

Highlands Newspaper

Free Every Thursday

Volume 20, Number 32

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

Thurs., Aug. 10, 2023

MC Board of Elections is faced with another residency challenge

By **Brittney Lofthouse**

The North Carolina State Board of Elections held a special meeting on Monday to appoint a

local committee to hear a residency challenge filed for the Highlands Town Commissioner Race. The challenge was filed by James Derek

Taylor of "Highlanders for Good Government" against Tucker Chambers, alleging Chambers was

• See **CHALLENGE** page 13

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Sophomores named Academic All American Swimmers



Tate Wilson, left, and Aniah McKim, are rising sophomores at Highlands School who are on the Highlands School Varsity Swim Team, are members of the Highlands Hurricanes travel team and also Junior Olympians, were recently named Academic All American Swimmers.

MC BOE says no to Highlands MS repairs

By **Brittney Lofthouse**

In a unanimous decision during its August board meeting, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted to reject the lone bid received for the renovations and repairs to the middle school portion of Highlands School. This move comes nearly a year after the initial decision to seek funding from the state for the much-needed improvements.

Macon County had secured around \$600,000 in grant funding for the project, a step toward enhancing the learning environment for students. However, the sole bid submitted by a construction company projected costs that exceeded the available funds. The estimated price tag for the renovations and repairs surpassed \$1 million, leading commissioners to express re-

• See **REPAIRS** page 17

Next step Kindergarten!



Fifteen children from the Highlands Community Child Development Center graduated on Aug. 3, at a ceremony held at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. They will enter kindergarten this fall. Six children graduated from The Gordon Center. One isn't in the photo.



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

We owe thanks to our town crews

Monday began as a beautiful day. There were forecasts of rain and thunderstorms in the afternoon, but that is a routine forecast for Highlands this time of the year.

As I worked in my pottery studio in the afternoon, the cable news folks started talking about an impending storm front that ran from Georgia to New York. The television forecasters were predicting heavy winds and rain along this front as it moved to the Atlantic coast. These predictions got my attention. Josh Ward contacted me to say the town crews were on standby in case the town experienced high winds, rain, and lightning.

About 30 minutes later, I received a code red message on my cell phone warning of impending severe weather. For residents that did not get the code red warning, you can go to the county website and sign up. Click on the public safety button and then scroll down and click on emergency management. The code red information will appear on the page.

The county emergency management system has a comprehensive system that sends out these warnings. Code red subscribers receive all emergency messages affecting



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Highlands and Macon County.

At about 4 pm, the storm front hit Highlands with heavy rains, severe lightning, and intense wind shears. Some of the wind shears replicated moments as if the town was in a hurricane. There was spot damage to the electric grid. Our crews responded accordingly after the winds and lightning had subsided, as the town staff manned the phones to take calls of outages.

About half of the town lost power, primarily due to one big incident, the snapping by the wind of a major Duke Energy transmission pole on Franklin Road, on which the town shares usage. Crews from Duke, assisted by Highlands town crews, responded to the arduous task of replacing the pole. It takes hours to erect a new pole and then to reconnect the lines. Duke Power and our town crews worked until 3 am to complete the job and restore power. Our police and fire departments worked with the line crews to manage traffic.

When the power did come back on, town crews discovered a tree on Wyanoak had fallen and taken out power in that area. They quickly removed the tree and re-established power. Earlier in the evening, the town crews had removed a fallen tree that had taken out power in the Big Bear Pen area.

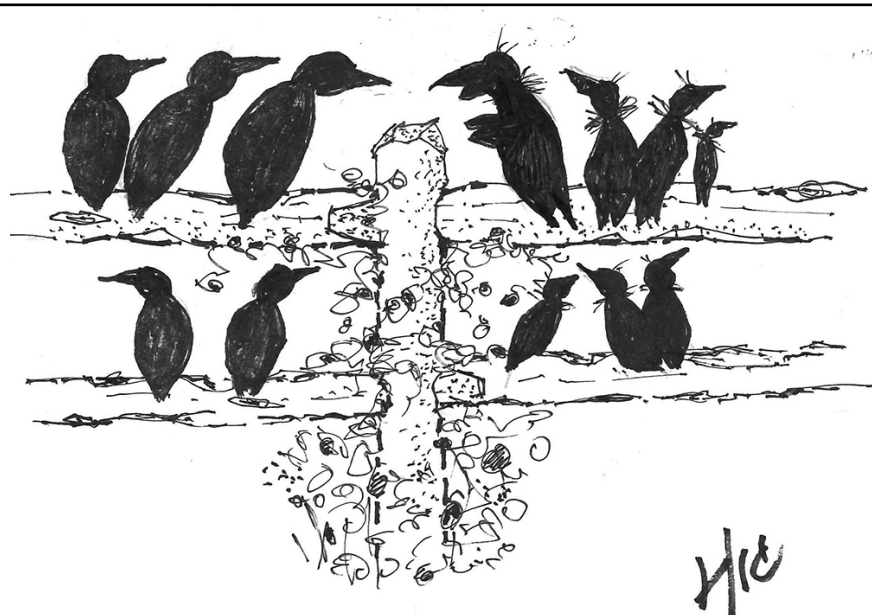
The good news is that the town's electrical system had no poles broken during the storm. If that had happened, outages throughout the town would have lasted much longer.

My hat is once again off to our electrical crew and first-responders. In emergency situations like this storm, they all work together to restore power as soon as possible.

Now, some folks might say the town needs to put all of our utility lines underground in order to ensure no power outages. But Highlands is not in Florida, where the land is flat, and the soil is sandy. The plateau has steep grades and more rock than sand. Such a tremendous expense and disruptive process would not necessarily guarantee no power loss. The town depends on a power supply from energy producers like Duke. If their transmission system goes down in a major storm, we go down, too.

Power outages are, unfortunately, a part of mountain living. I can tell you that outages have been greatly reduced compared to past years.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Alright, we have a deal. Bobby, you guys get the South side of Horse Cove. We get the North."

• WEATHER •

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

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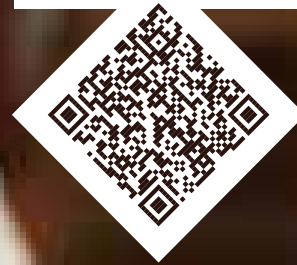
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• INK PENN •

A trip across the pond

If you follow my columns, you know that I'm an Anglophile through and through, and that I have numerous British authors whose mystery series I follow. This week's reviews cover a new-to-me author and an old favorite.

I discovered Martin Edwards as I was searching for books set in the Lake District in England. Whenever I travel, it's my habit to prepare for my trip by reading books set in my destination, and Edwards's Lake District mysteries fit the bill for the trip I took in July.

The Coffin Trail

by Martin Edwards

I began with the very first in the series. Edwards's descriptions of the area quickly transported me across the pond even before my flight. The characters drew me in. What would prompt a youngish and successful Oxford professor to give up the scholarly

life and move to the remote Lake District?

The author reveals the backstory along the way rather than all at once, and I enjoyed the book as much for the evolving relationships and revelations as for the murder mystery at its heart. It was so intriguing that I've gone on to read the next two in the in the eight-book series—"The Cipher Garden" and "The Arsenic Labyrinth."

I plan to space out the rest to make the enjoyment last.

A Heart Full of Headstones

by Ian Rankin

I've been reading Ian Rankin's John Rebus series ever since I discovered it many years ago. This most recent installment



Kathy Manos Penn

finds Rebus retired from the police force in Edinburgh. He's somewhat content with his dog and the visits from his daughter and granddaughter plus his friendship with Sioban Clarke who was once his partner on the force.

Typical of his restless nature, though, he can't resist when he's summoned by his nemesis Gerry Caferty. And so begins the tale that will see Rebus behind bars and on trial. That's not a spoiler - it's in the blurb for the book and it's the opening scene.

It is a character arc that we fans could have perhaps anticipated, and it's fitting that Rebus reflects on his life throughout the story--the lines he's crossed, the deserving criminals he's put behind bars, and whether

he's followed the best path.

That makes two engrossing series with male leads - one relatively young, and the other older and world-weary. Of the two, the Rebus series is the darker one, but both are enjoyable.

PS. Are you an avid reader? Do you love mysteries? Please join me at Shakespeare & Company on 8/23, where I'll be signing my Dickens & Christie mysteries and taking part in the mystery book club meeting.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at *Shakespeare & Company* in Highlands, *Franklin Office Supply & Gifts*, and on *Amazon*. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

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For 31 years, the Highlands Emergency Council has been a beacon of hope and support, dedicated to giving back to the Highlands community in numerous ways. In 2022, they filled up fuel tanks for 63 families, ensuring comfort during challenging times. Recognizing the importance of bringing joy during the holidays, the council provided Christmas celebrations for 53 children, spreading cheer to those who needed it most.

Beyond fuel and holiday assistance, the Highlands Emergency Council addresses fundamental needs by offering food, clothing, furniture, and pet food to families experiencing hardship. They believe that no one should go without essentials, and their commitment to providing these necessities showcases their dedication to making a difference in the lives of those facing adversity.

To learn more about the Highlands Emergency Council and how you can contribute to their invaluable work, contact them directly at
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• OBITUARY •

Jimmy Houston

Jimmy Houston, age 71, of Highlands, NC, passed away Monday, July 31, 2023. He was the son of the late Don and Mary Houston of Highlands. Mr. Houston was a brick mason. He was a wonderful man and the best brother ever! In his earlier years, he enjoyed fishing, hunting and camping. Later he enjoyed spending time with his cat Josie, listening to gospel and country music and sitting on the porch waving at passer byers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Billy, Gary and Robert Houston and one sister, Betty Henry. He is survived by one brother, Wiley Houston (Dianne) of Franklin, three sisters, Shirley Murphy (Tom) of Ohio, Donna Houston of Highlands and Kathy McConnell of Franklin, NC.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Houston family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• LETTER •

A day I will never forget

Dear Editor,

Several months in the planning, a sold-out event, very generous sponsors, perfect location, beautiful flowers for the tables and committed vendors for great food and drinks. Yes, this would be a Big Hats and Bow Ties event sponsored by Highlands Historical Society that everyone would remember. I went to bed thinking all should be well with only afternoon thunderstorms expected later on Sunday.

At 10:00 this morning a board member contacted me asking if I had seen the latest weather report. The prediction was severe thunderstorms with high winds for Highlands from 12:00 - 2:00. This was bad news for a 12:30 brunch on top of Kettle Rock with 120 people in a tent. With this information the right decision with people's safety in mind was to cancel. We were able to reach most of the participants with cancellation notice. I went to the entrance of Kettle Rock to notify those who had not received the cancellation notice. It was tough telling people that the party was canceled with the sun shining all around. It turns out we could have had the event and the storms didn't occur as predicted. We made the best decision with the information we had, but it really hurts now knowing we could have had the event. I want to thank all of you who have so generously supported HHS.

Harry McDonald
Highlands

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

'But I Wanted That!' More questions than answers!

I have been a Real Estate broker for 19 years and this phenomenon continues! Being primarily a second-home market, many homes on the plateau are sold furnished or partially furnished or often "furnishings negotiable" as described in our MLS. For the sake of clarity, I resorted to Google for definitions.

Furniture is defined as: "large moveable equipment, such as tables and chairs, used to make a house livable." Another definition is: "objects intended to support various human activities such as sitting, storing items, working and sleeping."

Is a ceiling fan furniture because you can "swing from the chandelier?" Actually,

that is a fixture...more on that later. It gets worse as I write this!

Is your luggage considered furniture because you store stuff in it? Leave your expensive Louis Vuitton luggage...who knew? Another definition includes articles of dress, things to wear -- so the new buyer hopes y'all are the same size in clothes, shoes, and handbags (because they store stuff!)

Furniture is not to be confused with furnishings. That legal definition is: "personal property and includes furniture, appliances, rugs, cooking utensils, and art objects." Are items in a junk drawer furnishings? Is a television a furnishing? The world according to Google states that it is regarded as furniture because it contributes to "the aesthetics and organization of living space." Is a refrigerator a furnishing or appliance? If it is not built-in but movable it is ambiguous. But you store stuff in it so is it furniture?

So, what is the definition of household items? The world according to Google states: "pets, furniture, furnishings, appliances and personal effects that are typically found in a home, excluding pianos and other musical instruments." So, sorry you must leave that precious dog, cat, gerbil, snake or bird you have loved so long...very sad. But you can take your ukulele so don't complain too much!

What is a fixture that is to remain in the home, according to the NCREC form? Any-



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

thing attached to the wall, floor, or ceiling. Examples are toilets (even those expensive computerized ones that offer washing and drying) sinks, showers, and bathtubs. Anything bolted in and not merely hanging by a nail is a fixture even though you thought the bathroom mirror was included but it was hanging by a nail, leaving the broker's sanity hanging by a thread fighting with the other broker over a mirror!

This may all seem foolish and ludicrous, but this is

something every broker deals with when homes are offered furnished or furniture negotiable. If you think you're confused reading this, you can imagine what we go through!

My point of this satire is to warn you to be VERY specific when you do an exclusion list of items that do NOT go with the house. If you come back later and say you forgot something the fightin' gloves come on! It becomes a power struggle and we, as brokers, are caught slap dab in the middle of it. As a buyer, you can lose a house you really want, or you, as a seller, can lose a sale. I would only lose it over leaving my pet...anything else can be replaced!

We, as your brokers, when writing an offer, must be word-specific so there is no room for doubt! I had a seller once argue that the washing machine he took was NOT defined as an appliance. If you look

• See **INVESTING** page 12



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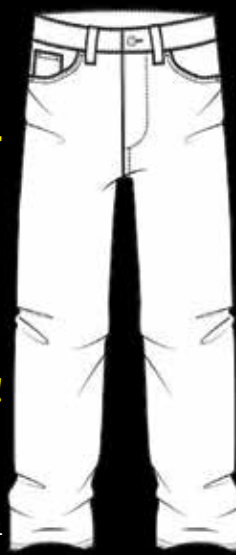


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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

An overview of Long-Term Care - Part 2

As a follow up to my last column, "My family's journey with Long-Term Care" page 10 of the Aug. 3 edition, I thought I'd provide an overview of just what long-term care is.

Basic Services

Long-term care refers to a range of services and support provided to individuals who have chronic conditions that limit their ability to perform daily activities. Long-term care can be essential for older adults who may require assistance as they age and face health-related challenges.

These services are designed to help individuals maintain their quality of life and independence while receiving the assistance they need, and can be provided in various settings, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and in the individual's own home.

Additionally, individuals with



Michael P Henderson,
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chronic conditions or disabilities may need help managing their conditions effectively. The need for long-term care can arise due to factors such as physical limitations, cognitive decline, or a lack of support from family members or caregivers.

Activities of Daily Living

One of the primary goals of long-term care is to aid with activities of daily living (ADLs). ADLs include tasks such as bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, and transferring. Depending on an individual's needs, services may also include medication management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and social and recreational activities.

Options for Care

There are different options available for long-term care, and the choice depends on the individual's needs and preferences.

- Nursing homes are generally suitable for individuals who require round-the-clock medical care and supervision.

- Assisted living facilities provide a combination of housing and supportive services to individuals who need assistance with ADLs

but do not require intensive medical care.

- Home care services allow individuals to receive assistance in the comfort of their own homes, maintaining a sense of independence and familiarity.

Paying for Care

As I wrote last week, financing long-term care can be a significant concern for many individuals and families. The costs associated with long-term care can be substantial and can vary depending on the type of care and the geographic location.

Long-term care insurance is an option that can help cover the expenses of long-term care services, but it is essential to plan and purchase such insurance well in advance, as it becomes more challenging to obtain as one gets older or develops health issues.

As the population continues to age, the demand for long-term care services is expected to increase. This presents both challenges and opportunities for healthcare systems and policymakers to develop sustainable and accessible long-term care solutions.

Long-term care plays a crucial role in supporting individuals with chronic illnesses, disabilities, or limitations in performing daily activities.

It encompasses a range of services designed to maintain individuals' quality of life and independence.

The choice of long-term care options depends on the individual's needs and preferences.

Financing long-term care can be a significant concern, but careful planning ahead of time can help individuals and families prepare for these expenses.

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...INVESTING continued from page 8

hard enough, you will find that somewhere in Google la-la land. I had to buy a refrigerator once because unbeknownst to me, as the listing broker, the bank removed it dur-

ing the foreclosure process. It goes on and on so please go through your exclusion list with a fine-tooth comb or that comb may be included, too, along with your hairbrush.

On the flip side, some sellers have no place for the furniture/furnishings and want to offer it "fully" furnished and the buyer may not need it or want it. It may have lost its luster or style a long, long time ago. Then what?

We have two nice consignment stores in Highlands: The Blue Elephant and Full House Furniture. Or, items can be donated to Mountain Findings on Laurel Street or the Emergency Council on Poplar Street.

Many sellers live out of town, and we help arrange that for our sellers. I did that once and when Mountain Findings came, I forgot to open the cabinets that had all the dishes, glassware, silverware, cookware, and old and expired pantry food. So, I spent two

days taking boxes and packing them myself and carrying them up stone steps to my car! Hmmm...maybe that contributed to my herniated disc. We can only do so much!

So, there you have it! I'm more confused than ever after reading definitions. I'd better go back to the drawing board myself before somebody wants that too!

• Pat Allen is the broker-in-charge of Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group in the downtown office at 295 Dillard Road. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, a consistent award-winner, and a top producer every year for her real estate career of 19 years. You may reach her at 828-200-9179 or email her at pat.allen@allentate.com



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Highlands Rotary President Dave O'Harra, Dr. Randy Collins, WCU dean of Engineering + Technology, and Host Andy Chmar.

On August 1, the Rotary Club of Highlands enjoyed special guest Dr. Randy Collins, Dean of Engineering + Technology of Western Carolina University (WCU). A graduate of Georgia Tech with a PhD in Electrical Engineering, Dr. Collins served at Clemson University's College of Engineering & Science as associate dean before moving to WCU as dean of the College of Engineering in 2022. Dr. Collins' topic was about the exciting "Future of Engineering at WCU." A registered professional engineer with 3 patents, along with FAA certification and pilot training, Dr. Collins shared about the high-level of engineering industry engagement with WCU. Dr. Collins highlighted the 5 undergraduate residential degree programs for engineering students, plus an online graduate program, as well as the faculty-taught classes. Out of 5 public institutions in North Carolina, (and arguably the best local scenery of all NC campuses) Dr. Collins noted that WCU is uniquely positioned for transformative change and opportunity for students and the engineering industry's four primary fields: electrical, mechanical, civil and construction engineering. With emphasis in robotics, innovation, design and construction as well, Dr. Collins heralded WCU's programs as "one of the best values in North Carolina," with tuition at \$500 per semester, in-state and \$2500 for out-of-state students, with a very promising future for students, the industry and our North Carolina region.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 | 6 - 8 PM

Orchard Session

Live with Nicole Witt

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buy tickets

...CHALLENGE continued from page 1

ineligible to run for town office because his residency falls outside of the Highlands city limits.

“Highlanders for Good Government” concerns itself with fairness and honesty for all candidates and the election process for our local governmental offices,” said Taylor. “Integrity in the election process is crucial to our democracy. Although Mr. Chambers has been a longtime member and contributor to the community at-large, we felt that there were legitimate questions concerning residency qualifications for Mr. Chambers running for the Highlands Town Board. Therefore, we filed a challenge with the Macon County Board of Elections.”

According to the challenge, Chambers has a residence at a Flat Mountain address outside of the city limits, but just prior to the close of the election filing process, he changed his residency to a commercial business address inside the town limits which he rents from his mother and often lives at.

Once challenged, the burden is on the candidate to show by a preponderance of the evidence that he is qualified to be a candidate for the office:

If the challenge is based upon a ques-

tion of residency, the candidate must show all of the following:

- An actual abandonment of the first domicile, coupled with an intent not to return to the first domicile;
- The acquisition of a new domicile by actual residence at another place; and
- The intent of making the newer domicile a permanent domicile

On Monday, Aug. 7, the NCSBE met at 10am and appointed a panel to hear the challenge. The panel will consist of Macon County’s Chairman Kathy Tinsley, Member Gary Dills, Member Jeff Gillette and Mem-

ber John Vanhook along with the Chairman of the Jackson County Board of Elections, Kirk Stevens. Kathy Tinsley will be the Chairman of this panel.

The challenge will be held on Tues., Aug. 22, at the Macon County Courthouse, 5 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734 in the Commissioners Board room, floor 3. The hearing is public. If planning to attend, park in the back parking lot and go in through the back door. The room will be straight ahead. The challenge will begin at 10am.

A link to the hearing will be available on the Macon County Board of Elections website under the Elections Calendar. The

hearing will also be streamed live by the county’s IT department. It will also be reported by an appointed court reporter.

Mark Meadows’ Residency Challenge
Macon County made national headlines when a challenge was filed against Mark Meadows, former North Carolina Congressman and Chief of Staff for President Donald Trump, over his residency.

Public records indicated that Meadows was registered to vote in both Virginia and North Carolina, raising concerns about dual registration and potential voting irregularities. In North Carolina, Meadows listed

• See CHALLENGE page 19

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Highlands

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6-9:45a, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Public Swim Mon. thru Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. and Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ONGOING

• The "Kids Hike Highlands" trail passport program has been refreshed for the 2023 season. pick up a copy of the Kids Hike Highlands passport

map at one of the four prize locations or you can download a copy at www.highlandsbiological.org.

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meet-

ings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817 2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at

828-349-4357

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

1st Tuesdays

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

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years

plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more info, call 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. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tuesdays

• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings, For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

the group.

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

Tues. & Thurs.

- Zumba class with Gay Chaplin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thurs. through Aug. 10

- Highlands Biological Foundation's free Zahner lectures at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) at 6 p.m. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org.

Thurs-Sat.

- Highlands Historical Society Museum at 320 N. 4th Street is open 10a to 4p through October.

Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open 10a-1p through October.

Thursdays

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

- 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.

- At Wayfarers Chapel, Chair Yoga – from 4-5 PM. If you are interested in greater strength and flexibility but have difficulty getting up and down from a sitting or reclining posture.

- At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga – from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience,

3rd Fridays

- At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine

Ramey at 828-526-3556.

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 St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

- Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8 p.m. through Sept. 3. 828-506-0125.

- At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

- Soiree for Pre-K at the Vineyard at High Holly, 5:30 p.m. until. \$250 per person. Eight per table. Includes Dinner, drinks and dancing. Featuring Steel Toe Stiletto from Greenville, SC. For tickets call 828-526-0863. Or email, info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org.

Through Aug. 19

- "Rock of Ages" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Aug. 10

- At the Macon County Library on Siler Road, a Nantahala Hiking Program for All at 6 p.m. Justin McVey, NC Wildlife Biologist, is a NC expert on bear habitat and behaviors. He shares examples of how to safely live with our wild black bears. All are welcome to join and bring a neighbor! Must be present to win the free raffle valued \$20. <https://www.ncwildlife.org/have-a-problem>

Wed., Aug. 16

- The Interlude Concert Series which is sponsored by Highlands First Presbyterian Church continues with a concert at 2pm on Wednesday featuring the Astralis Chamber Ensemble. Members of the group are Angela Massey, Flutist; Kris Marshall, Trumpeter; and Rachel O'Brien, Harpist. There is no charge for the Interlude concerts which constitute a ministry in music

• See **EVENTS** page 16



HIGHLANDS

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Thursday, August 31, 2023
Highlands Plaza
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Donations will be collected to support
The Gordon Center and
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Development Center.

For more information:
events@highlandschamber.org
828-526-5841

This event is made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/
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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •



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to the community. Dress is casual- come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street. This will be the last Interlude Concert of the season.

Thurs., Aug. 17

• At The Bascom, Community Barn Dance, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 General Admission, 12 and under Free. Jackson Grimm and the Bull Moose Party. Cash Bar. Free Popcorn. To reserve tickets go to The Bascom.org or call 828-526-4949.

Sun., Aug. 13

• Death Cafe from 2-4 p.m. at Wayfarers Unity Chapel, 182 Wayfarer Lane, Dillard, GA. This is a group-directed discussion with no agenda, objective or themes, and no intent to lead participants to any conclusion, product or course of action. Please come enjoy tea and cake (a nod to Death Cafe's British origins) and talk openly and con-

fidentially about all things death related. The session is facilitated by Jan Brewer, M.A., CMT. For further information please contact Jan at 510-684-5555 and/or visit www.deathcafe.com.

Fri., Aug. 18

• Free Exclusive Documentary Screening of "Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut" to be held at The Village Green. from 3-5 p.m., at Lewis Hall at The Village Green in Cashiers, you can be among the first to view the documentary screening of "Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut". There is no charge for this community event, everyone is welcome. Lite refreshments will be available.

Sat., Aug. 19

• The Highlands Emergency Council 31-year celebration at the Highlands Community Building from 4-7 p.m. There will be a silent auction, live music, beer, wine and appetizers as well as a raffle. For more information, call

828-526-4357.

Tues., Aug. 22

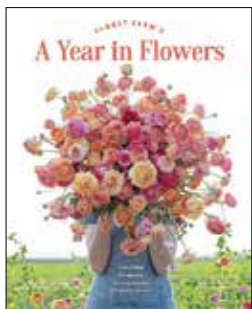
• Would you like to be a mentor? Mission's Parent Mentor Orientation Training is for parents who understand the unique experience of raising a child with a disability, mental health challenge, or special healthcare need. Since 1985, Mission Children's Hospital Family Support Network (FSN) has connected parents to volunteer parents who are uniquely qualified to help because of shared experiences. At our upcoming Parent Mentor Orientation Training, parents are trained to offer support in meaningful ways for families undergoing a new diagnosis, transition, or crisis. This training offers volunteer parents the tools they need to support others and become an official FSN Parent Mentor. Training is being offered from 5:30-8pm; sessions will be at Mission Children's at 11 Vanderbilt Park Dr., Asheville. To register, call 828-213-0047 or email mhav.familysupportnetwork@hcahealthcare.com

Thurs., Aug. 24

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6-8 p.m., Nicole Witt a nationally-touring, award-winning Nashville songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for the soaring melodies and clever turns of phrase that have brought her national acclaim in the country, bluegrass, and Christian music scenes. Tickets are \$40. <https://www.simplertix.com/e/nicole-witt-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-t-tickets-124435>

Aug. 25-Sept. 2

• The annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse theme this year is "Historically Cashiers" and features a classic mountain retreat in The Club at High Hampton. For more information on the Cashiers Designer Showhouse and the Cashiers Historical Society, please visit cashiershistoricalsociety.org or call 828-743-7710.



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...REPAIRS continued from page 1

luctance in allocating an additional \$550,000 from county funds.

This is the second time that the project only received one bid for the project, both times from the same company, with the same final price tag of over \$1 million. By state statute, the first time the county only received one bid, they had to re-bid the project in hopes of attracting additional interest, however no additional bids or companies showed any interest in taking on the project.

Although having two separate bidding processes for the project yielded the same result, Commissioner Josh Young said he didn't think the county should accept the bid solely because it was the only one received. Commissioner Young said he would like to continue trying to solicit other companies for the project and noted that at some point, the economy will change and companies would be more inclined to take the work.

Despite the county's healthy fund balance, commissioners determined that pursuing the project with the current bid was not a feasible option.

"I have no appetite to find the remaining \$550,000 in the county's fund balance," said Commission Chair Paul Higdon.

Higdon said that the county had to keep in mind that they are also looking at other larger capital projects such as the Macon Middle School renovations and the potential of a new facility at Franklin High School, with those projects in the works. As a result, the decision was made to reject the bid, opening the door to alternative strategies.

One potential avenue under consideration is to reissue the project for bidding in a few months, with the hope of attracting bids from different companies that offer a more economical solution. The board is also mulling over the possibility of merging the middle school renovations with a broader expansion project at Highlands School.

Members of the joint facilities review committee which includes members of the Macon County Board of Education and key district staff, urged the county to not combine the projects as the current needs of the middle school project are emergent. Repairs to the roof and the building's HVAC system are desperate, and delaying the project further could result in larger, more costly issues in the future.

The expansion project, which entails the addition of two pre-kin-

dergarten classrooms, is currently being designed by LS3P, the architectural firm handling both endeavors. However, completion of the design work for the expansion is not expected until December. Consequently, if the board decides to combine the projects, it would likely delay any further action until 2024.

Despite the school system's request for the county to move forward with the bid and for the county to fund the \$550,000 shortfall, county commissioners still voted against the measure.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Michelle and Darren Gillett of Scaly Mountain Crafters (Pens with a Purpose), 8106 Dillard Road, Scaly Mountain, NC, have made a generous donation of personalized pens to the Scaly Mountain Women's Club's current 11 Fall Scholars. These students are receiving scholarships through our club for four years of education. Scholarships are open to any high school or adult student living in the Sky Valley/Scaly Fire District. For more information on scholarships, please contact scalymountainwomen@gmail.com. Scaly Mountain Crafters is a retail venue for local artists in western NC and north GA to sell their hand-crafted items with a portion of each sale dedicated to providing meals for local families through a non-profit business partner, SERV International. Through June 2023, over 535,000 meals have been provided.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Dave O'Harra (President), Al Tuchfarber and Mark Chmar.

At the Rotary Club of Highlands meeting July 18, Mark Chmar introduced Al Tuchfarber who gave a wonderful talk on the current Eastern European conflict between Ukraine and Russia. He made his projections on which country might come out victorious, the timeframe and the rippling affects that the outcome could produce throughout the world.

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Who Hijacked My Fairy Tale



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The never-changing Jesus Christ changes us

Michael D. Matlock
Rector
Christ Anglican Church

How often have we heard the saying, “The only constant is change.” Perhaps the origin of this saying can be traced to Heraclitus of Ephesus (c. 500 BC), who is quoted by Plato as saying, “Nothing endures but change.”

At Christ Anglican, our Gospel lesson on Sunday was Luke 9:28-36, which is the account of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this passage, Jesus went up on a mountain with three of his disciples, and there -- right in front of Peter, James, and John -- Jesus was changed and transformed, with his face shining brightly and his clothes dazzling white. Along with Jesus, Elijah and Moses appear as well—radiantly shining.

Ever impetuous Peter wants to erect three tents, or booths, perhaps to memorialize the event or to at least give some honor to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. What this reveals, is that Peter doesn't fully understand Jesus' status, as he attempts to put Jesus on equal footing with Elijah and Moses. A bright cloud appears, and God the Father says, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to him.” For the disciples, this verifies that Jesus is the Son of God and unequivocally clarifies his divinity (see Daniel 7:13-14).

In the light of the subsequent events of the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, we are invited to take comfort in looking at and believing in Jesus in the same way God directs the three disciples. Jesus is more than a good teacher, more than a wise prophet, more than a lawgiver. He becomes the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is not just a messiah, but the only Messiah.

What are some broader implications of the Transfiguration? Perhaps one lesson the Transfiguration demonstrates for us is that in spite of all the change we experience, there is one constant. There is someone who doesn't change: Jesus (Hebrews 13:8). The Transfiguration, by revealing Jesus' divine glory, reassures us in this and encourages us, because it reveals to us who Jesus really is. Jesus was 100% divine and 100% human. There is no God like Jesus nor will there ever be one like Him.

The change that comes from the Christian Scriptures is that as we follow Jesus, we are empowered and transformed by the hope that lives in us (see 2 Peter 1:16-21). The change (the metamorphosis) that Jesus wants to do in us is from the inside out. By rightly understanding who Jesus is, we can remain unchanged from all forces attempting to change us from the outside in: technology, science, religious pluralism, materialism, enlightened social objectiv-

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 19

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315
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 CHURCH
Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector
464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 28717
CAC@christanglicancashiers.org & 828-743-1701
Sundays: 9:30 am Adult Christian Formation;
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Worship
Wednesdays: 6 pm Bible Study, Prayer, Potluck
Thursdays: 10 am Healing Eucharist

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
www.cashiers.church
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
Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays
4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &
Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY
706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morning
Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am 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
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from July 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

July 13

• At 11 a.m., officers received a report of a burglary, breaking & entering and trespassing at Azalea Circle.

July 28

• At 2:18 p.m., officers responded to a call of a larceny at a residence on Chestnut Street when a delivered item valued at \$184 was taken.

July 31

• At 9:48 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 west near Holt Knob Road.

Aug. 1

• Officers responded to a report that someone failed to pay an ordinance ticket in relation to a incident on Oak Street.

Aug. 2

• At 11:59 a.m., officers responded to a call for service because a bear was inside a vehicle at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

• At 5:45 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 near 3rd Street.

Aug. 4

• At 2:29 p.m., James Peter Carlton, 54, of Highlands, was arrested for trespassing. He was issued a \$2,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Aug. 24.

• At 7:39 p.m., Richard Charles Meadows, 50, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over on NC 106. He was issued an unsecured \$600 bond. The trial date

is Aug. 25.

Aug. 5

• At 1:55 a.m., Saoirse Ellis Flynn, 26, of Sapphire, NC, was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over on US 64 east. He was released on a written promise. His trial date is Aug. 25.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 24.

Aug. 1

• At 4:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident with no injuries on NC 106.

Aug. 2

• At 3:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Estates.

Aug. 4

• At 5:43 a.m., the dept. responded to an electrical fire at a residence on Moon Mountain Road.

Aug. 5

• At 1:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Johnwood Road.

Aug. 6

• At 2:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Western Rhodes Drive.

Aug. 7

• At 11:57 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Split Rail Row.

• At 4:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on a powerline on US 64 west.

• At 5:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about an electric fire smell at a residence on Cinnamon Lane.

• At 5:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hidden Springs Way.

...CHALLENGE continued from page 13

a mobile home in Scaly Mountain, a region near the Georgia-North Carolina border, as his legal residence prior to casting his ballot in the 2020 presidential election.

The New Yorker alleged in March that Meadows had registered an address in Macon County without ever having lived there, prompting a closer look into his voter registration status. As a result, state authorities initiated an investigation into the matter.

Macon County's Board of Elections Director, Melanie Thibault, expressed surprise at Meadows' presence on the county's

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

ism, postmodern subjectivity, and identity confusion such as biological sex.

In the epistle reading from Sunday, taken from Peter's second letter, he reveals that the church in Rome was headed for difficult times of persecution (2 Peter 1:13-21). He tells the church that being an eyewitness to the Transfiguration—recalling the event of seeing the full majesty of the

voter rolls. The county's District Attorney, Ashley Welch, recused herself from the case due to potential conflicts of interest, as Meadows had contributed to her campaign and appeared in political advertisements endorsing her. The case was handed over to North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein, who requested the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to delve into the matter.

In light of the investigation, the Macon County Board of Elections announced Meadows' removal from the registered voter

• See CHALLENGE page 22

Lord in his glory—stuck with him through his entire life.

Peter, the uneducated fisherman was transformed into Peter the disciple who ultimately gave his life for his faith. May Peter's metamorphosis inspire us to allow the glory of the Lord to transform us so that Jesus shines ever brighter in us.



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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Tea anyone?

Students from the Highlands Community Child Development Center had their annual tea party on Monday, July 31, 2023. Pat Hedden, Director of the Center, said there was no special reason except for the children to have a good time. Staff, students and many parents participated.



HFCC supports higher learning

Highlands Falls Country Club announces the recipients of its two scholarship funds. From left is Brent Sleight who will be attending Athens Technical College (Serendipity Fund). The other two are receiving the Leland Speed Scholarship Endowment. In middle is Michael Todd who will be a senior at UNC Chapel Hill, and on right is Darin Guffey (senior at WCU).



...CHALLENGE continued from page 19

list. However, no formal challenges were raised against his registration, and the board directed all inquiries to the SBI.

The recent case of Mark Meadows' voter registration status is not the first time Macon County has faced concerns over residency. Amid the scrutiny surrounding Meadows' dual registration in Virginia and North Carolina, another instance emerges that sheds light on Macon County's history of questionable situations regarding voter registration and verification.

The Residency Challenge against Haven

In 2014, in a similar vein, another controversy unfolded in the county, involving a challenge against a local candidate's residency. The challenge was lodged against candidate Ron Haven, who claimed his legal "domicile" to be a small efficiency apartment at the Budget Inn, rather than his family home in Mill Creek Country Club. Haven's ownership of the Budget

Inn and his preference for staying there due to its proximity to his business operations led to a dispute over his actual residency within the voting district.

The Residency Test and Burden of Proof

The residency challenge against both Haven and recently against Chambers raises broader questions about the interpretation of residency requirements.

The burden of proof in residency challenges falls on the candidate, requiring them to disprove allegations rather than placing the onus on the challenger to prove them. After a hearing held at the Macon County Courthouse, the committee appointed to hear Haven's case sided with Haven and said that he showed he resided at Budget Inn, as well as in Mill Creek. At the hearing, he testified that he spends about 160 nights per year at his Budget Inn apartment and that he keeps clothes, toiletries and cooking supplies there.

Similar Challenges and Withdrawals

Haven's case was not isolated, as another candidate, Gary Shields, also faced a residency challenge the same time Haven did. Shields, a moderate Republican, encountered a complaint filed by a far-right conservative. The challenge, however, was later withdrawn, underscoring the intricacies and subjectivity of the residency test for candidates. Shields' dual residence and the complexities of his living situation further exemplify the challenges in ensuring residency requirements.

Challenge Timeline:

A vote will be taken -- and so a decision made -- after the challenge is heard, so there is no wait time; Candidates have to be there in person; The challenger has to be there in person; If the challenge is heard in a timely manner, and a decision is made against him, then Chambers' name will

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