

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 19, Number 20

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Thurs., May 19 2022

Proposed UDO says STRs are to be allowed in Highlands

New STRs in R1 are prohibited; those in existence are grandfathered

Highlands has been waiting with bated breath for the Town Board to make its decision regarding the continuation of Short-term Rentals in town. 5 p.m. Thursday, May 19, prior to the regular Town Board meeting There is a closed session at

• See STRs page 4

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Congratulations Highlands School Class of 2022!



Class of 2022 graduates: Hayley Borino, Bella Branham, Reese Brewer, Olivia Chidsey, Alexandra Clark, Jedidiah Clark, Wyatt Clark, Madalynne Coen, Dylan Cortez-Villanueva, Ella Crook, Russell Dalton, Karla Diaz-Ovando, Kaitlyn Doerter, Mark Dyleski, Dayana Factor Hernandez, Daniel Figueroa Pena, Colton Gibson, Davis Ingate, Liam Kennedy, Ruth Mendoza Hernandez, Emma Minton, Brandon Moss, Cody Nastasic, Kaylee Oakley, Jeffrey Olvera Lopez, Frances Ortiz Figueroa, Taylor Rickert, Ava Schmitt, Julia Schmitt, Reese Schmitt, Talmadge Shuler, Haley Small, Seth Staffelbach, Julio Tapia Valerio, Mason Taylor, Madison Webb, Brandy Zagal Damian and mascots Rylee Bryson and Noah Green. Graduation is Sat. May 21 at 10 a.m. See more about graduates on page 12.

Packed race reveals winners

Holbrooks is Sheriff, Shearl to face off with Moore, Reps. Antoine and Shields to face off Dems; Rep. Cawthorn loses re-election bid

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Macon County Board of Commission races featured three seats, one in District I and two in District II. In District I, John Shearl secured the Republican nominee with 4,046 – 58.61 percent. Shearl will now go to the November General Election where he will face off against Highlands resident Jerry Moore, who will appear on the ballot as an Independent candidate. If Shearl is elected, it would be the first time in decades that the District I representative of Macon County did not reside within the Highlands Township.

Macon County Board of Commissioner District II had two seats up for grabs with political newcomer Danny Antoine receiving 3,899 votes and serving as the top-vote getter for the Republican nominee. Incumbent Gary Shields received 3,057 votes, which accounted for 27.18 percent

of the vote. While Shields was the second top-vote getter for the seat, because he failed to receive 30 percent of the vote, the third highest vote-getter, Danny Reitmeier, who received 14.76 percent of the votes, could request a run-off election to challenge Shields. If Reitmeier does not request a run-off, Antoine and Shields will move on to the November ballot to face off against Democratic Challengers Incumbent Ronnie Beale and Betty Cloer Wallace. The top two vote getters amongst the final four candidates will be elected to the Macon County Board of Commissioners District II seat.

Brent Holbrooks was surrounded by family and friends at the Rathskeller in Franklin Tuesday night when the final precinct in Macon County reported voting totals for the 2022 Primary Elec-

• See WINNERS page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The STR verdict is in; it's time to move on

Tonight is the May meeting of the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners. The meeting will begin at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field.

Prior to this meeting, the board will hold a closed session at 5 pm with our attorneys concerning litigation issues related to short term rentals and proposed amendments to the UDO.

On the agenda for the public meeting will be a review and discussion of the proposed ordinance changes. These proposed changes were developed from extensive work by the planning board resulting in recommendations and a public hearing. Since that hearing Chad Essick of Poyner and Spruill Law Firm has reviewed the recommendations and developed a draft of ordinance amendments. Prior to the review by the Highlands Planning Board, Craig Justus of Van Wrinkle Law Firm had reviewed our current ordinances and drafted recommended changes to address STRs. That draft served as a working platform for the planning board.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The current proposed changes are, for the most part, in line with Mr. Justus's and the planning board's recommendations. The Town Board will now have to make several difficult decisions on how to move forward. Several community groups hold different views on how the town should proceed. I suspect that no one group will be completely satisfied with the board's final decision.

It is now time to resolve address STR issues. One Realtor recently expressed to me a concern that folks are now at a point where they need a decision, regardless of whether they totally agree or not.

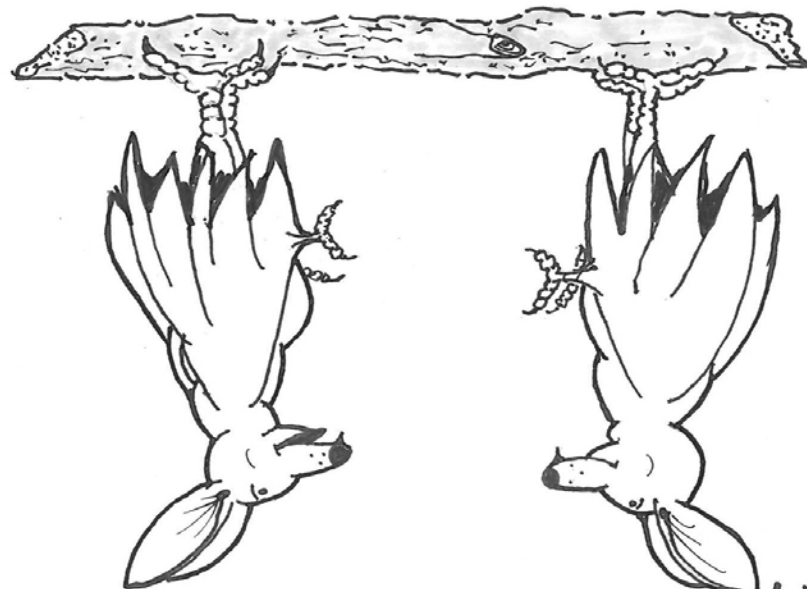
As mayor my goal is for the town and everyone involved in this process to move forward in a civil and deliberative manner. I believe the board has done so at this point, although there have been bumps in the road so to speak. We have received a tremendous amount of feedback concerning STRs. Even before COVID when STRs were initially being addressed, the board received differing viewpoints during public comment periods. Since last year this feedback from citizens has continued and culminated in the public hearing that was held February 24. Our staff has researched the issue and reviewed how numerous other communities are addressing the STR issue. The newspapers have done a thorough job of covering the issues.

The town has also had legal counseling from two of the best law firms specializing in land use and zoning issues. The board sought the best legal advice before taking any final action. We all carefully followed and reviewed the NC Court of Appeals Wilmington vs Schroeder decision.

The final resolution of this issue will be driven by several determinants. First, commissioners have listened to various concerns raised by the public. Second, we have consulted with attorneys. Third, we are cognizant of court rulings and laws. Commissioners know state statutes will have to be followed.

I am glad we have gone through this lengthy and deliberative process before taking action. Related issues requiring board attention will be addressed at a later time.

• HIC'S VIEW •







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Hic

"Ralph, every night dinner out, same menu. Tonight let's just stay home and snuggle."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 19-May	Fri, 20-May	Sat, 21-May	Sun, 22-May
			
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• LETTER •

Thanks for a job well done

Dear Editor,

Last week the newspaper was extra special. Your coverage of Seth Kelsey was a pleasure to read and really interesting. I never knew Kelsey has such an interest in plants and started nurseries.

The article giving us a head's up about the possibility of not having a commission representative from Highlands makes me a bit worried. So much of the income of Macon County comes from Highlands that I would hate to see us unrepresented. Thank you for explaining Jerry Moore's qualifications.

I enjoyed many other articles in the paper but especially the uplifting one that Kenny Youmans wrote in his "On the Sunny Side" column. He always makes a lot of sense and is a terrific researcher and inspirational writer.

Thank you for what you and your staff bring to our community.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

...STRs continued from page 1

which is at 7 p.m. to confer with attorneys Chad Essick and Bob Hagemann of Poyner Spruill who the town hired to finalize changes to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) as it applies to Short-term Rentals (STR).

According to Town Manager Josh Ward, though the attorneys have been meeting with the STR committee made up of Commissioners Amy Patterson, Brian Stiehler and staff, not all the commissioners have been as intimately involved.

"This will give them a chance to meet the attorneys and for them to go over the proposed changes and to explain the legal ramifications," he said. "Nothing in the proposed amended ordinance that was sent out in the agenda packet is expected to change much, if at all, in open session."

The proposed amended UDO verbiage about STRs in Highlands' various zoning districts includes definitions and allowances.

For starters it sets the stage by saying "Short-term rentals are hereby recognized as an independent use category within the planning jurisdiction of the Town of Highlands. These standards are intended to maintain the character of residential neighborhoods and the quiet enjoyment of all residents' homes."

In additions it states: "Section 6.5 Commercial Uses is hereby amended to add a new subsection 6.5.18 for Short-Term Rental use."

Basically, as of May 19, 2022, STRs are permitted in all zones except R1, B4 and G1 as "L" limited, meaning homeowners must comply with filing stipulations if they want to rent their homes as STRs.

It then outlines the steps homeowners have to take to either continue renting their property as a STR, what they have to do to start renting their property as an STR and what those in the R1 district who have been renting their homes as STRs have to do to continue as a "grandfathered"

• See STRs page 8

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...STRs continued from page 4

use.

In all cases, the issuance of a Zoning Compliance Permit and a Short-Term Rental Zoning Compliance Permit by the Planning & Development Director is required.

New STRs in R1 are not allowed so those homeowners who have been renting their homes as STRs need to go a step further if they want to continue by getting a Non-Conforming Use Permit from the Planning & Development Director.

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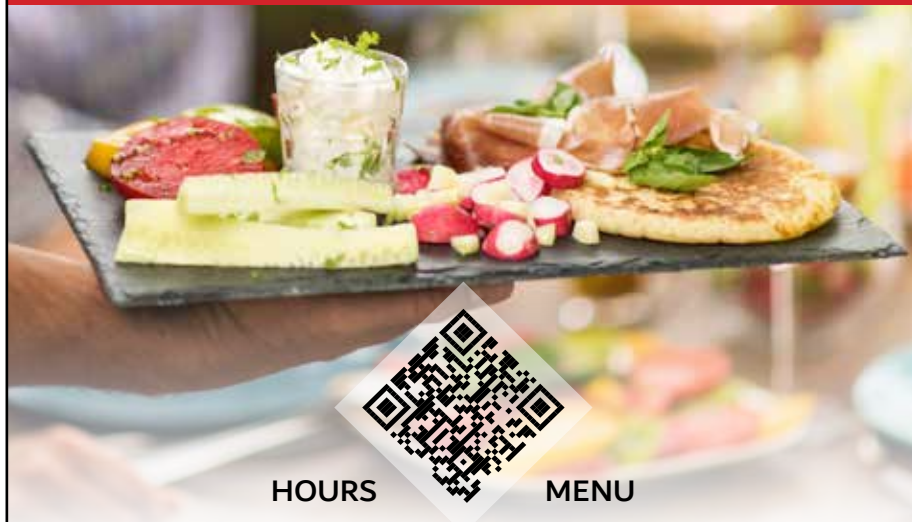
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If the amendments to the UDO are accepted Thursday night, as of May 19, 2022, new STRs will not be allowed in the R1 zone but the "grandfathering" of STRs in that zone will be allowed through the issuance of a "non-conforming use permit."

It's those owners who have to jump

through the most hoops.

Since current STRs in R1 would be considered a non-conforming use, those homeowners would also need a Non-Conforming Use Permit submitted to the Planning & Development Director no later than September 1, 2022, or within 90 days of the use becoming nonconforming (which would be as of May 19).

In addition, no later than December 31 of each calendar year, the owner of a nonconforming STR has to submit a report demonstrating that the nonconforming use has not been discontinued and otherwise meets the nonconforming use standards; if a property owner fails to provide an annual report by December 31 in three or more years or the annual report reveals that the property owner has failed to comply with the nonconforming use standards the property owner's Non-Conforming Use Permit shall be revoked and the nonconforming use shall cease.

To get the Non-Conforming Use Permit, all owners seeking to establish nonconforming status for a short-term rental in R1 must provide sufficient proof, including but not limited to occupancy tax records, rental contracts, and affidavits, to show that the property was operated or used as a short-term rental prior to May 19, 2022; evidence demonstrating the total number of days per calendar year that the property was used for short-term rentals for each of the last five calendar years.

Once it is determined that a nonconforming short-term rental was established prior to May 19, 2022, a determination shall be made regarding the level of intensity of the short-term rental at the time the

• See STRs page 10



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...STRs continued from page 8

use was rendered nonconforming.

To determine the nonconforming short-term rental's level of intensity at the

time the use was rendered nonconforming, the applicant may choose: (1) the most number of days in one of the previous five

calendar years that the property was used for short-term rentals; or (2) the number of days in the 365 days that the property was used for short-term rentals prior to becoming nonconforming.

Note: in the event an applicant is unable to provide evidence concerning the short-term rental history or that the level of intensity is less than 30 days, the property shall not be used as a short-term rental for more than 30 days per calendar year.

In addition, a nonconforming short-term rental use may not be changed, enlarged, expanded, or intensified, including the rental of the short-term rental for more days than the prior intensity level established and documented in the Nonconforming Use Permit.

Rules for all

All owners of STRs whether in existence and in compliance, in existence and allowed as non-conforming or a new STR must abide by the following or be penalized:

Short-term rental overnight occupancy shall not exceed two persons per bedroom plus two additional persons. Provided, however, the number of bedrooms permitted for a short-term rental shall not exceed the number of bedrooms approved for the dwelling in an improvement permit issued for the property.

For properties served by a public wastewater system, overnight occupancy shall not exceed the lesser two persons per bedroom plus two additional persons; or 12 persons.

In residential zoning districts the total number of overnight occupants who are not related by the fifth degree of consanguinity, blood, marriage, or adoption shall not exceed three. This provision shall not apply to children in foster care.

In residential zoning districts, short-term rentals shall not be used for special

events or gatherings in excess of the overnight occupancy limit; occupants or guests of short-term rentals shall not park vehicles on the property other than within parking area(s) designated on the application for the Short-Term Rental Zoning Compliance Permit. Vehicles parked in public right-of-way so as to violate the town's street or parking ordinances are subject to towing at the vehicle owner's expense.

Household trash shall be bagged and disposed of in town-approved trash receptacles; occupants of short-term rentals shall at all times comply with the town's Nuisance Ordinance, Noise Ordinance, and its General Code of Ordinances.

The owner or operator shall maintain general liability insurance on the property, which covers the short-term rental use and guests; the owner or operator, or an agent of the owner or operator, shall be fully responsive at any time that the property is used as a short-term rental to take and resolve complaints regarding operation of the short-term rental and its occupants and guests.

The name and phone number of the owner, operator or an agent of the owner operator shall be conspicuously displayed inside near the main entrance of the short-term rental; there shall be no more than one short-term rental contract governing a property during the same period of time the short-term rental is rented.

Every contract for a short-term rental shall contain an addendum, in a form provided by the town, setting forth the requirements and the operator shall obtain a signed acknowledgment from the renter(s) that they have received such addendum prior to delivering possession of the dwelling unit; exterior signage is allowed and temporary

• See STRs page 14

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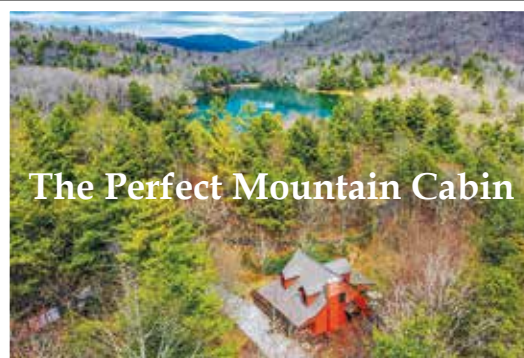
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My Favorite Part of Real Estate

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Carol Romberg, BIC
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carl@landmarkrg.com

continue to cover the plateau.

Especially in the current market it will be hard to check off all the requirements and stay within budget. However, through the process it is interesting to see which items are of the most importance to each of the parties involved. For instance, a nice kitchen may be important to one and proximity to the golf course important to the other. The more people involved, the more challenging it can be. It is also very interesting to see what priorities change during the process.

There may be a positive or negative reaction to the architecture, the driveway or the lot. I am able to find out that a buyer doesn't like a dirt road, or that they realize that they now realize that they don't think they will be comfortable being by themselves in a remote location; while others may realize that they want more privacy from neighbors.

Upon entering a house, I am able to get a better idea of what type of décor they like and if they are willing to do any improvements. It seems that if the house is furnished that they dislike the majority of the furnishings and if they love the furnishings, it is being sold unfurnished. There are such a variety of properties that I am usually able to find several different options and receive enough feedback that I am able to better identify which properties will work as new listings come available.

There are often comments like "I'm not feeling this house" which actually helps me. Others may think that it's my job to sell the house, but I have always taken the approach that the property will sell itself, and that I am just the facilitator. I wouldn't expect a client to refer me to others or use me again if I sold them something that didn't fit their needs or desires. There have been occasions that a buyer decides to purchase one of the first properties that I have shown them; but there are also buyers that take several years to find the right place. It can be frustrating that he likes one house, which she dislikes, yet she likes the next house which he dislikes. In the end it is satisfying to find the one that will work for both of the buyers.

• See INVESTING page 14

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UNC Charlotte



Salutatorian
Hayley Borino
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Bella Branham
Southwestern CC



Reese Brewer
Haywood CC



Olivia Chidsey
Wake Technical CC



Alexandra Clark
Full time employment



Wyatt (Alex) Clark
Full time employment



Jedidiah Clark
Full time employment



Madalynne Coen
Louisiana State U.



Dylan Cortez-Villanueva
Full time employment



Ella Crook
Athens Technical College



Russell Dalton
Full time employment



Karla Diaz-Ovando
Southwestern CC



Kaitlyn Doerter
Western Carolina U.



Mark Dyleski
Athens Technical C.



Dayana Factor Hernandez
Southwestern CC



Daniel Figueroa Pena
Full time employment



Colton Gibson
Southwestern CC



Davis Ingate
Southwestern CC



Liam Kennedy
Youth for Understanding
Exchange in Germany

Highlands School Class of 2022



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Southwestern CC



Emma Minton
Augusta University



Brandon Moss
Blue Ridge CC



Cody Nastasic
Southwestern CC



Kaylee Oakley
Southwestern CC



Frances Ortiz Figueroa
Southwestern CC



Taylor Rickert
Savannah College
of Art & Design



Ava Schmitt
Western Carolina U.



Julia Schmitt
Full Time Employment



Reese Schmitt
Southwestern CC



Talmadge Shuler
Full time employment



Haley Small
Cape Fear Community
College



Seth Staffelbach
Haywood Community
College



Julio Tapia Valerio
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PlasticSurgeryToday.com

...STRs continued from page 10

signs are allowed without a permit.

Failure to comply with the standards and regulations can result in remedies and penalties.

If three violations are committed by the owner or operator within a 12 month period, the Short-Term Rental Zoning Compliance Permit may be revoked by the Planning and Development Director for a period of one year.

Minor changes to the UDO include verbiage changes like Zoning Certificate to Zoning Compliance Permit and additions to and changes to residential unit definitions as follows:

Building, Multi-Family: Any building, other than a motel, hotel, or tourist home, homestay or short-term rental containing more than one dwelling unit. This term includes single-family attached dwellings, duplexes, and apartments.

Duplex: A building containing two dwelling units located on the same lot or parcel.

Dwelling, Multi-Family: A dwelling unit designed, intended or used by more than one family.

Homestay: The rental of no more than two bedrooms within a portion of residential dwelling unit, for compensation, for a period of less than 30 consecutive days where the owner, operator or manager also stays on the same parcel during any period of guest occupancy. This term does not include hotels, motels, or tourist homes, or short-term rentals.

Lodging: The use of a building, or any portion thereof, for someone to live or stay temporarily, often for periods of less than 30 consecutive days in return for the payment of compensation. Lodging includes a hotel, motel, tourist home, homestay and short-term rental.

Multi-Family Residential Use: The use of a lot or parcel for human habitation by more than one family for periods that are not temporary guest occupancy within a multi-family building or a multi-family dwelling unit. This term does not include lodging uses such as hotel, motel, tourist home, homestay or short-term rental.

Single-Family Residential Use: The use of a single-family dwelling until by a single family for human habitation for periods that are not temporary guest occupancy.

occupancy. This term does not include lodging uses such as hotel, motel, tourist home, homestay or short-term rental. Short-term rental: The rental of a residential dwelling unit, for compensation for a period of less than 30 consecutive days. This term does not include homestays, hotels, motels, or tourist homes.

Temporary Guest Occupancy: The use of a dwelling unit in return for compensation where the occupancy of the structure by the paying guest or guests is for a period of less than 30 days.

Tourist home: A building or part thereof, not including a motel, hotel, homestay or short-term rental, where sleeping accommodations or lodging of not more than four bedrooms are provided to guests paying compensation, where the owner, operator or manager also stays on the same parcel during any period of guest occupancy. This term includes bed and breakfast homes, inns, or rooming or boarding houses.

The final word on STRs will be heard at Thursday's Town Board meeting and whatever transpires will be reported in the May 26 edition of Highlands Newspaper.

— Kim Lewicki

...INVESTING continued from page 11

I take the task as a challenge to locate the right property. It is actually fun to learn what the buyers like or not; how they plan to use the property and how often they will use it. I generally advise them to buy a property based on how they live 360 days of the year, not the other 5. There are all sorts of discussions about non-real estate items like what activities are available; what are the options for a fitness facility; what is the membership like at the different clubs; and where are the best places to eat. And the relationship continues after the closing providing

all sorts of information on vendors, inviting them to community events, introducing them to other people and sometimes socializing together.

In summary, the reason that showing property is my favorite task isn't just finding the right property for the buyer, but it is the relationships that are created through the process of doing so.

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

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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 May and June 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

MAY 13

Johnny Webb Band

MAY 20

Jay Drummonds

MAY 27

Sycamore Flats

JUNE 3

Will and Lindsey Thompson

JUNE 10

Ol' Dirty Bathtub

JUNE 17

McIntosh and the LionHearts

JUNE 24

Southern Highland Band

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

MAY 14

The Breakfast Club

MAY 21

The Caribbean Cowboys Band

MAY 28

Continental Divide

JUNE 4

High Five

JUNE 11

Rocksteady@8

JUNE 18

Firecracker Jazz Band



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Thank you to all those who
"Meandered" with us on May 14!

Downtown Highlands'
spring arts festival was a
success because of you.

Thank you!



Highlands Chamber of Commerce/
Visit Highlands, NC
visithighlandsncc.com

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from Persia, China, Pakistan, India & Turkey is available.
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• EVENTS •

Rec Pool Schedule:

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday
6am-10am, Monday and Thursday
11:15am-7pm and Tuesday and
Wednesday 11:15am-3:30pm 6
lanes AND 3:30-7 (shared Pool)
and Saturday 10-11am 6 lanes.
Adult Swim Monday-Thursday
11:15am-7pm. Call ahead for Pub-
lic Swim Weekend schedule due to
staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

Pickle Ball

• There are three indoor
Pickle Ball courts and six outdoor
Court open once again. Pickle
Ball will be played in the gym ev-
ery Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm
(days and times have changed).

Nature Center Spring Hours

• Friday & Saturday: 10 AM to
4 PM. Closed: Sunday - Thursday

Mondays

• ESL classes are held at the
Presbyterian Church in Highlands
from 5:30-6:30pm. No registra-
tion 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,



Family Classes at Scaly Mountain Crafters

Pen Turning Class

Learn how to make your own
wooden pen!

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

Bird House/Bird Feeder & Bat House Classes

Learn how to make a Bird House,
Bird Feeder or Bat House!

Choose from 5 different Bird
House styles, 2 different Bird
Feeder styles or a Bat House.

Cost: \$20-\$45 per person

Call 828-526-8800 or email

scalymtncrafters@gmail.com to
schedule a class!

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

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

Tuesdays

• Covid-19 Testing at Village Green in Cashiers every Tuesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

Wednesdays

• Covid-19 Testing at Highlands Community Building every Wednesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

Mon-Fri

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body.

• 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. & Thurs.

• Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 pm \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call 828.349.2081.

Mon, Wed, Thurs

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 am-1 pm.

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 with Tina Rogers 8-9 am.

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 many different types of exercise.

Thursdays

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

• Free Covid vaccination clinics - 9 am to 5pm at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Location subject to change. please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19> or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

Fridays

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

Every Fri., Sat. & Sun.

• 1st run movies at the Playhouse on Oak Street. 1 and 4 p.m. www.mountaintheatre.com

Saturdays

• Saturdays on Pine in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic. 1st Saturdays

• Visit Highlands hosts the Highlands Bagpipers for a Town Square performance 4:30-5p the first Saturday of each month through October.

2nd Saturdays

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

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets on the 3rd Saturday of every month 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.

Fri., Sat., Sun., May 20-22

• The movie Downton Abbey - A new era at the Playhouse 1 & 4 p.m. www.mountaintheatre.com

Fri., May 20

• First-ever Justice Matters

Tours at our Highlands/Cashiers office to find out how you can join Pisgah Legal Services in standing for justice. This interactive in-person tour is 1:30 - 3p.m. and delves into how Pisgah Legal addresses domestic violence, housing, immigration, access to healthcare, and community economic development and explains how community members can get involved. Tours take place at Pisgah Legal Services, 209 Hospital Dr., Suite 203, Highlands, NC. Limited space available. RSVP to Megan Quattlebaum at 828-575-1353 or email Megan@pisgahlegal.org.

• Chef Dinner at OEI's The Farm, May Day Celebration with Celebrity Chef, author and lifestyle expert Chadwick Boyd. Book at Old-EdwardsHospitality.com/chefdinners.

Sat. May 21

• The American Legion will celebrate Armed Forces Day at their meeting at the Methodist Church on Main Street, Highlands. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. and the meeting is at 10 a.m.

Mon. May 23

• At CLE, Intro to iPhone/iPad. 10a to noon. \$40/\$50 Instructor: Loraine Smith. To register: Office: 828-526-8811. Email: office@clehighlands.com

• At CLE, Setting on iPhone/iPad, 1-2p. \$40/\$50 Instructor: Loraine Smith. To register: Office: 828-526-8811. Email: office@clehighlands.com

Tues., May 24

• At CLE, Birding 101. In the Field. 9a to noon. \$25/\$35 Guide: Brock Hutchins. To register: Office: 828-526-8811. Email: office@clehighlands.com

Wed., May 25

• At CLE, The Placemakers Academy of Garden Design: A 3-Part Series in Home Landscape Design, Part 1: Set Yourself Up for Garden Success! 10a to noon. \$60/\$70 Presenters: Mary Palmer Dargan & Arielle McIntyre. To register: Office: 828-526-8811. Email: office@clehighlands.com

Sat., May 28

• Comedy at the PAC at 7:30 p.m. Lucas Bohn will bring his hit one man multimedia show "Lesson Plans to Late Night" for one night only. This show combines stories from the classroom, stand-up comedy about teaching and examples of student work that will leave you in stitches. For ticket information go to www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Good doubt vs. negative doubt

Curtis Fussell
Co-pastor
First Presbyterian Church

It's now some weeks after Passover, Easter, and Ramadan. One of the things that take place in observing Passover, Easter, and Ramadan, is doubt. Was the observance of these faith practices true? Has God set us free? Is Jesus resurrected? Am I a better person? Whatever faith we practice, we have doubts about its promises.

Of course, doubt is not all bad. Good doubt can be very healthy for us. It's good doubt that can keep you from making a costly mistake. It's good doubt that causes you to evaluate your actions.

It's negative doubt that can hinder us. If we are not careful, negative doubt can make us untrusting towards ourselves and others.

In the Hebrew language the word "doubt" comes from the word "knot" such as a knot in a rope, or a kink in a hose. Think of what happens when there's a kink in your garden hose. The life-giving water doesn't flow through. It's the same with us when we allow negative doubt to dominate our lives.

Think of a father and a son who no longer talk to one another. An issue brewed and anger grew. A kink appeared in their relationship, and now it does not flow. Why? Because the father and son have become stuck letting negative doubt rule their lives.

Neither one believes that he could have made a mistake or is at fault. Neither one is willing to take a chance and apologize. Neither one is willing to let go of anxiety and pride and believe in each other.

Negative doubt creates false excuses, such as "If I try this way, I doubt it will make any difference."

But good doubt says, "I can trust myself and this other person. I can speak healing words because I believe in myself and this other person." With good doubt, we can begin to unknot our relationships for the better.

Faith leads us in part to practice good doubt by taking a chance on doing something new and different beyond our norms. Passover, Easter, and Ramadan, sought to give us a new vision for living in harmony with ourselves and with others, even when we doubted.

Good doubt summons us to practice waiting with open arms and hearts to let life find new ways in us and in others. Good doubt opens doors to let us in on how good life can become.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CASHIERS

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

www.christanglicancashiers.com

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

School; 10:30am Worship Service.

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard • Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children's Program. Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

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 10:50 Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday of each month.

mountainsynagogue@gmail.com

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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I. 8a. Rite II. 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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

May 3

• Officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Main Street and 3rd.

May 11

• At 2:40 p.m., officers responded to a report of harassment over the phone and in person at Select Bank on Carolina Way.

May 12

• At 7:20 p.m., officers responded to a report of an attempted breaking and entering and second degree trespassing when someone attempted to enter a house on N. 4th Street and refused to leave the property after being asked to.

May 14

• At 2:30 a.m., Ashton Brooke Aldrich, 24, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over at Bridal Veil Falls. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is July 6.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers were called about shoplifting at Potpourri Eyewear on Main Street where a \$555 pair of Chanel sunglasses were taken.

May 15

• At 11:06 p.m., Lisa Rose Smith, 64, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for DUI and speeding when she was pulled over on NC 106. She was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. Her trial date is July 6.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 10.

May 10

• At 2:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke on Pierson Drive.

May 12

• At 1:54 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a resident on Chestnut Street.

May 14

• At 5:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Skyline Lodge Road.

May 16

• At 10:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke on Broadview Circle.

...WINNERS continued from page 1

tion. Holbrooks, who has worked in law enforcement for more than 20 years, trailed Dereck Jones for most of the night as results began to roll into the Macon County Board of Elections Office.

The two candidates, along with Clay Bryson, all currently work for the Macon County Sheriff's Office and announced their intent to run for Sheriff after Sheriff Robert Holland announced his retirement.

Holbrooks trailed Jones by 128 votes after Early Voting results were published just after 7:30 p.m. Just before 9 p.m. with half of Macon County's 15 precinct's reporting results, Holbrooks trailed Jones 1939 to 1904 votes. Holbrooks took the lead just after 9 p.m. with 2,201 votes to Jones 2,163 and just two precincts, Union and Highlands, left to report results.

Holbrooks' win was finalized at 9:20 p.m. with 2,368 votes (32.31 percent) to Jones' 2,314 (31.57 percent). With no Democratic challengers to face in November 2022, Brent Holbrooks will serve as the next Sheriff of Macon County.

Bryson, the third employee of the Macon County Sheriff's Office to run was the third top-vote getter with 1,123 votes. Chris Browning and Bob Cook, one a small business owner and the other a retired law enforcement officer from Florida, each received around 10 percent of votes cast with 793 and 732 respectively.

While the Macon County Sheriff Race was decided Tuesday night, the other winners of the primary will go on to face challengers in the opposite political party. Shawna Thun Lamb was the top vote-getter in the Macon County Clerk of Superior Court Republican Primary with 2,820 votes. The other two candidates in the race, Justin Stamey and Mike Trammel, received 2,579 and 1,612 votes res-

spectively. Lamb will now head into the November election against Democratic challenger Dinah Mashburn.

While Macon County voters cast the majority of ballots to NC House of Representative District 11 Incumbent Madison Cawthorn, Cawthorn lost the Republican nomination in the district to NC State Senator Chuck Edwards. Edwards received 29,411 votes to Cawthorn's 28,092. Cawthorn was able to win his party's nomination in 12 of NC11's 15 counties, however Edwards was the majority winner in the district's most populous counties of Buncombe and Henderson, Cawthorn and Edwards' home county. Edwards also won Transylvania County. With a field of eight candidates vying for the District 11 seat, the third top vote getter in the election, Matthew Burril trailed by nearly 20,000 votes.

Chuck Edwards will now head to the November General Election to face off against Democratic Challenger and Buncombe County Commissioner Jasmine Beach-Ferrara who won her party's nomination with 32,3032 (59.61 percent) votes. Katie Dean was the second highest vote getter with 13,927 votes, meaning Beach-Ferrara comfortably won the Democratic nominee.

United States Senate Democratic Candidate Cheri Beasley secured 81.21 percent of the votes – 497,381 – in total to solidify her seat as the Democratic nominee for United States Senate for the November ballot. Beasley will face off against Ted Budd, who received 445,343 – 58.63 percent of the Republican ballots cast. Budd defeated former North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory who fell short with 186,760 votes.

Note:

As a friendly reminder, the Highlands Police Department said candidates have seven days to pick up their signs within the town limits of Highlands.

2022 Upcoming Events



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May & June Schedule

May

- **Intro to iPhone/iPad**
Monday, May 23. Time: 10a-noon.
Instructor Loraine Smith
Cost: \$40/\$50
- **Setting on iPhone/iPad**
Monday, May 23. Time: 1-2p.
Cost: \$40/\$50
Instructor Loraine Smith
- **Birding 101: In the Field.**
Tuesday, May 24. Time: 9a-noon.
Cost: \$25/\$35
Guide: Brock Hutchins
- **The Placemakers Academy of Garden Design: A Three-Part Series in Home Landscape Design Part 1: Set Yourself Up for Garden Success!**
Wednesday, May 25. Time: 10a-noon.
Cost: \$60/\$70
Presenters: Mary Palmer Dargan & Arielle McIntyre.
- **Beginner Drawing Workshop**
4 sessions May 31 and June 2,6,11. Time: 1-4pm
Cost: \$35/\$45 each class
Instructor Freddie Flynt

JUNE

- **The Placemakers Academy of Garden Design: A Three-Part Series in Home Landscape Design, Part 2: Bring Your Garden Design to Life!**
Wednesday June 1. Time: 10a-noon.
Cost: \$60/\$70
Presenters Mary Palmer Dargan & Arielle McIntyre.
- **The Placemakers Academy of Garden Design: A Three-Part Series in Home Landscape Design, Part 3: Gardens on the Hoof!**
Wednesday June 8. Time: 10a-2p
Cost: \$110/\$120
Presenters: Mary Palmer Dargan & Arielle McIntyre

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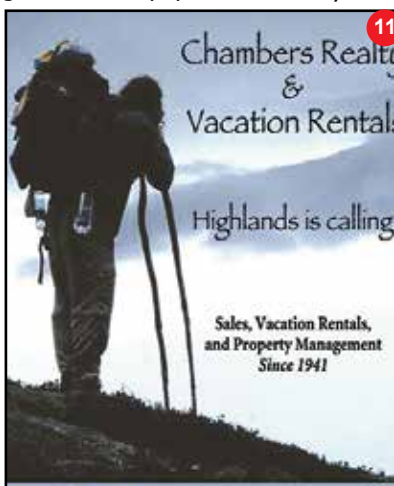


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