

# Highlands Newspaper

Happy Labor Day!

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Volume 21, Number 35

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Thurs., Aug. 29, 2024

## A temporary fix vs. a permanent one for Highlands School soccer field

By Kristin Fox  
There is still a lot of uncertainty surrounding the future of

the Highlands School soccer field. At the recent meeting of the Macon County Board of Education,

it was clear there are still a lot of unanswered questions concerning  
• See FIELD page 18

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## Prepare now for the 2024 Election

Events, deadlines and new requirements are outlined

By Judy Fritts  
MC Board of Elections

On September 17, there are two events for **National Voter Registration Day**: one at the Highlands Civic Center and another at the Senior Center in Franklin, both from 10a to 2p is a Voter Registration and Information Event.

People will be on site to answer questions, register voters, assist with absentee ballot requests, and take photos for voter ID cards. Cards will be mailed to voters.

Remember, if you consider a residence in Macon County your permanent domicile but also have a residence in another state but

• See ELECTION page 4

## First day of Highlands School was Aug. 26



Photo by Kim Lewicki

By Kim Lewicki

If the first day of school at Highlands School is any indication, the '24-'25 school year will be a good one. Students and teachers were happy, enthusiastic and orderly.

Students who disembarked from buses were greeted with High-5s from officers from the Highlands Police Department and those who were dropped off in the car line got a High-5 from

• See SCHOOL page 4

## BOC votes to weaken soil and erosion ordinance

Decision on two more ordinances coming in September

By Kristin Fox

Last month, the Macon County Board of Commissioners held three separate public hearings to consider making changes to three ordinances – the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Watershed Protection, and Flood Damage Prevention ordinances. The public hearings drew a large crowd most showing up to voice their opposition to the revisions.

Due to the tremendous outcry from the public, the commissioners decided to consider each ordinance separately at three consecutive meetings. The commissioners felt this would give others

• See ORDINANCE page 19



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Rules for the upcoming public hearing

On Thursday, September 5, at 7 p.m., a public hearing will be held at the Highlands Community Building (next to the ballfield). The purpose of the public hearing is for the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners to receive public comments on the proposed amortization amendment of the town's short-term rental ordinance. Unrelated issues will not be heard during this session but can always be addressed during the public comment period at all monthly Town Board meetings.

As the presiding public official of this hearing, I have developed the following rules for conducting the hearing, which the town attorney has reviewed. Let me review these three rules.

First, those wishing to make a public comment must sign up to speak as they enter the Highlands Community Building. The sign-up period will be 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the hearing and



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

5 minutes into the hearing, which will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The Town Clerk and attending police officer will maintain the sign-up list at the entrance to the community building. Speakers will be recognized in the order they appear on the list.

Second, each speaker will have 3 minutes to make a statement. This limited time is that we anticipate a large number of people wanting to speak at the hearing.

Third, applause after a speaker's comments will not be allowed. Any disruptive behavior, such as shouting at or heckling a speaker making a statement, will result in that person being removed from the hearing. At previous hearings on the STR ordinance, residents were civil and respectful to other speakers, and we all want to continue to maintain this decorum.

The hearing will be remotely accessible from a link on the town website. Those persons not able to attend the hearing and wishing to be heard can submit a written statement of no more than 300 words in advance of the hearing that addresses the issue of amending the STR ordinance to include an amortization provision.

Statements will be sent directly to the town clerk, Gibby Shaheen, atGibby.Shaheen@highlandsc.org. The clerk will compile the statements and send them to the Commissioners. While everyone is welcome to share views with the commissioners and or the mayor, only statements sent to the Town Clerk will become an official statement of the hearing record.

While I have stated that I do not believe amortization is the best path to follow, I do support the effort to stop and curtail the spread of STRs in Highlands' residential areas. I firmly believe having neighborhoods with full-time and seasonal residents ensures a robust community of concerned citizens for years to come. It also makes our town an attractive place to put down roots and live a quality life.

The public hearing on September 5 will not include a vote to approve or disapprove the amendment. The commissioners

• See **MAYOR** page 14

## • HIC'S VIEW •



whicsewen@yahoo.com

"Highlands town bears celebrating Labor Day on their day off."

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 29-Aug	Fri, 30-Aug	Sat, 31-Aug	Sun, 1-Sep
 81°F 60°F	 78°F 60°F	 76°F 60°F	 75°F 59°F
A t-storm around in the p.m.	Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm	Humid with a stray t-storm	A stray afternoon t-storm
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### Highlands Newspaper

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#### Letter Policy:

There is a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

#### Obituary Policy:

We do not charge for obituaries at this time, but we reserve the right to edit as needed for space.

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## ...SCHOOL continued from page 1

Sheriff Holbrooks and Officer Ronnie Castle who though officially retired, returns periodically to help out.

Currently there are 360 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade for the upcoming school year. Highlands School has 39 teachers and six teacher's aides – nine of which are new to the school.

In the Elementary wing there are two kindergarten classes, one first grade class and one first/second grade split classroom. All three classrooms have a teacher's aide.

There is one second grade class while third, fourth and fifth grades have two class-

rooms each.

This year, the Highlands Middle School will have a true middle school rotation. Each student in 6th, 7th and 8th grades has a schedule of English language arts (ELA), math, social studies, science, physical education (PE) and an extra support class in the afternoon called "Wheel." The class is called "Wheel" because it changes every 9-week period. All middle school students will have different teachers for different subjects.

There is no school Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2.

• See First Day photos on page 23.

## ...ELECTION continued from page 1

no longer live there full-time, you must get a NC driver's license if you intend to use it as your photo ID this year.

Licenses from other states, even if you don't live there full-time anymore, will not be accepted as a legitimate photo ID for 2024.

Additionally, this year's ballot will be double-sided with two referendums, so voters should plan for extra time at the polls. As this is a Presidential Election, high turnout is expected, so patience and planning is

crucial.

Voters can check their registration status on the NC State Board of Elections website at Voter Search ([ncsbe.gov](http://ncsbe.gov)) or by calling the Macon County Board of Elections office at 828-349-2034. Any changes to name, address, or party affiliation must be completed by the voter registration deadline on Friday, October 11th, by 5p.

Here are some key dates for the November 5, 2024, Election:

• See ELECTION page 7

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# • LETTER •

## Common Sense versus Nonsense

Dear Editor,

Once again, the issue of short-term rentals has resurfaced. It began about three years ago with individuals who purchased homes in three in-town neighborhoods knowing there were no HOA covenants and restrictions.

Fast forward to an increase in weddings and tourism that caused a few disturbances in these neighborhoods and rather than follow rules of law enforcement already in place regarding loud noises, garbage and parking, this group from Dog Mountain, Satulah Mountain and Bowery Road resorted to threatening to sue the town of Highlands for not protecting them.

I believe there were four homes involved out of the estimated 225 rentals that do NOT cause issues. Even Police Chief Holland told Commissioner Jeff Weller that she only had 15 calls in the last two years, and some were homeowner disturbances.

The disgruntled want us to believe we now live in the Wild, Wild West!

The commissioners voted four to one two years ago to limit the number of short-term rentals by grandfathering those that were already in existence before September 2022 to continue. That seems a reasonable compromise. Now, for whatever reason Commissioners Amy Patterson, Buzz Dotson, Brian Stiehler, and Eric Pierson are determined to BAN them entirely with a term, "amortization" which would go into effect in 2027. You can find their contact info at: The Town of Highlands - Directory.

Amy Patterson also repeatedly says we are NOT a tourist town but if you try to get a parking space downtown it surely isn't locals and just summer residents who own those vehicles! That's a totally unfounded statement.

Factor in the merchants who depend on tourists to frequent their shops, many just here for a long weekend or perhaps a week. Should they be banned and not allowed to rent unless they are here for 30 days? Common sense is out that window of economic sustainability.

Now enter the homeowners in town who literally spent hundreds of thousands of dollars re-doing homes and improving values in the neighborhoods, having been told by the town they COULD rent short-term since it's been done over 40 years. Now with their proposed BAN Chambers Realty and the other rental companies who depend on short-term rentals will be forced out of business due to the disgruntled few! It is totally wrong to take away their LIVELIHOOD based on nonsensical thinking of a few!

## ...ELECTION continued from page 4

• **Absentee Ballots:** Will start being mailed September 6 and must be returned by Election Day November 5 by 7:30p there is no grace period per statute. **The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 29.**

• **Early Voting:** October 17 – November 2, Monday – Friday, 8a to 7:30p. Saturday hours are 8a to 3p at the Highlands Civic Center and the Community Building on Georgia Road.

• **Election Day:** November 5th from 6:30a to 7:30p. Voters must go to their assigned precinct to vote on Elec-

The commissioners brought up the BAN issue for ALL short-term rentals and according to written rules had to send it to the planning board first for their discussion and subsequent vote.

The Planning Board unanimously voted AGAINST the BAN and listened to the town's attorney stating that the LAWSUITS a BAN will generate will cost the taxpayers thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars in lawsuits!

That money paid to attorneys could be used for sewer, sidewalks, road improvements and projects that benefit ALL people instead of a few disgruntles. Is that common sense or nonsense?

Enter the disgruntled group who had an attorney from Charlotte speak at the last Town Board meeting who discredited the planning board and said they didn't know what they were doing! Common sense or nonsense?

Lila Howland's statement in her letter in the August 22 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Support our commissioners who are against STRs" claiming voters elected the commissioners based on their view of short-term rentals is not entirely accurate. It's likely she and some at Highlands Country Club, Dog Mountain and Satulah based their votes entirely on THAT subject whereas voters elect for many other reasons many which are for the betterment of the town and ALL residents. Besides, only some 400 people voted. That hardly represents the sentiment of all the 1,100 residents.

I think the public who hears bits and pieces are confusing short-term rentals with an increase in tourism. Short-term rentals have been in place for 40 years. The Chamber of Commerce has a duty to market our town and plan events. Perhaps the objectors of too many tourists could speak with them. The two issues are entirely different.

Those of us who believe in property rights for ALL homeowners and who understand that rules are already IN PLACE for rowdy people hope common sense prevails!

A public hearing will be held September 5 at 7pm at the conference building (next to the ballfield) with the commissioners and the mayor who will listen and make a decision on the BAN. I encourage ALL who value freedom to attend. Common sense versus nonsense will be the issue.

**Pat Allen**

Full-time resident and voter for 30 years

tion Day. If unsure of precincts, call us at 828-349-2034 or check the voter lookup site on the NCSBE website.

A listing of candidates is available at the Macon County Board of Elections website by at this time is subject to change. There are pending cases that may alter this notice.

If someone does not have an approved photo ID one can be made for free at the Macon County Board of Elections office in Franklin.

Any registered voter can complete a form and have their photo taken for a Voting ID we will mail to them

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

### Old Edward's Hospitality, and the 'Art' of real estate growth in Highlands & Ca-

More than 20 years ago, Art and Angela Williams had a dream, and they embraced it wholeheartedly!

The Williams's followed their instincts; they prayed a lot; they invested and re-invested; they shared their enthusiasm with the town; they practiced excellence in everything they did; and they surrounded themselves with an incredible team of people. In my humble opinion, Art and Angela's vision and teamwork has had an immeasurable impact upon the real estate business in Highlands & Cashiers.

Someone had to take the lead, and Old Edward's answered the bell. Just think about it. The Old Edward's Inn became the crown jewel of the entire Plateau and shared its high standards and level of service with the world. There's a line from the movie Field of Dreams which is "If you build it, they will come," and they came. Thanks to OEL, others in town upped their game, and businesses came to Highlands and invested alongside the Williams's. Old Edward's has built restaurants, retail shops, golf communities, residential subdivisions, wedding venues, meeting environments, and green spaces, all of which are impeccably designed and maintained. As a result, others have



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followed suit at similar levels of quality and creativity. Here's a question for you. Would In digo Road Hospitality have built Oak Steak and improved Skyline Lodge, or would Daniel Communities have purchased High Hampton Resort, were it not for Art and Angela Williams and the success of Old Edward's Hospitality Group?

Real estate companies, long-term residents, and second-homeowners are the direct beneficiaries of the "Old Edwards Factor," and frankly so is our

entire economy. Just look at the number of new families, wedding attendees, weekend getaways, spa goers, golf trips, guys' trips, girls' trips, and reunions are here thanks to OEL. The overall commerce of Highlands and Cashiers are the direct beneficiaries. By discovering Highlands and Cashiers, in time many of these guests go to the next level and contact a professional real estate broker. They begin the process as so many of us did by saying "Maybe in some chapter of my life, I can own a place in Highlands, NC."

If you happen to own a Short-Term Rental, you need to thank the Old Edwards Hospitality Group every day, because their incredibly robust and professional Wedding Services Team has positively impacted your success and rental income. While other markets might be experiencing a downturn in real estate values, Highlands and Cashiers continues to hold and increase values for its existing homeowners. For those looking to make a second home investment or move to the Plateau permanently, the market here is just like our weather ... fabulous!

Personally speaking, I've had many customers invest here who began their "Highlands Journey" thanks to the Old Edward's Hospitality Group. I consistently hear them say things like "This is the friendliest place I've ever been;" or "How come everyone is in such a good mood here?" or "I met some locals at dinner the other night, and they invited us over;" or my favorite line of all "Can you tell me what time the Town turns on the waterfalls?"

Let's face it, we all started our jour-

• See INVESTING page 10

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Check out this lovely 2-bedroom 2 bath, on Turtle Pond Road with an additional overflow guest room, recently renovated and is rentable for income purposes. Comfortable layout with a massive outdoor porch-deck area. Modern kitchen and living room with fireplace. One of the best houses available for the price. Offered at \$699,000. mls #104147



Located in the Brushy Face Sub-division, this 4 bedroom, 6 bath is move-in ready. Designer finishes, usable lot, and spectacular view! 2-car garage and 2-car carport. Large great room, masonry fireplace, huge screen porch. Blue Valley views. Kitchen and dining room open to the great room, Primary suite plus an office and bath on main level. Offered at \$2,795,000. mls #104351



Beautifully resurrected from 2 log homes dating back to the early 1800s. Between each log is spray foam insulation ensuring an energy efficient structure. Primary bathroom: heated travertine tile flooring, custom made cabinetry and mirrors. Guest cabin suite: separated from the main cabin by a covered breezeway to insure privacy for your guest. Offered at \$2,495,000. mls # 103597



Lovely cabin on the Highlands side of Franklin on Mountain Laurel Drive. Sits high on a ridge with some view and privacy. Home features a great room, fireplace, dining room and kitchen, one bedroom and bath on the main level, upstairs has two loft bedrooms and a bath. Terrace level has a family room with a full bath, laundry room and additional storage. Detached carport Offered at \$550,000. mls #103751



Lovely year round living with 3 bed, 3 baths. Living room and open dining and modern kitchen. split bedrooms each with baths. rear deck and a covered side porch. Lower level has a bedroom and bathroom, 2 car garage and great workshop with storage. In excellent condition. Offered at \$695,000. mls#103898



On Oak Lane, only 2 blocks from Main Street, this totally renovated home is move-in ready and features 3 bedrooms and 2 baths within the main house, plus an office. There is an additional guest suite with a full bath over the 2-car garage. Large entertaining porch and deck. Priced significantly less than the neighboring new homes in the area. Offered at \$1,499,000. MLS #104444



Close to downtown Highlands. This home has a lovely primary suite on the main level with a large en suite and walk-in closet. Also on the main level is a living room with a gas log fireplace, half bath, dining room and large kitchen. French doors open to the wrap-around covered deck with outdoor wood-burning fireplace and large seating area. Below the deck is a large fire pit. Upstairs in the main house are two large bedrooms and a bath. Movie theatre and pool table with workout room, too. One bedroom one bath, morning kitchen guest cottage with covered porch. Offered at \$1,595,000. mls #105793



Featuring many upgrades. The home has wood floors in every room, in addition to the open floor plan, double pane cathedral windows and solid wood doors. Boasting an updated kitchen, bathrooms and a great screened in porch with tile floors for enjoying the fresh mountain air. Come enjoy our Mountain town in your new home! Offered at \$1,410,000. mls #103736



Located in the Highgate community just beyond Highlands Country Club, this 4 bedroom 5 bath is located on one level with a level usable lot. The living areas are open and spacious with heavy beams and walls of French doors that open onto a covered porch with fireplace. There are 5 additional fireplaces in the living and bedroom areas. The primary bedroom has 2 accessible baths and additional den. The lower level has a game room, garage, and huge basement storage areas. Offered at \$2,895,000. mls#105941



Located right on the Lake Sequoyah, this lovely mountain contemporary has 3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Split upper bedroom floor plan encompasses a large primary suite with fireplace, and a great room with cathedral ceilings, fireplace, covered porch and pass-through kitchen. Guest wing has 2 bedrooms and 1 hall bath. There is a large 2-car garage. Lower level has a full bath, and a bonus room with a deck out to dock on the lake. It has a great private setting. Offered at \$1,695,000. mls#105928



A 2 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom in-town townhouse is a great option to live close to town with amenities without the hassle of a yard to maintain. Ready to make it your own and create a space that reflects your style. Offered at \$699,000 mls#103846



This 3/bed, 3/bath cottage overlooks Randall Lake and dam. Open great room, with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths on the main level and a primary bedroom above with a reading nook or office. A cook's kitchen with new appliances and a living room with a fireplace. Wraparound covered porch that overlooks the water. Located about 2.5 miles from downtown and 2 minutes from the Oak Restaurant. Offered at \$1,172,000. mls #105910



This house on Upper Lake Road in-town Highlands has 3 bedrooms each with their own bath. Large entrance hall, living room, dining room and gourmet kitchen with screened porch and spacious deck. Primary suite with office and laundry room, as well as very large walk-in closet and large bath. There is a large den, bunk room beautiful porch with gardens and a fountain. Offered at \$1,900,000. mls #102744



Upgraded with long mountain views of Whiteside and Big Bear Pen. This in town property includes the lot below for view protection, build on it, or sell. 2BR/2BA, wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, vaulted ceiling in living room and a large loft. Bright open feel. Landscaped yard with circular driveway, parking pad and firepit. Fenced side yard. Close to Main Street. Offered at \$950,000 mls #103067



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# • INK PENN •

## Will you choose a murder mystery or international intrigue?

My go-to reads are British mysteries, but I do, on occasion, branch out. This week's selections were serendipitous finds. The first came my way because my husband gave me a Barnes & Noble gift certificate last Christmas. I picked up the second one while exploring a bookshop on Amelia Island. Indie bookshops are hard to pass up.



Kathy Manos Penn

that the author is Rupert Holmes, who wrote and sang "Escape" aka The Pina Coloda Song. Not only that, he's also known for his Broadway mystery musicals.

Have you seen "The Mystery of Edwin Drood?" It won a Tony award for Best Musical.

I've already put his first book on hold at the library. "Where the Truth Lies"

was made into a movie starring Colin Firth and Kevin Bacon. If it's even half as entertaining as this one, I know I'll enjoy it.

### The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

Many of you have likely read at least one of Benedict's books — "The Personal Librarian," "Carnegie's Maid," or "The Other Einstein." The only one I've read is "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" about, of course, Dame Agatha.

This book is a fictionalized biography of Hedy Lamarr, the stunning film actress, whose intelligence was every bit as remarkable as her beauty. Her unbelievable story could easily make a Hollywood movie.

This review from "Woman's Day" captures its essence:

"This. Book. Is. Amazing. 'The Only Woman in the Room' tells the fascinating true story of actress Hedy Lamarr, whose little-known journey involves escaping the Nazis and her secret life as a scientist and inventor. Jaw dropped? Same."

For me, both of these books were equally engrossing. Now, I'm off to read a few of my favorite British mysteries before I branch out again.

Happy reading!

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and on Amazon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).

### Murder Your Employer by Rupert Holmes

Admit it. Haven't you had a boss you couldn't stand? One who made your life miserable? Or were you one of the lucky ones who always had marvelous managers? Alas, in my thirty-two-year corporate career, I had a manager whom I referred to as "the boss from hell." She even made her way into my mystery novel as the reason my main character was spurred to take early retirement. I once had an "employee from hell" too, but that's a topic for another day.

This novel follows three graduates of McMaster's Conservatory for the Applied Arts — from their arrival at the institution to their graduation and eventual attempt to "delete" their detested employer. There's a glossary up front, and deletion is the preferred term for murder. The language cracked me up.

At freshman orientation, students are encouraged to consider these four questions: Is this murder necessary?

Have you given your target every last chance to redeem themselves?

What innocent person might suffer by your actions?

Will this deletion improve the life of others?

What follows is a witty tale with plenty of tongue-in-cheek descriptions and twists and turns. The language is intended, I think, to be high falutin' as befits the serious subject of deletion.

What I find even more intriguing is

## ...INVESTING continued from page 8

ney to Highlands at some point. I give Old Edwards and the Williams's due credit for helping so many people discover the beauty, friendliness, and sustainability of living in, investing in, and enjoying our incredible town. Thank you Old Edward's Hospitality Group; for the "Art" and "Angela" factor of

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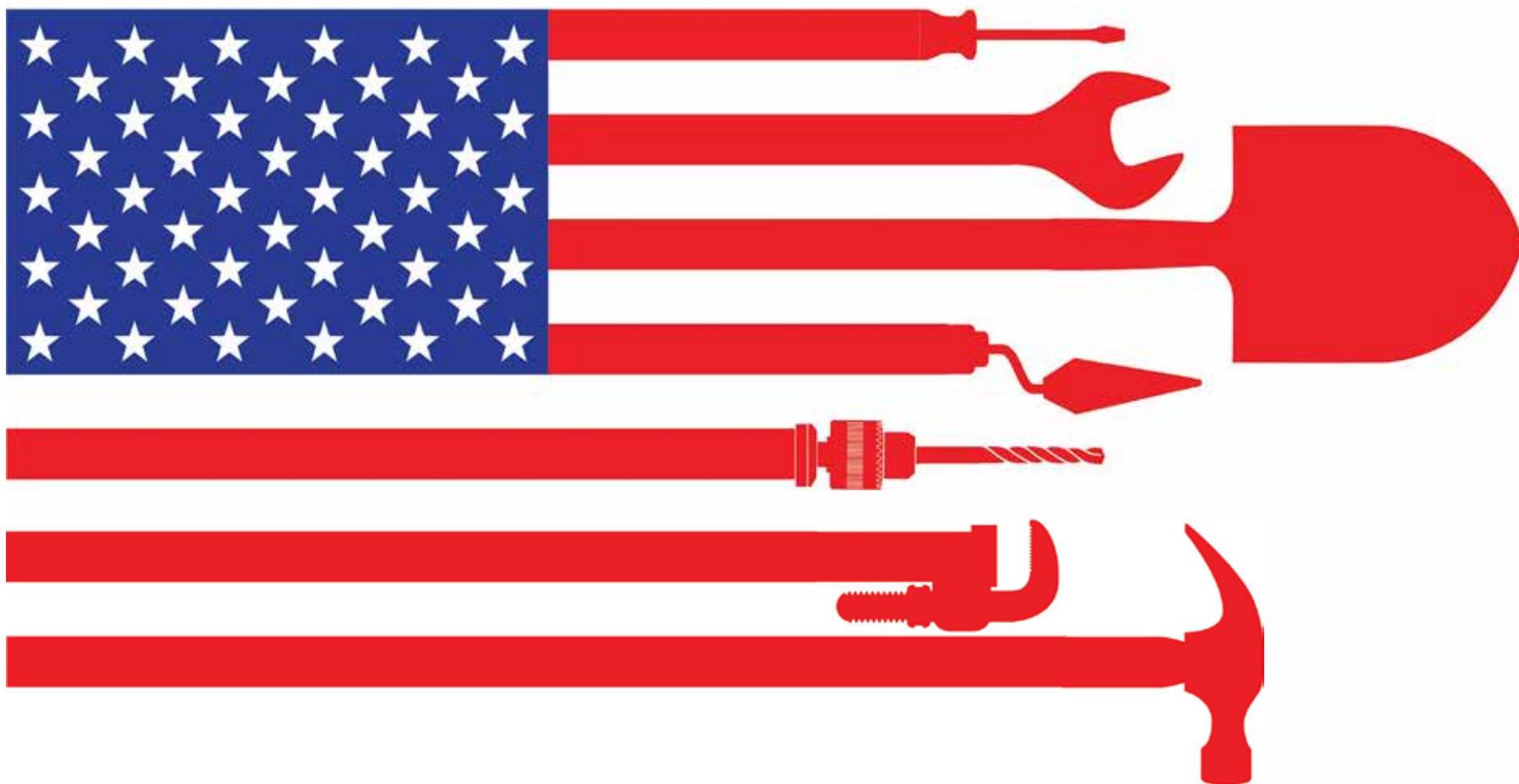
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## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

will attend the hearing to listen to the public's statements. Final action on the amortization amendment will be on the agenda of the Town Board meeting on September 19 or at a later meeting.

I will be holding my monthly commu-

nity coffee on Friday, August 30, at 11 a.m. at the Hudson Library. The topic will be an update on town projects that are underway and those that will be starting soon. Hope to see you at the coffee. As always, I will be taking questions from the audience.

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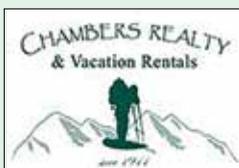


## In the coveted Webbmont area

MLS #105769 • \$795,000

This property is the prize of this season! It's a log home with all the charm of an old log cabin, even though it's not even half a century old. It has two bedrooms, two baths, a bonus room, a covered porch, and a wrap-around porch. A workshop, covered firewood storage, a circular drive, and perennial favorites help complete the charm.

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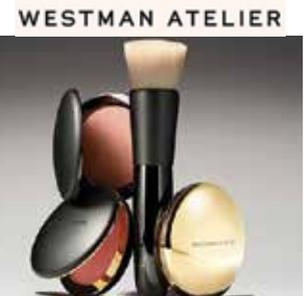


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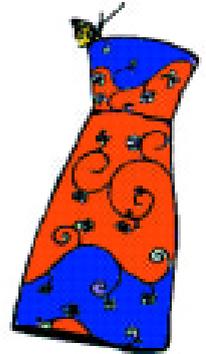


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## ...FIELD continued from page 1

the best direction to go to fix the athletic field so that is it playable for soccer as well as usable as an outdoor classroom for P.E.

Todd Gibbs, Macon County Schools HR Director/Auxiliary Services Director, presented an update from Daniel Hyatt, an engineer with Wade Trim who gave an estimate for the design for removal and replacement of soils at the field - the most permanent solution for fixing the soccer field. Gibbs said it would be approxi-

mately \$49,000 to complete several things that would be necessary for the final design for the removal and replacement of soils.

This design is only for how to remove and replace the field's soils, not the actual work to have it completed. This does not include the physical removal of the soils, it is just designing how to go about doing it such as how far to go down to dig and what are the outside parameters needed to remove and get drainage.

The estimate includes the cost to use a closed caption TV through the drainage ditch underneath that field to see what's going on under there and additional geotech borings in strategic places and at different depths to get to even a better idea of what is going on with the underground situation under the field. The estimate also includes a land survey of the piece of property, which is standard procedure.

"My thinking after talking with Hyatt is that even if you went with a different subterranean sys-

tem to fix the field, not a removal and replacement, the design's cost will be about the same," said Gibbs. "You still have to do a survey, you still have to do a closed caption TV probe and you still have to do more geotech borings. Even if you decide to not go with the soil removal and replacement, the design cost would be approximately the same."

Gibbs said it's necessary to find out where exactly the water is coming from and where it's going.

"In this initial design, we will be determining what needs to be treated -- a small area of the field or the entire field -- before we can go into the final design of the field," he said.

In March, a year-long soil and grounds study requested by the Macon County Board of Commissioners was completed confirming that there is swamp and river muck underneath the soccer field creating problems on the field's surface.

Gibbs also consulted with Vannoy Construction for a second opinion, who agreed with the findings and also added that most likely a drainage system was put there at one time, but as often happens it has failed.

The construction company suggested three options for fixing the field.

The first option would be to remove all the mucky soil and refill with solid material. This option would be the most permanent but also the most expensive.

The other two options would be temporary. One option would be to add another drainage system; however most likely this option would eventually fail as the drain becomes plugged. The third option would be to add a surface draining

system to the upper inches of the field. This option would keep the surface playable by handling whatever falls on it; however, this option would also be temporary, as the mess underneath the field would remain causing problems again in the future.

All three options will cost money, the question is whether commissioners will want to spend more money to have a permanent fix for the soccer field or spend less money for a temporary short-term solution.

"My hydrology mind just thinks, it's a mucky watery place, it's going to always be a swampy wet place," said Board Member Stephanie Laseter. "It's one thing to remove the soils, it's another thing to have hydro soils that are going to always be that way because that's what you have in that place. I am so fascinated with what design they're going to come up with; I don't understand how we're going to have a field that doesn't continually have drainage. I worry a lot about long-term drainage at a place that's already swampy."

Laseter said she worries about the long-term big picture.

"Are we putting something on a place that's just going to continuously be a problem? I know we're all thinking this question and that's what we need to find out," she said.

"I think there's a lot of unknowns with the field," said Chairman Jim Breedlove. "I think we need to take a step further with radar get a much better picture, and we will be able to sit and talk much more intelligently about it and go from there."

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## ...ORDINANCE continued from page 1

the chance to speak during public comment on the issue.

At the August meeting of the board, commissioners voted 4-1 to amend the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance by changing the requirement of plans for soil and erosion control on any project that disturbs land from half-acre to one acre of land. This revision to the ordinance aligns Macon County with the state requirements. This was the only change made to the ordinance.

The vote came after the public comment period during which six individuals had the opportunity to speak about the ordinance change all expressing their opposition to the revisions. The motion to adopt the revision to the ordinance was made by Commissioner John Shearl and seconded by Commissioner Paul Higdon. Commissioner Danny Antoine cast the lone opposing vote.

"The difference in half an acre and an acre is it is twice as big, but I have always been supportive of this revision as I think the requirement was too restrictive," said Higdon.

At the start of public comment, Chairman Gary Shields spoke to the crowd stating there would be total of 45 minutes for public comment, and each person would have a maximum of five minutes to speak. After the six individuals expressed their opposition to the ordinance change and

others spoke on other topics, there was not enough time to hear public comment from 15 other individuals who had signed up to speak on the ordinance.

Shields said that these individuals would be put on the public comment list for the September meeting and would speak first; however, since they were there to speak on the soil erosion and sedimentation ordinance it would be irrelevant since the board would

have already made a decision on the ordinance revision.

Macon County Attorney Eric Ridenhour said the public hearings for the three ordinances had already been held in July, and the public comment period during the August meeting gave individuals a chance to speak on the ordinances as well as any other topic.

Kevin McCaskill, from the Macon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was one of six who had the opportunity to speak

about the ordinance.

"I don't believe that this needs to be changed," said McCaskill, "We are not the coastal plains and we are not the piedmont. We are the mountains; our soils are fragile and our ground is steep. There were a lot of good minds

that worked many years ago on developing these ordinances to not only protect our soils, but also our neighbors that are downstream," he added. "Let's use a little common sense and realize we can leave this ordinance alone;

• See **ORDINANCE** page 30

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## NEW POOL SCHEDULE

**Lap Swim:** Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes.

**Water Aerobics:** 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers.

**Adult Swim:** 18y+ Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3:30pm, Friday 11am-1:30pm

**Public Swim:** Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

## PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed), everyone is welcome meetings.

## ALL WEEK

• 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 meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. Women's Group 5:30, Tuesdays. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

## SUNDAYS AND/OR TUESDAYS

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street See adjoining ad.

## ON-GOING

• At Hudson Library, Readers from 0 to 99 will have adventures this summer as Hudson Library presents "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer learning program. The 2024

Summer Learning Program is free to all participants and starts June 1. No registration is needed for any of these programs. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031, or stop by the library during open hours.

• **Mountain Findings Hours:** Thurs.-Sat., 10a to 1p.

## Mon.-Fri.

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

## Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.

• Balance, Stretch & Strengthen Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

## 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

• Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

## 1st Tuesdays through Dec.

• HUMC's Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.

## 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](mailto:budandlynn@me.com)

## Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

• 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 the group.

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration required - just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

## 3rd Tuesdays

• Free Community Stretch & Yoga in the Park Summer Series, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce-Visit Highlands NC, will be offered by Certified Instructors/Yoga Highlands on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 6pm beginning May 21. Please bring a mat and water, dress comfortably, and let's celebrate health and relaxation. No experience necessary! (next dates: 6/18, 7/16 and 8/20)

## 2nd 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 11 AM. 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. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

## 2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appointments are required - all are welcome.

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

## Mon., Tues., Thurs.

## Highlands Historical Society presents

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combo class with different types of exercise. Call the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

## Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. No martial arts background necessary. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues during the summer, every Thursday morning at 10:40 AM. We'll read books, sing fun songs, and move with the music.

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs. June 6 features Aquatic Insects, an EcoSplash program presented by Mainspring Conservation Trust. Kids will have the chance to learn all about the macro invertebrates in our local rivers, getting hands-on with them and also viewing them through a digital microscope.

• Highlands Biological Foundation's Zahner lectures is held at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. through August 15. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit [highlandsbiological.org](http://highlandsbiological.org). The Highlands Nature Center is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

## Fridays

• At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and crafternoons.

## Saturdays

• Story Ballet - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm. 828-421-6720

• Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve

balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

## 2nd Saturdays

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

## 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 [npost370@gmail.com](mailto:npost370@gmail.com) for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

## Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood, Horse Cove RD, Highlands. Sunday 7-8 p.m. traditional hymn-sing. Call or text Gwyn Hardin for information or directions. 919-523-7067. All are welcome.

• 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).

## Thru Mid-October

• Visit the Cashiers Historical Society every Friday & Saturday for a guided tour of the 1850s Zachary-Tolbert House and other historic structures on their five-acre campus. Tours will be available from 11am - 3pm on the top of the hour. CHS is located at 1940 HY 107 S Cashiers, NC 28717.

## Fri. and Sat. thru Aug.

• Sippin' Summer Nights on the Rooftop at OEI. 6-8p. Live Music and Cash Bar.

## Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 29-Sept. 1

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "The Lifespan of a Fact" at 7:30p and 2p on Sunday. For tickets go to: [www.highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.com) or call 828-526-9047.

## Thurs., Aug. 29

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "Entertaining with Biscuits" Live Cooking Demo & Luncheon with Food & Lifestyle Expert Chadwick Boyd 11a to 1p at The Orchard Restaurant. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event and all proceeds benefit the Cashiers Historical Society. Tickets for this event are \$175 and available

for purchase at [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org).

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC will host a FREE community shred event Thurs., from 9:30a - 12:30p in Highlands Plaza Highway 106. Allowed items, paper products with staples or paper clips, spiral notebooks. Items NOT allowed, 3-ring binders and cardboard. Donations accepted for The Gordon Center and the Literacy & Learning Center.

## Fri., Aug. 30

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "Birds, Botany, & Bogs Walk with HCLT" on Friday, 1 - 2 pm at the Pavilion at Village Green. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event that is free and open to the public. Visit [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org)

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "High Tea at The Inn at High Hampton" at 3pm. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event and all proceeds benefit the Cashiers Historical Society. Tickets are \$125 and available for purchase at [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org).

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

## Sat., Aug. 31

• At Haley's Fine Lingerie on Carolina Way, Rose all day! Free party with bra purchase.

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. - Full Circle

## Sun., Sept. 1

• Highlands Emergency Council Fundraiser Extravaganza, 12:30-2:30p at the Highlands Community Building. Cookout, music, silent auction, raffles and lots of fun.

• Church in the Wildwood, Horsecoveer Road in Highlands has its final hymn sing of the 2024 season from 7-8 p.m. All are welcome. 919-523-7067.

## Thurs., Sept. 5

• 14th Annual Dahlia Festival Poster Party at The Bascom at 5 p.m.

## Fri., Sept. 6

• 14th Annual Dahlia Festival Single Bloom Competition 8-11a. at The Bascom and Dahlia Talk at 1p.m.

• Margo Capparelli, Founder of Equinox Ranch in Cullowhee, will speak at Hudson Library on Friday, at 11 AM. Margo will introduce Equinox Ranch and its goal of Helping Warriors Heal.

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Johnny Webb Band

## Sat., Sept. 7

• 14th Annual Dahlia Festive with dahlia vignettes throughout Highlands and blooms on display at The Bascom all day.

• At the Highlands Historical Village, 524 N. 4th Street, presents Flower Power the good old-fashioned Way with Mountain Music & Moonshine from noon to 4pm. Featuring Mountain Storytelling from noon to 1p and Bluegrass by the Shedhouse Trio from 1-4p. BBQ, popcorn, ice cream and moonshine served at noon while supplies last.

• Pet First Aid and CPR training 4 pm SHARP at the Sky Valley Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Community Room. 169 Hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mountain. NO PETS. RSVP [Joanneroesner@yahoo.com](mailto:Joanneroesner@yahoo.com). FREE OF CHARGE.

• Pop-Up Bag Pipers at HUMC from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine features Steel Toe Stiletto from 6-9 p.m. at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

## TOWN OF HIGHLANDS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners at the Highlands Community Building, 71 Poplar Street, on the 5th day of September 2024, beginning at 7pm, for the purpose of receiving public comment on proposed amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance to address changes to the land development ordinance concerning Section 6.5.18, Short-term rentals, to add a regulation that will amortize and discontinue the use of short-term rentals in the R-1 and R-2 zoning districts.

All interested residents/citizens are encouraged to attend. Copies of the proposed amendments are on file in the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall, 210 N. 4th Street for inspection by all between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

## Snip, Sip and Support!

A Fundraiser for the  
Highlands Community Child Development Center

September 18 at 4 PM  
Church of the Incarnation  
Flower Arranging Demonstration and Childcare Celebration

### Levels of Support

**Sowing Seeds: \$500**  
**Petal Provider: \$1000**  
**Blooming Buds: \$2500**  
**Focal Flower: \$5000**

HCCDC serves 100 children on the Plateau, enabling working families to thrive. With a mission to make childcare affordable, HCCDC relies on community support as tuition covers only 50% of expenses.

**Together, we can help children blossom!**

HCCDC is designated as a Four-Star Center by the State of NC based on the quality of its programs, the educational credentials of the staff, and class size.

[www.highlandscmmunitychildcare.org/events](http://www.highlandscmmunitychildcare.org/events)



THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

HIGHLANDS  
NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

# Outdoor Concert Series

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

*Join us for our August concerts!*

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

### Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

AUGUST 2  
Ezra & Katie

AUGUST 9  
ABC Combo

AUGUST 16  
Steady Hand String Band

AUGUST 23  
Southern Highland Band

AUGUST 30  
Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

### Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park  
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

AUGUST 3  
The Holiday Band

AUGUST 10  
Will Thompson Band

AUGUST 31  
Full Circle

visithighlandscnc.com



From left: Ricky Seigel, Rotary Host; Danielle Hernandez-Juarez, Cashiers and Highlands Program Coordinator, BBBS of WNC; Randy Foster, president, Rotary Club of Highlands

## Rotary hears about BBBS

The Rotary Club of Highlands heard from Danielle Hernandez-Juarez, program coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters WNC, at a recent club meeting. The youth organization's mission is to "Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth." Joining the organization five years ago, Danielle immediately became a "Big Sister" and

has grown in enthusiasm and commitment to the mission and promotion of reaching today's youth. Through volunteer mentorship through a variety of activities such as school games/programs attendance, hikes, and other informal activities, vital relationships and mentorships form "that ignite the power and promise of youth." For more information, see [bbbswnc.org](http://bbbswnc.org).

## FOR SALE BY OWNER

3 bed/4.5 bath - 2 levels (rented apartment)



48 White Clover Lane, Chestnut Hill in Highlands

DonLeon is looking for help in locating potential buyers. CALL 828-200-9334 or drop by the restaurant across from Dusty's on the Dillard Road for an info sheet. Brokers protected.

**Lunch**  
Mon. - Sat.  
11a to 3p



**Where Locals Meet! Pet-friendly patio**

With the same menu, low prices, FREE coffee and an older more mellow attitude! Come by for a visit and enjoy those Appalachian Fries and a fresh Gyro!

Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese Steak • Shrimp Pita • Susan's Rubeen Italian Sausage • Chicken Wings • Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings • Fried Shrimp Fish n' Chips • Chicken Fingers and more!

**Dine in or Call in your order for Pickup! • 828-482-1513**  
462 Dillard Road, Highlands (across from Dusty's)

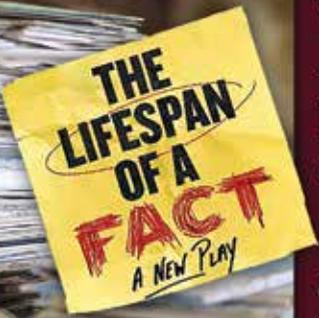
# First day at Highlands School for '24-'25 school year



Photos by  
Kim Lewicki



*Good Plays Well Done!*  
 The *Highlands Cashiers PLAYERS* present A timely and sparky new play about facts vs. truthiness



Written by  
 Jeremy Kareken,  
 David Murrell,  
 & Gordon Farrell

Directed by  
 Michael Lanzilotta

Cabaret Seating \$35.00

Thursday thru Sunday, Aug 22, 23, 24, 25  
 and Aug 29, 30, 31, Sept 1  
 Nightly at 7:30 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2 pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center  
 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC

Tickets: [www.highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.com)  
 or call: 828-526-9047



For advertising information email [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com) or call or text 828-200-1371

# DONLEON'S

## START YOUR DAY AT DONLEON'S

### \$10 BREAKFAST!

Includes FREE Coffee and Hot Tea

Monday - Saturday • 7am-10am



DonLeon announces a REAL \$10 full breakfast for their Highlands friends.

Chef Les Williams has been lured out of retirement to produce the best affordable breakfast on the Plateau.

**DonLeon made him an offer he could not refuse!**



Foundation representatives and student recipients of the Quick Trailblazer Scholarship, founded by generous benefactors Linda and Mark Quick. Melissa Hudson (Development Director), Linda Quick, Bradley Burnette, Christina McDonald, Mark Quick, Sarah Jenning (Summit Foundation Board Chair). Not Pictured: Valedictorian Chloe Crawford



Foundation representatives and student recipients of the One Summit Family Scholarship: Melissa Hudson (Development Director), Alison Monteith, Kaila Lee, Abbie Doerter, Sarah Betty, Sarah Jenning (Summit Foundation Board Chair).

## Summit grads are awarded scholarships

The Summit Charter School Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that raises vital funds to support Summit Charter School, a tuition-free K-12 public charter school in Cashiers, is pleased to announce it distributed \$101,500 in lifechanging scholarship funds to Summit's senior class of 2024. Student recipients include:

**Quick Trailblazer Scholarship:** Bradley Burnette, Chloe Crawford, Christina McDonald. \$90,000 in funding support provided.

**One Summit Family Scholarship:** Sarah Betty, Abbie Doerter, Kaila Lee, Alison Monteith. \$4,000.

**Summit STEM Scholarship:** Bradley Burnette. \$7,500.

Scholarship recipients are attending the following schools: NC State, University of Tennessee, Wofford College, Georgia Southern University, WCU, UNC - Wilmington.



HAGAN BINDER  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Fine Gardens  
 Native Plants  
 HOA Submittals  
 Walls & Grading  
 Masterplans

828-482-5511  
[haganbinder.com](http://haganbinder.com)

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



## American Legion Post 370 hears from David K. Heebner, Ret

LTG (Ret) Heebner spoke of his bat-talions preparation and mobilization during the run up of the Gulf War (1990). The movement of thousands of personnel and their equipment from Germany to Israel was monumental. The logistics and political implications were massive.

The American government and allies had formed a 31-country coalition to blunt Saddam Hussein's Iraq invasion of Kuwait and neighboring countries. LTG Heebner's "Patriot Missile" command protected Israel from SCUD missiles providing early warning signals and detonation of incoming warheads. A constant issue was keeping Israel only on a defensive posture and not going on offense which would have broken the coalition rules.

LTG (Ret) Heebner's presentation was

a lesson in our Middle East ongoing conflicts his reflection's and insight was well received by post members and guests. A very active question and answer was informative.

Highlands American Legion Post 370 would like to thank LTG Heebner for sharing his thoughts with us.

### Davis Medical PLLC

Introduces

**Innovative Direct Primary Care Practice**

**Opening November 18**

*Now accepting patients*



Dr. Clayton Davis

- Same-day or next-day appointments
- Management of chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension
- Urgent care • Sports medicine
- Specialized services:
  - ~ *Emergency preparedness medications*
  - ~ *Travel medications*
  - ~ *Testosterone replacement therapy*
  - ~ *Peptide therapies for weight loss.*

Call 828-371-6317 • [Davismedicalpllc.com](http://Davismedicalpllc.com)

55 Medical Park Drive, Suite 118  
Franklin, NC

## WHOLE LIFE MARKET

Natural Products Store

Hours: 9am-5pm

Mon-Sat

828-526-5999

[Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com](mailto:Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com)

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS



Organic smoothie/juice

bar located  
inside Whole  
Life Market



## Free! Community Shredding Event

Dispose of your sensitive documents  
and help our environment!

Thursday, August 29, 2024  
Highlands Plaza  
(Near Bryson's Food Store)  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Benefitting: The Gordon Center,  
Highlands Child Care Development Center  
and the Literacy & Learning Center

This event is made possible by the  
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, N.C.

For more information:  
[events@highlandschamber.org](mailto:events@highlandschamber.org)  
828-526-5841

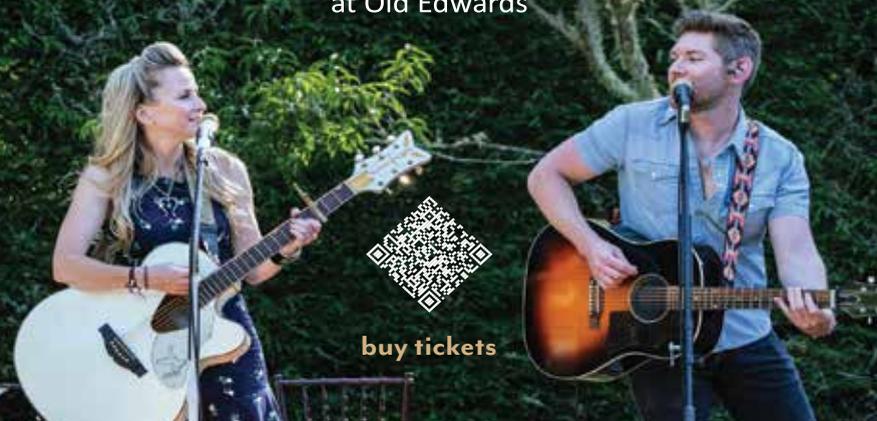
## Orchard Session

with

# Martin & Kelly

Thursday, September 12

THE FARM  
at Old Edwards



buy tickets

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## King of the Game Birds

Jacob Tedder  
Congregational Pastor  
Christ Church of the Valley,  
Cashiers

Do you know what native bird to our area was considered a delicacy in medieval times? It was so valued that only the kings and nobles of Europe were allowed to have it. Do you know what it is? It is known as the timberdoodle, mud snipe, bogsucker, swamp bat, fiddle squeak, but, most commonly, as the woodcock. The woodcock is a plump bird that resembles a woodpecker and has a 3-inch-long beak. French Chef Auguste Escoffier, in *Le Guide Culinaire*, called the woodcock the “king of game birds.”

How do I know all of this? Well, this Labor Day weekend, my family is getting a German Shorthair Pointer puppy. As you may know, it is a bird dog, and so I have been researching and learning the roots of bird dog hunting.

The nobility of ancient Europe learned that specific dogs had a propensity to “point” at birds and so they garnered these dogs’ abilities for hunting. But there was a catch – you could not hunt and eat this bird if you were of lower class. In the medieval worldview, things that were closer to the ground were lower in God’s eyes, while things that were higher in the air were more valuable in God’s eyes. Therefore, special birds were only reserved for special people – the nobility. If a peasant was caught with a game bird, they risked imprisonment, stocks, or worse.

It is an odd view, is it not? Odd and completely contrary to how God views his creation.

Jesus’ longest discourse in the Bible is found in the Sermon on the Mount. It is where Jesus takes the time to answer questions like: what does God really value? What kind of person gets to eat all the woodcock? He explains how his “new kingdom” flips the world - and its values - upside down. Jesus tells us that it is not the nobility, the “best of the best” who get to eat the woodcock but it is those who are “poor in Spirit,” those who “mourn,” those who are “meek,” and those who “hunger and thirst after righteousness” who “shall be satisfied.”

The essence of the beatitudes – Jesus’ short sayings I just mentioned – is that earthly values are not heavenly values. If we really want to be filled, then we need to hunger.

J.N Darby, a Christian pastor and author, said this, “When the prodigal son was hungry, he went to feed upon the husks, but when he was starving, he turned to his Father.”

Have you ever been unwilfully hungry? When was the last time you didn’t know when you would have another meal? Jesus’ audience knew very well what real hunger was, the fear and anxiety it caused. But Jesus tells his audience that hunger for food is not the primary concern, rather, being hungry and thirsty for righteousness is. Being righteous means being right in the sight of God and seeking to see the world made right too.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 27

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## BLUEVALLEY 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

## CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

## CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev’d Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector

464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701

Sunday: 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a Holy Eucharist;

6p Contemplative Worship with music and prayer thru Oct. 27

Wed: 6p Potluck, Bible Study

## CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church

Sun. S.S 9:30a, 10:45a; Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am;

Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

## 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.

## CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Horsecove Rd, Highlands - 919-523-7067

Traditional Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8p, thru Sept 1.

## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sun: Service 10:45am, Children’s 10:30am

Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women’s Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.

10am; Men’s Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 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

Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Women’s 10:30 am

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor; Kelley Connelly Asso. 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

## GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

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

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

## HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

## HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

## HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

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

## HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

## HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

## MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

## MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • 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

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Youth Group 6 p.m.; Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;

## OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

## SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

## SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

## SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

## ST. JUDE’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri. noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

## THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for

schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar barn is open Thurs. - Sat. 10a -2p.

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

## WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers • 828-743-2122

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Aug. 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## Aug. 14

• At 8:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

## Aug. 21

• At 10:28 a.m., officers responded to a call for service regarding the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. A call had gone to the crisis hotline and then 9-1-1 claiming a shooter was at the Episcopal Church. After responding, officers found out it was a hoax.

## Aug. 22

• At 4:45 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

## Aug. 23

• At 10:28 a.m., David Windsor Garnett, 32, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI and other offenses. He was issued a unsecured bond. His trial date is Dec. 4.

## Aug. 24

• At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Wright Square parking lot on Main Street.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 13.**

## Aug. 21

• At 11:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper

Lake Road.

## Aug. 22

• At 4:30 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Webbmont Road.

• At 10:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cottage Row.

## Aug. 23

• At 7:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mirrormont Drive.

## Aug. 24

• At 1:22 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

## Aug. 25

• At 7:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

## Aug. 26

• At 7:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pinewood Lane.

## Aug. 27

• At 4:43 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road.

# • UPCOMING EVENT •



## Mission Health is sponsoring stroke survivor camp Sept. 20-22

*There is still time to register*

Mission Health is proud to sponsor the Retreat and Refresh Stroke Camp September 20-22.

This unique weekend retreat was developed to refresh stroke survivors and caregivers from the many challenges related to stroke recovery and is open to stroke survivors, caregivers, family members and friends.

This is a weekend of education, socialization, relaxation and support, includ-

ing crafts, games, activities, pampering, and nature walks.

This is Mission Health's 10th year sponsoring this event, and it will be held at Lake Junaluska Camp, 91 North Lakeshore Dr, Lake Junaluska, NC.

To register, visit <https://unitedstrokealliance.regfox.com/camper-ashville-nc-area-stroke-camp-2024>. For questions or to inquire about financial assistance, please call (309) 688-5450.

Are you starving for God? Are you tired of the world and the empty promises it makes? Are you depressed, unhappy and unsatisfied? I believe and have experienced that true satisfaction is only found in Jesus. And in his kingdom peasants can have the woodcock too.

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 26

What God considers of highest value is not those who get filled up on the birds of the air, but those who are starving for God. This is exemplified in Psalm 42 when the psalmist says, "As the deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirst for God, the living God."

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From left: Bingo Chair Bob Baxter; Bingo Caller Rachel Wavra; Super Bingo winner Karen Powell; Scaly Mountain Historical Society President Bill Kirkman

## Rotary Bingo benefits Scaly Mountain Historical Society

During the evening of August 22, The Rotary Club of Highlands hosted bingo, partnering with the Scaly Mountain Historical Society for 15 rousing Bingo games, cul-

minating in Super Bingo won by Karen Powell. The evening drew a boisterous crowd at the newly renovated Highlands Community Building, with proceeds benefit-

ing the Society's work to preserve and promote the local history and culture of Scaly Mountain and the region.

## ...ORDINANCE continued from page 19

it's been working and doesn't need to be fixed."

The soil erosion and sedimentation control ordinance was originally adopted by Macon County in 2001 and was amended in 2022. Since March, the commissioners have been discussing making changes to this and the two other ordinances after the recommendation from Commissioner Josh Young.

The recommendation to look at revising the three ordinances was sent to the planning board for their consideration; after recommending changes to the three ordinances the decision came back to the commissioners for their approval.

Macon County resident, Susan Ervin, also expressed her opposition to the proposed changes. Ervin, a 40-year resident of rural Macon County, served on the planning board when all three ordinances were written and passed.

"An acre of raw disturbed earth is a whole lot," said Ervin. "The current ordinance does not stop development; it helps to promote proper development and

procedures. You've heard about the impacts that weakening this ordinance would have. It is not speculation that sediment doesn't have a negative impact, it's not opinion, it is fact."

She said tourism is the county's biggest economic activity and its beautiful mountain streams and rivers are one of the biggest draws.

"This would mean an economic impact as well as a negative impact on fishing, swimming, boating, biodiversity and stream health in general. Muddy streams and rivers, mud running under the roads and in ditches, full slopes eroding are all examples of how it is clearly not in the best interest of our county or the wishes of the public that you weaken these ordinances," she said.

Commissioner John Shearl said the county needs a process whereby violations are cited and stop work orders issued in the future.

"I see it all the time, it's not just construction sites that are causing our rivers to turn muddy, it's other issues such as driveways

with no gravel," he said. "People are filling out these applications for permits and cheating on the applications and we don't have the staff to enforce these things. I really and truly don't think that going from half an acre to an acre is going to create any more erosion as long as there is enforcement for these violators."

At the next meeting on September 10, commissioners will consider changes to the Macon County Watershed Protection Ordinance.

The proposed change would allow specific amendments to the ordinance to remove the prohibition of Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parks as a non-permissible use in a special non-residential intensity allocation. Under the nonresidential intensity allocation, the variance would allow commercial type properties to request and be granted more allowable in-service area. Up to 70 percent usage is for businesses and as a RV park is a business it would be treated as such and be permitted under the ordinance change.

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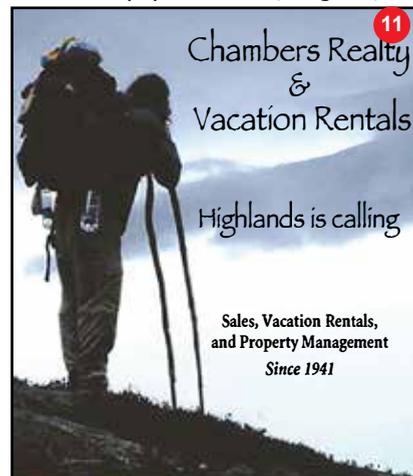
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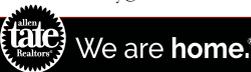
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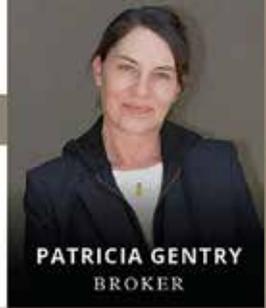
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