

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 17, Number 42 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020

Weekly COVID-19 testing continues at Highlands' & Cashiers' schools

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation has successfully funded COVID-19 testing at Blue Ridge School and Early Col-

lege, Highlands School, and Summit Charter School to maximize the safety of in-school learning and minimize the risk of commu-

nity spread. The weekly testing program began the second week of September. **• See TESTING page 7**

A different Halloween

Halloween as Highlands knows it is cancelled – that being the evening festivities on Main Street.

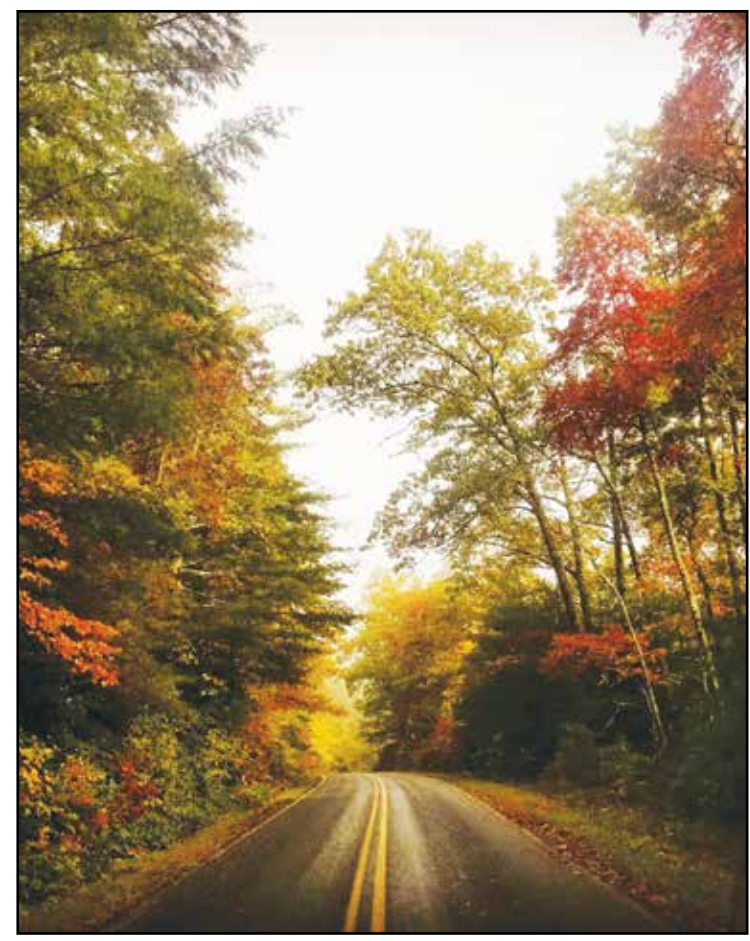
However, like Chamber CEO/President Kaye McHan says, "Gotta have some chocolate on Halloween!"

So, the Chamber is providing a bag of candy to member businesses to offer their customers during normal business hours on Halloween, Oct. 31.

In addition, the Chamber, as well as The Bascom are partnering with The Literacy Council for a drive-thru event where treat bags will be given out at the Literacy Council Halloween night from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

In addition, the Chamber is also providing a treat bag for teachers at the Highlands School on October 27th in gratitude for all their hard work.

All other annual holiday events – the tree lighting and Christmas parade are on hold with details to be announced.



Beautiful early morning autumn byways in Highlands. – Photo by Rachel Lewicki

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• ELECTION COUNTDOWN •

This is our 3rd installment of our coverage of the candidates on the ballot: Candidates Cawthorn and Davis are running for US House of Representatives, District 11

By Brittney Lofthouse

When Congressman Mark Meadows announced he would not seek re-election, droves of Democrats and Republicans filled to fill his open seat. After a jam-packed primary election – and a Republican Primary runoff election this summer – two candidates will appear on the November Ballot to replace Meadows – who has since been appointed as Chief of Staff for President Donald Trump. Buncombe County Democrat Moe Davis will face off against Republican Madison Davis – in what will arguably be the closes Congressional race in the last decade. Madison Cawthorn is an 8th

generation resident of North Carolina's 11th Congressional district. His ancestors have served Western North Carolina communities for more than 200 years including in the Revolutionary War.

Cawthorn was homeschooled in Hendersonville and attended Patrick Henry College the fall of 2016 but he he said dropped out after earning low grades.

He had been nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy by Rep. Mark Meadows in 2014. However, his application was rejected before the 2014 car accident that changed his life.

The automobile accident left him partially paralyzed and in a

Early voting is October 15-October 31

There are two locations:
 The Highlands Civic Center and the Macon County Robert Carpenter Community Building.

Hours are Monday-Friday 8am-7:30pm, open the first two Saturdays from 8am-6pm and the last Saturday 8am-3pm.

• See ELECTION page 12

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cated at 4th and South Street. It burned down in 1994.

It was originally built by Mr. Monroe Skinner as his home. Mr. Skinner moved to Highlands from Wyoming in 1878. He became the Justice of the Peace and Tax Collector for Highlands.

Mrs. Margaretta Ravenel bought Mr. Skinner's home in 1883 and christened it "The Islington House". She named it after an old section of Charleston, South Carolina. She turned it into one of Highlands most gracious lodgings.

Mr. R.R. "Bob" King bought it in 1925. Mr. King made into a very luxurious hotel and named it Kings Inn. It became the #1 hotel in Highlands. It was the first hotel to have a heated swimming pool. It also had a television and fireplace in each room.

The Kings Inn became the honey moon capital of Western Carolina. In the 40's and 50's anywhere from 25 to 40 newlyweds would celebrate their honeymoon at the Kings Inn every year. Mrs. King became known for her southern cooking. The dining room seated 150 people. On Sundays, people would come from miles to enjoy Mrs. King's Sunday buffet. Her recipes are still floating around Highlands and you can order her cookbook on line (King's Inn Cookbook).

In 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Edwards were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary at the Kings Inn. Almost everyone in Highlands was invited. At that time

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ber at and will continue through 2019 or as long as in-person school continues.

"The COVID-19 testing program that is being provided at Highlands School by the Highlands Cashiers Hospital Foundation has really eased my mind and lowered my anxiety," said Highlands High School AP English Teacher Cathy McIntyre-Ross. "Being 65, my risk is greater for the virus. But even if I was 25, I would still want to be tested weekly for many reasons. The main one is I want our school to stay open! The more students, faculty, and staff that are tested, the greater the chance we can contain an outbreak and stay on campus for in-person learning - it is that simple."

Highlands School and Summit Charter School began the testing program during the week of September 14th and Blue Ridge School and Early College began their

the population was a little over 500.

During the celebration, a young man walked up to Mr. Edwards and said, "Mr. Edwards, you are truly a hero. You have the perfect marriage. What is your secret?" Mr. Edwards looked at him and said "Son, it is really simple. In 1880 we got married at the log law house." (The log law house was built in 1850. It served as a schoolhouse, courthouse, church and community center. There were no churches in Highlands in 1880 and very few places to have a wedding ceremony. The log law house was located where Wright's Square is located today).

When we left to go on our honeymoon, we had a brand-new buggy and a brand-new mule. We got about 100 yards out of town and the mule stopped, it wouldn't budge. My wife jumped out of the buggy, got in front of the mule, looked him in the eye and said, "That's one."

The mule went about another 50 yards and stopped again. My wife jumped out of the buggy, got in the mule's face, looked him the eye and said "That's two." The third time, the mule went about 50 yards and stopped again. My wife jumped out of the buggy, got in the mule's face, took a pistol out of her purse and shot the mule 3 times. I jumped out of the buggy and said sweetheart, you can't do that. My wife looked at me and said, "That's one."

"You are right, we have had a perfect marriage for 60 years."

**Kenny Youmans
Highlands**



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first week of testing during the week of October 5th.

HCHF representatives said there has been a weekly increase of both students and teachers signing up for the program. The testing project is planned to continue weekly through December 18th except for Thanksgiving week, provided in-school

learning continues.

The families who opted for Macon County Schools Virtual Academy have the option of attending in-person school beginning the second quarter Monday, Oct. 19. Those parents can opt for weekly testing by contacting their school and signing up prior to the day of testing.

“We had our COVID-19 testing, provided by the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation. It was quick, efficient, and easy. By Friday, I had received my results, as well as my children’s results. It has already been a wonderful way to give my wife and me peace of mind as we work, and send our children to school, during a pandemic. Thank you so much for your generous contribution that has allowed us to receive weekly testing,” said Brad Hughes Parent and Math Teacher at Summit Charter School.

Foundation Board member and leader of the school testing project Dr. Richard Ellin said the aim is to minimize the risk of COVID-19 in the schools and the community, and thereby increase confidence for safe in-school learning

“In addition, keeping the risk of COVID-19 transmission low allows the economy to remain open, helps businesses thrive and allows people to remain employed. This program benefits the entire community, not just the schools,” he said.

HCHF’s testing report through September 28 represents three weeks of testing.

At Highlands School 203 tests have been performed (150 Students and 53 Staff) with 0 positive results.

At Summit School – 137 tests have been performed (89 Students and 48 Staff) with 1 positive result. A second positive case was reported but that was through a different testing facility.

Statistics for Blue Ridge School block A and Block B were not available by press time.

Kurt Pusch, Head of Summit Charter School said the ability to offer Summit’s students and staff weekly testing provides a level of assurance to the health of the campus and community that otherwise would not be possible.

“Voluntary testing is a level of protection that few K-12 schools are able offer,” he said. “Summit Charter School is especially grateful for the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation’s investment in this program and the health of our schools and community.”

– Kim Lewicki



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