

Highlands Newspaper

Volume 21, Number 49

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Dec. 5, 2024

Pattersons donate HC Animal Clinic property to Highlands Biological Fnd.

The Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) is thrilled to announce a transformative gift from sisters Amy and Cookie Pat-

erson. Earlier this year, the Pattersons donated their property at 2465 Cashiers Road in Highlands, NC to HBF, ensuring this local

nonprofit organization has a dedicated space to further its mission of stimulating, promoting, and

• See PATTERSONS page 8

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Local nonprofits are awarded \$15,000 in grants

The Macon County Community Foundation, a North Carolina Community Foundation affiliate, has awarded \$14,950 in grants to organizations supporting the local community.

While these grants were awarded for specific projects, the organizations are being offered flexibility to repurpose funding awarded for specific programs or projects to best support their current needs in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

"These organizations are evidence of the vitality and resilience of our community, and we were glad to support them with these funds," said Regina Lupoli, advisory board president of the

• See GRANTS page 11

The Christmas Parade is Sat. Dec. 7!



Highlands' Christmas Parade is this Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10a to noon on Main Street. After the parade, there is a free Holiday Market Reception with hot chocolate, music and festive treats at The Bascom from 2-4pm and a Christmas Carol Sing at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street at 2pm.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

NCWRC stocks local lakes with trout

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Anglers have a reason to rejoice after the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission recently stocked Harris Lake and Cashiers Public Pond with hundreds of Brook and Rainbow trout as part of the Winter Impoundment Program.

Assistant Fish Hatchery Superintendent Austin Brooks said the NCWRC stocks certain lakes – usually public water bodies -- to provide additional angling opportunities when surplus trout are available at the Setzer State Fish Hatchery in Brevard.

"Surplus trout are extra fish that exist at the hatchery once we have met all existing requests for fish. The hatchery exists in Brevard to provide trout for 86 dif-

• See TROUT page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

There is no easy fix for workforce housing

A recent email from a resident was addressing the issue of workforce housing. Attached to the email was an article that called for a reduction in building code requirements and density standards as a strategy to increase housing supply. I get information from folks all the time and many ideas or suggestions to consider in depth about a particular issue or challenge. Let me share my thoughts about the workforce housing crisis.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

First let me note Highlands has had zoning ordinances since the 1970s. Yes, some folks think our zoning may be too restrictive, but I contend they have been an asset in town planning and development, resulting in an attractive and organized townscape. I would be very reluctant to make wholesale changes to zoning ordinances, but rethinking multi-family zoning may be in order, especially near business districts.

By comparison, Macon County does not have zoning like Highlands, but rather some general land use policies. Put another way, building a home or subdivision outside the town limit is more flexible and open.

Macon County and Highlands both follow the NC Building Codes standards. If the state were to change them, the town and, I'm sure, the county would follow. Even in the hurricane rebuild period, counties still require temporary or permanent structures to follow these state codes.

The concept behind building codes has been occupancy safety. There are routine accounts of house fires due to improper electrical wiring, gas lines not up to code, and structural collapses, especially decks, due to installation not meeting code. The issues of structures withstanding storms, snow loads, and high winds are code considerations that can not be sacrificed for expedient building practices, no matter the good intention.

Also, our lot size and density requirements are based on and driven by state watershed and erosion control ordinances. These rules apply to both the town and the county. The county is now reviewing floodplain and erosion ordinances. This review is very poignant given the recent loss of homes from Helene in floodplain areas.

The state watershed requirements that set density levels have been important drivers in protecting the critical watershed here in this unique mountain environment. Here again, I would be very concerned if the state were to make major changes to these statutes.

The recently released Macon County Housing Study is very comprehensive. It addresses a multitude of issues related to developing affordable workforce housing and related issues about worker commutes and possible housing locations.

A big issue in the study is how to build lower-priced housing for the workforce, especially where the salaries, especially in the hospitality area, are significantly below state averages. For instance, many low-paying workers' salaries would only support paying rents below \$1,000 a month. On the other hand, planned workforce units like the ones recently proposed at the hospital would average about \$300,000 to \$350,000 a unit.

• See MAYOR page 7

• SNAPSHOTS •







Photo by Janet Singletary

Even unlikely bedfellows can get along!

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

• WEATHER •

Thu, 5-Dec	Fri, 6-Dec	Sat, 7-Dec	Sun, 8-Dec
 38°F 17°F	 39°F 19°F	 47°F 25°F	 52°F 40°F
Partly sunny and colder	Chilly with plenty of sun	Mostly sunny and milder	Times of clouds and sun
RealFeel® High: 30° Low: 19°	RealFeel® High: 40° Low: 15°	RealFeel® High: 50° Low: 17°	RealFeel® High: 55° Low: 33°

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

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

What makes a great Christmas Parade?

In December 2021, I put on a red vest, hopped in my pickup truck, and drove in Highlands' annual Christmas parade. I pulled a small float containing Santa's Toy Workshop. The workshop was a white and green building with a red roof covered in twinkling lights. There was a front porch with toys and a directional North Pole with signs pointing to Highlands, Cashiers, Glenville, and Sapphire.



John Sheehan, Broker
 Mountain Life Properties
 828-239-8814

Three of our team members walked alongside the float, passing out candy as fast as one could conceive to an astonishingly large crowd of children and adults who lined the parade route.

While I had previously attended Highlands' Christmas parades, I had never been a participant in one. It is a truly unique experience to have a few thousand smiling faces looking at you and shouting "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" as you pass by. While I expected a cheerful crowd, the gleam in everyone's eyes lets you know the Christmas parade is meaningful to visitors and locals alike.

What does this have to do with real estate? Well, a great small-town parade first requires a great small-town. We have such a town in our own Highlands. I am referring foremost to the people of the area who are the primary participants and audience members of the parade. They represent local businesses, churches, schools, and organizations who form the groups who walk the route or pull a festive float and celebrate the full route with dance and music.

Each and every one of them works or lives in a local building or home, and just as it takes exceptional effort to plan and deliver a

great parade, these same people skillfully shape our local town environment, which attracts so many potential buyers to Highlands.

In addition to the participants, a parade would have no purpose without a viewing audience to cheer, nod, wave, and make all the fanfare worthwhile. We have a large Highlands community that turns out for our Christmas parade rain or shine. These cheerful thousands are the same faces our clients see when they come to the plateau to explore our town and neighborhoods in which our clients might choose to spend a part of their lives as well.

Each of us in the area helps form the visible lifestyle, amenities, institutions, government, and culture that others experience when they come here looking to see what Highlands has to offer. I often hear "What a great place this is" or "I really like it here."

They like it here because of all of you, the parade participants and audience members, who build, buy, sell, work, rest, play, and live in this community we call home. I look forward to this weekend's parade, not only because we are making a return trip down Main Street as participants, but to see up-close the best of what makes our town so attractive. It's people. May your holiday season be joyous and blessed!

• *John Sheehan is a Broker at Mountain Life Properties serving the luxury real estate sales market. The Mountain Life Properties team welcomes all to stop by their log cabin office at 134 Maple Street, visit our website MountainLifeRE.com, or reach us at 828-239-8814.*

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

is despair, on the other is hope. It's much easier to give in to despair. It's easier and simpler to give up and give in. Life is full of suffering and Christmas may be a nice respite, but the emptiness will come back.

I don't think that's the message of Christmas. Paul says in the book of Romans, "Hope does not put us to shame." In other words, hope does not mean you're weak. Quite the contrary, it means you're made of sterner stuff. You can see the world, see the badness, and be a force of life and goodness

in the name of Jesus. You cannot do this if you're a cynic. You can't do it if you're always giving in to despair.

Gandalf puts it this way, "Despair is only for those who see the end beyond all doubt. We do not." This Christmas season perhaps you'll join me in fighting against despair and embracing hope instead. Maybe it is not only a beautiful story or an allegory, maybe it is a beautiful story and the truth too.



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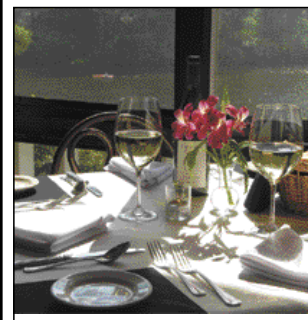


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• OBITUARY •

Ann Wax



Ann Wax, 78, of Highlands, NC, passed away Saturday November 9, 2024. Ann was born October 25, 1946, in Baton Rouge, LA, to the late Polly Teasley Wax and Benjamin W. Wax, Sr.

Ms. Wax was very fond of her dogs and loved to go rock hunting, especially for arrowheads, amethysts and garnets. She worked for Dr. Baumrucker for 30 years. Ann also loved her children and grandchildren very much.

Ms. Wax is survived by her daughters, Debbie Head Holt (Steve) and DeDe Head; her four grandchildren, Hannah Holt, Jacob Holt, Jeslyn Head,

and J.D. Head; and her brother, Ben Wax (Kay). In addition to her parents, Ann was preceded in death by her son David Head (Dawn).

A private Celebration of Life service will be held for family. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Four Seasons Hospice, 511 S Allen Rd. Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is honored to serve the Wax family.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

Without some subsidy the numbers don't work. For that matter, the average price for a home in Franklin, for example, is over \$300,000. To pay for a mortgage at that price, a worker, or two workers with a combined income, would have to make about \$160,000 a year to carry a mortgage and not be financially house distressed.

Also, how can the high land and building costs be addressed? For instance, the few remaining lots in Highlands ranging from a half to a full acre are going from \$500k to 1 million. Building costs are around \$800 to \$1000 a square foot. How do we get our limited number of contractors to build at the lower costs of workforce housing? The housing study also emphasized that this area has a shortage of builders and tradespeople needed to build 600 or 700 units in the county just to catch up to the projected shortage in the next few years. It is a major challenge. Also, throw STRs into the mix; long-term rental units are also almost nonexistent and going for a premium rental rate.

We have a circular pattern that goes like this. Business-ess say we need more tourists. STRs are critical to countering the lack of hotel rooms, so what could be workforce rental units go to addressing tourist housing. Government officials are told the workforce housing situation, which has been in part by the tourist industry, has to be addressed if more economic growth is to happen. Not only is permanent housing expected for the Highlands Plateau, but housing for seasonal workers is also required, according to the housing study. It is a complex needs matrix that must be sorted out and analyzed.

I think unlimited growth for the area may be welcomed by some in the business community, but I am not sure it will benefit the long-term outlook and preservation concerns held by many. The housing study points out that one of the biggest areas of growth in housing will be with folks 65 or older, retirees seeking a retreat from high density, hustle and bustle, rushed metropolitan life.

Another realistic question is how much the town can address housing. The town limits of Highlands comprise 6.5 square miles. Much of the land is distressed or even steeply sloped, with most of the buildable lots already developed. So, the actual town can't accommodate many new units. The housing study emphasized that this housing

problem must be a countywide initiative.

The solution starts with partnerships with the state, county, towns, building industry, and business folks. I, for one, think the federal government will have to step up its involvement to address this growing national problem.

Now, some folks will be upset with me after reading this piece, contending I need to be an advocate and find solutions to this housing crisis. My response is that there needs to first be a sober and realistic assessment of the issue. As I stated at the Macon County Housing Study presentation that was conducted here in Highlands, this problem can be solved with cooperation, hard work, and about 150 to 200 million dollars. I will get to work on it by talking to other stakeholders. Now, where will the money come from?

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...PATTERSONS continued from page 1



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Highlands Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 7 | 10am-12pm

Main Street

Santa in the Park

December 7, 14 & 21

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

Lighting of the Menorah

Wednesday, December 25 | 5:30pm

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park



All events, other than Ice Skating, are organized and hosted by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.



HOLIDAYS IN
HIGHLANDS
HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC



Previous animal clinic on the Cashiers Road.

– Photo by Jim Lewicki

funding biological research and education in the southern Appalachians.

The property, formerly home to Highlands-Cashiers Animal Clinic, served families from 1986 until 2022 when Amy and Cookie retired. The gift ensures the property will continue to serve the community in its new capacity as HBF’s administrative headquarters, providing space for staff offices, meetings, workshops, and more.

The gift is coincident with Amy completing a term on HBF’s Board of Trustees in June, and their sister, Karen, rejoining the Board. The Pattersons, who grew up next to the Highlands Biological Station (a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University), have a long history of supporting HBF through board service, volunteering, and advocacy for its mission.

“We are deeply grateful to Amy, Cookie, and Karen for their generosity and dedication,” said HBF Board President John Mitchener. “Their hard work and vision have provided us with a beautiful space that will enhance our ability to serve the community.”

Last year, the Pattersons spent several months remodeling the building, reflecting their commitment to environmental stewardship. They transformed the space using eco-conscious materials including non-VOC paint, sustainable cork flooring, and repurposed windows, fixtures, and furniture from the original clinic. The result is a

modern and inviting facility that aligns with HBF’s values and environmental focus.

While the administrative office has moved to this new location, HBF continues its vital work at the Highlands Biological Station, including providing staff and educational programming at the Highlands Nature Center, a practice begun in 1930.

“We remain proud partners of the Station,” shared HBF Executive Director Jamie Creola. “Our mission to support research and education in the southern Appalachians remains as strong as ever, and we look forward to the opportunities this new facility will provide in advancing this work.”

HBF has recently begun addressing a few safety updates on the property, including the removal of hazardous trees, and is in the early stages of developing a strategic and architectural master plan for its long-term use. While the property is still a work in progress, the Foundation is proud to celebrate the legacy of the Patterson family by continuing to inspire curiosity and stewardship of the natural world in Highlands and beyond.

“We hope the community will pardon our dust as we settle into this wonderful new space,” added Creola. “We’re excited to share this next chapter with everyone and look forward to welcoming visitors in the near future.”

– Submitted

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From left: Randy Foster, President of Rotary Club of Highlands and Diane C. McPhail Rotarian and speaker.

Highlands author Diane McPhail tells the inside story of getting published

In a recent Rotary Club meeting, Highlands author Diane McPhail described the arduous journey from story idea to seeing the actual novel you've written on bookstore or library shelves. Follow *The Stars Home*, McPhail's most recent historical novel, was released in August.

"When we're intrigued by a book we see in the bookstore or library, we don't realize the months of labor that go into bringing every single book to life. Every single book."

The journey begins with a captivating central idea, extensive research, a manuscript and the grueling search for an agent. That ego-battering process of finding an agent begins with a 90-second "elevator pitch" or short query letter that is most often rejected. The average number of rejections EVERY manuscript receives is 100 – even *Gone With The Wind* was rejected 38 times, *The Help*, 60 times.

"I was so disheartened by the dozens of rejections of my first novel, *The Abolitionist's Daughter*, received that I was ready to give up. Then my husband Ray said "Think of it as a scoreboard. If 100 is the average, you've just got to keep getting rejected until you reach 100. Every rejection you get is a point on your scoreboard until you reach 100. I'll keep score for you."

Once McPhail found an agent, who then obtained a contract with publisher, Kensington Publishing Corporation, the

tedious work continued without multiple manuscript revisions, but which did include 938 line edits. "And it didn't get easier with each book. My second book, *The Seamstress of New Orleans*, had a different copy editor and I had to suffer through 8,000 line edits! All that in spite of my having been an English grammar teacher."

McPhail noted that authors often have little or no input to the title, cover art or pick of the audio book reader. "Hopefully your contract gives you a voice in those choices. But more likely the Marketing Department dictates those decisions."

Finally, you hold the first "ARC" in your hands. "Advance Readers Copies" are sent to reviewers and book buyers before publication to create buzz, identify any remaining corrections, and secure initial book orders.

In "short" – the journey from finished manuscript to ARC averages 18 months.

McPhail expressed gratitude that Kensington Publishing Corporation published all three of her novels. Known as "America's Independent Publisher," it is the last remaining autonomous publisher of hardcover, trade and mass market paperback books.

For more information about Diane Cox McPhail's writing career, visit <https://www.dianemcphailauthor.com>

...GRANTS continued from page 1

Macon County Community Foundation. "As Western North Carolina continues to recover after Hurricane Helene, we are ready to assist in partnership with the NCCF Disaster Relief Fund."

Each year, MCCF's local volunteer advisory board uses dollars from its endowment fund to make grants to eligible local organizations, including nonprofits, local governments, schools and churches.

The board of advisors voted on and awarded the following grants in early September:

- \$1,000 to 828 VETS for outsourced nonprofit accountant
- \$500 to Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina for foster care support
- \$750 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cashiers and Highlands (BBBSCH) Advisory Council for general operating support
- \$750 to Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas for Macon County Childhood Cancer Safety Net
- \$1,500 to Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands for services expansion
- \$500 to Hawthorn Heights WNC, Inc. for nutrition security
- \$500 to HIGHTS for fuel for after-school programs
- \$1,100 to Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc. for The Literacy & Learning Center's free educational programs
- \$1,000 to Macon County Care Network for Macon County hunger relief program
- \$1,000 to Macon County Humane Society, Inc. dba Appalachian Animal Rescue Center for small dog kennels
- \$1,000 to Macon County Public Health for sustaining Double SNAP/EBT at the Macon County Farmers Market
- \$500 to Macon TRACS, Inc. for Franklin High School Horse Sense
- \$500 to Meridian Behavioral Health Services for expanding technology access for behavioral health
- \$1,250 to Otto Community Development Organization, Inc. for automated external defibrillator installation inside the Otto Community Building
- \$1,100 to Pisgah Legal Services for

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



legal services for survivors of domestic violence and child abuse in Macon County

• \$500 to REACH of Macon County for domestic violence and sexual assault awareness months outreach campaigns

• \$500 to The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts for Creative Youth Partnership program

• \$1,000 to The Gordon Center for Children for early childhood program needs

Macon County Community Foundation Advisory Board Members

Advisory board members live and work in Macon County, positioning them to strategically leverage resources, meet local needs and access opportunities.

In addition to Lupoli, board members include David Moore (vice president), Tyrie "TJ" Smith (secretary), Julie Adams, Kevin Holland, Faviola Olvera and Bonnie Potts.

About the North Carolina Community Foundation

The North Carolina Community Foundation brings together generous people and connects them to causes and organizations they care about, with a focus on inspiring lasting and meaningful philanthropy in the state's rural communities.

With \$460 million in assets, NCCF sustains nearly 1,300 endowments and partners with donors and a network of affiliates in 60 counties to strengthen our state. By stewarding and growing donors' gifts, NCCF makes a powerful impact through a robust grants and scholarships program, awarding over \$300 million since 1988. For more information, visit nccommunityfoundation.org.

In addition, the NCCF Disaster Relief Fund supports long-term recovery and unmet needs in communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. To support recovery in western NC, visit: nccommunityfoundation.org/Helene.

Visit nccommunityfoundation.org/macon to learn more about MCCF and its work in the community or make a tax-deductible donation. For information about MCCF, contact the western region community leadership officer.

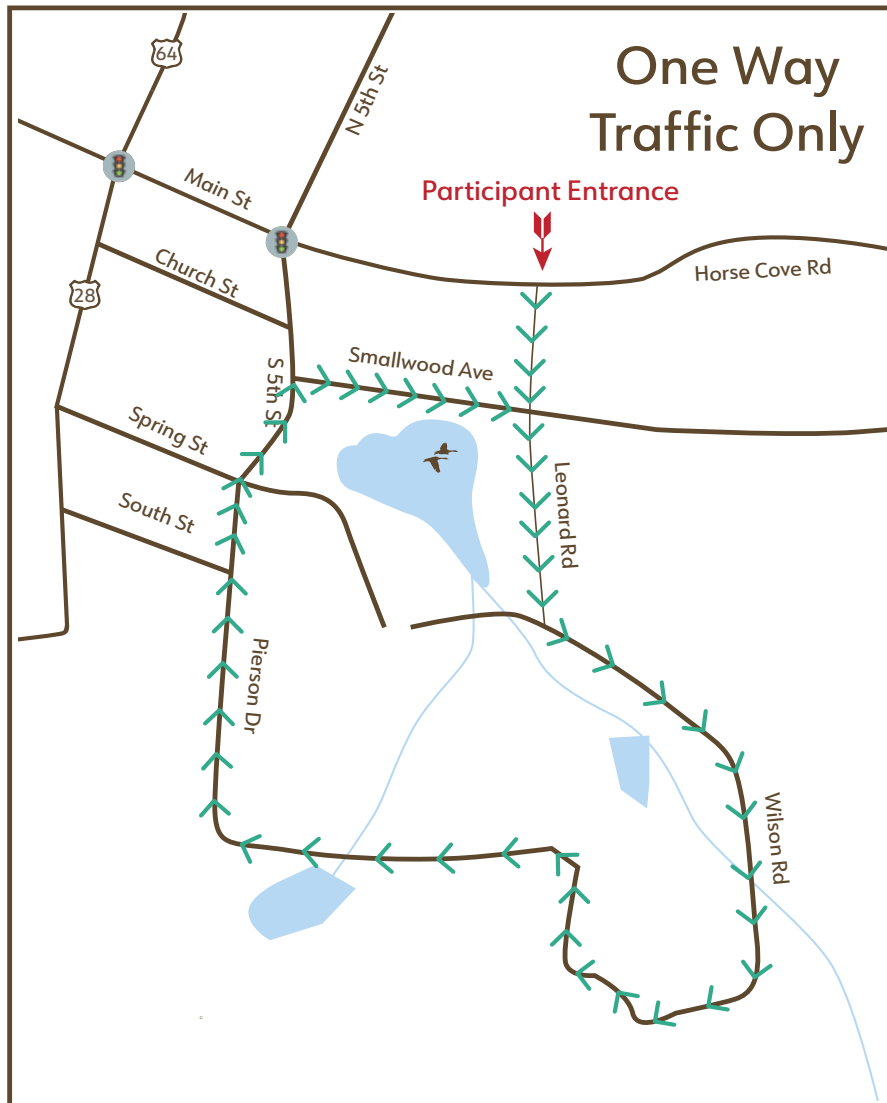
Staging Map for Christmas Parade Participants

Please be aware of this year's staging route which may affect access on these roads from 8 am - 12 pm on Saturday, December 7, 2024.



HOLIDAYS IN
HIGHLANDS
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands

One Way Traffic Only



• 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

ALL WEEK

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds

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

PICKLE BALL

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

Mon.-Fri.

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

Mon-Wed-Fri

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

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

Second Mondays

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

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

1st Tues. through Dec.

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

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still

uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

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

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

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

2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combo class with differ-

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15, 5 pm

Join us for an evening of Christmas Carols, old and new and a recounting of the Christmas Story.

Christ Anglican Church

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An offering will be received to benefit the CAC Music Ministry



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

5:00 PM
CBC HIGHLANDS

3645 CASHIERS RD
HIGHLANDS NC 28741

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ent types of exercise. Call the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thurs.-Sat.

• Mountain Findings Hours: 10a to 1p.

Thursdays

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

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs.

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

• Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

2nd Saturdays

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

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM.

Sundays

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

MOVIES

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street. TBA.

Through-March

• The Highlands Parks and Recreation-managed Ice Skating in the Park The hours are Thursdays, 3:30-8pm, Fridays, 3:30-10pm, Saturdays, 1-10pm, Sundays, 1-5pm. The price is only \$8, with or without skates. Coffee and hot chocolate are available for purchase.

Thurs., Dec. 5

• At The Molly Grace, a Christmas Party from 4-7 p.m., Sales, sips and shopping!

Dec. 6-27

• At PAC, Mountain Theater Company's "Home for the Holidays" features an all-star cast from across the nation singing festive favorites and original holiday arrangements, plus dazzling costumes and theatrical magic that will leave the entire family in amazement.

Fri., Dec. 6

• Join the Cashiers Historical Society for Holidays at the Historical Society on Friday 4 to 7 pm, Enjoy a candlelit tour of the historic Zachary-Tolbert House, beautifully decorated for the holidays, and step back in time to explore festive traditions unique to Southern Appalachia. Tickets are available on the Cashiers Historical Society website: \$30 for adults, \$10 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 5.

Sat., Dec. 7-24

• Photos with Santa in the K-H Founders Park.

Sat., Dec. 7

• Highlands Christmas Parade 10am-12pm along Main Street.

• At The Bascom after the parade, Holiday Market Reception, hot chocolate, music and festive treats. Free.

• A Christmas Carol Sing at Highlands First Presbyterian Church at 2pm. Rick Trevathan will be the song leader with Michael Crowe at the piano.

Sat. & Tues., Dec. 14 & 17

• At Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, Lux Nativitas" a beautiful new tradition that brings the nativity story to life. Through Scripture readings, classic Christmas music, and mesmerizing performances in dance and circus arts, Lux Nativitas walks us through the Gospel

account of Christ's birth, celebrating the light and joy of the season. Performance is at 7 PM in the Rearden Theater at RGNS. Tickets are available at rabungap.org/tickets

Sat., Dec. 14

• At the Rec Park, Saturday Market ... same group that is at at the park through October ... 10a to 3p.

• A Wreath Across America Ceremony will take place at the Highlands Community Bldg. 869 North 4th Street at noon with Wreath Placement Immediately following the ceremony. Shuttles will take volunteers to and from the cemetery to lay veteran wreaths. Please contact Phil Potts 828-200-9753 or ppotts63@frontier.com

Holidays in Highlands!

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC has an exciting lineup of holiday events in store. The schedule boasts a diverse range of activities, including:

Ice Skating in Park – Through March in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

The Highlands Parks and Recreation-managed Ice Skating in the Park kicks off Thursday, Nov. 21 and runs through early March, weather permitting.

The hours are Thursdays, 3:30-8pm, Fridays, 3:30-10pm, Saturdays, 1-10pm, Sundays, 1-5pm.

Thanksgiving Week: 11/25-11/27, 1-8pm, Closed Thanksgiving Day, 11/29-11/30 1-10pm, 12/1, 1-5pm.

Christmas Break: 12/23, 1-8pm, 12/24, 1-5pm, Closed Christmas Day, 12/26, 1-8pm, 12/27-12/28 1-10pm, 12/29, 1-5pm, 12/30, 1-8pm, 12/31, 1pm-1am, 1/1, 1-8pm.

The price is only \$8, with or without skates. Coffee and hot chocolate are available for purchase.

Santa in the Park – Sat., Dec 7, Sat., Dec. 14, Sat. Dec. 21 and Tues. Dec. 24 in KH Founders Park

Santa Claus himself will make special appearances on Saturdays in the park to listen to the wishes of children, both young and young at heart. On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, Santa is extremely busy prepping for gift delivery so appointments are required and can be booked at

• At The Bascom, photos with Santa 2-4 p.m. Hot chocolate and festive treats.

Fri., Dec. 20

• Senior lunch at the Rec Park at noon in the Meeting Room. Senior Lunches are free and held the third Friday of each month through April.

Wed., Dec. 25

• Lighting of the Menorah in KH Founders Park at 5:30pm.

Mon. Dec. 30

• At PAC, Fabulous Equinox Orchestra PRE-New Year's Eve Party and Concert at 7:30p.

May 1-4

• At PAC, Educational Theatre performance, Matilda.

www.highlandschamber.org/event/santa-in-the-park/1306/ Additionally,

he will make periodic visits to collect letters placed in a designated mailbox within the park.

Highlands Christmas Parade –

Sat., Dec. 7, 10am-12pm
along Main Street

As part of this long-standing tradition, expect to witness a delightful procession along Main Street featuring marching bands, llamas, camels, imaginative floats, and, of course, the star of the show, Santa Claus. Those who wish to participate in the parade must submit a completed application to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC no later than 12 noon on Nov. 15. To apply and for more information, email events@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

Lighting of the Menorah – Wed., Dec. 25, 5:30pm, K-H Founders Park

Hanukkah is an eight-day winter festival of lights, celebrated to mark the triumph of light over darkness. One candle of the giant menorah will be lit on the first night of Hanukkah and an additional candle each successive night. This will be done until the eighth night when the Menorah is fully illuminated.

For more information about the Holidays in Highlands, call the Highlands, NC Welcome Center at 828-526-2112 or visit www.visithighlandscnc.com.



HOLIDAYS IN
HIGHLANDS
HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC

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Jim Breedlove



Melissa Evans



Hilary Wilkes

Re-elected MC School Board members are sworn in

By Renee C. Burt
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Recently, MC Clerk of Court Shawna Lamb presided over the swearing in ceremony of the MC School Board members.

We are excited to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the dedicated and passionate individuals who have been re-elected to

serve on our Board of Education! Congratulations Mr. Jim Breedlove, Ms. Melissa Evans and Ms. Hilary Wilkes! Your commitment to our community and to the continued growth of our schools is truly inspiring.

A special shoutout to our remaining Board Chair Jim Breedlove and Vice-Chair Melissa Evans

for their outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication. Your guidance and vision are pivotal to our success, and we look forward to the continued positive impact you will make in the coming years.

Here's to a bright future of collaboration, progress, and excellence for our students and schools!

...TROUT from page 1

ferent bodies of water in 12 western North Carolina counties per the requests of Fisheries Management staff," said Brooks.

Harris Lake in Highlands received 1,626 10-inch fish and 24 fish over 16 inches, for a total of 1,650 trout.

Cashiers Public Pond was stocked with 710 10-inch fish and 10 fish over 16 inches, for a total of 720 trout.

Brooks said the public can fish for these trout and can harvest up to seven fish per day. They can use any lure or bait of their choice. Any person 16 or older must possess an Inland Fishing license in order to fish. Any youth 15 and younger don't need a license to fish.

Licenses can be purchased from a local vendor who sells licenses, like Reeves Hardware.

A small area at the top of the lake is being dredged in the coming weeks by a homeowner, but District 9 Fisheries Biologist Powell Wheeler said he does not believe it will cause a problem for the trout or the anglers.

Terry Potts of Highlands owns Harris Lake but said he always gives permission to stock the lake when asked.



Austin Brooks tosses a net full of trout into Harris Lake on Nov. 25.

— Photos by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News



The NCWRC stocked Harris Lake with 1,650 trout. Anyone with a fishing license can catch the trout with a creel limit of 7 fish.

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• HERE'S THE THING •

Supremely Wrong

Well, hello there! It's been a minute, right? Actually, four years is more like it.

When I was last honored to opine on these pages (thank you, Kim & Jim Lewicki), it was mid-September 2020. Joe Biden was about to win the Presidency, Covid was raging, and Highlands was a terrific place to live. Four plus years later, Donald Trump will soon return to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Covid is still with us, but not nearly as bad, and, except for huge trailers causing havoc on our roads and the aftermath of that nasty bit of business named Helene, Highlands is still drawing huge seasonal crowds and winning all sorts of kudos and awards.

One thing that hasn't changed since fall of 2020 is the ugliness in our nation's political discourse. Many Rs and Ds really don't like one another and take every opportunity to demonstrate that reality. As an NPA (that's No Party Affiliation), I don't care much for either political party. Soon as I can figure out, or someone can explain to me, what exactly the parties do for the American people, I may take another look. Until then, I don't vote for anyone based on their party; something that can be changed as easily as one changes one's underwear.

Another thing I'm not excited about is that the 2024 election cycle concluded with an outrageous price tag of \$16 BILLION! That's BILLION, with a 'B'. And just to be clear, the 2020 election cycle cost very nearly as much, and both parties are complicit, so it's not that the spending is one sided or unfair. It's not. It's the system, and It's just plain ridiculous.

Costs associated with state-wide and national elections exploded in the wake of the 2010 Supreme Court decision in the landmark Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission (FEC) case. The Court ruled that money



Bruce F. 'Bud' Katz

is a form of speech and therefore must not be inhibited by what the Court saw as unseemly and unnecessary regulation. Before that, most of us probably assumed that free speech had to do with spoken and written words, you know, speech, and that money was, well, something else.

The Citizens United decision opened the gates to a deluge of unregulated and often anonymous spending by corporations, trade associations, billionaires, unions and the like, all special interests, and all with specific agendas, on both sides of the political spectrum.

Here's the thing: whether you're happy with the outcome of the 2024 election, or you wish it had gone the other way, maybe we can agree that the system currently in place for electing people to national office, especially as regards money, needs to be reassessed. We can start to fix things by restricting donations in all elections to individuals – you know, eligible human voters – and a limit can and should be placed on how much even those donations can be. When donors to campaigns can demonstrate a viable heartbeat, meaning they are, in fact, individual human beings who are eligible to vote, then they can donate up to the established limit.

When enormous amounts of money are at stake, elections turn into exactly what they've become, ugly exercises in finger-pointing and name-calling instead of honest discussions of the issues that matter to voters. In short, free and fair elections in America should

not be dependent on big money. They should be pure, perhaps even sacred rituals based on common sense and the U.S. Constitution. This means they should not be even slightly open to the corruptible power of outrageous donations from groups who place their interests over those of the American voting public.

In the 2010 case of Citizens United v FEC, the U.S. Supreme Court got it wrong.

• Bruce F. "Bud" Katz, and his wife, Lynn, have lived year-round in Highlands since 2011. Bud is the author of four novels and a work of non-fiction. He facilitates the Highlands Writers Group and spends much of his time in front of a computer making words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, ... etc. You can get to know Bud better by visiting his website, brucekatz.com, and you can contact him, regarding this column or for information about the Highlands Writers Group, at brucekatzauthor@gmail.com.



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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Winter Sport Teams

Left: High School Cheer team front row from left are Yasmin Cortez, Rea Miller, and Karen Gomez. Back row from left are Shirly Diaz, Coach Madison Klimas, and Katie Earp. Not pictured is Hannah Valerio.



Middle School Cheer team front row from left are Emmie Wedge, Justin Powell, and Yasmin Montalvo. Back row from left are Hayden Andrews, Bella Lopez, Akira Nolan, Emmalina Hernadez, and Coach Nicole Rice.



Highlands Basketball Middle School boys team front row from left are Ian Kittrell, Alex Lopez, Camden Westendorf, Alex Mendoza, Walker Kittrell, Todd Vilardo, and Knox Holbrooks. Back row from left are Blake Kenter, Matthew Morales, Aleks Petrik, Charlie Wilkes, Jensen Bowers, and Harper Ramey.



Highlands Middle School Basketball girls team front row from left are Corena Dearth, Miley Zagal-Damian, and Aubree Brooks. Back row from left are Alejandra Colmenares, Rebekah Birchfield, Annabelle Hayes, Ava Penland, and Penelope McRae. Not pictured is Riley Brooks.



Highlands Basketball JV boys team from left are Jonathan Carpenter, Chase Kenter, Jayven Alvarado, Charlie Sherwood, Tucker Wilson, Pierre Damian, and Jack Sumner.



Highlands Basketball girls varsity team front row from left are AE Woods, Jordyn Borino, Aislynn Wyatt-Luck, and Taylor Hays. Back row from left are Heidie Doerter, Hunter Conner, Mallory Shriver, and Charlotte Westendorf.

• HS SPORTS •

Varsity Swim finished 2nd in 5-team meet

By Coach Steve Hott

The 4-person Highlands Varsity Boys and 2-person Girls Varsity Swim Team finished 2nd and 4th in 5-team meet in Franklin on Saturday, November 23.

The boys' team was led by a trio of Jr. Olympians: Senior Finneas Garner, Junior Aniah McKim and Sophomore Jack Sumner. They combined for 76 points (26, 26, and 24, respectively). They won all of the individual events they entered and with Junior Jesus Mendoza won the 400-freestyle relay and finished 2nd in the 200-medley relay.

Garner won the 50- and 100-free, McKim the 200-IM and the 100-butterfly, Sumner the 100-backstroke and 2nd in the 50-free. Mendoza was 3rd in the 100-breaststroke and 6th in the 50-free.

On the girls' side, Babac scored 15 pts. winning the 50-free and scoring 3rd in the 100-free. Fernandez-Faust brought home 11 pts. finishing 3rd in the 100 breaststroke and 4th in the 100 free.

Finneas Garner is currently ranked 2nd in the WNC region and 3rd in the state at the 50-freestyle. He is 6th and 15th in the 100. Sumner is 3rd and 9th at the 100-fly, and 8th and 21st in the 100-back. McKim is 6th and 7th in the 100-breaststroke, and 7th and 13th in the 200-IM. Paolo McRae



Highlands High School Swim team from left are Coach Steve Hott, Jesus Mendoza, Paolo McRae, Aniah McKim, Jack Sumner, Finneas Garner, Trinity Faust, and Layla Babac.

(unable to attend the meet) is 10th and 23rd in the 200-IM.

The boys 200-medley relay is ranked 3rd and 4th. The boys 200-free relay is 5th and 8th. The boys 400-free relay is 6th and 12th. Hernandez-Faust is 19th in the 100-breaststroke, and 27th in the 50-free.

Babac is 20th in the 100-free and 21st in the 100-breaststroke.

The Varsity Swim Teams next meet is on Saturday, December 14 at the Candy Cane Invitational in Murphy on Saturday, December 14.

Photos by Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

A Thrill of Hope



Jacob Tedder
Congregational Pastor
Christ Church of the Valley
jacob@cashiers.church

Lord of the Rings may be the most underrated Christmas movie of all time. Of course, you have the classics like Christmas Vacation, Elf, A Christmas Story, and Diehard (if you're one of the people who believe it's a Christmas movie). But for me and my family, we love sitting down for all 9+ hours (or if you watch the extended edition, 12 hours!) of the Lord of the Rings trilogy while we hang the lights, put up the tree, and decorate the house.

Regardless of what your favorite Christmas movie is, what's one of the main plots almost all Christmas movies have in common? They all have happy endings. You will be hard pressed to find even one that doesn't have a message that ends in joy and hope.

Hope is something tangible; you can almost taste or feel it. If you have kids or grandkids you probably have no problem with getting excited for the season. We have a little Christmas Advent house on our shelf, with the 25 days of Christmas written on drawers that you pull out to find a small gift inside every day you get closer to Christmas. It is a visual representation of getting closer to Christmas and, as a parent, seeing your kids' excitement grow, you start counting down the days too.

However, many years it seems as though when we finally make it through the year to December, we're just tired. Tired of all the bad stuff. Tired of hearing bad news. Tired of discouraging and depressing things that happen to us and our friends and family and the world. When we finally make it to the end of the year, what we really want is good news. We want "comfort and joy", or a "thrill of hope", as the hymns call it. We need a message of hope and joy in this dark world.

That is, in fact, the message of Christmas. As John writes, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). If your church practices Advent, as ours does, they probably lit the "prophecy" or "hope" candle this past Sunday. This candle is all about anticipating the birth of the Messiah. I'm convinced that God wants it this way too. He loves seeing kids and adults alike get so excited for the birth of his Son.

On the contrary, there seems to be something in the human disposition that fights against hope. Sometimes, we love to believe that things are too good to be true. We chalk it up to "a nice story" or a beautiful allegory that really has no meaning on our lives. When it really is giving in to despair. Every day, we teeter on the knife's edge, on one side

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 4

• 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 Wed: 6p Bible Study and Prayer

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIER

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church
 Sun. S.S 9:30a, 10:45a; Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.;
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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
 Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
 Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
 1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
 Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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 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

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 am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,
 Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

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 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

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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

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 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

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

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby
 Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
 Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
 Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

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 Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
 Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Nov.

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

Nov. 8

• Officers responded to a call of a counterfeit \$20 bill being passed at the ABC Store.

Nov. 14

• At 4:55 p.m., Garry Allen Mulkey, 67, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when pulled over on N. 4th Street.

Nov. 16

• At 9:10 p.m., officers were called about a larceny of firewood valued at \$10 from Bryson's Food Store.

• At 9:19 p.m., Dylan Matthew Davis, 26, of Franklin, was arrested for larceny. He was issued a \$2,000 unsecured bond.

Nov. 19

• At 9 a.m., officers were called about a check being cashed by someone not authorized by the account for \$8,938.52 at Highlands Decorating Center.

Nov. 20

• At 5:40 p.m., officers were called about shoplifting at The Business Spot where \$23 in merchandise was taken.

Nov. 22

• At 11 a.m., a Criminal Summons was issued to Donald Peck Leslie, 78, of Highlands, for concealment of goods and larceny.

Nov. 27

• At 9:35 p.m., officers responded to a call of domestic violence at a convenience store on Oak Street where a woman was bitten and punched in the face.

• At 11:05 p.m., Jose Manuel Sanchez Resendiz, 35, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when he was stopped on Oak Street. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Jan. 2, 2025. He was also arrested for a domestic violence county. His trial date was Dec. 19.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 26.

• At 1:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Holly Tree Lane.

Nov. 26

• At 1:18 p.m., the dept. assisted with a carryout rescue on Whiteside Mountain Trail

• At 4:44 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on Aunt Dora Drive.

• At 5:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 6:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 9:09 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

Nov. 28

• At 4:15 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD on a structure fire.

Nov. 29

• At 9:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Magnolia Drive.

• At 4:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

• At 6:09 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Walkingstick Road.

• At 2:54 p.m. the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Broadview Circle.

Nov. 30

• At 9:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a power line down on US 64 east (Cashiers Road)>

• At 6:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire at a location on Raoul Road.

• At 8:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Oak Street.

Dec. 1

• At 1:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible brush fire at a location on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 2:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on N. 4th St.

Dec. 2

• At 5:34 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on View Point Road.

• At 9:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Sequoah Drive.

• At 10:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rolling Acres Drive.



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Lamb swears in Commissioner Barry Breedan for his first term representing District 3..



Lamb swears in Commissioner Josh Young for his second term representing District 2.

New commissioners took their seat Monday night

By Kristin Karcher

The Macon County Board of Commissioners swore in one incumbent and one new member at this Monday's special meeting of the board. Macon County Clerk of Court Shawna Lamb swore in Joshua Young for his second term representing district 2 and Barry Breedan for his first term in the district 3 seat. Breedan defeated three-term incumbent Paul Higdon in the November election.

Following the swearing in ceremony, Young was unanimously elected as the next chairman of the board following a motion by Commissioner Danny Antoine seconded by current Chairman of the Board Gary Shields. After a motion by Young seconded by Antoine, Shields was then elected as vice-chairman of the board.

Prior to the vote, Commissioner John Shearl reviewed the

role and responsibilities of the chairman of the board of commissioners. He voiced his concern about the length of the commissioners' meetings, which have lasted up to six hours. He said he would like to see the chairman be completely responsible for the agenda, keeping the board informed in an effort to expedite and run the meetings more efficiently.

• UPCOMING EVENT •

HC Players present a FREE Holiday Show

The Highlands Cashiers Players are set to present their annual holiday show, a complimentary gift to the community, on December 10, at 7:30 PM at the Martin Lipscomb Theater, located within the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

This cherished tradition of offering a free holiday performance to express gratitude to patrons and supporters was revitalized last year following a hiatus.

"We have had a very successful 2024 season, and want to share our excitement and gratitude with all the patrons, volunteers and community members who have made that possible," said April Getz, president of the HCP Board of Directors.

The evening will feature an array of skits, readings, and holiday music provided by Bluejazz, a band hailing from Franklin, NC.



Bluejazz includes Dave Stewart on guitar and vocals, Scott Crowley on bass and vocals, and Delphine Kirkland as the lead vocalist.

This marks the second consecutive year that Bluejazz has contributed their musical talents to the event.

The show is produced by HCP board members Susan Kent and Michael Lanzilotta, who are the elves busy assembling a diverse

lineup of participants, including HCP actors and actresses, fellow board members, and community members who will present holiday readings and skits amidst the musical performances.

Also, as a special highlight of the night, Highlands Cashiers Players will unveil its 2025 30th Anniversary season.

Reviving a holiday show tradition, guests will be invited to stay for cookies and hot cider after the show by the Saint Lucia bride, a Scandinavian custom of hospitality.

This year, the Saint Lucia bride will be portrayed by Valerie Nadzorau, a Highlands School fifth-grader. Admission is free, and seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis, so early arrival is encouraged.

The theater is located at 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands.

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