Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 22, Number 9 | Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com | Thurs., Feb. 27, 2025

STR on Dog Mountain Rd. is shut down

By Kim Lewicki

At the February Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, there were two STR-related cases before the board – one was postponed until the March Zoning Board meeting, and one was heard.

Planning & Development Director Michael Mathis was alerted to infractions at the STR at 814 Dog Mountain owned by Minnie Blessings, LLC, by Dog Mountain neighbors who happen to be founding members of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition (HNC) – the group who pushed for the amortization of STRs in Highlands.

The Zoning Board upheld

• See STR page 4

– Clarification –

Shearl says 'not time' to move on HS soccer field

Kim Lewicki

At last week's combo meeting between the MC Board of Commissioners, and the Franklin and Highlands boards, Commissioner John Shearl's remarks were misconstrued in favor of moving forward on the Highlands School soccer field. He is 100% opposed to such a move.

"I have been perfectly clear on my stance for the Highlands School soccer field. I told Hilary [Highlands BOE member] that I didn't even want to discuss the Highlands soccer field until we figured out how we were going to get rid of the water coming off of Satulah," said Shearl. "And we do not have the money set aside for the Highlands School soccer field."

While speaking at the com-

• See SHEARL page 9

From left: Jack Sumner, Paolo McRae, Jesus Mendoza, Finneaus Garner, Aniah McKim – Photo by Kristen McKim

HS Varsity Swim Team scores at NC State Championships

Coach Steve Hott

On Sat., Feb.8, all five members of the Highlands School Varsity Boys Swim Team traveled to the Triangle Aquatic Center (TAC) near Raleigh, NC for the 1A/2A State Championships.

It went well. The boys finished 34th out of 228.

The students who attended were senior Finneaus Garner, juniors Aniah McKim, Paolo McRae, Jesus Mendoza, and sophomore, Jack Sumner.

Garner finished tied for 12th in the 50-freestyle, and 13th in the 100-freestyle.

In both relays – the 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle - McRae, McKim, Sumner, and Garner dropped time, finishing 19th, and 21st, respectively.

McKim finished 22nd in the 100-breaststroke.

Garner, McKim, McRae, and Sumner are Jr. Olympic Swimmers.

McKim is a 2-time Academic All American Swimmer.

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	Police and Fire	11
Weather	2	Classifieds	13
Snapshot	2	Events	14
Investing at 4,118 Ft.	4	Hospital News	14
Letters	8		

County hopes more staff and building upgrades will help MC Animal Services

By Kristin Fox

With an increase in animal intakes – from 600 in 2020 to 1,400 in 2024 – coupled with inadequate building and too few paid employees, it's no wonder the Macon County Animal Services (MCAS) has had trouble servicing Macon County.

After listening to the volunteers who help run MCAS, and representatives from MC Public Health, the MC Board of Commissioners have added a position for an additional animal shelter attendant to help alleviate the shelter's staffing and crowding issues

The position for the shelter attendant, who will be responsible for feeding, cleaning and generally taking care of the facility and animals, is posted on the county's Facebook page and the Macon County web page under the human resources section.

Filling the position will be welcomed news for the health department that oversees the county's animal shelter and the many volunteers who help to keep the shelter up and running.

After a joint meeting with shelter staff, volunteers, the health department and the health board, staffing was identified as the number one concern for the shelter.

At the December 2024 meeting of the commissioners, Public Health Director Kathy McGaha and Board of Health Chairman Jerry Hermanson voiced the concerns about the MCAS.

"We very effectively use these large groups of volunteers to do a lot of work at the shelter, it keeps our staffing very low and of course our costs very low," said Hermanson. "We asked the staff to do a complete dive into the operation and look at where we are and where we're going."

Other concerns with the animal control were building infrastructure, the animal control ordinance, community spay and neuter

• See ANIMAL SERVICES page 9

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty

#1 Real Estate Firm

$440M 2024 Total Sales Volume

Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty

Thank you for your continued trust and support. You made us #1 again!

McCULLEY'S

The largest selection of Scottish cashmere in the U.S.A.

In Highlands ...on the hill

242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407

Open 7 days a week

www.mcculleys.com

• The Plateau's Position •

• Mayor on Duty •

Chamber lease is finally finalized

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

Well, we finally did it, that is, the town and chamber have come to an agreement about the lease of the chamber building owned by the town. This back-and-forth issue had gone on for more than a year, but at the last board meeting an agreement came forth.

I am glad both sides have come to an agreement and can now move forward. I appreciate what the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands do for the town in promoting tourism. I hope a constructive relationship with the town and county will continue. I believe two specific things can be done in the near future to enhance the relationship: updating the legislation used by the Chamber of Commerce and providing a financial disclosure.

First, the controversy over the chamber building lease began when members of the Town Board asked for room occupancy tax funds to be used to clean public bathrooms on Main Street at Town Square. The Highlands Chamber and Visit Highlands administer the Tourist Development Authority here on the plateau. The cost to clean and maintain these bathrooms seemed appropriate as they are almost exclusively used by our tourists and visitors. Some on the Town Board believed this request for TDA funds to be used instead of town taxpayer funds was reasonable.

Chamber staff and the county attorney stated that cleaning bathrooms was not a permitted expense under the TDA legislation that the county falls under. Under this 1986 TDA statute, funds could only be used to promote tourism. The sticking point is defining what "promoting tourism" includes.

I have read the 1986 TDA enabling legislation for Macon County. That almost 40-year-old statute is vague about what can and cannot be funded with TDA tax dollars. The legislation that the county operates under was passed by the NC legislature as a local bill on July 16, 1986.

I think the issue of whether TDA funds can be used to clean tourist bathroom facilities illustrates how obsolete this legislation is. Put another way, Macon County and Highlands have outgrown this 40-year-old statute. It is time to work with our legislative delegation to upgrade to a more flexible and dynamic model for managing TDA funds in Macon County.

In fact, the North Carolina Legislature came to the same conclusion 28 years ago in 1997 and passed a reformed TDA legislation, G.S. 153A-155 and G.S. 160A-215. Macon County never requested to be put under this updated legislation and continued to operate under the initial very limited statute. About 150 counties and municipalities follow the 1997 guidelines where tourist-related expenses are permitted. The 1986 Senate Bill 948 that enables Macon County to collect occupancy tax states, "Revenue in this Fund may be used only to promote travel and tourism in the county." Going to the 1997 legislation or modifying the 1986 legislation to include "Tourist Related Expenditures," the county and the Highlands TDA would have more latitude to spend occupancy tax money where paying to maintain bathrooms used almost solely by visiting tourists would be no issue or obstacle.

Second, another improvement that would strengthen public confidence in how

• See MAYOR page 10

Highlands Newspaper
www.highlandsinfo.com
Phone: (828) 200-1371
Email:
HighlandsEditor@aol.com
Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki
Reporters: Kristin Fox
Brian O'Shea
Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki
Locally owned and operated by
Kim & Jim Lewicki
Adobe PDF version at
www,HighlandsInfo.com
265 Oak St. PO Box 2703
Highlands, N,C 28741
All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

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
Obituaries are $8 per column inch.
$10 per photo.
Payable prior to publication.

• SnapShot •

Bookends for life!

Photo by Rachel Coughlin

Do you have a heartfelt, funny, interesting, or beautiful photo you would like to share in our new "ShapShot" section? Email it to highlandseditor@aol.com or text it to 828-200-1371, with a brief description and a name. No anoonymous photos will be accepted.

• Weather •

Thu, 27-Feb	Fri, 28-Feb	Sat, 1-Mar	Sun, 2-Mar
57°F / 31°F	52°F / 29°F	57°F / 32°F	53°F / 29°F
Showers around in the p.m.	Plenty of sunshine	Mostly sunny	Sunny
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 56° Low: 43°	High: 58° Low: 24°	High: 55° Low: 30°	High: 61° Low: 26°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

HIGHLANDER
ROOFING SERVICES INC
New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials
Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773
info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com

allen tate Realtors®

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL®

your life happens here.

At Allen Tate Realtors®, we know home happens wherever memories are made. Since 1957, we've been making those memories happen across the Carolinas. We are grateful for our clients and their families that have placed their confidence in us.

allen tate Realtors® | Pat Allen REALTY GROUP

A HOWARD HANNA PARTNER Howard Hanna

Scan to see our listings!

number one *IN LUXURY* IN THE CAROLINAS

HIGHLANDS-DOWNTOWN OFFICE | 828.526.8784 **CASHIERS OFFICE** | 828.547.0022 **SAPPHIRE OFFICE** | 828.507.3156 **WILDCAT CLIFFS OFFICE** | 828.526.4525

• Investing at 4,118 Ft •

Thriving businesses make for a thriving town

In every city or town, there's a familiar refrain: "What this town needs is a good..." This often comes from the visionary entrepreneur who gathers courage and takes the financial leap to start a new business. However, the decision to open a particular type of business can significantly depend on population ratios — a critical yet often overlooked factor.

Just to consider, Highlands records about 3,200 individuals year-round on the plateau and 18,000 visitors at its peak.

The higher the specialty of the business, the larger the population needed to sustain it. Entrepreneurs must consider these factors closely to avoid market saturation and ensure their business meets the community's needs effectively.

Wendy Reese
Business Broker
wendy@bhhsmmr.com
402-630-7461

Current demographics suggest that for every 1,000 residents, there is typically a demand for one restaurant. Gas stations, on the other hand, serve a broader segment, requiring about 2,000 people per station. The need for medical services such as a general practitioner arises once the population reaches approximately 3,000 individuals. A drug store comfortably fits into communities of about 3,500 people, while a clothing store generally necessitates a larger audience, serving 5,000 residents. For a hardware store to thrive, it often requires a population count near 6,000.

The foundation of a successful enterprise is built on hard work, long hours, talent, and a positive attitude. However, these critical ingredients may only set the stage for success in the short-term. To truly thrive in today's competitive landscape, entrepreneurs must also be prepared to carefully analyze market needs and population factors, continually adapting and innovating.

Yet, behind every successful venture lies a narrative shaped by concerted effort and resilience. Aspiring entrepreneurs must not only seize available opportunities but also navigate the myriad obstacles that invariably arise, including aligning their business models with population dynamics.

Consequently, it becomes crucial for local governments and community leaders to cultivate an environment that supports new businesses, through policies and initiatives that encourage economic growth and sustainability.

My thoughts? Rally behind your entrepreneurs — provide the support and resources necessary for their ventures to flourish. These brave individuals, with their aspirations and drive, hold the potential to be the catalysts of transformation, turning that oft-heard longing of "what this town needs" into tangible, positive change.

• *Wendy Reese is a seasoned Business Broker with over a decade of experience in facilitating the sale and purchase of businesses. With a robust background in promoting local commerce and small business ownership, Wendy leads Business Acquisition, Sales, and Consulting, her own advisory firm. She is also a licensed Commercial real estate professional with Berkshire Hathaway Mountain Meadows Real Estate. Wendy's expertise lies in guiding business owners and buyers through successful transactions. Wendy can be reached at wendy@bhhsmmr.com or 402-630-7461.*

...STR continued from page 1

the town's ruling to discontinue the STR use at 814 Dog Mountain Road.

After investigating zoning infractions at the STR, Mathis ruled that the STR be closed down for three reasons.

"Our records indicate that the subject property is no longer a lawful nonconformity because the use was discontinued for over 12 consecutive months due to extensive renovations during which the nonconforming use was intensified because it went from three bedrooms as noted on MC property tax records to four bedrooms when the garage was made into a playroom/bedroom with bunk beds. As an allowed nonconforming use, an STR may not be changed, enlarged, expanded or intensified, and the occupancy limit on its VRBO listing exceeded what is permitted in section 6.5.18 (A)(1) of the UDO. The VRBO listing advertised that it sleeps 14 when only 8 were allowed – two per bedroom, plus two additional people. And, due to renovations, the home had been discontinued as an STR for more than 17 months from Nov. 2022 through March 2024. If an STR isn't used as such for more than 12 months, it loses its STR status and cannot be re-established."

The Dog Mountain residents of the HNC have long complained about the comings and goings and general use of the STR at 814 Dog Mountain Road citing noise, overcrowding, illegal parking and septic system issues and it's likely one of the reasons HNC was formed in the first place.

Both the town and the neighbors known for the purposes of this case as

• See STR page 5

...STR continued from page 4

Dog Mountain Property Owners Association, were both represented by lawyers. Representing the town was Evan Lee of Poyner Spruill and representing the property owners association was Attorney Brian Gulden.

As a member of Minnie Blessings LLC, Michael Eady, was not represented by an attorney and since he doesn't have 51% of control of the LLC, he was not allowed to give testimony.

He was allowed to speak about the property left to him and his relatives by his great-grandmother recounting how it had been a family get-away for generations and how renting it enabled them to pay for upkeep and taxes.

"In essence, Dog Mountain Road is a unique sanctuary where the past is celebrated, the present is embraced, and the future unfolds against the backdrop of nature's grandeur. It's more than a house; it's a living legacy, a haven where generations share the blessings of a cherished history. Cherish the past, savor the present, and create new memories in this distinctive mountain retreat," he read from a prepared statement.

Eady said renovations began when it was realized that the foundation of the house was "sliding off the mountain" due to excessive water coming down the mountain which he likened to a natural disaster.

However, during testimony from the part-time owners on Dog Mountain who visited their properties intermittently over the 17-month period, there was not a single rain event or natural disaster that occurred which would have allowed the ceasing of STR use while the effects of the disaster had been remedied, even if it had taken more than 12 months to do so.

The Dog Mountain Property Owners Association and founding members of the HNC, William Long, Carol Gable, Charles Nalbone and Thomas Coley all submitted affidavits explaining the infractions and successfully made the case against Eady.

"This renovation started in Nov. 2022 with replacement of the front foundation wall to re-waterproof the cinder block foundation and continued for 17 months and was not finished until March 2024. In addition to replacement of the front foundation wall and associated work, the existing interior was taken down to the original studs, the decks and porches were rebuilt and the front entryway was expanded and rebuilt. All bathrooms and the kitchen were gutted and rebuilt and the existing living area was expanded into the garage which was repurposed as an additional bedroom containing four, twin beds and two double beds," reads Coley's affidavit.

Mathis listed the measures necessary to remedy the violation: "To stop operating the property as an STR and to remove the STR listing from all rental platforms.

• See STR page 8

COREY JAMES GALLERY
& Estate Consignments
Bronze sculpture • Paintings
Vintage & Antique Collectables & Furniture • Costume Jewelry

(828) 526-4818
On the corner of 3rd & Spring

MOVIES
at PAC's MLPC
507 Chestnut St. Highlands

Friday, Feb. 28 – 2p and 5:30p
Saturday, Mar. 1 – 2p and 5:30p
Sunday, Mar. 2 – 2p and 5:30p
Thursday, Mar. 6 – 2p and 5:30p
Friday, Mar. 7 – 2p and 5:30p
Saturday, Mar. 8 – 2p and 5:30p

Tickets:
Adults: $13.20 • Children: $11
boxoffice@
highlandsperformingarts.com
828-526-9047

Charm and Convience
Just 3 Miles From Downtown Highlands

ONE- AND TWO-BEDROOM CONDOS IN CHESTNUT HILL LODGE

84 CLUBHOUSE TRAIL, #108
MLS# 105816 I $465,000 I 2BR/2BA
These convenient condos are less than three miles to the heart of Highlands! This adorable single level condo offers one bedroom, a den, two baths, a kitchen with new appliances and two remodeled bathrooms with modern fixtures and finishes. The den is currently used as a study, but could easily be a guest room.

84 CLUBHOUSE TRAIL, #101
MLS# 105817 I $350,000 I 1BR/1BA
Welcome to your new home less than three miles to downtown Highlands! Step inside this charming 1BR/1BA single level condo to discover a kitchen with new appliances and a remodeled bath with modern fixtures and finishes. The gleaming hardwood floors throughout add a touch of warm elegance.

A garage for either unit may be purchased separately if desired. The garages will be offered on a first come, first serve basis for $30K.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

DISCOVER LUXURY LISTINGS & MORE!

THE MICHAUD/RAUERS GROUP
828.526.4101 I MeadowsMountainRealty.com I 488 Main St, Highlands

©2025 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

• Highlands Dining •

Monday - Thursday, 11 am - 3 pm
Friday - Saturday, 11 am - 8 pm
226 South 4th Street · Highlands, NC
Highlandsburrito.com

HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE

Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p
Closed Tuesdays
828.526.3554
595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern at Highlander Mountain House

Open for
LUNCH
Wednesday-Saturday
11:30-3p
Open for
DINNER
Wednesday-Saturday
5:30-9p
Open for
SUNDAY BRUNCH
with Blue Grass music
10a-3p

290 Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-2590
highlandermountainhouse.com

A HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOTEL
OUTPOST INN

Now serving wine, beer & coffee!
Open to the public!

Coffee Bar 8a to 4p daily
Wine/Beer Bar:
Thurs-Sat 5-10p

790 North 4th Street, Highlands | info@outpostinnhighlands.com | 828-482-7736

828-526-4035

WILD THYME GOURMET RESTAURANT

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round
Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands

Open 6 Days
Closed Wed.
Closed Sun. Dinner

Lunch: 11a-3:30p
Dinner:
5:30p - 9p

Dusty's
Will be closed
February 23 - March 4
493 Dillard Road
828-526-2762

Think Mountain Findings

Empowering our communities for over 57 years, Mountain Findings, your local nonprofit thrift store, relies on your support to provide life-changing grants and scholarships. Donations of furniture, housewares, artwork, rugs, and more are graciously accepted at 452 Spruce Street, Highlands, day or night. Schedule a pickup by calling Mountain Findings at 828-526-9929.

The Secret Garden

Sandwich shop and gourmet food market
Open Year-Round
Mon.-Fri.. 11:30a to 5p
Sat. 12-5p

208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • Next to Pine St. Park

Offering a variety of hot and cold specialty sandwiches, various salads, desserts and charcuterie and caterings prepared by a Johnson & Wales certified chef. Stop by and enjoy a hot sandwich, a cup of daily homemade soup and pasta salad. We have indoor and outdoor courtyard seating, and a large variety of drink options including wine and beer.

Can't linger?
Call (828) 305-7509 to place a pick-up order.

Old Edwards
CHEF DINNERS 2025
at THE FARM
PITMASTER CAREY BRINGLE
Thursday, May 29
A TASTE OF SUMMER DINNER
Thursday, June 26
POL ROGER CHAMPAGNE DINNER
Thursday, July 17
4TH ANNUAL SUNDAY SUPPER: SOUTH OF FRANCE
Sunday, August 24
7TH ANNUAL OYSTER & SEAFOOD FEST
Sunday, September 28
SOUTHERN CHEFS POTLUCK
Friday, October 26
ANNUAL FARM HARVEST DINNER & BARN DANCE
Friday, November 14
FALL'S FINEST DINNER
Saturday, November 15
view details & book online

• Letters •

– Open Letter to Tillis, Budd and Chuck Edwards –

Gentlemen:

It's difficult to understand why Congress expects me to pay federal taxes.

You are certainly not doing the job you were elected to do — pass a budget, provide checks and balances on the executive branch, make decisions in the best interests of your constituents. Never mind, Mr. Tillis and Budd, your egregious performance in confirming Cabinet Secretaries.

DOGE continues to use a nuclear bomb rather than a scalpel to cut government spending, which is a reasonable goal. However, I have seen nothing that legitimizes DOGE, Musk or his decisions. Most of the "justification" makes me believe the president is acting illegally and gleefully. The cruelty of Trump and Musk to basically every US citizen is unbelievable. 4,300 USFS employees were fired. Never mind that civil service employees cannot be fired without cause. Have you considered what these firings will do to the economy of our local communities that will bear not only the brunt of increased unemployment but also the loss of tourist dollars?

Destroying USAID is insane. Are you unaware that USAID bought its food, medicine and matériels from US farmers and suppliers? This administration has screwed not only poor people worldwide but also US citizens, many of whom thought they were voting for an administration that would improve their lives.

The consequences are monumental and the list is long: Musking around in Energy (which is responsible not only for clean energy, and energy efficiency but also safeguarding nuclear weapons), OSHA (which protects the workforce from job-related injuries), EPA (which ensures our rivers don't catch fire and our air doesn't give us asthma), Interior (which fights forest fires), NIH and CDC (which fund cancer research and develop vaccines to protect our health), the FCPB (which protects innocent borrowers from getting fleeced by banks and loan companies) and on and on, ensures we will be less safe, less healthy and less economically secure. Every aspect of American life is being degraded by Trump and Musk.

Meanwhile, Congress is working to make life for the least of us much harder, slashing budgets for SNAP, Head Start, Medicaid and more. And to what end? To fund that $$4 TRILLION tax break Trump promised his billionaire buddies. I bet many of your constituents do not know that Mr. Musk has more than $22 BILLION in government contracts. So far, none of his contracts have been cut and the several regulatory investigations against their business practices have been cancelled by DOJ.

So, Congress, have you really thought through the consequences of this Administration, not only to the underserved and to me, but to your safety and well-being when your electorate realizes their government has betrayed them mightily?

It costs $6.5 BILLION annually to fund Congress. Give me one reason I should continue to pay your salary.

Karen Patterson
Highlands

Contact your Federal legislators and say 'NO' to the SAVE Act

Dear Editor,

I'm asking people to contact their federal legislators regarding the SAVE Act. Here's why.

It isn't a partisan issue. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act would simply make it much harder for millions of American citizens to vote in order to keep non-citizens from voting. Problem is, it isn't a real issue! Voter fraud, including impersonation and non-citizens, only constitutes 0.0003% - 0.0025% of the votes. One study found four cases nation

wide in 2016, obviously not enough to rig an election.

What the SAVE Act will do, however, is require people to go to a government office and show their ID in person to register to vote. No more registration drives, and no more registering by mail or on-line, methods used by one in three voters. Does this sound a bit inconvenient? It certainly will be for the millions of people who turn 18 or who move every year and need to register to vote in their new district. The requirements hold even if you only need to update your information.

What ID does the SAVE Act require? Proof of citizenship, i.e. a birth certificate, passport, or certificate of citizenship. Driver's licenses, military and tribal ID won't count, nor would REAL ID. Some claim that it will affect married women who do not have a birth certificate that matches their married name, especially Republican women who are more likely than Democrats to take their husband's name. It will affect poor and working people who do not have the time or money to travel to the Board of Elections office to register. Older people and those born in very rural areas might not even have a birth certificate.

Fifty percent of Americans do not hold a passport; fewer in red states. So, Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike will be adversely affected by this poorly thought-out bill.

"The only Americans who stand to benefit from the SAVE Act are out-of-touch politicians willing to trample on the rights of millions of citizens, including their own constituents, in order to score a few political points with the media and the administration." -- The Brennan Center for Justice

This bill will likely be voted on today or Friday, so please call now!

Cynthia Strain
Highlands, NC

Monday Appointments Available

-HM- Beauty

NOW OPEN!

Beauty Specialists

Danielle Adriana

- Hair Cuts and Color
- Eyebrow Tints and Facial Waxing
- Dermalogica Facials
- Obagi

322 Main St Highlands NC • 828-482-1112

...STR continued from page 5

Or you may change the listing to a minimum of 30 consecutive nights," reads his ruling.

The second case regarding an STR at 336 Worley Road to be presented by petitioners Ronnie and Cherly Wood of 265 Worley Road will be heard at the March meeting. It is an appeal to Mathis's ruling that the STR in question is legal and can continue.

The Woods contend that there is no proof that the home owned by Paula Dodson under Dodson Properties LLC and Mitchell Willoughby was an STR prior to Sept. 2022 or after Sept. 2022.

Further they contend that Worley Road is too dangerous to salt and snowplow and residents don't need extra traffic on the road.

In the submitted documentation, Mathis ruled that "the property on 336 Worley Road is a legal nonconforming use and may continue operating at this time."

The Wood's appeal of Mathis's ruling will be heard at the March meeting.

...SHEARL continued from page 1

bo-meeting, in a couple of sentences back-to-back, Shearl used the following words and phrases: "Time to move forward; Highlands School; and Commissioner Jeff Weller has been involved."

Shearl has clarified, that when said "time to move forward," and "Highlands School," he was recapping actions by the BOC – referring to the board moving forward on the Highlands School Project, not the Highlands School soccer field. When he mentioned "Jeff Weller," Weller said later he may have been referring to his involvement with AHEC at Highlands School.

"But it could have been the soccer field at Zachary Park," said Weller.

Weller later explained that he and Shearl serve on the County Rec Commission and Shearl asked him to "shoot some elevations at Zachary Park" to see if it would be possible to construct a second soccer field beyond the parking area for Highlands School use.

"Jeff Weller and I serve on the County Rec Commission and he was going out to Zachary Park and shooting elevations for the new field that I had funding for two budgets ago," he later clarified.

During the combo meeting, Commissioner Josh Young mentioned $200,000 that Shearl later confirmed had been budgeted for Zachary Park's soccer fields.

"A lot of the good things that our board has done hasn't made the news. Lester Norris, [Highlands Rec Park Director], asked me when I was elected if I could get funds to build a new soccer field at Zachary Park for the youth soccer program. The funds were approved in my first budget," said Shearl. "However, I have made the recommendation to extend the existing soccer field at Zachary Park to make it regulation-size so the school could use it and get away from the swamp that we have now at the school. Zachary Park has great parking, great restrooms and a fantastic concession stand.

"That was one of my delays in the Highlands School Project. I tried to promote a brand new school at the Zachary Park location but could not get enough traction. Ten million would have gone a long way toward a brand new school in my opinion," he said.

Meanwhile, at the MC Schools board meeting Feb. 10, members said they will begin advertising for the RFPs for the HS soccer field online over the next two weeks for design build services, for dewatering, excavation, and soil replacement.

Macon County Schools Attorney John Henning said after this round, if the school board doesn't receive additional bids, it can move forward with the project with the one bid it did receive.

"This is not a simple project, somebody's going to have to study the hydrology of the creek up above it and how it filtered down," said Henning. "It is a very complex problem."

Wilkes spoke at length about the Highlands School soccer field attributing some of the problems to the irrigation issues and about the yearlong study completed at the request of the MC Commission.

"While the study gave a good read on what happens to the field during the year it didn't give an answer on how to get rid of the water," said Wilkes. "I do think it brought to life that was there's a lot of water coming up from under the field; it is not just water coming off a mountain or from the rain. It is also that it's pooling up there because of groundwater coming up from the bottom."

Wilkes also reminded the board that fixing the field is a curriculum issue as it is used for classes and said the Zachary Field option is not ideal as it is also used for the recreation soccer program, and it would be hard to add the school teams. She said transportation to the Buck Creek fields would be an issue for students practicing after school, as well.

Highlands Newspaper regrets not understanding Shearl's statements at the combo-meeting and is happy to set the record straight.

...ANIMAL SERVICES continued from page 1

programs, and training for employees and volunteers.

"We have successfully made building infrastructure improvements," said McGaha. "We have been working with County Maintenance Director Travis Waldroop and the maintenance department to address things that were brought to our attention helping us get those improvements made. "

McGaha mentioned further down the road the health department and county need to look at the animal control ordinance. In reference to dangerous dogs, she stated that there is a constant struggle with animal control officers and what they're allowed to do in the community. The officers are limited to what they can do by the ordinance as well as state limitations.

"The ordinance allows our animal control officers to issue citations, a $25 citation and then a $50 citation," said Dr. Jim Villiard, Population Health Section Administrator. "That is the authority that they have unless the violation is directly addressed in the North Carolina General Statute."

In November 2015, the health department took over the responsibility of overseeing animal services including animal control services, the animal shelter and rabies control programs. Prior to that the Macon County Sheriff's Office handled the animal control services for the county.

"Currently it is under the health department, and I think it fits pretty well there, as long as we have the means to meet the needs of the residents, primarily dogs and cats," said Hermanson.

At the board meeting, Commissioner John Shearl suggested that the animal shelter be turned back over to the sheriff's office.

"I think it is best if it is turned over to the sheriff of Macon County," said Shearl. "These are things we are researching right now, because it is not for us, it's for the betterment of these animals that are being abused. That's where I stand and I promise you, we as a board are looking into this to make a better situation for these animals."

Shearl also mentioned considering the option of privatizing animal services. He suggested the county could lease its facility and outsource animal control operations to a private organization. McGaha and Villiard said that most companies and counties that work in animal control are at or over capacity.

At the combo-meeting between the MC BOC and the Franklin and Highlands boards, Feb. 13, animal control was brought up. Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor said Highlands could use some help in that area and mentioned the "run away monkey" that bit a passer-by.

• CHHS News •

Photo by Marty Boone

If you're looking for the one missing ingredient in a recipe for unconditional love, Alfredo is the kitty cat for you. Alfredo is nine months old and currently residing at the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. He is very sweet and he gets along great with other cats and kittens. For more information, please visit chhumanesociety.org or call (828)743-5752.

WHOLE LIFE MARKET
Natural Products Store
Hours: 9am-5pm
Mon-Sat
828-526-5999
Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com
LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS
NECTAR Juice Bar
Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market

Open for Lunch
11a to 3p
DON LEON'S
Open Tues. - Sat.
Pet Friendly Place Where Friends Meet
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 Gyro!
Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese Steak • Shrimp Pita • Susan's Rueben
Italian Sausage • Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings • Jambalaya • Kabobs
Shrimp Gumbo • Soups
Dine in or Call in your order for Pickup! • 828-482-1513
462 Dillard Road, Highlands (across from Dusty's)

• Biz/Org News •

Rotary Club of Highlands recognizes community

Each year the Rotary Club of Highlands recognizes the teachers at the Highlands School for the extraordinary work they do for the children of our school. We also know they go into their own pockets for various supplies they need to teach out kids. So each year, our Rotary club gives each and every teacher in our school $100 to help with those expenses. Accepting the gifts for the teachers are Caleb Brown, Highschool Social Studies Teacher and Alyssa Debois, Asst. Principal.

The Rotary Club of Highlands hosted Frank Vickery, Director of Ceramics at the Bascom, a Center for the Visual Arts. Invited and presented by Rotarian Mark Chmar, Frank has been at The Bascon for 14 years teaching and making ceramics. Under his stewardship, the program has grown exponentially to the point that Frank needs and has a full-time helper in the studio, Ester Lipscomb. While most of Frank's classes are focused toward beginners, the Bascom has many ceramic events like the Bascom Clay Symposium, lectures, and adult classes. Over 10,000 bowls have been made at the Bascom for the Empty Bowls fundraiser that benefits the Highlands Food Pantry. If you have never visited the pottery studio at the Bascom, put it on your list! You might find it well worth the time.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

occupancy tax is spent in the Highlands area. A yearly report with a full and specific disclosure of how these taxes are spent would be beneficial. This process would clearly define the relationship between the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands.

Over the past several years, the Highlands TDA and chamber have received well over a million dollars yearly in occupancy tax collections. Many residents want a clear picture of how these tax dollars are allocated. I am sure an annual, public financial statement will clarify any misunderstandings and will go a long way in enhancing public trust in the process.

• Places to Worship •

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

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: 9a Fellowship; 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a
Holy Eucharist Tues., 9a;Thurs., 12p Prayer & Book Study

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS
Pastor Jacob Tedder • Jacob@cashiers.church • 743-5470
www.cashiers.church
Sun. 10:45a;Wed Study5:15p supper and childcare.

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:11a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7.p.m.
Wednesdays –Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun: 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 Langsdrof
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
Sat. 4pm 5/24/25-10/25/25; 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 9 & 11 am; Coffee Hour following 11 am Service
Bazaar Barn is open Friday & Saturday 10a-2p
www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

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 Feb. 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Feb. 10

• At 1:07 p.m., officers were notified of embezzlement by an employee at the Highlander Mountain House in the amount of $1,349.21 by using business accounts at multiple businesses for personal use.

Feb. 13

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a call of a stolen package from the Trail Borne motel valued at $1,300.

Feb. 17

• At 8:10 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road) and Webbmont Road.

• At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 (Franklin Road) and Webbmont.

Feb. 23

• At 8:07 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road) and Little Bearpen.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Feb. 19.

Feb. 19

• At 6:08 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

Feb. 20

• At 12:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Rock House Road which was a total loss. There were no injuries, and the cause is yet to be determined but may have been due to a wood stove.

Feb. 21

• At 1:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Poplar Street that sustained heavy damage. There were no injuries, and the cause is yet to be determined but may have been due to a wood stove.

• At 1:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Country Club Drive.

• At 1:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 4:20 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

Feb. 22

• At 1:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 4:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Church Street.

Feb. 23

• At 1:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ridge Lane.

Around noon, Thursday, Feb. 20, Highlands Fire & Rescue responded to a call of a structure fire at a residence on Rock House Road. Due to the distance from Highlands, the structure was mostly gone when fire crews got there. Rock House Road is off Walkingstick Road which is off Horse Cove Road. Though the cause is unknown at this time it may have been caused by a wood stove.

– Photo by Roger Lee Wilson

Summer Camp registration now open for Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau

The Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau (BGCP) is excited to announce that summer camp registration will be open for its three locations: the Cashiers Club, The Highlands Club, and the Abell Teen Club. on March 3. The camp is free.

BGCP's summer camp runs from June 10 through August 8, providing a full day of fun and enrichment from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon. through Fri.. Designed for children and teens in kindergarten through 12th grade, the camp offers a wide variety of engaging activities that encourage learning, creativity, and personal growth.

Don't miss the chance to give your child a summer filled with growth, discovery, and fun. Register at www.bgcplateau.org/summercamp and make BGCP summer camp a part of their best summer yet!

HIGHLANDS CHURCH
9a Sunday mornings
LIVE STREAM: Andy Stanley
• • •
Following Jesus makes your life better,
And makes you better at life!

For details, text Bee at 404-307-1415

Align Therapeutic, PLLC
Mental Health Therapy and Support Services
Nicole Dilbeck, LCMHCA
nicole@aligntherapywnc.com
www.aligntherapywnc.com
828-526-6370
Locations in Franklin and Highlands, NC

LISA THOMPSON
DOG SITTING
- daily drop-in visits
- overnight & extended stays
- dog walking

828.424.4637

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

Paul Corbin
Owner

A&O LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC
828-371-2240
pcorbin1631@aol.com

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE | HIGHLANDS CASHIERS
Colleen Kerrigan, *Broker*
615-400-5498
colleen.kerrigan.wnc@gmail.com
Authenticity, Honesty, Integrity
Highlands Office 210 N. Fifth Street

Highlands Automotive
Service & Repair
NC Inspection Station
828-787-2360
2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com

CHESTNUT STORAGE
Storage Units Available
Secure 24-Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms
Call today to find out why we're "Highlands Premier Facility"

828-482-1045
Look for our sign!
Buck Creek Rd - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Road near the hospital

360 MAIN STREET
ESTATE JEWELERS OF HIGHLANDS
WE BUY AND CONSIGN OLD JEWELRY
Appointment Only!
Call: 828-526-1960
Text: 770-855-0825
Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com

- Grading
- Excavating
- Driveways
- Build sites
- Hauling
- Septic Systems

Edwin Wilson
Cell (828) 421-3643
Office/fax (828) 526-4758
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

828-200-9217
Fully Insured
Crane Rentals Available
MENDOZA TREE EXPERT
Quality Tree Care & Removal 18+ years
estimates@mendozatree.com
mendozatreeservices.com

COUNSELING CENTER
HIGHLANDS, NC
864-481-0598
INFO@COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG
LOCATED AT THE PEGGY CROSBY CENTER
348 S. 5TH STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741
OFFICES: 201, 203 & 210
COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG
WE STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL ABILITY.

Highlands LAWN & GARDEN
Kiln dried
FIREWOOD
Delivery or pickup
2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395
highlandslawnandgarden.com

Ryan M. Bears

Branch Leader

Cell: 803-271-5426
Off ce: 828-526-8784
ryan.bears@allentate.com

We are home.®

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP

ALLAN DEARTH GENERATORS AND SONS

828-526-9325

Generators aren't just a "thing" we do, generators are all we do!

GENERAC
Cummins
KOHLER.

Kim's Compassionate Care

Skilled Hands & A Warm Heart

Kimberly Ferrell

Certified Nursing Assistant/Caregiver

CPR Certified
30+ years experience
References Available

828-347-2542

Al Stoneham

Realtor-Broker
Luxury Home Specialist
Licensed in NC & GA

Cell: 828-332-9767
al.stoneham@allentate.com

We are home.®

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP
HIGHLANDS/SCALY MOUNTAIN/CASHIERS

Predator Self Defense

Byrna Co2 Launcher
Product Sales and Training

Justin Kingsland
8643734022
Predatorsd.com

• Classifieds •

FOR SALE

LAND FOR SALE - 2 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at $200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) $140,000. 828-974-1137. (5/1)

SEASONED FIREWOOD - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE. $55k-$85k ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (st. 11/22/24)

RV SITE - class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. $195,000. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

FOR RENT

FURNISHED 2BD, 2.5BA TOWNHOUSE IN SHELBY PLACE. Less than a mile from town. Long Term preferred. Call Jennifer at 828-371-2582 (st. 2/6)

WORKFORCE HOUSING - 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/2 bath with between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy (706)982-0444 or (828)482-4239, (st. 5/2/24)

SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING SERVICE – Will come to your home to pick up recycables. Call or text for details 828-421-2655. (st. 2/20)

DUMP RUNS. Competitive Pricing. Call for details. 828-421-2655. (st. 2/20)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (5/1)

JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE – We take anything. Call 828-200-0492 (2/27)

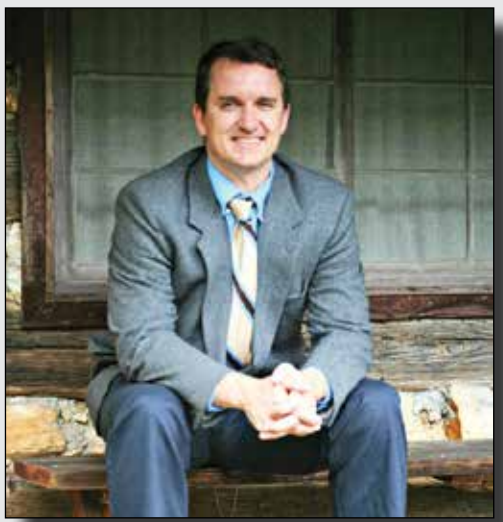
CAREGIVER/SITTER with 40 years experience available for part-time personal care, errands, transportation, meals, etc. Highlands full-time resident. Robert Doe 828.399.0262. (st. 8/29)

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (3/28)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (3/28)

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

ATTORNEY ON THIRD



Stuart D. Sloan

REAL ESTATE & ESTATE PLANNING

Licensed NC (2009) and FL (1999)

Stuart: stu@sloanvanhook.com
Genevieve (Assistant): gen@sloanvanhook.com

331 S. Third St., Highlands, NC
828-482-8088

• Biz/Org News •

Randy Foster, President of Rotary Club of Highlands; speakers Kelsey and David Parrish, Sol & Son Dual Language Academy founders; and Sherry Holt, Rotarian and meeting host.

Sol & Son, dual language immersion microschool to open in Franklin

Kelsey and David Parrish, Sol & Son Dual Language Academy founders, are planning to open a new immersive Spanish/English school on the bottom level of Franklin First Assembly, 1150 E. Main Street, Franklin in August 2025. The new "micro school" will begin with a 1/2day enrichment program for 2-4 year olds and an all-day program for K-1 graders, adding an additional grade each following year. Eventually the Sol & Son DLA will serve K-5 students, maintain micro class sizes (10 students), and offer multicultural and holistic curriculum and a Christian focus. Subjects will be taught 80/20 in Spanish and English to a student base made up of both native English and Spanish speakers. Tuition assistance will be available with the help of donations, grants and NC Opportunity Scholarships. For more information about the Academy, visit www.solandsonla.com.

• Highlands Area Events •

WINTER 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

ICE RINK

Closed for 2025.

PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday - Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed),

MOVIES

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street. See ad on page 5.

MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm, Feb. 21-22, March 7-8 and 21-22, April 4-5 and 18-19.

Wed., Feb. 26

• The Cashiers Historical Society will host author and photographer Chris Aluka Berry at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library from 3-4p. This event is free and open to the public, with a Q&A and book signing to follow. For more information, contact the Cashiers Historical Society at (828) 743-7710

Thurs., Feb. 27

• Highlands School and Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC are hosting a Career Day on Thursday from 8am–12pm at Highlands School for 3rd through 12th graders.

Fri., Feb. 28

• "Garden Tool Sharpening Happy Hour," is a FREE event, hosted by Hagan Binder Landscape Architects. Bring up to 3 garden tools for complimentary sharpening and meet the Hagan Binder Team, and checkout the new HBLA Studio and Fine Tools Retail shop at 466 Dillard Road. Refreshments provided, please RSVP on haganbinder.com.

Mon., March 3

• Summer Camp registration with the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau begins Monday. The camp is June 10-Aug. 8, Mon.-Fri., 7:30a to 6p. Register at www.bgcplateau.org/summercamp

THE FIREWOOD COMPANY

Highlands • Cashiers • Atlanta

828.200.3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com • www.firewoodcompany.net

• Hospital News •

Pay attention to your heart health

February is American Heart Month, a time all people are encouraged to focus on cardiovascular health. It is the right time for us to pay special attention to learning what our individual risk factors for heart disease are so we can focus on reducing or eliminating them.

There have been significant advances in treatment for heart health, but cardiovascular disease remains the No. 1 cause of death for men and women, regardless of race or ethnicity, in the United States. To get an idea of what this means, one in every five deaths in our country can be traced to heart disease.

Despite these concerning statistics, we can all have great impact when it comes to lowering our risk for developing heart disease. Although we can't change things such as our family history of heart disease, gender, or race (men are at higher risk for heart disease and Black Americans have a greater chance of dying from heart disease), we can take control of our lifestyle choices. This includes diet, exercise, effective stress management, weight control, and steering clear of things that don't do our hearts any good, such as smoking and drinking too much alcohol.

Throughout our quest for better heart health, your primary care physician is your most important teammate. They can talk to you about your individual risk factors and order tests that reveal your cholesterol and other important factors that impact your heart. They can also help you create a plan to best support your heart health.

One of the top factors you can control is diet and weight. Are you within a normal weight range? If not, talk to your doctor about the safest, smartest way to lose weight. This means ditching the "get thin quick" schemes and adopting a sensible eating plan where you lose weight gradually. Taking this approach, you're less likely to experience "yo-yo" weight ups and downs, which aren't good for your health either.

Focus on eating lots of fresh produce and making sure you get a wide variety of nutrient- dense foods, such as whole grain bread,

Tom Neal CEO, CNO
H-C Hospital

low-fat dairy products, legumes, fish, healthy fats like avocados and olive oil, and nuts and seeds.

I've mentioned the importance of physical exercise in past columns, but it bears repeating because more and more, we're finding out that moving our bodies is one of the best ways to ward off many serious conditions in addition to heart disease, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and certain cancers.

Exercise is actually something you can look forward to — if you choose activities you like and incorporate them into your schedule as non-negotiables. Joining a gym allows you to stay active throughout the winter with exercises classes, swimming, and more, but if you're not a gym person, you need only lace up your sneakers and walk each day to get those all-important steps in. The US Preventive Services Task Force advises us to engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week, which averages 30 minutes a day, five days per week.

Improving your diet and exercising are also powerful weapons in combatting the stress we all live with. We juggle so much, from work obligations to family duties and beyond, that it's vital to seek better balance in our lives and find more peace.

We can address the corrosive effects of stress on our heart health by doing some of the very things I've mentioned, eating well and exercising. Throw in getting good sleep each night, spending time in nature regularly, engaging in activities that we find fulfilling, and connecting meaningfully with others, and you've got a recipe for better stress management.

A note on building better sleep habits: You can get high-quality rest by adopting a routine bedtime each night, enjoying an evening wind-down ritual like reading or a cup of tea, and banishing tech from your bedroom.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) is also here to provide superior cardiac services in our community. Our knowledgeable heart specialists offer sophisticated heart testing and monitoring, as well as ongoing treatment and management of heart disease and conditions like arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat), heart failure, atrial fibrillation, or AFib (heart rhythm irregularity that can progress to a stroke or blood clot), and more.

Our award-winning Emergency Department is ready to treat patients experiencing heart attacks and other cardiac events, and our cardiologist, Dr. William Wharton, is available at our Mission Community Primary Care – Highlands and Mission Community Primary Care – Cashiers offering expert care to heart patients.

For those patients who are recovering from a cardiac event, we offer an excellent cardiac rehabilitation program, which provides patients with supervised, customized exercise plans as they recover, heart health education, and the chance to connect with other patients who have had similar experiences.

I'm also grateful to have Mission Hospital as a partner in care, where cardiac services are expansive and state-of-the-art. This means our community has access to unmatched care, wherever and whenever they need.

At HCA Healthcare's Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, our colleagues are the HEART of our mission: Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life. During American Heart Month, in addition to raising awareness about heart disease, we want to thank our staff for their dedication to our patients and living our mission each and every day. Every role within our hospital has the same responsibility to show up every day and deliver excellent patient care.

SILVER EAGLE
Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery

349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com

Country Club Properties
Your local hometown Real Estate professionals.
3 Offices 828-526-2520
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com

Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern
highlandermountainhouse.com

Weichert,
REALTORS
Highlands Properties
450 N. 4th St. Highlands, NC
828-526-5522
www.highlandsproperties.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

LUXURY COLLECTION℠
Of the 55,000+ BHHS agents across the globe, Faye ranks in the TOP 2% and is a Luxury Collection Specialist.
FAYE WURM
828.200.1345
faye@bhhsmmr.com
2334 Cashiers Rd, Highlands
https://fayewurm.meadowsmtnrealty.com/

Far from the maddening crowd.

Only 15 minutes to Highlands, this custom built family legacy home has "forever" views, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, office, 2 living rooms, wet bar.

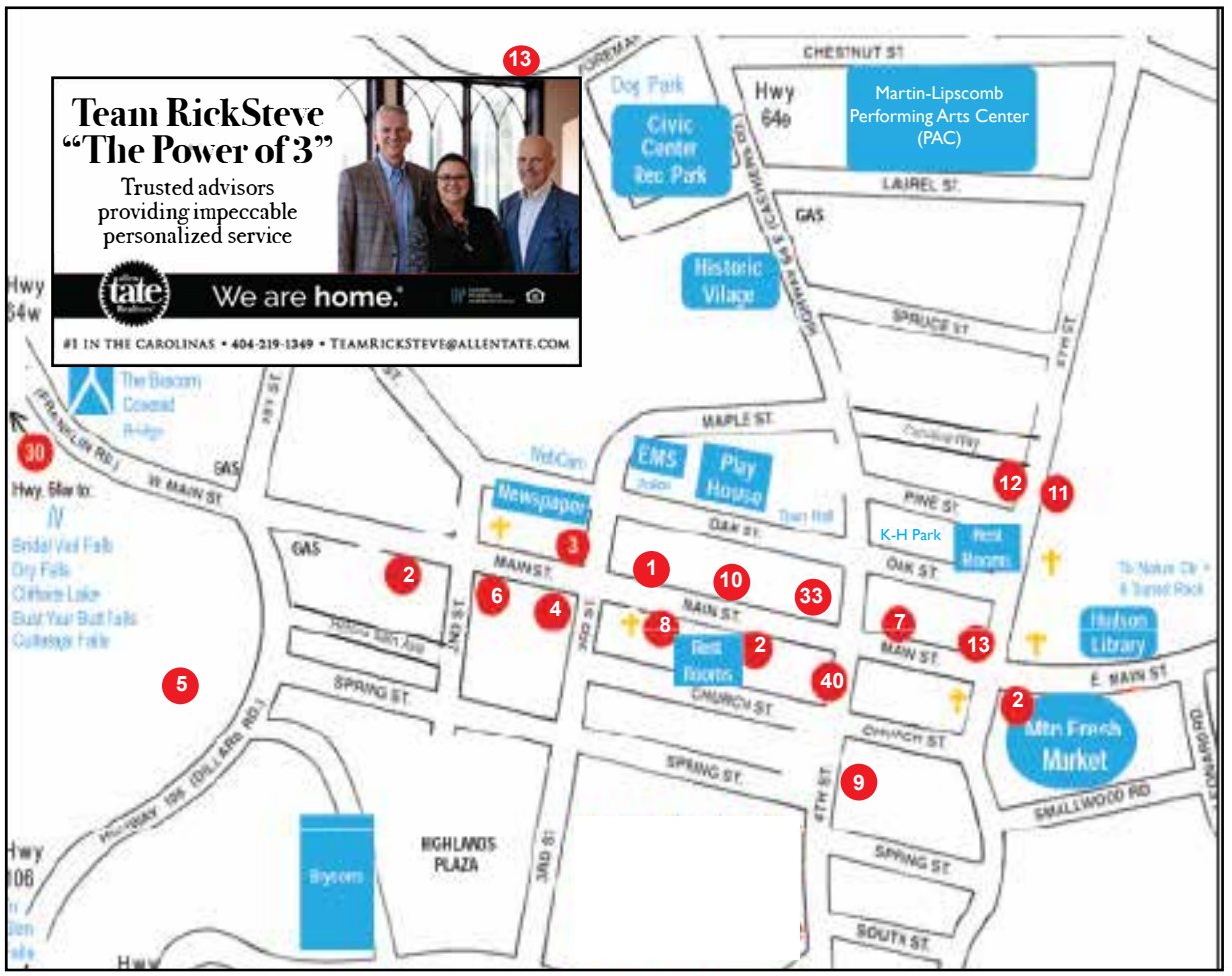
Offered for $1,600,000

2514 Buck Knob Road
Scaly Mountain

Andrea Gabbard
c: 828.200.6742
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY
114 N. 4th Street
Highlands, NC

Darlene Conley
Mountain Luxury
Your Dream. Your Journey. YOU'RE HOME!
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.
Cell: 404-427-2448
darlene.conley@allentate.com
We are home.®
ALLEN TATE REALTORS/
PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP



Ace is the Place,
Reeves Hardware
At Main & 3rd streets
Highlands 526-2157

Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY
114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC
Local Expertise, Global Connections.
Licensed in NC and GA
Sheryl Wilson
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE | HIGHLANDS CASHIERS
Highlands Office | 210 N. 5th Street
Cell: 828-787-1895
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com

allen tate Realtors

MORE THAN 33 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON THE PLATEAU

Our clients rate us 5 out of 5 ★★★★★

VOTED AMERICA'S BEST

AMERICA'S BEST

5

JULIE OSBORN & PAT ALLEN

828.200.6165 | 828.200.9179
julie.osborn@allentate.com
pat.allen@allentate.com

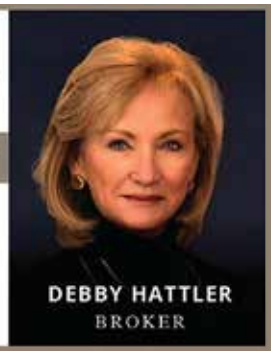
allen tate Realtors | Pat Allen REALTY GROUP | LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL | Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

LANDMARK
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 828-506-0173
Office: 828-526-4663
debby@landmarkrg.com

6



DEBBY HATTLER
BROKER

DAVID BOCK BUILDERS

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240

Jody Lovell

Why call Jody?

Ranked the #1 Broker in North Carolina for over a decade—and for good reason! Whether you're buying or selling, she brings unparalleled market expertise, top-tier negotiation skills and a commitment to delivering exceptional results. Your dream home or top-dollar sale is just one call away-you deserve the best! With over $1 Billion in sales. you can be the next beneficiary of this track record.
Call her personally at 828.226.6303.

#1 Broker
IN NORTH CAROLINA

$1 Billion +
TOTAL CAREER SALES VOLUME

Top 100
SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY AGENT WORLDWIDE

Highlands | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

If you want an award-winning real estate experiece, choose an award-winning agent.

MITZI RAUERS
Broker / Luxury Collection Specialist
(404) 218-9123
mitzi@bhhsmmr.com

*Based on 2023 sales data. Out of a global network of 55,000+ BHHS agents.

Deborah "Bee" Gleeson
404.307.1415
BeeGlee4@Gmail.com
and
Pat Gleeson
828.782.0472
PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com

People ... are the investments that matter most

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
HIGHLANDS CASHIERS

HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com
210 North Fifth Street,
Highlands, NC 28731

30

...on the Verandah Restaurant on Lake Sequoyah
828-526-2338
42 Years of Fine Dining
Closed until Spring

www.ontheverandah.com

McCULLEY'S
CASHMERE
Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week
526-4407
242 S. 4th St. & Pop up on Main Street

9