

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 18, Number 38 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., Sept. 23, 2021

## Citizens speak out in favor of STRs in R1

*They ask commissioners to rescind hasty decision to ban STRs in R1*

Unlike most of the public comments made at the August Town Board meeting against short-term rentals in the R1 zone, at the Public Comment pe-

riod of the September meeting, the board heard from the previously silent majority – those who want the decades-long practice of allowing STRs in the R1 district to stay

intact. Of the 11 who spoke Thursday night, only Cathy Henson, who has owned a home in the Satulah

• See STRs page 7

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## HCLT saves 100 acres so far for 2021

*Total of 3,645 acres in Macon & Jackson counties*

Just north of Cashiers, 63 acres of ecologically valuable land has been permanently conserved with Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT)!

HCLT has conserved approximately 100 acres already this year, with a total count currently at 3,645 acres.

This new property's location, on Laurel Knob Road, makes it an ideal site for the creation of a public park with hiking trails, which is exactly what HCLT is going to do.

The Preserve is largely flat with a mix of forest, wetlands, and some open areas which HCLT plans to manage as pollinator wildlife meadows. It is slated to become the Trust's newest public access property making it their first recreational property in

•See HCLT page 17

## Chamber announces Snow Festival for Jan. 29



K-H Founders Park will be the site for the upcoming Snow Festival.

At Thursday's Town Board meeting, the Chamber of Commerce got permission to host a Snow Festival in K-H Founders Park Saturday, Jan. 29 complete with a slide and tubed merry-go-round both of which are for adults and children.

Though it is expected to be seasonably cold, snow will be blown in to augment Mother Nature's plans. Concerned about the considerable noise snow blowers make, permission was given

to blow snow contingent upon the noise level which according to Commissioner John Dotson could be considerable.

The Chamber was asked to investigate potential noise before blowing snow is a go. If snow is blown, the park will be closed Friday prior to the event.

There will be a little kid area roped off for safety and S'mores offered at the fireplace. The skating rink will be open, too.

Any damages sustained dur-

ing the event will be paid for by the Chamber.

The Chamber also got permission to extend the Christmas Parade by a half hour.

It will still be the first Saturday in December but from 10:30 a.m. to noon instead of 11 a.m. to noon. This will give more time for musical acts during the parade while getting the proceedings off Main Street comfortably by noon.

– Kim Lewicki

## Highlands School MS swim team makes a big splash

By Coach Steve Hott

On Thursday, Sept. 9, the Highlands School Middle School Swim Teams traveled to Franklin for a 6-team swim meet where there were eight boys events and eight girl events.

The Highlands boys team won all eight of the boy events. The Highlands girls team won three of the eight girl events.

Chase Kenter won the 100-yard freestyle and the 50-yard backstroke.

Paolo McRae won the 100-yard Individual Medley and the 50-yard butterfly.

Aniah McKim won the 50-yard freestyle and the 50-yard breaststroke.

•See SWIM page 16

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Porchfest, Pisgah Legal Services, and more

This time of year there is a slow period downtown between the end of August where kids return to school and before the leaf season begins. This past Sunday afternoon the Center for Life Enrichment sponsored the inaugural Porchfest event. It was a celebration of music throughout the downtown with the goal of having folks stroll from one musical event to another.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

Porchfest is a great idea and was very successful despite the rainy weather on Sunday afternoon. Musicians filled the downtown air with all types of music. I hope Porchfest will become an annual event. With the predicted 40-degree temperatures tonight and into the weekend, the fall leaf season should get off to a roaring start.

The work on the sidewalks at downtown intersections continues. Harrison Construction is the contractor that the state has hired to redo the curbing and ramps. These new curbs will meet current ADA standards. They really improve the appearance of the sidewalks. The next phase,

slated for this coming week, will be at the Main and 4th Street intersection. Expect some minor delays and slowdowns. The rains this week put the work behind schedule.

I met with leaders from Pisgah Legal Services this past week. They recently opened an office near the Blue Ridge Clinic in the Jane Woodruff Building at the hospital. Pisgah Legal Services specializes in providing services to the underserved

workforce of Western Carolina. They assist clients in critical areas such as housing, domestic violence, consumer debt, healthcare access and child services.

The Dogwood Heath Trust has given them a substantial grant to help working folks qualify and obtain the recent child tax credits that were enacted by the federal government. For a qualifying family, that means several thousand dollars per child which can make a real difference for that family and their children.

Pisgah will be seeking volunteers very soon to assist in this effort. For more information, please call Megan Quattlebaum at (828) 575-1353. Pisgah is a nonprofit organization and is always in need of our financial support to meet this important community need.

People have asked about the tall concrete form on new fire department site. It is the elevator shaft that will connect the fire department offices and truck bays to the second-floor barracks. The concrete walls

• See MAYOR page 6

### Highlands Newspaper

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#### Letter Policy:

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.

## Candidate Q&A begins Sept. 30

Starting Sept. 30, our 5-week Candidate Q&A will begin.

The candidates running for the Highlands Town Board will be asked one question each week through Oct. 28.

The first question:

• *Yes or no. Are you in favor of Short-Term Rentals in the R-1 district? It is understood that a "yes" answer will require amending the current ordinance to allow. Please explain your answer.*

## • HIC'S VIEW •



That's one small step for bears, one giant leap for bear-kind. (well maybe)

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 23-Sep	Fri, 24-Sep	Sat, 25-Sep	Sun, 26-Sep
 62°F 44°F	 68°F 46°F	 69°F 50°F	 68°F 49°F
Abundant sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Sunny	Plenty of sun
RealFeel® High: 68° Low: 44°	RealFeel® High: 75° Low: 46°	RealFeel® High: 76° Low: 50°	RealFeel® High: 75° Low: 52°

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# • LETTERS •

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## Why does the state keep wasting our money?

Dear Editor,

North Carolina again made the national news.

After a three-week trial a panel of NC Superior Court judges ruled that the NC voter ID law was racially discriminatory and unconstitutional. This is the second time in five years that the NC Voter ID law has been struck down by the courts for similar reasons.

The stated reason why the GA feels NC needs a voter ID law is to prevent voter impersonation. The NC Board of Elections has done audits into election security and there are virtually no cases of voter impersonation in NC. Or elsewhere as national studies have shown. So, voter ID is a solution in search of a problem. The argument is that everybody needs a photo id to go about their normal business. Not so, as studies have shown. So, the effect of our voter ID law would be to keep lots of people from voting.

In 2016 a US appeals court found that the law targeted African Americans "with almost surgical precision." The most recent ruling stated that the law "was motivated at least in part by an unconstitutional intent." They cited a 2015 study that found at least 5.9% of registered voters lacked identification and that 9.6% of Black voters "lacked acceptable ID" compared to 4.5% of white voters under a previous election bill.

So, once again our General Assembly has been

smacked down by the courts. There are similar NC Voter ID cases pending in the federal and state courts and members of the majority party of the General Assembly have vowed to appeal this most recent ruling and to continue the other pending cases.

And all of this is happening as the General Assembly is in the process of redrawing the lines for the 2022 elections based on recent US Census data. North Carolina has a long history of litigation regarding redistricting and especially concerning racial discrimination in redistricting. Indeed, NC has had more litigation over this issue than any other state. It has ultimately led to US Supreme Court cases interpreting racial discrimination with respect to redistricting under the US Constitution's equal protection clause and under the Voting Rights act of 1965.

Does anyone want to make a bet that the redistricting decisions being made this year will NOT result in multiple lawsuits?

Did you vote for Kevin Corbin and Karl Gillespie to go to Raleigh and waste time and your money? Ask them how much money the General Assembly has spent in legal fees and costs over these matters. And ask them if we could have made better use for these millions of dollars.

**Gary St. Arnauld  
Franklin**

## Highlands' leaders need to listen and learn from others

Dear Editor,

The Forum written by James Hicks in the Sept. 16 edition entitled "Highlands needs leaders who listen, learn and bring people together" was excellent. James is from Charleston, SC. Charleston had a serious problem with STRs. However, Charleston seems to have come up with the right solution. Charleston is allowing STRs but with many restrictions.

Highlands is currently having problems with STRs. Perhaps, the leadership in Highlands should learn more about Charleston's solution. There has to be an answer.

Regardless, we want Highlands to always be the Highlands we know and love.

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## • THANK YOU •

We would like to send a heartfelt Thank you to the Buck Creek Church, Johnny and Marcy Owens, the Passmore family, Ralph Reed, and everyone who helped our family through our time of loss.

– The Family of Horace “Vaughn” Neely.

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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### HC Health Foundation, Nantahala Health Foundation & Dogwood Health Trust team up for Healthy Homes Initiative

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, Nantahala Health Foundation & Dogwood Health Trust team up for Healthy Homes Initiative

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF), Nantahala Health Foundation (NHF) and Dogwood Health Trust are pleased to announce a new collaborative initiative to address the need for home repairs in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary.

“The leadership from all three of these foundations believe that health and wellness begin when people are safely and affordably housed,” said Dr. Susan Mims, interim CEO, Dogwood Health Trust. “Providing support for the Healthy Homes Initiative will allow Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and Nantahala Health Foundation to address the most critical needs for home repairs among those who need it most.”

The initiative is targeted to owner-occupied homes of individuals at 60% of the area median income (AMI). Many of these homeowners are unable to afford the repairs needed to maintain the safety and health of their home’s occupants. Others require home modifications to ensure they can safely age in their homes or to address physical challenges or disabilities. Affordability of repairs and home modifications have been further compromised by supply chain and labor challenges exacerbated by COVID-19. Dogwood Health Trust is supporting the Healthy Homes Initiative and the work of HCHF and NHF with a \$400,000 grant.

A new grant cycle specifically requesting proposals from non-profit, governmental and faith-based organizations that have

demonstrated success in the past identifying and implementing critical home repairs and rehabilitation projects has begun. Both Foundations’ leaders say they look forward to reviewing applications, awarding grants and working together to address safe, equitable and affordable housing for those in need throughout our service area.

Robin Tindall, CEO and Executive Director of HCHF, says, “We are grateful to Dogwood Health Trust for providing our Foundations this collaborative grant opportunity, which will undoubtedly increase our capacity to improve health and well-being for those who struggle to repair their homes. By partnering with NHF, we aim to correct housing conditions that threaten life and safety, such as failing septic systems, defective heating systems, or damaged flooring, etc.”

Nantahala Health Foundation Executive Director Lori Bailey concurred with Tindall’s assessment, adding, “We all know safe and secure housing is a fundamental building block for improved health and wellness for everyone. Yet for many in our community, their safety and wellbeing are compromised because the expense of housing maintenance or needed modifications is beyond their means. We greatly appreciate Dogwood’s faith in our organizations to ensure these funds will make an immediate impact for those who need it most.”

Grant applications will be accepted until the closing date of October 15, 2021. Information regarding the grant application process can be found at Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation or at Nantahala Health Foundation

### ...MAYOR continued from page 1

for the entire building are now taking shape. Once these walls are completed, the steel frame for the remaining portions of the walls and the roof will be in place later this fall.

Tom Neal announced on my radio show last week about plans for rapid COVID testing sites in Highlands and Cashiers. Testing will be available two days a week in Highlands and two days in Cashiers. More

information will be coming soon.

Last week Macon County had over 400 COVID cases with a very high positivity testing rate at around 20%.

As of Monday night, 55 people have died. I urge everyone to get vaccinated. The Highlands Cashiers Plateau Vaccination Initiative can provide assistance for vaccinations and for testing information. Call 526-1310.

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## The Big Fat Elephant in Room R-1

Our local papers have been full of STR news for weeks. It was only a matter of time as those elephants have been appearing in rooms all over the country of late. This elephant isn't budging an inch either, at least not until the end of the year. He's happy to be the center of attention even though he disguises himself as a concerned Highlander who know what is best for you.



**Jeannie Chambers**  
Chambers Realty  
& Vacation Rentals

Everyone seems to be so angry these days. It's not just the STR dilemma, it's

COVID, who is and who isn't wearing a mask or who is or is not vaccinated, it's property rights and personal rights, and just about anything that is firing people up and asking you to take a stand. You're either for or against just about anything.

I read in last week's paper that the Hudson Library is offering a series of programs focusing on adult mental health issues. The elephant in the room doesn't care if you are healthy: mentally or physically, he just wants you to take a side. For the last five to six years, the big fat elephant has been in many of our homes, and worse yet, in our hearts. Thank you, Hudson Library, mental health has become one of the biggest things that needs to be addressed, and the sooner the better.

Let me tell you another story and just to get it right, I'm copying verbatim from wgpfoundation.org

In 1885 a revenueur arrested 2 bootleggers from Moccasin, Georgia. He confined them in a Highlands hotel to await trial. An army of 18 Moccasin volunteers declared war and laid siege on Highlands. During the battle a Moccasin youth was killed. The Georgians returned home but shut off the only road to Highlands, threatening to kill anyone who tested the blockade. When a Confederate veteran volunteered to make the run, he faced four Georgian brothers marching toward him with Winchester rifles. The veteran wasn't religious, but as tensions rose, he offered three prayers to save his soul. To this day it remains a mystery that the two adversaries passed by each other, ending the war. The veteran never knew what saved him: the prayers or the threat.

Yes, this is the same Highlands as in the days of The Moccasin War. Today's threat is a ban on STR. Instead of four brothers from Moccasin, GA, we have the Highlands Town Board and legal counsel. The war veteran in this case would be all the owners who have short-term rentals, Realtors, and vacation rental property managers. The threat isn't blocking the only road into Highlands, but it is blocking many visitors who would come on those roads. Now, was the revenueur wrong to arrest the bootlegger? Of course not, but maybe things would

have been a little different if the situation had been handled a little better. Who knows?

The Moccasin War ended when the two adversaries passed each other. Imagine the tension, the trepidation of both the war veteran and those good-old-boy brothers from Moccasin, GA as they walked right by each other. They both had stories to tell, some of them horrifying tales of times when they had been "done wrong."

Legend says they never knew what saved the Vet that day. Was it the prayers? Maybe. I, for one, believe in the power of prayer.

Maybe, just maybe our threat will be what saves Highlands. As STRs pass by the threat and promise of a ban, with some prayers, some compromise, and healing, we could end up with the best solution for all concerned.

In Highlands, we all know by now, do not feed the bears, but I am asking, no pleading, with anyone who lives in, visits and/or cares about the future of Highlands, please:

### DO NOT FEED THE BIG FAT ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM.

I can't end this here, not like this, after all, this is a column for real estate investing. As a Realtor, I want to report that real estate in Highlands is as healthy as ever. There will always be buyers and sellers who buy and sell based on their emotions. Now is not the time to panic sell. Things have a way of working themselves out. The end result may not be exactly what we had planned, but C'est la vie, right? On the other hand (yes, Tevye. I'm listening) for those wanting to put their home on the market, let's do it, just like we've always done it. These mountains are still the best place to be. We are so grateful to be Highlanders, warts and all.

## ...STRs continued from page 1

Mountain community since 2004, spoke against STRs in the R1 zone.

She said she thought zoning protected her and her husband from commercial activity in the R1 neighborhood.

"Commercial" was the key word that prompted the Town Board on Aug. 24 to declare STRs not allowed in the R1 zone and thereby banned them effective Jan. 3, 2022.

Henson said she has new neighbors every weekend during which dogs are left on

screened-in porches to bark all day; where wedding guests party long after the wedding is over; where a birthday party for 60-year-old women enjoying wine play "Name that Tune" until 11 at night, but she has never called the police.

There are ordinances against such behavior – ordinances the police will enforce – but she said she doesn't call because she doesn't think that is the best use of the po-

• See STRs page 8



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## ...STRs continued from page 7

lice's time.

However, as Jerry Moore, a business owner for 12 years and an owner of two STRs in the R2 zone, said, the definition of the word "commercial" as it applies to the R1 zone is up for debate.

"The courts across the country have not defined STRs as commercial activity uniformly," he said. "Furthermore, the current Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) doesn't reference STRs anywhere. What really needs to be done is to look at the ordinance specifically to see what it says and doesn't say. It is extremely vague.

"In addition, the UDO does not specifically mention the renting of property in R1, whether it be for one day or one year. The only limit for property in R1 is that it be used for 'Household Living.' Further, renting of property for one day or one year would not qualify as 'Overnight Accommodations' as set forth in Table 6.2 and further defined in Sections 6.5.9 and 6.5.10.

"If you want to pass a new ordinance there is a process. If you want to forbid STRs – and I'm not sure you can – there is a process. What was done a month ago is not the process that should have been taken. People have invested a lot of money with the current interpretation of the UDO and for us to change that interpretation with only limited outside review – with all due respect to Attorney Coward [Coward declared STRs a commercial use] – I think we need further review of the issue.

"There are a lot of legal issues, and a lot of money is going to be spent on both sides to resolve these legal issues and we're not even going to get into the economic impact until we can resolve these issues.

"So, I think we need to step back. Get some solid interpretation of the current UDO before we move forward with this implementation date of Jan. 3," he said.

Every speaker addressed the substantial economic impact that

• See STRs page 9



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## ...STRs continued from page 8

banning STRs in the R1 zone will have on individuals, businesses and ultimately Highlands as a whole, but only Jennifer Huff of Save Highlands brought up the issue of property rights. Save Highlands is the organization raising money to fight the town in a court of law.

"There is the matter of property rights and whether the local government can tell any of us what we can and can't do with our personal property," she said. "Obviously, there are limits, and we seek to be good neighbors and citizens. But as long as someone is not violating the rights of others or endangering them, a private property owner should be free to enjoy and use their property as they wish."

"Many of the members of Save Highlands have invested substantially in their property to improve it. Never was there any indication from the town that STRs were illegal. In fact, many were told just the opposite. And the town continued to happily accept revenue from STRs for many years.

"We have to work together to Save Highlands from local government infringing on our property rights and from suddenly changing its interpretation of zoning laws based on the complaints of a vocal minority.

"Furthermore, evidence does not support the claim that STRs are a systemic problem or a blight on our community. There have been recent claims that STRs are having a negative impact on neighbors. But prior to this unilateral decision to re-interpret the zoning regulations, the police department confirmed that there was not a record of any violations by STR owners. Most vacation rental homeowners are responsible.

"None of us want to rent to disruptive or thoughtless guests. A few incidents of poor behavior of unresponsiveness does not reflect the status of vacation rentals as a whole," said Huff.

The fact that Highlands has allowed and according to many encouraged STRs for 30-40 years was brought up more than once.

"When I moved here in 1990, I started doing STRs immediately and my mother and father-in-law Tony and Isabel Chambers had already been doing them for decades before that," said Jeannie Chambers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals. "We rent residential homes, these are not businesses, they are not conducting business. They come and use the homes themselves a lot."

Pete Lovelace said he began coming to

Highlands with his parents 30 years ago at the age of eight and stayed in homes rented 7-30 days in the R1 zone – homes which would be classified as STRs today.

"So, I find it ironic that we are having this conversation after spending 30 years staying in these homes. As a homeowner now, it is one of my biggest concerns that for many years, the Real Estate agents have knowingly supported, endorsed and profited from the sale of homes and endorsing them as STRs. I experienced this personally not more than two years ago when we purchased a home.

"So, I think there is a serious issue at hand; there has been an ongoing precedent set for this sort of investment for this type of use in homes and it has contributed to a great deal of people profiting and earning money off something that now all of a sudden has been deemed illegal activity. That feels very wrong to me.

"There are some knee-jerk reactions happening here that are not only going to hurt the economy but really expose some ignorance and knowing wrong-doing that has been going on for the past 30 years that I just don't think we can immediately shut off," he said.

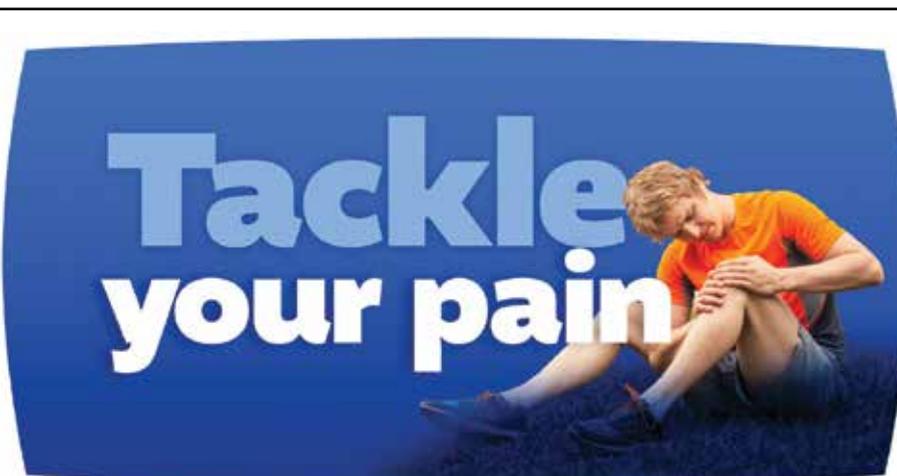
Every speaker cited the amount of money people have invested using the current interpretation of the ordinance and the economic impact banning them in the largest residential district that of R1, will have on ... everyone.

David Bee, owner of Highlands Vacation Rentals, has managed STRs since 2005 and manages about 90 properties – many of which are in the town limits. He said there is no way to completely fathom the economic impact the town's recent decision will have on the town and its businesses, however, he shared some alarming statistics.

"My office will lose approximately \$185,000 in revenue which represents one employee I can't hire, and one employee I may have to release; my housekeeping staff will lose, \$64,000; the Chamber of Commerce stands to lose \$30,000 in occupancy taxes and the town \$20,000 in sales tax; I purchase lunch every day for my entire staff from local restaurants totaling almost \$19,000 a year; from Reeves Ace Hardware, I purchase everything from light bulbs to toilet seats to Weber grills and I buy gas in the town for my four company vehicles as do my employees, housekeepers and repair people.

"For 2021, owners of properties that I manage in the town will receive about

• See STRs page 15



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# HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

### NOTE

• Effective immediately MASKS are required in the Civic Center, Pool and Community Building and all other indoor Town Facilities.

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse will return in the Fall of 2021.

### Rec Pool Schedule:

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri, 6-10a; Mon.-Fri. 11:15a to 1:30p & Sat. 10-11a.

• Water Aerobics; Mon.-Fri. 10:15-11:15a.

Public Swim: Tues. & Wed. 3:30-7p, Sat. 11a to 6p; & Sun. 1-6p.

Please call ahead to make sure the pool is open for Public Swim due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

### Sun. - Wed. Beginning Sept. 29

• COVID Testing 9a to 5p.

Sun. & Wed. in Highlands at the Community Building.

Mon. & Tues. at the Village Green in Cashiers.

To register go to <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>. For more information, call 877-562-4850.

### Second Mondays

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

### Mon.-Fri.

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

### Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

### Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body. With the many benefits of cardio, kickboxing is also a great stress and frustration reliever. We will be making contact with pads. If you have your own gloves and pads, please bring them. Kickboxing combines cardio and strength training to tone muscles and burn fat. Burn off stress and calories while having a great time.

### Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30 a.m. \$25 a month. The class is

led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

### Tues. & Thurs.

• New Zumba class from 4:30-5:15p.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30pm. This will be a combination class with many different type of exercise. Tuesdays

### Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15. 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.

### 2nd Tuesdays thru December

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, held the second Tuesday of each month through December. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. Reservations are required for this event, and masks will be required. Register online at [vayahealth.com/calendar](http://vayahealth.com/calendar) (click on the desired class to register) or call the library at 828-526-3031.

### First Wednesdays

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring Walk-in Wednesdays Hiring Event. Interviewing for RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals and Support Services Professionals. 1-3:30 p.m., 190 Hospital Drive, front entrance. On the spot offers. Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions. Bring updated resume. Casual wear.

### Wed.-Sat.

• Live productions at The Playhouse. Wed.-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. For ticket information, visit [highlandsplayhouse.org](http://highlandsplayhouse.org).

• The Bookworm at 555 Main Street



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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

is now open Wednesday – Saturday from 11AM to 3PM. For more information, call 828-526-3031.

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store at 432 Spruce Street is open Thursday & Friday 10a to 1p. Saturday 10a to 4p. The store will only be open during business hours.

## Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 a.m. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Learn the proper form and technique to execute jabs, hooks, uppercuts, and front and side roundhouse kicks in a non-contact setting. No martial arts background necessary.

• AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. An In Person Meeting with Covid 19 Preventive Measures is held each Thurs Noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member of AL-ANON call 828-342-6866.

• Free ESL classes at the Presbyterian Church 5:30-6:30 p.m. There is no registration required; students can just show up and participate. Anyone who wishes to learn English is encouraged to participate. For any questions, visit [www.maconncliteracy.org](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call (828) 526 – 0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

## Every Saturday

• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Park on Pine Street. 8a to 12:30p.

## Third Saturday

• American Legion 370 meets every 3rd Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

Thurs., Sept. 23

• **At The Bascom, a free reception from 5 - 6:30pm. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Guest curators and featured artists will be in attendance and available for interviews.**

## Fri. Sept. 24

• The Community Shred Event is being held FRIDAY, from 9 am -12 pm at the Highlands Rec Center in the back parking lot.

• Trout Fishing in America Comedy

Duo at Highlands PAC, Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets available at [www.highlandsp Performingarts.com](http://www.highlandsp Performingarts.com). All ticket sales benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund.

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Foxfire Boys

## Sat. Sept. 25

• Fly Fishing Casting Clinic at Harris Lake. Free and open to the public. Kids welcome! Saturday 10 -11:30 a.m. • Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. The Knotty G's

## Thurs., Sept. 30

• Orchard Sessions Live at OEI's The Farm featuring Shelly Colvin. Book online at [oldedwardshospitality.com/Orchard-Sessions](http://oldedwardshospitality.com/Orchard-Sessions)

## Fri. - Sun., Oct. 1-3

• At OEI's Half-Mile Farm, a mixology event with ASW: Southern Pot-Still Pioneer. ASW's hybrid approach to making whiskey, combines traditional, Scottish-style double copper pot distillation, with innovative, Southern-style grain-in distillation. This unique process has paid off for the growing Atlanta company, and the whiskey world is taking notice. **Week-end Events in Woodland View Room:** Social Hour Friday evening from 5-6 pm featuring a special tasting of ASW's finest spirits, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, craft cocktails available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern and live music. Saturday Afternoon Presentation from 3-4 pm Kelly and Jim will present the story of ASW's creation alongside samples of some of their special spirits. Social Hour Saturday evening from 5-6 pm hosted by Kelly and Jim and featuring craft cocktails available for purchase made with ASW spirits, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music. Hosted weekends are for Half-Mile Farm guests only. To attend these complimentary events at Half-Mile Farm from October 1-3, book your stay today at <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking/step-1>

## Fri., Oct. 1

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Curtis Blackwell

## Sat., Oct. 2

• The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center (SMPCC) invites you to help celebrate its 20th Anniversary at its biggest fundraiser of the year on Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin. There is no charge to attend, but please pre-register at [smokypartners.com](http://smokypartners.com) or by calling 828-349-3200. Guest speaker, Melissa Ohden ([melissaohden.com](http://melissaohden.com)), is a

saline abortion survivor, and will tell her inspiring story of survival and forgiveness. SMPCC has clinics in Franklin and Cullowhee, and provides all client services, including pregnancy testing and limited OB ultrasounds, at no charge.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Bill Mattocks and The Strut.

## Sun., Oct. 3

• At Shakespeare & Company in Village Square, Bill Lee and Jane Chalker will discuss their book "Haiti Time." Copies will be available in return for donations

allocated for the Episcopal Church of Incarnation's mission in Haiti.

## Oct. 8-24

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Music in Motion. This WORLD PREMIERE production takes you on a journey through the silver screen with hits from Hollywood's greatest movie musicals. For tickets call: 828.526.2695.

## Fri., Oct. 8

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Frank & Allie

## NC Medicaid Managed Care Deadline to change health plans is Sept. 30

This year, North Carolina made a MAJOR change in Medicaid for people across the state – a move to what is called “managed care.” An important deadline – Sept. 30 – is coming up for the people and children who need Medicaid to provide their health care. Many still don't really understand this change or that they have rights, including the ability to change a health care plan they MAY have been auto-enrolled in, by SEPT 30. For help online at [ncmedicaidombudsman.org](http://ncmedicaidombudsman.org) or by calling 877-201-3750.

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# Fall Home Improvement 2021

## Figuring out the color scheme that's right for your living room

By Jennifer Ebert

Getting living room color schemes just right is vital, because this is the room where we spend most of our time. These inspiring living room color schemes and ideas are guaranteed to add vibrancy to your interiors.

Choosing which colors to decorate your living room ideas with can be daunting – partly because there are so many options available. But knowing which color combinations are guaranteed to look beautiful together and being able to select the best hues are not mysterious secret arts – they are simple skills that we can all learn in just a few steps.

“In the end, the best color scheme for a living room will always be a color that you simply love and want to look at all day, every day,” says Dominic Myland, CEO of Mylands.

“It is one of the rooms in your house that you're likely to spend the most time in, so deciding the final scheme shouldn't be rushed.”

As a general guide, rooms with a cool north-facing light benefit from warmer colors, but rooms with warm south-facing light can take most colors.

### Good Living Room combinations

Good living room color combinations can be achieved in various ways.

Contrasting colors – split contrast mixes of two closely related and one unrelated color, and for impact use the brightest tone as an accent in cushions or accessories. Ensure you choose colors of a similar depth for bold impact. Indigo blue always works well with sunny yellow, for example.

A monochromatic palette using different shades of the same color can also be effective. Try transferring these applications to door and wall panels, cornicing and dado rails. Play with patterns too. Stripes, squares and spots are all eye-catching effects and adding coordinated wallpaper ideas builds in texture.

A tonal scheme can be created by mixing different tones of the same color together for a multi-layered scheme with lots of depth. For example, use dark navy blue, pretty cornflower blue, and rich royal blue in equal amounts for a balanced result. Or combine moody blues with fresh greens for an elegant scheme that channels colors found in the natural world – think of plants and water. Try zesty lime green with rich indigo blue for an up-to-date look.

A three-color scheme is a basic but effective approach; try combining no more than two or three colors in a scheme, focusing either on primary or secondary tones. To create eye-catching contrasts, study the color wheel and look at opposing shade combinations, such as canary yellow and grey, or electric blue and hot pink.

Neutral color blocking, combining monochromes and soft tones, such as black, white and gray is also effective, but be prepared to edit a scheme strictly for maximum effect. Accessories are also an important color blocking tool – vibrant, block colored living room seating ideas against a contrasting block panel will set off a scheme.

Combining color is a perfect and affordable way to create an impressive design statement, achieved by applying a modest amount of color for maximum impact. It's an easy trend to assimilate but does require bravery.

### Combining paint colors in a living room

For anyone designing a living room, it's tempting to play it safe when it comes to injecting color. However, interiors that experiment with bold tones are often the most striking. The key is to do your research, testing contrasting palettes out before decorating, and using color and fabric with confidence.

Color can have a profound effect on mood, and a bright scheme can uplift the senses as well as adding depth to your interiors. Unexpected color combinations, such as blues and reds or oranges and pinks, can work well, but try to provide relief with some neutral touches, like white woodwork, or introducing pattern to break up the look and add texture.

If you prefer to keep walls more neutral, a large living room rug is a great way to inject vibrancy, complemented by colorful accessories such as cushions and fabrics, whether a single throw or a brightly upholstered ottoman.

Consult a color wheel to find daring hues that will work well together. Remember that color changes with its surroundings. The tone is never quite the same depending on the surface material you choose.

The right paint finish will also transform the final

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Leesa Manley Gene Borino

# Fall Home Improvement

look. Matt and eggshell produce a soft sheen, and gloss and oil are both shiny finishes that reflect light. Test paints first using sample pots to see how they will look before you decorate. Inspiration can be found in the latest trends.

## How to make a room look bigger

When decorating small spaces, the colors that make areas feel larger are pale shades that reflect light. However, making a small living room feel bigger is slightly more nuanced than color scheming alone.

Lean towards off-white shades when working with neutrals, over stark whites: off-whites will deliver more character than a pure white, distracting the eye from the size and more towards to the color.

Be aware of your ceiling color – most people default to a generic white, but if you choose an off-white that shares similar tones to your wall color, you will become less aware of where your wall height stops and the ceiling starts,' he says. This is also a great tip for apartment living room ideas that sometimes have lower ceilings.

"Traditionally, wisdom has been that rooms in bright tones of white or off-whites will give the best feeling space," says Dominic Myland.

"However we're increasingly seeing customers take

much bolder steps with bright colors, such as yellow, which, when paired with contrasting trims, mouldings and ceilings in lighter colors, will trick the eye into thinking the walls are spaced further apart to make the room feel bigger." You can even use paint to play with proportions when planning long living room ideas.

"White and neutral shades are always the go-to color as they make a room look bigger, airier, and more open," explains David Harris, design director at Andrew Martin.

"However, for small space living, you can be more daring. Don't be afraid of dark and rich colors, like coffee or dark gray, or try teal or even orange for a braver burst of color. These hues bring richness, intimacy and extra depth whilst allowing you to show personality and flair.

Layering deep rich colors with artwork also adds fantastic texture and interest.

Be sure to incorporate small living room lighting ideas into your scheme too, to make the most of your chosen color schemes.

In 2021, warm, welcoming, calming, natural hues are the living room colors we have been attracted to. And who can blame us.



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## • HOSPITAL NEWS •

### Stress and mental health struggles have been exacerbated by the pandemic and more: Why we need to put our mental health first

The first thing most of us think about when we consider the devastation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic is the tremendous loss of life, not just in the United States, but across the globe. The numbers continue to rise, and between damaging hurricanes, war-related tragedy around the world, and having to send our children back for another year of school in masks, the stress is considerable — and real.

Some stress isn't harmful and can be motivating, like when we are energized by a project and are going to complete it in time to meet a deadline, but when stressors are so major and disparate, they can overwhelm us. The result is that our mental health suffers, no matter what our situation. People who live alone have felt isolated, while those who live in groups felt trapped at times, during this period that limited our activities so. Ultimately, stress is exhausting.

Unfortunately, our culture still tends to attach a stigma to mental health issues, but the pandemic has blown that wide open, and proven to us that virtually no one is immune to anxiety, depression, and worries about the future. Though the more concrete stresses are challenging to deal with in and of themselves — things like job loss, financial stress, and not getting to see our friends and family as we used to — the more abstract concerns about the unknown nag at us too. These include wondering if, how, and when the pandemic might end, what life afterwards will look like, and fretting about our own health and that of our loved ones.

In the interest of caring for our own overall health, it's important to consider when the right time might be to seek help from a mental health professional. Not surprisingly, the need for behavioral health services has skyrocketed during the pandemic. Just as it's important to keep on top of your regular health screenings, like annual physicals, mammograms, and colonoscopies, it's equally critical to keep tabs on how you're feeling emotionally, and to talk to your primary care provider about it, so you can approach your mental health preemptively as well.

During your annual wellness exam, a good primary care provider will ask you questions about your stress levels and your mental wellbeing. It's best to be truthful if you're struggling. Not only aren't you the



**Tom Neal**  
CEO/CNO  
Highlands Cashiers  
Hospital

only one who is, your physician can refer you to a counselor or mental health practitioner who can provide counseling and if needed, medication.

Our community can access licensed social workers and therapists by connecting to <https://www.opencounseling.com/north-carolina/highlands>. The Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers also offers social services for those who are uninsured.

Back in the spring, I wrote a column about self-care strategies that can help us manage stress and anxiety, including eating well, moving our bodies and relishing the beauty of the Plateau that we're so fortunate to have, enjoying practices like meditation and yoga, and simply engaging in hobbies you enjoy and spending time with friends and family. These things ground and comfort us, no matter what's going on in the world.

A century ago, Highlands and Cashiers were destinations for people who sought serenity and clean air, and we can use the Plateau for the same purpose in 2021. Don't hesitate to perform regular check-ins for your mental health. Extend yourself grace, take good care of yourself, and remember that help is available should you need it.

• *Tom Neal, RN, MBA, MHA, is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Neal is a proven leader with more than 30 years of progressive healthcare experience. Prior to his role at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, he held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems (CHS) and served as Chief Executive Officer of both Bernick Hospital Center in Bernick, Pennsylvania, and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Ronceverte, West Virginia. Tom has an MBA from the University of Louisville, MHA from the California College of Health Sciences, BSN from Regents College of New York and an ADN from Jefferson Community College.*



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bar located  
inside Whole  
Life Market

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## ...STRs continued from page 9

\$606,000 in revenue. How much of that will be lost to the town because they will not now remodel, or purchase some necessary items from businesses in town?" he asked.

Like Lovelace, he said the economic impact is far too significant to have a knee-jerk reaction made without a rational discussion.

"Please stop and consider all of the people who will suffer from this – from homeowners to the general workforce," said Bee. "Rethink this decision before the detriment is insurmountable."

Sean Doyle of the Webbmont community said the Chamber, Jennifer Huff and David Bee made good points and he, too, has researched the economic fallout of the board's April 24 decision using statistics from U.S. Travel, Penn State University and Daniel Stine's research on the impact of visitor spending on local economies.

"Using very conservative estimates. The Final Demand – which is money that stays in the town and doesn't drive off the plateau or leave the county, including all STR rents and visitor spending – could mean \$115 million pulled out of our economy on Jan. 3," he said. "More importantly, it will be pulled out exclusively from our shops, grocery stores, gas stations, and restaurants with that Final

Demand number at around \$19 million. That is money spent on Main Street and on activities. I can't imagine Highlands if we punish the restaurant owners, the Main Street participants in commerce to the tune of \$19 million just because the economic impact wasn't considered."

He suggested bringing in a third party, bringing in data about travel and tourism and the impact of visitor spending on local economies.

"This is a well-researched and stable idea that we can find answers to," he said.

For some, besides the detriment to the immediate future, the future of children and grandchildren was mentioned.

Lynn Loosier from the Dog Mountain community whose family has been there for 60 years, said she understands both sides of the issue but believes something can be put in place, so everyone is happy.

"I understand that people living on Dog Mountain want their peace and quiet and I also understand those who want STRs. We have STRs because we are all getting older and can't go up to Highlands. We have been able to have STRs and that's what we want," she said. "We want to pass this

• See STRs page 16



Marsha Moxley and Vicki Baker, two members of a local chapter of the The Daughters of the American Revolution met with Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor on Wed., Sept. 15 to sign a proclamation proclaiming September 17, 2021 as Constitution Day and the week of September 17-23, 2021 as Constitution Week. At 4pm, on September 17, 1787 in Philadelphia, PA, the U.S. Constitution was signed by 38 of the 41 convention members present. Thus the laws that we continue to follow today were created. We also celebrate by bells ringing at 4pm on September 17th.

KEEP the MAYOR on DUTY  
**PATRICK TAYLOR**  
 for  
 HIGHLANDS MAYOR



"With over 90 donations since the kick-off of our campaign three weeks ago, I am humbled by the support and generosity of this community. Many, many thanks."

*Pat*

EARLY VOTING STARTS OCTOBER 14th  
 Election Day - November 2nd

### Successful Town Initiatives Since Becoming Mayor

- ✓ Developed the Broadband Project to ensure high speed Internet to Highlands.
- ✓ Fully Developed Founders Park.
- ✓ Covered the pool.
- ✓ Renovated the Rec Center gym, workout, aerobics and bridge rooms, and pickle ball courts.
- ✓ Completion of downtown wall replacements.
- ✓ Water intake at Lake Sequoyah and refurbishing of the dam.
- ✓ Building of the Buckhorn water tank to ensure good, clean water to Highlands.
- ✓ Extension of the hospital commitment to 10 years of operation (Dogwood Award Recipient)
- ✓ Led the COVID pandemic response and helped facilitate the vaccine clinics.
- ✓ Reorganized the ABC board from 3 to 5 members to optimize representation.
- ✓ BearWise initiative and disposal of garbage.
- ✓ New Highlands Fire Department.
- ✓ Major road resurfacing and improvements.
- ✓ Implemented green policies: hybrid police cars, LED street lighting, and enforcement of watershed ordinances.

### Service

- 8 years as Mayor of Highlands
- Highlands Planning Board - 6 years
- Highlands Appearance Commission - 6 years
- Highlands Area Magistrate - 10 years

[www.PatTaylorForMayor.com](http://www.PatTaylorForMayor.com)

Paid for by Keep the Mayor on Duty

## ...STRs continued from page 15

home down and keep it in the family. But if we have to stop STRs we won't be able to keep the home. That's upsetting to my family."

Scott Vuncannon has been coming to Highlands for 25 years and now owns three homes – one on Foreman Road that burned down and will be rebuilt at some point and two on Raoul Road. One is being used as a

STR and the other is being up fitted to the tune of \$250,000 due to its dilapidated condition.

"Ideally, those homes would be rental homes until my children are capable of taking over the homes and keeping them up themselves," he said.

Stephanie McCall who owns a boutique in town, a construction business and several

STRs said the effects of the town's recent decision is far-reaching.

"Of the last 10 projects, seven have been remodels for STRs. But we have already had one client stop a project due to the town's decision. They are just concerned," she said.

As others claim, she said Realtors encouraged purchasing homes for the purpose of renting them as STRs.

"I recently purchased a house to rent as a STR and the real estate agent knew what my plans were and said it would be a perfect place for it," she said.

McCall said her children would like to

return to Highlands to live and work and shutting down the STR industry could affect that.

"I ask the town to think about what it is doing to our businesses and the future. It affects people like me who want their children to be able to come back here to live and make a living," she said.

Like everyone else who spoke, Loosier said she does feel for the other people who have people staying up all hours of the night.

"But I feel we can come together on both sides and maybe put something in

• See STRs page 17

## Highlands 10th Annual



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**September 23-25, 2021**  
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More than 2,200 miles of Public Water available to fish during the Tournament. Teams will fish one native, one hatchery supported and one delayed-harvest stream.

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For more information, email [ThreeRiverFest@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeRiverFest@gmail.com) or call (828)526-0441.

## ...SWIM continued from page 1



From left: Cassie McDowell, Paolo McRae, Tate Wilson, Timmy McDowell, Jim DeLaCruz, Chase Kenter, Aniah McKim, Margaret Cole, and Layla Babac.

The relay of Kenter, McRae, McKim and Timmy McDowell won both the 200-yard Medley Relay and the 200-yard Freestyle Relay.

McDowell scored 2nd in the 50 freestyle and 3rd in the 50 Breaststroke.

Brand new swimmer Jim DeLaCruz had a great first showing and finished 13th in the 50-yard freestyle.

On the girls' side, Layla Babac won the 100-yard Individual Medley and the 50-yard breaststroke.

Tate Wilson won the 50-yard freestyle and finished 2nd in the 100-yard freestyle.

Margaret Cole finished 9th in the 100-yard freestyle and 8th in the 50-yard freestyle.

Cassie McDowell scored 8th in the 50-yard butterfly and 10th in the 100-yard IM.

The relay of McDowell, Babac, Wilson and Cole finished 3rd in the 200-yard med-

ley relay and 2nd in the 200-freestyle relay.

There were as many as 49 swimmers per event.

As a team, due to the much larger number of swimmers on all of the other teams – where the top 16 places in each event scored – the boys finished 3rd, the girls 4th and the combined team 3rd. The other five middle school teams at the meet were Macon Middle School that won boys, girls and combined, Cane Creek, Hanger Hall, Rabun Gap Nacoochee, and Valley Springs.

The next meet was scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 23 but due to newly announced COVID restrictions in Buncombe County, Highlands, Macon Middle and Rabun Gap were uninvited.

Highlands has a home meet on Friday, October 1 at 6 pm.

## ...STRs continued from page 16

place for these leases that will be more concrete regarding what tourists can and can't do in these rental homes so we can protect the quiet times that people who live in their homes want to have.

"But not allowing STRs will impact more than just the economy. It will impact Highlands. It will deplete what was always here. We don't want STRs to go.

"I agree there needs to be some process in place to manage this, but to also respect the independence of the livelihoods of those who live in Highlands and call it

home," said Loosier.

Chambers said with the proposed ban, most of her clients won't be able to come to what they have considered their home in the mountains for the past 35 years.

"They come for two and three weeks at a time. That's all they can do because they work off the mountain. They know the houses they go to; they don't want to go somewhere else," she said.

The overall consensus is that the Town Board jumped too quickly, and the issue could and should be resolved via other

means, mainly with people from both sides coming together.

"I feel the opportunity to work together as property owners with the town could be an opportunity for everyone to come together with the right ordinance in place and the right penalties in place for those who do

take advantage of the situation," said Vuncannon. "I would appreciate it if you would give this serious thought and give everyone the opportunity to make their points heard."

Huff said it's important for the community to be at the table when decisions

• See STRs page 19

## ...HCLT continued from page 1



HCLT's recent acquisition off Laurel Knob Road, makes it an ideal site for the creation of a public park with hiking trails.

the Cashiers community!

HCLT conserves over 1,750 acres in and around Cashiers including places like Chimney Top, Rock Mountain and the meadow at Lonesome Valley to name a few.

"The Trust has been conserving land on the Plateau since the early 1900s but it wasn't until about 2000 that we expanded our service area from Southern Macon to include Southern Jackson County. Since then, we have actually gone on to conserve even more land in and around Cashiers than Highlands; however, we are still one of Cashiers' best kept secrets," said HCLT executive director, Dr. Gary Wein.

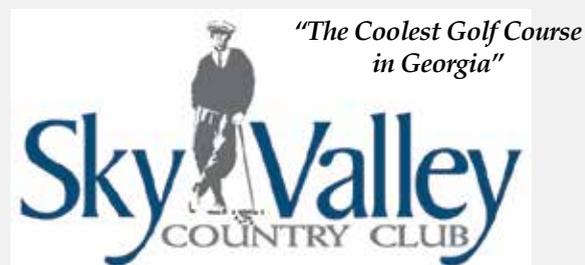
The Trust is currently working on a plan for the new trail system with the goal of opening it up to the general public once the trails are complete.

"Connecting with and growing sup-

port in the community is more important than ever. As demands on our natural resources are at an all-time high, it has never been more imperative that we work together to conserve our valuable natural resources on the Plateau," said Wein. "By building trails for the Cashiers community, we will also be building something bigger – a stronger connection with the community we serve."

If you would like to learn how you might conserve your land, either by donating your property or by conserving it and still retaining ownership, contact HCLT at info.hitrust@earthlink.net.

To learn more and to make a donation visit [www.hicashlt.org](http://www.hicashlt.org). Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is a nationally accredited 501c3 nonprofit charity whose mission is to conserve valuable natural resources for all generations.



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**NC MEDICAID OMBUDSMAN**

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## The Fear of God

**Rev. Sam Forrester**  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

“Then a voice came from the throne saying, ‘Praise our God, all you his servants and those who fear him, both small and great.’” (Revelation 19:5, NKJV).

From Genesis to Revelation the phrase, “fear of God” is used constantly. It means having that awe and reverence for God which serves as the beginning of wisdom as seen when one begins to make a decision to follow God. It represents the respect that a person has for God when he begins to realize who God is and what a lofty and powerful position

He holds as the Creator and he sees the dependence he as the creature has on Him. This idea of fear is not one of cringing in terror before God or dread of, or hatred and rejection toward God. As the fear of God develops in a person’s life it comes to a place where it is expressed in the reverence and obedience that comes from true faith.

This is exactly what John is saying, when he says, “those who fear Him.” The multitude seen here in Revelation praising Him are the redeemed of the church of Christ. They are now in a place where there is, nor never will be any need to dread God.

These “bond-servants” are now in His very presence and therefore under His great protective wings, where no harm can come to them for the rest of eternity. They are here because they did “fear Him,” because they did revere Him, because they did obey Him, during their time on this earth, and they do so even more gladly, now.

But, how does the “fear of God” help us today? In Proverbs 1:7 we are told, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”

If a man is to come to the understanding and knowledge of his lost condition before God, of his need for a Savior and need of total dependence upon the grace of God, it will be as he comes to see the holiness of God. As he begins to recognize God’s holiness, he will understand his own sinfulness.

Grasping his own sinful condition will cause him to see his need of a Savior. So, it is the “fear of God,” the understanding of His Holy character, that brings us to the foot of the cross. After we have received Christ as our Lord and Savior the “fear of God” continues to cause us to study and learn more of Him.

The “fear of God” causes us to obey His Word, not out of terror but out of love and respect for who He is and who we are before Him. The “fear of God” is a gift that comes in the new heart, His loving grace provides each believer, to help us to ever be growing in the knowledge and understanding of our loving Heavenly Father.

“In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.” Proverbs 14:26-27.

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 8:30am Worship (no music); 9:30am Sunday

School; 10:30am Worship Service.

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

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

10:45am Children’s Program, Youth-12:15 – 2:30pm Tues:

Women’s Bible Study 10am-noon

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

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-8152

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services in the Chapel:

Rite I, 8a; with choir; 9:30a; with choir, 11a.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship 9 a.m. 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 Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Cct. -April

mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin), Thurs. noon, Fri. 9a; Sat. 4p; Sun., 11a

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### ST. JUDE’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

## ...STRs continued from page 17

are made regarding the future of STRS, and the decision should be made based on analysis and careful study, and not on emotion and personal bias.

“We want to have good relationships with our neighbors. Many of us already have those great relationships. We live here too,” she said.

Chambers said mediation is better than litigation.

“Mediation would be a whole lot better than litigation because it would keep money in everyone’s pockets. We aren’t expecting everything to go our way. It’s about give-and-take,” she said. “I realize someone who lives in a residential neighborhood doesn’t want to hear noise at 10 o’clock at night. I wouldn’t either. There are a lot of things we could do together. I ask you all to reconsider all the options. Don’t let this divide our town anymore. Enough damage has already been done. I think we can all work together on this.”

Kaye MaHan with the Chamber said since zoning practices are at the heart of the issue, a Special Committee on STR zoning should be formed consisting of 12 members named by the mayor to include representation from the Chamber, the principal groups favoring or opposing STRs in R1 districts, and other civic, business and neighborhood leaders with the Town Manager and Town Attorney serving as ex officio.

The mission could be to consider all points of view; to gather information, data, and analysis as needed to inform the committee’s work; to give the public opportunities for input through hearings and otherwise; to review STR zoning systems in other towns of similar size where the economy depends substantially on tourism; to consider all reasonable options and proposals; to develop a proposal to resolve the STR zoning issue in Highlands; and to submit that proposal to the Town Board for its consideration within 120 days.

She said ideally, the Town Board would provide the committee with staff assistance and some funding to help

with data collection and other assistance to the committee.

But to succeed, she said the Special Committee needs to believe it is free to consider all options, that none are foreclosed, that they are being given a real chance to bring the committee and community together in the spirit of compromise to serve the interests of Highlands.

“The best way the Town Board can give assurance to the Special Committee would be to rescind, at least temporarily, the decision to begin enforcement action of the existing ordinance on January 3, 2022,” said MaHan. “If the Special Committee is not able to develop an acceptable solution for the overall STR zoning problem in 120 days, then the Town Board can set a new commencement date for enforcement of the ban if it wishes.”

The Town Board took the public comment discussion under advisement.

However, as per the agenda, commissioners went into Closed Session to discuss STRs under client/attorney privilege.

When the board emerged from Closed Session the following statement was issued.

“This week, the mayor signed a fee agreement retaining the services of attorney Craig Justus of the Van Winkle Law, Buck, Wall, Starnes & Davis Law Firm, concerning Short Term Rental/Lodging Ordinance Revisions. Mr. Justus will be reviewing and advising the Town Board on the Town of Highlands’ current residential ordinances relating to short-term rental, lodging and related matters. Mr. Justus will provide legal advice to the Town Board as the review of short-term rentals in residential zones moves forward. In the closed session of the September 16, 2021 Town Board meeting, Mr. Justus and town attorney, Jay Coward briefed the board and outlined possible procedures to address short-term rentals. The Board will continue to meet with these two attorneys as the process moves forward. No action was taken at this time.”

– Kim Lewicki

## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

### Sept. 7

• At 8:23 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28.

### Sept. 8

• At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on 4th Street.

• At 1:53 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

### Sept. 19

• At 2:13 a.m., Salvador Diaz Hernandez, 21, of Cashiers was arrested for DUI when pulled over for driving left of center. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Oct. 6.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 14.**

### Sept. 14

• At 7:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

### Sept. 15

• At 2:27 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at Glen Falls.

### Sept. 17

• At 6:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

• At 9:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence in Fairway Condos.

### Sept. 18

• At 7:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

### Sept. 19

• At 1:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Many Road.

• At 2:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Mack Wilson Road.

• 3:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

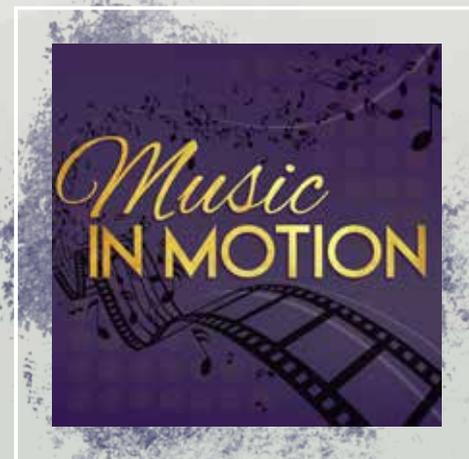
### Sept. 20

• At 9:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.



# Highlands Playhouse

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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Also looking for one full-time bartender in Highlands, so experience is preferred. Willing to train the right person to be the personality of the establishment. Characters welcome, charisma required, boring is unacceptable. All positions require honesty, dependability and a service oriented personality. Must be presentable and drug-free, with a clean criminal record. Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. ~ Winston Churchill. Email us at liberlynlibations@gmail.com.

**GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED** positions open at Caffe Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Rebecca Long at 828-507-1487 and leave a message. Need ASAP. (st. 8/26)

**HOSPITALITY MINDSET:** Highlands Country Club is looking for a few individuals for food service, bartending and housekeeping, who have a heart for service, want to be respected as professionals and know how to earn to your ability. Competitive pay, tips for F & B staff, uniform provided, and meals per shift provided to all. Golfing privileges are available. Wonderful, busy working atmosphere. Appreciative management to work with each person. Go to www.highlandscountryclub.com, select the Career tab at the top of the tool bar to fill out an application. Or, call 828-787-2782 and leave a message for Greg. See the Club's reviews on Indeed. (st. 6/24)

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindab-tiff@aol.com.

**JOIN OUR TEAM!** Whole Life Market is now hiring for full/part time positions. Are you a fun, healthy minded individual looking for a positive work environment? We are an organic health food store/ juice bar. Experience is not necessary but any grocery store, barista skills are a plus. Competitive pay! Apply at Whole Life Market, 680 N. 4th. St, Highlands.

**FULL & PART TIME RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES WANTED.** Contact Potpourri at 828-200-0044 to schedule an interview. Eyewear experience is a plus. (st. 5/13)

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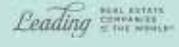


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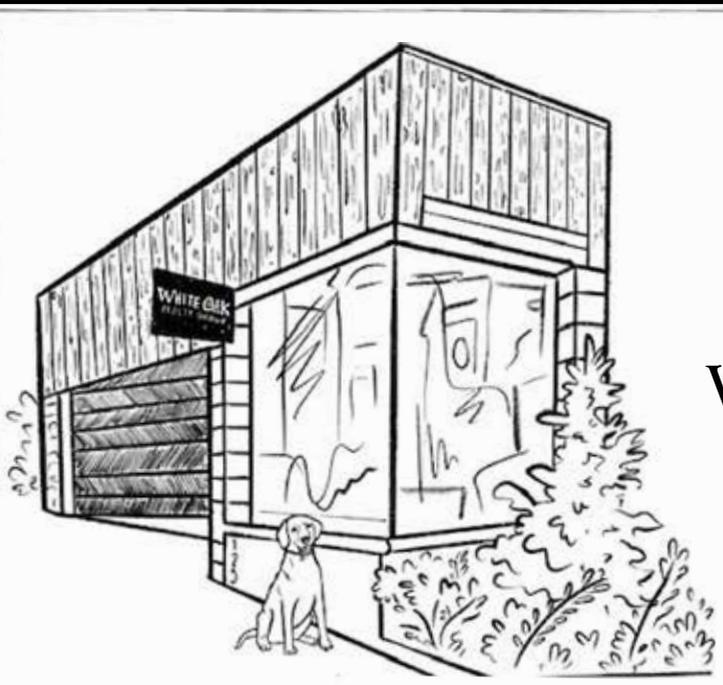
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