

Highlands Newspaper

Happy Presidents' Day!

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Volume 20, Number 7

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Thurs., Feb. 16, 2023

Town and Huff et al enter into 'Stay'

Following the Special Called Closed Session meeting last Thursday afternoon, Mayor Pat Taylor announced that the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners authorized its attorney Robert E. Hagemann to proceed

with entering into a Stay Order for six months concerning the Huff et al v. Town of Highlands lawsuit.

"Doing so will avoid unnecessary court costs while we wait to see if the NC General Assembly adopts legislation pertaining to

short-term rentals," said Taylor.

The decision to enter into a Stay comes on the heels of the Jan. 19 announcement at the Town Board meeting that the town would be filing a motion

• See STAY page 16

Highlands headed to LMSC tournament championship

Right: Highlands James Earp scores a layup against Blue Ridge Early College during the first round of the Little Smoky Mountain Conference tournament hosted by Nantahala on Tuesday. The score was 66-41.



Left: Highlands Ezra Branham scans Nantahala's defense before calling a play during the first round of the Little Smoky Mountain Conference tournament hosted by Nantahala on Tuesday. The score was 63-15.

Both teams play Hiwassee Dam on Thursday at Nantahala for the tournament championship.

Photos by Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

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Deteriorated sewer pipes cause break along US 64w

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 8, a breach of a main sewer line occurred on the Franklin Road (US 64 west) near Mirror Lake Road.

"The water/sewer department noticed it Wednesday afternoon," said Public Works Director Lamar Nix. "Work started on repairing it immediately."

Motorists traveling the route were detoured to one-lane so

workers could make repairs safely.

Once the repair was made, the line was put back in service, but it started leaking in another location down the line.

"It was repaired again, only to have another leak show up a few feet away," said Nix. "At that point, we determined that approximately 200 feet of line needed to be replaced."

• See SEWER page 22

Calls for county to withdraw from FRL are put to rest

By Brittney Lofthouse

Patrons expressed their concerns regarding the Macon County Public Library leadership during a meeting last week, with many calling for Macon County to end its contract with the Fontana Regional Library System.

What started as grievances over the library's books display in June

2021 for Pride Month featuring LGBTQ books and resources, has morphed into a broader discontent with library operations and book selections.

During the library board meeting, members of the public voiced their opposition to specific books available at the library that

• See LIBRARY page 15

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Recent fire exemplifies the need for full-time firefighters

On Saturday, February 4, we had a major structure fire on Sagee Woods Drive. I was at home and heard fire trucks coming to Highlands from Cashiers, and any time that happens, I know there must be a major fire or rescue situation in the area.

Concerned that we had a major event, I went to the new fire station and saw several parked vehicles of our volunteer firefighters. I stopped and went to the open fire truck bays, and all the trucks were gone except for the large hook and ladder truck, which confirmed my fear of a major event. I would later learn that truck was also to be used in fighting the fire.

The home on fire was a 7,000 square foot structure, and firefighters had their hands full in getting equipment and water to the site by way of a very narrow residential road. I know some folks have questioned in the past why the fire department has so many trucks, but in a major fire, all that equipment is desperately needed. Other



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

fire departments from Cashiers and Scaly also responded and provided firefighting support to this serious fire event.

The fighting of this fire was a coordinated effort. The fire department called the water plant to inform them of the fire and that huge volumes of water would be needed. The water plant operators stayed on duty for about 20 hours, ensuring sufficient water would be available for the firefighters. In fact, the fire department

used 250,000 gallons of water on Saturday. As the firefighters continued to put out hotspots throughout Sunday, the final water usage will probably top out near 300,000 gallons.

The operations of the fire department do not end after the fire is put out. There are major reports that have to be done, and an investigation of the cause gets underway immediately. All the gear firefighters used has to be cleaned in the fire department's new extractor system. Even all the fire hoses were dried in the new extractor system and then all the equipment had to be repacked and repositioned on the trucks.

In short, this tragic fire underscores the value of our first-rate modern firefighting facility that serves this large Highlands fire district. Like you, I saw photographs of our firefighter's manning hoses and on ladders fighting the fire. One unanticipated event or sudden situational change can put those firefighters in great danger. They need the best equipment and protection that we can provide for the hazardous business that firefighters undertake.

Our next step for the fire department is to go to basic full-time staffing. This fire underscores not only the need for full-time personnel but also the vital need to maintain a full core of volunteer firefighters. In large fire situations, we need all available firefighters. Their service is essential to the protection of the community.





On behalf of the town, thanks so much for our firefighters.

The Town Board meeting is Thursday at 7 PM at the Community Building.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 16-Feb	Fri, 17-Feb	Sat, 18-Feb	Sun, 19-Feb
			
57°F 47°F	55°F 22°F	49°F 25°F	52°F 33°F
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Controlled burn on Oak St. set for Feb. 18

Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart announced there will be a Controlled Live Burn Training on Oak Street on the old Crane property site beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 18.

"We are notifying citizens so they don't feel like they have to call in a fire," said Gearhart.

The property is now part of Sanctuary on 1st Street development.



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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Where is my crystal ball?

We hear or read stories almost daily about the economy and what it is doing at any given moment. We are entering a recession...oh wait, maybe we aren't. The economy is faltering...but maybe it isn't. The housing market is heading for a crash...or maybe we are wrong. The interest rates are skyrocketing...but maybe they aren't so bad. If we know anything from the headlines, it's that there is a lot of uncertainty out there and it's anyone's guess as to what is actually going to happen. Just wait five minutes and the predictions will change.

But what, you ask, does that have to do with investing in Highlands? The answer is everything...and nothing at all. When we break it down, the real estate market in Highlands is unique to the larger housing market ups and downs. We are a market that is driven by second (or third) homeowners who are not swayed nearly as much by interest rates or pricing.

Our homeowners and those wishing to become homeowners on the plateau typically don't have to buy or sell. They buy because they want a home in a place with the lifestyle they desire or they sell because, more often than not, they want a different home in the area. Sometimes they sell because it is time to be closer to the grandkids or they are starting a new adventure somewhere else. Usually, they are not selling or buying out of necessity. That alone makes a huge difference in our market versus a primary market such as Atlanta, Charlotte or Tampa.

What does drive our market is inventory. As of the end of January, the inventory in Highlands was up over last year, but we were still only sitting at 67 homes on the market. To put that in perspective, go back to January of 2020, before we had even heard of Covid, and there were 219 homes on the market in Highlands.



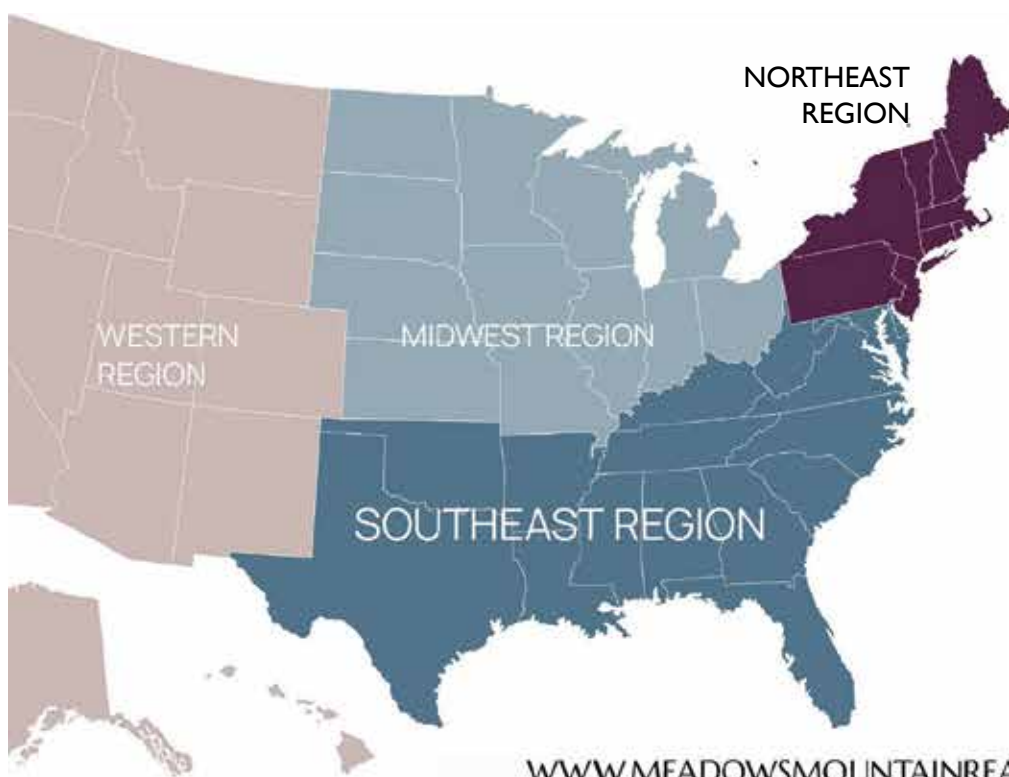
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In the few years since, the market in Highlands exploded driven primarily by buyers wanting desperately to escape crowded metropolitan areas and because of the shift to remote work options for huge swaths of the population. We saw inventory levels even lower than they are now and price appreciation graphing straight up. Couple that with interest rates that were unprecedentedly low, and you ended up with buyers financing homes they didn't have to finance in order to purchase homes they didn't have to purchase from sellers who didn't have to sell.

So now what? Interest rates have crept back up but are still on the historically low side when you look back as far as 1971. They are certainly a far cry from the 15-18% rates we saw in the early '80s! But for Highlands, interest rates at the levels they are today don't impact our market very much. We remain a market where the majority of buyers pay cash.

That being said, we are seeing a softening in the Highlands real estate market. We do have more inventory than last year, we are seeing homes sit on the market a bit longer and our list to sale ratio is now around 92% instead of 95% or 96% as we were seeing. However, our average and median sales prices are both up substantially over last year.

In the end, buyers who come here to purchase a home are buying the lifestyle more than they are buying the home. And what a lifestyle it is! I firmly believe that Highlands is a little slice of heaven, and I don't blame anyone for wanting a piece for themselves. So, the buyers will keep coming and the sellers will keep selling. Maybe not as frenzied as the past few years, but the market will still remain strong. At least for now... Dang, I really wish I had a crystal ball!



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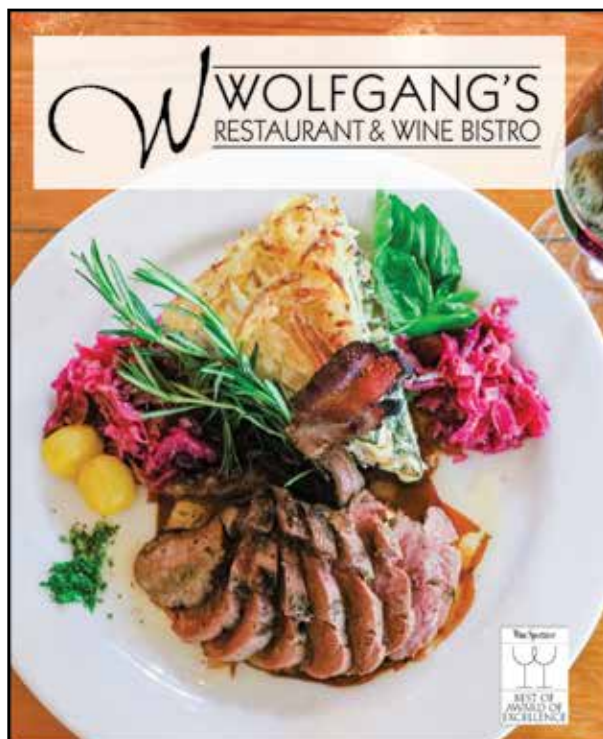
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• LETTERS •

Grants by another name

Dear Editor,

In the Feb. 9 front page article entitled “Two organizations set template for long-term preservation in Highlands,” Gary Wein, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers land Trust was quoted as saying the organization relies totally on donors. “We aren’t fiscally supported by the town or the county nor do we get grants.”

What he meant was that the HCLT doesn’t receive government grants.

Though the vast majority of our funding comes from individual donors, HCLT also receives funding every year from grants. We apply for these by filling out a grant application and providing financial and other information about

our organization, often times providing a follow-up grant report describing how we used those funds.

The majority of those are from local funders and often that money is restricted and can only be used for the purpose described in the grant application.

Over the past year we have received grants from: Community Foundation of WNC, Laurel Garden Club, Wade Hampton Golf Club, Church of the Good Shepherd, Mountain Findings, Conservation Trust of NC, Macon County, Cullasaja Women’s Outreach Cullasaja Club.

Julie Schott

HCLT Development Director

Clarification on the library controversy

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the Highlands Newspaper for bringing attention to the library’s agenda in the Feb. 9 article entitled “Public shares frustration over book displays at library.”

However, it should be noted that although Macon County’s library is not a member of the American Library Association (ALA), both the former director and current director of the Fontana Regional Library (FRL), as well as other administrative staff are, in fact, members of the corrupted ALA.

The Fontana directors (who are the policy writers) have repeatedly admitted they follow the “guidance” of the ALA and have quoted the ALA in many of their policies.

Here is proof direct from FRL website: “FRL affirms the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations, the Freedom to Read and the Freedom to View statements. https://fontanalib.org/sites/default/files/users/contentmanager/docs/collection_development_policy.pdf

Claiming that the library itself is not a “member” of the ALA is another example of the leadership of the library strategically deflecting accountability instead of addressing the real issue of repeatedly promoting sexual materials and gender confusion to impressionable minors.

If you view this ALA training video for library workers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-hyIwgXA8k&t=467s> you’ll see beginning around 7:55 that GLAAD (why are they even giving instruction to begin with?) instructs library workers how to deal with the media. At 10:10 GLAAD instructs library workers to “feed the media” their side of the story in an effort to drown out the “loud voices” of their opponents. Where’s the balance of hearing both sides of the argument and allowing the reader to decide? 11:20 continues with library workers being instructed how to answer the local media, making sure they don’t actually answer the media’s questions but rather only respond with their strategic talking points to change the narrative.

This is exactly how the FRL directors have operated over the last two years since beginning to promote the ALA agenda.

Obviously, Macon County should not be associated with the ALA in any shape or form. Instead, our libraries should be neutral in social and political issues in the same manner as all other tax funded entities. This is our community and our library.

Leah Gaston,
Franklin, NC

• See LETTERS page 8

• THANK YOU •

To everyone who has reached out to us following the loss of our “Mom” & “Grammy,” Gail Rogers, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation. Whether it was a text message, phone call, food, flowers, hugs & attending the service, your many acts of kindness warmed our hearts immensely.

With much love,

- Melissa, Chris, Monica, Kevin, Justin, Tyler, Ryan, Travis & Dylan

Memorial Service for Chris Alley

There will be a Memorial Service for Chris Alley at 1:30pm Sunday, February 19, 2023 in the Historic Chapel, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Highlands NC; fol-

lowed by 3pm Mountaintop Service at Sunset Rock Overlook.

• THEN AND NOW •

Why Mr. Smith won't go to Washington anymore

A funny thing happened as this nation prepares to celebrate President's Day this year. Nothing. Nothing at all. We don't know what or who to celebrate, certainly not recent Presidents, and, if anything, perhaps we could make the Super Bowl a national holiday instead. At least there are clear winners and losers there and pretty good midterm, oops, halftime entertainment too.

Under attack by both the right and left for more than forty years, our Federal government has become increasingly dismembered and dysfunctional, incapable of addressing the most basic requirements set out in the Constitution, namely that of passing an annual budget, keeping itself operational, and of protecting our lives, health, liberty, and property. Congress now is just a body occupied by two opposing parties whose members seemingly have unlimited terms, the Supreme and other courts just political hacks in black robes, and the Presidency increasingly authoritarian, arbitrary, even dictatorial in nature, a chaotic, untethered personal patronage portal divorced from larger public and historic norms.

Of the three branches of government, the Founders worried most about the Presidency. In fact, they created it without historical precedent and with no clear idea of how it would function. We really don't either. George Washington worried that it might become tyrannical in nature, thus stepping aside after two terms, while Thomas Jefferson thought it would expand the powers of the central government and lead to "monarchical subversion."

Yet even Jefferson, ever the proponent of small government, fell victim to its allure and ambiguity when elected President. Almost single-handedly, he doubled the size of the nation with the Louisiana Purchase, arranged to pay for it without prior Congressional approval, then let Congress know and approve his actions. Jefferson also opposed the courts and used his powers to pursue critics and opponents. When it comes to the Presidency, like Jefferson, historically those seeking its office say one thing and do another.

Anyone closely analyzing and not simply parroting parts of the Constitution surely will be struck by how often its corrections refer to the Presidency. In fact, five Amendments, the 12th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, and 25th seek to emend the office and electoral process.



Milton Ready

Moreover, throughout much of our history, Congress has battled the Presidency seeking to limit its expansion, budgetary power and authority to declare wars and involve the nation in external conflicts, a conflict even more pronounced today.

We look upon quadrennial elections for the Presidency as a barometer of our democracy, as a demonstration of our ability to peacefully and amicably transfer power from one administration to another. Yet today they signal more the breakdown of the democratic process and perhaps the ending of the "grand experiment" of 1787. Why? If significant groups of the electorate will not abide by or accept the results as happened in 2020, then chaos, alienation, violence, and fatal dismemberment surely will follow. That's what happened in 1860 when the South would not recognize Lincoln as President and, yes, on at least two other occasions the nation threatened to fall apart, once in 1800 and again in 1876.

If you want to author modern profiles in courage as John F. Kennedy did in 1956, at those who have sublimated person and party for the good of the nation, you need look no further than Richard Nixon in 1960 and Al Gore in 2000. Knowing that Kennedy received fewer votes and understanding how likely were rigged elections in two states, West Virginia and Illinois, Nixon nonetheless conceded, thus avoiding further dividing the nation. Al Gore graciously did the same in 2000 even as Floridians still puzzled over hanging chads. Please note the increasing tendency of courts, particularly the Supreme Court, to decide elections and processes, a disturbing trend for our democracy.

In the 1939 film, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, James Stewart portrays a naive, good-hearted idealistic everyman who unexpectedly is appointed a Senator. When he arrives at the nation's capitol, Jefferson Smith finds himself surrounded by corruption and double-dealing. Yet like the common man, he endures and, as the proverbial candle in Matthew 5:15, eventually shines a light atop a Senatorial podium so that all who enter Washington can see the promise of our democracy. No more. Yet today we need to celebrate the Mr. Smiths and not the William "Dollar Bill" Jeffersons or the George Santos who too eagerly want to go to Washington for the wrong reasons

...LETTERS from page 7 Pennies for Preservation

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to receive a response to the "Ask the Mayor" email this morning as a follow up to his remarks at Rotary and his column in the paper entitled "Pennies for Preservation."

Linda and I have been visiting St. Simons for 40 years and first noticed this in the menu at one of favorites spots in the Village, Barbara Jeans.

Facilitating and bringing this program to the Plateau and expanding it to "A Dollar For Conservation" with proceeds to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, will further assist in the preservation of the plateau that we all hold dear and love.

OEI and Highlands Aerial Park have led the way in this effort to date and I am sure our restaurants, hotel, motels, retailers, STRs and the community will be joining in this very worthwhile effort. Look forward to hearing more as it becomes available. Thank you for your leadership.

Bill Edwards
Highlands

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Completely remodeled. Large windows surround the spacious living area bringing to life the outdoor beauty of all four seasons and is roomy enough to accommodate overflow guests. Lovely granite kitchen countertops, custom-built cabinets, new appliances, new HVAC, new flooring, tile shower, built-in dressers, vaulted shiplap ceilings and walls, and more! Town utilities include water, sewer and garbage pickup. Offered at \$565,000 mls #101447



Newly renovated and updated, this house is about 12 minutes from downtown Highlands and very close to usfs. With a great open living/dining and kitchen area on the main level and two bedrooms on the upper level and two on the lower level. A large covered deck and fireplace, perfect for outdoor entertaining and another deck overlooks a small creek which can be turned into a pond. Offered at \$650,000. mls #101154



This 2BR/2BA vacation rental has deeded Mirror Lake access across Hicks Road. Includes town water, sewer and garbage pickup. Recently renovated. Full unfinished basement plumbed for 3rd bath. Sold furnished with few exceptions. Single car garage and paved circular driveway. Fenced backyard. Offered at \$775,000. mls #101169



Lovely 3bed/2ba Golf Villa sits atop a knoll at HFCC. It has a lovely deck with ridgeline view. Enter in the foyer to a split bedroom plan with an updated kitchen that is open to the dining and living areas. Fireplace in the great room for the chilly evenings. A great way to get into Highlands Falls to enjoy peace, Golf, tennis, pickleball, swimming, fitness center, new friends and great food! Offered at \$675,000. mls #100788



Located about 5 miles from town. This home 4BD/3BA home has a 2-car carport, main room has a pellet wood stove, updated kitchen with room for expansion. 2 bed/2 ba, suite upstairs has a primary bedroom, laundry, office-den and bath. The lower level has a huge unfinished room with a laundry, work area and is stubbed for a bath. Storage building has 2 levels on an acre of land. Offered at \$645,000. mls #100826



3bd/3ba. 2 main bedrooms - one upstairs and one on the main level. Living room has 18' vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace with gas logs but could be converted to wood burning. 2-car detached garage with workshop space and second story, ready to make your own. Fire pit behind the garage. Less than 1/2 mile to town from the Holt Knob neighborhood. Offered at \$799,000. mls #101251



Located on Laurel St. within walking distance to everything! This great property has a 3BR/2BA doublewide manufactured home in good condition with a large level backyard. The home has a large eat in kitchen open to the spacious family room. Master bedroom with full bath and walk-in closet. Located adjacent to the Performing Arts Center. Offered at \$450,000. mls #100737



Great Family home has flat grassy spaces and lovely outdoor entertaining areas. View of Shortoff mountain from the historic outdoor fireplace. 3-4 Bedrooms, 3 baths, office, 2 car garage and a 2 car carport. This is a Do not miss and in move in condition. Offered at \$1,174,000. mls #97458



Located in the exceptional Neighborhood of Sagee Mountain, this easy living Ranch features 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, utilizing a split bedroom plan with a huge master suite with sitting-office area. Open kitchen, dining, living room with fireplace, large sunroom overlooks the backyard. 2 bedrooms and a bath on the guest side and large decks for entertaining. 2 Car carport with a gentle well landscaped lot. Offered at \$1,050,000. mls #101256



This home is over 100 years old and is ready to be brought back to the condition it deserves. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an office. close to town and great location, walk to great food. nice usable yard. Offered at \$1,500,000. mls #100745



Located very close to town is this 2 bedroom 2 bath with cathedral ceilings in the living room and additional sunroom. There is a large open deck that faces 10 acres of protected common area. This is a great starter home waiting for you to decorate with your own finishes and tastes. Offered at \$675,000. mls #98663



Located close to town, This 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath sits high upon a knoll and overlooks the shimmering water of Lake Sequoyah. Enter the main level into a large living room - dining room. Kitchen has a breakfast nook and pass through to the living-dining area. Powder room in the hall, which leads to the owners bedroom and spacious bath, stairwell to the lower-level family room-game room with full bath. Upstairs has two large bedrooms with a hall bath. This house has a rental history also. Offered at \$825,000. mls #100924



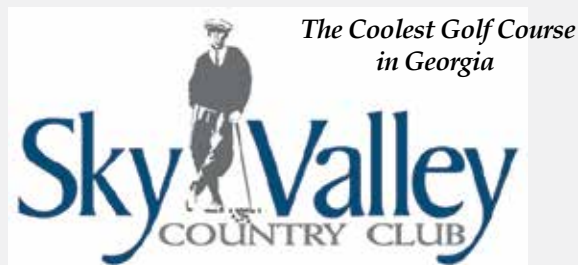
2 Bedroom 2 bath with loft. Located on Buck Creek Road. Main level living with additional loft area. Stone, wood burning fireplace in the living room. Private setting with just over 3 acres of land. Additional workshop. Offered at \$450,000. mls #100577



Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club This lovely condo features easy access directly Off of Highlands Cove Drive and is close to the clubhouse, swimming, tennis courts, and Golf course. Three bedrooms, three baths, all on the main level, Coffered High ceilings, move in condition. Lovely decks and porches to enjoy the cool summer air. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$1,150,000. mls #101007



This home is move-in condition with 3bd/3ba. Big Chill appliances, new cabinetry, and quartz tops. the greatroom is glorious, with doors that connect to an outdoor Carolina room with an artisan stone fireplace. The owner's bedroom is on the main level, with a huge bath fit for a queen! 2 additional guest suites upstairs, plus an office nook. Carport, low maintenance, well landscaped yard. One of the best homes on the market! Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #101172



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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

ICE RINK SCHEDULE (Through March 5)

- Thursday: 3:30-8 p.m.; Friday 3:30-10pm; Saturday 1-10pm; Sunday 1-5pm. \$5 for skate rental & skating

THE POOL IS OPEN

Rec Pool Hours EXTENDED

- Public Swim: Mon.-Wed. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p; Sun. 1-6p. Adult Swim: Mon.-Wed. 11a-3:30p and Thurs. and Fri., 11a-2p. Lap Swim: Mon-Fri 6a-9:45a and Sat. 10-11a. Water Aerobics: Mon.-Fri. 10-11a. 828-526-1595.

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 fraom 5-6:30 pm 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 held on the second or third Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Members receive weekly notification regarding when and how the group will assemble. 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.

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 information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

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

- Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tues. & Thurs.

- New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin 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

First Wednesdays

Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, at 11:00 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. The February 1 program is PTSD: Healing the Emotional Wound.

Wednesdays

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

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, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

2nd Saturdays

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

3rd Saturdays

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

• 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.

Thurs., Feb. 16

• African Drumming at Macon County Public Library on Siler Road. Celebrate Black History Month with an evening of interactive West African drumming Thursday, at 6:30 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Great Room. Music educator Fonzi-ba Koster, who has presented drumming and culture workshops to thousands over the last 25 years, brings 30 authentic West African Jembe drums for a hands-on drumming experience. Attendees are invited to bring a drum if they have one. People of all ages are welcome. The event is free; donations will be accepted to support Artists-in-the-Schools. The Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, with lighted parking and wheelchair access. This program is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for information phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Fri., & Sat., Feb. 17 & 18

• Early Bird Strolls" from 9-10 a.m.. Birders of all skill levels can meet at the North Campus of the Highlands Biological Station (111 Lower Lake Road) for an introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count before taking a walk around campus to find

our feathered friends. Binoculars will be provided.

Sat., Feb. 18

• At the Nature Center, Great Backyard Bird Count 3-5 p.m. Borrow child-sized binoculars to spot birds around Lindenwood Lake, go on a scavenger hunt in the Botanical Garden, and learn how scientists need our help to count the birds in our backyards. Free.

Wed., Feb. 22

• African Drumming at Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library. Celebrate Black History Month with an evening of interactive West African drumming 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Fonzi-ba Koster, who has presented drumming and culture workshops to thousands over the last 25 years, brings 30 authentic West African Jembe drums for a hands-on drumming experience. Attendees are invited to bring a drum if they have one. People of all ages are welcome. The event is free; donations will be accepted to support Artists-in-the-Schools. This program is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for information phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Thurs. - Sat., Feb. 23-25

• She Kills Monsters is to be presented in University Auditorium at WCU at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are available for purchase at \$10, adults at \$20, and Seniors (65+) at \$15. More information and tickets can be found through the Bardo Arts Center Box Office by visiting arts.wcu.edu/tickets, or you can purchase tickets by calling the Box Office by calling 828-227-ARTS.

Thurs., Feb. 23

• At The Bascom at 5 p.m., free Winter Exhibition Reception.

Sat., Feb. 25

• Girl Scout cookies are available for sale at Highlands Wine Shoppe at Main and 3rd streets from 12-4p.

• At Hudson Library, In partnership with Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, they will be staging "An Evening of Murder, Mystery, & Dinner" on Saturday. Using their best detective skills, participants will

be asked to solve a spine-chilling mystery while they share a pot-luck meal (along with clues and gossip) at 5 p.m. Everyone will come onto the scene in character and in costume. The case should be closed in 3 hours. Space is limited and places will be available on a first-come/first-served basis. This special event is open to the public and free of charge.

• At the Highlander Mountain House on Main and 3rd streets, A family style dinner experience by notable Chef, Julia Jaksic, followed by an intimate music performance by songstress, Jessie Baylin. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dinner-and-a-show-tickets-520874879787?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> for tickets.

Sun. Feb. 26

• She Kills Monsters is to be presented in University Auditorium at WCU at 3 p.m. Student tickets are available for purchase at \$10, adults at \$20, and Seniors (65+) at \$15. More information and tickets can be found through the Bardo Arts Center Box Office by visiting arts.wcu.edu/tickets, or you can purchase tickets by calling the Box Office by calling 828-227-ARTS.

Thurs., March 2

• African Drumming at the Hudson Library. Celebrate Black History Month with an afternoon of interactive West African drumming Thursday, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Music educator Fonzi-ba Koster, who has presented drumming and culture workshops to thousands over the last 25 years, brings 30 authentic West African Jembe drums for a hands-on drumming experience. Attendees are invited to bring a drum if they have one. People of all ages are welcome. The event is free; donations will be accepted to support Artists-in-the-Schools. This program is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for information phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Sat., March 4

• Girl Scout cookies are available

• See EVENTS page 12

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...EVENTS continued from page 11

for sale at 4118 Kitchen in Highlands Plaza from 12-4p.

Thurs., March 9

• Chamber Chats at the Highlands Community Building on Poplar Street from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Light breakfast with coffee and tea. To RSVP contact Colleen Kerrigan at businessservices@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

Tues. & Wed., March 15 & 16

• At PAC, Youth Theatre presents *Madagascar Jr. A Musical Adventure* at 7 p.m. It's FREE but please "purchase" tickets so we know how many people are coming.

Fri., March 24

• At PAC, Rhythm of the Dance. For tickets, email highlandspacnc@gmail.com

Sun., May 14

• At PAC, Steep Canyon Rangers. For tickets, email highlandspacnc@gmail.com.

June 23-July 8

• "Jersey Boys" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com

July 28-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.

Oct. 6-28

"The Rocky Horror Show" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

The steps to heart health are achievable, with determination and a strong patient-provider partnership

Since we celebrate National Heart Month every February, it's a good time to review what we can do to lower our risk for heart disease and heart attack. Unfortunately, heart attack has been the No. 1 cause of death in the United States for more than seven decades, and it's not an exaggeration to say that it is an epidemic. By raising our awareness about the steps we ourselves can take to lower our risk for a heart attack, we can feel empowered about improving and supporting our heart health.

Even though we have all read and heard about lifestyle factors in relation to heart health many times, I feel it can't be said too many times. What you eat and how much you move are the two critical everyday lifestyle factors you can improve now to ensure

your heart stays strong.

Adopting a healthy diet that consists of a variety of fruits and vegetables, lean protein like chicken and fish, legumes (foods like beans, lentils, and peas), and heart-healthy fats (think nuts, avocados, and fish high in omega-3 fatty acids like salmon) is something that goes a long, long way in ensuring that your heart stays in tip-top shape.

Of course, it's also important to avoid certain foods, including "junk" foods that are highly processed and fast food. It's also smart to keep your alcohol intake in check and even though this isn't food, smoking is something many want to do after a meal. Remember that smoking hurts your heart — and has also been linked to virtually every serious health condition out there, from stroke and diabetes to cancer and dental health problems.

It's also advised that we get a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week. This isn't as much as it sounds like, and it works out to just 30 minutes, five days per week. The key is finding exercise that you enjoy, whether that's hiking the Plateau's beautiful trails, taking a dance class, or going for a run with a friend.

Moving every day and eating well helps keep you within a normal weight range in a time when obesity is a true epidemic in our country. Unfortunately, high rates of obesity in younger people 35-64 are increasing their risk for heart disease earlier in life, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

We know too that physical activity is a great stress reducer as well — and effective stress management is also a big part of taking good care of your heart. Managing stress better has to do with finding healthy substitutes for habits like spending too much time on our screens, addiction to work, or over-eating. Solutions include getting out in nature, allowing yourself time to socialize and do things you enjoy, volunteering, and engaging in a



**Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital**

practice like meditation or taking a yoga class.

Getting adequate, high-quality sleep is also something linked to good heart health, so if you suffer with insomnia or suspect you may have sleep apnea, speak with your provider about interventions that can help. Practices that you can adopt to improve sleep include making your bedroom a screen-free

domain, avoiding heavy meals and alcohol, going to bed at the same time each evening, and keeping your bedroom well-ventilated and at a comfortable temperature.

Your primary care provider, as I noted before, is someone you can talk to about the state of your heart, and your habits. You can get a good idea of what habits you can change by "knowing your numbers," such as your weight, blood pressure, and cholesterol. This can be a starting point for improving your heart health.

I also want to make sure each of you are aware that we have access to a cardiologist on the Plateau. Dr. William Wharton is a board-certified cardiologist who sees patients at the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus twice a month.

I'm also happy to report that cardiology teleconsultations are now available at Highlands Cashiers Hospital (HCH). If you visit HCH and are having minor cardiac symptoms, we may be able to offer teleconsultation with a board-certified cardiologist. This would allow us to keep you here at our hospital.

This way, you can stay here at HCH and don't have to be transported to another hospital, though if that is necessary, we would stabilize you here and transport you to Mission Hospital via MAMA, the medical transport helicopter.

We also offer telemedicine for pulmonology, infectious disease, acute stroke, and nephrology (kidney conditions), infectious diseases, and wound care.

A word of warning, however. Lifestyle is one important factor in heart health, but family history also has a significant impact. It's important to be familiar with heart attack symptoms, and never to ignore them. Both genders can experience chest pain or tightness, jaw, neck, or back pain, shortness of breath, arm pain, and nausea or vomiting. However, women may also notice pain in the lower chest or upper abdomen, indigestion, sweating, and dizziness.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Democratic Precinct meeting is Tues., Feb. 18

Every other year precincts in North Carolina gather at this time of year to conduct mandatory business. This includes electing officers for the next two years, hearing messages from the state and district Democratic leaders, and other matters that may be brought

by any registered members of this precinct.

Our meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at the Hudson Library Community Room.

There is noteworthy news at the state level. The leadership of

the state Democratic Party was replaced almost entirely, largely due to what is considered to be a very ineffective effort in the last election. We'll have the update on what happened and who is now running the state party business.

...LIBRARY continued from page 1



Citizens filled the meeting room of the MC Library on Siler Road during last week's monthly library meeting.

featured explicit content as well as proposed a solution of labeling LGBTQ themed books and displaying them in a specifically marked and designated section of the library so parents can easily identify the books.

While some patrons offered solutions such as removing controversial books from the library's selection and placing rainbow stickers on the spine of books to clearly identify them as LGBTQ, others asked the county to consider pulling out of the Fontana Regional Library System completely.

The Macon County Public Library, as well as the Nantahala Library and the Hudson Library in Highlands operates under a regional agreement with Board of County Commissioners from Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties for the nonprofit organization referred to the Fontana Regional Library System to provide public library services.

The first membership to the advisory board of the Macon County Public Library was approved by the Macon County Board of Commissioners in March 1980, nearly 43 years ago. The agreement states that the county will provide funding for facilities and operations of the library and that the library will be governed by policies and

procedures established by the library system's board of trustees.

According to the 1980 agreement, the library board, which is appointed by the county commissioners, is responsible for planning of library needs, recommending candidates to serve as the county librarian if a position becomes vacant, and to consult with and advise the county librarian about problems relative to library services as well as aid in preparing the annual budget. The board can also serve to coordinate fundraising for the library.

The last agreement, signed in 2013, states: "the Boards of County Commissioners of Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties recognize that collaboration provides the most effective and efficient means to provide public library service to the residents of said counties by unifying the administration of the participating libraries, providing professional library specialists, cooperating in the selection of books and other materials, and crossing county lines for the benefit of all; this collaboration provides opportunities for service and resource allocations otherwise beyond the financial and service capacities of the individual county governments and libraries."

The contract defines the relationship between the participating counties and the

library system stating that all real property such as buildings, grounds, and other facilities of each library shall be acquired and owned by the respective counties while all other property such as library materials, technology, furnishings, and books, are owned by Fontana Regional Library, with an exception for the Hudson Library in Highlands, which calls for joint ownership of materials within the library.

Because of the agreement in place, if Macon County were to withdraw from the regional library system, they would retain the Macon County Public Library building, as well as the Nantahala Library building, in which the libraries operate, however the entirety of the buildings contents would be removed at the discretion of the library system.

While some patrons called for separating from the Fontana Regional Library system, there is no indication the county intends to pursue that course of action at this time.

Following the board meeting last week, the library board and representatives from the county commission agreed to work together toward a solution to address the concerns that have been received regarding specific books as well as identifying LGBTQ books and materials.



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...STAY continued from page 1

to dismiss the Huff vs. Town of Highlands case in court in Swain County February 27.

However, with the joint consent of the parties - Plaintiff Huff et al and Defendants Town of Highlands - a stay of these proceedings was outlined and ordered:

1. Plaintiffs filed the Complaint in this matter on October 13, 2021, contesting, among other things, Defendant's legal authority to regulate short-term rentals.

2. Defendant filed a motion to dismiss the complaint in December 2021, and has not filed an answer.

3. Plaintiffs moved for partial summary judgment and filed a motion to attorneys' fees that they noticed for hearing on February 27, 2023.

4. The scope of a municipality's authority to regulate short-term rentals has been the subject of litigation nationwide and in this state. See, e.g., (Schoeder cite; Blowing Rock cite; other cites).

5. The Parties believe and understand that the NC General Assembly this year intends to consider legislation that directly addresses a municipality's authority to regulate short-term rentals.

6. Any such legislation would have a direct impact on the legal claims in this case

and any potential ruling on the legal claims from this Court.

7. The Parties believe it would be in the interest of judicial economy and the Parties' resources, which include taxpayer funds, to stay this case pending action by the General Assembly on the issue of short-term rental regulation.

The Agreement statement says:

1. The Parties agree that a stay of six months from February 27, 2023, is a reasonable length of time for this action to be stayed.

2. The Parties have agreed that this stay may be lifted upon agreement of the Parties or further order of this Court.

3. The Town shall not pass any material legislation regarding or relating to short-term rentals during the period of the stay. Passing such material legislation shall be grounds for dissolution of the Stay Order.

4. Any dispute as to whether legislation is "material" for purposes of this Agreement shall be decided by the Court upon a motion by Plaintiffs to dissolve the Stay Order.

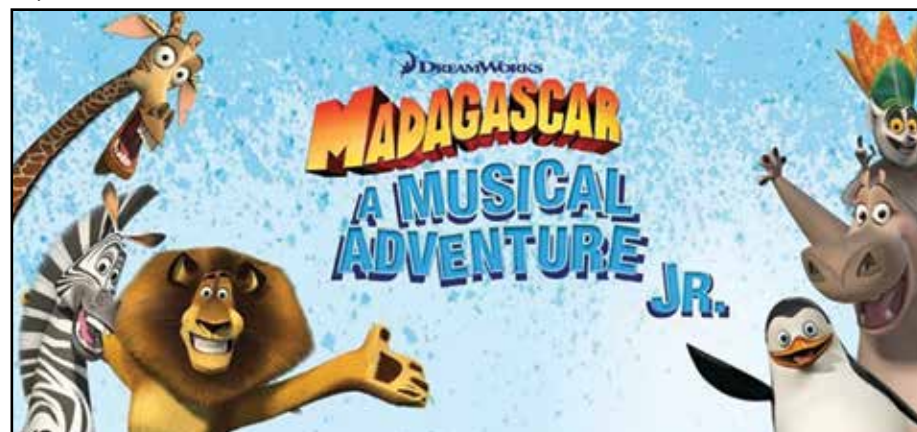
5. This Agreement shall not be construed to prejudice the legal rights of the Parties or pending claims in the Litigation.

6. The Agreement was entered for the purposes of preserving the resources of the Parties and shall not be deemed an admission or concession by either Party to any fact or legal issue.

As to the future of short-term rentals in North Carolina, Jennifer Sokolowsky with Avalara My Lodge Tax reported moving forward in 2023, extreme positions on STR regulation — from total STR bans on the government side to a complete lack of rules on the operators' side — will not be the norm.

"Instead, many communities will find that a more balanced approach will likely achieve the most success. In this best-case scenario, communities will be able to take advantage of the many benefits STRs bring, while having mechanisms in place to effectively curb any negative effects and giving all sides an opportunity to contribute."

- Kim Lewicki



PAC's Youth Theatre's next performance is March 14 & 15

Last Fall's middle school production of Fame Jr. was a tremendous success and paved the way for the elementary school students to get excited about being in Madagascar Jr. A Musical Adventure.

Going through a bit of a mid-life crisis, Marty, the zebra, wishes that he could be out in the wild. After meeting a bunch of crazy penguins who also want to escape from the zoo, Marty follows them and breaks free. Discovering that their friend has gone, Alex the lion, Melman the "hypocon-giraffe" and Gloria the hippo, go on a mission to find him and bring him back to the zoo.

March 14 and 15. at 7 PM

Both show are in Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.
Tickets are FREE, but please "purchase" them so we know the count.

Chestnut Hill,

a residential retirement community on a quiet mountain top in Highlands, NC, has spacious Independent and Assisted Living Apartments. It is a full-service, Medicaid Certified community.



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828-526-5251 or 904-514-4896
www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com**

• AREA ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS •



Help remove non-native invasive plants from our community!

During this month's Highlands Greenway workday, Saturday, Feb. 18, volunteers will meet at the Rec Park back parking lot at 9 a.m.

In partnership with the Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) the group will be removing Privet and Oriental Bittersweet from the Rec Park.

Please bring gloves, loppers, hand saws, and a determination to kill privet.

This will be the first step in an effort to restore this forested area to a more beneficial landscape for the Highlands community. Help is greatly appreciated.

Work will stop at noon and lunch is at 4118. Please let Sonya Carpenter know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly. Sonya Carpenter sonyacarpenter@gmail.com

Great Backyard Bird Count is Feb. 17 & 18

Who is wintering in these woods? That's the question the Highlands Nature Center is asking as they take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, and you can join in too! This global event, now in its 26th year, invites people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting birds - as many birds as you can find. Reporting these observations helps scientists better understand how birds across the world are doing.

The Nature Center will kick off the event with "Early Bird Strolls" on Friday and Saturday, February 17th and 18th, from 9 to 10 AM. Birders of all skill levels can meet at the North Campus of the Highlands Biological Station (111 Lower Lake Road) for an introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count before taking a walk

around campus to find our feathered friends. Binoculars will be provided.

The Nature Center will wrap up their Great Backyard Bird Count celebration with "Bird's the Word!" - a family-friendly event on Saturday, February 18th from 3 to 5 PM. Borrow child-sized binoculars to spot birds around Lindenwood Lake, go on a scavenger hunt in the Botanical Garden, and learn how scientists need our help to count the birds in our backyards.

These programs are free, and made possible by the Highlands Biological Foundation. No registration necessary. For more information, visit highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Nature Center and Highlands Botanical Garden are part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.



TessenTREE Planting event needs volunteers

Mainspring Conservation Trust invites volunteers of every knowledge level to join a tree-planting party and turn TessenTee Bottomland Preserve's newest tract into a haven for wildlife.

Planting will occur on Thursday, February 23 from 9am-5pm, Friday, March 3 from 9am-12pm, and/or Saturday, March 4 from 9am-12pm. Enjoy provided snacks (or lunch if you join for the full day), befriending like-minded tree lovers, and the satisfaction of creating a home for an abundance of critters. Visit mainspringconserves.org/events for more details and to register for this event.

"We're going to establish a woody riparian buffer on 14 acres of the property, along the river and the creek," says Kelder Monar, Mainspring's Stewardship Manager. "We will plant native trees with specific value for wildlife, 4,300 trees in total. This is a big project, so we'll need extra volunteers."

Without intentional planting, common species like tulip poplar, black walnut, and sycamore would naturally form a "woody riparian buffer," a community of plants growing along a waterway that keeps it clean, cool, and comfortable for aquatic creatures. These common trees would create an adequate buffer, but they are already prevalent in

floodplain forests and wouldn't offer wildlife anything special.

Monar wants this buffer to not only improve the aquatic habitat on the preserve but enrich the forest habitat as well, and selected eight species of native trees that will support wildlife. Redbud, silky dogwood, false indigo, and buttonbush will provide nectar for pollinators. Persimmon, black gum, and red mulberry produce fruits that birds and mammals enjoy. Catalpa hosts Catalpa sphinx moth caterpillars, which often drop into the water and are a delicacy to fish.

Mainspring acquired the first portion of TessenTee Bottomland Preserve in 1999, and has since added three additional tracts. Visitors can view a historic farmstead, a rich diversity of birds and butterflies, and a wide range of habitats, including a red cedar savannah and a distinct granite outcrop. Mainspring maintains native river cane and white oak stands on the property in collaboration with Cherokee artisans, who harvest these plants for use in traditional crafts. This new addition, a 40-acre former cattle pasture, brings the total size of the preserve to over 110 acres.

Visit mainspringconserves.org/events for more details and to register for this event.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Super Bowl and the Supernatural

**Sr. Pastor
Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

Historically, Super Bowl ads have been a consistent and entertaining draw for American viewers. If football isn't your thing, you may still check out the amazingly expensive, well-done commercials. Super Bowl ads bring out an advertiser's very best, because of the mega-expensive airtime and the cultural platform provided. Would you not agree that over the past fifty-plus years, the Super Bowl has become much more than a football game? The Super Bowl has become a cultural phenomenon, intended to amuse, entertain, and lure people into developing a new allegiance to an automobile, a snack food, a beverage, or even a medication?

Certainly, a great deal of research goes into understanding just what demographic of our society watches the Super Bowl. Therefore, one can know something of our culture by knowing the products advertised. The first commercial I saw this past Sunday, aired just moments prior to one of the most aggressive, and violent athletic competitions known to this culture. This ad promoted a product intended to alleviate the nagging symptoms of menopause. This pre-kickoff attention to menopause caused a pause in me. Immediately, I had to consider a historic paradigm shift in viewership that I in no way saw coming. After watching more commercials with late 30's, mid 80's and mid 90's movie references, I soon realized that our younger Americans are apparently not into the Super Bowl, but maybe more so interested in the halftime show.

How interesting, the NFL is seemingly experiencing a drop in current and possible future viewership among our potential "younger viewers" taking a pass on the Super Bowl. These same "younger generations" are also taking a pass on being positively influenced by the church. Interesting.

Did you happen to notice the "He Gets Us" commercials for Jesus? Few would disagree that they were very well done and at the very least interesting, current, and thought-provoking. Whenever you get Jesus in the mix, there is controversy. Jesus was as enveloped in controversy in the first century as He is now in this cultural moment. Is Jesus controversial? No, people don't really have a problem with Jesus. I think the people who follow Him and the people who oppose Him cause unnecessary controversy. How so? Here are a few, very fair and objective thoughts for your fair and objective consideration:

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

www.christanglicancashiers.com

9:30am 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

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 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

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

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

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

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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

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

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.

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Tues. - 9:30am Latin; Thurs. - 9:30am English; Sun. - 11am English

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;

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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 Feb. 3. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Feb. 3

• At 1:25 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on Church Street.

Feb. 8

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Blue Bike Cafe parking lot.

Feb. 9

• At 10:03 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Feb. 8

Feb. 8

• 11:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Highgate Road.

Feb. 10

• At 9:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Walhalla Road.

Feb. 11

• At 6:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Culasaja Club Drive.

Feb. 13

• At 7:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke at the hospital.

Feb. 13

At 9:06 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Buck Creek Road.

Controlled burn on Oak St. set for Feb. 18

Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart announced there will be a Controlled Live Burn Training on Oak Street on the old Crane property site beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 18.

“We are notifying citizens so they don’t feel like they have to call in a fire,” said Gearhart.

The property is now part of Sanctuary on 1st Street development.



Coach Steve Hott with Aniah McKim at meet in Cary, NC.

McKim swims well at State Championships

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023 Aniah McKim traveled to Cary, NC. He spent the night to be ready to be on the pool deck at 7:15 am on Thursday the 9th to get ready for event #22 the 100 yard breaststroke at the 2023 North Carolina State Swimming Championships. McKim, a freshman, swam well, finishing 22nd, behind mostly upper classmen, at least 7 of which were seniors. He swam the 2nd fastest 100 breaststroke of his career at 1:09.46.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



The Highlands Community Child Development Center, in collaboration with the Church of the Incarnation, recently opened additional child care spaces at the church. An open house on February 14, showcased the new classrooms, which will provide child care for an additional 25 preschool children.
- Photo by Slocum Howland

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

1. To those who follow Christ: Jesus is inclusive of all people. He shows no favoritism. He so loved the world that He died for everyone in it. If those who follow Christ show impartiality or prejudice towards others, and sow discord and hatred towards others, unnecessary controversy and damaging hypocrisy will certainly abound. All followers of Christ must be intimately acquainted with the plank in their own eyes as well as the speck in their neighbors. Believers are to love others (even their enemies) and walk in integrity. Love the sinner but not the sin. Some who follow Christ need to grow up and follow Him and speak more often with actions than words. People’s attention spans will only increase, and mocking will decrease. Maybe, if we verbalize less and demonstrate more, those who are perishing will hear better? Jesus needs a little room to work on people’s redemption and His Lordship without His own getting in His way.

2. To those who do not believe Christ is the Messiah: Yes, Jesus is highly inclusive, full of grace, a dispenser of immeasurable mercy and forgiveness but that doesn’t mean anything goes. You are a sinner as much as those who follow Him. You know this. He is highly accessible, and ready to receive you, but you cannot be your own Lord. His teachings, actions and selflessness are indisputable. He doesn’t love you based on your moral purity. He is love, and at

times, love is so very honest. He won’t stop and start loving you, but you only have so much time to turn away and look to Him. You live in a culture becoming increasingly violent, lawless, hopeless, divided and confused. We are astray, surely you know that? Christ is who He says He is. Lord. He is the perfect standard no one can attain. He is the fullness you desire. Perhaps you try to fill the emptiness within you with decisions and changes that actually have no lasting effect? Turn to Him, He is waiting. It’s okay, talk with Him.

3. “He Gets Us.” Great ads. The content isn’t controversial, it’s what we are all wanting (unity, love, compassion, innocence etc. etc.). He does “get us.” He lived here on earth. He grew in wisdom and stature. He knows sorrow, depression, betrayal, trauma, verbal and physical abuse, public humiliation, the loss of loved ones, prejudice, oppression, persecution and evading His enemies. He knows loneliness, forsakenness, and death. He knows these things not because He “Googled” them, He knows because He experienced them. He understands you and how you are feeling, coping and at times merely surviving.

Next year, many will have forgotten who played in the Super Bowl. Perhaps a couple of simple commercials may remain on your mind long enough to be a segue into considering the love, grace and Lordship of Christ? We all need Him. Amen?

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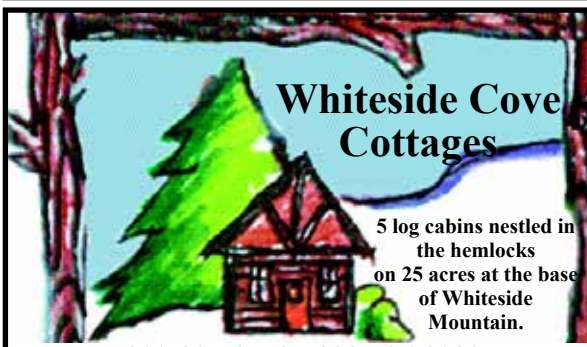
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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HELP WANTED

THE HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL is looking for a responsible, reliable part-time administrative assistant for the 2023 Season. Music knowledge is not a requirement. A warm, friendly environment awaits you! Please email hccmfncc@gmail.com to arrange an appointment (st. 2/2)

WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT - Opportunity for an experienced line cook and hostess/host. Evening shift. Great pay, possible on premise living. Starting 2/26/2023 call Mindy 828.421.2211. (st. 1/19)

HOTWIRE COMMUNICATIONS IS HIRING! LOCAL Highlands opportunities. FULL-TIME, year-round, customer facing, Field Service Technicians & Fiber Splicer jobs available. Excellent pay & benefits. Forward your resume to samantha.baker@hotwirecommunication.com. (st. 9/15)

SWEETREATS AND HIGHLANDS DELI IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT and is hiring full and part time staff for the sea-

...SEWER continued from page 1

Stillwell Enterprises, experts in the field, and town crews worked through the night and into Friday afternoon until it was determined that the line was operational.

A substantial section of the 29-year-old sewer pipe had failed due to deterioration which caused the breaks, said Nix.

Crews made permanent repairs using materials the town had on hand – 12-inch Ductile Iron Pipe, which is the same as the original pipe.

“We are preparing a study of the line to determine if any other areas need to be replaced,” said Nix. “We are also considering other materials for longer range alternatives.”



About 10,000 gallons of sewage from the failed pipe entered a portion of Mirror Lake.

“However, this did not impact the water treatment plant because there are options for water intake,” said Nix. “In addition, water sampling began immediately upstream and

downstream of the leak per requirements.”

Following protocols, Nix notified the state and state officials will monitor the system.

“The town water system has not been compromised, nevertheless water plant operators will conduct ongoing water tests in order to assure high quality service continues,” said Nix.

- Kim Lewicki

• CLASSIFIEDS •

son. Competitive starting wage, great tips, and reasonable hours (not too early, not too late). Pick up an application in store at 115 S. 4th Street or apply on Sweettreatshighlands.com. (st. 5/19)

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility currently hiring CNAs and Dietary Staff. Flexible Schedule, Competitive Pay, Great Atmosphere. Call 828-526-5251 or stop by for an application. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

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Motorists traveling the route were detoured to one lane so workers could make repairs safely.



Workers started to repair the line as soon as the W/S dept. noticed it on Wednesday of last week. A substantial section of the 29-year-old sewer pipe had failed due to deterioration which caused numerous breaks in the line.



Crews made permanent repairs using materials the town had on hand – 12-inch Ductile Iron Pipe - which is the same as the original pipe. The town is preparing a study of the line to determine if any other areas need to be replaced while considering other materials for longer range alternatives.

- Photos by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

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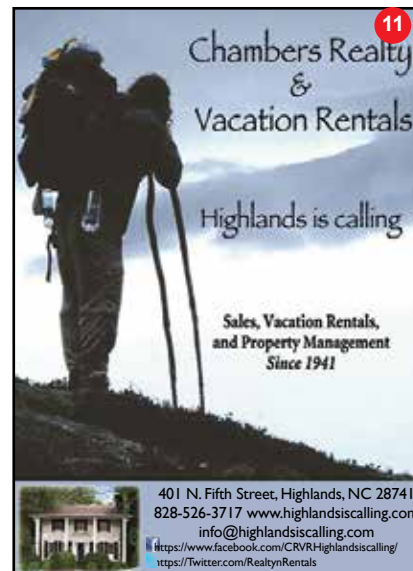
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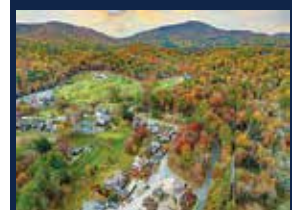


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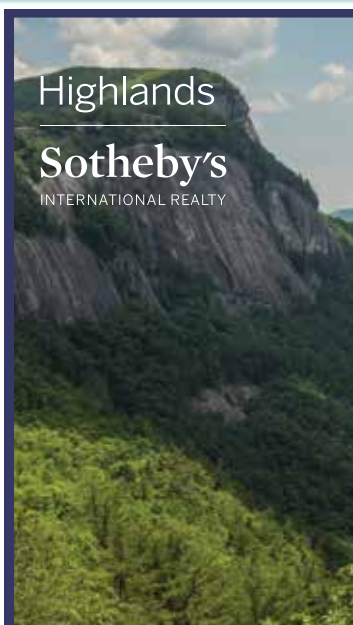
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