

Highlands Newspaper

Volume 21, Number 47

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

Thurs., Nov. 21, 2024

Huff vs. Town of Highlands undecided

By Kim Lewicki
The long awaited in-person hearing of Huff vs. Town of Highlands was Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 9:30 a.m., in Macon County Superior Court, but an outcome has not been decided.

New to the bench, Superior Court Judge Tessa Sellers said she wasn't comfortable ruling at this time because being new to the position, she hadn't had a chance to fully research the case. So, she took the case under advisement.

Attorney Bo Carpenter with Allen Stahl & Kilbourne represented SAVE Highlands in the "Huff" case and Town Attorney Bob Hagemann with Poyner Spruill represented the Town of

• See HUFF page 11

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	Financial Matters	8
Weather	2	Events.....	12-13
Snapshot.....	2	MC Housing Study.....	14-15
Investing at 4,118 Ft.....	4	Spiritually Speaking	18
Obituaries	7	Police and Fire.....	19
Letters	7	Classifieds	21

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

Each year on the third Thursday in November – Nov. 21, this year – the American Cancer Society sponsors the Great American Smokeout. Betty Holt offers hope through her journey.

Smoking and then quitting

By Betty Holt
I took up the habit... or should I say addiction...of smoking when I was 15. I could blame it on the two girls who worked for my mother in the beauty shop that summer and lived with us in the house. Carolyn Sue and Rebecca were 18 and 19 and smokers. I looked up to them because they were older and I sure thought they looked cool holding those cigarettes and blowing out that smoke. Eventually I just had to try one. I blew out the smoke, but I didn't inhale. They told me I wasn't really

• See SMOKING page 9

Let's hit the ice!



The Highlands Parks and Recreation-managed Ice Skating in the Park kicks off Saturday, Nov. 23 and runs through early March, weather permitting. The hours are Thursdays, 3:30-8pm, Fridays, 3:30-10pm, Saturdays, 1-10pm, Sundays, 1-5pm. The price is \$8, with or without skates. Coffee and hot chocolate are available for purchase.

Rotary Bingo raises \$50,000 for Western NC Hurricane Relief

The Rotary Club of Highlands hosted Highlands Rotary Bingo on November 14, partnering with sponsor and host Pat Allen for 15 rousing Bingo games, culminating in Super Bingo won by Tom Guffy, who donated his winnings back to the Rotary Club to support the night's purpose.

The evening drew an enthusiastic and near capacity crowd

• See BINGO page 16

Duke to cut power

Duke Energy will be conducting a scheduled outage to make final repairs to several items from Helene. The outage will effect all town power customers. The outage will be the night of Monday, November 25th from 11pm-5am.

Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Make us your first choice and we'll make certain we are your only choice.

114 N. 4th Street | (828) 526.8300 • 1371 Cullasaja Club Drive | (828) 526.4104

M^cCULLEY'S

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

In Highlands ...on the hill
242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407
Open 7 days a week

www.mcculleys.com

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Tonight's Town Board and Workshop itineraries

The town workshop and town board meetings will be held on Thursday, November 21, at the community building next to the ball field. The workshop session begins at 6 pm, and the monthly board meeting at 7 pm. Both meetings can be accessed remotely by using the link on the town website.

The workshop session will start the process of reviewing proposed new town website designs and systems. At the last board meeting, the Town Manager was directed to identify new options for redesigning the town website. Several website providers will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

At the 7 pm board meeting, John Bryant of River Sand, Inc. will update the board on phase one of the Mirror Lake dredging project. The Mirror Lake Improvement Association is funding this first phase. John will review with the Town Board the dredging plan and scope. All testing, permitting, and easements have been secured for phase one. River Sand is now staging equipment and developing sites for the dredging to begin in the com-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

ing days or weeks.

A video on the dredging is on my website, AskmayorPat.com. I also posted on the site a video on the repair and rebuilding of the damaged section of NC 106. The video shows an aerial view of the road washout, and the challenging grades involved in securing the culvert and drain pipe system. Matthew Eberz of Heritage Productions did an outstanding job creating this informative video about this project that impacts all

Highlanders.

There are a couple of preliminary and final subdivision plats on tonight's agenda. Both plats are of small subdivisions. Also, Parkside Partners will be requesting a B-1 Conditional Zoning for the property on the corner of Maple and Oak Streets, which is across from the EMT building. The request calls for a number of townhomes to be built on the site.

The agenda also has several water treatment-related items and the Highlands Chamber of Commerce building lease. Once again, I am optimistic that issues related to the lease can be resolved and that a new lease without monthly payments can be set in place.

Last week was the rollout of the Macon County Housing Study that included sections on Franklin, Highlands and the Flats areas. Flats is another name for the Scaly Mountain area. The Dogwood Health Trust funded the 385-page comprehensive study. We will create a link on the town website for those who would like to access the information in the study.

Patrick Bowen, the study's chief author, presented some of the study's highlights this past week at a community meeting coordinated by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bowen emphasized that addressing the housing shortage in Macon County will take a comprehensive partnership of government entities, private developers and community groups. The construction of 600 to 700 housing units in the county will be required just to catch up to the demand shortfall. Securing funds and commitments to address the housing shortage will be the challenge. A lot of effort and hard work lies ahead in meeting this critical need.

• SNAPSHOTS •







Photo by Kim Lewicki

A sip of spring ... in November

Do you have a heartfelt, 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, 21-Nov	Fri, 22-Nov	Sat, 23-Nov	Sun, 24-Nov
 40°F 29°F	 37°F 32°F	 49°F 33°F	 59°F 37°F
Very windy; much colder	A morning flurry; windy	Partial sunshine	Mostly sunny and not as cool
RealFeel® High: 29° Low: 14°	RealFeel® High: 26° Low: 14°	RealFeel® High: 51° Low: 30°	RealFeel® High: 62° Low: 31°

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

Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Kristin Fox

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

Letter Policy:

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

HIGHLANDER ROOFING SERVICES INC.

New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773
info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com

We Locals

Specials Through March



BOOK TODAY | CALL 866.526.8008

AT HALF-MILE FARM & OLD EDWARDS INN | JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2025



Half-Mile Farm

Stay at Half-Mile Farm from \$165 per night through March.



Acorns

25% off entire purchase, some exclusions apply.



Madison's Restaurant

Enjoy a complimentary glass of Champagne when reserving a dinner table at Madison's Restaurant.



Fitness Center

Attend any of our fitness or yoga classes for \$25 per class.



Old Edwards Inn

Stay at Old Edwards Inn from \$195 per night through March.

Local ID is required from Clay, Graham, Haywood, Cherokee, Macon, Jackson, Swain, Transylvania, and Rabun counties from each person receiving the discount.
 *Some restrictions apply. Not to be combined with any other discounts or specials. Taxes and gratuity not included. Sundays - Thursdays.
 January through March 2025. Excludes holidays.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

Let's be thankful

The election is over! Yip-pee! That's one more thing for which to be thankful. How the results affect the housing and real estate market, nobody really knows for sure. Oh, there are plenty of educated guesses from the pundits, but the proof is in the pudding, and if the opera singer eats enough pudding, it'll be over when she sings.

I've been selling real estate for 32 years, but that's only 9 years in presidential election years. It doesn't matter who was on the ticket, we always heard the same thing, maybe not the same words, but the same sentiment, "I think I'm going to wait out the election before I pull the trigger on buying a house." In the grand scheme of things, there's not that much change at all.

Take a look at the mortgage rates in the presidential election cycle years since 1992 according to Rocket Mortgage: 1992 8.39%; 1996 7.81%; 2000 8.05%; 2004 5.84%; 2008 6.03%; 2012 3.63%; 2016 3.65%; 2020 3.11%; 2024 6.9% (not official, but I googled Nov 2024 mortgage rate, it showed about 6.9%).

The fact is, we've been here before and we'll be here again. No president has the ability to set or lower mortgage rates. Not everyone gets a mortgage, there are many cash buyers, but the two go hand-in-hand. When everything in the economy is going well, the stock market goes up and mortgage rates generally stay right by their side. When the economy is not so great, inflation rises, but the mortgage rates and stock prices go down. Where is the happy medium? Is there a happy medium? I am certainly no financial wizard, but it doesn't hurt to get advice from those who are.

One of the hot topics of the election was affordable housing, and this is something both Vice President Harris and President Trump agreed on. They both were in favor of using some of the United States Forest Service (USFS) lands to build affordable housing. The USFS owns about 193 million acres, about the size of Texas. Unfortunately, most of it is out west but there are thousands and thousands of acres in NC, GA and TN that if some of it were used, it could help. Who knows? There's always so much red tape involved that even if it were put into action in 2025, who knows how many years it would take to see the plan come to fruition.



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty
& Vacation Rentals

I remember back in the 1990s, or as I've heard some post millennials refer to as the 1900s, I mean, they aren't wrong, but I digress, there were homes available for sale that were on leased land from the USFS. I wondered then, "Who would want to buy a home that you only had 20 years to live in and enjoy the property? Think about it. If the asking price reflected that limitation, why not? There are plenty of people in their 70s and 80s who buy

homes here as a second home or to use in their retirement years, some even obtain a 30-year mortgage to get the best rate. We know from life itself, the older you are, the less years you have to spend on this earth. Why not choose to live the best life you can and be thankful for it.

In America, we tend to be a bit greedy. We almost refuse to buy local, and I don't mean within 50 miles of our homes. Americans have been buying cheap goods from overseas for generations, it's nothing new. If building supplies cost more because they're bought locally, we should be thankful that we're helping the local economy. (I'm not talking about price gouging.) Nobody wants to pay too much for something, whether it's a hamburger, a sheet of plywood or a home.

How can you compare a hamburger to a house? The hamburger has fresh meat, and the cost may be based on the current price of the meat, bread and other things used to make it special. Homes are listed based on comparable sales within the last six months to a year. Usually, you can buy an existing home for less than the price it takes to build a new structure, and other factors come into play like location, and the "it" factor of the home. You can get a real hamburger, served with fries in our town for between \$15-\$20, or you can drive down the mountain to a fast-food place and get a Whopper meal for about \$12- \$13. That's like driving 20 miles to save five cents per gallon of gas. Plenty do it, and that's OK. That's something else to be thankful for -- the ability to have a choice.

I've been concerned with the negativity of the 2024 pre- and post-election. Can't we at least be hopeful? If we can't see ourselves to be hopeful, then try to be thankful. There is always something for which to be thankful.



Highlands Sotheby's International Realty

POST AND BEAM... WORK OF ART
4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Private gate, 4.56 Acres
Lake, walking trails, pet friendly
MLS # 106188 Offered for \$2,395,000



Andrea Gabbard
c: 828.200.6742

AndreaGabbard@gmail.com



We are Open!

Fine American Handcrafts including Pottery, Jewelry, Fun Gifts and More!



PEAK EXPERIENCE

828-526-0229
2820 Dillard Road
Highlands, NC

3 miles from Main Street on the left

UNRIVALED LUXURY



#1 in the Carolinas
Since 1957



1077 Hicks Road A

Highlands, NC 28741 | \$1,250,000 | MLS #106256
Kelly Ramsay | 828.556.1252



252 Sourwood Court

Sapphire, NC 28774 | \$699,000 | MLS #106299
Christy Harris | 404.229.8737



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

Scan to see our luxury listings



A HOWARD HANNA PARTNER



Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

Rooted locally. Connected globally.

Leading

REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD®



• HIGHLANDS DINING •




American Cuisine with a Creole Twist and German Flair

Celebrating Our 30th Year
Taste the Difference, Always Fresh!

Wednesday - Sunday
Bistro Opens at 4pm | Dining Room at 5:30pm



474 Main Street | 828.526.3807
wolfgang.net



The Secret Garden

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



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

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

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



HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE

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



...on the Verandah Restaurant on Lake Sequoyah

42 Years of Fine Dining



Open
5:30-9p
7 Days a Week

828-526-2338
US 64w • Highlands
www.ontheverandah.com

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern & Highlander Mountain House



Open for LUNCH
Wednesday-Saturday
11:30-3p

Open for DINNER
Wednesday-Saturday
5:30-9p

Open for SUNDAY BRUNCH
with Blue Grass music
10a-3p

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



WILD THYME GOURMET RESTAURANT

828-526-4035

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round
Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar
Town Square at 348-D Main St. • Highlands



Open 7 Days a Week
Lunch: 11a-3:30p
Dinner: 5:30p - 9p



LAKESIDE RESTAURANT

EST. 1990

Open Tuesday - Saturday
Dinner Starts @ 5:30 PM

Outdoor Dining / Dine-In Art Gallery / lakesiderestaurant.info



531 Smallwood Ave 828-526-9419 HIGHLANDS

• DINING •

A HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOTEL

OUTPOST

COFFEE BAR NOW OPEN



Thursday through Sunday —
from 8am —



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

HIGHLANDS BURRITO



NEW
DINNER
HOURS!

Monday - Thursday, 11 am - 3 pm
Friday - Saturday, 11 am - 8 pm

226 South 4th Street • Highlands, NC
Highlandsburrito.com

Daisy's THANKSGIVING 2024

- YELLOW SQUASH CASSEROLE
- SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE
- BROCCOLI CASSEROLE
- ROASTED FALL VEGETABLES
- GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE
- HOMEMADE PIES (PECAN, PUMPKIN, BUTTERMILK)
- YUKON MASHED POTATO
- TURKEY GRAVY
- HOLIDAY DRESSING
- CORN CASSEROLE
- HOMEMADE ROLLS
- KITTY'S CRANBERRY SAUCE

LIMITED SUPPLY! SHOP EARLY! AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP AS EARLY AS NOV. 7

OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY. CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY!!!

493 DILLARD RD. 828-526-2762

• OBITUARIES •

Bessie Isabelle Zachary

Bessie Isabelle Zachary, 90, of Franklin, NC, passed away November 12, 2024. Bessie was born January 4, 1934 in Macon County, NC to the late Charlie M. Henry and Brittine Ann Webb Henry. She was married to Carl Lee Zachary, who preceded her in death. Bessie was a homemaker, she loved flowers, gardening, fishing and being outside, and she loved her daughters and grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughters, Loretta Lynn Zachary (Grover Ray McCall), Peggy Brewer, Ann Green (Gene), and Johnnie Mae Parris (Ray); nine grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by a son Lewis Henry, who died in 1968; five



sisters and four brothers.

A funeral service will be held Friday, November 15, 2024, at 2:00 pm in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, with Rev. Everett Brewer officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:00 to 2:00 pm one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow at Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Chris Brewer, Jody Zachary, Matthew Green, Dennis "Doc" Wilson, Colton Green and Michael Green. Honorary pallbearers will be Justin Brewer and Reese Brewer.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com

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

Furman Dexter Reese

Furman Dexter Reese husband of Barbara Ann Sosby Reese passed away Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, at the Richard M. Campbell Veteran's Nursing Home after suffering a long illness.

Born on Jan. 18, 1945, in Macon County, NC, Furman was the son of the late Robert L. and Myrtle Henderson Reese. He was a US Navy veteran having served during the Korean war. In 1952 he and his friends Clyde Gibson and Olin Vinson decided to join the Navy together, however, after a four-day train trip to San Diego, CA, and boot camp, they were assigned to different locations. During his service Furman received special fire fighter training and was a member for many years of the Highlands Fire Dept.

Furman was also a familiar face at the Galax Theatre for over 19 years. He took up tickets, ran the movies and sold the popcorn at intermission.

Taking after his father and brothers he was also a house painter and his favorite house he painted was the Rainwater mansion.



After moving to South Carolina in 1971 he worked for Dynacast and after retiring he also worked part-time for Winn Dixie and Ingles. He was a lifelong member of the NRA and a 52-year member of the Bethel Baptist Church.

Furman was loved by his family and his church family – he will be missed.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Barbara of the home and his sister Anne Reese Wilson of Highlands, NC and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Ray and R.L. Reese and his sisters Lucy Reese, and Faye Sewell.

A celebration of life service was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at Bethel Baptist Church. Memorials can be made in his memory to Bethel Baptist Church Learning Center, 160 Bethel Church Road, Westminster, SC 29693.

A message of condolences can be written to the family at www.sandiferfuneralhome.com

• LETTERS •

Voters turned a deaf ear and now will pay the consequences

Dear Editor:

The 2024 presidential election revealed one thing in crystal-clear, proof-positive, light-years beyond any reasonable doubt comprehensibility, that the ability and capacity of the average American voter to simply (but so importantly) distinguish between fact and fiction, the ability to grasp (and choose confidently) between truth and falsehood, the aptitude necessary to seek out and determine right from wrong, to diligently and with purpose contrast good and evil, and lastly, the ability and the practiced competence to differentiate and choose the honorable from the dishonorable -- no longer exists.

There is a reason why the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Retired General Mark Milley) called Trump "the most dangerous person in the country." There

is a reason why 741 former generals, admirals, senior NCOs and national security experts from all parts of the political spectrum signed a letter warning America and American allies of the risks to our own national security and the peril a second Trump presidency would likely unleash on other democracies world-wide.

Never in our history (certainly not in my lifetime and I go back as far as FDR and WWII) have so many men and women crossed these lines to warn the world of fierce storm clouds on the horizon. To turn a deaf ear that our allies (and democracies around the globe) are not presently severely endangered, and to not continue to shout from the rooftops this warning, would be a colossal transgression on our part.

David L. Snell
Franklin

• See LETTERS page 17

Breakfast
8-10:30a
Lunch
11a to 3p

DON LEON'S

Open Mon. - Sat. for Breakfast & Lunch

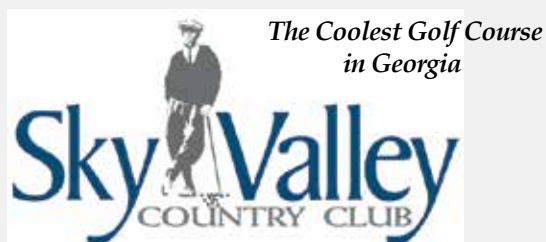
Pet Friendly Place Where Friends Meet

With the same menu, low prices, FREE coffee and an older more mellow attitude!

Come by for a visit and enjoy those Appalachian Fries and a Gyro!

Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese Steak • Shrimp Pita • Susan's Rueben
 Italian Sausage • Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings • Jambalaya • Kabobs
 Shrimp Gumbo • Soups

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



• Incredible Views

• Par 72 Championship Course

stretching 6,900 yards of Peaks and Valleys

• Open Daily • Year-Round • Public Golf

2 hrs. northeast of Atlanta • 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC

For Tee Times, Membership Information or Event Rentals,
please call 706-746-5302
www.skyvalleycountryclub.com

40% to 65% off!

SALE

30% Off
 all
 Cleaning
 & Repairs

Open for the last 39 years, Shiraz has been offering wholesale prices to the public on its entire inventory of genuinely hand-woven oriental rugs. Thousands of antique and contemporary pieces from around the world.

HAND CLEANING • RESTORATION • APPRAISALS

Mon.-Sat: 9:30a-6p • Sun: noon-5p

We Purchase Antique Rugs

(828) 526-5759

Main Street • Oak Square
Highlands, NC 28741
www.shirazruggalleries.com

Cash or Checks Accepted
OTHER SHOWROOMS:
 TAMPA • NAPLES • SARASOTA
 ORLANDO

• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

The election is over - What now?

The 2024 U.S. presidential election, resulting in Donald Trump's victory, has significant potential financial ramifications that are already being reflected in market movements and investor sentiment. Thankfully, it was a decisive win with very few accusations of any vote impropriety.

Economic Policy Shifts

Trump's proposed economic policies are expected to have far-reaching effects. His plans to extend and expand tax cuts, particularly for corporations and high-income earners, could stimulate short-term economic growth and business investment. This pro-growth agenda has led to an immediate positive reaction in stock markets, with cyclical sectors and small- to mid-cap stocks seeing notable gains.

Since it's set to "sunset" next year and was originally passed by the Trump Administration along with the GOP House and Senate, I would expect some form of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) to be made permanent.

And any new tax cuts may also increase the federal deficit, which is already at historically high levels leading to long-term economic challenges and potentially higher inflation.

Market Reactions

The immediate market response has been largely positive, with U.S. equities jumping 3-4 percentage points following the election results. This surge is attributed to both the removal of election uncertainty and expectations of a business-friendly environment. Some analysts predict the potential for double-digit returns in U.S. equities over the next six months or longer, driven by expectations of stronger economic growth and upward revisions to earnings forecasts.

Sector-Specific Impacts

Certain sectors are poised to benefit more than others under Trump's policies:

Energy: Traditional energy sectors, including oil, gas, and coal, are expected to see significant gains due to proposed deregulation and the rollback of green policies.



Michael P Henderson,
CFP® CKA®
Founder/Wealth Advisor
Crossover Point Advisors

Financial Services: Less regulation could benefit this sector.

Technology: The outlook is mixed, with potential benefits from deregulation but risks from increased tariffs and trade tensions.

Conversely, renewable energy and sustainable investing sectors may face challenges due to the proposed rescission of climate-related subsidies and regulations.

Monetary Policy Implications

The Federal Reserve's monetary policy may need to adjust in response to these economic shifts. Markets are now expecting a shallower rate-cutting cycle, with the Fed potentially lowering its policy rate to about 4% next year instead of the previously anticipated 3.5%. If economic growth accelerates and inflationary pressures increase, the Fed might even consider maintaining higher interest rates or implementing rate hikes.

International Trade and Currency Effects

Trump's stance on international trade, particularly his promise to impose new tariffs, could have significant implications for global trade dynamics and the U.S. dollar. While some policies might strengthen the dollar, Trump's vocal opposition to a strong dollar creates uncertainty. The euro has already seen some depreciation against the dollar in response to the election results.

While the immediate market reaction has been positive, the long-term financial ramifications of Trump's election remain complex and multifaceted. Investors should stay informed and consider how these potential changes might affect their individual financial strategies.

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Crossover Point Advisors, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial. Content in the material is for general information only and not intended to provide specific advisor or recommendations for any individual.

...SMOKING continued from page 1

smoking if I didn't inhale.

Of course, then I had to oblige. For the first two weeks or so after I tried to inhale, I hung over the toilet bowl, afraid I would throw up any minute. When I finally got over the nausea was when I was sincerely hooked. It was easy to carry off sneaking cigarettes while the girls were there, because the house was a virtual smokestack and my mother thought it all came from them. If she walked into the room, I just dropped the cigarette into the ashtray, and she never knew it was mine.

When I returned to 10th grade that Fall, I hung out with the high school girls who smoked in the bathroom, who would all crowd in to one stall and pass a cigarette around, just like it was pot, but we didn't know about pot yet. Once the home economics teacher said I smelled like smoke. I lied and told her it was because people smoked in the bathroom. After Mother went in to work in the morning, I would have one back in my bathroom and blow the smoke out the window. She became suspicious of that window always being open and nailed it shut. She thought I was slipping out at night!

The moment of truth came when I decided to go away to a boarding school my junior year in high school. Students had to have parental permission to smoke. I had to break it to my mother that I had been smoking and maybe if she gave me permission I would quit...or at least not get kicked out of school and cause her to lose all that money....so she relented. She was 48 at the time and had quit smoking the year she turned 40. My smoking gave her permission to begin again, so she started back smoking, too.

I had plenty of company at Brenau Academy. Nearly all the girls smoked there, because it was the cool thing to do in the 60's. I tried every brand of cigarette there was and ended up with the brand my roommate, Helen McFarlin, smoked — Marlboro menthols. Oh, we were so hip, billowing that smoke out like professionals. I remember one whole study hall Helen spent teaching me how to blow smoke rings. Now I was extremely cool and could show off my new talent. Not to mention the accoutrements that went along with the cigarettes — monogrammed alligator cases, monogrammed Zippo lighters to match. It was all part of the spell. Oh, and when we drank, we looked even more cool, downing a beer and then puffing on that weed. We were just so grown up, we thought. What's more adult than adult vices, right?

My habit continued when I went to college. So many people smoked then that we could even smoke in most of our classes. I remember putting cigarettes out on the floor of the education building, Peabody Hall. My college boyfriend didn't smoke, and he was always on to me about it, but I could easily ignore it because I was still in the majority.

At my first job at Southern High School, we had a teacher's lounge where it was legal to smoke, so most of us did. Four years later, when I moved back to my hometown, I still continued -- despite my mother's many promises of money -- if I would just quit.

Little by little people started pulling back from



Betty Holt

smoking, and some even quit. Some establishments no longer allowed smoking inside, and some friends would not let you smoke in their houses. There were more health articles about how bad smoking was for you. I was still young and invincible then, though, and thought none of that applied to me. Besides, it kept my weight down and seemed to calm me down when I got upset. Later I learned it was actually a stimulant and it was probably the deep breathing that calmed me down rather than the nicotine.

The more people tried to talk me out of it, the more belligerent I became. I was absolutely sure they weren't perfect, either!

Why give me a hard time about it?

When I was 33 my mother passed away from metastasized breast cancer. By the end the cancer was everywhere, including her lungs. She would say, "I don't know how you can watch them draw the fluid out of my lungs and go downstairs and have a cigarette." I would say, "That's the only way I can survive watching you go through this."

I studied a lot about cancer after my mother died. I identified with her cancer so strongly that I expected to come down with it any moment. I began to understand that cancer was a systemic disease and it just picked the weakest spot in your body to find a home. I finally knew I was not helping myself by continuing to do this. I began to have friends who stopped smoking. A couple of them used a program called Smokenders to do the job. Unfortunately, there was no Smokenders class in my small town, and the nearest place was probably Atlanta, a 2 1/2 hour drive.

I turned 40. When I went for my annual physical and had a chest x-ray, the doctor told me that the atrium of my heart was slightly enlarged and it was probably due to smoke backing up in my lungs.

Dr. Baumrucker looked at me seriously. "So, Betty, if you need some physical evidence that smoking is harming you, here it is."

I gulped. "OK, I'll think about that," I said. And I did. In the meantime, I had a vivid dream where people I used to know sat up in their coffins and told me I needed to stop smoking.

I began to think about Smokenders again and found a number for them in a Recovery book at the bookstore. I called the number and found out I didn't have to drive to Atlanta—I could get the program on tape. Next, I needed to find some people to do it with me so I would have a built-in support system. I began calling people I knew that smoked and asked if they wanted to quit. Pretty soon I had four other people who said they were ready.

To really complete with smoking and give it the long goodbye I decided to smoke every type of cigarette I had ever smoked. I said so long to Marlboros and Winstons and Marlboro Menthols and Vantage, then continued on with my Vantage Ultra Lights. I wrote letters in my journal to my cigarettes. I got prepared.

In March of 1991, our group of five people got together to listen to our first tape. One person had a family emergency and couldn't continue. The four of us continued with the program, which lasted eight weeks and we were to quit on the fifth week. We could still smoke for the next few weeks, but smoking began to change, and it wasn't

quite as easy or fun as it used to be.

For instance, the first week we had to change brands, to any other brand we thought we might like. We gave up smoking paraphernalia, like lighters and cigarette cases, and could only use matches. We had to write down each cigarette we smoked on a little chart we stuck down in the pack. We had to wait 15 minutes after we ate before we smoked. In the meantime, we brushed our teeth, flossed our teeth and used mouthwash. We were beginning to disconnect the connectors we had to smoking.

Each week there were more restrictions. No smoking while on the telephone, or ironing, or cooking, or driving the car. No cigarettes with coffee or alcohol. Pretty soon we had to wait an hour after meals, an hour after we got up, an hour before we went to bed to smoke. Finally, we were down to a very low tar and nicotine cigarette.

On the final night we could smoke until midnight. I threw that final cigarette in the fireplace, along with the rest of the cigs in the pack and watched them burn down. The Smokenders people likened it to seeing a brick wall

• See **SMOKING** page 19

Don't Let Your Drinking Spoil the Holidays

AA is here to help 24/7

CALL 828.349.4357
For Help and Information

Nancy's & The Exchange Fancys for Men

Don't be a TURKEY
The early bird gets the deals
HUGE Pre-Turkey Day SALES
Starting NOW!

828-526-5029
2060 Dillard Rd, Highlands
2 miles south of Main, Highlands

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

This November, in the wake of Hurricane Helene, I am profoundly grateful for our Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center teams, and our caring community

Each November, I consistently focus on gratitude, but this year is far different, as we grapple with the devastation of Hurricane Helene. We are especially grateful for all we have, yet we must be sensitive to those who have lost so much — loved ones, homes, possessions, a sense of security.

As I reflect on what I particularly have to be grateful for, first and foremost is the team here at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and the Eckerd Living Center (ELC). Even in the wake of this natural disaster, they never stopped doing what they always do — caring for patients in countless ways — providing expert, responsive treatment, offering heartfelt compassion and comfort, remaining steadfast and strong no matter what was going on, working together at the highest level of efficiency, and so much more.

I am also touched by how our community has come together to support each other, from volunteering wherever they are needed to simply checking in on neighbors in need. The spirit of community is tested at times like these, and it is heartening that ours passes with flying colors. I especially want to recognize a few people in the community.

Thank you to Carmen Waite, the Boys and Girls Club of Highlands, and the volunteers who opened their doors to children of hospital employees when schools were closed. Thank you to the Town of Highlands, Macon County, and Jackson County who came to support when we had a need. Specifically, a big thank you to Chief Holland and Macon County Emergency Manager Warren Cabe, who arranged an escort for a semi carrying food to travel the gorge road when all the roads were nearly impassable. Thank you to all who brought gasoline in five-gallon cans so dedicated employees could leave the hospital to check on their homes and family without fear of being stranded. Also, thank you to our Board of Trustees who provided support and direction.

I also want to express my appreciation to our medical staff, who enabled us to stay open and serve patients during Hurricane Helene. Many of them sheltered in the hospital with our colleagues when travel was not possible. Additionally, in the immedi-



Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital

ate aftermath of the storm, our committed providers, Dr. Patti Wheeler, Dr. Kate Shattenkirk, and PA Allison Litchfield, worked to make care as consistent as possible by opening a walk-in clinic.

HCA Healthcare offered critical help to all Mission Health hospitals through its Enterprise Emergency Operations Center (EEOC). This is a team of almost 200 multi-disciplinary leaders, who are deployed to work beside the health system's leadership and support our hospitals with whatever they need. Vital staff from HCA Healthcare's Helping Hands brought nurses, doctors, and other clinical professionals to help.

As I have shared, there is not a stronger hospital company in the country. If there was ever a time we needed it, we did when we faced the destruction of Hurricane Helene. They provided whatever resource was needed to keep our hospitals open and support our colleagues and communities. HCA Healthcare sent helicopters loaded with food and water, fuel trucks, minimarts full of food and supplies for our colleagues, tree service to allow employees to get to their homes, and financial support from the HCA Healthcare Hope Fund to support impacted colleagues. HCA Healthcare has also donated \$1 million to relief efforts in Western North Carolina.

As always, I remain grateful to be able to rely on Mission Hospital. Facing incredible adversity as Asheville lost city water and power, Mission Hospital kept their doors open to Western North Carolina. The strength of HCA Healthcare came to

bear, bringing an armada of water tankers, allowing Mission Hospital to stay fully operational. Amazingly, we watched as emergency surgery continued for cardiac, trauma, cancer, stroke, and other critical procedures, even as we recovered from the storm.

I am thankful for the incredible growth we are enjoying, and for our stellar staff, who deserve accolades for the compassionate care they offer daily. They have brought us to the top of our company as providers of the highest quality care and an unmatched patient experience. Collaboration is key, and our teams' close alignment helps us to succeed and soar.

We are also fortunate to have the investment from HCA Healthcare, which includes educational opportunities for caregivers through the Galen School of Nursing in Asheville, the Certified Nursing Assistance (CNA) training program we offer, an impactful partnership with Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), and essential support as we expand our primary care and surgical services on the Plateau. HCH has also received the best in medical technology, thanks to HCA Healthcare, which includes sophisticated imaging technology like our new CT and MRI machines, and 3D mammography technology.

My career has spanned nearly four decades, and I must say that I have not had the privilege of working with a team as dedicated, caring, and connected as this. I hope everyone in our community, no matter what they have experienced because of Helene, can find a moment to give thanks and experience some joy this Thanksgiving. As we reflect on the blessings of 2024, I have to pause to pray for those who lost so much. I also feel strongly that there are blessings. I know that our team is closer and stronger. I also feel that our community, not only on the Plateau but across the region, has bonded as we faced and will overcome the tragedy caused by Hurricane Helene.

I close with a sincere thank you to our community and all who serve at HCH and ELC.



HAGAN BINDER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Maximize the full potential of your property!

466 Dillard Rd | Highlands NC
haganbinder.com

Read
Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web.
Go to www.highlandsinfo.com.
Click on Local News.
Delivered and uploaded every Thurs. AM

COREY JAMES GALLERY
& Estate Consignments

Bronze sculpture • Paintings
Vintage & Antique Collectables & Furniture • Costume Jewelry



(828) 526-4818

On the corner of 3rd & Spring

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: John Rymer, Hamp Stevens, and President Randy Foster.

Rotary hears about mathematical art

The Rotary Club of Highlands was proud to welcome Hampton Stevens as our guest speaker this week. Hamp as he is known to his friends, is from the little town in South Georgia of Ellaville and graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Business Administration. Hamp has been involved and owned many businesses ranging from turf grass production to bridge building to being a lead investor in a biotech company involved in the production of monoclonal antibodies. So, it should not be a surprise to anyone that his hobby is Mathematical Art!

For 30 years, Hamp honed his wood-working skills and knowledge of engineering to be able to create some very interesting pieces, some wood, some paper, some metal, all described as “Polyhedral Shapes” and he brought many pieces to show the club. It is the art of combining different shapes from cubes to rectangles to octagons, and many more to create objects of art.

The mathematics and skills required to create these pieces is impressive. Google HampStevens.com and be amazed for yourself.

...HUFF continued from page 1

Highlands.

The town’s stance at the hearing was that the lawsuit should be null and void due to a technicality by previous representation. But SAVE Highlands maintains that the action to ban STRs was illegal in the first place, and they are requesting a summary judgement.

“We are confident that the judge will see through the town attorney’s argument that plaintiffs were not affected by their illegal action to try to ban short-term rentals and that we will be awarded attorney’s fees that we so deserve,” said Jennifer Huff.

If Judge Sellers rules in favor of Huff vs. Town of Highlands, there will be another hearing to determine the amount awarded. “Huff” was initially asking for \$70,000 in legal fees.

SAVE Highlands – a group of residents and business owners whose livelihood centers around short-term rentals – sued the town after its ruling in Aug. 2021 that STRs would no longer be allowed in Highlands in any residential district effective January 3, 2022.

They say they are fighting to secure the rights of all residential short-term rental owners, those in the R1, R2 and R3 districts.

With the Blowing Rock and Wilmington cases ruling in favor of STRs and pending state legislation on the issue in the works, the town and SAVE Highlands agreed to “stay” the case and the ordinance while awaiting legislation.

Still, in Sept. 2022, the town ruled to grandfather existing STRs in the R1 and R2

• See HUFF page 17



Ice Skating in the Park

Opens Saturday, November 23

Winter Hours

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

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park | \$8, with or without skates.

Light up the Park & Main

Saturday, November 30 | 6-8pm
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

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

• HIGHLANDS 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.

MOVIES

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

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 Tuesdays through Dec.

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

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

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 different 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).

Sat., Nov 23-March

• The Highlands Parks and Recreation-managed Ice Skating in the Park kicks off Thursday and runs through early March, weather permitting. The hours are Thursdays, 3:30-8pm, Fridays, 3:30-10pm, Saturdays, 1-10pm, Sundays, 1-5pm. The price is only \$8,

MOVIES

at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



Fri., Nov. 22 - 2 & 5:30p

Sun., Nov. 24 - 5:30p

Tues., Nov. 26 - 2 & 5:30p

Tickets:

Adults: \$13.20 • Children: \$11

boxoffice@

highlandsp Performingarts.com

828-526-9047

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

with or without skates. Coffee and hot chocolate are available for purchase.

Sat., Nov. 23

- At The Bascom, Holiday Market Reception 2-4p. Free.

- At PAC, Darren Nicholson Band with special guest Kristin Scott Benson at 7:30p. For tickets, (828) 526-9047.

Tues., Nov. 26

- Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center/ Rec Park at 6 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., Nov 29-30

- Festival of Trees at Summit Charter School 10a to 5p. Tickets are \$5 for adults and free for children 18 and under. Available online, at the door, or at the Cashiers Chamber of Commerce, Cashiers Valley Pharmacy, and Cashiers Farmers Market. Each ticket includes a coupon to the Jersey Mike's Subs locations in Brevard and Sylva.

Fri., Nov. 29

- At The Bascom, Gingerbread House Workshop. Register at The-Bascom.org.

- At PAC, Mark O'Connor's An Appalachian Christmas Featuring Maggie O'Connor at 7:30p. For tickets, (828) 526-9047.

Sat., Nov. 30

- Light Up the Park – 6-8pm in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. Live music and carols led by the Foxfire Boys, a display of children's artwork and a reading of the Christmas story. Then, Santa arrives atop a firetruck to usher in the lighting of the park and Main Street. Ice skating and photo-op fun.

Dec. 6-22

- At PAC, Mountain Theater Company's "Home for the Holidays" an ALL-NEW, 90-minute holiday extravaganza that will captivate your heart and leave you sparkling with joy. "Home for the Holidays: Sounds of the Season" 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. Join us for an unforgettable performance of

holiday cheer, perfect for loved ones of all ages.

Fri., Dec. 6

- Join the Cashiers Historical Society for Holidays at the Historical Society on Friday 4 to 7 pm, and experience a magical evening that captures the warmth and wonder of the season. 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. In addition to the tour, enjoy live holiday music, Christmas crafts, seasonal treats, and a cozy fireside gathering, where visitors of all ages can make s'mores and raise a cup of holiday cheer. Tickets are available on the Cashiers Historical Society website: \$30 for adults,

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 – Sat.

Nov 23, 1-10pm in Kelsey-Hutchinson

Founders Park

The Highlands Parks and Recreation-managed Ice Skating in the Park kicks off Saturday, Nov. 23 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.

Light Up the Park –

Sat., Nov. 30, 6-8pm in Kelsey-Hutchinson

Founders Park

Anticipation will fill the mountain air as the community gathers in the park to enjoy treats and a program that includes live music and carols led by the Foxfire Boys, a display of children's artwork and a reading of the Christmas story. Then, Santa arrives atop a firetruck to usher in the lighting of the park and Main Street. Watch the park come alive with thousands of holiday lights that will remain throughout the season, along with ice skating and photo-op fun.

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



HOLIDAYS IN HIGHLANDS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE / VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC

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 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 longstanding 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 – Weds., Dec. 25, 5:30pm, Kelsey-Hutchinson 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.visithighlandsn.com.

\$10 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 5. Deck the halls and experience the timeless magic of an Appalachian Christmas at the Cashiers Historical Society.

Sat., Dec. 7-24

- Santa in the K-H Founders Park for pictures.

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 on Saturday, after the Highlands Christmas Parade. Rick Trevathan will be the song leader with Michael Crowe at the piano. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas Carols, you will definitely want to make this a part of your Christmas tradition. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Fifth Street and on Church Street.

Sat., Dec. 14

- 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

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

- 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

Note:

Due to a production error, last week's story "MC Housing Needs Assessment makes its debut" is being run in its entirety again this week. It was correct in the on-line version but the printed version was incomplete. We apologize for the error.

MC Housing Needs Assessment makes its debut

By Kristin Fox

It's been almost a year in the making. First the county heard it, then Highlands heard it and now it's up to someone to take the reins and run with it.

Last week, the county and the town, consecutively, were presented the Housing Needs Assessment for Macon County, a comprehensive study by Bowen National Research funded by Dogwood Health Trust and hosted by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

With over 25 years of experience in housing assessments and real estate feasibility studies, Bowen brings a wealth of expertise to the discussion. He has worked extensively with city, county, and state agencies on housing developments across the United States, advising on both affordable and market-rate housing for rental and for-sale properties. Bowen also serves as Chairman of the National Council of Housing Market Analysts.

The purpose of the Macon County Housing Needs Assessment presentation was to: Provide an overview of the county's demographic and employment characteristics; Examine the housing market, with detailed data on rental and ownership options; Highlight potential housing priorities and strategies that local officials, stakeholders, and advocates can explore to meet current and future needs.

The presentation provided insights into the evolving housing needs within Macon County, with a detailed focus on Highlands and The Flats.

The study illuminated through painstaking research and statistics what everyone already knows ... there isn't enough affordable housing for workers – whether through ownership or by renting – to properly sustain the county's economy.

Tourism continues to be a driving force of the economic development of Macon County. A strong workforce is vital to the continued growth and success of the an economy heavily dependent on tourism.

According to Bowen, very few tourism-

related occupations pay sufficient wages to enable the workers to reasonably afford to rent or buy a home in Macon County or Highlands. This places financial challenges on the local tourism-based employers due to employment turnover and their ability to attract workers.

Macon County saw the greatest increase in visitor spending compared to surrounding counties in 2023. Visitors spending in Macon County totaled \$350 million, increasing by 3.8 % from the prior year. Food and lodging comprise the county's largest share of expenditures.

An estimated 1,706 persons are employed within the tourism-oriented occupations in the county representing over 14% of the persons employed overall, which exemplifies the influence this workforce sector has in the county.

Nearly 4,000 individuals from surrounding areas – 36% of the workforce -- commute into Macon County for employment. Close to half (47.9 %) of in-commuters are between ages 30 to 54 and 39.4% earn over \$40,000 annually.

Were housing available, these workers would be potential new residents/households for Macon County.

The presentation addressed demographic trends, housing needs and strategic recommendations.

The report states that Macon County has experienced positive household growth since 2010 and is projected to continue within each study area (Macon County, Franklin, Franklin ETJ and Highlands/Flats) between 2023 and 2028.

Macon County is projected to experience an overall household growth rate of 3.2% with the addition of 548 households. The Highlands/Flats areas are projected to add 0.9% with the addition of 16 households. This growth rate is similar to the projected 3.5% growth rate for the state during this same time.

Macon County projections through 2018 indicate the greatest growth of household heads by age will occur among seniors ages 75 and older. Other notable growth will also occur among households between the ages of 35

and 44 and ages 65 to 74. These trends will drive demand for family- and senior-oriented housing products.

The assessment found that approximately 57.5% of county renter households earn less than \$40,000 annually, while most of the renter household growth within the county will be among those earning \$60,000 to 99,000. Over 50% of renter households will continue to earn less than \$40,000 annually through 2028.

Obviously, housing affordability is a significant challenge for a large number of area households. Approximately 322 Macon County households live in substandard housing with 227 overcrowded housing units and 95 housing units with either incomplete plumbing or kitchens. Nearly 1,900 households in Macon County live in severe cost-burdened housing, paying over 50 percent of their income toward housing, with 891 renters and 990 owner households experiencing this financial burden.

The presentation offered an in-depth look at Macon County's current demographic and economic landscape, housing trends, and future projections. In addition to evaluating current housing conditions, the report provided valuable insights on employment trends, housing gaps by income segment, and community input gathered from area stakeholders, employers, and residents.

Avenues to solve or alleviate the workforce housing crisis differ for Highlands and areas in the county.

Within the Highlands corporate limits, it would mean considering loosening zoning regulations – changing minimum acreage lot sizes in the R1 and R2 zones to something less, allowing multi-family units in more than the R3 and business districts, etc.

Allowing developers outside the town limits to hook on to town water and sewer might entice workforce housing development, is another idea, but such requests have been shot down in the past.

Outside the town limits in the county, anything is possible.

Bowen listed several housing strategies

that could be used as a guide by town and county governments, stakeholders, developers and residents to help them make informed housing decisions.

Set Realistic/Attainable Short-Term Housing Goals, Outline Long-Term Objectives and Monitor Progress

Using the housing needs estimates and recommendations provided in this report as a guide, the county could set realistic short-term (two to three years) housing development goals along with long-term (five years or longer) objectives to support housing. Short-term goals could focus on establishing an Action Plan that outlines priorities, such as broad housing policies, initiatives, and incentives that support the preservation and development of residential units. The recommendations included in this section could serve as a guide for developing an Action Plan. Long-term objectives could include establishing a goal for the number of housing units that could be built or repaired and broadly outline the types of housing that could be considered, such as rentals and for-sale housing, as well as geographical locations (e.g., within areas near established community services, selected neighborhoods, etc.). The goals could also broadly outline affordability (e.g., income levels) objectives and market segments (e.g., families, seniors, etc.) that could be served. From such goals, the county could periodically collect key metrics (e.g., vacancy rates, changes in rents/prices, reassess cost burdened and substandard housing, evaluate housing cost increases relative to income/wage growth, etc.) so that they can monitor progress and adjust efforts to support stated goals.

Consider Implementing/Modifying Policies to Encourage or Support the Development of New Housing and the Preservation of Existing Housing

One of the key findings from this report is that there is limited availability among the existing housing stock in the county and limited residential development currently in the development pipeline. The lack of available housing likely limits demographic growth within the county, as many residents seeking new housing, as well as persons/households looking to relocate to the area, have very few options from which to choose, particularly among area rentals. Local government could consider supporting housing policies such as expanding residential density to allow for more units, modifying unit size requirements (allowing for smaller units), supporting or leveraging developer incentives (e.g., Qualified Opportunity Zones, TIF districts, tax abate-

	Total Population									
	2010 Census	2020 Census	Change 2010-2020		2023 Estimated	Change 2020-2023		2028 Projected	Change 2023-2028	
			Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Franklin ETJ	5,611	6,134	523	9.3%	6,210	76	1.2%	6,332	122	2.0%
High lands/Flats	3,216	3,788	572	17.8%	3,896	108	2.9%	3,919	23	0.6%
Balance of County	25,105	27,104	1,999	8.0%	28,143	1,039	3.8%	29,060	917	3.3%
Macon County	33,922	37,014	3,092	9.1%	38,235	1,221	3.3%	39,297	1,062	2.8%
North Carolina	9,535,419	10,439,314	903,895	9.5%	10,765,602	326,288	3.1%	11,052,082	286,480	2.7%

Source: 2010, 2020 Census; ESRI; Urban Decision Group; Bowen National Research

ments, etc.), waiving/deferring/ lowering government fees, and exploring other measures specifically targeted to the types of housing (e.g., affordable, senior, etc.) that lead to meeting housing goals. In an effort to support more affordable housing alternatives, the county should consider supporting projects being developed with affordable housing development programs (e.g., Tax Credit and HUD programs), providing pre-development financial assistance, supporting a Housing Trust Fund, exploring the establishment of a land bank to acquire, improve and convey tax delinquent and neglected properties, and providing low-interest or forgivable loans and grants to lower income households that can be used to cover costs directly associated with the repairs and maintenance of the existing housing stock. Overall, focus should be placed on programs that support low-income households (seniors and families), workforce households (seasonal and year-round), and first-time homebuyers. Programs such as those offered by/ through the Macon County Housing Department are included and/ or could be expanded upon in future housing assistance programs/ initiatives within the county. Additional housing is needed to have a healthy housing market, which will ultimately contribute to the local economy, quality of life and overall prosperity of Macon County.

Explore Efforts to Encourage the Development of Senior-Oriented Housing to Enable Seniors to Transition into More Maintenance-Free Housing

Macon County has a large and growing base of seniors. There are no non-subsidized age-restricted rental properties in the county as the one senior property in the market operates under the HUD Section 8 and 202 programs. As a result, seniors in the county who

wish to downsize into smaller, more maintenance-free independent rental housing will have difficulty finding housing that meets their needs, allowing them to age in place. It is recommended that the development of senior-oriented housing be supported, with possible incentives to encourage such development. This pertains to traditional senior rental product (e.g., independent living) as lower occupancy rates among senior care facilities, particularly nursing care, demonstrate limited demand for such product in the county at this time.

Formulate Education and Outreach Campaign to Help Support Housing Initiatives

Based on stakeholder responses, community collaboration and educating the public on the importance of and need for housing should be areas of focus in Macon County. Using both existing and newly created housing education initiatives, local stakeholders could develop an overarching education program with a more unified objective that ultimately supports local housing efforts. The program could, for example, include educating landlords on the Housing Choice Voucher program, informing potential homebuyers about homebuying requirements and assistance (credit repair, down payments, etc.), and advising existing homeowners on home repair assistance. Additional outreach efforts should involve both informing and engaging area residents, elected officials, area employers and other stakeholders on the benefits of developing affordable housing for the workforce and seniors. Such efforts could help to mitigate stigmas associated with affordable housing, illustrate the benefits such housing has on the local economy, and help to get the community to “buy in” on housing initiatives. Annual or other periodic housing forums, or workshops, preparing annual reports or marketing

PSA (Macon County) Housing Gap Estimates (2023 to 2028) - Number of Units Needed		
Housing Segment		Number of Units*
Rentals	Extremely/Very Low-Income Rental Housing (< \$916/Month Rent)	174
	Low-Income Rental Housing (\$917-\$1,466/Month Rent)	209
	Moderate-Income Rental Housing (\$1,467-\$2,169/Month Rent)	181
	Higher-Income Rental Housing (\$2,170+/Month Rent)	65
	Total Units	629
For-Sale	Entry-Level For-Sale Homes (< \$122,167)	65
	Lower-Income For-Sale Homes (\$122,168-\$195,467)	160
	Moderate-Income For-Sale Homes (\$195,468-\$289,200)	670
	Higher-Income For-Sale Homes (\$289,201+)	596
	Total Units	1,491

*Number of units assumes product is marketable, affordable and in a marketable location. Variations of product types will impact the actual number of units that can be supported. Additionally, incentives and/or government policy changes could encourage support for additional units that exceed the preceding projections.

material could be used to help communicate housing advocate messaging.

Explore and Encourage Development Partnerships

Government entities within the county may want to establish formal relationships with other entities to support housing development efforts. This may include relationships with nonprofit groups (e.g., Community Action Agency, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) local businesses and private sector developers. The involvement of the Macon County Housing Department and/or the council of government serving Macon County (Southwestern North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission) could also contribute to future housing development opportunities within the county. The consolidation of the public and private sectors for certain housing initiatives can lead to improved efficiencies, larger financial capacities, and more cohesive residential development efforts. For example, this could include a large employer providing financial benefits (e.g., down payment assistance) to its qualified employees (possibly those earning below a certain income level) to reside at a residential development in which

the county is providing tax abatements or other incentives for the developer/property owner. There are numerous examples around the country of public-private sector partnerships that could be explored further for potential replication in Macon County.

Market Macon County’s Housing Needs and Opportunities to Potential Residential Development Partners and Develop a Centralized Housing Resource Center

Using a variety of sources, the county should attempt to identify and market itself to the residential developers (both for-profit and non-profit), real estate investors, housing advocacy groups and others active in the region. Identification could be through trade associations, published lists of developers, real estate agents or brokers, and other real estate entities in the region. Marketing of the county through trade publications, direct solicitation or public venues (e.g., housing and economic conferences) should be considered. The development of an online residential resource center (website) should be considered that includes or directs people to development and housing resources such as: Potential Residential Sites, Local Housing Assistance Programs, Building & Zoning Regulations, Local Housing Supply Data, Development Incentives, Government & Advocate Contacts, Demographic & Economic Data, Infrastructure & Public Works Information.

Consider Implementing a Marketing Plan and Developing Housing that Will Attract Some of the Nearly 4,000 Commuters

that Travel into the County to Become Permanent Residents

Nearly 4,000 people commute to Macon County for employment, with more than 1,500 of these commuters traveling more than 50 miles each way. These commuters represent a large base of potential household growth for Macon County should housing that meets their needs become available within the area. It is recommended that local housing advocates consider developing a marketing plan to encourage people commuting into Macon County to move to the county. This could include working collaboratively with the local chamber of commerce, area employers and developers to identify and promote key assets of the community and housing opportunities that exist in the market (assuming more housing is added to the market in the near future). The marketing plan should include a realistic timeline, strategies to be implemented, responsible parties, and ultimate goals and outcomes of the marketing efforts.

The information presented to both the county and town was accepted as as “food for thought” for now.

Highlands Chamber of Commerce President Kaye McHan said they are working on additional plans to make workforce housing and perhaps some of the suggestions a reality – at least in the Highlands and Flats areas.

“We will do follow-up presentations with those ideas,” she said. “We are hoping to get the Town Board and the Planning Board involved.”

Available For-Sale Housing by Price (As of As of March 8, 2024)

List Price	Franklin ETJ		Highland: Flats		Balance of County		Macon County	
	Number Available	Percent of Supply	Number Available	Percent of Supply	Number Available	Percent of Supply	Number Available	Percent of Supply
Up to \$99,999	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.2%	2	1.1%
\$100,000 to \$199,999	3	23.1%	1	1.3%	11	12.4%	15	8.4%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	5	38.5%	0	0.0%	14	15.7%	19	10.6%
\$300,000 to	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	23	25.8%	23	12.8%
\$399,999 \$400,000+	5	38.5%	76	98.7%	39	43.8%	120	67.0%
Total	13	100.0%	77	100.0%	89	100.0%	179	100.0%
Availability Rate	0.7%		6.0%		0.9%		1.4%	

Source: Redfin.com & Bowen National Research

•HS SPORTS NEWS•



CREATIVE CONCEPTS SALON

Hair • Nails • Waxing
• Tanning
• Facials

Walk-ins Welcome!
Open at 9a Tues.-Sat.
828-526-3939

Owner/Stylist:

Lacy Jane Villardo

Stylists:

Heather Escandon

Maggie Barden

Desiray Schmitt

Lauren Buckely

Nail Tech:

Jenna Schmitt

Upstairs and Across the
Walkway at Falls on Main, Highlands

Read Highlands Newspaper for free
from everywhere ...
on the street or on the web.
Go to www.highlandsinfo.com.
Click on Local News.



All Conference winners announced

The following boys made All-Conference during the 2024 Fall soccer season at Highlands School.

Finneaus Garner – All Conference;
Aniah McKim – All Conference; Chase Kenter – Honorable Mention; Isaiah Vilarido – Honorable Mention; Bryan Jarquin – Honorable Mention; Connor Hughes – Honorable Mention and Caleb Brown – Coach of the Year

...BINGO continued from page 1

at the Highlands Community Building and raised over \$50,000 to support recovery efforts in Western North Carolina following Hurricane Helene.

Event organizers themed the Bingo night “The Long Road Home,” emphasizing the need to assist hurricane victims now and



From left: Highlands Rotary Bingo Caller Tracy Franklin; Super Bingo Winner Tom Guffy; Highlands Rotary Bingo Chair Bob Baxter

in the future.

“There are so many people who lost family members, their homes, jobs, and neighbors in this dreadful hurricane,” said Pat Allen. “We are deeply grateful to every one of our sponsors who opened their hearts to help tonight.”

Raffle prizes, refreshments and decorations reflected “the long road home” that families in Western North

Carolina will experience putting their lives back together. Further donations are encouraged. Checks made out to Highlands Rotary Club Charities, Inc should be mailed to Rotary, PO Box 1741, Highlands, NC 28741.



Lead Sponsor, Host and Highlands Rotarian Pat Allen; Highlands Rotary Bingo Caller Tracy Franklin

REJUVENATE
LASER CENTER

Fall in love with your skin this November with our ThreeforMe laser treatment at 20% off!



December brings savings on all Injectables. A Holiday gift for you or someone on your Christmas list!

Call today for more information.

Highlands - 828-482-4430

Franklin - 828-349-1280

WHOLE LIFE MARKET

Natural Products Store

Hours: 9am-5pm

Mon-Sat

828-526-5999

Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS

NECTAR
Juice Bar

Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market

...LETTERS continued from page 7

A moratorium, please

Dear Editor,

I would like to suggest a moratorium on the writing of political letters to all of our local newspapers as well as the publishing of said letters. I would ask everyone to please cease and desist writing anymore about the recent election and I would ask editors to please stop publishing any more of those letters - at least for a long while - and let everyone catch their breath.

Regardless of which candidate was favored or which was feared, most of those letters have been overwhelmingly negative, ugly and frankly toxic and I think everyone needs a break and

deserves a rest. After all, there are plenty of other things to complain about, so let's shift our focus and move on.

I don't know about you, but the sheer volume and weight of all those letters has been exhausting, so I ask for a moratorium all around. To continue writing and publishing them accomplishes nothing positive or constructive. To the contrary, it just increases the heat. Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Let's start exercising and expressing our manifold gratu- tudes.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

Thank you for the heartfelt send off

Dear Editor,

I am writing this to the PAC Board and the plateau commu- nity.

An enormous thank you to the PAC Board, the incred- ible staff(Lee, Erik, Marissa, Jack and Jeanne) Jane Webb, Marjorie Deal, Cindy Trevathan, Steve and Laura Harris for my fabulous re- tirement party. And to Mark Ellis & Sean Dobruck for the out- standing refreshments. Y'all do the best parties!

And ... to all the people who made donations in my honor. I

am overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity.

Thank you to the PAC Board for the Leslie Jeffries painting. Again, I am overwhelmed.

And last but certainly not least... thank you to everyone who came to the party, for your lovely notes and best wishes. I tried to speak to everyone...I hope I did! It means a lot that you came.

Sincerely and fondly,

Mary Adair Trumbly
Retiring
PAC Executive Director

...HUFF continued from page 11

zoning districts but to ban new STRs.

Though not what they wanted, SAVE Highlands agreed, as a compromise, to go along with the new ordinance.

However, when the cry for amortization was sounded in earnest this past year, SAVE Highlands Attorney Derek Allen reminded the Town Board of the standing compromise and that the "stay" on the case would be lifted if the town moved to amortize.

Regardless, in Sept. 2024, the Town Board with a 4-1 vote

(Commissioner Jeff Weller voted against amortization), ruled to amortize STRs in all but the business districts as of Sept. 2027.

Recently, a North Carolina case won by Allen Stahl & Kilbourne in Aug. 2024, ruled that HOAs can't prohibit STRs, which adds another layer to the issue.

As of press time there an no indication of when Judge Sellers will decide the case.

Meanwhile, according to SAVE Highlands, another lawsuit is in the works regarding the legal- ity of amortizing STRs.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Donation will help complete renovations to the Boys & Girls Club space on HC Hospital campus

Mountaintop Rotary Club presented a check for \$18,745 to the Boys and Girls Club of Highlands this week to be used toward the completion of building requirements of their new location at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Highlands Mercantile on Main



WESTMAN ATELIER



Fine goods for your family and home.
Books • Chocolates • Coffee • Guy Gifts • Home • Skincare
322 Main Street, Highlands • 828-482-0818

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



Regarding this Thanksgiving

**Sr. Pastor
Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

In 1863, Sarah J. Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, wrote to President Lincoln to ask him to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. Lincoln's first proclamation invited Americans to observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to God. The proclamation also asked Americans to pray for the end of the Civil War and the restoration of peace, harmony, and union. Apparently, Lincoln knew something about the power of giving thanks, a practice that acknowledges a magnanimous God gratefully celebrates the many blessings He provides.

It is a good thing to establish an officially declared holiday where commerce ceases, so a nation can gather around a common table to feast and share grateful fellowship. Thanksgiving is a call to celebration as a day intended to affect all other days by becoming a lifestyle. Cicero, a Roman philosopher, penned these words,"

"In truth, O judges, while I wish to be adorned with every virtue, yet there is nothing which I can esteem more highly than being and appearing grateful. For this one virtue is not only the greatest but is also the parent of all the other virtues."

Dr. Brene Brown, an author and research professor at the University of Houston, provides an excellent definition of the essence of gratitude. "Gratitude is an emotion that reflects our deep appreciation for what we value, what brings meaning to our lives, and what makes us feel connected to ourselves and others."

A common cliché in culture states that we should each have an "attitude of gratitude," but attitudes lack altitude if they do not become practices. Gratitude in its fullest need not remain an auditory expression, it must also become a visible practice. Optimally, gratitude gets fleshed out. What lingers in one's heart and occasionally bubbles up into everyday life becomes shared and visible in the form of a warm embrace, physical affection, tears, a thank you note, a gift, or sitting quietly with another, together at the close of an otherwise trying day. Gratitude is the parent of all other virtues because it gives birth to joy, acceptance, mutual respect, appreciation, love, trust, and camaraderie."

Science repeatedly measures the many benefits of living a grateful life including better health, higher quality relationships and a better emotional disposition. Gratitude is an essential weapon to battling sickness, divisiveness, and emotional volatility. President Lincoln was on to something. Cicero sensed and saw something others had yet to see, the power of a grateful heart. How does one foster more earnest gratitude in life?

Inner Reflection: Allow for reflection in your life. A rushed life is not a contemplated life. We each need

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

• 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. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church
Sun. S.S 9:30a, 10:45a; Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.;
Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

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: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.
10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,
Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor, Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p
GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glensville. NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Rev. Ken Langsdorf
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.
Services: 1st Fri. and 3rd Sat.; Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge
(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am
SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri., noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist 9 & 11 am; Coffee Hour
following 11 am Service

Bazaar Barn is open Friday & Saturday 10a-2p
www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • ufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers • 828-743-2122
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Oct. 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Oct. 30

• At noon, officers were notified of someone who failed to pay for services valued at \$15,000 at High Country Wine & Provisions.

Nov. 10

• At 1:38 a.m., officers responded to a call of a simple assault at the High Dive where a woman was hit across the face with a hand.

Nov. 14

• At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 12.

Nov. 12

• At 3:18 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department.

Nov. 14

• At 4:12 p.m., the dept. responded

to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

• At 3:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

• At 7:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 11:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Owl Gap Road.

Nov. 15

• At 11:21 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the rescue on Bull Pen Road.

• At 6:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Nov. 16

• At 12:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 8:48 p.m., the dept. was called about an illegal burn at Highlands Plaza.

Nov. 18

• At 9:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buckberry Road.

Nov. 19

• At 7:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on VZ Top Road.



'Home for the Holidays' coming to PAC

Fri., Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 22, the Mountain Theater Company presents "Home for the Holidays" at PAC, an ALL-NEW, 90-minute holiday extravaganza that will captivate your heart and leave you sparkling with joy.

"Home for the Holidays: Sounds of the Season" features an all-star cast from across the nation singing festive favorites and origi-

nal holiday arrangements, plus dazzling costumes and theatrical magic that will leave the entire family in amazement. Join us for an unforgettable performance of holiday cheer, perfect for loved ones of all ages.

Running Time is approximately 110 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission. Ticket Prices are \$58 - \$70. For tickets call the box office at (828) 526-2695

...SMOKING continued from page 9

ahead and, instead of hitting it going 60 mph, slowing down to about 5 mph and hitting it. There was a little jolt, but basically, we had changed our behavior so we wouldn't miss smoking in certain situations. We had already practiced doing that.

That day, April 19, 1991, I took the day off from work and the first order of business was to hike Whiteside. I still had to stop several times before I reached the top, but that improved over time. Then I went to Helen, Georgia, to the outlets and bought a couple of new things. My co-quiters and I celebrated by going out to dinner at the Market Basket, a combination grocery store/restaurant where we cooked with hot rocks to give us something to do with our hands.

The two men in the group stayed quit for around 6 to 8 weeks. The other woman made it 6 years before she began smoking again. I have never smoked another cigarette in the 33 years since I quit. What worked in my favor was to become the group leader. I felt like I had to set a good example and that helped me quit

and stay quit.

There were lots of changes in my life. By the end of the first year, I was 16 pounds heavier, despite eating right and exercising. I had more energy and more breath to walk and hike. My complexion was more clear. For a while my sleep was disrupted and I had a real slump in the afternoon without the boost from the nicotine. My clothes smelled better, my house smelled better, and my teeth were less yellow. But mostly I felt like if I could quit smoking, I could do anything.

For years I continued to have dreams that I broke over and smoked, and each time in the dream I would think to myself, "This is not a dream this time." Then I would wake up and feel the relief would wash over me again. Quitting smoking was definitely one of the best decisions I ever made. But I had to be ready to do it, and that took a lot of time. I wouldn't have been a good client for quitting cold turkey or really any method that didn't take a while and caused me to change my behavior along the way. Because this was gradual, it didn't freak me out...and thank goodness it worked!

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

time to not only "count our blessings" we also need time to express our appreciation to those providing the blessings. You likely live in these mountains, or you frequent this area for a reason. In part, something in you wants to be still and reflect on life and center your heart in an atmosphere that showcases the One who created these beautiful surroundings. Go ahead and reflect. God is always available and keen on the idea of you and I being "still and knowing that He is God" Psalm 46:10.

Outer Expression: Quiet, if not silent reflection has its place but silent gratitude is basically useless. Verbalize your gratitude to another. Put wheels on your sentiments. Be vulnerable and share beyond your current "comfort zone" and let others know that they are an important part of your life. We should not live self-sufficient, independent lives that do not affect others. We are each called to live in community and family with vulnerability. If you do not need others, you have just assassinated the parent of all virtues. We must crave the wisdom, pres-

ence, accountability, trust, and nearness of others to truly foster a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude. No lone rangers.

The apostle Paul, before he came to an experiential understanding of Christ was anything but grateful, tender, or even correctable. As he developed a friendship with the risen Christ, he softened. The hardness of Paul's heart seemingly melted like wax when encountering the warmth of the love of Christ. A once self-sufficient and arrogant religious leader later penned these words: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thess. 5:16-18. May this Thanksgiving holiday be all it was originally intended to be. May you and I reflect with just a little more intentionality as we consider the many blessings in our lives. May those sentiments not remain inner secrets but outer expressions of appreciation, togetherness, and love. May the Lord bless you with a joyous Thanksgiving unlike any other you have enjoyed before. Amen.

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

9a Sunday mornings

LIVE STREAM: Andy Stanley



Following Jesus makes your life better,
And makes you better at life!

For details, text Bee at 404-307-1415

Align Therapeutic, PLLC

Mental Health Therapy and Support Services

Nicole Dilbeck, LCMHCA

nicole@aligntherapywnc.com

www.aligntherapywnc.com

828-526-6370

Locations in Franklin and Highlands, NC



LISA THOMPSON
DOG SITTING

- daily drop-in visits
 - overnight & extended stays
 - dog walking
- 828.424.4637**

Whiteside Cove Cottages

5 log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

Paul Corbin
Owner



A&O LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC

828-371-2240

pcorbin1631@aol.com

Kim's Compassionate Care

Skilled Hands & A Warm Heart

Kimberly Ferrell

Certified Nursing Assistant/Caregiver

CPR Certified

30+ years experience

References Available

828-347-2542



Highlands Automotive

Service & Repair



NC Inspection Station



828-787-2360



2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com

CHESTNUT STORAGE

Storage Units Available

Secure 24-Hour Access

Easy In - Easy Out

Great Rates - Great Terms

Call today to find out why we're "Highlands Premier Facility"

828-482-1045

Look for our sign!

Buck Creek Rd - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Road near the hospital



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

Edwin Wilson

Cell (828) 421-3643

Office/fax (828) 526-4758

wilsongrading@yahoo.com

828-200-9217

Fully Insured

Crane Rentals Available



MENDOZA TREE EXPERT

Quality Tree Care & Removal 18+ years

estimates@mendozatreecare.com

mendozatreecare.com

COUNSELING CENTER

HIGHLANDS, NC

864-481-0598

INFO@COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG

LOCATED AT THE PEGGY CROSBY CENTER

348 S. 5TH STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741

OFFICES: 201, 203 & 210

COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG

WE STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL ABILITY.



Kiln dried
FIREWOOD
Delivery or pickup

2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395
highlandslawnandgarden.com

• CLASSIFIEDS •

Ryan M. Bears

Branch Leader

Cell: 803-271-5426

Office: 828-526-8784

ryan.bears@allentate.com



We are home.®



ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP

HIGHLAND EXCURSION



mtntours.com

Nantahala National Forest Permitted



▶ 828-526-9325 ◀

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

GENERAC



KOHLER

Al Stoneham

Realtor-Broker
Luxury Home Specialist
Licensed in NC & GA

Cell: 828-332-9767

al.stoneham@allentate.com



We are home.®



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

Business Card Ads

\$22 for BW

\$27 for color

Classified Ads

\$10 for 10 words. 30 cents for each additional word.
\$2 for color highlight

LOST

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHTFUL OWNER of a canoe that was left at Mirror Lake bridge. If you are missing an Old Town canoe, please call 205-577-6630. (st. 11/7)

FOR SALE

PETS FOR SALE – Shih Poo Puppies. All shots. Call 706-970-1558. (st. 11/7)

LAND FOR SALE - 3 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) \$140,000; 3.99 acres with southern exposure, \$70,000. 828-974-1137. (11/28)

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

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

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

FOR RENT

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

HELP WANTED

CHURCH ORGANIST. LAKE TOXAWAY

UMC, worshipping in a historic 100+ year old Gothic Revival building, seeks a talented organist to help lead its 10am Sunday services. New 2 Manual Allen Digital organ and Roland electric piano. No choir/rehearsals. Three hymns, offertory, plus pre and postludes. Please inquire to administrator@laketoxawayumc.org. (11/14)

SERVICES

HOME MAID CLEANING SERVICE LLC:

Quality work, insured & experienced. Servicing Highlands for over 10 years. For a free estimate call, (828) 371-1702. Check out our website at www.homemaidservicing.com (11/28)

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

MURPHY'S PAINT CO., - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (12/26)

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

ANYTHING GOES CLEAN-UP SERVICE

Complete property cleanup - house, garage, property, etc. Call at 828-200-2855. (st. 9/28)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:

scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

HS Varsity Swim Team hosts season opener; qualifies for regionals

By Steve Hott
HS Coach

On Friday, November 15, the Highlands Varsity Swim Team hosted the 2nd ever Highlands School Swim meet in Highlands. All 7 of the Highlander swimmers swam regional automatic or consideration times.

The Western NC Regional Championships will be held in Charlotte, NC in late January. The 5-member boys team entered 8 events. They won 6 of them and finished 2nd in the other 2. Franklin and Smoky Mountain (Sylva) were the other teams at the meet.

The Highlander Boys were led by Jr. Olympian and Highlands Senior Finneas Garner who won the 50- and the 10- Freestyle and was on 2 winning relays. The other members of those relays (that were automatic regional qualifiers) were Jr. Olympians Aniah McKim, Jack Sumner and Paolo McRae.

Jesus Mendoza, McKim, Sumner, and McRae swam the

400\ - freestyle relay in a regional consideration time and finished 2nd. McKim, McRae, and Mendoza are juniors, Sumner is a sophomore.

Sumner won the 100-butterfly with an automatic time, McKim won the breaststroke with a consideration time, McRae finished 2nd in the 200-IM (Individual Medley) with a consideration time, Mendoza set a PR (personal record) in the 100-freestyle and swam well in the 100-breaststroke.

The Highlander girls' team of Sophomore Trinity Faust, and Jr. Olympian Layla Babac (both returning to swimming after a multi-season break) swam well. They both swam the 50-freestyle and the 100-breaststroke in consideration times. Babac finished 2nd in the breaststroke, and 3rd in the 50-free, while Faust finished 3rd in the breaststroke and 4th in the 50-free. There were 21 girls entered in the 50-freestyle.

The Highlanders next meet will be Saturday, November 23 at Franklin at 1 pm.

THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



Highlands • Cashiers • Atlanta

828.200.3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com • www.firewoodcompany.net

• SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL NEWS •

Cashiers Festival of Trees returns on Nov. 29 & 30

Holiday activities and a dazzling display of trees, wreaths, and gift baskets await

The Summit Charter School Foundation is excited to announce that the 2024 Cashiers Festival of Trees will open on Friday, November 29 at 370 Mitten Lane, Cashiers, NC. The festive fundraiser – accessible both in-person and online – will run through Saturday, November 30. Doors are open to the public 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

The Cashiers Festival of Trees is a family-friendly event on the Cashiers-Highlands plateau during Thanksgiving weekend. Guests get in the holiday spirit by viewing and bidding on decorated Christmas trees and décor with accompanying gifts and experiences, revel in a variety of holiday activities, create free personalized children’s crafts, celebrate literacy in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Storytime Nook, enjoy a pop-up O.P. Taylor’s Teddy Bear Workshop, scavenger hunt, watch rivalry weekend football games in the Gameday Lounge, and shop one-of-a-kind gifts in the Gift Zone. Cashiers Valley Real Estate serves as Presenting Sponsor and Ingles Markets as the Media Sponsor.

While raising money for Summit Charter School is the primary focus of the event, the Summit Charter School Foundation will once again spread the holiday spirit of giving: when a nonprofit decorates a tree, wreath or gift basket, 80% of the item’s sale will return to the participating organization, creating a collaborative initiative to benefit fellow charities and their worthy causes. 2024 participating charities include: Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC, Cashiers Historical Society, Merrie-Woode Foundation, The Village Green, Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library, Cashiers Valley Preschool, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Cashiers Friends of the Library, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation, Mountain Theatre Company, The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts, Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau, Pisgah Legal Services, Cashiers Valley Garden Club, Cashiers Cares, Boys and Girls of the Plateau, Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Theatre Company, Glenville Cashiers

Rescue Squad, Cashiers Glenville Fire Department, Hudson Library—a branch of Fontana Regional Library, and The Hudson Library of Highlands NC Inc.

“The Festival of Trees has grown over the past three years into a beloved holiday tradition that brings families and the entire community together,” say the 2024 co-chairs Denice Dunn, Celeste Pratt, and Carrie Snoey. “As organizers, we are honored to foster the spirit of giving—not only to our school, but to the many nonprofits across the plateau. It’s a powerful way to inspire our children to give back and make a meaningful impact.”

Businesses, nonprofits, and individuals have created traditional and themed trees, wreaths, gift baskets, artwork, unique displays, and more to be enjoyed during the event. A full list of supporters can be viewed here or on www.summitschool.org. An additional sampling of this year’s 170 submissions include Lynn Monday’s House of Design, The Club at High Hampton, Spruce Interiors, Zoller Hardware, Care Bears, Brookings Anglers, Tractor Supply, Cedar Creek Club, and designs by 15 classrooms from Summit Charter School. Cashiers Firewood’s submission features a Santa wagon pulled by five scale-model Can-Am Defenders, all crafted from firewood and currently on display at the school. The winning bidder will receive two cords of seasoned firewood, delivered and stacked

“The support from the community has been truly inspiring in year four of this event. We extend immense gratitude to all of our designers, benefactors, corporate sponsors, and devoted volunteers. We can’t wait to celebrate every-

one’s hard work and generosity as we open the day after Thanksgiving. Come experience the magic of the holidays at the Summit Center as you view all the festive trees, décor and so much more! Items will be up for view for the duration of the event, both in-person and online, so we invite those near and far to join us. Get in the spirit of the season and give back!” conclude the co-chairs.

- Tickets are \$5 for adults; free for all children, 18 and under available online, at the door, or at the Cashiers Chamber of Commerce, Cashiers Valley Pharmacy, and Cashiers Farmers Market. Each ticket includes a coupon to the Jersey Mike’s Subs locations in Brevard and Sylva.

- Bidding for Silent Auction begins on trees, wreaths, and gift Baskets on Friday, Nov. 29 and until 4 PM on Saturday, Nov. 30. All bidding will take place via an online auction website and pre-registration is encouraged for anyone interested in bidding: <https://one.bidpal.net/cashiersfestivaloftrees>

- Shopping will be available at the Gift Zone

- Children’s Events crafts, a holiday scavenger hunt with prizes, coloring stations, and readings in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Storytime Nook. Santa, Mrs. Claus, and other magical characters will be roaming the Festival on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 10 – noon.

- All ages can enjoy a special holiday photo booth with take-home pictures, sponsored by Slab Town Pizza and Cashiers Smokehouse, on both Friday and Saturday, noon - 4 PM.

- New this year is the art walk featuring 10 curated pieces of art for auction by Carla Gignilliat, Cara Chase, Laura Moser, Matt Betty, Kat Ford, Stacy Howell, and Love, Louise Designs.



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH



AN UPSCALE RESALE STORE WITH 10,000 SQ FT OF SHOPPING!



1846 HWY 107N in Cashiers
(Across from Blue Ridge School)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
10AM-2PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE, CONTACT SKIP RYAN AT (828) 226-2588

SILVER EAGLE
Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery



349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com



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



Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern
highlandermountainhouse.com

Weichert

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

Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals
Highlands is calling

Sales, Vacation Rentals, and Property Management
Since 1941

401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-3717 www.highlandscalling.com
info@highlandscalling.com
https://www.facebook.com/CRVRHighlandscalling/
https://twitter.com/RealtyRentals



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

Offered for \$1,750,000
2514 Buck Knob Road
Scaly Mountain



Andrea Gabbard
c: 828.200.6742
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Highlands
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street
Highlands, NC



Darlene Conley
Mountain Luxury
Your Dream. Your Journey. YOU'RE HOME!
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.
Cell: 404-427-2448
darlene.conley@allentate.com

We are home.
ALLEN TATE REALTORS/
PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

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

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

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

Team RickSteve
"The Power of 2"
Trusted advisors providing impeccable personalized service
We are home.
ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP
(404) 219-1349 • HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS NC

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





**MORE THAN 33 YEARS OF
EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON THE PLATEAU**

Our clients rate us 5 out of 5 ★★★★★

VOTED AMERICA'S BEST



5



**JULIE OSBORN
& PAT ALLEN**

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



Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP



LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL

Leading

REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD



LANDMARK
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 404-827-0345

6

Office: 828-526-4663

patricia@landmarkrg.com



PATRICIA GENTRY
BROKER

It is a privilege to work with you.

#1 BROKER
in HCMLS
\$1 BILLION

Total Career Sales Volume

TOP

100 Sotheby's International Realty Agent Worldwide

TOP

Broker in North Carolina since 2016

Thank you.

JODY LOVELL | (828) 226.6303

Highlands

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Open Year-Round • 6 days a week
343-D Main Street • 526-4035



Open
7 days
Lunch &
Dinner
11a-3:30p
&
5:30-9p

www.wildthymegourmet.com

8



**DAVID
BOCK
BUILDERS**

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240



Deborah "Bee" Gleeson
404.307.1415

BeeGlee4@Gmail.com

and

Pat Gleeson

828.782.0472

PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com

*People ... are
the investments
that matter
most*

CHRISTIE'S

INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

— HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

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

30



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah
828-526-2338

42 Years of Fine Dining

Open
5:30-9p
7 Days
a week



www.ontheverandah.com

M'CULLEY'S
CASHMERE

Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week

526-4407

242 S. 4th St. & Pop up
on Main Street

9

