staff members quarantined; five staff who tested positive for Covid; currently 0 staff quarantined and 0 staff who tested positive.

As to students at Highlands School, as of Friday, cumulatively 31 students have been quarantined; eight students tested positive. Currently, 22 students are quarantined with five testing positive for Covid.

Masks mandates across the state differ. Macon County is one of the 113 school districts of 116 in the state that requires masks for students and staff. Two counties say masks are optional – Union, despite over 5,000 students and staff being quarantined across the district and having the largest reported cluster in a K-12 school setting in the state, and Avery where they are optional for students but mandatory for teachers. Onslow will require masks beginning Monday, Sept. 13. Yancey County meets to discuss it tonight.

•See COVID page 16



**From: Highlands Attorney J.K. Coward
To: Mayor Taylor and Manager Ward:**

At the reconvened August 24 meeting where Short Term Rentals (STRs) were the topic of discussion, the Board reached a majority consensus to direct staff to enforce all its residential ordinances with the implementation to begin on January 3, 2022. Commissioner Calloway dissented.

The discussion covered a lot more than that narrowly focused consensus stated just before adjournment, however. The full discussion should be taken into consideration because the clear implication is that STRs will not be allowed in the R-1 District beginning in January.

To make that point clear is the purpose of this memorandum. The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) states at §6.1.C “any use not specifically set forth in the use category is expressly prohibited.” §5.2.1 Residential District R-1 is a “low-density residential district for single-family dwellings” only. Since it does not permit STRs, they are prohibited. On the other hand, R-2, a medium-density district, allows “tourist homes” with a special use permit. A tourist home “includes bed and breakfast homes or inns... where sleeping accommodations of not more than four (4) rooms are provided for occasional transient paying guests.” R-3, a high-density district, does not allow overnight accommodations at all. It should be noted that tourist homes and bed and breakfasts, like hotels and motels, are overnight accommodations and are classified as “commercial uses” in §6.5, thus the requirement of a special use permit.

Therefore enforcement in January means issuing a notice of violation to all R-1 owners who use their homes as STRs. STRs are not defined in the UDO, and perhaps they should be. The Board expressed interest in reviewing STRs in light of the special use permit opportunity in R-2 (and maybe in R-3) because the use is so similar to a tourist home or bed and breakfast.

The board requested that I employ an expert to guide it in further discussions this fall. I have already taken steps to do that.



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Highlands Methodist Church and Highlands Fire & Rescue are once again teaming up to collect supplies in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season.

Donations can be dropped off at the fire station on Oak Street Monday through Friday from 10am - 3pm. Initial supplies will be sent to our neighbors in Haywood County to assist with clean-up from recent flooding, while stockpiling supplies for further needs.

Items needed include bottled water, bleach, contractor trash bags, shovels, tarps, laundry detergent, buckets, paper towels and Rubbermaid tubs.

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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• INK PENN •

Who fancies a trip to Cornwall?

Until overseas travel is in the cards again, I'll continue to content myself with virtual trips. I get to visit England often, as my cozy mysteries are set in a fictional Cotswolds village. In the fifth book in the series, however, the characters are off to Cornwall for a yoga retreat at the aptly named Knight's Rest Resort. Legend has it that King Arthur was conceived in the coastal village of Tintagel, in a castle on a rocky promontory overlooking the sea. The castle ruins are a sight to behold.

I was fortunate enough to take my bucket list trip to England in 2018, and a day trip to Tintagel was a must. The ruins are awe-inspiring and the details I picked up as I researched Tintagel for this book were fascinating. I've woven many of them into the mystery as several of the characters are archaeologists and fans of Arthurian literature.

The main character in my books, Leta Parker, is a member of the village book club, and this time the group reads "The Once and Future King," the perfect prelude to their trip to Tintagel. You'll find archaeology, Arthurian legend, even yoga woven into a mystery that begs to be solved by Leta and her friends.

It was supposed to be a relaxing vacation. Now, this legendary location could be hiding a killer in its battlements.

Leta Parker's retirement in the Cotswolds' rolling hills has been a balm for her soul. And heading off with her friends and talking four-legged companions to a cat yoga retreat on the cliffs of Cornwall's Arthurian coastline seems like the perfect mix of relaxation and exploration. But when a

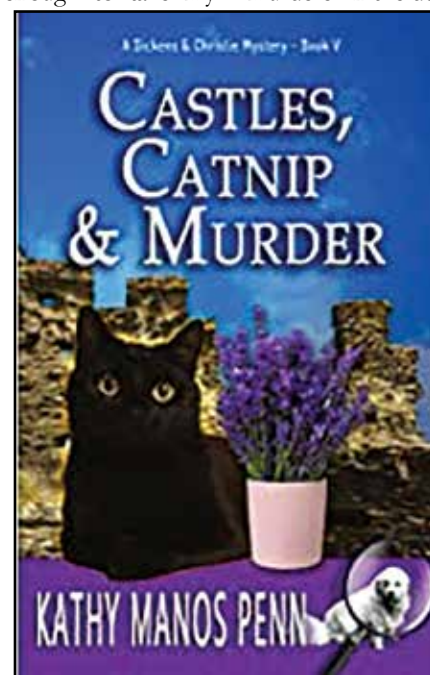


Kathy Manos Penn

fellow yogi's corpse pose nearly becomes permanent, Leta believes it's no stretch to suspect foul play.

Seeking the cause of the death-like pose, the Little Old Ladies' Detective Agency springs into action to hunt down the culprit. But with the poor woman's recent tragic history, the resort's grieving owners, and a doubtful local DI all conspiring to muddy the picture, this case could end up in ruins.

Will the crack team of senior sleuths unearth the evidence to throw a would-be murderer in the dungeon?



"Castles, Catnip & Murder" is the intriguing fifth book in the Dickens & Christie cozy mystery series. If you like tenacious retirees, witty banter, and fascinating myths and legends, then you'll love this trip to the Round Table.

Do you want to know whether Leta and her friends can catch a not-so-shining knight? If the answer is yes, order your copy of the book today! Who knows, you may plan a trip to Cornwall or start humming the tune to Camelot. I

haven't planned the trip yet, but I did ask Alexa to play the soundtrack to the Broadway play.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries locally at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/, and/or visit her website www.kathymanospenn.com to read her blogs and sign up to receive her newsletter.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Short Term Rentals

This isn't a topic that I wanted to discuss, but feel that it is the "elephant in the room" and can't be avoided. After all, this is a column about real estate. Recently, the Town of Highlands has interpreted that short term rentals are a commercial activity, and that the zoning code does not allow commercial activity in areas zoned R1. Beginning January 3, this will start being enforced, thus doing away with STRs in R1 zoning. It hasn't yet been made clear if this will also pertain to R2 and R3 zoning. The issue was brought to a head by homeowners in several different neighborhoods where the STRs are causing issues with noise, traffic, parking and trash, as well as a loss of a community/neighborhood feel.

STRs have been occurring in Highlands and most resort areas for many years. There are firms that specialize in handling rentals, but with the advent of websites and apps like VRBO and Airbnb, the number of rentals has increased dramatically in recent years. Owners are able to rent their properties when they are not being used personally and many do so without having to be here to manage it. The rentals bring in couples or families that may be here two nights for a wedding; or stay a week, weeks or months during the season. It is common for many of these renters to end up buying a home here. Some renters previously owned a home here and still want to come without the burden of home ownership. Many come every year, and many come several times a year. Some of the buyers are looking to be able to rent their homes when they are not being used and count on the income to offset expenses. I am also aware of several retired residents who have a rental property and rely on the income for living expenses.

The proliferation of STRs is happening throughout the country, in all types of areas, but especially those areas that attract tourists. Here on the plateau, different neighborhoods, both inside and outside town limits, have had, or are adding restrictions regarding STRs. Some have voted to continue to allow the rentals, some restrict the number of rentals that can happen in a month, some require a week or two weeks



Carl Romberg
Landmark

minimum rental. Some require that each rental must be registered with the HOA. I have even heard of one development where rentals of less than a year are not allowed. It can be quite difficult to keep up with all of the different restrictions and the changes that are being made. To my knowledge there are no restrictions in areas that have no zoning or recorded restrictive covenants.

I appreciate all that the Town Board does for the community, but feel that this issue was handled poorly. On behalf of buyers who were looking at a property in a R1 zoning district, I personally called Town Hall earlier this year to ask, and was told that the Town did not have any regulations regarding STRs. Those buyers are very anxious about what is going to happen. After years of not enforcing the regulation, they give owners a four-month notice that they are going to begin to enforce this regulation. This has caught property owners off guard and close to \$200,000 in funds have been raised to start legal proceedings to fight the decision. Beyond that, it has become a very divisive issue between residents with some hateful comments being made on different social media sites. The last thing that we need is another divisive issue, followed by months or years of legal battles and continued uncertainty.

A related issue is the lack of affordable housing for workers on the plateau. There are those that say getting rid of the STRs will make those properties available for long-term rentals. In 2018 the average sales price for single family residences sold in the town of Highlands was \$730,879, and that increased to \$1,005,746 in 2021. There may be a few properties that could be converted to long term rentals, but for the majority of properties that isn't financially feasible as an investment. Long-term housing is an issue that needs to be addressed, but STRs don't factor into the solution.

As I mentioned, this isn't just a local issue but is happening throughout the state, country and the world. There are numerous municipalities that have enacted specific regulations regarding STRs. There are places that have embraced the issue and come up with different ways to control the issue. Of course, there are legal implications in different states

•See INVESTING page 15

Adult Mental Health series at Hudson Library 2nd Tuesdays starting Sept. 14

Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, held the second Tuesday of each month from September through December. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. The September 14 program, held at 2 PM, is titled Anxiety: Calming the Anxious Mind.

This program will focus on Anxiety Dis-

orders and look at those more commonly seen in older adults. 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.

For more information or to request an accommodation, please call Hudson Library at 828-526-3031 or visit www.fontanalib.org.



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828322

...ECONOMIC continued from page 1

GoFundMe account has been set up to raise funds to pay the retainer and legal fees of the law firm. The group is quickly nearing its goal of \$200,000.

The decision to ban STRs in the R1 zone is based on the current verbiage in the town's ordinance which outlines allowed uses. Town Attorney Jay Coward says in his view the ordinance clearly disallows STRs in the zone, something he considers a commercial use.

Whether an owner renting a home in the R1 district is a commercial use is up for debate across the state and is the reason Commissioner Donnie Calloway voted against the recent decision.

The ordinance reads:

§6.1.C "Any use not specifically set forth in the use category is expressly prohibited."

§5.2.1 Residential District R-1 is a "low-density residential district for single-family dwellings" only.

According to Attorney Coward, since commercial uses aren't allowed in R1, STRs which he considers commercial are prohibited.

On the other hand, R2, a medium-density district, allows "tourist homes" with a special use permit. A tourist home "includes bed and breakfast homes or inns... where sleeping accommodations of not more than four (4) rooms are provided for occasional transient paying guests."

R3, a high-density district, does not allow overnight accommodations at all. According to Coward, "It should be noted that tourist homes and bed and breakfasts, like hotels and motels, are overnight accommodations and are classified as "commercial uses" in §6.5, thus the requirement of a special use permit."

Economic Impact

At the Aug. 24 meeting where commissioners agreed by consensus 4-1 to ban STRs in the R1 zone, there was no mention of the economic impact to Highlands or the numerous people who will be

•See ECONOMIC page 9



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...ECONOMIC continued from page 8

adversely affected – the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center, property managers, handy-people, cleaning people, those who will lose companies associated with STRs, businesses that will lose customers and year-round business, homeowners whose retirement plans rely on STR revenue, older owners whose only income is their rental income and the Town of Highlands, which stands to lose sales tax revenue.

The economic impact is what has spurred the campaign to counter the town's recent decision.

"We relied on Highlands' well known and long-standing position with regard to STRs, and with no notice, they blindsided homeowners, business owners, real estate agencies, cleaning crews, handymen and a host of others who will feel this effect," said Jennifer Huff of Save Highlands.

Since the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center relies heavily on the room tax money generated by all accommodations, including STRs, it stands to see a huge decrease in funding if STRs are banned forevermore in the R1 zone which makes up more than half of the town's footprint.

Room tax proceeds from FY '20 -'21 surpassed the total amount of room tax dollars for the previous FY '19-'20 which was already 14% higher than FY '18-'19.

The total occupancy tax proceeds for FY '19-'20 was \$755,964.54. The total for FY '20-'21 was \$1,324,740.16 – a 75% increase over FY '19-'20 and that was during Covid.

Without STRs in the R1 district, the

town, too, stands to lose a hefty amount of sales tax revenue.

In the last five years, annually the town has seen a steady increase in sales tax proceeds generated by retail sales as well as from traditional accommodations and STRs.

In FY '15-'16 sales tax revenue was \$1,015,141; FY '16-'17 - \$1,051,917; FY '17-'18 - \$1,092,139; FY '18-'19 - \$1,165,486; FY '19-'20 - \$1,193,149; and FY '20-'21 - \$1,389,959.

Given the incredible increase in room tax proceeds enjoyed by the Chamber, an increase clearly due to STRs since the number of hotels in Highlands hasn't increased, it follows that the increase in the town's sales tax proceeds is from STRs and the money people staying in them are spending in town.

Once a municipality gets used to getting a certain amount of sales tax proceeds, it's not far-fetched to surmise it may look to other funding sources to make up the difference.

When asked about potentially raising taxes to offset a loss in sales tax due to banning STRs in R1, Town Manager Josh Ward said "We would just have to evaluate the numbers if a steep decline occurred."

Meanwhile, Allen, Stahl & Kilbourne has emailed the following Public Records Request, to Town Manager Josh Ward and Mayor Pat Taylor. Copies have also been mailed by Certified Letter.

"For purposes of these requests, please produce the following documents:

"1. All meeting minutes from Board of

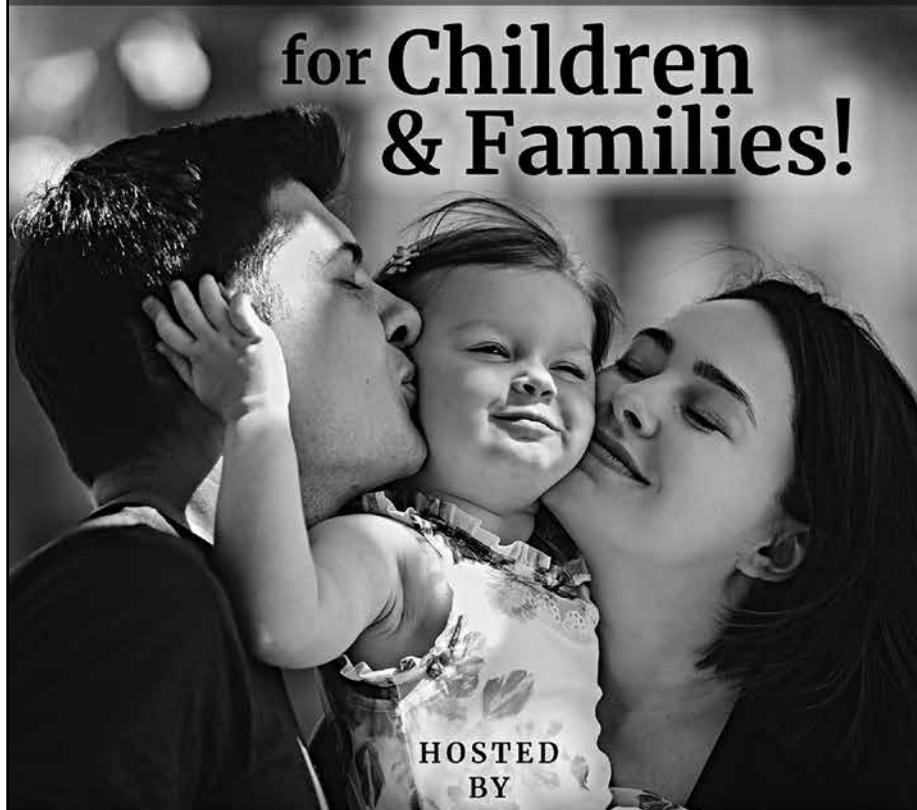
•See ECONOMIC page 16

Nuclear Family UNDER ATTACK!

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for Children & Families!



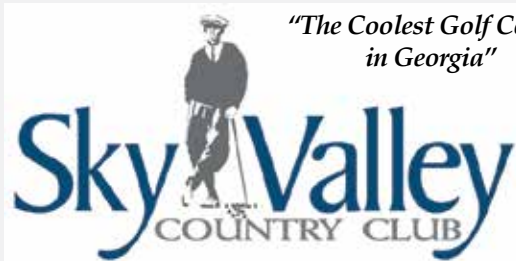
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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 return in the Fall of 2021.

• Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, has cancelled services for the remainder

of the season due to recent CDC guidelines. Call Mary Bean if questions at 1-828-506-0125.

Second Mondays

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

706-372-3004 for meeting places.

Mon.-Fri.

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

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

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open 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.

• 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 from September through December. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. The September 14 program, held at 2 PM, is titled Anxiety: Calming the Anxious Mind. 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 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. Set at a time that is convenient for students to attend after work, TL&LC also provides snacks for this kid-friendly event. The classes are for all ages, and anyone who wishes to learn English is encouraged to participate. For any questions, visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call (828) 526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Every Saturday

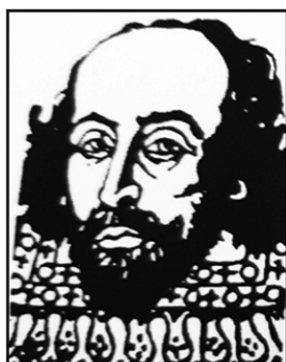
• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Park on Pine Street. 8a to 12:30p.

Third Saturday

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

Thurs., Sept. 9

• Join the Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) next Thursday, Sept. 9 at 6pm as



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FREE Upcoming Event (refreshments served)

Thurs., Sept. 16 author Kelly McDaniel will discuss her new book, "Mother Hunger: How Adult Daughters Can Understand and Heal From Lost Nurturance, Protection and Guidance." from 4 to 5:30 p.m.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

they host their final Zahner Conservation Lecture of the year! HBF will be concluding 2021's enlightening and inspiring series with Dr. J. Drew Lanham's presentation "Conservation and Culture - The Necessary Convergence." The presentation will be held in-person at the Highlands Biological Station meadow (located behind the Highlands Nature Center). For more information please visit www.highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of WCU.

Fri., Sept. 10

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

Sat. & Sun. Sept. 11-12

• Highlands Historical Society's 11th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival 10a to 5p all around Highlands. The 11th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Show will be held Sat. Sept. 11 at The Bascom from 1-4:30 p.m. The Bascom will host Highlands Historical Society's Dazzling Dahlia Show Saturday September 11th from 1 - 4:30 p.m.. The public is invited to view the incredible, irresistible dahlia in it's many different varieties. Highlands Historical Village will have flower arrangements for sale, and docent guided tours of the Prince house & Highlands Historical museum. Both the dahlia festival and show are free, and are outdoors, socially distanced events.

Sat., Sept. 11

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

Sun., Sept. 12

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

Wed., Sept. 15

• To help support the Bolivia on-going mission there is having an auction at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on Wednesday. beginning at 5:30 p.m. There is an admission charge of \$100 donation to the mission per person and this includes drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and the silent and live auctions. Reservations or more information can be made by calling Baumrucker at 828.200.0902 or by mailing a check to: Highlands Bolivian Mission; P.O. Box 1358; Highlands, NC 28741. Donations of articles for the auction can be accepted. Call the above number for details. The mission is a 501 C3 tax exempt organization.

Thurs., Sept. 16

• At Shakespeare & Company author Kelly McDaniel will discuss her new book, "Mother Hunger: How Adult Daughters Can Understand and Heal From Lost Nurturance, Protection and Guidance." from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Thurs., Sept. 16

• At Shakespeare & Co., book discussion and signing with author Kelly McDaniel and her book "Mother Hunger: How Adult Daughters Can Understand and Heal from Lost Nurturance, Protection and Guidance," from 4:5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Fri., Sept. 17

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

Sat., Sept. 18

• Join the Highlands Plateau Greenway for a Hike on the Historic Kelsey Trail. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, the Cullasaja Club Overlook, and Highlands Falls. Shuttles will leave from the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Saturday, September 18th, at 8:30, 9, and 9:30 A.M. The five-mile walk, mostly downhill, takes about four hours and will end with a picnic at the Park. Bring good hiking shoes or boots, rain gear, water, a day pack and your camera. Residents and visitors can register for the walk by clicking on the big red button below or leave a message at (828) 482-2346. The \$75 cost of the walk includes the picnic lunch and free membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. High Five.

Sun., Sept. 19

• CLE is proud to present the First Annual Highlands Porchfest 2021! Porchfest is a FREE music event for our community being held on Sunday from 1 - 6pm. Musicians from every genre will perform live at various downtown businesses, including The Bascom and The PAC. For more information visit www.highlandsporchfest.com

• Oyster Roast at OEI's The Farm, 4-7 p.m. Join us at The Farm at Old Edwards where we welcome back Kimball House & The Darling, providing the freshest oysters. Lawn games and live music welcome guests. An oyster roast, passed hors d'oeuvres, raw bar and creative cocktails will set the stage for deliciousness to follow. The dinner menu will feature an array of festival stations for an informal Old Edwards-style feast. \$165 per person. Please note: Price does not include tax or gratuity ("fee"), this will be added at checkout. Event is for guests 21 and older. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/oyster-fest-at-the-farm-tickets-65450>

Fri., Sept. 24

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

Sat., Sept. 25

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. The Knotty G's

Fri., Oct. 1

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

Sat., Oct. 2

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



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(StatePoint) With life returning to normal and summer upon us, it's a good time to focus on creating an outdoor space to enjoy on warm summer evenings. Whether it's a place for unplugging and relaxing alone or gathering with guests and entertaining, having a spot that you can enjoy well into the fall is key. Below are six tips for turning an average patio, porch or deck into an outdoor oasis.

1. Whether you use your outdoor space for reading a book on a summer day or catching up with friends on a warm night, incorporating plants into this area can create a barrier for privacy. Plant bushes, place large planters in corners or put hanging baskets on hooks around the perimeter. For small patios, you may even consider building a planter wall. Not only will it help with privacy, but it will also add color and dimension, making the space feel like a sanctuary for you and your guests.

2. Add string lights overhead to create ambiance in your space at night. Duck Max Strength Nano-Grab is a versatile double-sided tape you can use for mounting. It's clear, holds up to 20 pounds per 5-foot roll and sticks to painted drywall, wood, glass, tile, metal, stone and brick without leaving a residue. Nano-Grab will keep your lights secure and in place and make it easy to take them down and store for winter.

3. If you are sticking with the rest and relaxation vibe in your outdoor oasis, think about adding a fountain or other small water feature for relaxing background noise. Keep that sense of zen going into the night with a fire pit, heaters or bamboo torches for warmth on cooler evenings.

4. For those interested in entertaining guests, you may want to mount an outdoor TV for watching summer ball

games or a sound system for listening to background music. You'll want to ensure this equipment is properly installed for outdoor use in areas safe from wind and rain.

5. Creating an outdoor dining area doesn't have to break the bank. When entertaining guests, a beverage cooler, bar cart and BBQ station are convenient additions you can make to what already exists on your patio. Building a cart or station for storing paper towels, tin foil and other essentials for the grill master can be a fun DIY project, too.

6. Having an amazing space doesn't always mean starting from scratch – you can simply add a fresh coat of paint in a bright color palette to update existing privacy walls or tables and chairs. All you need is a can of paint and a roll of FrogTape brand painter's tape to keep lines crisp and clean. As for color, you may be tempted to keep it neutral, but don't shy away from crisp blues and soft yellows. They will give a fresh and fun feel for all your summer entertaining.

With just a few simple tweaks, you can transform any outdoor area into a beautiful oasis ideal for rest, relaxation and fun.

3 Ways to Fuse Art and Nature in Your Home


Mustard, navy and wine are today's trending colors

(StatePoint) Beyond sprucing up your work and living environs, there's certainly much to love about houseplants, whether it's the simple act of taking care of something or the fact that some varieties can even improve the air quality in your home (peace lilies, we're looking at you).

However, if you're like many people who have done virtually everything from home this past year, your living room has turned into a veritable plant nursery. Rather than add more plants to your living spaces haphazardly, consider these easy tips from LiveTrends, a company that creates and designs over 500 original living art product collections each year:

- Befriend color. When it comes to pots for your greenery, succulent and shrubs, you may think neutral is the way to go. Think again. Right now, it's all about attention-grabbing colors, such as the mustard, navy and wine, which are featured in the Harvest Votive and Agatha styles from LiveTrends' fall 2021 collection. When you fuse nature with bold hues, you can easily elevate a houseplant into art status. Bonus: You don't have to shell out serious dough like you would for framed wall art or a sculpture.

- Add joy. The pandemic accelerated the plant par-



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Gene Borino

ent trend and many found themselves deeply embracing "biophilia," or the innate desire to connect with nature -- from the great indoors that is. To give you a moment of joy during your day or even perk up your Zoom background, look for whimsical and fun plant designs.

• Make holiday swaps. Add vitality to your holiday home decorating game by swapping in festive plants for elements in your regular lineup. During Halloween for example, LiveTrends offers designs like the delightfully

ghoulish yogi skeleton mini plants, a collection of skeleton figures seated in Sukhasana pose. During the winter holiday season, their "Snomann" plants make a cute and festive addition to your mantel or tablescape.

For more design inspiration and tips or to view the latest collections, visit [instagram.com/livetrendsdesign](https://www.instagram.com/livetrendsdesign).

By fusing nature with art, you can elevate your houseplant collection and create truly beautiful living spaces in your home.





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Sept. 15 auction to support the Highlands Bolivian Mission Boys Foster Home

Please join us September 15 at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club for a celebration fundraiser to support the continued success of the Foster Home in Montero, Bolivia. The event will allow for distancing and guests will be wearing masks except when enjoying the delicious passed hors d'oeuvres.

The heart of the 23 year mission to Bolivia is the Hogar, a foster home for former orphans and street children, started by Dr. John Baumrucker, which not only provides shelter and food, but a path to a responsible and sustainable life.

The boys work on the farm to grow their food and sell produce. They learn how to make items for sale in their wood shop. The older boys earn a degree in maintenance and have the responsibility to maintain the

facilities. They all contribute to food preparation and cleaning up. They go to school and church. They apply for college scholarships and get funded for university life. What a blessing that Dr. John found them and took them in to change their lives.

This year in Dr. Baumrucker's trip, he met a new boy, who had been in the Hogar for some months and was having a very hard time adjusting, following rules and participating in the programs. "Papa John" took him under his wing and started teaching him about how to be part of the program. He was his constant companion, and magically the child became an outstanding new addition to the home.

Scores of volunteers from Highlands and other area communities have travelled with Dr. John to Bolivia to take part in the mission. In addition to working on the Hogar, volunteers have built a guest house, 17 houses for the poor, fed the masses, provided Bibles and helped renovate a prison, improved medical and dental facilities and assisted in wheelchair giveaway.

An Auction will be held September 15 at Wildcat Country Club at 530pm to benefit the operations of the Hogar and the other projects of the mission. This year, with generous donations, the Hogar kitchen received much needed renovations and the older boys were given vocational maintenance training program funded by a Rotary grant.

The Auction items will include trips, golf packages and a Bobby Grace Putter, parties, art, some outstanding jewelry, Bolivian items and much more. Tickets are \$100 per person and will include two drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Send your ticket money or tax-deductible donation check to Highlands Bolivian Mission, Post Office Box 1358, Highlands, NC 28741. Payments for auction items can be made by credit card at the event. For further information call Robin at 828-446-6789, or John at 828-200-0902. The Highlands Bolivian Mission website is also a good source of info at highlandsbolivianmission.com. Highlands Bolivian Mission is a North Carolina 501 ©3 corporation with tax exempt status.

Dr. John Baumrucker has been a family physician in this area for over 50 years, and a leader in the community, church and Rotary. This mission was his vision and his calling, but he has successfully shared it with dozens of others from the Plateau who have travelled to help. The success is truly a reflection of his giving spirit, his determination to make the lives of these boys better, and his spiritual joy. Sr. Baumrucker has been awarded the highest honor for a Rotarian, given by Rotary International, The Service Above Self Award, for his amazing long-term dedication to this project in Bolivia.



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Dr. B with the boys of Bolivia.

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...ARTWORK continued from page 1

The creation of Trinity's sculpture was physical and hardcore and involved using welding equipment, molten metal poured from a crucible into molds as well as woodworking.



tionships remained resounding themes throughout the process, from the initial phase of competition through creation and, finally, completion. Davidson explained how projects like these strengthen the relationships between students and faculty and the importance of those connections.

"We sought distinguished art professors to coordinate and manage these prizes," he said. "They offered students close mentoring toward a shared goal of securing these professional commissions. Such opportunities are rare for anyone, let alone undergraduates. It's an amazing apprenticeship-based experience, all made possible by the generosity and intelligence of Mr. Hollis."

The sculpture competition was similar, with lecturer Ryan Lamfers acting as coach and James Davis as well as Department of Art, History and Philosophy Chair Kevin Shunn voting on the winner. Also included was a vote by the advanced sculpture class, which allowed the students a chance to affect the outcome. The winning design, a nearly 10' bronze sculpture, went to art education major Trinity Dendy.

...INVESTING continued from page 7

and municipalities that must be adhered to.

To be clear, I understand both sides of the issue. I think the number of rentals should be limited and the renters held to the same standards as full-time residents (as the majority are). The property should only sleep as many people as the septic system allows. There should be a minimum number of nights, maybe varied based on the different zoning areas. If there are continued violations, there should be penalties and consequences. Wouldn't it be better for our community to gather a group of knowledgeable, level-headed people from

Trinity Dendy

"I had never created work on a computer that became a 3D project, so when I first created the piece, I was frustrated," Dendy described. "I never thought I would win the competition because of that, but Ryan was constantly giving me feedback and encouraging me to continue."

After her design was chosen, Dendy incorporated her minimalist style with historical industrial pieces donated by R.D. Cole, a Newnan-based manufacturing company. The wood was used over and over again to create new molds and multiple designs of one product.

Dendy, who plans to teach art, said the mentorship – and experience overall – has helped prepare her and increased her excitement for a career as a teacher-artist.

"Ryan and James taught me how to safely use so many different types of equipment and all these new ways of doing things that I'm not familiar with," she concluded. "Now I know, and I can use them in the future to teach others. It is very encouraging in the ways they've helped me."

each faction (for and against); town administration; a legal representative; and some independent parties to discuss this in detail and come up with some solutions that could work for all? Would it not be better to use this issue as a way for our town to come together rather than be divisive?

• Data is from the Highlands-Cashiers MLS. Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com.

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A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a camouflage jacket and black pants, standing against a plain background.

...COVID continued from page 5

At Highlands School, people entering must wear a mask the entire time they are in the building except while eating and drinking as long as they are socially distanced six feet. Masks are also required in school buses.

Temperatures are taken when entering the building, and the use of hand-sanitizer and the practice of washing hands in the classroom/bath-

room, continues.

In addition, the classrooms are fogged twice a week in the afternoons after students and teachers leave the premises.

Like last year, breakfast and lunches are eaten in classrooms and remote learning is available for quarantined students.

As of Tuesday evening, three more people died of Covid in Macon County. The total deaths for Macon County is now 49.

— Kim Lewicki

ALL STAFF TOTALS							
Cumulative Staff Quarantined		Cumulative Staff Positive		Current Numbers: Staff Quarantined		Current Numbers: Staff Positive	
CAE	2	CAE	0	CAE	0	CAE	0
EFS	1	EFS	1	EFS	0	EFS	0
FHS	10	FHS	5	FHS	1	FHS	1
HS	2	HS	5	HS	0	HS	0
IVE	7	IVE	5	IVE	1	IVE	1
MEC	0	MEC	0	MEC	0	MEC	0
MMS	5	MMS	2	MMS	0	MMS	1
MVI	4	MVI	0	MVI	2	MVI	0
NS	3	NS	2	NS	1	NS	0
SME	5	SME	9	SME	2	SME	4
UA	7	UA	1	UA	6	UA	0
CO	2	CO	0	CO	1	CO	0
STAFF							
Grand Totals	48	30	14	7	Total out:	21	

All STUDENT TOTALS

Cumulative Students Quarantined		Cumulative Students Positive		Current Numbers: Students Quarantined		Current Numbers: Students Positive	
CAE	21	CAE	7	CAE	11	CAE	5
EFS	20	EFS	9	EFS	13	EFS	1
FHS	87	FHS	24	FHS	42	FHS	9
HS	31	HS	8	HS	22	HS	5
IVE	20	IVE	4	IVE	11	IVE	0
MEC	7	MEC	12	MEC	0	MEC	1
MMS	42	MMS	13	MMS	31	MMS	8
MVI	42	MVI	12	MVI	21	MVI	7
NS	28	NS	5	NS	1	NS	2
SME	50	SME	7	SME	29	SME	3
UA	22	UA	5	UA	10	UA	1
STUDENTS							
Grand Totals	370	106	191	42	Total out:	233	

...ECONOMIC continued from page 9

Commissioner meetings held in 2020 and 2021.

"2. The closed session meeting minutes held on August 24, 2021, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.10(e). 2

"3. All meeting minutes from Planning Board meetings held in 2020-2021.

"4. All meeting minutes from Land Use Committee meetings held in 2020-2021

"5. All meeting minutes from the Zoning Board meetings held in 2020-2021

"6. All completed short term rental registration forms submitted over the last five years.

"7. The current Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Highlands ("the Zoning Ordinance").

"8. Previous versions of the Zoning Ordinance.

"9. Records showing any

•See ECONOMIC page 19



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• PAST & PRESENT •

In Highlands, should everything be for rent or sale?

It seems that, almost monthly, communities on the Highlands plateau face crucial, vexing questions about their future, typically centering on a development, Hillside community in Cashiers, Bear Shadow Festival in Horse Shoe, and now whether to allow short term rentals (STRs) in Highlands. Moreover, every choice inevitably involves competing interests whether economic, social, or communal, all passionately promoted and inescapably decisive. Even more maddening, considering all the factors, no one's really "wrong" or villainous. STRs provide a case study of that ambiguity that isn't.

First, there are lots of solid arguments for STRs, a continuing housing shortage that will persist for years, giving more flexibility to homeowners, providing as much as a 30% greater return on their investment through rentals, increased tourism activity, an occupancy boost to apartments and condo units, higher rates for short-term rentals in a vacation destination like Cashiers or Highlands, and affordable accommodations for travelers, especially families, that allow them to allocate their budgets to other activities like eating out and sightseeing. Think of individualistic homeowners morphing into slash-and-burn capitalists through STRs.

There seems an inevitability about STRs much like that of smart phones, texting, and electric cars. Then, too, picture STRs as another version of a transient American nomadland. Currently, more than 23,000 vacation rental companies exist in the US, perhaps one million rent out their homes, there are more than 2.6 million rental properties in the US, most seasonally occupied, and short stays of 7-10 days typically account for 79% of bookings, all part of a market growing approximately 7% annually.

Then, too, renters like to bring their pets and friends with them, cook many of their meals, and resort in rural, outdoorsy settings or small towns rather than large cities. Sounds like Highlands or Cashiers, doesn't it? Oh, yes. AirBnB, VRBO, and a dozen other companies dominate an increasingly global industry.

Yet arguments against STRs seem equally compelling. First, they change neighborhoods and can even lower property values. Indeed, living next door to a STR can range from mildly irritating to life-altering, especially in a Covid-weary, angry world. Adam Clark, CEO of a management



Milton Ready

company in Texas, opines that the largest disadvantages consist of an ever-present "potential of noise disturbance, parties, and a constant stream of transient tenants gaining access to community areas with no regard" for their maintenance or rules. Then, too, vandalism, trash, and security loom large, especially in smaller, closer-knit communities like those in Highlands.

Finally, STRs profoundly disrupt traditional lodgings like hotels, B&Bs, motels, and inns. With less staff and regulation, fees, and taxation, STRs often offer lower rates that typically impact older, lower-end establishments. Then, too, larger corporations, businesses, and hedge funds, quick to recognize any business opportunity, often move in and offer exorbitant prices for homes, squeezing out retirees and families with children. Some even purchase larger properties to house seasonal workers.

What, then, should be done about STRs in a town like Highlands? When does prosperity evolve into greed? Highland's current Goldilocks "just right" mixture become toxic? The default answer seems to be regulation by elected officials, a prickly response almost universally adopted and seemingly as contentious. Yet what should guide such an action?

First, while elected officials charged with making such critical decisions studiously should listen and weigh all these factors and more, in the end perhaps they should adopt only one precautionary principle. When a new "development" like STRs carries with it the threat of seriously altering the lifestyles and local distinctiveness of a place and if it is uncertain how likely and when that will occur, then all reasonable steps should be taken to regulate or even ban the change in question. Only a single standard should determine the initial fate of new developments like STRs – do they enhance the special qualities of a place and of those who live there or doesn't it? It's a simple standard easily applied. Afterward, other questions and problems more easily can be resolved.

Finally, Highland's uniqueness derives not only from its history, location, sense of community, civic mindedness, churches, and spirit but also from its governance. Frankly, in all my writings on local, state, and regional history I have come across few towns or municipalities better governed. From Mayor Patrick Taylor to the Board of Commissioners and Planning Board, all seem to have the best, even long term interests of Highlands at heart. They embody North Carolina's motto, *Esse Quam Videri*.



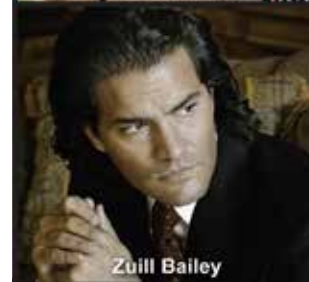
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What Would it Hurt?



**Sr. Pastor
Dr. Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

What would it hurt to take the next few minutes to pray? If that's not a common thing for you, no worries, I will help you. Let's use a prayer that's been around for a long time, it has billions of reviews and gets high ratings. This prayer, (Matthew 6:9-13), first came up as a response to some regular folk wanting to know how to pray. It goes like this:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. We each have fathers here on earth. Some present, some absent. Some wise, some foolish. Some attentive, some not so much. Whatever the case, Jesus is making the point that you also have a Father in heaven. He is all that you want and need and long for in a father. He is at times more like a "daddy" in your life. He is attentive, interested, protective, understanding and he is really big on gift-giving. He is so awe-inspiring that His name should be revered, set aside and respected. He is your Creator, and He is the One who gave you, and is giving you, creativity. He doesn't love you; He is love; therefore, it isn't in Him to not love you. He wants you to want to know Him. He wants to live His life through you. He wants to take you on an adventure that starts here on earth and continues on into eternity. He has an inheritance for you that is spelled out in His Last Will and New Testament. He has promised you a great deal if only you believe in His Son. This prayer that we just started, uses "our" and "us", it doesn't use "I". Your heavenly Father wants you to pray and be community and family-minded in your prayer.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Your heavenly Father rules and reigns over a kingdom that is far more lasting and satisfying than this anxious, divisive, and confused world we live in. He wants you to know Him, so you would have peace and purpose as His "King's kid" and live in such a way as to transcend this world's system.

Give us this day our daily bread. Your heavenly Father knows your wants and He knows your needs. He is a "need-meeter" and He meets needs according to His nature. He is a giver at heart. As you start to delight in Him, He gives you the desires of your heart. He is a good Provider. His provision is promised, and His credit score exceeds 850. One thing you may need, He will provide if you ask. Ask Him for an earnest desire for Him, a longing to know Him, and a passion to live in His power. He loves that request. He literally feeds people physically, emotionally and spiritually. He is very quick to respond to spiritually hungry and thirsty people. He has a great "feeding program". Ask Him to reveal himself to you in everyday life.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Most people have unpaid financial debt. Everyone who is im-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
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Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717
www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 8:30am Worship (no music); 9:30am Sunday
School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am - 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 I, 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
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship 9 a.m. 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

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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 Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday 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.

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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

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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.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 23

• At 12:23 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

Aug. 24

• At 6 p.m., officers responded to a report of destruction to property in the parking lot at Helen's Barn Ave. where a car was hit with a shovel.

Aug. 27

• At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of theft from a vehicle parked on Main Street where \$5000 worth of tools were taken.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 1. Sept. 1

• At 8:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hudson Road.

• At 7:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ed Henry Road.

Sept. 3

• At 11:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 10:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Apple Lake Lane.

• At 2:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cole Mountain Circle.

Sept. 4

• At 3:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Sept. 5

• At 7:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

Sept. 6

• At 2:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 5:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Half Mile Drive.

Sept. 7

• At 7:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 8:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

perfect has a sin debt. Your heavenly Father made provisions to pay a debt load you and I could never pay because we lack the currency to pay it. He actually paid the debt through the death of His Son so you and I could be debt free should we accept such payment on our behalf. I have no idea why you wouldn't accept. He forgives our sin debt so as to make the point that we should forgive others. That's the way His kingdom operates. Different, isn't it? The father harbors no ill-will toward you; He is resentment free and would love for you to operate in like manner toward others.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. There is evil in this world, I doubt you need convinc-

ing of that. If you do, watch the news on any given day. You heavenly Father wants to insulate your heart and mind from such nonsense. He wants you to live in freedom not fear. In fact, His perfect love casts out fear.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Amen means, "so be it" or "let it be so". Let what be so? If you do more than recite the words of this prayer, If this prayer makes its way onto the tablet of your heart, If the author of this prayer becomes your Lord, you will live an adventure steeped in power and glory and you will do so forever. Amen.

...ECONOMIC continued from page 16

time the Town has enforced or attempted to enforce the Zoning Ordinance for renting property in alleged violation of the Zoning Ordinance.

"10. Communications to and from the Town's zoning administrator regarding short and long rentals in the Town.

"11. Records showing the amount of occupancy taxes the Town has received each year over the last 10 years.

"12. For the last 24 months, all communications – whether by email, text message or other means – between the Town (including its employees, Mayor, Commissioners, Planning Board members, and/or attorney(s)) and the following persons and entities regarding short- or long-term rentals in the Town:

"a. The UNC School of Government; b. Dog Mountain HOA.; c. Little Bear Pen HOA.; d. Any other Home or Property Owners Association.; e. A hotel or motel as defined in Section 508 of the Zoning Ordinance.; f. An owner of property in the R1, R2, or R3 zoning district.; g. Any person or entity that rents or manages the short- and

long-term rental of real property in the Town.; h. A member of the media; i. Any other person or entity.

"13. All non-privileged communications within and between the Town and its employees, Mayor, Commissioners, Planning Board members, and/or attorney(s).

"14. All communications between Commissioner John Dotson and anyone else regarding the sale or potential sale of the hotel commonly known as Mitchell's Lodge located at 264 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

"15. All records showing the amount of money – such as real estate agent commission – Commissioner John Dotson or his company would, will, or has received for the sale of the property referenced in the previous request.

"16. All communications between Commissioner John Dotson and potential purchasers of property in the R1, R2, and the R3 zoning districts regarding short- or long-term rentals during his tenure as Commissioner."

Mayor Taylor said in his opinion all residential zones should be reviewed concerning STRs.

2021 Upcoming Events



at the
Center for Life Enrichment

September Schedule

- **What Makes a Southern Story Southern**
Monday, September 13 Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Tamra Wilson
- **Stay Safe During Online Shopping**
Wednesday, September 15 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$80/\$90
Presenter: Loraine Smith
- **On the Verandah: Favorites Through the Years**
Wednesday, September 22 Time: 11:30-2:00 Cost \$50/\$60
Presenter: Chef Andrew Figel
- **The Many Faces of Islam: Beyond the Headlines**
Thursday, September 23 Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Omar Ali
- **Understanding Black History as American History**
Friday, September 24 Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Omar Ali
- **The Green New Deal Is Not So New and It Is Implementing Itself**
Tuesday, September 28 Time: 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Robert Young of WCU
- **The Business and Art of Songwriting**
Thursday, September 30 Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Tim Huffman-Grammy nominated recording artist

October Schedule

- **Fall Foliage Forecaster**
Friday, October 1 Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Beverly Collins of WCU
- **Blood on the Cloth: Ella May Wiggins and the 1929 Gastonia Strike**
Monday, October 4 Time: 2-4 Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Roxanne Newton
Register online at <http://www.clehighlands.com>
or call 828-526-8811



Highlands Porchfest FREE music festival

Downtown Highlands

September 19, 2021 from 1-6pm

For more information: www.highlandsporchfest.com

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gsgarren@gmail.com

Downtown Office
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Highlandssothebysrealty.com

Ryan M. Bears

Broker

Cell: 803-271-5426
Office: 828-526-8784

Ryan@patallenrealtygroup.com



Pat Allen, Broker in Charge



Highlands | Sotheby's
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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 tradi-

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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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)

THE HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC is seeking a part-time employee to work in the Welcome Center on Saturday and Sunday. The ideal candidate should have excellent knowledge of the Highlands and Plateau areas and enjoy greeting visitors to our town. Hours are Saturday 10a.m. – 4p.m. and Sunday 11a.m. – 3 p.m. For consideration, please send resume to [\[landschamber.org\]\(http://landschamber.org\) or call 828-526-2112. \(st. 5/27\)](mailto:visitor@high-</p>
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CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's 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 lindab-tiff@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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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)

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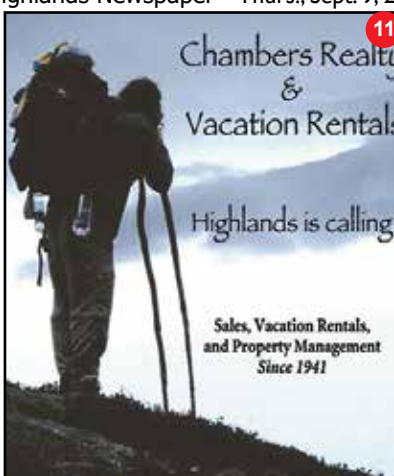
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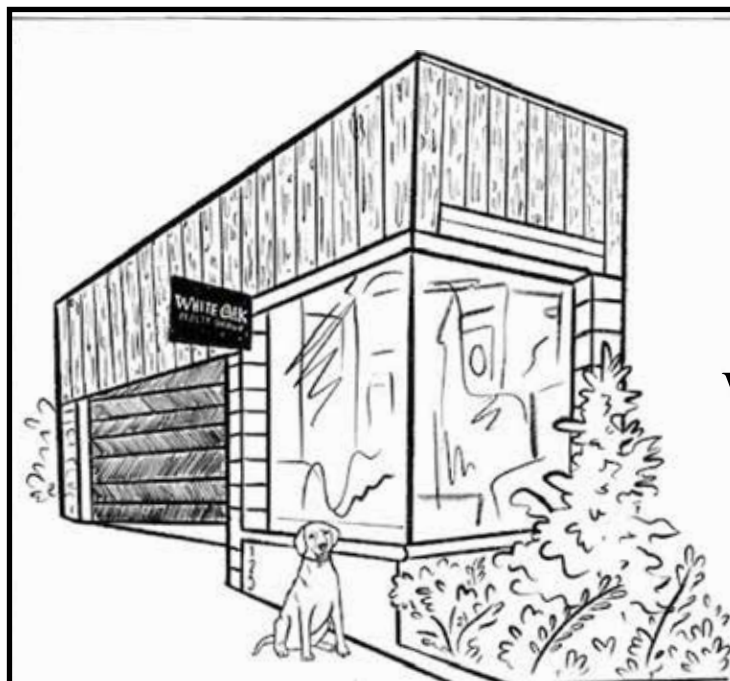


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