Volume 19. Number 32

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Aug. 11 2022

Planning Board finalizes STR ordinance

At Tuesday night's special Planning Board meeting, the board put the finishing touches on the proposed ordinance it hammered out on Aug. 2 with a vote of 4-1. Member Wendall Willard again dissented.

The gist: The use of hous-

ing as Transient Dwelling Lodging (TDL), where a dwelling is used for less than seven days, will be allowed in R1 and R2 for one year until contracts already in the pipeline are satisfied. After a year, or more depending on what the Town Board decides, TDLs in the R1 and R2 districts will cease for ever more but will be allowed to continue in R3 and all the business zones.

And, short-term rentals (STRs) considered TDLs, will continue to be allowed in R1 and R2

• See PLANNING page 16

Last JAWbreaker ringleader is found guilty

By Brittney Lofthouse

Arthur Potts pled guilty to felony attempted trafficking of opium/heroin, two counts of felony obtaining property by false pretenses, and felony larceny (both related to another incident) in Macon County Superior Court.

During sentencing, the Judge ordered that all of Potts' sentences, a total of 34 to 80 months, be suspended and Potts be placed on supervised probation for 60 months. If for whatever reason Potts' sentence suspension is revoked and the 34 to 80 months are activated, Potts will be ordered to serve the remainder of the sentence consecutively with credit of 101 days pre-trial confinement.

"The prosecution of Mr. Potts brings Operation Jawbreaker to a successful conclusion," Chief

• See JAWBREAKER page 14

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Hurricanes bring home 22 of 60 gold medals

On Sat., July 23 the Highlands Hurricanes traveled to Sylva to compete with four other teams in the Mountain Swim League (MSL) conference meet.

The Hurricanes brought home 22 of 60 gold medals and 5 of 10 outstanding swimmer omorde

Out-numbered by Franklin's team that is three times larger than them, the Hurricanes finished 2nd 439 to 396.

Cherokee County Aquatics had 119, Jackson County Swim

• See HURRICANES page 19

Before I go ...



This guy came for breakfast Saturday morning alternating between squirrel corn and sunflower seeds. Once he realized he had to get out of Dodge, he shimmied over for one last lick.

– Photo by Jim Lewicki

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THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

Mayor on Duty

Understanding the tax bills

Highlands Mayor

Patrick Taylor

What? We have all recently received our Macon County 2022 Property Tax Notice, aka tax bill. The bills go out every August and are due by January 5th.

Often, I review what appears on the tax notices because some folks conflate the numbers into one bill and claim that is their town tax bill. The county tax office sends out one bill with both

Highlands and county taxes. They basically collect taxes for the town for a small administrative fee. Therefore, three to four items are on a tax bill depending on where one lives.

Town residents have four items, specifically a bill for county taxes and an additional bill for town taxes. Folks living outside the town limits pay only county taxes. Everyone pays a landfill residential fee and the Highlands Fire District Tax.

I frequently stress that Highlands' residents pay the same taxes as all Macon Countians do. But, much of the town's operations are in cooperation with Macon County. For instance, we all support the operation of the Macon County Landfill which is a bill appearing on everyone's tax notice. Also, both people living inside and outside the town

Highlands Newspaper

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HighlandsEditor@aol.com

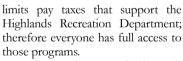
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Letter Policy:

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



Also, on the tax notice is a column that states the mileage rate for the county property tax, as well as the Town of Highlands property tax. Currently, the county tax rate is 40 cents per \$100 dollars of valuation. For Highlands the rate is 15.65 cents. To be fair, one cannot compare the two rates. The county has many more

service obligations, such as operating the Macon County Schools, the Macon County Health and Emergency Services Department, the Macon County Sheriff Department, as well as Macon County Social Services.

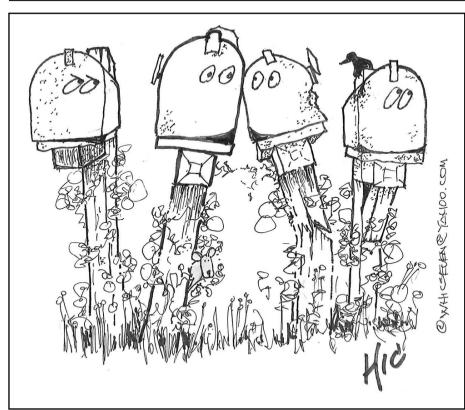
Macon County has a rather low tax rate when compared to some nearby counties. For instance, Transylvania County with the county seat at Brevard has a 60 cents tax rate per \$100 of valuation. I say that is a good comparison because the property valuation of both counties parallel one another.

Highlands for the most part has a low tax rate when compared to nearby towns because of our very high property valuations. In the last decade our tax rate per \$100 of property valuations. The town has adopted a revenue neutral policy to where the tax rate decreases as property values increase. With that said, in 2014 the town did have a small tax increase to address critical maintenance and improvements to the recreation facilities. After those improvements were made the tax earmarked for the recreation capital improvements was transferred to road paying improvements.

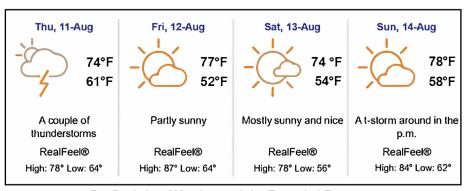
Everyone will also notice that their tax notice has a fire tax bill. Currently, the tax is at 3 cents per \$100 of valuation. It was recently raised from 1 cent to 3 in order to build the new fire station. The station will be paid for in 20 years but will be in service for 50 to 75 years. The Highlands Fire District still has a low tax rate when compared to other districts.

I bring the tax issues up because next year there will be a property tax re-evaluation that always gets folks attention. Also, Macon Countians will be involved in how to finance a new high school in the coming months. Property tax rates and a quarter cent increase in sales taxes will be on the table. I believe a property tax and sales tax increases have to be considered in order to insure our young people have access to a safe, accessible and an up-to-date education.

Hic's View



•WEATHER•



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August 28

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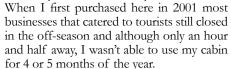




Investing at 4.118

Where our buyers come from

For many years the majority of visitors and owners came to the Plateau from the neighboring states including Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. It wasn't easy to get here so people from further distances like south Florida or Louisiana would come and stay for the season. Most cabins and homes had minimal heat that was only intended to take the chill off on cool nights, and the structures winterized and vacant for many months of the year.



Beginning in the 1980s more and more homes were built with better insulation and central heating and sometimes air conditioning. They would still be winterized for any of the seasonal residents who traveled from further away. However, some of the owners from not as far away would still utilize the houses for holidays or occasional winter



Carl Romberg Landmark Realty

weekend getaway.

As times have changed, getting here has become much easier. The mountain roads have improved and many major roads to the base of the mountains have been diverted around the numerous small towns that you originally had to drive through. Asheville's airport is an hour and half away and has direct flights from many different areas of the country. Atlanta and Greenville airports are not much further and have

flights from all over the world.

I know many people who now fly back and forth to Florida throughout the year and some that drive from middle Georgia or the South Carolina coast for just a weekend or a short visit. The ease of getting here has made this a destination for weddings and brings in people from all over. I attended the wedding of a college friend's daughter and met many guests that had never heard of or been to Highlands. While many were from nearby, they were

• See INVESTING page 13



Why Are Out-of-Town Investors Suing Highlan

Well, in short, it's all about the money. Out-of-town investors have turned almost 20% of our homes into short-term rentals (residential hotels) and STRs do not belong in our single-family neighborhoods. And let's be clear, these investors are SUING THE RESIDENTS AND VOTERS OF HIGHLANDS.

> Residents elected our Mayor and Town Board members with an overwhelming majority of the vote and gave them a mandate to

> > DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE STR TAKEOVER.

Residents get to vote in elections, not out-of-town investors. Residents won. No lawsuit can overturn the vote. We wholeheartedly support our Mayor and Town Board and appreciate what they are doing to protect Highlands for future generations.



HOMES not HOTELS



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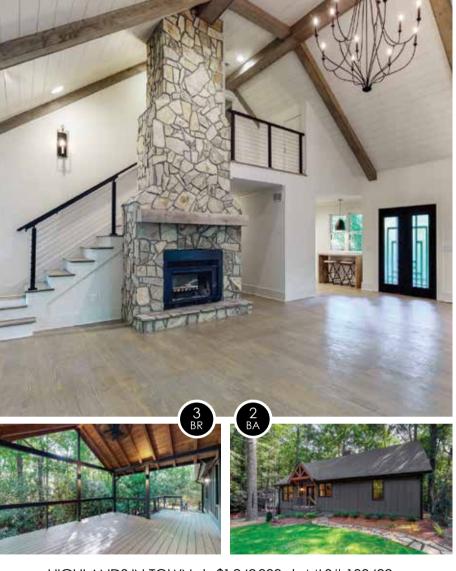
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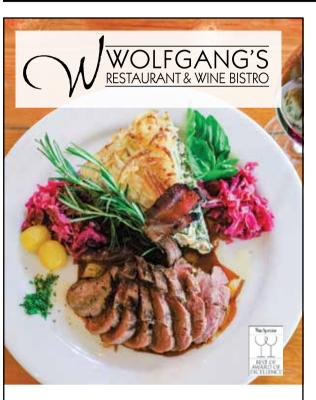


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2022 Upcoming Events



at the Center for Life Enrichment

August Schedule

• Looking Less Blue: Forecasting the 2022 Midterm Elections

Friday, August 12, Time: 10a-12p

Cost: \$25/\$35

Presenter: Miles Coleman

Watercolors II

Friday, August 12, Time: 1-4p Cost: \$70/\$80

Presenter: Mary Cavaioli

The American Revolutionary War: Strategies and Surprises

Monday, August 15, Time: 2-4p

Cost: \$25/\$35

Presenter: Woody Holton

Abigail Adams, Bond Speculator

Tuesday, August 16, Time: 10a-12p Cost \$25/\$35

Presenter: Woody Holton

Cocktails with Cassandra: My Life with Pat Conrov

Tuesday, August 16, Time: 4-6p Cost: \$70/\$80

Presenter: Cassandra Kina Conrov

 All Aboard! The Magic of Toy Trains Wednesday, August 17, Time: 10a-12p Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Lee Garrett

 Placemakers Academy of Garden Design: Plant Materials for Chic Mountain Gardens

Wednesday, August 17, Time: 9a-1:30p Cost: \$110/\$120

Presenter: Mary Palmer Dargan & Arielle McIntyre

 The Art of Mixology: Making the Classics with a Spin!

Thursday, August 18, Time: 4-6p Cost \$70/\$80

Presenter: Carlton Chamblin

The Publix Secret Sauce

Monday, August, 22 Time: 10a-12p

Cost: \$25/\$35

Presenter: William Crenshaw

Center for Life Enrichment

www.clehighlands.com 828-526-8811 office@clehighlands.com



• Letters •

This isn't rocket science

Dear Editor.

STRs are a business; the fact that you might like them, or empathize with their owners doesn't change that fact. Across America today governments are betraying the people who elected them by SELECTIVELY enforcing only the laws they like. If you selectively allow STRs in R1, you open the door for someone to erect a shed in their yard and open an auto repair shop. And...once laws don't matter, neither do the folks elected to enforce them.

Jim & Delores Bode Highlands, NC



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Willard should resign

Dear Editor:

To say that the debate concerning short term rentals has divided the town is an understatement! The mayor's latest newsletter states and I quote: "Among different stakeholder groups there can be extreme differences without labeling or denigrating specific groups of people."

At the last Planning Board Meeting, where the town's attorney, Jay Coward, was available by Zoom, the members were able to ask specific legal questions and get answers. Some he didn't have answers to but the most significant revelation from himself and Josh Ward, Town Manager, was that "STRs are not considered commercial but remain residential."

So, the claim that as "commercial businesses" STRs aren't allowed in Zones R-1 and R-2 can be put to rest.

Another item discussed was the amortization of STRs, meaning that renters can continue to rent for 2 years and then they are banned from ever doing it again!

Do you honestly think that buyers who bought homes in downtown Highlands, having spent hundreds of thousands on remodeling, can recoup their investment in 2 years? That idea is ludicrous and shows the shortsightedness of the one who came up with such a plan. One Planning Board member said it would take 20-30 years to do so and I agree.

Reasonable people can look at this objectively and see the economic impact on the economy of Highlands. Long-term renters don't go into a store every week and buy clothes or gifts. Common sense goes a long way if people look at this from every angle. The final decision will be made by the Town Board of commissioners: Amy Patterson, John (Buzz) Dotson, Brian Stiehler, Eric Pierson, and Marc Hehn and your input is needed.

We are all in this predicament because a few people in neighborhoods with no HOA or restrictive covenants want the town to be "Big Mama" and make it all right for them. They have tried to convince commissioners that disruptive STR renters are a weekly or nightly occurrence and according to our own police chief, this is NOT true! They simply need to pick up their phone and call law enforcement if there is a disturbance.

The only restrictions we need on homeowners who rent STRs is to control what goes on in their home regarding noise, parking, and trash. Alert the renters on their rental contracts that if these rules aren't followed, they will be fined, their deposit forfeited, and they will not be allowed to rent their home again.

Also, unless STR homeowners live here full-time, they don't vote but they do pay property taxes and occupancy taxes that benefit Highlands.

Now, regarding the mayor's statement of denigrating people, Wendall Willard is a member of the Planning Board and early on he before ANY discussion he said: "I want STRs banned in ALL zones!" His mind was already made up and he has not waivered.

At the Aug. 2 meeting, the other four members voted for a minimum of seven days, and he voted against it. In discussion that evening, his argument was that the people in town voted for commissioners who were against STRs and singled me out saying I was an example since I was for STRs and received the least number of votes!

That was highly inappropriate and simply not true! I did not receive the least number of votes and Nick McCall, who was sitting next to him leaned over and told Willard that actually he received the least number of votes!

Three of the board members called me to apologize for Willards's behavior with one stating, "I was totally shocked at what he did to you!"

What qualifies Mr. Willard to vote in our town as a volunteer board member on the future of short-term rentals when he already said early on that he wants them "banned in all zones!"

You must question why Mr. Willard is even on this board. He lives in Highlands Country Club and does not have to deal with the STR issue. Is he even a full-time resident? He was the mayor's campaign finance manager, and the mayor has said STRs should be restricted, regulated and wants registrations by homeowners.

This issue will have a huge economic impact on Highlands and will contribute to numerous lawsuits by homeowners who were advised that they could rent – those who bought, having been told previously they could do STRs. There will be millions sought after in damages and attorneys' fees will be enormous.

So, the few who created this debacle can take credit for bankrupting our town. Mr. Willard should resign because of his inappropriate behavior and the fact that he has no desire to compromise on any level.

Pat Allen Highlands, NC

• See LETTERS page 17



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• OBITUARIES •

Celia Marie McCullough

Celia Marie McCullough, age 71, of Knoxville, TN, formerly of Oak Park River Forest, Ill, passed away Sunday morning, July 31, 2022, at her home after a long hard fought battle with cancer.

Celia was born February 3, 1951, to Chester Charlton McCullough and Jean Marie Coffman McCullough. She graduated from Beloit College in Beloit, WI in 1972, received her Masters degree from Northern Illinois University in 1973 and PhD from Northwestern University in 1977. Celia moved to Knoxville in that year to work at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in the

Educational Advancement Program before starting her business Tutor Connection in 1990. She continued to pursue her interest in education volunteering and serving as office manager at Sequoyah Elementary School for 27 years.

She traveled extensively throughout her entire life that added to her wealth of knowledge. Celia made her second home in Highlands, NC for 26 years.

She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Gary Kaplan; sons and daughtersin-law, Tobias and Carey Kaplan of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, Ian and Christina Spangler McCullough of Knoxville, Zoe and Alexa

Macri McCullough of Knoxville; grandchildren, Bonham and Ocoee Kaplan; brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Sue McCullough of Greenville, SC; niece, Ashley Mc-Cullough; nephew, Alex Mc-Cullough.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, 471 Main Street, Highlands, North Carolina

28741 with The Rev. Emily Wilmarth and The Rev. Dr. Curtis Fussell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands Nature Center, www.highlandsbiological.org/nature-center or to the Highlands Library, www.fontanal-

Creighton W. 'Zeke' Sossomon

A memorial service will be held for Creighton W. 'Zeke' Sossomon (9-28-1946 to 1-12-2022) on August 13, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main St., Highlands, NC. Everyone is invited.

(The previously scheduled service was cancelled due to inclement weather.)



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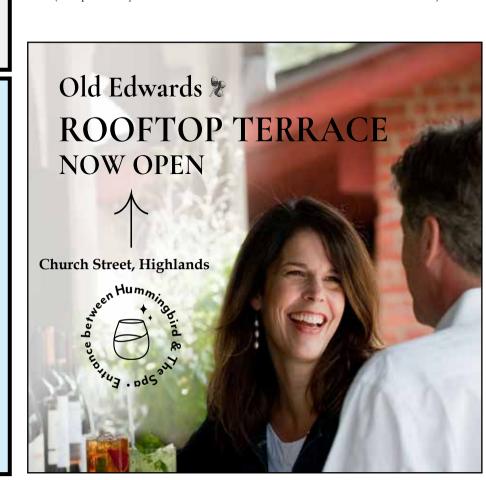
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Silver Creek REAL ESTATE GROUP

Highlands Area Events

NEW Rec Pool Schedule:

Public Swim: Mon.-Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. &
 Sat. 11a-6p; Sunday 1-6p 828-526-1595.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood's hymn sing is at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street in the Old Fellowship Hall instead of the Horsecove location. Come sing your favorite hymns from 7-8 pm. Enter from Main Street. Questions? Call Les Scott at 828-200-9532.

Mondays

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Second Mondays

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

Thursdays

- At Hudson Library, Family Storytime at 10:40a. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.
- At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-

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 for every muscle
- New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

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

1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

Tuesdays

 Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Tues, & Thurs.

- Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas
- New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.
- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise.

Thursdays



For more information please see our website or call the box office:

www.highlandsperformingarts.com/hcp.html | 828-526-8084

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

Fridays

Friday Night Live Concerts in Town
 Square on Main Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs.

Saturdays

• Saturdays on Pine in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic.

2nd Saturdays

•The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/ 909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10AM We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

Aug. 10-12

• At The Bascom, Painting Flowers in Oil with Pat Fiorello, 10 am – 4 pm

Wed., Aug. 10

• The Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) has invited the well-known plant conservationist Heather Alley from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia to conduct a free workshop on Wednesdayfrom 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the Community Building, 869 North Fourth Street, Highlands, NC. The lecture: "Exotic Invasive Plants in the Blue Ridge: What We Stand to Lose." Register for this free event at the Highlands Biological Station website: https://highlandsbiological.org/cnipm/.

Thurs., Aug. I I

• At The Bascom at 5 pm Exhibitions Reception (Like No Other Place and Members Challenge: Place) | FREE. For more information go to thebascom.org

Aug. 12 - Sept. 4

• The Mountain Theatre Company presents Sentimental Journey, a WWII Music Revue at The Playhouse on Oak Street. Wednesday - Saturday @ 7:30p and Saturday & Sunday @ 2p. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Fri. - Sun., Aug. 12 - 14

• Elizabeth Lock Trunk Show at Acorns 10a to 5p. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold using coins from Greece, Rome, and forgotten empires, as well as luminous pearls from the South Seas. (828) 787-1877.

Fri., Aug. 12

 At The Bascom at 5pm The Ballet of Place, performance by Ballet Memphis (ticketed event presented by The Bascom and Highlands Performing Arts Center) For more information go to thebascom.org.

Sat., Aug. 13

 At The Bascom, at Ipm The Ballet of Place, performance by Ballet Memphis (free to the entire community, with special encouragement for young people to attend, first-come, first-served seating, presented by The Bascom and Highlands Performing Arts Center) | FREE. For more information go to the bascom.org.

 Highlands Bagpipers 4:30-5 p.m. at Highlander Mountain House on Main Street.

• Highlands Twilight 5K at 6 p.m. at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street. To register go to https://www.highlandstwilightrun.com

Sun., Aug. 14

• BlueGrass Brunch at Highlander Mountain House. Silly Ridge will be performing 12 to 2 p.m. For brunch reservations call the hotel (828) 526-2590.

Wed., Aug. 17

- Free Interlude Concert at First Presbyterian at 2 p.m. "Classical Songs and Arias" featuring The Interlude Concert Series which is sponsored by Highlands First Presbyterian Church. Dress is casual. Corner of Main and Fifth streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.
- Mirror Lake Improvement Association annual meeting at the Community Building at 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 17-19

 At The Bascom, Realism vs Abstraction in Landscape with Chris Groves (Session 2),10 am – 4 pm. For more information go to thebascom.org.

Fri. - Sun., Aug. 19-21

- At The Bascom, Places We Go Clay Workshop with Kim Bernadas, 9am – 4pm. For more information go to thebascom.org.
- Michael Hofman Trunk Show at Acorns.
 Creations using lace and quality porcelain clay have a defined elegance and lightness.

Sat., Aug. 20

Highlands Emergency Council Fundraiser from 12-3pm in KH Founders Park featuring the Lisa Boone Band. There will be faffles, and a silent auction. Hot Dogs with fixings for \$5 per plate.

Sat., Aug. 20

- Highlanders Youth Mini Cheer Camp (Cheers, Jumps, Dance and Stunts)Saturday from I-5pm. Ages 4-13. Campers will receive T-Shirt and Bow. Cost for the camp is \$25. Call the Rec Park for more information at 828-526-3556.
- At The Bascom, The Moulthrop Family Turns Wood into a Refined Artform presentation, at 4pm. | FREE. For more information go to thebascom.org.

Aug. 24-26

• At The Bascom, Painting an Alla Prima Portrait in Oil with Marc Chatov, , 10 am – 4 pm. For more information go to thebascom. org. For more information go to thebascom. org.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 25-28

• The Highlands Cashiers Players present "Nightwatch" 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Thurs., Aug. 25

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• At the Highlander Mountain House. Salon Series with Alexa Rose at HMH 9 PM. For tickets call the hotel (828) 526-2590.

Sat-Sun. Aug. 27 & 28

Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Art & Craft Show will be held in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street from 10a to 5p. Attendance is free, dogs are allowed, and food will be available. For info contact coordinator Cynthia Strain at (828) 318-9430 or visit: www.mountaintopshow.com

Thurs., Aug. 27

• At the Highlander Mountain

House. Pop-Up exclusive shopping experience with Baybala, Varnish Collection, and Massey Gordon

Sun., Aug. 28

 Sunday Supper at OEI's The Farm with Chef Cole Ellis of Delta Meat Market in Cleveland, MS and Chef Rob McDaniel of Helen in Birmingham. Book at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/chefdinners

Mon., Aug. 29

At The Bascom, at 6 pm Concert and Cuisine, The Bascom's signature gala fundraiser (ticketed event).
 For more information go to thebascom.org.

Twilight 5K is Sat., Aug. 13

There is still time to register

The annual Twilight
Race begins at
6PM in K-H
Founders Park
on Pine Street.
Registration
and check-in
starts at 4PM.
Early packet pickup is on Friday,



short steeper uphill section {5O yards). It will allow walkers of all ages to be able to complete the 5K course with

ease and also allow the ability to push strollers but be challenging for faster runners.

Fun for the whole family, strollers welcome, walkers welcome, yet will be challenging for experienced runners. T-shirt are available on a first come first serve basis.

There will be light-up necklaces for the kids, a beer from Ugly Dog Pub for those of legal age and a live music concert by Spalding McIntosh starting at 7:30 pm.

\$100 award for a new overall course record, \$50 award for any other age group record.

To register go to https://www. highlandstwilightrun.com

Founders Park and is the flattest 5K course in Highlands. It is an undulating course and has one

The 5K course starts at K-H

Aug. 12 from 4-6 at Highlands

Recreation Park. Please allow

enough time to get checked in. Parking will be available around

the K-H Park, at the Highlands

Recreation Park, Highlands Ball-

field, and Highlands Post Office.

Bring chairs, coolers, refresh-

ments, blankets to join us for the

evening music, starting around

7:30 p.m. Kids under 5 run for

free. Kids 5 to 9 \$10 for 5K. Day

of race adult price will be \$40

so sign up early and get the dis-

counted price of \$35.

...INVESTING continued from page 4

from throughout the country and a couple were from out of the country. Through conversations, they were in awe that I lived here full-time and most said that they intend to return for a longer visit. I know there have been times that a wedding guest has come back and purchased a property.

There is something about the mountains that draw people to return every year. Many of our buyers went to summer camp somewhere in the area and have returned to purchase a house. Some remember visiting family or friends many years ago and have longed for the ability to buy a place. Many times, there is a family place but as the generations expand other family members will purchase a property of their own. Several years ago, I met a couple who had a small cot-

• See INVESTING page 22



NOTICE of the
ANNUAL
MIRROR LAKE
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION
MEETING
at the

Highlands Community Building Wed., August 17 at

5:30PM



Family Classes at Scaly Mountain Crafters

Pen Turning Class

Learn how to make your own wooden pen!

Choose from 5 different pen styles. Cost: \$40-\$50 per person and includes laser engraving.

Bird House/Bird Feeder & Bat House Classes

Learn how to make a Bird House,
Bird Feeder or Bat House!
Choose from 5 different Bird
House styles, 2 different Bird
Feeder styles or a Bat House.
Cost: \$20-\$45 per person
Call 828-526-8800 or email
scalymtncrafters@gmail.com to
schedule a class!

Each Class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.





Sancy's & The Exchange for Men

..on Nancy's side • 828-526-5029 ...on Bob's side • 828-526-1029

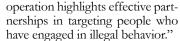
Clothes to go! Porch Sale Every Day 75% Off Men & Women's Clothing



WE MOVED to 2060 Dillard Rd, Highlands 2 miles south of Main

...JAWBREAKER continued from page 1

Assistant District Attorney Jason Arnold said "It is the culmination of a long investigation that led to the 2018 arrests of 13 individuals. Along with our law enforcement partners, we are focused on protecting our community from the selling and using of dangerous drugs, sometimes with fatal consequences. This



Potts' conviction and sentencing comes as part of the 2018 Operation Jawbreaker, a targeted investigation launched after the Macon County Sheriff's Office, Franklin Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the State Bureau of Investigation started investigating the distribution of controlled substances.

The operation was named JAWbreaker because of the three



Arthur Potts

individuals. Steele, Arthur Potts. and Wade Ennis, who were believed to have led the drug trafficking operation. During Operation IAWbreaker, investigators were able to identify at least three additional sources of suppliers living in the Atlanta area and supplying Macon County. Investigators spent hundreds

of hours conducting surveillance in both Western North Carolina and Georgia, including the Atlanta area. Warrants for the arrests of the Atlanta, Ga., suspects will be issued and they will be extradited to Macon County upon their arrest.

During the gathering of intelligence, investigators discovered that drug purchases and transactions were arranged by Steele, Potts, or Ennis and that the three men made additional arrangements for those drugs to be transported back to this area for distribution. During the operation, investigators were able to identify the three suppliers of heroin and meth in the Atlanta area. In collaboration with their local, state and federal partners, investigators were able to intercept various shipments of heroin and meth during traffic stops by law enforcement as it headed back to Macon County.

Investigators say the drugtrafficking organization was responsible for the transport of controlled substances from the Atlanta area to Macon County and, from there, into other Western North Carolina counties, as well as North Georgia.

Of the two other leaders of Operation JAWbreaker, Wade Thomas Ennis of Highlands died in September 2020 of a heart attack, and James Steele pled guilty to continuing criminal enterprise, a class C felony — with all remaining charges being dismissed in 2021. Steele was sentenced to 70 to 96 months in prison.











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OFFICE LOCATIONS

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225 MAIN STREET (828) 526-4663

CASHIERS

49 FRANK ALLEN ROAD (828) 743-0510

17 HIGHWAY 64 EAST (828) 743-9234

341 HIGHWAY 107 SOUTH (828) 743-5140

SAPPHIRE

19387 ROSMAN HIGHWAY (828) 482-0986



LANDMARKRG.COM

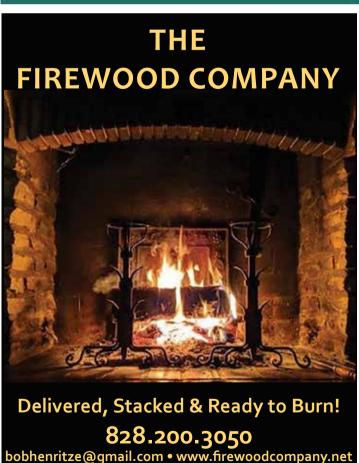




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209 Hospital Dr. Ste 202, Highlands Plasltic SurgeryToday.com

...PLANNING from page 1

but for a minimum of seven days.

Vice Chair Helene Siegel who initially wanted a minimum of 14 days in R1 and R2 agreed to the seven days as a step forward, seeing it as a way to level the playing field for those who may want to get into the STR game or for those who may want the ability to do so if they or future owners of their property choose to do so.

This way no one's property is worth more than someone else's due to STR potential, she said

Willard asked what the compromise was. He believes renters will pay for seven days but only use it two or three, which is where the problem lies, he said.

"We aren't making much of a change concerning what is currently going on in town regarding short-term rentals," he said. "The overriding issue is we have STRs in neighborhoods which fracture the neighborhood. You don't go next door to borrow a cup of sugar from an STR. It's now a separate entity in the neighborhood that's not part of the overall community of it."

Whatley reminded him that the history of short-term renting in Highlands during the summer and the season has been the norm for decades.

"This is a compromise to try to fix this," said Chairman Darren Whatley. "Personally, I think this is a compromise because of all the people who have contacted us about being told they could buy and short-term rent, it seems like we are meeting people half-way or making the recommendation to the council that they consider that."

Willard persisted saying a lengthier time would eliminate this two-night, three-night situation. "That's what I see as being a neighborhood issue," he said.

"It's a really tricky question and it's a difficult to try to make a recommendation because people have the right to use their property as they want to use it," said Whatley. "I understand people being impacted by this, but people have to use the zoning ordi-

• See PLANNING page 17

...LETTERS continued from page 8

On the latest Planning Board decision

Dear Editor.

We were sad to see the Planning Board reject the Town Board's proposal to eliminate and prevent future STRs in R-1 neighborhoods. (We live in a R-1 area and our comments are directed to those zoning locations).

We do not feel that STRs belong in R-1 zoned areas. Whole house rentals for a month or more, are not an issue with us.

Yes, the folks who utilize short-term rentals bring money to the owners of those properties, merchants, restaurants, etc. but otherwise contribute nothing to our community. It is the homeowners who live here full-time and the seasonal homeowners who are here for six months that contribute to the many nonprofits, serve on their

...PLANNING from 16

nance in Highlands and if there is a problem, they need to complain about parking violations, trash ..."

Despite comments to the contrary, member Nick McCall reminded members that the Planning Board is doing exactly what was suggested in the Comprehensive Community Plan which was to curtail TDLs in the R1 district.

"We are limiting TDLs in the R1 district in that they cease to exist after a certain date, so we are honoring what was suggested in the Community Plan," he said.

Siegel said the point is to focus on enforcement as member Chris Wilkes said Aug. 2 and seven days was a compromise between the 14 days and nothing, she said.

"Yeah, seven days still makes sense to me," said Wilkes.

But Willard said he wants to crawl back the growth of STRs in the town.

"I still have concerns that people will say weekly but use it for three days."

Siegel said she understood his point.

"Yes, you want to stop the trajectory. And 14 days would do that, but it was voted down," said Siegel.

Whatley reminded members that the Planning Board is strictly making a recommendation.

"The Town Board can take it or come up with something of their own," he said. "But allowing seven days in R1 and R2 makes sense to me."

Willard said he will write a minority report on his stance regarding the timeframe of a minimum of seven days in R1 and R2.

Meanwhile the town has posted the public hearing notice for Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Community Building.

- Kim Lewicki

boards and volunteer for the organizations that make Highlands the wonderful community it is. It is certainly NOT the short-term rental folks.

STRs have a place in our community, but not in R-1. It will take courage and determination by our Town Board to settle the R-1 zoning issue. The Save Highlands folks would have you believe that we are against all short-term rentals. I guess they think if you tell that lie loud enough, and often enough, it will make it true. It won't! STRs need to be allowed where the zoning is appropriate and not in R-1, where it is not appropriate.

> Rosemary and Bill Stiefel Highlands



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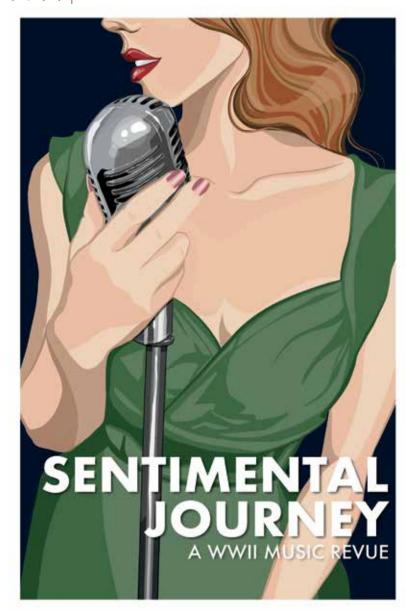
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Spiritually Speaking •



Christ as Lord and HIS word as truth

Pastor Mark Ford First Baptist Church Highlands

traditional, political correctness, genderism issues, debates about Covid and vaccines, polarizing political ideas, pro-life versus pro-choice, "wars and rumors of wars," relativism, and on and on we could go. What a chaotic and disturbing world we live in today! And because this chaos is making inroads into our churches and incursions into the pew, we as Christians fret and fume. But pardon my following simplistic understanding of the problems and the clear answer to it all.

On a broad level, I believe Christians and churches are struggling to make the grade on biblical Christianity. We have swept aside the absolute truth and authority of the Word of God and what it clearly teaches about so many of these problems. We no longer have a clear sense of the importance and eternal significance of Christ as Lord and His Word as Truth.

It began with religious leaders a couple of generations back. Many in the pulpit and our denominations accommodated the Word to the times in a bid for relevance and acceptance. Those in the pulpit accommodated the "Thus saith the Lord" to a more intellectually satisfying modern milieu and then to a more congenial "postmodern" spirit by avoiding dogma of any kind and embracing tolerance and personal preference over Truth. In the process there was a loss of the Biblical worldview. Liberals deemphasized or simply discarded fundamental doctrines and clear precepts of Biblical teachings. And many evangelical conservative churches shifted from a biblical and theological focus to one more driven by pragmatic concerns, convinced that numbers, buildings, and overall growth were more important that individual faith and discipleship. Nominalism crept into the pews of the "successful" churches, equating bringing people in with bringing people to the Word and Christ. Means took precedence over the message of God's eternal truth. As Os Guinness said, "The concern Will it work? overshadowed 'Is it true?"' Serving God gave way to serving self, whether from a liberal perspective or conservative one. Both sides of the spectrum have bought into the mix that of "meeting people's needs and wants" while ignoring ultimate Truth in Christ as their greatest need.

As Christians and churches, we have lost our one true mooring – the inspired, eternally true Word of God. The church is responsible for helping people find the Lord Jesus Christ as the "Way, the Truth and the Life." The church is responsible for the spiritual development of God's people. The challenge for the church today is to return to our historic faith, Biblical precepts, and moral teachings, and prepare people to live in this chaotic world. Our agendas are not in political or social venues. We have focused on ourselves way too much in terms of the needs of the self and choice. We have redefined God's Word regarding sin as simply "tendencies" or "habits" or DNA to be reshaped into acceptable gratifications. We have shrunken our world to the lowest common denominator –

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

Places to Worship

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965 Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CASHIERS ÚNITED 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

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am 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. Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Ist & 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: 10:45am Children's Program, HS 4:30-6:30pm Mon: 4:30-6pm Women's Bible Study;Tues: 7-8am Men's Bible Study@Zookeeper Bistro; 10am-Noon Women's Bible Study Wed: MS 5:30-7pm;Thurs: 7-8:15am Men's Bible Study@

Zookeeper Bistro

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 • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in
Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

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.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School:10 am. Worship Service:11 am
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship 242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814 Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

John 3:16

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.: Sundays: Worship: I I

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 Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHÓDIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and I Ia Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LÜTHERAN 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 SYNAGOĞUĖ

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; Ix/month Oct. -April mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Mass:Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. 9:30a; Sat. 4p; Sun. I la

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7 Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass:Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for schedules of activities both virtual and in-person.

Bazaar Barn is open Fri. & Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• Police & Fire Reports •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Δυσ. 4

 At 12:23 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident on US 64E and Spruce Street.

Διισ. 6

• At 2:36 a.m., Christopher Cody Watkins, 23, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over for a stoplight violation on Main Street. He was issued an unsecured \$500 bond. His trial date is Oct. 5.

Aug. 7

- •At 1:13 a.m., Mayerlin Vazquez, 21, of Cashiers, was arrested for DUI and driving without a license when she was pulled over for a stoplight violation on Horse Cove Road. She was issued a \$1,500 secured bond. Her trial date is Oct. 5.
- At 9:45 p.m., Kristopher A.Acosta, 32, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when he was stopped at Log Cabin Lane. He was issued an unsecured \$1,500 bond. His trial date is Oct. 5.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 2.

Aug. 2

- At I:29 p.m., the dept. searched for a hiker at Glen Falls.
 - At 6:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a

fire alarm at a location on Cullasaja Club Dr. **Aug. 3**

- At 3:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road.
- •At 3:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row.
- At 6:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Upper Lake Road.
- At 9:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Nall Farm Road.

Aug. 4

- At 7:36 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Flat Mtn.
- At 1:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.
- •At 1:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain Road.
- At 5:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Pipers Court.

Aug. 5

• At 11:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row.

Aug. 6

- At 7:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Highlands Walk.
- At 8:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Deer Run.
- At 9:08 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at Skyline Lodge.

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

Team 74, Smoky Mountain Aquatics 65.

Winning their most outstanding in their age group trophy were Aniah McKim, Jasmine Abranyi, Justin Powell, Lilliana Jandera-Chambless, and Bella Batista.

In the points department McKim, Powell, Jandera-Chambless and Batista won all 4 of their events and scored 28 pts. Abranyi brought home 3 golds and a bronze to score 25. Blake Kenter won 1, finished 2nd in 3 for 22 pts and 2nd place trophy in his age group. Tate Wilson and Jack Sumner each brought home a gold, 2 silvers and a bronze for 21 pts. Sumner got a 2nd place trophy, Wilson a 3rd. Conner Hughes scored a gold and 3 bronzes, while Ian Kittrell won a 1st, a 2nd, and a 3rd; each scoring 19 pts and a 3rd place trophy in their age group.

Chase Kenter brought home three silvers for 17 pts. Alex Lopez, Emilina Hernandez, and Elizabeth Burnette all scored 16 pts, Lopez's and Hernandez's included 2 silvers and a bronze; Burnette's a gold and bronze. Hernandez earned a 2nd place trophy in her age group, Burnette a 3rd. Corena Dearth and Paolo McRae scored 14 pts, Dearth with a gold and a bronze, and McRae a bronze and 2 silver.

Ian Batista, Chris Burnette, Jelehna McKim, Penelope McRae, Margaret Cole, Alex Petric-Sakonjic, and Nikita Denisoff all scored a bronze medal and 11, 9, 7, 6, 4, 4, and 4 pts, respectively. Finneaus Garner scored 7 pts, Emma Denisoff 5, Max Jestin 3, Masón Johnston and Eli Highsmith 2. Asa Garner also swam in Allstars.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

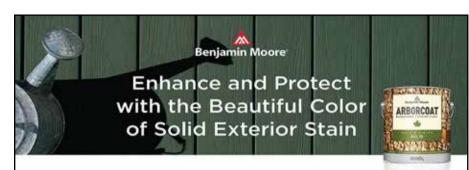
ourselves – and taken God with us, making Him in our image.

The church of today must return to what God created us to be – representatives of His holiness in this world as salt and light. We are not here to "fix" culture and all the chaos that surrounds us, but to embrace and image the "Christ of Culture" – to borrow from Niebuhr – who is the only One who can truly set our world aright. And we can only do this by a return to a Biblical worldview and proclamation of redemption and restoration in Christ. As the world moves further away

from Christ, we can best serve our world and our Lord by moving closer to Christ. Our light and hope for a chaotic world are not that we as Christians become more political and relevant, but that we as His people embrace the Word of God in our daily lives and declare unreservedly, distinctly, and in love His eternal truths – regardless of their contemporaneity in a progressive, "woke," relevant, politically correct world.

As the Greeks who spoke to Philip said, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (Jn. 12:21).





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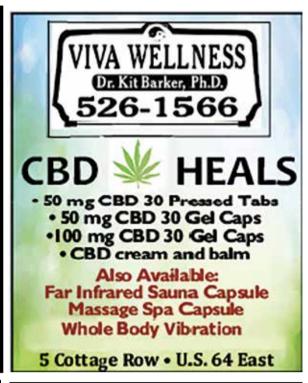
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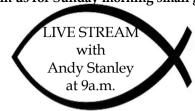
DIRECTOR FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PRO- GRAM – Highlands United Methodist Church is looking to hire an after-school program director. This is a 9 hour per week part-time position requiring a commitment of 3 hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays when school is in session. Back ground checks and references required. Contact the church office (828) 526-3376; highlandsumc@icloud.com. (8/18)

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THE DRY SINK IS HIRING! We have a position receiving merchandise, opening boxes and pricing merchandise. Great for a self starter or someone who is an independent worker! Perfect for someone seeking part time work or can be a full time job. Pop in for an application at 450 Main Street, or email Sam at shays@thedrysink.com. (st. 7/21)

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SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Business Officer, Exceptional Children Teacher, School Counselor Please visit www.summitschool.org/careers or call 828-743-5755 for more information or to apply. (st. 6/30)

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HIGHLANDS INN - Now hiring Guest service rep-

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

• CLASSIFIEDS •

resentatives for all shifts, all days. Part time or Fulltime. We are flexible. Email Resume to : sales@highlandsinnlodge. com, stop by for an application or give us a call at 828-526-5899. (st. 4/14)

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...INVESTING from page 13

tage here. They were transferred to California and had to sell the cottage. However, they still return every year, with the intention of buying again when they retire. And it isn't just people from around the country.

Most of my clients are from neighboring states, but they have come from much further away as well, including Texas, New England and the Bahamas. There is no question as to why people choose the plateau as the location for a home or second (or third) home and they are willing to go to the trouble of more extensive travel to get here. Talking with other brokers, it is not only interesting where people come from, but why they chose to leave where they were. Clients from Texas chose this area because they wanted a mountain destination but were priced out of a Colorado location. Buyers have moved from California because of the high taxes. There have been buyers that chose to sell a coastal home because they are tired of the numerous storms.

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 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@landmarkre.com.

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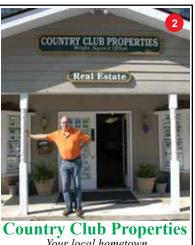
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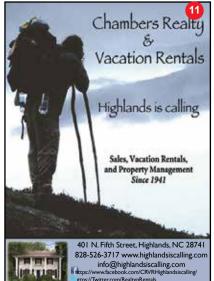
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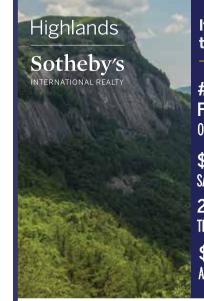
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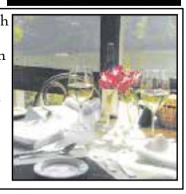
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