

Volume 19, Number 27

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

Thurs., July 7 2022

Mother and son burned in explosion

Two weeks ago, when the word went out that a badly burned 12-year-old boy was airlifted to the burn center in Augusta, GA, every family in Highlands wondered who it was. All too soon verification was made.

On Thursday, June 23, Barrett McKim, a science buff was conducting an experiment to change the color of different rocks and fool's gold, when the alcohol he was heating up on a Bunsen burner caused the apparatus to blow up.

> Luckily, he was wearing safety • See BURNED page 15

Catching some rays!



This healthy looking guy is clearly comfortable and right at home lounging in the front yard of Rachel Friday's and Jeff Schenck.'s Mirror Lake home.

– Photo by Rachel Friday

114 N. 4th Street Highlands, NC

• INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

Mayor on Duty	
Weather	
Dining	
Obituary	
Investing at 4,118 Ft	
Letters	

2Events122Spiritually Speaking186-7Police & Fire Reports197Classifieds208Service Directory2010

MC Commission said 'no' to the library but the community said 'yes'

By Brittney Lofthouse

When the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the 2022-'23 budget, they did not include a funding request from the Macon County Public Library to provide raises for library employees.

Although Macon County Commission Vice-Chair Ronnie Beale asked his fellow board members to honor the full funding increase requested by the library — which would cover an increase in operational costs and \$20,000 specifically for employee salaries, the board failed to support Beale's request.

In addition to not supporting the library's request to provide increased funding for library staff salaries, Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon spoke out against the library's request specifically stating that he would not support the funding request because of a Pride Month display that was located at the library during the month of June.

"If you want to celebrate divisive things like gay pride or whatever, then do it, but do it on private property," said Macon County Commissioner Paul Higdon at a June 7 budget work session. "I cannot support increased funding to an agency with those displays."

The Macon County Public Library System is comprised of three libraries, the Macon County Public Library, the Nantahala Library, and the Hudson Library in Highlands. Each year, the Macon County Board of Commissioners allocates just over \$1 million for these three libraries in the annual budget. In the past 10 years, the Macon County Board of Commissioner's budget allocation has been increased by 5 percent, • See LIBRARY page 17

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Hurricanes continue to break records

Submitted

On Thursday, June 30, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to Franklin to compete with FAST (Franklin Area Swim Team). Highlands outscored Franklin 12 pts per swimmer vs. Franklin's 6 pts per swimmer but lost 896-369 because of the Franklin's much larger team – 135 swimmers vs. 30 swimmers.

The team was led by team high scorer and Jr. Olympian Aniah McKim who scored 24 pts. and won 3 events. McKim also broke the team and MSL (Mtn Swim League) record in the 100 butterfly.

Scoring team members were: Jr. Olympians Justin Powell and Jasmine Abranyi who scored 22 and 21; Abranyi won 3 events, Powell 2. Alex Lopez won 2 events and

scored 21; Jr. Olympic qualifier • See HURRICANES page 4

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ATEAU'S POSIT IC'S VIEW•

With budget and Comp Plan, we are set

n a special meeting this past Thursday the High-Lands Town Board passed the Highlands Comprehensive Community Plan in a 4 to 1 vote. I wish the vote had been unanimous, but unanimous votes on big items like this plan and yearly budgets don't seem to be possible.

I appreciate Commissioners Dotson, Patterson, Pierson and Stiehler for voting yes and

thereby endorsing the Highlands Comprehensive Community Plan. As I stated at the meeting, this plan did not originate from the commissioners nor the staff. It was a product produced by the people and community stakeholders of Highlands. The Stewart Company and its experts led the community in developing this comprehensive plan over an almost 2-year period. It will serve as a guiding document in future policy decisions adopted by town leadership.

There was a sense of immediacy in voting for this plan on June 31. Under state mandate municipalities had to July 1 to approve a comprehensive community plan. Failure to approve the comprehensive plan would have jeopardized Highlands'



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.



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

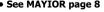
ordinances. While some folks may have liked to see zoning ordinances go away, I believe zoning has been keystone for planned and controlled development in Highlands for over 50 years. I am glad we didn't compromise our zoning history by failing to approve the comprehensive plan.

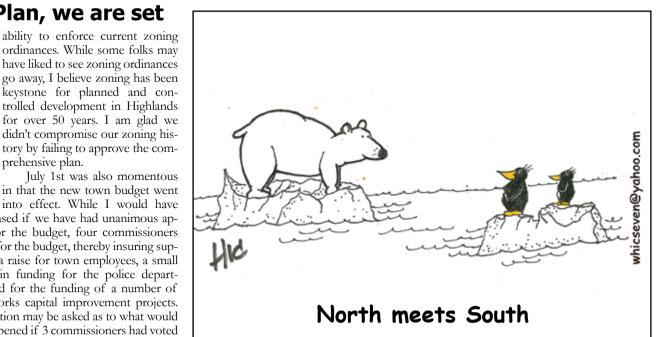
July 1st was also momentous in that the new town budget went into effect. While I would have

been pleased if we have had unanimous approval for the budget, four commissioners did vote for the budget, thereby insuring support for a raise for town employees, a small increase in funding for the police department, and for the funding of a number of public works capital improvement projects. The question may be asked as to what would have happened if 3 commissioners had voted against the new budget. This question is not that farfetched. In the last two county budgets the vote has been three commissioners for approval and two against.

If Highlands had failed at June Town Board meeting to approve the current budget, a budget that had been in development with commissioner involvement since February, the default position would have been to continue town operations at the levels of the previous budget. That default position would have consequences, for instance no employee pay increases, no capital improvements like new sidewalks, paving roads, needed equipment replacement, and no water and sewer system upgrades. The state requires that the Town Manager submit a balanced budget to the Town Board in every May. Failure of the board to take action on approving a budget is not an option in my opinion.

At the special meeting last Thursday a public hearing was held concerning the proposed comprehensive community plan. Several citizens speaking at the hearing took that opportunity to comment about shortterm rentals. Changes to ordinances related to short-term rentals will again be presented at a special meeting on July 14, at 6 pm, at the Highlands Community Building. These changes will then be sent to the Highlands Planning Board for review at their regular meeting on July 25th. At a later date, the Town Board will set a hearing for the proposed changes. At that hearing, the public • See MAYIOR page 8







Thu, 7-Jul	Fri, 8-Jul	Sat, 9-Jul	Sun, 10-Jul
82°F 67°F	83°F 65°F		
Humid with a heavy	Mostly cloudy with a	A thunderstorm	An afternoon
t-storm	t-storm		thunderstorm
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High [.] 90 Low: 73°	High: 91° Low: 70°	High: 84° Low: 69°	High: 82° Low: 69°

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Thank you

to everyone who made our Independence Day Celebration a spectacular success!

Music –

The Business Highlands Bagpipers Silly Ridge Trio Southern Highland Band The Swingin' Richards

Food & Entertainment – East Coast Pyrotechnics First Baptist Youth Group Highlands Fire & Rescue Highlands Wreaths Across America Mission Health Mountain Area Medical Airlift (MAMA) Rotary Club of Highlands Town of Highlands Recreation Department

> Keeping Us Safe – Highlands Police Department

Thanks for a fun-filled weekend!

OF HAPI

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THEHEIGHT



Welcome Center 108 Main Street Highlands, NC 28741 828.526.5841

...HURRICANES continued from page 1



Blake Kenter scored 20 and won an event; Jr. Olympians Jack Sumner, Chase Kenter and Conner Hughes scored 18, 17, and 17, respectively; Sumner and Kenter each won an event.

Max Jestin, Jr Olympians Finneaus Garner, Corena Dearth, and Lilliana Jandera-Chambless each brought home 15 pts; Jandera-Chambless won 2 events, Garner and Jestin each 1.

Emilina Hernandez brought home 14.5 pts and a blue ribbon; Chris and Elizabeth Burnette, 14; Elizabeth finished first in an event.

Nikita Denisoff scored 13; Jr. Olympian Paolo McRae brought home 12; Ian Batista 11; Luke Highsmith and Jayce Powell each scored 10; Eli Highsmith 9; Mamie Pfohl, Mason Johnson, and Bella Batista each scored 7, Asa Garner 6; William Burnette 5; Penelope McRae 4.5; Elizabeth Dodge 4; and Valerie Nadzorau 1.

The next swim meet will be at home on Thursday, July 7 at 6 pm. The Hurricanes will host SMAC (Smoky Mtn Aquatics Club) from Waynesville, and CCAC (Cherokee County Aquatics Club) from Murphy.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool.

The only requirement to join the team is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards, one length of the Recreation Park Pool, unassisted. For more information, please call Head Coach Steve Hott at 828.421.4121.



Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival CONCERTS: JULY 8-11

Friday, July 8 – 6 PM, Highlands | Saturday, July 9 – 5 PM, Cashiers "CelloMania"

Sara Sant'Ambrogio, Charae Krueger, Martin Gueorguiev, Guang Wang, Jesús Castro-Balbi, Khari Joyner, Philip Jeong

Sunday, July 10 - 5 PM, Highlands | Monday, July 11 - 5 PM, Cashiers "Champagne & Chopin" Julie Coucheron, piano; Alice Hong, violin; Charae Krueger, cello

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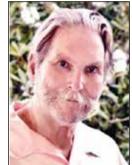
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Robert Morse Tietze



Robert Morse Tietze, 84, passed away Wednesday June 29, 2022. He was born January 22, 1938, in New York, NY to the late Robert Andre' Tietze and Nancy Hooper Tietze. Robert was a salesman in the medical/ pharmaceutical industry. He loved his country and was a U.S. Army Veteran. He has been visiting Highlands since 1971 and made Highlands his home. He was a member of Highlands First Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Gideons. He enjoyed skiing until he turned 80. He was a graduate of Coral Gables High School and a graduate of the University of Miami.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Phyllis Tietze. a daughter, Kristina Allen of Chapin, SC. Grandchildren: Sarah Allen (Stephen Johnson), Amanda Hudson (Burns), Megan Hampton (Jon) and Great-Grandchildren, Ana White and Taylor Baynham; and a daughter-in-law, Faye Tietze.

In addition to his parents, Robert is preceded in death by son Kevin Tietze.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory will be serving the Tietze family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com



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'The Masters' of Real Estate Investment

"Golf is the only game I know of that actually becomes harder the longer you play it" (Bobby Jones)

I ve always been enamored by The Masters. The whole aura of Augusta National and what it stands for speaks to me. There's a decorum that surrounds The Masters. Etiquette while you're on the grounds of The National and respect for the players and patrons is not only paramount to the experience, but it continues as the founding mission of Robert Tyre Jones, Jr. and the entire leader-

ship team of Augusta National. Meanwhile, The Masters has managed to grow its brand by embracing change, diversity, and cultural shifts. They do things with class and dignity. Today I make my case that the Highlands and Cashiers area is "The Masters" of Real Estate investment opportunity.

The same principles which are the bedrock of The Masters can be seen and felt in our mountain community. "Progress with Preservation" is what Mayor Pat Taylor always says as he and the Town Board wrestle with important issues and growth. In case you haven't noticed, people want to be here and in ever increasing numbers. I say, who wouldn't want to be here! It's a place the beckons etiquette, decorum, and good manners.

Augusta National is hallowed ground. I was there when Tiger won his first Masters in 1997 and I was there when Tiger won his last one in 2019. The greenery, the creeks, the azaleas, the tall pines, and the egg-salad sandwiches all captivated me then just as they do now. Enter Highlands and Cashiers. The sheer beauty of our mountain faces and trails, free flowing rivers and streams, native trees and plants, and yes, the friendliest people on the planet.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

can address the proposed STR changes.

Some folks have told me that a compromise needs to be found concerning shortterm rentals. So far, there has been criticism from all sides of the issue directed toward town commissioners. If there is a compromise to be found, I urge organizations like Save Highlands, the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, the Realtors of Highlands, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, town merchants and the tourist advocates.



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At The Masters, you're prohibited from carrying cell phones or any electronic device on the property. If you want the distinction of getting kicked out of Augusta National, try smuggling your cell phone through the gates. While that policy would not fly in Highlands, I would challenge you to try it sometime. Ditch the cell phone the next time you go fly fishing or play a round of golf. You will become instantly more "present" in the moment, exactly like you are at The Masters. And it wouldn't hurt much

for the kids to do a little less screen time, and a little more stream time.

Speaking of golf, it's a beautiful sport that takes place in beautiful places, just like life in Highlands and Cashiers. At its core, golf is about relationships, as is life in Cashiers and Highlands. The Masters Champion is always honored after the tournament by sitting around the fireplace in Butler Cabin with Jim Nance, Sir Nick Faldo, and the previous year's Champion. They talk about life, golf, and experiences. They respect and love one another. They shake hands and hug in a congratulatory manner. Now what's more Highlands and Cashiers than sitting around a fireplace with good friends and family celebrating the simpleness of just being here.

Highlands, North Carolina... C'mon Up!

• Pat Gleeson, Bee Gleeson, Christal Green and Gemma are proud to be a team of "Helpers" and Real Estate Brokers at Highlands-Sotheby's International Realty in downtown Highlands (Kitty Corner from Old Edwards Inn). You can reach all of us at 828.526.8300. Please stop by for coffee and conversation.

or any nonprofit group to come together, or put forth unilaterally, a proposed compromise concerning short-term rentals.

In short, what does the Save Highlands group see as a compromise position that the town should approve? What is the position of the Neighborhood Coalition, etc.? As mayor I am open to receive proposed compromises. My only requirement is to share any compromise for full public review.





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Protect your freedom and rights by making your voice heard

Dear Editor,

Having just celebrated the Fourth of July, otherwise known as Independence Day, I feel compelled to write about what that truly means to individuals in this country. I found a very good definition:" Freedom is often associated with liberty and autonomy in the sense of "giving oneself their own laws", and with having rights and the civil liberties with which to exercise them without undue interference by the state."

The ongoing short-term rental debacle and controversy was created by a few disgruntled homeowners who don't like "noisy renters" and a few who say we are losing the "neighborhood feeling." The original



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objectors bought homes in neighborhoods WITHOUT HOAs (homeowners associations, which would have restrictive covenants and would allow the homeowners to establish a board to make decisions regarding rentals, expansions, architectural guidelines, etc. in efforts to maintain the integrity of their neighborhoods and protect their home values.)

Those who choose to buy in a neighborhood with no HOA or restrictive covenants in place accept the risk of homeowners being allowed to do as they choose with their properties. These areas, therefore, are not restricted, and the neighborhoods of Satulah, Dog Mountain, and the Bowery Road area want the local government to control them. That should not happen. It affects ALL the homeowners, restricting what they can and cannot do with their own homes. They already have the right to call local law enforcement for any loud noise or disturbances they encounter.

To restrict or ban short-term rentals is certainly government intrusion of homeowners' personal rights...the rights they had when they purchased their homes initially, whether 40 years ago or 1 year ago. Government-imposed restrictions start leading us all down a path that will have no dead end. Should we restrict days that certain zones can buy groceries because someone complains there are too many cars in Bryson's parking lot? It seems absurd but so does telling people what they are allowed to do with their own homes.

Now, the commissioners, with the exception of one, suddenly and without notification to the public, voted to ban R2 short-term rentals at the last minute prior to a meeting and added it to the new UDO

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(Unified Development Ordinance). The mayor happens to live in R2 zoning. After the vote and the mayor's article stating that "the board made the right decision" to restrict short term rentals and not allow new ones, it was discovered that due to a procedural error on the town's part this controversy must start over again on the taxpaver's dollar. The planning board will be asked to make recommendations again and the last time this happened one member, who was the treasurer of Keep the Mayor on Duty Political Action Committee, said: "I want STRs banned in ALL zones!" They compromised to a 2 week minimum that has since changed again to 30 days. One of the town's attorneys resigned when this controversy occurred. Politics should play no role here. I encourage all of you who want to maintain your rights to attend the town meeting on STRs (date to be announced) or at least let the mayor or any commissioner know you object to this government intrusion on your rights.

When the original complaints started, there was a "hurried up" Zoom meeting that most were not aware of and it was not open for discussion from the public. All but one of the commissioners voted to BAN shortterm rentals in R1 zoning areas. Those of us who watched couldn't believe what we heard. When the town commissioners realized the furor they created, attorneys were hired to sort through it all. So far thousands have been spent on legal fees caused by the board's decision to restrict homeowners' rights. All because a few neighbors wouldn't call law enforcement to knock on the door and tell the noisemakers to quiet down.

For those who are sitting back thinking since this is "In Town" and doesn't affect you, you should realize that it affects us ALL. Restaurants, shops, and real estate will be deeply impacted. The damage has already begun. Jobs of those who clean houses, remodel houses, landscape yards, and all plumbers and electricians will all be affected. This will place a huge financial burden on our town. What happens to those who purchased homes and are now in the process of remodeling to rent them? They will not be allowed to rent them after spending thousands of dollars to improve them. Your rights should not be controlled by the local government.

The silent majority will not win this battle. Protect your freedom and rights by making your voice heard. Let freedom ring and independence prevail.

Pat Allen Highlands • See LETTERS page 14

Highlands Newspaper - Thurs., July 7, 2022 - 828-200-1371 - Page 11



Pat Allen

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ANDS AREA EVENTS.

NEW Rec Pool Schedule:

 Public Swim: Mon.-Thurs. IIa-7p; Fri. & Sat. IIa-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 Sto-

rytime 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.



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.

Ist 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.

Saturdavs

· 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.

Through July 24

• The Mountain Theatre Company's production of Jersey Boys, the story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons at The Playhouse on Oak Street. Wednesday - Saturday @ 7:30p and Saturday & Sunday @ 2p. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Thurs., July 7

• At The Bascom, 4pm-5pm Talk and Reception: Ceramics Artists Instructors Takuro and Hitomi Shibata FREE.

Sat., July 9

· At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Theresa Forman Art Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Theresa greatly enjoys drawing inspiration from life where she can observe both the colors and subtle nuances in the landscape or in a still life. Working primarily in oils, she uses the Plein Air studies and photo-

graphic references to produce studio pieces that reveal the harmony found in nature. (828) 787-1877.

At Potpoourri., Krewe Evewear Trunk Show from 11a to 5p.

· Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit K-H Founders Park at the park. Doors open at 5p and Dinner is at 6p. Rain or Shine, \$70/person. Live music. Tickets are available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

Sun.-Sun.. July 10-17

 The Village Green 6th biennial Plein Air Festival, Featuring over 20 professional artists painting throughout the community. The art will be displayed in Lewis Hall and the gallery is open to the public (free admission) from Thurs., July 14 - Sun., July 17. A portion of the art sales benefits The Village Green. For a full schedule of events please visit the Easels on the Green website: www.easlesonthegreen.com.

Tues., July 13

 HCCMF presents, in collaboration with OEI, a special concert entitled Martinis & Mozart featuring the Ulysses String Quartet at 5:30p at The Orchard House at Old Edwards Farm. An hors d'oeuvre reception will precede the performance, with a cash bar available. Tickets are \$75 each. for reservations call (828) 526-9060 or emailing hccmfnc@gmail.com.

Thurs., July 14

· Special Town Board meeting to consider changes to the STR ordinances passed at the May Town Board meeting at 6 pm, in the Highlands Community Building.

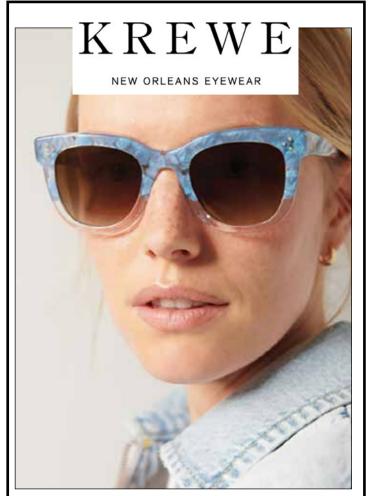
Fri., July 15

• At The Bascom, Collector's Talk with Kirk Moore: Sense of Place, One Person's Travels Through the Southern Imaginary Landscape at 3p. FREE

 In K-H Founders Park, a fundraiser for The Literacy & Learning Center 4-8 p.m.. Live Music, Cash bar, Food Truck. All proceeds to benefit The Literacy & Learning Center.

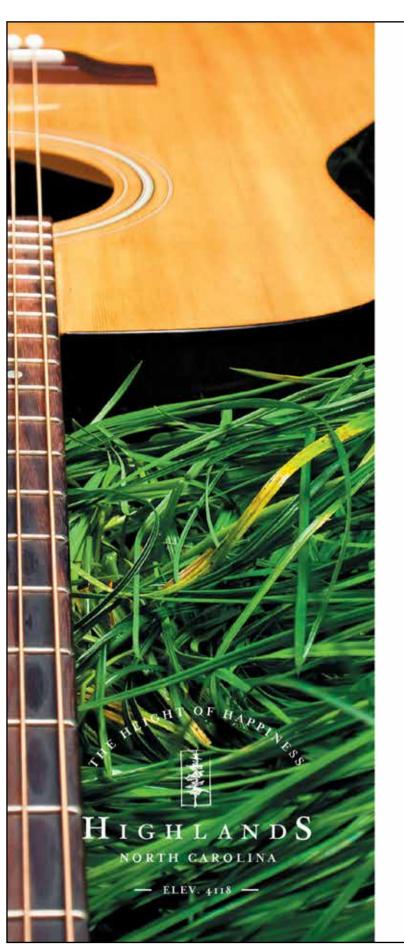
Sat., July 16

 At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Carol Misner Art Trunk Show featuring Carol Misner's botanical paintings, 10a to 5p. Each piece is her unique interpretation of the flora, in monochromatic tones, reflecting the simple beauty, gracefulness, and fragility of the botanical it portrays. (828) 787-1877.



Trunk Show Saturday, July 9 • 11a to 5p at **Potpourri Eyewear** 376 Main Street Highlands, NC 28741 828.526.8886

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Outdoor Concert Series

Each Friday and Saturday night from May through October, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC hosts live music downtown.

Join us for our July concerts!

All shows take place from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

JULY 8 The Foxfire Boys

JULY 15 Leadfoot Lily

JULY 22 Johnny Webb Band

> JULY 29 Byrds & Crows

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

JULY 9 Back Porch Orchestra

> JULY 16 The Wobblers

JULY 23 Russ Wilson and His Famous Orchestra

> JULY 30 Bill Mattocks



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66 Highlands Plaza (across from Bryson's Food Store)



...LETTERS continued from page 10

The Historical Society museum is a `must see' gem

Dear Editor,

Wondering if life could be better anywhere than here in Highlands? I spent Saturday night at Kelsey Hutchinson Park, church service Sunday, Rotary hot dogs Monday and fireworks celebrating the 4th. Yes, living in Highlands year around is stress free and I count my blessing to call Highlands home.

I guess being a year around resident gets you more involved with the community and I am honored this year to be the president of Highlands Historical Society.

My first thoughts were what unbelievable leadership was involved over the years to purchase the Prince House and move



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the original library to the current site. Fast forward over 30 years later and HHS has a great museum and the oldest residence in Highlands, the Prince House, built in 1877.

We are at mid-year and proud to have eight, great new exhibits featuring the gems of Highlands Culture at our museum. This year we have enhanced the museum lighting, repaired and painted the Prince House windows, dedicated the Ran Shaffner plaque, had two sessions for Kelsey Kids and now are focused on our annual fundraiser, "Big Hats, Bow Ties" on a beautiful site on Kettle Rock to be held August 7.

Big Hats, Bow Ties is arguably the most enjoyable fundraiser and certainly the most unique. I am very humbled for the generous support from the sponsors of this annual fundraiser that enables HHS to operate and contribute to our town. Planning and focus is in the works for the Dahlia Festival that has grown to be one of the special weekends in Highlands the first weekend in September.

The only issue I have is I would love to see more visitors at our museum, and I have discovered that many of our citizens have not been to the museum in years. Pam Meister, director of Mountain Heritage WCU, who has worked with HHS on the exhibits, believes HHS is a great small town museum so I encourage you to come visit. The museum operates 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Thursday - Saturday from Memorial weekend through October.

Harry McDonald Highlands



Andrea is top 15% of Brokers on MLS Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is the #1 producing office on the



...BURNED from page 1

goggles, but the explosion ignited the synthetic shirt he was wearing and then traveled the length of his body.

His mother, Caroline, tried to tear his shirt off as it was burning. She has second- and third-degree burns on her hands and is also being treated at the burn center.

"She was more concerned about her son than anything else," husband and father Kyle McKim said.

Barrett has second- and third-degree burns on his neck, torso, arms, hands and thighs – basically 50% of his body – which will require multiple surgeries involving skin grafts.

According to Assistant Fire Chief Robbie Forrester, at 4 p.m., when Highlands Fire & Rescue responded to the home on Historic Highlands Drive, they found his parents had wrapped Barrett in a cold, wet towel.

"He was panicked and scared," Forrester said. "But he was being brave."

Highlands first-responders put Barrett into an ambulance with his mother and drove them to a waiting MAMA helicopter. Together they were flown to the burn center in Georgia.

"He's big into any kind of science experiment," his father said. "It's something that he's always loved. It was just kind of a freak accident. It wasn't like he was doing anything stupid. He has conducted similar experiments in the past and is always responsible."

Doctors initially told his parents that he would be in the hospital for at least a month.

He is in "intense pain," his father said. "It's scary, and you want nothing more than to come up with a solution so that your child doesn't have to go through a pain like that."

A GoFundMe has been set up to collect donations to help the family financially while they work through their son's recovery.

Though it will be a long road, • See BURNED page 19

Summertime at Diva's on Main



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Photos by Kim Lewicki

...LIBRARY continued from page 1



The \$30,000 raised by 280 citizens will be used to give employiees a raise .On average employees will receive a .60 cent an hour raise – so for employees making \$10.50 an hour, they will now be making \$11.10."I think more than even getting the raise, seeing how much the community appreciates them has meant so much to the staff," said Macon County Public Library Director Karen Wallace. – Photo by Bobby Coggins

while inflation has increased by more than 15 percent. The employees of these three public libraries, 27 total full-time and parttime employees, have not seen any sort of raise, or even a cost-of-living adjustment in the county's allocation within that 10 years.

The display Higdon opposed was a three-tiered shelf in the central section of the library featuring a dozen or so books, a small sign in a plastic stand and informational materials.

Commissioner Higdon said he had not visited the library and had not seen the display nor had he talked to any library employees or Library Director Karen Wallace to share his concerns prior to his opposition in providing an increase in funding for the public library.

In the original budget proposal, Macon County had \$1.1 million allocated for the three public libraries in the county, which amounted to around a \$52,000 increase over the year before. Commissioner Beale said the \$20,000 would get the county's funding closer to the library's initial request of \$1.15 million, which would keep up with the inflation rate.

He proposed the \$20,000 could come out of the county's contingency fund.

Higdon pushed back on any increase in funding for the library.

"I'm having a hard time allocating an increase to a publicly funded institution that supports a display that's so divisive in our community," Higdon said.

Beale said while he's "not so sure I don't agree with that," a single display is not enough reason to withhold a potential salary increase from library employees.

Despite dozens of calls from the public during a June 14 budget work session to provide funding for library staff, most of whom make around \$10 per hour, county commissioners approved the budget without the additional \$20,000 for salaries.

In the days following the commissioner's decision, members of the community began working together to raise the funds through donations.

The Macon County Public Library is a non-profit, so donations to the library are tax deductible. Within about a week of launching a local initiative to raise the \$20,000 for library staff, a dozen or so community members not only reached the \$20,000, but surpassed it. On Tuesday afternoon a check for \$30,000 was presented to the Macon County Public Library.







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• Spiritually Speaking •



Constitutional Convention June 28,1787

Pastor Dan Robinson Highlands Central Baptist Church

Chursday was embroiled in a bitter debate over how each state was to be represented in the new government. The hostile feelings created by the smaller states being pitted against the larger states was so bitter that some delegates actually left the Convention."

Benjamin Franklin arose to address the Convention in this moment of crisis.

"In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor.

"To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance?

"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without His aid?"

(Americas God and Country. William J Federer pp150-151).

I am writing this article on July 5. One day after not only a National Celebration of our Independence, but one day after yet another mass killing in Chicago-Land.

In light of this tragedy (seemingly following in a long stream of national tragedies) we ask these searching questions:

• Are we not still sensible of danger?

• Ought we not continue praying daily for protection?

• Have we not also observed time after time God's Superintending Providence in our favor?

• Do we not still have the opportunity for peace in our nation?

• Do we not need His aid now more than ever?

I hope that you answered "Yes" to all the questions.

God Himself has made an incredible promise regarding

how He would act on a national scale. It is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14 and reads like this;

If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land"

I think you would agree that our Nation desperately needs God's help. He is willing.

Would you examine your relationship with Jesus Christ? Do you have a personal relationship with Him?

Would you commit to praying daily for America? Would you do everything politically possible to foster

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5 ● PLACES TO WORSHIP ●

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Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship I Ia & 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 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 SYNAGOĞUE** 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. noon; 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

John 3:16

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• Police & Fire Reports •

Highlands Police entries from June 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 12

• At 2:18 a.m., Gabriel Colton Taylor, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI. He was issued an unsecured \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Aug. 10.

June 15

• At 9:28 p.m., Angel Renteria Galvez, 35, of Russellville, TN, was arrested for DUI when he was stopped on NC 106.He was issued an unsecured \$1,000 bond. His trial date is Sept. 7.

June 23

•At 4 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 28. lune 28

• At 8:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

• At 7:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street. lune 30

• At 1:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road.

• At 9:07 p.m., the dept. conducted a search on the Blue Valley side of the Glen Falls Trail.

July I

• At 4:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a location on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 2:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Morewood Road.

July 3

• At 1:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 2:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Hill Drive.

• At 2:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

July 4

• At 7:06 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Lane.

• At 11:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Blue Valley Road.

• At 5:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.





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Lulu & You



...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

civility and peace in our Nation? Would you remember that we have a powerful Friend who promises that He will draw near to

those who draw near to Him? Thank God for America! May

He bless you and continue to bless America from sea to shining sea.

...BURNED continued from page 15

Kyle said he expects his son, who is one of five children, to recover. And he hopes that his passion for science will endure.

After initial care, Caroline can move her fingers on her left hand but can't move her fingers on her right hand though one thumb is working.

"She has become an expert using it," said her sister-in-law Millie.

Like Barrett, she has more surgeries ahead of her.

Kyle said despite the catastrophe, he thinks Barrett will continue to have a love for science. "We will certainly encourage it," he said.

Barrett also enjoys archery, fishing and plays the piano and violin.

Pushing through the pain, Barrett got up and walked six times the other day.

"He is determined, but the battles are continuous, painful and difficult," said his uncle Stephen Schlautman.

Barrett is the second-born of Kyle and Caroline's five children.

This story will continue to be updated.

- Kim Lewicki

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WANTED TO RENT single-car garage. Long term. 850-376-3904. Leave message. (st. 6/23)

HOUSE TO RENT SHORT OR LONG-TERM. 2 adults,. No pets, no smoiking. Highlands Mary Elizabeth Reese. 828-200-7851. (st. 6/23)

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NC 29741. Or email: john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com (st. 6/30) SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL IS HIR-

ING 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 HIGHLANDSAND CA-SHIERS is seeking full- and part-time help. Inquire at 828-200-0928. (st. 6/9)

MINISTRY STAFF POSITION AVAIL-ABLE. Highlands United Methodist Church is looking to hire a dedicated, enthusiastic and gifted Christian leader to serve as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Please contact Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas at randyhumc@icloud.com. (6/23)

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 Sweetreatshighlands. com. (st. 5/19)

THE DRY SINK IS HIRING! We have several entry level positions open. We are fun, fast-paced, hard working, and we love our customers! If you love to cook or just enjoy helping folks, pop by for an application at 450 Main St. Highlands, or email Sam at shays@ thedrysink.com. We are open 7 days at week, 10a-5p Monday-Saturday and 1-5p Sundays. (st. 5/5)

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

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22





HIGHLANDS INN - Now hiring Guest service representatives 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)

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. <u>PREFERRED</u>: 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 <u>CRITICAL NEED FOR THE</u> <u>AREA</u>: Specialty in Substance Abuse; Bilingual (Spanish & English)(st. 4/7)

HIGHLANDS PHARMACY has full and part-time positions open for a Certified Pharmacy Technician and a clerk/merchandiser. No nights, no Sundays, and great co-workers. Pay and benefits determined by position, qualifications, & experience. Apply in person or contact Sherry Sims 828-526-2366. (st. 4/7)

CHURCH PIANIST NEEDED IN CASHIERS, NC. A church is interested in hiring a capable pianist as worship leader, immediately. High hourly pay. Respond to Molly @ 828-507-5153 or christanglicancashiers@yahoo.com

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

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Finished lower level. Mirror lake area. Close to ...on the verandah. Great getaway or rental property. \$449,000. Bring offers. Call 800-200-0094. (st. 6/9)

LAND FOR SALE – By Owners. 3.2 acres. \$50,000. Call 828-342-4911 or 828-526-2289 (st. 5/26)

LOT FOR SALE: .40 acres in peaceful Highlands View community, located just 10 minutes from Main Street Highlands off Hwy 28. Community water may be available upon approval. Offered at \$30,000. For more information, call or email Jerry Moore at 828-482-2032 or ejmoorejr@yahoo.com. (6/2)

NEW 2 STORY HOUSE, big garage on 3.14 acres land, water, sewage, WI-Fi, AC, private paved road, mountain view. (st. 10/7)

SERVICES

CAREGIVER /SITTER – Highlands resident, 22 yrs. medical background. Available after June 24, 2022. Please call and leave message with name and telephone number. Call 828-399-0262. (st. 5/26)

<u>INSTALL TILE!</u> Eco-Friendly & Non-Toxic, Specializing in Shower/ Bathroom, Kitchen/ Backsplash, Entrance Ways/Patios/Flooring. 25yrs experience. Also offer grout cleaning. Licensed & Insured. Mike Bertone/Owner of Bertone Tile Design & Flooring LLC. Home: 828-526-4943 or Text: 321-303-7560. (st. 5/12)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free estimates. Insured. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (9/22)

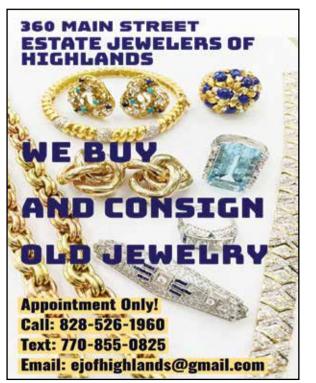
STOP PAYING AGENCY PRICES – Call me! Private, Personal and Professional caregiver, companion or sitter. I am available to work with each clients needs, days and hours. 828-507-1692. (st. 9/30)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED ORANYTHING HAULEDAWAY? I can do it. Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (4/28)

CNA/EMT Dependable, knowledgeable, dedicated to my clients. Stop paying agency prices and call me. Franklin, NC 407-325-0920. (st. 1/28)

GUTTER CLEANING, METAL <u>ROOF & FABRICATON</u> roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 828-371-1103. (st. 9/17/20)

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





Ryan M. Bears

Branch Leader Cell: 803-271-5426 Office: 828-526-8784 ryan.bears@allentate.com





Classifieds:

\$6 for 10 words, 20 cents for each additional word \$2 for color block \$5 for graphic.

Business Service ads

\$20 for BW \$25 for color

Highlands Newspaper - Thurs., July 7, 2022 - 828-200-1371 - Page 23



