

Highlands Newspaper

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

Thurs., July 28 2022

Planning Board is at a STR crossroads

The community building was packed Monday night to hear the Planning Board's recommendation on the town's two short-term rental ordinance amendments.

But it looks like that could be a long time coming – board

members declined to discuss anything until they were afforded legal counsel and instead scheduled another meeting for Aug. 2.

"As we heard last year, there are two sides of these arguments which are very well legally versed,

but which come to two very different conclusions about what is legal and what is not," said member Brad Armstrong. "As we went through this last time, we tried to steer clear of litigation and focus

• See **PLANNING** page 8

Franklin man drowns at Big Shoals

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Franklin man Joseph Orr, 25, drowned at Big Shoals off Walking Stick Road on Saturday, July 23 despite the efforts of Good Samaritans who tried to help.

Big Shoals is an approximately 20-foot waterfall along Big Creek that is a popular swimming hole in Macon County.

Highlands Fire & Rescue Captain Roger Lee Wilson arrived on the scene before other rescue units and said bystanders at the falls were able to pull Orr out of the water and an ER nurse on the scene administered CPR on shore, but Orr did not survive.

Friends who were with Orr told Wilson he just went under the water and did not come back up. The water at the bottom of the falls is deep enough to swim in, but shallow enough to stand in. Wilson said Orr did not appear to have any head injuries.



Friends of Joseph Orr visit the site of his death at Big Shoals on Sunday, July 24.

Friends of Orr visited Big Shoals on the following day and looked on in disbelief.

"He was so strong; he was a

boxer, a firefighter, he could take on the world," said Orr's friend Mary Elizabeth Reese. "And he was always a gentleman, so kind,

– Photo by Brian O'Shea
and so respectful to his mother. This doesn't make sense."

Orr was a firefighter with

• See **DROWNS** page 16

Six will be on the ballot for BOE seats

By Brittney Lofthouse

Filing for the Macon County Board of Education ended on July 15 with six candidates filing for the two open seats.

The public schools of Macon County are governed by an elected Board of Education. It's five members, elected for 4-year staggered terms, represent the three school districts and the county-at-large.

The November 2022 ballot will feature the District 2 seat (Franklin area) and the District 4 seat (county-at-large) for the board.

District 2 incumbent Tommy Cabe filed for reelection for another term. Cabe has severed on the Macon County Board of Elections for more than 20 years being re-elected every four years.

Cabe will face three challeng-

• See **BOE** page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Climate change is from the ground up

Last week Sallie and I took our grandchildren on our annual trek to Jekyll Island. A goal was to include some educational experiences on the vacation schedule. So, we took a dolphin tour and did a turtle walk on the beach at night.

The impact of climate change, including massive droughts, wildfires and the loss of habitat for creatures that share space with us on this big "blue marble" can be distressing. Both the dolphin tour and turtle walk made me think about our own special space on the Highlands Plateau. Jekyll Island, and for that matter all the Georgia marshes and barrier islands, have faced challenges of balancing the need for economic progress with the critical need to preserve that special environment.

On the dolphin tour, the boat captain didn't just show the group dolphins, he also talked about preserving the marsh environment of the Georgia coast. The tides and geography of the Georgia coast create an abundant and thriving marsh network that is critical for the survival of marine life. For many years I have been following the challenge of managing development on these barrier islands and marsh estuaries. Back



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

in the 1980s and 1990s there was a heated debate about how much development should be allowed in these areas. The debate continues. Nevertheless, places like Jekyll have tried to balance public access, economic development and ecological preservation. That dynamic reminds me of the pressures facing the plateau and Western Carolina.

The sea turtle night walk was presented by members of the UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant programs. The staff and students of these programs have conducted studies and preservation projects for decades.

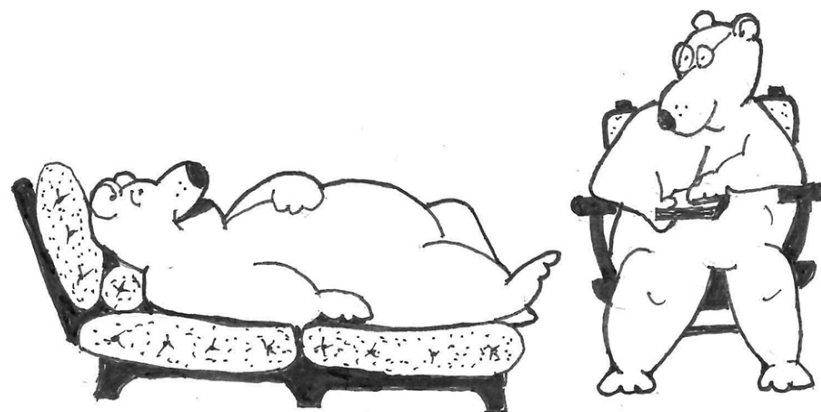
About 25 people went on the turtle walk, with experts leading us using flash lights that emitted a red light that didn't bother the turtles.

I have been under the impression that the sea turtles were doomed to decline due to human actions such as net fishing and overdevelopment of critical beach habitat. That may not be the case. The turtles dig a nest and lay about 100 eggs per nest. The leaders of the turtle walk were sky high with enthusiasm about this year's egg laying season. They informed us that Jekyll had a record number of turtle nests on the beach this year. The previous record was 204, but this year at the time of the walk researchers had identified 239 nests. They showed us one of the nests.

These dedicated researchers attributed this increase to primarily changes in human activities. First, the shrimp boats have converted to trawl nets that allow turtles to escape. Second, they believe that public education concerning changes in beach activities to accommodate the turtles' breeding practices is having an impact. For instance, experts continue to remind the public to keep curtains to beach front accommodations closed at night in order to avoid disturbing the turtles. Finally, the research practices of identifying, monitoring, and protecting nests from threats, like egg eating raccoons, are paying off.





Organizations like the Highlands Biological Station, The Nature Center, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, and the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, are equally dedicated to preserve our environment. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated, and enhance the living in Highlands every day. I hope folks living and visiting the Highlands Plateau will continue to be mindful of activities and interactions that impact living organisms in this unique environment. I still have hope.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Well Doc it all started when I was a cub, with a slice of meat lovers, double cheese with anchovies, pizza."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 28-Jul	Fri, 29-Jul	Sat, 30-Jul	Sun, 31-Jul
			
82°F 65°F	82°F 65°F	78°F 65°F	76°F 64°F
A t-storm around in the p.m.	A t-storm around in the p.m.	Showers and a heavier t-storm	Cloudy with a thunderstorm
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 89° Low: 71°	High: 86° Low: 68°	High: 82° Low: 67°	High: 78° Low: 68°

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August 2019

“Highlands is now on the map. The notion that this mountain jewel in Western Carolina can somehow be hidden from the masses is long gone. For that matter, all of Western Carolina has been discovered as a great vacation getaway. Given the cool temperatures in the summer and breathtaking scenery, we shouldn't anticipate any decline in people visiting our community. A real problem for Highlands would be if in this robust economy we had empty parking spaces on Main Street.”

-Mayor Pat Taylor, Plateau Daily News

July 2022

The Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners introduced an ordinance that would completely ban all short term rentals in R1 and R2 in 2 years time eliminating 298 local jobs, and removing \$19M in revenue from Main Street businesses alone.

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 Helen & Michael Kim, violin & piano;
 Kate and William Ransom, violin & piano

Sunday-Monday, July 31-August 1:
"Stars of Tomorrow"
 Young musicians from the Heifetz Institute

Sunday, August 7:
Gershon/Cohn Final Gala Concert and Dinner Party
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• OBITUARY •

James 'Jim' Walsh

On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, James "Jim" Walsh, passed away in his Scaly Mountain,

NC, home. He was 63 years old. He will be dearly missed by his wife of 28 years, Laure Swanner Walsh, and their two children Ali Mae Walsh and James Walsh, Jr.

Born in Boston, MA, he is the son of the late John and Joan Clouse Walsh. Jim had five siblings, Johnny Walsh Jr (Debbie), Joe Walsh (Patti), Judy Almeida (Brian), Jackie Johnson (Troy), and his late sister Joanne Snyder (Stephen), with whom he made great memories spending summers in their early years together in Onset, Cape Cod, MA.

Jim graduated Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1980 and became a Ship Captain in the oilfield industry, navigating offshore supply vessels around the world.

Jim and Laure met in Mississippi where they would later build and enjoy "The Barn" on weekends with their children. His close friend Darrell provided him an infinite amount of friendship and support in caring for the property.

He became the Golf Course Superintendent of Chateau Country Club in Kenner, LA in the 1990s taking on a multi-year renovation of the golf course.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, Jim helped restore the Country Club and his family's homes



all while commuting on the weekends to visit his wife and children in their new home in Highlands, NC.

Shortly after, Jim and Laure built a home together in Scaly Mountain where he continued his love of working outdoors with his tractor, bobcat, excavator, and his righthand man José.

Jim avidly supported the Scaly Mountain Women's Club and their mission

to further education of local children. He developed dear and everlasting friendships with the husbands of the club members through the start of annual parties at his home. As an active member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, he continued a legacy serving on the altar with his children for nine years.

He loved boating, fishing, crabbing, building fires, and spending time with family. He was an incredible father, wonderful uncle and a beloved addition to Laure's family. Jim and Laure's best memories were made together over Charbroiled Oyster Feasts and his most fantastic Crawfish Boils.

A memorial mass will be held 10am on August 3 at Our Lady of the Mountains in Highlands officiated by Father Jason Barone. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Scaly Mountain Women's Club Scholarship Fund: P.O. Box 64, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.

• LETTERS •

Oh, 'What A Night' indeed!

Dear Editor,

On July 15th, our party of 8 attended The Jersey Boys performance at The Highlands Playhouse along with nearly 200 other patrons for one of the 22 sold-out shows in this season's opening musical. We all left wanting more and joined the audience with a resounding standing ovation.

The cast and the production was truly outstanding. Afterwards when I saw Scott Daniel, the multi-talented Executive Artistic Director of the Mountain Theatre Company, I was totally speechless and told him we would talk later.

Being a longtime supporter of the productions at The Highlands Playhouse, I was truly blown away by the talented cast and every aspect of this Tony award winning musical.

Let me restate the fact that all 22 performances were sold out and over 3,700 tickets were sold! This production has become the most attended show in the 84-year history of The Playhouse. Building on the recent success of previous Broadway winners produced at The Playhouse, like Chicago, Cabaret, and Oklahoma, The Jersey Boys has set a new bar.

When I returned last Friday night as a concession stand volunteer, I watched people as they started gathering an hour ahead of the curtain time to hopefully secure a ticket from "no shows"....this did not happen and I saw the disappointment of the nearly dozen or so folks who had to walk away. I hated to see this, but what a good problem to have and this makes



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Monday, August 1, Time: 1-4p
Cost: \$70/\$80
Presenter: Mary Cavaoli
- **The Outlier: The Unfinished Presidency of Jimmy Carter**
Tuesday August 2, Time: 10a-12p
Cost: \$35/\$45
Presenter: Kai Bird
- **The Good Spy**
Wednesday, August 3, Time: 10a-12p
Cost \$25/\$35
Presenter: Kai Bird
- **Bourbon Basics**
Wednesday, August 3, Time: 5-7p
Cost \$90/\$100
Presenter: Susan Reigler
- **American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenhemier**
Thursday, August 4, Time: 10a-12p
- **Watercolors Beginners I**
Thursday, August 4, Time: 1-4p
Cost \$70/\$80
Presenter: Mary Cavaoli
- **Watercolors II**
Monday, August 8, Time: 1-4p
Cost \$70/\$80
Presenter: Mary Cavaoli
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Tuesday, August 9, Time: 9a-3p
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 Helen & Michael Kim, violin & piano;
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 Young musicians from the Heifetz Institute

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Gershon/Cohn Final Gala Concert and Dinner Party
"Beethoven & Bluegrass"
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Facts, Figures, and Speculations

The latest June data from Realtor.com® places the median home price nationwide at a record-setting \$450,000. And, for the week ending July 16 (the most recent research available), home prices shot up by 16.6% compared with the same week last year. That's 31 straight weeks of double-digit price growth, which puts homebuyers in panic mode!

When will it end or will it? I can only speak locally because that's where my facts and knowledge are acquired.

The Highlands/Cashiers plateau is one of the most desired areas in our country. Our summer temps rival all others with breathtaking mountain beauty that surrounds us. An escape from big-city traffic and crime also makes us attractive, and our small town is "Hallmark-ish" to our full-time residents. Even those buying second homes feel the magic that is created here by our friendly people and gorgeous scenery, and many express their desires to live here full time.

A few tips for sellers in this crazy market may be advantageous in getting your house sold:

1. Do not overprice just because your neighbor got multiple offers or because you've heard that houses are selling above asking price. Those who overprice and don't listen to their broker (who has much more knowledge of the current situation) will stay on the market much longer and the price will continually come down to where it should have started. Also, buyers will question why the house has been for sale for so long and think something is wrong with it even though it isn't. When family members tell us what they "want" for their house and insist on it our hands are tied and frustration on both sides is sure to follow. Do not listen to your friends and neighbors who think they know more than professional brokers! Let your broker show you homes that compare and price it where it should be



Pat Allen BIC
 Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group.

from the beginning so you can get to the end quickly!

2. Start packing! By that I mean clutter is a detriment in selling your home. We are selling space for a new family, and they should be able to see rooms they picture themselves in and your favorite "things" prevent that. When you do sell your house, you must pack it up anyway, so I always tell my sellers: "Let's get a head start!" Also, your precious family photos should be out of sight so they can picture their family photos there.

4. Make sure the house is always thoroughly clean for showings. If the grout in the shower needs to be redone go ahead and tend to it. A fresh coat of paint works wonders and isn't that costly. Don't have a lot of small appliances sitting out on counters...they take up precious space I mentioned earlier. Put away the many bottles of shampoo in the shower and find a place for toothbrushes, shaving cream, etc. that are the countertops.

5. When there is a showing please leave! Homebuyers are distracted by sellers and aren't focused on the home and can't share with their broker the things they don't like about the house. And once you all have met it is harder to negotiate! Lights on and soft music playing in the background are a nice touch.

Many people are asking my opinion and observation of real estate on the plateau. My thoughts are very positive. Our prices have been driven by demand and we will likely always have more buyers than properties to sell. It's a great place to invest!

• *Pat Allen is Broker-in-Charge of Allen-Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group located at 295 Dillard Road and can be reached at 828-200-9179 or 828-526-8784. Julie Osborn is Broker-in-Charge at the second location, 5121 Cashiers Road at the entrance to Wildcat Cliffs Country Club and can be reached at 828-200-6165. Allen Tate Realtors is NUMBER ONE in sales in NC, SC, and the entire country for independent firms.*

...PLANNING continued from page 1

more on the use and it occurs to me that this time around we may want to focus more on the legalities."

Chris Wilkes said over the past year, the Planning Board was assured legal counsel was coming but none has.

"We did our homework -- even though

we disagreed on what was in there -- and now at this point they come back with even more stuff that will obviously be a trigger down the road and we can't get any sort of information about legal counsel from the town?" he asked. "If it's just us on our own,

• See PLANNING page 15

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...LETTERS continued from page 4

the move to the new Performing Arts Center even more exciting and critical for our town.

Hearing comments from patrons saying, "Better than the show I saw at the Fox in Atlanta," "Broadway couldn't have done it better," and "I haven't such fun in a long time," makes me so proud of what we have here in our "little town."

Of course, the star of the show, Emanuel Carrero, who portrayed the role of Frankie

Valli was outstanding and it showcased his many talents as a performer. Highlands is very fortunate in having him relocate to our area.

As a Realtor, I get calls and visits from people who have never been to our area. I always share all the many qualities that makes our town special, and I never leave out the live theatrical opportunities we have at The Playhouse. If it is during the season, I encourage these visitors to attend a show to get hooked

on our quality entertainment offerings.

I applaud the current Board of Directors for hiring Scott Daniel who is sure to elevate the standing of the Mountain Theatre Company to being a premier regional theatre in the Southeast, if not the country.

Kudos to all involved in the production of The Jersey Boys and I look forward to the rest of this season's shows and the bright future of this Highlands gem.

Steve Sheppard
Highlands, NC

Do not banish STRs

Dear Editor,

I received an e-mail today that says you, Mayor Taylor, now want to ban all STRs in all R1 and R2 districts after two years. Is

that true? Surely it cannot be so. A compromise is to allow STRs, but regulate them and enforce noise ordinances, parking rules and occupancy limits.

Highlands needs visitors. I have an attorney from Alabama that rents my condo for 1 to 2 months every summer while I vacation elsewhere. He and his wife are around 60 years old and good people. I know that there are many couples like them that rent throughout Highlands.

Do not banish STRs. Thank you.

Richard Tillet

It's time to take a step back

Dear Editor,

This letter is in part, an answer to Mayor Taylor's STRs and Compromise letter of July 21, but it is also a plea for the boards to take a step back, breathe, and pretend, even just for a minute that everyone in this town has the same volleying power, the same face, the same pocketbook.

When visitors to our town choose a residential home instead of a hotel, it's because they want a family atmosphere. I am not talking about wedding parties; those were created in the last decade when Highlands became known as a destination wedding venue. Most of the wedding party rentals in STRs are families attending a wedding who don't want to rent several hotel room.

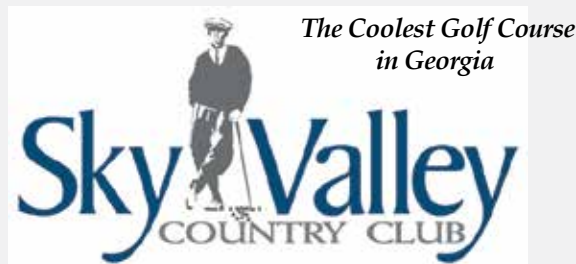
We've heard the horror stories of 'bad' renters. Reviews can make or break. It takes FORTY positive reviews to offset the damage done by ONE bad review. Only 5-10% of consumers will leave a review. We don't hear enough of the wonderful stories of people who come to Highlands. Many of the STRs love it so much they return over and over, staying longer and longer as they learn about the natural beauty of the area. Mr. Mayor, please don't let the bad reviews- the loud voices- cloud the board's decisions.

Highlands has been touted as a destination for good health for over a century. Today, it's not so healthy, not mental health, anyway. The world's animosity has crept its way into our little haven. Bullies prevail on the school playground, and some bullies never grow out of enjoying the power of a win, the power of making others think the way they think...or else. Implementing zoning or other restrictive ordinances may be seen as abuse of power. It's bullying.

Short-term rentals have been around for decades. Short-term rentals are not the problem. We can not put up a fence and lock the gate to Highlands! If people want to live in a gated community with a powerful HOA/POA that restricts STRs and more, let the people live there.

• Even though it would help most of our

• See LETTERS page 14



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• 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 10:15-11am.

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

• 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.

Thurs., July 28

• At CLE, Tony Barnhart, College Football Preview, 2-4 p.m. \$35 members/\$45 non-members. To register visit www.clehighlands.com or call 828-526-8811.

Fri.-Sat. July 29-30

• At the Bascom, The Three Potters Symposium. Public reception at 5p on Friday, Symposium 10ato4pon Saturday.

Fri., July 29

• At The Bascom, Three Potters Public Reception FREE Admission; works available for purchase. 5-6:30 pm.

Sat., July 30

• At The Bascom, Three Potters Symposium (tickets available at TheBascom.org) 10 am – noon and 1-4 pm.

• At Potpourri on Main Street, Maui Jim Aloha Day, 11a to 5p.

Fri., Aug. 5

• At Hudson Library in Highlands, Waynesville author Nancy East at 2p to talk about her new book Chasing the Smokies Moon: An audacious 948-mile hike—fueled by love, loss, laughter, and lunacy. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event.

Sat., Aug. 6

• Annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House from 11a to 2p. Hotdogs and firetruck rides.

Sat., Aug. 6

• Nancy Lichtman Art Trunk Show at Acorns 10a to 5p. Nancy's oil paintings feature horses, dogs, and rural landscapes. (828) 787-1877.

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. - Sun., Aug. 19-21

• 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 baffles, and a silent auction. Hot Dogs with fixings for \$5 per plate.

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

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



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Location:

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Highlands, NC 28741



August 2019

"The proliferation of VRBOs is a very current topic across the state and nation especially in resort communities like our own. At present we have no direct ordinances or policies that regulate folks renting their homes as a VRBO.

-Mayor Pat Taylor, Highlands Newspaper

July 2022

The Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners introduced an ordinance that would completely ban all short term rentals in R1 and R2 in 2 years time, eliminating 298 local jobs, and removing \$19M in revenue from Main Street businesses alone.

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...LETTERS continued from page 10

rental homes to allow the grandfather clause, it creates a valuation problem for the homes not included, therefore shouldn't be used.

- STRs should be allowed in every part of town, regardless of the zone, with the exception of properties in an established HOA/POA with rules against them.

- New idea: From this point forward, closing attorneys should have a buyer sign a statement that they will follow Macon County's wastewater code and will apply for building permits for any renovations/additions. It is very concerning that property owners bla-

tantly abuse occupancy limits, but this isn't a STR problem, and they shouldn't be singled out.

- Enforce noise ordinances for all property owners. Again, this isn't just a STR rental problem.

- No registration process or permitting of STR properties

- Any STR must have a local representative.

Jeannie Chambers
Highlands

The real problem is a lack of enforcement

Dear Editor,

I am a third generation Highlands homeowner. I have lived next door to a short term rental for years, and never once have had a problem. Not at all. (Of course, the owners of the property charge around \$800 a night and they have a one week minimum, so that may speak to the clientele.) Their guests have always been absolutely great people and it has been fun getting to know them while sharing some of the history of our sweet town and letting them know about Highland's greenway trails, waterfalls, and national forests.

In my neighborhood, the huge problem has been the infuriating "frat house" right across the street from me. The bad actors are property owners--NOT short term renters. They constantly use their house as a party house with loud music blaring, drunken howling, screaming, yelling, and whooping and hol-

lering during outdoor fun and games -- and this has been going on every single summer for decades. Yes, decades. One of the other neighbors (an older couple that comes up every weekend) has repeatedly called the Highlands police when the partying frat house owners are out of control, and the police do absolutely NOTHING. Nothing at all. Now, the mayor and the town board are pointing their fingers at short-term rentals when the real problem is their own lack of enforcement of EXISTING noise, trash, parking, and trespassing ordinances. The mayor has requested suggestions for a compromise. Here it is: If the town could just exercise their duty to enforce the current laws, I believe we could all get along just fine and stop all of the legal madness.

Sara Benson
Highlands



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...PLANNING continued from page 8

how do they expect us to come up with stuff that's solid unless they already have something that they are just streamlining?"

Planning Director Michael Mathis said he was told to tell the board that its legal counsel has said that they have reviewed both proposals before the Planning Board and feel they are legally defensible in a court of law.

He also said the board can either recommend approval or it doesn't have to recommend approval of the ordinances, "but you need to review these two ordinances and you may want to start with option one first."

However, Chairman Darren Whatley said yes, the board had the two options supplied by the Town Board "but we can take them apart and put them together and come up with something completely different. We are not bound by these."

However, Wilkes said if the town isn't going to provide legal counsel [even though its likely it will only represent the town's side] he didn't feel like the board

should have to adhere to any sort of deadline.

Member Rick Trevathan, a retired lawyer, said that was especially true in light of all the time and effort the board put in last time.

"To be told we can't get any guidance after we have done all this before – that's very offensive," he said.

Member Nick McCall said he didn't know how they could draft or propose something without direction and without the ability to ask questions of legal counsel.

"I just don't see how we go down that avenue. If this wasn't backwards, it would be easier to go that route," he said.

Members even suggested a closed session to confer with lawyers, but Mathis said a closed session wouldn't be possible because it's a client/attorney privilege and the Planning Board isn't a client.

But all that came after an hour-long public hearing during which the board of seven heard much of what has been voiced over the past year during Town

• See **PLANNING** page 17



Family Classes at Scaly Mountain Crafters

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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.

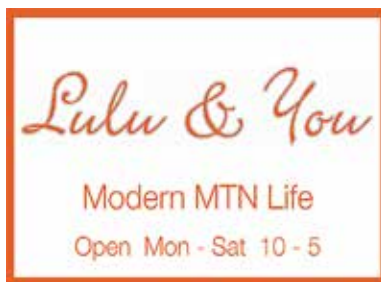


Nancy's & The Exchange Fancys for Men

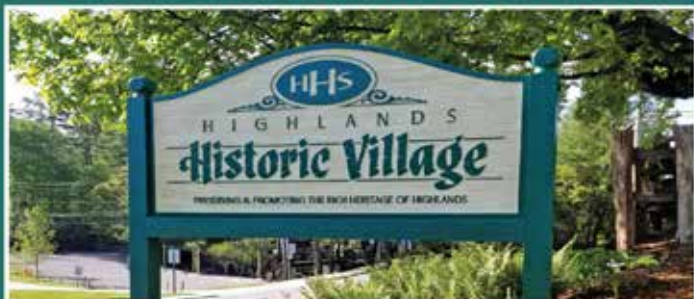
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...on Bob's side • 828-526-1029



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...DROWNS continued from page 1

Clarks Chapel Fire-Rescue. After his death, Franklin Fire-Rescue released the following statement.

“Tonight, our hearts are breaking over this tremendous loss. Firefighter Orr was a fast rising star, burning with a deep desire to help his community. While fairly new to the fire service, he had already shown his brothers and sisters at Clarks Chapel he was all in. His insatiable hunger for knowledge kept him striving to be the best that he could be.”

HFR was dispatched to Big Shoals, a popular swimming hole in Macon County, just before 7 p.m. for a report of a man stuck under the falls and drowning.

According to Macon County Dispatch, the 911 call was made after a female on the scene hiked up to the road where she waved down a passerby and asked them to call.

Members of HFR, Macon County Sheriff's Office, Franklin EMS, and Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad arrived on the scene at approx. 7:30 p.m. The trail leading to the falls is a little over a mile and steep in several areas.

“It's a pretty-rough area to get in and out of,” said Wilson. “Having Glenville Cashiers helping us made it easier.”

HFR Rescue Lieutenant Travis Brooks said the falls are approximately 20-feet high and did not appear to be a factor in Orr's death.

The Medical Examiner was on scene, but the report wasn't released by press time.



The trail to the falls is steep and rocky.

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...PLANNING continued from page 15

Board public comment periods as well as at the Feb. 24 public hearing.

The subject of the Feb. 24 public hearing – which legally didn't count because it wasn't properly advertised – was the proposed STR ordinance the Planning Board originally recommended to the Town Board in January.

Since the Town Board didn't like it, it was nixed outright which led to commissioners passing their own STR version at the May Town Board meeting.

However, due to the public hearing advertising snafu, the process has now started over which requires the Planning Board to once again make its ordinance recommendations to the Town Board.

But this time, as was noted, instead of waiting on the Planning Board to come up with a recommended ordinance, the Town Board sent two versions of its own for consideration.

Both members of the Planning Board and members of SAVE Highlands which represents those for STRs said the process this time around is backwards.

"The Planning Board will be proposing an amendment to the UDO [Unified Development Code] that you aren't really proposing," said Jennifer Huff with SAVE Highlands. "It was given to you by the town and that's backwards. The town isn't supposed to give you what you are supposed to vote on. You are supposed to come up with a document that you think is right for the town. We are asking the Planning Board to number one, think for yourselves, not what the town is telling you to do," said Huff. "We are asking to get rid of intensification, registration, amortization and to give people their grandfathered rights that they are due by law."

Both town versions categorize STRs as nonconforming uses.

The first ordinance is basically the ordinance the board erroneously passed in May that prohibits new STRs in the R1 and R2 districts but allows grandfathering with proper verification/permitting, etc.

The second ordinance allows new and grandfathered STRs in R1 and R2 with no verification or permitting required for a finite period of time, to be determined by the Town Board, at which time the previously allowed nonconforming use is amortized and ceases forever.

Obviously both sides – those against STRs, represented by Highlands Neighborhood Coalition and those for STRs represented by SAVE Highlands – want different ordinances.

Speakers against STRs all said they wanted the Planning Board to recom-

mend the second ordinance because it will end STRs once and for all presumably in a year or two. The town's new lawyer, Bob Hagemann of Poyner and Spruill suggested two years. He told the Town Board the amortized version – as it stands – would most certainly end up in court.

Those against STRs stand by the claim that STRs are a commercial use, they destroy quality of life, diminish property values in single-family neighborhoods and jeopardize the future of Highlands.

Speakers for STRs would like to use the first ordinance as a starting place for negotiations and compromise and said they have offered to sit down at the table since last August but have been ignored at every turn with Mayor Pat Taylor even saying they have never offered any compromise.

However, last week, Highlands Newspaper verified that a compromise was offered by SAVE Highlands the first week of March right after the Feb. 24 public hearing of the Planning Board's January ordinance.

According to Huff, on March 3, a registered document of a red-lined version of the Planning Board's ordinance was sent to then attorneys Jay Coward and Craig Justus.

She said it showed line-by-line what SAVE Highlands agreed with and what it thought was problematic.

For whatever reason, that "compromise" was never sent on to the mayor, Town Board or staff. And with no communication forthcoming from the town, SAVE Highlands assumed it had been shut out.

"We now know that one of two things have happened. Either the town isn't telling the truth when they say they didn't receive that document, or the two paid attorneys who are paid with taxpayers' money, didn't pass it on. Either way that's a big problem," said Huff.

On Monday, July 17, Huff sent that same March 3 document – this time by email – to the Town Board, staff, the Planning Board and the press, and according to the mayor and the commissioners, that's the first time they saw it.

Of course, at this point that particular compromise is moot, because the Town Board disregarded the Planning Board's attempt at an ordinance and formulated its own version.

Meanwhile, with seeds of mistrust sewn, SAVE Highlands sent then attorneys Coward and Justus a Request for Public Records on Friday, June 15. According to David Bee of Highlands Vacation Rentals and a member of SAVE Highlands, on Monday, June 18, Attorney Coward responded via email that he had received it saying, "we will process this."

However, on Thursday, June 21 Town Manger Josh Ward read about the Request for Public Records in Highlands Newspaper and asked what it was about. He had not received the request by then, but has received it since and he, staff and other commissioners have supplied at least some of the requested information.

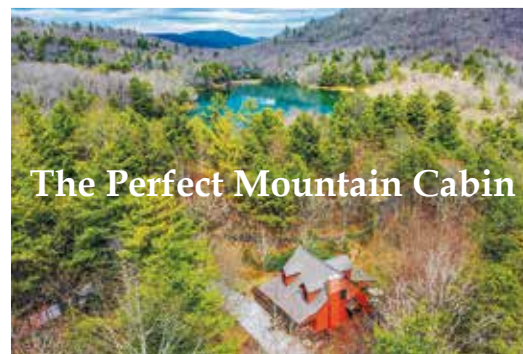
Town Clerk Gibby Shaheen said she has been sending it on to the town attorneys as she gets it. It's unknown if the information has been forwarded to the SAVE High-

lands attorneys at this time.

Monday night, the Planning Board voted to request legal counsel before considering either of the town's proposals and set another meeting for Tuesday, Aug. 2 at the Community Building at 5:30. If the space isn't available, the meeting will be in the Civic Center.

Planning Director Mathis said he doesn't know if legal counsel will comply with the request.

– Kim Lewicki



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Who do you believe in?

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Church, Cashiers

"He who believes in Him (Jesus Christ) is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"

(John 3:18).

What do you believe about God? This is a very important question. Do you believe that God is sovereign and fully in control of His creation? Do you believe He is just a beneficent Creator who created and left His work to the hands of men? Believe me when I tell you there is a very strong difference between these two ideas.

The God who, in the Bible created all things and rules His creation, is the One and Only True God and He in no way will give up His glory to any man. He makes that clear in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other."

If God shared His authority with any one He would no longer be the One and Only God. He has to be sovereign and in control of everything to be a true sovereign God. That means that He alone can prepare a way of salvation for His people. If any part of that salvation process is dependent on man there is no true salvation.

In John 3:18 we are clearly told that salvation is through Jesus Christ alone. The only way that would be possible is if God were sovereign. If He is not sovereign there could never be any proof of salvation in the heart of any man. In John 3:18 he divides men into two groups. He divides them into those saved and those unsaved. This is the only division Scripture ever gives to mankind. God is concerned only with the heart and its place before God. John 3:16 set the stage for this understanding. "For God so love the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Here, John identifies two groups of men. Those who do not believe and those who do.

What we learn is that those who abide in Jesus Christ by faith are not judged. In other words, they undergo no condemnation. They have believed God which is faith. They trust what the word of God tells them and receive the blessings of their faith, salvation.

We also learn of those who do not believe. These are the people of this world who reject Christ as the only begotten Son of God. They may say they believe in God but not in a sovereign God. If not in a sovereign God then they can only believe in a weak God without the ability to give hope to the lost and dying.

To receive the blessings of God in salvation you must

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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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 • 526-2968

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

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909 Bluegrass and 11a 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 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. 11a

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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 July 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 15

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Horse Cove and Leonard roads.

July 20

• At noon, officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Farmers Market parking lot at Main and NC 106.

July 21

• At 8:49 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on NC 106 and Talley Road.

• At 2:29 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Moorewood Circle and Hill Road.

July 24

• At 2:50 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 and S. 3rd Street.

July 25

• At 8:58 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Blue Bike parking lot on US 64 east.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 19.

July 19

• At 5:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

July 20

• At 9:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Orchard Road.

• At 2:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

July 21

• 4:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crowe Drive.

• At 9:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a power line arcing on Sequoyah Drive.

July 22

• At 1:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain Road.

• At 8:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sherwood Forest Road.

• At 5:16 p.m., the dept. searched for a woman who got lost on Yellow Mountain Trail.

July 23

• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire at a residence on Highgate Road.

• At 6:53 p.m. the dept. went on a rescue at Big Shoals Falls off Walkingstick Road where a man drowned.

July 25

• At 9:57 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

• At 10:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain Road.

• At 7:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 9:43 p.m., the dept. was first-re-

...BOE continued from page 1

ers in the November election, Billy Handley, Stephanie Laseter and Danny Reitmeier.

The board's county-at-large seat, District 4 is currently held by incumbent Carol Arnold, who also filed for re-election. Arnold was appointed to the board after Fred Goldsmith resigned in 2020. Arnold will face challenger Diedre Breeden on the November ballot.

The three other members of the Board of Education — Jim Breedlove, Melissa Evans, and Hilary Wilkes were re-elected in 2020 and will be up for election again in 2024.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

first believe in a sovereign God. You must believe that He sent His only begotten Son into this world to save the souls of those who so believe in Him. Jesus came to live the perfect life for all who believe and trust in Him. He died the atoning death to free them from their sin and guilt. He won the

Voting for the November 2022 election kicks off on September 9 when absentee-by-mail voting begins.

Deadline for voter registration for the general election will be October 14, 2022 with Early Voting in both Franklin and Highlands beginning on October 20.

Early voting will be held at the Highlands Civic Center and the Robert C Carpenter Community Building in Franklin. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5 in Macon County.

resurrection victory defeating the grace and death for His people thus opening for them the gates of heaven.

Please, hear this call to salvation and focus your life on the gospel of Jesus Christ. It will determine which group of people you stand with.

August Regional Prayer Event

Romans 13:11

“... the hour
has come
for you to wake from
sleep! For salvation is
nearer to us now than
when we first believed!”

PRAYER EVENT HOSTED BY PASTOR STEVE DOERTER

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The prayers of the saints continue to move mountains in America. That we have seen! We must continue in hope! Amen? Come join with like-minded Christians from our region to pray for the light of Jesus Christ to penetrate the darkness, so that by His abundant grace, eternal salvation can be revealed and received by everyone!

Don't Miss What the Lord is Doing!

Tuesday - August 2 - 6:00pm

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HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A POLICE OFFICER at the Highlands Police Department. Applicants must have a high school diploma/GED or greater, must have completed basic law enforcement training and possess a BLET certificate, a NC driver's license, and have completed requirements established by the NC Justice Training and Standards Commission for certified law enforcement officers. Salary \$37,356.80 - \$56,076.80 based on experience. Must be able to work a rotating shift, this includes days, nights and weekends. Please submit a Town of Highlands application to the HR Director, Emilie Nickerson, at Town Hall or email emilie.nickerson@highlandscnc.org. Open Until filled. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (7/28)

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS CIVIC CENTER ATTENDANT JOB AD - The Town of Highlands has an opening for Civic Center Attendant through the Rec Park. This is a set schedule of Monday - Friday 1:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. This employee is responsible for closing the Civic Center and providing services to the public such as; customer service, receiving monies, scheduling meeting rooms for civic events, community club meetings or other gatherings. Work includes creating rental contracts, well as taking the money for the rentals. The employee is also responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the facility and grounds and that it is free of safety hazards. This is a full time job with benefits including health insurance, dental and state retirement. The pay range starts at \$15.00/hr. Applications are available at Town Hall or on-line at <http://www.highlandscnc.org>. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (7/28)

PART TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT - The Bascom M-F 10 am - 2pm \$16-\$20 / hour depending on experience. This position provides general administrative support to the development function of The Bascom, and includes handling daily correspondence with donors, including producing gift acknowledgments and solicitation mailings, as well as daily updating of our constituent data base (Bloomerang). This position also handles inquiries from our constituents, providing prompt, thorough and accurate information. The full

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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job posting can be found at TheBascom.org Please submit, via email, resume and cover letter to: Karin Peterson, Executive Director kpeterson@thebascom.org (st. 7/21)

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)

ESTABLISHED CUSTOM HOMEBUILDER IN HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS AREA looking for project superintendent to manage multiple sites and subcontractors. Please send resume to: JW Underwood Construction LLC, P.O. Box 147, Highlands NC 29741. Or email: john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com (st. 6/30)

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)

DOMESTIC IRONING – Needed In Highlands. Pick up and return when finished. Call Dottie Butler at 941-735-8996. Leave message. (st. 6/19)

MCCULLEY'S IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS is seeking full- and part-time help. Inquire at 828-200-0928. (st. 6/9)

SWEETREATS AND HIGHLANDS DELI IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT and is hiring full and part time staff for the season. Competitive starting wage, great tips, and reasonable hours (not too early, not too late). Pick up an application in store at 115 S. 4th Street or apply on Sweettreatshighlands.com. (st. 5/19)

WOLFGANG'S BISTRO is looking for full-time prep and line cook and waitstaff. Evenings only. Call Jacques at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/17)

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COUNSELING CENTER OF HIGHLANDS is seeking additional therapists. Looking for a place where you can build or add to your private practice, provide mental health care to those in need, and be part of a counseling center that is dedicated to the behavioral health needs of all members of the community regardless of ability to pay? Our Center is looking for licensed therapists who share this mission and YOU may be one. If you are interested – or just want to learn more about the Center – let us know by sending an introductory email with your resume to info@counseling-center.org. We look forward to hearing from you. **REQUIREMENTS:** Master's Degree or higher in counseling, psychology or related field; Licensed in North Carolina in related discipline/s; Must have a minimum of 2 years of experience as clinician; Flexibility, creativity, and a spirit of collaboration; Along with full-pay, willing to see clients-in-need at a reduced fee; Counseling Center will reimburse the difference between reduced fee up to \$75. **PREFERRED:** Strong Clinical skills, including areas of assessment; diagnosis; crisis & case management; Independent decision-making skills; Experience and desire to lead workshops and/or groups as outreach to the Highlands community **CRITICAL NEED FOR THE AREA:** Specialty in Substance Abuse; Bilingual (Spanish & English)(st. 4/7)

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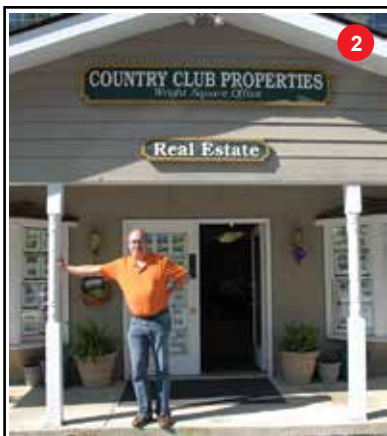
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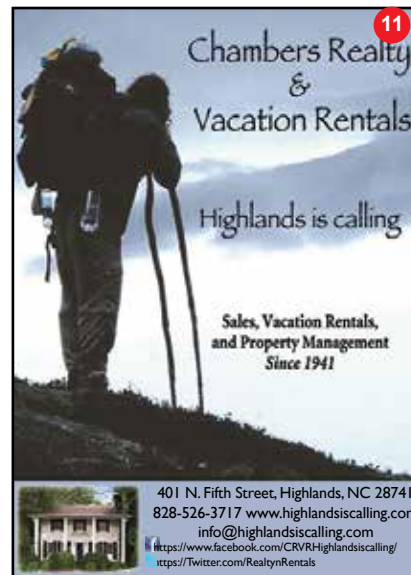
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Julie Osborn
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