

# Highlands Newspaper

Happy Thanksgiving!

Volume 21, Number 48

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

Wed., Nov. 27, 2024

## Townhomes planned for vacant lot

*Chamber of Commerce lease is ironed out*

By Kim Lewicki

What to do with the vacant lot at the corner of Maple and Oak streets has been the question

for years. The idea of a parking garage on the 1.09-acre lot in the WS111-BW, which is zoned B-3, has been thrown around, but the

return on the investment doesn't compute.

At the November Town

• See TOWNHOMES page 18

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## Community meetings continue to address Helene devastation

A couple of weeks after Hurricane Helene hit, nonprofit leaders, Charlotte Muir (Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation), Leslie Manning (Pisgah Legal Services), and T.J. Smith (International Friendship Center), noticed a need for a community-wide meeting to coordinate relief efforts.

Key stakeholders from across the town of Highlands were invited to be part of a conversation regarding current needs and what was being done to address those needs, both locally and regionally.

The early meetings enabled

• See HELENE page 29

## The Town Lighting is Sat. Nov. 30!



Photo by Brian O'Shea

Saturday night kicks off the Holiday Season in Highlands with the "Light up the Park & Main" event held in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 6-8 p.m.

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.

## MC BOC OKs more funding for Highlands S. Project

By Kristin Fox

At its November meeting, Macon County Board of Commissioners discussed additional funding for the Highlands School Project which is set to be finished by the start of school in 2025.

To keep the Highlands School addition project moving forward and on track to be ready for fall 2025, the board approved four action items requiring additional funding. However, the decision was not unanimous with concerns raised.

However, the motion passed four to one approving additional funding for the project with Commissioner Paul Higdon casting the lone dissenting vote.

• See FUNDING page 22

We are deeply grateful for the trust and friendship of our clients and community. From all of us at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, we extend our warmest thanks and wish you and your loved ones a season filled with blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### There is always a reason to be thankful

I know some folks may be down and out, even depressed, at this moment in time. Some are depressed about the election outcome; others are rightfully saddened about Helene and all the folks who have been displaced. Others might be worried about the world situation, Ukraine, the Middle East, the Chinese Taiwan situation, or events around the globe that indicate a continuing shift in the climate.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

But, at this Thanksgiving season there are also things we can be grateful for, especially in Highlands and the surrounding areas. These points of gratitude give me pause for hope as we move forward.

I was first stunned by Helene's impact as we faced the devastating aftermath. But I was also uplifted by how people across Western Carolina and, for that matter, the entire nation responded to our neighbors in need. Even in a contentious election season, folks parked their political differences and reached out to help one another. In Highlands, the churches and nonprofits immediately mobilized to respond to so many

needs. These groups continue to provide support to victims of Hurricane Helene.

Our caring for one another is a ray of optimism as we face challenges in the coming year and future. When it gets down to the bottom line, we respond and help those in need regardless of who they are or what they believe.

While Highlands received significant storm damage from Helene, I am grateful to the town workers who immediately responded to the emergency. Neither I nor the Town Manager had to ask town employees to work longer than normal or go that extra mile; they responded automatically in making sure the town was back in business without delay.

I am also thankful for the businesses that stepped forward to provide any assistance they could provide. While business activity was significantly cut back after the hurricane, our shops, hotels, and restaurants were able to open soon after the storm. I hope Highlands will have the normal levels of visitors and second homeowners back in town during the end-of-the-year holiday season.

I am also glad that several infrastructure projects will be underway in the near term. The initial dredging of Mirror Lake is within days of beginning. The Dog Mountain water project is also on the verge of getting underway, with the water plant upgrades right behind. The conversion of the old fire station to the new ABC store is just around the corner, so look for the new store to open sometime in December.

I am also grateful that Highlands converted to full-time staffing at the new fire station. This past week we had a structure fire on Upper Lake Road. The full-time firefighters were on the scene within minutes and were able to save the home.

Now if Santa Claus can deliver a present to Highlands of NC 106 being opened by Christmas, that would be wonderful. I have my fingers crossed. I'm hopefully optimistic.

I hope we all have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. The holiday will be capped off with the town lighting on Saturday night at KH-Founders Park.

## • SNAPSHOT •







Photo by michelb4756@yahoo.com

### Misty Mountain Morning

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

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 28-Nov	Fri, 29-Nov	Sat, 30-Nov	Sun, 1-Dec
			
58°F 31°F	42°F 21°F	40°F 21°F	40°F 17°F
Periods of rain and a t-storm	Cooler; breezy in the morning	Partly sunny and chilly	Mostly sunny and chilly
RealFeel® High: 57° Low: 43°	RealFeel® High: 41° Low: 18°	RealFeel® High: 42° Low: 19°	RealFeel® High: 33° Low: 22°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Kristin Fox

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C. 28741

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

## A happy day and sad day for many this year

Thanksgiving is that time of year when we gather with families and friends around a beautifully decorated table of pumpkins, beautiful china and silverware, glowing candles and colorful napkins waiting to feast on your turkey of choice whether roasted, fried or prepared by your favorite restaurant for take-out.

The pies and cakes will be displayed waiting their turn to please our pallets. Favorite traditional dishes will find their place on an over-crowded table. There will be grandchildren running and playing, hugs from those who haven't seen each other in perhaps a year, and laughter among adults catching up on life events and sharing memories of past Thanksgivings.

This year leaves us somewhat melancholy here in Highlands and Cashiers due to Hurricane Helene that literally de-

stroyed surrounding towns leaving complete devastation in its path. It was if a rage by mother nature was unleashed causing mudslides that took homes and people and threw them in the raging river killing so many with large numbers still unaccounted for.

Some watched as everything they worked for their whole lives was washed away or if still standing homes filled with massive amounts of mud and every piece of furniture and appliances ruined. With no flood insurance – something one wouldn't expect was needed in the mountains of western North Carolina -- and no money to rebuild, there are no words to describe the



**Pat Allen BIC**  
Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group.

agony. Children are looking to their parents for answers and hope and there really isn't any. Some people are living in tents with heaters and blankets from strangers who donated. Where they go from here is unknown.

What I have witnessed from the Appalachian people who immediately took off to help find survivors with mules in the rural areas, rescuing stranded victims on foot because roads were destroyed, pulling bodies from the rivers, saving confused pets displaced and alone, providing food and water to people still in shock trying to comprehend the tragedy bestowed upon them, and those begging for help in finding

their loved ones shows the love and true spirit of mountain folks.

We have collected supplies, warm clothes, heaters, coats, hats, gloves and blankets, water, paper products, medical supplies, etc. and the generosity of our residents is to be applauded. Our Rotary Club has done a recent fundraiser and collected over \$54,000 on Bingo night!

It will be years before Asheville and the surrounding small towns will recover and as you sit down for a wonderful feast on Thanksgiving, I ask you all to pray for peace and understanding of this tragedy and more importantly pray for the victims who are suffering their loss of loved ones and hopefully will have food, warmth, and shelter. Their lives were shattered and will never be the same.

As far as real estate here, we have

• See **INVESTING** page 12

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# • LETTER •

## What HC Hospital is thankful for ....

Dear Editor,

As our community and region recovers from Hurricane Helene, we want to share with you about the incredible work of Highlands Cashiers Hospital, HCA Healthcare, and Mission Health. As the largest employer and provider of healthcare in the region, Mission Health has remained a vital source of care and stability for the community during this challenging time.

We want to start by thanking the dedicated staff, physicians, and the support from HCA Healthcare which allowed our hospital and all of Mission Health's hospitals to stay operational throughout the storm. We also want to extend appreciation to our community partners and our government agencies who all stepped up in support. This was no small feat, and we're incredibly proud of the resilience shown by our teams. Highlands Cashiers Hospital faced multiple challenges as the storm came and we felt the aftermath of the devastation. As heavy rains and winds came, countless trees fell. This led to impassable roads and the challenges with resupplying. HCA had the foresight to stage resources, such as heavy lift helicopters and our hospital benefitted from multiple shipments to keep our patients and staff fed and supplied during the storm. We also noted a loss of phone coverage and internet. Fortunately, HCH had redundant network connectivity built that allowed some internet connectivity even as others did not. At times, community members utilized our hospital's lobby to place cell phone calls allowing them to keep I in touch with loved ones.

Our local challenges pale in comparison to what Mission Hospital in Asheville and Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine faced. Despite the challenges, including the loss of municipal water, HCA Healthcare engineers quickly sprang into action. At Mission Hospital, they developed a system that allowed us to bring in more than 200,000 gallons of potable water daily by digging wells and using tanker trucks to pressurize the water into Mission Hospital, ensuring continuous and safe patient care. In Spruce Pine, they even implemented an above-ground septic system, allowing the community hospital to remain operational despite the absence of city water and sewer services. While managing through these issues, Mission Hospital alone cared for more than 3,400 patients and delivered over 70 babies in the two weeks following the hurricane. Across our clinics and community hospitals, another 5,000 patients received care in the same period.

In addition to our local teams, hundreds of HCA Healthcare colleagues from across the country traveled to Western North Carolina to provide much-needed support.

HCA Healthcare has also focused on caring for our teams, many of whom were facing their own personal struggles. Supplies were airlifted in, and mobile units were set up to provide essential services like kitchens, bathrooms, showers, and handwashing stations. We also established "markets" at 11 of our WNC facilities, offering free food, water, ice, toiletries, gasoline, and more to our colleagues and their families. The HCH team found great relief when

gas became available free at the hospital. Many dedicated hospital staff came to work with their cars on empty not knowing if they could get back home to their families. Also, many smiles were seen as hospital employees were able to find much needed groceries to include milk, eggs, and bread at the hospital's mini market.

I'm also proud to share that, in just the first two weeks following the hurricane, over \$1.6 million in emergency funding from the HCA Healthcare Hope Fund was distributed to colleagues in need. The Hope Fund is an employee-run, employee-supported 501(c)(3) charity, and it has been an essential lifeline for so many. Additionally, HCA Healthcare has contributed \$1 million toward disaster relief efforts in Western North Carolina, further demon-

• See LETTER page 14

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# • INK PENN •

## A new take on King Arthur

Ever since I read Mary Stewart's King Arthur trilogy when I was in high school, I've been a King Arthur fan. I suspect "The Crystal Cave" was one of the many books I snuck into class to read between the covers of textbooks. It was followed by "The Hollow Hills" and "The Last Enchantment."

Described as the Merlin trilogy, the books are told from his perspective.

Until this year, the last King Arthur book I read was "Finding Camlann" by Sean Pidgeon. Set in modern times, it's the story of an archaeologist intrigued by new evidence discovered at Stonehenge. Like many before him, he sets out to establish whether Arthur ever actually existed.

When I learned there was a new King Arthur book out, I had to get it. Was I daunted by its nearly 700 pages? Yes, and I wondered whether it would hold my interest. That wonder disappeared in only a few pages, as I stayed up late night after night to finish it.

### The Bright Sword

by Lev Grossman

Warning: This is not your typical King Arthur story. It is set wholly in Arthur's time but has a modern tone. If profanity bothers you, you'll want to avoid this book. If the conflict between the pagan world and Christianity will upset you, this is not the book for you. Those fairies don't mince their words.

This description from a Forbes review captures what you'll encounter in this tale featuring lesser knights of the Round Table.

"The Bright Sword" also broaches issues that are decidedly more contemporary: abandonment and abuse, sexual and gender identity, even immigration, all in ways that feel



Kathy Manos Penn

natural and organic rather than preachy or pedantic.

A young wannabe knight arrives at Camelot, hoping to become a knight of the Round Table. What he discovers is a small group of despondent knights sitting around the famed table. Arthur is dead, and the top tier knights are dead or departed. Forget Percival,

Galahad, and Lancelot. He finds instead, Sirs Dinadan, Constantine, Palomides, and Bedivere, plus a court fool. I recalled Bedivere and Palomides but had to look up the other two. Sure enough, they did exist in the original legend.

To restore Camelot and save England, they must reestablish Arthur's spirit and vision, and, to do that, they must "solve the mystery of why the lonely, brilliant King Arthur fell." The story turns much of the original material on its head but is all the more intriguing because it does. As the blurb says, this tale "... is steeped in tradition, complete with duels and quests, battles and tournaments, magic swords and Fisher Kings. It's also a story about imperfect men and women, full of strength and pain, trying to reforge a broken land in spite of being broken themselves."

If you're a King Arthur fan, this is a must-read. If you're a fantasy fan and know little to nothing of the legend of King Arthur, it's also a must-read. For me, one sign of a great book is that it stays in my head for days after I've finished it. This one did that and more.

Happy reading.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and on Amazon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/).



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Upgraded and renovated, this inn town property has views of Whiteside and Big Bear Pen. It includes the lot below for view protection. Build on it, or sell with sewer access. 2BR/2BA, wood floors, wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceiling in living room and a large loft. Nicely landscaped yard with circular driveway, parking pad and firepit. Side yard fenced. Offered at \$950,000 mls #106178



Million dollar views minutes from downtown Highlands in VZ Top. Upper level unit with one-level living. Two bedrooms, two updated baths, an open kitchen with breakfast bar, living room with a wood burning fireplace, and custom built-ins. Offered at \$530,000 mls # 104136



Located in the Highgate community just beyond Highlands Country Club, this 4 bedroom 5 bath is on one level lot. The living areas are open and spacious with heavy beams and walls of French doors that open onto a covered porch with fireplace. The primary bedroom has 2 accessible baths and additional den. The lower level has a game room, garage, and huge basement storage areas. This is one of the most reasonably priced homes in the Highgate area and a do not miss. Offered at \$2,899,000. mls#105941



Located close to town home sits level to enter and has a side yard with a firepit. The cottage has a kitchen/dining room, primary bedroom and bath on the main level and it opens out to a lovely porch for outdoor living. The terrace level has a living room that opens to the side yard, 2 bedrooms and a bath. Grandfathered Short-Term Rental. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$749,999. mls #106317



Close to downtown, this home has a primary suite on the main level with a living room with a gas log fireplace, half bath, dining room and large kitchen. French doors open to the wrap-around covered deck with outdoor wood-burning fireplace and large seating area. Below the deck is a large fire pit. Upstairs are two large bedrooms and a bath. Movie theatre and pool table with workout room upstairs. with a 1/BD and 1/BA. Also, morning kitchen guest cottage with covered porch. Offered at \$1,395,000. mls #105793



Furnished, 2/BD, 2/BA on a secluded hill in town. Gas fireplace. Full kitchen, covered and open deck. Covered carport and ample parking. Offered for only \$615,000. mls #104652



The main house has 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, with free-standing guest quarters. Updated with real stone fireplaces, wood floors and wood walls. Kitchen was professionally designed. Exterior Carolina room with a fireplace. This one has grandfathered rental income. Ample parking and a usable yard. Offered at \$3,250,000. mls #103911



Three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home on 1.15 acres. Lovely, wooded lot with beautiful landscaping, window boxes, firepit and water feature. Outdoor shed and workshop. Main level has an open kitchen and dining area. Large living area with primary bedroom, ensuite bath with garden tub. Upstairs are two bedrooms with walk-in closets, large hall bath and extra storage. This home can be a vacation or short-term rental. All for only \$595,000. mls #104651



Escape to the tranquility of this one-of-a-kind mountain cottage located minutes from downtown Highlands. Rocking chair front porch offers a stunning view of Satulah Mountain. Open-concept kitchen/dining/living room area. Updated kitchen, original stone fireplace, beautiful wood floors, and vaulted ceilings. Two bedrooms and a shared bath flank one side of this open living space and a spacious master suite and screen porch flank the other. Guest cottage, too. Great vacation rental. Offered at \$1,985,000. mls #104513



Lovely cabin on the Highlands side of Franklin. Sits high on a ridge with some mountain view and privacy. Home features a great room, fireplace, dining room and kitchen, one bedroom and bath on the main level, upstairs has two loft bedrooms and a bath. Terrace level has a family room with a full bath, laundry room and additional storage. Detached carport. Offered at \$550,000. mls #103751



A truly unique Highlands cabin less than 3 miles from Main Street with 19 acres of usable land. Barn and meadow, views off the upper tier. A blank canvas. 4 bedrooms, stone fireplaces, retro kitchen, fantastic sleeping porch. This property has endless possibilities! Offered at \$3,575,000. mls #103398



Move-in condition, off Buck Creek Road on Western Rhodes Road. 3 bedrooms, plus additional flex spaces. Multiple fireplaces. Open Great Room concept with custom kitchen, plank wood floors, stone fireplace in the covered porch with hot tub spa. Masters on main and upper floors, plus guestrooms. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #100481



Get both privacy and lock and leave living with this condo at Highlands Mountain Club. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, great screened in porch. View overlooks a pristine lake. Spend your afternoons rocking on the screen porch. Open pass through kitchen/dining living makes entertaining a breeze. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$575,000. mls #104466



In Highlands Mountain Club, this beautifully maintained, 2/BD 2/BA condo is offered furnished with some exceptions. With hardwood floors throughout, an updated kitchen and main bathroom, this unit is move-in ready. Enjoy covered porch or open deck looking out on a pond. A friendly adult community w/clubhouse, pool and tennis court. Offered at \$549,000. mls#104688



Lovely year round living with this 3 bed/3 ba dwelling that has a small yard. The house has a nice living room and open dining and modern kitchen. split bedrooms each with baths. rear deck and a covered side porch. Lower level has a bedroom and bathroom, 2 car garage and great workshop with storage. In excellent condition. Offered at \$695,000. mls#103898



Highlands Sotheby's International Realty

**POST AND BEAM... WORK OF ART**  
 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Private gate, 4.56 Acres  
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Andrea Gabbard  
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**This Christmas, give your family the gift of endless summer fun!**

Cozy, adorable cabin in scenic Horse Cove

HORSE COVE | MLS# 106186 | \$595,000

Just minutes from downtown Highlands, this cozy home features two bedrooms and two baths with good separation on three floors. Rustic ambiance with warm wood, large windows, and a cozy gas fireplace. Off the downstairs bedroom is an additional room and a screened porch. Gaze at the stars from the hot tub or by the fire pit on the deck. The one-car carport has a small workshop and there's a lovely pond across the road. Offered furnished. Adjoins national forest lands.



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**A Thanksgiving thought**

**Thankful for less**



Betty Holt

Every Thanksgiving for as long as I can remember I've done the same thing—stuffed myself to the point where I feel like the turkey on display.

I don't want to seem ungrateful. Of course, I'm truly thankful for the bountiful feast set before me. I appreciate the money it took to buy it, the time it took to cook it, and the hands that lovingly prepared it. I just wish there wasn't so much of it.

When I'm confronted with overwhelming quantities of food and forced to make decisions about how much to eat, I have plenty of help. Somewhere inside of me lurks a small, childhood voice that mimics my mother's instructions: "Eat up — remember there are people in China who are starving." I've also developed an adult voice which chimes in with, "If you don't clean your plate, you'll insult your host."

So, I dutifully chew on — through the lima bean casserole, broccoli with cheese sauce, sweet potato souffle, baked ham, rolls and butter, sliced tomatoes, pickles, olives, cranberry salad — when actually I'd be in seventh heaven just to have a plate heaped with turkey, dressing and gravy. These are my favorite holiday foods, and all I need to feel thankful.

About the time I've sampled everything, and my digestive juices are flowing, my New Age nutrition voice calmly speaks up and asks: "How many different kinds of enzymes do you think it'll take to digest all this? Don't you know you shouldn't eat so-and-so and so-and-so together?"

I shrink back from the table in horror. Resting my fork on my plate I remember still another tidbit from the Beverly Hills Diet: Whatever isn't digested turns to fat. As I peek beneath the tablecloth to view my swelling midsection, I'm certain it's already happening. In fact, I'm beginning to not feel so well.

My growing indigestion is interrupted by my aunt, standing over me. "Won't you have another?" she offers, holding the platter of fresh-buttered homemade rolls beneath my nose.

"I really ca--," I start to say, then watch my hand, now disconnected from my brain, reach up and grab one. I already know she got up at 6 a.m. to make these rolls.

"Who's ready for seconds?" my uncle asks. I shake my head quietly. "What's that you say there, Betty?" he calls over his shoulder enroute to the kitchen. "Gotta eat up this food or it'll go to waste." Soon he is back,

ladling mounds of lima beans onto my plate. "Have some and pass this," he directs, handing me the cranberry salad. What can I do but obey?

By now I have had to undo the button to my pants. There's just so much of me a pair of pants will hold. I begin to wonder how I will stand up from the table. I wonder if I'll ever eat again.

"Who's ready for dessert?"

my aunt asks cheerfully. "Dessert?" the cry goes up from the crowd. The consensus, thank goodness, is to wait. Finally. A reprieve.

I start waddling in the direction of the couch, then stop short to collapse on the floor instead. If I pretend to read the newspaper, maybe no one will notice if I drift off for a minute or two. There's no blood flowing to my brain—it's all down there trying to take care of the multitudes arriving in my stomach.

At least I have company. Amidst the complaints of "I think I'm going to pop" and "I can't believe I ate all that", my father says seriously, "We do this every year. Everything's so good that we overeat. Every year we vow not to do it again ... but we do." My sentiments exactly.

The thought occurs to me that maybe we should have Thanksgiving at my house next year. I'm not a great cook and there's no question that everyone would eat less. Plus, I have no earthly idea how to prepare most of these dishes. On second thought, it just wouldn't seem like Thanksgiving with burned-up turkey and watery gravy at my house. It's doubtful I could convince Aunt Ruby to cook less because she really enjoys preparing a holiday feast. There must be a solution somewhere.

Later, over pumpkin pie and coffee, an idea begins to take hold. I realize what's been important here is the love and fellowship shared with my family. Due to my overindulgence, I wasn't able to enjoy it as fully as I could have. The food was great, but even greater was the spirit of being together to celebrate a special holiday.

As we start to leave, my aunt loads us up with leftovers — enough to last several days. I decide it's time to be honest with her. "Aunt Ruby, I love your cooking, but I love you more," I tell her. "Next year I'm not going to eat as much. In fact, if you'll help me, I have a little plan..."

Next year I will have two plates. On

• See **THANKFUL** page 12



We are thankful for YOU -  
today and every day.

Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours.

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488 MAIN ST, HIGHLANDS | 2334 CASHIERS ROAD, HIGHLANDS | 196 BURNS ST, CASHIERS



# • UPCOMING EVENT •



## 'Home for the Holidays' coming to PAC

Fri., Dec. 6 through Sun., 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 original holiday arrangements, plus dazzling costumes and theatrical magic that will leave the entire family in amazement.

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

### Ice Skating in the Park

#### 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

## ...THANKFUL continued from page 10

the second one I will put all the excess food I don't need and the seconds that come around uninvited. With the leftovers that will surely follow, I'll have enough food to feed a small family, and squelch that childhood voice as well. I'll find out who in the community could use a Thanksgiving meal and I'll make arrangements to provide it. I'll be helping myself and them too.

And I'll get what I've always wanted — just a plate full of turkey, dressing and gravy...well, and maybe just a small slice of pumpkin pie.

• *Betty is a member of the Highlands Writers Group that meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com*

## ...INVESTING continued from page 4

many more buyers than sellers because everyone wants to be here and few want to leave our area filled with beauty, events, shopping, galleries, fabulous restaurants, performing art events, concerts, blue grass music, wine dinners, and our old-fashioned Christmas Parade on December 7. But more importantly the genuine caring of those who live here for each other and the warm welcome they show visitors. We truly are a special place with special people. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

For those wanting to contribute to di-

saster relief a check can be made to Highlands Rotary Charities and mailed to me at: Pat Allen, PO Box 809, Highlands, NC 28741

• *Pat Allen is Broker-in-Charge of Allen-Tate/PatAllen Realty Group: the number one independent firm in the country with sales over \$7.5 Billion last year. Allen has been a top producer and award-winning broker since her career began 20 years ago. She and her partner and daughter, Julie Osborn, broke a new record with over \$68 million in sales in 2023. She may be reached at 828-200-9179 or pat.allen@allentate.com*

WE ARE SINCERELY *Thankful*  
FOR OUR *clients* EACH & EVERY DAY!

DOG MOUNTAIN  
Highlands, NC



OPEN HOUSE | SATURDAY 11/30 | 2PM-4PM

Dog Mountain beauty is an updated home with an open floor plan! View and move-in ready with a double garage. A bargain at **\$1,190,000!**

QUEEN MOUNTAIN  
Highlands, NC



Queen Mountain embodies the old Highlands charm with great views, large rooms, and a garage. Enjoy the quiet and serene setting at a bargain price of **\$950,000!**

*You will give thanks for these bargains, the price is right!*

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*Pat Allen*  
REALTY GROUP

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# HOLIDAY MARKET

Through Dec. 28th

Join us for The Bascom's Holiday Market, where our space transforms into a festive wonderland! Explore a curated selection of unique, handcrafted gifts for both children and adults, perfect for everyone on your holiday list.

In addition to shopping, enjoy holiday-themed workshops, a Santa Letter Writing Station, Kids Make-and-Take Ornaments, Fun in the SmART Space, and a holiday photo selfie station. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

## Save the Dates!

**Nov 29** Gingerbread House (Intergenerational Workshop)  
Register at thebascom.org

**Dec 7** Holiday Market Reception  
*Following the Highlands Christmas Parade | 2-4 pm*  
Hot Chocolate & Festive Treats | Free

**Dec 7** Youth Pottery: Make your own personalized pinch pot snowman. Register at thebascom.org

**Dec 14** Photos with Santa, 2-4 pm  
*(Donations Appreciated)*  
Hot Chocolate & Festive Treats

**merry**  
Santa letter writing station  
Holiday Shopping Photos with SANTA Clay Fun and More!  
Gingerbread Houses



Scan for More Information

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TheBascom.org | 828.526.4949

Funding is due in part to a Tourism Grant with Visit Highlands, NC.



## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Sotheby's Jody Lovell one of Top 100 worldwide

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is thrilled to announce that agent Jody Lovell has once again earned a place among the Top 100 agents worldwide in the Sotheby's International Realty network.

The annual ceremony took place at New York City's acclaimed Per Se, where top Sotheby's International Realty agents gathered from around the globe. Representing over 26,400 agents across 1,110 offices in 83 countries, the Sotheby's International Realty network continues to lead in exceptional service and global reach, celebrating its highest achievers with the Top 100 Awards Ceremony.

Jody, who has been the top-producing individual agent on the Highlands-Cashiers MLS for more than 20 years, was honored for her outstanding sales volume exceeding \$100 million in 2023. She exemplifies the excellence that defines Sotheby's International Realty. "This recognition is truly a tribute to my clients, friends, and colleagues who make my work here so rewarding. I am



Jody Lovell  
Highlands and Cashiers  
Sotheby's International Realty  
828.526.4104

incredibly grateful for your ongoing support and friendship," said Jody Lovell, Broker-Owner of Highlands Sotheby's International Realty.

Highlands/Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty operates three offices on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau including two Highlands Sotheby's International Realty offices in Highlands, North Carolina and Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty in Cashiers,

North Carolina. As the exclusive affiliate of Sotheby's International Realty on the Highland/Cashiers Plateau, property listings of Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty and Highlands Sotheby's International Realty are distributed worldwide on the Sothebys-realty.com global website. For additional information, please contact Cassie Ross, Marketing Director. The Sotheby's International Realty network has more than 26,400 sales associates in approximately 1,110 offices in 83 countries and territories worldwide.

### ...LETTER continued from page 7

strating our commitment to supporting the communities we serve.

We are proud to serve on the board of Highlands Cashiers Hospital and stand impressed and thankful for the strength of HCA, their commitment to our communities, and the generosity shown hospital colleagues. While we would never say we couldn't recover as the residents of Western North Carolina are Mountain Strong and resilient, the support and investment of HCA allowed our hospitals to continue their mission and will support the rebuild-

ing of our home after such a devastating event.

The Highlands Cashiers Hospital Board of Trustees:

*Dr. Nancy Dunlap-Chairman; Hack Trammell-Vice Chairman; Bob Carton; Mary Adair Trumbly; Jeremy Stewart; Dr. Bob Buchanan; Dr. James Wright-Chief of Staff; Dr. David Franks-Vice Chief of Staff; Jimmy Maurin-Emeritus; Peter Pavarini-Emeritus; Marc Hehn-Emeritus; Greg Lowe-Ex Officio; Tom Neal-Ex Officio*

### Town Board Tidbit

Each year the Town of Highlands employees receive a Christmas bonus based on longevity.

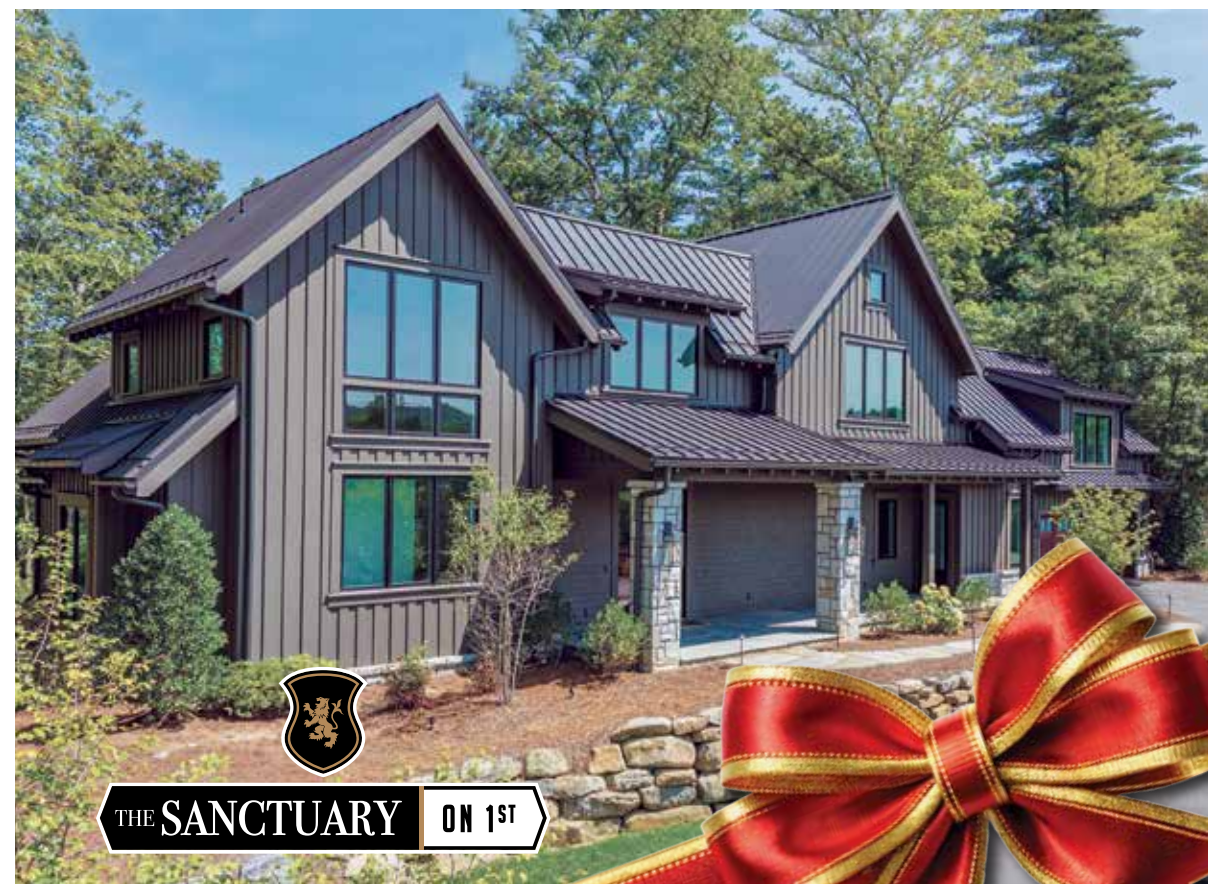
At the November Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to the following bonuses for 2024.

The proposal for this year's Christmas Bonuses which are the same as the last several years:

Less than one year \$400; Between one year and 10 years \$500; Between 10 and 20 years \$600; 20-plus years \$700

The total is included within the current FY 2024-25 budget.

Also, as a part of the bonus, all part-time employees will receive a \$50 monetary bonus, which is also included within the current budget.



**THE SANCTUARY** ON 1<sup>ST</sup>

# The Ultimate Christmas Gift:

A LUXURY HOME IN DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS

GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE GIFT OF LUXURIOUS LIVING with this meticulously crafted home, a testament to exceptional design and construction by Sanctuary Developers, Futral Construction, and Summit Architecture. Tucked away in gated Sanctuary on 1st at the corner of 1st and Oak streets, this brand-new, walk-to-town home epitomizes the essence of mountain modern design. The thoughtfully designed layout includes a main floor primary bedroom, three inviting fireplaces, and an enclosed sunroom. Upstairs, three generously proportioned bedrooms each feature ensuite baths. The interior sports exquisite details such as black metal-framed windows, sleek light fixtures, black steel railings, and crisp white walls and ceilings, creating a modern, yet comfortable, ambiance throughout. A finished carriage house above the garage boasts a full bath and kitchenette. Strategically located just one minute from Main Street, this residence is part of an exclusive, small neighborhood of similarly high-end homes, offering a fantastic opportunity to own a brand new home in the heart of downtown Highlands. \$4,995,000 | 5BR/5.5BA | MLS# 99179

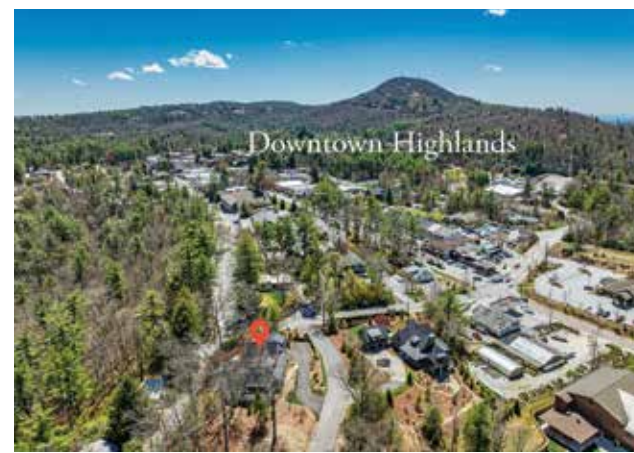
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**shopping done**  
**and save**  
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**Dec. 5**  
**4-7P**

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*Every*  
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**828-526-4994**



# Don't miss the *Highlands Christmas Parade!*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7  
MAIN STREET  
10am - 12pm

Special appearance by  
*Santa & Mrs. Claus!*



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

This event is organized and hosted by the  
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

visithighlandsonline.com  
828-526-2112

## ...TOWNHOMES continued from page 1

Board meeting, Parkside Partners Acquisitions, LLC made a conditional zoning request to change the B-3 commercial designation of the property at 299 Oak Street to B-1 Conditional.

“The applicant is proposing to construct eight detached single-family dwellings on the parcel,” said Planning Director Michael Mathis. “According to section 8.3.1 of the UDO, the B-1 zoning district allows one residential dwelling per 2,400 square feet of lot size. The property lot size is 47,480 square feet (1.09 acres). If rezoned to B-1, based on the square footage, the UDO would allow up to 19 residential units.”

The units bordering Oak Street will be 3-stories with elevators; the units along the creek side will have larger footprints and be one-story.

According to Parkside Partners Acquisitions the façades will resemble English cottages.

“This will be a part of the renaissance we are seeing on Oak Street,” said Realtor Pat Gleeson with Christies International Real Estate.

To serve the eight residential units, the applicant is proposing to add between 28 and 30 onsite parking spaces to accommodate each townhome as well as the Oak

Square property.

Mathis said Section 9.1.7 of the UDO requires two on-site parking spaces for each dwelling unit.

“Additionally, there is a deed requirement of reserving 12 parking spaces for the use and benefit of the “Oak Square” property at Oak and 3rd streets and Oak and Main streets (often referred to as The Alamo) in perpetuity on the site. Therefore, the UDO and deed requires that the project has a minimum of 28 on-site parking spaces,” said Mathis.

Commissioners noted that there are only 10 parking spaces donated to Oak Square on the rendition, but Mathis said the owners of Oak Square said they only need 10 spots.

Before the Town Board can rule on a conditional zoning request, the UDO requires that the Zoning and Planning Boards review the proposal and give their recommendations. Once those are given, the Town Board can decide whether to grant the Conditional Zoning request.

Commissioners agreed to send the project on to the Zoning and Planning Boards.

### Chamber Lease

Finally, after years of back and forth

• See TOWNHOMES page 27



**Deborah “Bee” Gleeson**  
**404.307.1415**  
**BeeGlee4@Gmail.com**  
and  
**Pat Gleeson**  
**828.782.0472**  
**PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com**

***I do therefore, invite my fellow citizens ... to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.***  
***– Abraham Lincoln***

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# Happy Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving, we're grateful for you—  
our community, clients, and friends. Wishing  
you a warm and wonderful holiday!

*David Jones*

DAVID JONES

*Brian Renfro*

BRIAN RENFRO

*Debby Hattler*

DEBBY HATTLER

*Patricia Gentry*

PATRICIA GENTRY

*Ann Cooper*

ANN COOPER

*Carlos Mandiola*

CARLOS MANDIOLA



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## WINTER POOL SCHEDULE

Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes.

Water Aerobics: 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers.

Adult Swim: 18y+ Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3:30pm, Friday 11am-1:30pm

Public Swim: Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

### ALL WEEK

- Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. Women's Group 5:30, Tuesdays. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton

Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

### PICKLE BALL

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

### Mon.-Fri.

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

### Mon-Wed-Fri

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

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

### Second Mondays

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

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

### 1st 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1 PM - 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

## MOVIES

### at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



Sat., Nov. 30 – 2 & 5:30p

Sun., Dec. 1 – 2 & 5:30p

Tues., Dec. 3 – 2 & 5:30p

### Tickets:

Adults: \$13.20 • Children: \$11

[boxoffice@](mailto:boxoffice@)

[highlandsp Performingarts.com](http://highlandsp Performingarts.com)

828-526-9047

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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](mailto:ncpost370@gmail.com) for more information or just join us at 9 AM.

## Sundays

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

## MOVIES

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

## Through-March

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

## 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 [TheBascom.org](http://TheBascom.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 fire-truck to usher in the lighting of the park and Main Street. Ice skating and photo-op fun.

## Thurs., Dec. 5

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

## Dec. 6-27

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

## Fri., Dec. 6

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

## Sat., Dec. 7-24

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

## Sat., Dec. 7

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

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

## Sat. & Tues., Dec. 14 & 17

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

celebrating the light and joy of the season. Performance is at 7 PM in the Rearden Theater at RGNS. Tickets are available at [rabungap.org/tickets](http://rabungap.org/tickets)

## Sat., Dec. 14

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

• A Wreath Across America Cer-

emony 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](mailto:ppotts63@frontier.com)

## Holidays in Highlands!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Light Up the Park – Sat., Nov. 30, 6-8pm in KH 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 KH Founders Park



HOLIDAYS IN  
HIGHLANDS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE / VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC

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 preparing for gift delivery so appointments are required and can be booked at [www.highlandschamber.org/event/santa-in-the-park/1306/](http://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](mailto:events@highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-5841.

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

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

For more information about the Holidays in Highlands, call the Highlands, NC Welcome Center at 828-526-2112 or visit [www.visithighlandsn.com](http://www.visithighlandsn.com).

# Staging Map for Christmas Parade Participants

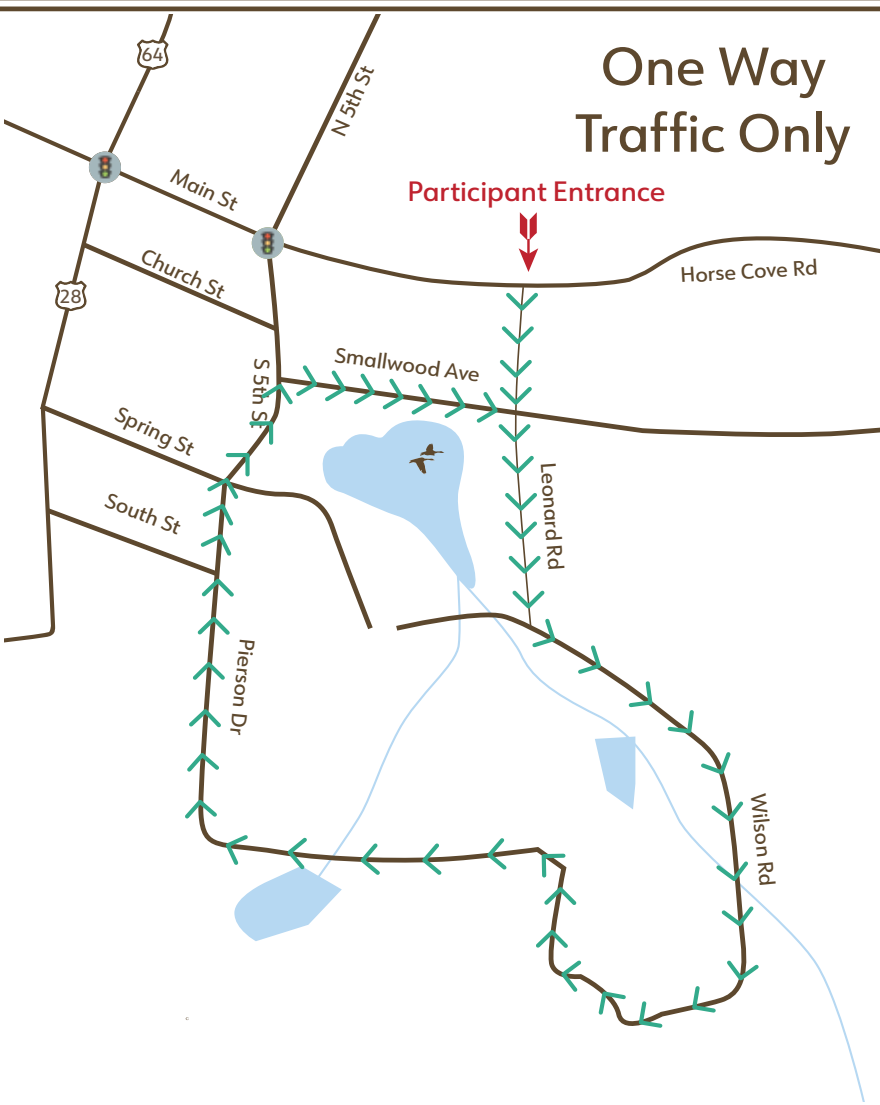
Please be aware of this year's staging route which may affect access on these roads from 8 am - 12 pm on Saturday, December 7, 2024.



HOLIDAYS IN HIGHLANDS  
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands

## One Way Traffic Only

Participant Entrance



## ...FUNDING continued from page 1

With the four additional items, the total cost of the Highlands School project is just under 8.4 million dollars.

The Highlands School expansion project will expand the middle school to accommodate much needed classroom space and additional space for career and technical education courses, and an updated media center. In addition to expanding the middle school building, the project also includes renovation to the elementary wing of the school that will re-purpose two classroom spaces for Pre-K classes.

Two months ago, the board approved the funding for the actual construction of the project with a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) from Venoy Construction. At that time the GMP did not include the soft costs associated with the project. The four additional items approved by the board include these soft cost items.

Commissioner Josh Young and Danny Antoine both expressed their concerns about approving the GMP for Vanoy Construction last month but now additional funding was being requested for the project.

“We did a GMP last month which is a guaranteed maximum price, and we come this month wanting an additional \$560,845,” said Young. “I really do support the project, but I just want to see this thing buttoned up a little bit better.”

He said the project is an example of the board going the wrong way.

“It’s not necessarily the money, I think it’s the sequencing of the budget,” he said.

County Finance Director Lori Carpenter assured the board the additional funding was to cover the soft costs not included in the GMP, and the board’s approval of the four items would set the cap on the total cost of the project.

The four items approved at the November meeting totaled an additional \$560,845 which will be taken from the county general fund balance. The items include furniture, technology and Pre-K playground equipment; special inspections and testing fees, and an owner contingency fund.

Furniture, technology, and playground

equipment will cost \$286,545 based on the size of the building, the student population, and the needs of the classrooms.

The second item for special inspections and construction materials testing services will cost \$74,500. WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. will provide the services which are required by North Carolina for construction of education facilities. As a part of the inspections, daily test results and observations will be reported.

An additional project item approved was a change to LS3P’s contract to revise the design of the structural foundations of the two-story middle school classroom addition relating to the underground storage tank at a cost of \$75,000.

Re-design of the structural foundations is necessary because the existing underground fuel storage tank will remain under the footprint of the new classroom addition. The school board and county commissioners decided to leave the 10,000-gallon underground storage tank in place with the necessary remediation requirements for soil, groundwater and decommissioning of the tank.

The final item approved the funding for Terracon Consultants, Inc. to provide environmental consulting services related to the permanent closure of the tank and the installation of a vapor intrusion mitigation system for the site at a cost of \$36,000.

Carpenter pointed out that the county will be seeing a deduct change order from Vanoy Construction GMP, because there was an allowance in the total price for the treatment of the underground storage tank so there will be a deduct in their contract directly offsetting the \$111,000.

An additional \$200,000 was also included to cover an owner contingency to cover any design or scope changes that county may make to the project.

The contingency amount was set at two and half percent of construction costs. If the money isn’t used it will be put back into the county’s fund balance.

## A bear was in the ‘Driver’s Seat’

On October 2, Highlands PD received a call from a resident on Cullasaja Drive reporting a bear in a vehicle. Officers Moore, Wright, Hudson, and Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer Leah McCall arrived to find a bear sitting in the driver’s seat of a small SUV.

“We attempted to get the bear to move to the rear of the vehicle because the only way to open the car was by using a key on the driver’s

door,” said McCall. “The bear would not cooperate. Officer Wright attempted to break out the right rear window after receiving permission from the owner but the window would not completely break due to heavy tinting. I finally turned the key, pulled the door handle, and ran.”

The bear finally decided to exit the vehicle.

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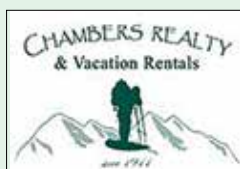
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# • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •



A couple days later Highlands hit the road and took on BREC on their home turf and won 1-0.

BREC Isaiah Palestino won BREC Athlete of the Week from 10/28-11/1 for scoring 3 goals and 1 assist.

In addition to winning the conference championship, several Highlanders earned all-conference recognition including Garner and Aniah McKim. Coach Brown earned Coach of the Year.

Honorable mentions include Chase Kenter, Isaiah Vilardo, Bryan Jarquin, and Connor Hughes.

Highlands qualified for the 2024 NCHSAA Men's Soccer Championship but lost in the first round at home to Uwharrie Charter 4-1.

## Highlanders win conference championship trophy

By Brian O'Shea  
Plateau Daily News

Highlands varsity boys soccer team won the Smoky Mountain 1A Conference trophy after finishing the season with an

11-1-2 conference record and 11-7-2 overall. Murphy took second place with a 10-3-1 conference record.

The Highlanders tied Swain in mid-October and Highlands Coach Caleb Brown said that it was important not to lose any more games if they wanted to take the championship.

Highlands battled 5th place Blue Ridge Early College the following week and won

back to back victories. During the first game against the Bobcats the score was tied until Highlands Blaine Dendy put one in the back of the net with 45 seconds left on the clock, giving the Highlanders the win at home, 3-2.

Highlands also celebrated Senior Night for their sole senior Finneaus Garner. Garner also kicked off the game by playing the national anthem on guitar.



Finneaus Garner

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# • HS SPORTS •



Highlands' Carson Forrester launches to grab a rebound against Rosman.

## Highlands defeats Rosman at home

Highlands varsity boys hosted Rosman on Monday and won with a final of 54-41.

Highlands Coach Kaitlin Bishop said everyone needs to participate offensively to continue winning.

"Honestly against Rosman we did offensively what I feel like we are going to have to do every game to be successful," she said. "We had one player with 11 points, one with 10 points, three guys with 8, one guy with 6 and a couple others adding in a few more points. We got everyone involved on the offensive end, executed in the second half around the basket, which pushed us to seal the win."

She added she can see improvement every time they play and looks forward to this season.

"The trust among the boys is really starting to build and you can see it," she said. "These boys are going to be a fun group to coach this year because dang they

get after it and play hard."

Highlands began their season with a loss last week after hosting Rosman that ended with a final of 78-37.

"That was our first game and as expected things weren't picture perfect," said Bishop. "Honestly, we had a lot of really good looks that we just couldn't finish. We hurt ourselves with turnovers, but the boys played hard."

Bishop said that regardless of the score, the team doesn't quit.

"This group of boys could be one of the hardest working group I have ever coached, they never quit," she said. "Our team goal right now is everyday we leave the gym better than when we walked in, whether its practice or a game and these boys are buying in and I'm excited to see what the season has in store for us."

## Lady Highlanders kick off season 2-0

Highlands girls varsity basketball team began the season last week facing off against Rabun County at home and won a close game ending with a final of 53-47.

Highlands Coach Brett Lamb said the opener against Rabun County was a great test to begin the season.

"We led for the majority of the game and then fell behind late but were able to find a way to pull out the win," he said. "They have a great coach and have been a

powerhouse program in their regions and state. So, to get a win over them is huge."

Highlands Charlotte Westendorf scored 15 points against Rabun, Jordyn Borino scored 14 points and 5 assists, AE Woods scored 6 points, Aislynn Wyatt-Luck scored 5 points, 5 assists, and had 5 steals.

"I feel we are off to a good start," said Lamb. "Our pressure defense and up-tempo pace has helped us get the games

• See **HIGHLANDERS** page 30

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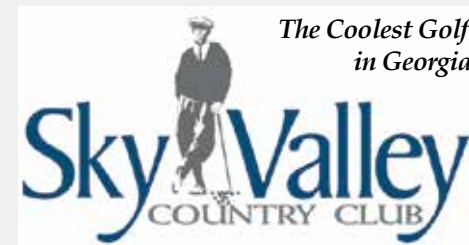
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## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

### Giving glory and thanks to Jesus the true king

**Michael D. Matlock**  
Rector  
Christ Anglican Church

Since 1863, the American calendar has observed Thanksgiving on the final Thursday of November. And for Christians who observe the church calendar (such as Anglicans), last Sunday was Christ the King Sunday, which ends the church calendar year by observing the reign of the King of Kings. 2024 is in fact the one hundredth year observing Christ the King Sunday. A new church year is initiated this upcoming Sunday with the season of Advent (waiting for the true King).

One of this past Sunday's lectionary texts included Revelation 1 verses 5 and 6, which give us a beautiful reminder of Christ's nature: "... Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

First, because we are loved by Jesus the Messiah, our response to God should be simply to take him at his word and live in the light of his love. This brings God glory! We can trust God absolutely. Wherever we go, in this world or the next, in life or in death, we are never beyond the range of God's love, and for this we must give him thanks and love and trust him. What we know is that God commanded his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

Second, ponder that Christ shed his blood for us. This was no mere demonstration. It was an effective act. It achieved something. It loosed us from our sins. In his own body, Christ bore our sins on the tree; and because he bore them, we are no longer in their grip; the least we can do is let them go! I know; that is easier said than done. There are so many of them that are so natural and easy, and seem so slight and insignificant, the common sins of everyday life, which for the most part the world does not count as sin at all. But we know them.

If our ancestry means anything at all, it means a sensitivity and sincerity of conscience. But this edge is in danger of being dulled, and if it is, we shall in large measure lose our right to a separate and distinctive existence. How do we retain it? The answer is that we remember how it was that we were freed from our sins. It was not by corruptible things such as silver and gold, but by the precious blood of Christ. Remember this and we will let go of our sins one step at a time through the power of the Holy Spirit and through our cooperation with God's grace and thereby give glory to God.

Finally, remember that Christ has made his followers "kings and priests." I remember my high school football days when I played wide receiver. My job was to make

• See SPIRITUALLY page 27

## • 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.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### 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  
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### 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

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814  
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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376  
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Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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Kippur.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Nov. 19. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

### Nov. 19

• At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Main and N. 1st streets.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 20.**

### Nov. 20

At 11:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Road.

At 8:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Magnolia Drive.

At 8:37 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a location on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

At 9:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on a power line on Laurel Heights Road.

At 10:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a power line down on Tearley Lane.

### Nov. 21

At 5:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

At 6:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a

fire alarm at a residence on Magnolia Drive.

At 6:38 p.m., the dept. tended a structure fire at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

At 9:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

### Nov. 22

At 10:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Way.

At 11:12 p.m. the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hicks Road.

### Nov. 23

At 3:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hickory Knutt Gap Road.

At 4:40 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cullasaja F&R at a structure fire.

At 7:54 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on N. 4th Street.

At 7:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Circle.

At 7:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Pierson Drive.

### Nov. 24

At 4:24 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

### Nov. 25

At 5:10 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a location on Walkingstick Road.

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 26

as many blocks and catch as many passes as I could. My uniform might be spotless, and my conversation to my teammates enthusiastic, but if I could not make blocks and catch passes, I was not bringing glory to my team. Well, friends, God has made his followers kings and priests, and we cannot glorify him if we do not act as a royal priesthood. As a kingdom of priests, all Christ's followers must play a full part in the life of our churches, not leaving it solely to the ordained clergy and staff

members. It is for all followers of Jesus to pray and live such holy lives that through our lives the glory and grace of the living God is communicated to our fellow human beings.

So, let us with grateful hearts celebrate on Thanksgiving, giving thanks for all our many blessings, especially for God's amazing love for us, and may we live in such a way that brings glory to him. May God richly bless you and cause you to flourish in your God-given destiny.

## ...TOWNHOMES continued from page 18

between the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center, the Town Board and the attorneys for both Macon County and Highlands, an agreement has been made and the Chamber will continue to pay \$1 a year while maintaining the building at Main and First streets.

Potential changes to the lease have been discussed for years and started when the town said it wanted the Chamber/Visitor Center to pay to maintain the public bathrooms in Town Square which costs the

town around \$40,000 a year.

Commissioners reasoned that since the Chamber of Commerce has successfully directed visitors to Highlands and since the businesses in town, particularly on Main Street, don't let visitors use their bathrooms, the Chamber/Visitor Center should pay for the bathroom maintenance.

Initially, commissioners wanted the Chamber/Visitor Center to pay \$40,000 a year in rent, rather than the \$1 it currently

• See TOWNHOMES page 30





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## ...HELENE continued from page 1

the Town of the Highlands and Chamber leadership to discuss what is being done behind the scenes regarding emergency management planning, lessons learned, and how the community can be even more prepared in the case of a future disaster.

At the first meeting, more than 30 people attended including all the Town Commissioners, the Mayor, various clergy, dedicated first-responders, nonprofit leaders, Rotary presidents and the list goes on!

It was an in-depth conversation and an opportunity to have so many people gathered in one place – all of whom share a deep love for Highlands and Western North Carolina.

Since that first meeting, the group has met every other Wednesday for one hour to share updates and address relevant concerns.

Though initially the discussion revolved around how

Highlands could have been better prepared for Hurricane Helene and how to be ready next time, soon the discussion moved to beyond Highlands and the ongoing challenges felt in areas devastated by the hurricane.

The discussion has ranged from storing the influx of supplies, supporting the Rotary's efforts to deliver several hundred heaters to the community of Spruce Pine, asking for support in specific areas and sharing ideas.

Additionally, the group has discussed community-wide Christmas efforts making sure those who need it most are taken care of during the holidays.

The need to support those affected by the NC 106 (Dillard Road) closure has been brought up at the last two meetings and plans are in place to distribute gas cards to help alleviate the stress of fuel costs.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 4, at 11:30 at the Community building.

– Submitted

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## ...HIGHLANDERS continued from page 25

going to our advantage. I also think this team is very unselfish and is playing well as a team.”

High scorers for Highlands include Jordyn Borino 15 points, Aislynn Wyatt-Luck 12 points, Charlotte Westendorf 7 points, Hunter Conner 7 points and 6 rebounds, and Lillian Rutter scoring 2 points.

Highlands Jordyn Borino drives to the basket to score 2 points against Rosman.



Highlands Mallory Shriver shuts down any path to the basket.

## ...TOWNHOMES continued from page 27



Eight townhomes are planned for Oak Street lot.

pays, which would have offset the bathroom maintenance expense the town now shoulders.

But since the Chamber only gets membership dues, which don't amount to enough to shoulder that expense, and since occupancy tax money can only be spent on tourist related items, the Chamber has long maintained it could neither pay that amount in rent nor use the occupancy tax money on the bathrooms.

Initially, maintaining a bath-

room – though only used by tourists for the most part – wasn't considered legal.

However, since the October Town Board meeting, the town's attorney and the county's attorney came up with a solution thereby ending the standoff between the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center. (The county oversees the disbursement of the occupancy tax funds and therefore is in the mix.)

The solution? A mini Visitor

Center will be erected to include the bathrooms in Town Square which means occupancy tax money can legally be used to maintain the bathrooms.

Mayor Pat Taylor explained the plan at the November Town Board meeting and said though details need to be ironed out, the problem of who should pay for and be responsible for the maintenance of the bathrooms has been solved.

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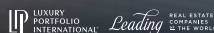
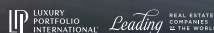
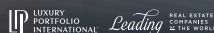
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