

Highlands Newspaper

HF&W Festival is set for this weekend

Tickets benefitting North Carolina disaster relief efforts are still available

Preparations for the 8th annual Highlands Food & Wine festival scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 7 through Sunday, Nov. 10 are underway. This year all ticket

prices include a charitable donation ranging from \$25-\$125 (+ taxes and fees) plus an additional opportunity to support local and regional organizations aiding those

impacted by Hurricane Helene. New this year, \$125 from each ticket sold to Sunday's A Shot at Redemption: Support All

• See HF&W page 7

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Jim Breedlove



Kevin Corbin



Karl Gillespie

Trump and Vance win; NC goes red

By Kristin Fox

Across the nation, state and county voters turned out strong for the 2024 presidential election. In Macon County 74.65 percent of registered voters showed up to vote in this year's election. A record 21,905 voters out of 29,418 registered voters voted in Macon County's 15 precincts.

North Carolina and Macon County also experienced a record turnout for early voting. More than 4.2 million North Carolinians voted during the early voting period. There are 7,822,024 registered voters in North Carolina.

Macon County experienced a record turnout with 16,171 voters voting during early voting. These voters represent 7,531 Republicans, 2,682 Democrats and 5,873 Independent.

While most candidates on the Macon County ballot ran unopposed, Macon County had one important competitive election on the ballot -- the Macon County Board of Education District 4 at large seat. Local voters had three candidates to consider for the seat -- incumbent Jim Breedlove, Danny Reitmeier and John deVille.

With over 44 percent of the

vote, incumbent Jim Breedlove was re-elected to the school board adding another term to the 16 years he has already served on the board. Breedlove, who has served many years as the chairman of the board, received 7,771 votes to Reitmeier's 5,937 votes (33.75 percent) and deVille's 3,801 votes (21.6 percent).

On the Macon County ballot, voters also had the opportunity to vote on a sales tax referendum for funding for public education. Over 51 percent (10,213 votes) of Macon County voted against

• See TRUMP page 7

Callers allege bear hunters were within the town limits

On October 29, several residents reported seeing trucks containing dog boxes passing through Mirror Lake and Hickory Hill Roads. According to reports, individuals could hear packs of dogs barking in the area. One resident reported seeing a pack of dogs chasing a black bear down Hickory Hill Road. According to the report, a gunshot was allegedly heard shortly after.

According to Captain Leah McCall, "If dogs chase a bear

into the city limits, hunters can legally retrieve them on city streets. However, hunters must ask landowners' permission to recover dogs on private property," said Captain Leah McCall. "Sec. 9-28 of Highlands Town Ordinances, the discharge of a weapon within the city limits is not allowed except 'in defense of a person or property, to destroy any rabid or marauding animal. It is also against town ordinance

• See BEAR page 19

Local runner completes NYC Marathon: Raises \$5k for charity

Jack Chilson, 21, Highlands resident in his junior year at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, completed the TCS NYC Marathon this past Sunday. He ran as part of the Qualitas of Life Foundation, raising money to support financial education for Hispanic individuals and their families. He has raised \$4,300 of

his \$5,000 goal. To support this life changing work and to help Jack reach his goal, you can contribute at <https://fundraisers.hakuapp.com/jack-chilson>.

This marathon was particularly challenging because Jack was coming off of an abductor injury which necessitated rest

• See MARATHON page 16



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The Highlands utility story - Part 1

As mayor I get recurring advice as to what the town should do, especially about operating our utilities. I respond to many of these ideas over and over again, but these ideas just don't go away. I guess it is a form of public brainstorming, which is part of the creative process. This article is one of a two-part series where I will address some of these ideas.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Let me review a number of these proposals and affirm that the town has reviewed and has decided against doing them. On the positive side let me state what the town will, or already has done, in a particular area.

One idea that never goes away is that if the town restarted the old hydroelectric plant, many of our electrical problems, like power outages, would be solved. The resumption of the power plant has been studied and reviewed several times with the same outcome: it isn't cost-effective or even possible.

The old power plant, built in 1929, could produce 1 megawatt of power on an optimum day. Highlands requires about 15 megawatts or more per day and, in the fu-

ture, even more.

The nail in the coffin of restoring the old power plant below Lake Sequoyah is that the town no longer owns the power plant.

In 1929, the US Forest Service gave Highlands a special use permit to build and operate the plant. That permit ended in the 1960s when the town ceased power-generating operations. The old plant is on US Forest Service land and is now their property. We have no title, and

getting a new special use permit isn't feasible. It is also of note that after 60 years, the only thing left of the power plant are stone walls.

So, the town will not get back into the hydro-generating business. But to improve the electric grid and create power supply redundancy, the town will invest about 4 million dollars in the next four years. This year, a new third transmission feed line from Duke Energy should be in place.

Another recurring suggestion is to bury all electrical lines for aesthetic purposes and secure electricity in major storms, like in the State of Florida. According to the Asheville Watchdog, Duke Energy and the North Carolina Utilities Commission jointly conducted a feasibility study in 2003 about burying main transmission lines in WNC. Estimates way back then indicated it would be a 41-billion-dollar project involving 1,500 workers and taking 25 years. The kicker is that the substations could not be buried and may not have survived a storm like Helene. Power could still have been lost with even buried lines in major storms. With huge rock formations, the costs of burying lines in Highlands would be staggering. Unlike Florida, which sits on sandy dirt and easily buries power lines, ours cannot be.

There was one outrageous customer immediately after the storm angry at me and the town about not restoring power immediately like he perceived Duke Energy had done in Cashiers. The main transmission line to Cashiers from the Thorpe Power Plant remained intact. The Duke transmission line to Highlands was not so fortunate. This person called Town Hall to complain to the staff while they were in the midst of dealing with all the storm issues. This person told them the town was incom-

• See **MAYOR** page 10

• SNAPSHOTS •

Don't forget to stop and look both ways!



Photo by Kim Lewicki

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

• WEATHER •

Thu, 7-Nov	Fri, 8-Nov	Sat, 9-Nov	Sun, 10-Nov
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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Thanks to Bryson family, Scholarship Golf Tournament nets \$50,000

This year's Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament generated a record \$50,000 for the Town's Scholarship Fund, that supports graduates of the Highlands

School.

The committee made up of Town Commissioner and Chairman, Brian Stiehler, Jim Bryson, Mike Bryson and Rebecca Shuler presented Mayor Patrick Taylor with a check totaling \$50,000. Also photographed is Assistant Principal, Alyssa DeBois, representing the Highlands School.

For the first time, the Scholarship Fund endowment now exceeds \$1,000,000. "We couldn't be prouder of the re-

sult of this year's event. We are indebted to Cullasaja Club for hosting us and then Jim and Mike Bryson, for covering 100% of the expenses associated with this event. Because of these gentlemen, we netted an additional \$20,000," said Chairman, Brian Stiehler. "We set the bar high this year and we have a lofty goal for next year's Tournament, to bring in even more."

The 2025 Scholarship Golf Tournament is set for September 15th at Cullasaja Club.



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From left at Highlands School, Commissioner Brian Stiehler, Mike Bryson, Mayor Pat Taylor, Jim Bryson, Rebecca Shuler and Highlands School Asst. Principal Alyssa DeBois.

Motorist wrecks in Cullasaja River at Goldmine

By Kim Lewicki

At 1:26 p.m., Monday, Nov. 4, Highlands Fire & Rescue joined the MC Sheriff Office, MC EMS and NC Highway Patrol at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on the Gorge and Goldmine roads.

According to preliminary reports, a vehicle driven by a female motorist traveling down the Gorge Road toward Franklin left the roadway and hit a tree. The vehicle ended up in the Cullasaja River on its tires.

According to Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart, the water wasn't deep at that point.

The driver was transported to the hospital by MC EMS.

"With NC 106 closed until further notice, excess traffic on the Gorge and Buck Creek roads is what it is," said Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland. "People have to reroute to Franklin from Scaly and other areas to get to work and/or school."

Chief Holland requests that motorists take extra care and drive carefully.

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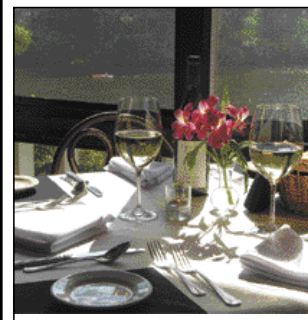
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• DINING •

...HF&W continued from page 1

Rebuilding NC Relief event purchased from now through Sunday will benefit the Highlands Food & Wine Hurricane Relief Fund.

Sunday's A Shot at Redemption features Abraham Alexander and headliner Lee Fields & The Expressions, with Bear Shadow music festival alumni, Futurebirds, joining the relief effort with a special opening acoustic set.

The four-day celebration kicks off with Thursday's Grand Tasting, presented by Allen Tate Realtors – Pat Allen Realty. The Grand Tasting will be held at The Bascom from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., featuring a musical performance by Love Cannon. Tickets are sold out.

Friday's Truckin', presented by Crawford Construction, will be held in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park on Pine Street from 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Truckin' features food trucks, small plates, and the infamous Highway to Ale tasting experience. Headlining Truckin' will be Wilder Woods with special guest Alex Lambert. A limited number of tickets are still available.

Saturday's Main Event, presented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty, boasts delicious small plates by esteemed regional chefs, exquisite wines, craft beverages, and an enviable oyster roast. Main Event takes place on Main Street at 4th Street from 12 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Greensky Bluegrass will be headlining Main Event with special guests Larry Keel & Jon Stickley. Tickets are sold out.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, Highlands Vacation Rentals presents A Shot at Redemption: Support All Rebuilding North Carolina relief event at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park from 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tickets are still available. \$125 of each ticket will benefit the Highlands Food & Wine Hurricane Relief Fund, which supports the following organizations: Highlands Emergency Council, Highlands Food Pantry, BeLoved Asheville, Equal Plates Project, and Southern Smoke Foundation.

VIP Weekender Passes are \$1,600 per person with a \$100 charitable donation included (+ taxes & fees). VIP Weekender Passes include access to all four signature events. Limited tickets still available.

There are also wine dinners and specialty events at The Farm at Old Edwards, Oak Steakhouse at Skyline Lodge, Half-Mile Farm, The Ugly Dog Pub, Wolfgang's, and more.

All fans will be able to pick up wristbands at the Box Office before the events. Please note that only the pur-

chaser of the tickets can pick up wristbands. If you cannot pick up wristbands early, you can present your tickets at the event gate for entry.

Box Office Location & Hours: 424 Pine St Highlands, NC (Old Bank of America Building)

- Wednesday, Nov. 6th, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 7th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 8th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 9th, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

All events are rain or shine. However, in the event of severe inclement weather, event organizers reserve the right to cancel individual performances or events in order to maintain optimal safety for all attendees, staff, talent, and vendors. For more information, visit <https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/information/faqs/> or sign up to receive weekend updates and festival information by texting HF&W to (828) 202-8911.

For more information and to buy tickets go to <https://highlandsfoodandwine.com>.

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...TRUMP continued from page 1

the quarter cents sales tax compared to 9,726 or 48.78 percent in favor of the referendum. This is the second time a tax referendum for education funding has failed to pass on the Macon County ballot.

Running unopposed for the school board included incumbents Hilary Wilkes (District 1) and Melissa Evans (District 3). The Macon County Board of Commissioners also had two unopposed candidates on the ballot – incumbent Josh Young (Rep) and Barry Breeden (Rep).

Donald Trump (Rep) pulls off historic White House comeback in the United States presidential election.

As of press time, Donald Trump (Rep) secured 277 electoral votes defeating Kamala Harris (Dem) with 224 electoral votes.

• See TRUMP page 16

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The new real estate changes

Most people have heard of the recent changes in the real estate industry, due to the settlement of the lawsuit with the National Association of Realtors. NAR entered into a settlement to address ongoing legal disputes on behalf of Sellers and to end a lengthy and uncertain litigation. The settlement gave NAR the ability to resolve these issues quickly and bring clarity and stability to the current real estate market. It also provided additional disclosure requirements to consumers regarding real estate fees. The intention of the policy changes was to improve transparency and fairness in the market.

Prior to the settlement, real estate commissions to agents were the responsibility of the Seller. Even though commissions have always been negotiable, as of August 17, 2024, Sellers are not required to pay the Buyer's side of the commission, which, in many markets is half of the total commission. In the Highlands market, I have noticed that most Sellers are still doing this, for several reasons. Any closed sales used as comps include a full commission, so the potential asking price would have to be reduced by the percentage of the Buyer's side of the commission to account for less than a full commission. The reality is that many Buyers are just not used to paying the commission, despite the fact that they have always been indirectly paying it because it's usually added on to the Seller's bottom line. It has always appeared on the Seller's closing statement as an expense, though, making it seem that the Seller paid it. Many people think it's easier to just continue the long standing trend of Sellers offering both sides of the commission, for simplicity's sake. The situation becomes more complex when agents have to negotiate with Buyers in order to be paid, and sometimes Buyers have to be educated about all the useful services their agents provide to them. The new normal will be agents who will need to communicate to Buyers what they actually do for them and having Buyers pay all or part of the commission when Sellers don't agree to.

Under the new rules, agents working with Buyers are required to have a written



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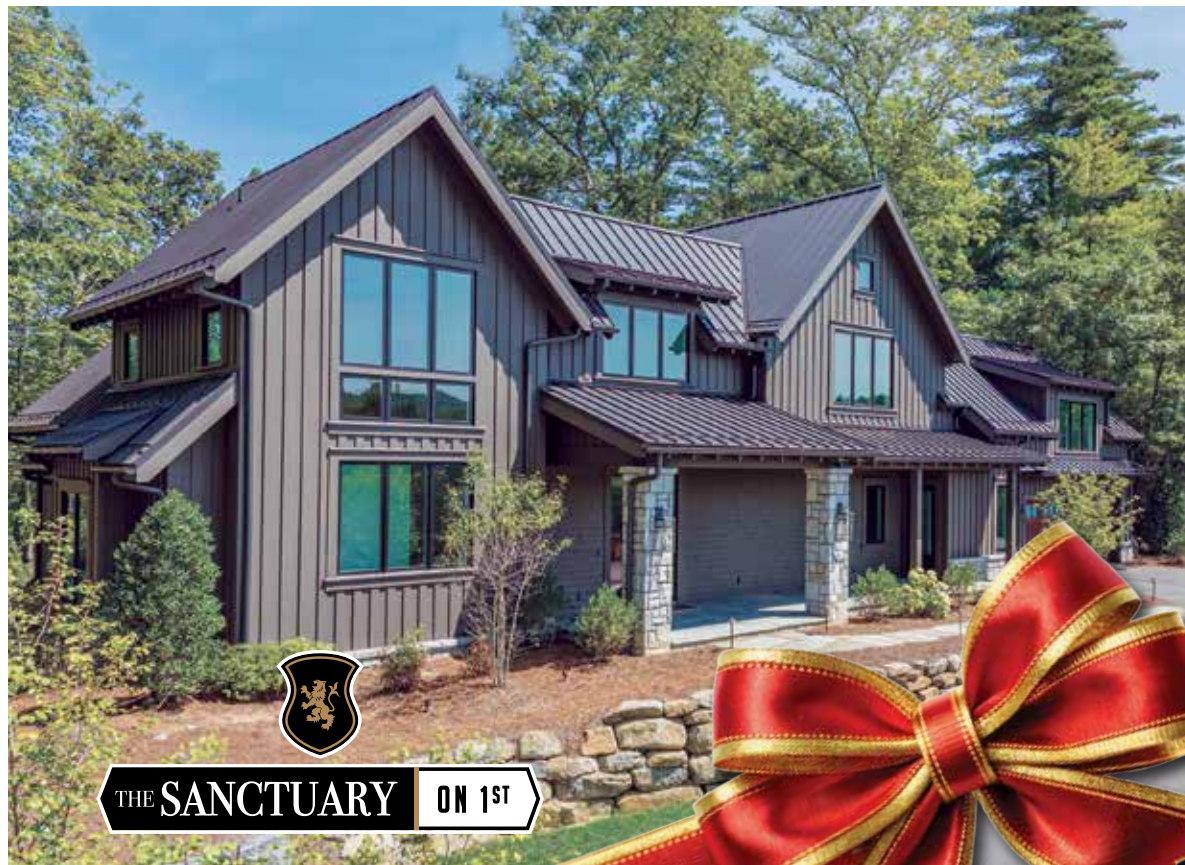
agreement in place before touring homes, either virtually or in person. In NC we have an Exclusive Buyer's Agent Agreement, which has a section on compensation for the Buyer to agree with. We also have a Non-Exclusive Buyer Agency agreement which does not delineate compensation but meets the requirement for the law. Some offices use a Touring Agreement, a shorter version of the Non-Exclusive Buyer Agency agreement, which offers no compensation, but, again, meets the legal requirement.

Compensation by the Seller is no longer listed in MLS, so agents must call the listing office to find out if the Seller is offering compensation before they show a property.

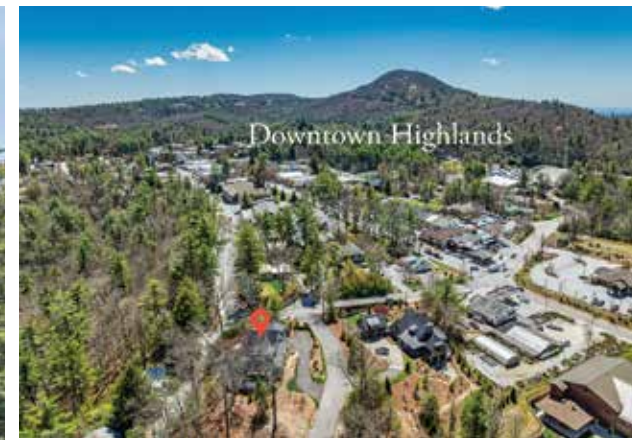
All in all, it's more trouble for everyone, and Sellers are under the incorrect assumption that they will pocket more money without paying the Buyer's side of the commission, when in actuality their asking price will be adjusted to conform with previous comps. Buyers have mixed feelings about paying their agent's commission until they realize it can be accounted for in the offering price and they fully understand what a Buyer's agent does for them. Agents dread the extra paperwork and explanations, but let's remember....

When I entered the real estate business in the late '70s the sales contract was one legal page, front and back. Now it is 17 pages with a number of disclosures that go along with it. There was no such thing as Working With Agents disclosure until 1995. That was around the time that Buyer's Agency came into effect in North Carolina. Prior to that, real estate agents represented the Seller and Buyers had no representation. At one time there was no continuing ed for realtors—their license lasted forever! There were days with no lockboxes and there was no internet to search on. So, yes, it's a pain, but, like many of the changes along the way, perhaps it is a bow to more professionalism in the industry. Or simply it's just another adjustment we have to make in order to continue our trade.

• *Betty Holt is a Highlands native who's been in the real estate business long enough to remember simpler times. She works with both Buyers and Sellers. 828-526-4218; Betty@bhhsmmr.com.*



THE SANCTUARY ON 1ST



Downtown Highlands



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Direct any questions to Jack Austin @ 828.526.9047 or jaustin@HighlandsPerformingArts.com.

Thanks for supporting the Highlands Performing Arts Center and CinemaPAC!

• INK PENN •

What's missing?

This week's reads were, of course, mysteries, as I rarely read any other genre. In both, the protagonist embarks on a search, though one is seeking a missing author while the other is searching for a lost painting. Both start in New York City before the clues lead them to another locale.

My Favorite Terrible Things

by Madeleine Henry

This is a new-to-me author, and I'm delighted to have discovered her. That this novel came out in May 2024 and has garnered 7,000+ reviews speaks volumes about what an intriguing tale the author weaves. Her first two books eked out just over 100 reviews each. She's made her mark with this one.

Publishers Weekly had this to say: "[A] cunning debut thriller... Just as Henry seems to be leading readers down one path, she veers in a wholly unexpected direction, delivering a welcome jolt to an already effective mystery. Sharp observations on toxic fan culture and a basketful of literary easter eggs are icing on the cake. This delivers."

Private investigator Nina Travers is hired to find Claire Ross, a best-selling author who disappeared on her wedding day months ago. The police have no clue what happened to her or whether she's even alive. It's Claire's mother who hires Nina, and Nina hopes to make a name for herself with this case.

I was kept guessing all the way to the very end, with every revelation coming as a shock, not as something I anticipated. If you're seeking a novel to keep you turning the pages, this is the book for you. And, if, like me, you like books about authors and



Kathy Manos Penn

their creativity, you won't want to miss this one.

The Lost Van Gogh

by Jonthan Santlofer

I had never heard of this author until I read a review of this book that came out in January 2024. When I figured out this was the second art mystery with Luke Perrone as the main character, I chose to start with the

2021 book—"The Last Mona Lisa," which I wrote about earlier this year.

Both books move back and forth in time. Both involve stolen art. Set primarily in modern times with Luke as an artist and university art professor, this one shifts to Paris during WWII, when the Nazis are leaving with as much artwork as they can—artwork, of course, taken from the Jewish population.

Not only did I find the mystery of the missing Van Gogh portrait intriguing, I was also fascinated by the details about the artist's life. The action moves from New York City to Amsterdam and France, offering an international adventure. As did the first book, this one has a romantic subplot. All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable read, and I always consider it a bonus when I learn something along the way.

If you are intrigued by mysteries involving art, you may want to check out Santlofer's back list. Most of his previous novels concern art, be they series or stand-alones.

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, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

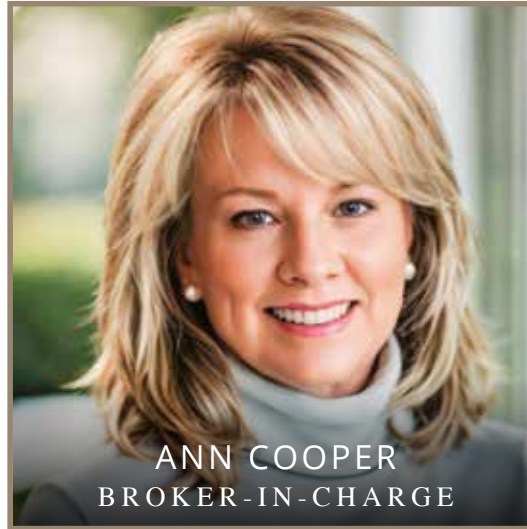
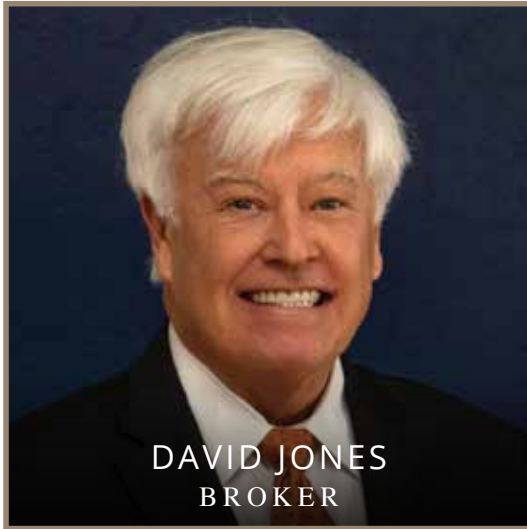
...MAYOR continued from page 2

petent and should sell the electric system to Duke Energy. Beyond the obvious that Duke Power owning the Highlands system would not have prevented it from the rages of Hurricane Helene, selling our electric system to Duke is not a new idea. The board looked at that option years ago. They concluded Duke did not want to buy and operate a system that would be less than one-quarter of 1% of their total system. I would take issue with the notion that another company would operate our system

better. We are the oldest municipal electric utility in this part of the state, with a 95-year history.

What we may do is enter another contract with an electrical provider in 2029 when the current Duke contract expires. The town will negotiate with potential wholesale electricity providers like Duke to secure the lowest rate possible to keep our customer costs as low as they are now.

• Tune in next week for Part 2.



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Halloween Highlands Style - 2024



Halloween Highlands Style - 2024



Photos by Kim and Jim Lewicki

• 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@maconcncliteracy.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 nc-post370@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).

Through Nov. 12

• Macon county youth basketball registration is open. For youth Girls ages 5-15 years old go to maconcountygirlsbasketball.com for boys ages 5-18 years old go to maconcountyboysbasketball.com.

Through Dec. 28

• At The Bascom, Holiday Market is open.

Thurs. - Sun., Nov. 7-10

• Highlands Cashiers Players presents "The Savannah Sipping Society" 7:30 nightly and 2 p.m. on Sunday. For tickets: www.highlandscashiersplayers.com or call 828-526-9047.

• Highlands Food & Wine Festival. For tickets go to www.highlandsfoodandwine.com/

Fri., Nov. 8

• American Legion Post 370 and Highlands Wreaths across America will be placing flags on veteran graves in observance of Veterans Day at Highlands Cemetery, Friday at 4p. Please meet at the flagpole at the top of the hill. The public are invited to participate.

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. FARM HARVEST DINNER & BARN DANCE. Book Online at OldEdward-Hospitality.com/ChefDinners

Sat., Nov. 9

• At The Bascom, Warmth Bundles Community Gathering. Call all knitters and crocheters. Come make hats, scarves and gloves for those affected by Hurricane Helene.

• At Molly Grace, Beaudin Trunk Show.

• At Wolfgang's, 5-course meal featuring Caymus-Wagner Family Wine Pairing. 6:30 p.m. Champagne reception. \$225 per

MOVIES

at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



Sat., Nov. 9 • 2p

Mon. & Tues., Nov. 11 & 12
2 & 5:30p

Tickets:

Adults: \$13.20 • Children: \$11

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828-526-9047

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

person plus tax and gratuity. Call 828-526-3807 for reservations.

• OEI's Chef Dinners at HALF-MILE FARM. JAZZ SUPPER. Book Online at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/ChefDinners

Mon., Nov. 11

• At HC Hospital cafeteria, free lunch for all veterans noon to 1p. there will be a brief presentaiton at 12:30p. For more information, call 828-526-1345.

Tues., Nov. 12

• HCH Dinner with Doc - Chronic pain management options - Eric Roslonski, DO, with Comprehensive Pain Consultants, 6-7p in Whiteside Cafeteria. For more information, call 828-526-1345. Attendance is limited to 50 people. A buffet-style dinner will be provided.

Wed., Nov. 13

• At The Secret Garden, Fall Flavors wine tasting and charcuterie. 5-7 p.m. \$40 per person. Also featuring jewelry by Marci

Sherwood of Isabelle Ambrose.

Thurs., Nov. 14

• At the Community Building, Bingo for Hurricane Relief 6:30-8:30p. Sponsored by Pat Allen and the Rotary Club of Highlands.

Friday, Nov. 15

• First Senior Lunch of the season will be at 12 noon at the Highlands Rec Dept in the Meeting Room. The menu will be Roasted Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Spiced Apples and Roll.

Sun., Nov. 17

• Celebration in honor of Mary Adair Trumbly as she steps into retirement. 2:30-4p at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Refreshments, heartfelt stories and company.

Nov. 18-25

• Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift drop off at First Baptist Church in Highlands noon to 4p and Cashiers Baptist Church. Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage, www.samaritianspurse.org/occ.

Mon. Nov. 18

• Lunch with the Doc at HC Hospital

from noon to 1p. Free program on chronic pain managment. Registration is available online at www.missionhealth.org/calendar or by calling 844-630-5295. Attendance is limited to 50 people, and a buffet-style dinner will be provided.

Thurs., Nov. 21-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, with or without skates. Coffee and hot chocolate are available for purchase.

Sat., Nov. 23

• 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., Nov. 29

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

Holidays in Highlands!

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

Ice Skating in Park –

**Thur., Nov. 21, 3:30-8pm
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 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

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/



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

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.visithighlandscnc.com.

Join us as we honor the remarkable Mary Adair Trumbly for her 14 years of dedication, vision, and passion at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. As she steps into her next act of retirement, let's come together to celebrate her incredible contributions and career!

Enjoy an afternoon filled with refreshments, heartfelt stories, laughter, and great company.

Sunday, November 17, 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Highlands Performing Arts Center

...MARATHON continued from page 1



Jack with his running partner, Pam Ascobere, at the midpoint of the NYC Marathon. Both are students at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and ran as part of the Qualitas of Life fundraising team.

during the month leading up to the marathon. After finishing (4 hours, 34 minutes), Jack said, "It is amazing what the body can do on sheer will power. I'm glad I trusted myself and pushed to do this one—both for me and for Qualitas of Life."

This is Jack's second marathon. He ran his first this past spring in Barcelona, finishing it in 3 hours, 54 minutes, meeting his goal of running it in less than four hours.

Jack will be home from Scotland and in Highlands from mid-December to mid-January and would be happy to connect

with anyone who wants to hear more about marathon training, his work with Qualitas of Life, or go for an easy run with him. Those interested in connecting can email Jack at jack.chilson03@gmail.com.

Jack grew up spending summers in Highlands and has been a resident since his parents, Greg and Monette Chilson, relocated here full-time in 2021. He has worked as a lifeguard at the Highlands Rec Center and as a caddy at High Hampton during his summers here.

— Submitted

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Healthgrades names Mission Hospital America's Best in multiple categories

Mission Hospital announced today that it is one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention™; Orthopedic Surgery™; Stroke Care™; Prostate Surgeries™; Gastrointestinal Care™; Gastrointestinal Surgery™; Critical Care™; and Surgical Care™, for 2025 according to new research released by Healthgrades, the leading resource consumers use to find a hospital or doctor. Healthgrades identified the 100 Best hospitals for 16 of the most common specialty care areas — recipient hospitals represent the Top 2% of hospitals for each specialty. This distinction, along with numerous other accolades from Healthgrades, reflects Mission Hospital's outstanding clinical performance and distinguishes it as one of the country's leading hospitals.

"It's always exciting to see the independent evaluations of the quality care provided at Mission Hospital. While these recognitions highlight the efforts of individual teams, they also validate the overall exceptional care at Mission Hospital and I'm so proud of all of our colleagues who contributed to that care," said Greg Lowe, President, Mission Health.

Healthgrades evaluates hospitals solely on clinical outcomes: risk-adjusted mortality and complications. By focusing on what matters most, patient outcomes, the Healthgrades ratings provide critical feedback for both patients and hospitals. By offering easy access to objective performance measures, Healthgrades gives consumers the information they need to find a hospital that excels in providing the care

they need. And, by shining a light on strengths and weaknesses, the Healthgrades ratings help direct hospitals to opportunities for clinical improvement. The 2024 hospital assessment evaluated patient mortality and complication rates for 35 common conditions and procedures at approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide to identify the top performers.

In the 2025 North Carolina State rankings, Healthgrades found Mission Hospital to be No. 1 in the state for Critical Care; Cardiology; Stroke Care and Gastrointestinal Care, Medical Treatment and Surgery. In addition, Healthgrades put Mission Hospital in the top 5% of the nation for Treatment of Stroke, Prostate Surgery, Overall GI Services; Gastrointestinal Surgery; GI Medical Treatment; Critical Care; Surgical Care; and Outpatient Joint Replacement.

Mission Hospital also achieved numerous five-star ratings for specialty care for 2025, according Healthgrades research. Mission Hospital's Five-Star ratings include: Coronary Interventional Procedures; Treatment of Heart Attack; Treatment of Heart Failure; Defibrillator Procedures; Pacemaker Procedures; Hip Fracture Treatment; Back Surgery; Treatment of Stroke; Treatment of Pneumonia; Repair of Abdominal Aorta; Peripheral Vascular Bypass; Prostate Removal Surgery; Colorectal Surgeries; Treatment of GI Bleed; Gallbladder Removal Surgery; Treatment of Sepsis; Treatment of Respiratory Failure; Treatment of Diabetic Emergencies; Outpatient Total Knee Replacement; and Outpatient Total Hip Replacement.

These five-star ratings reflect

Mission Hospital's commitment to consistently delivering the best care possible and places the organization in the upper echelon of hospitals for specialty care nationwide.

The 2024 Healthgrades analysis revealed that the variation in performance among hospitals continues to widen, making it increasingly important to seek care at top-rated programs. From 2020-2022, patients treated at hospitals among America's 100 Best have, on average, a 63.5% lower risk of experiencing a complication than if treated in hospitals that did not receive the award.*

"Healthgrades congratulates Mission Hospital for being a national leader and demonstrating a deep commitment to providing high quality care to all patients," said Brad Bowman, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Head of Data Science at Healthgrades. "As health systems nationwide endeavor to elevate the quality of care, these elite facilities provide a roadmap for success. We commend Mission Hospital for their dedication to excellence in patient care."

Consumers can visit Healthgrades.com to learn more about how Healthgrades measures hospital quality and access a patient-friendly overview of how we rate and why hospital quality matters here.

*Statistics are based on Healthgrades analysis of MedPAR data for 2020 through 2022 and represent three-year estimates for Medicare patients only. Click here to view the complete 2024 Specialty Awards and Ratings Methodology.

...TRUMP continued from page 7

Early in the evening, Trump secured 51.1 percent of the North Carolina vote compared to Harris' 47.7 percent. North Carolina was one of the important swing states Trump needed to secure to win the election. Macon County also selected Trump

securing 14,871 votes (68.2 percent) to Harris' 6,635 votes (30.47 percent).

North Carolina also elected a new governor with state Attorney General Josh Stein (Dem) defeating Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson (Rep). Stein received over 55

percent of the vote compared to Robinson's 40 percent.

With over 71 percent of the vote, Chuck Edwards (Rep) defeated Caleb Rudow (Dem) for US House of Representative District 11. Incumbent Kevin

• See TRUMP page 22

Wednesday, Nov. 13 • 5-7p
at The Secret Garden in Village Square

Fall Flavors
Wine Tasting
also featuring
jewelry
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w/paired fall flavors charcuterie • \$40/person

Reservations: 208 N. 5th St. • 828-305-7509

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Landmark Realty Group welcomes Ann Cooper as BIC for the Highlands office

Landmark Realty Group is excited to announce the appointment of Ann Cooper as the new Broker-in-Charge of the Highlands office. Formerly a Broker at Landmark's Cashiers office, Ann brings extensive expertise in real estate and a profound dedication to serving the Western North Carolina community. Carol Wilson, Director of Operations at Landmark Realty Group, expressed her enthusiasm for Ann's new leadership role: "All of us at Landmark wish Ann and her team much success in this well-deserved new role. Her dedication, unwavering determination, and business acumen will ensure her continuing success. I'm so proud of all Ann has accomplished since joining Land-



Ann Cooper

mark in 2019. It gives me great pleasure to now see her leading her own office and team. Leaders like Ann are the cornerstone of Landmark's continued success since 2004."

In her new position, Ann looks forward to creating meaningful connections with clients, helping them discover the beauty and charm of mountain living. Whether buying or selling, clients can expect a seamless experience rooted in Ann's commitment to exceptional service and client satisfaction.

For more information or to connect with Ann Cooper, please contact Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office at 828-526-4663 or stop in at 225 Main Street, Highlands, NC.



From left: Highlands Rotary Bingo Caller Tracy Franklin; Super Bingo Winner Barbara Cusachs; Friends of Highlands Wreaths Across America Coordinator Phil Potts

Bingo benefits Wreaths Across America

During the evening of October 24th, The Rotary Club of Highlands once again hosted the ever popular Highlands Rotary Bingo, partnering with Wreaths Across America for 15 rousing Bingo games, culminating in Super Bingo won by Barbara Cusachs.

The evening drew an enthusiastic crowd at the Highlands Community Building, with proceeds supporting of the work of Phil Potts and other volunteers for

Wreaths Across America in its mission to "Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom."

The next placement of wreaths at Highlands Memorial Park is Saturday, December 14th at 12-noon, beginning with a memorial ceremony in the Highlands Community Building followed by wreathing laying in the cemetery.

WHOLE LIFE MARKET

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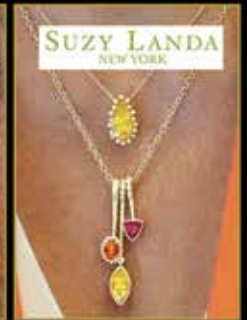
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

A prayer for our country and for our president

Rev. Kirkland 'Skully' Knight
The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

I find myself in the odd position of writing this article a day before our Presidential election, knowing that it will be published just after the election. It's hard to figure out exactly what to say. In the Episcopal Church, when we search for ways to mark our days or deal with events that come our way in our common life, we look to The Book of Common Prayer so that's where I will go. Firstly, a prayer for our country:

For our Country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There's a reason we go the prayer book during significant moments in our lives. There's a lot of good stuff in there. Reread that prayer. "Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues." No matter the outcome of the election, the prayer remains the same.

As I found myself gathered with a group of clergy last week and we were all talking about the election and how the congregations we serve might feel in reaction, we were reminded by one colleague that whether someone feels they have "won" or "lost" this election, that feeling will be fleeting as we remember just how fractured and broken we are politically.

As I said, I am writing the day before the election, but even so, I feel that it is safe to say how small the margin of victory will be for whomever is elected. There is a lot of work to do in our land, a lot of trust that needs to be gained, and a lot of healing that needs to happen. Whatever the outcome of this election, I hope that all of us, each and every one of us, including our President, will work to heal our divisions and help us to move closer to being the United States of America.

• 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

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Rev. Ken Langsdorf
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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.

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Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge
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Wed: Youth Group 6 p.m.; Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;

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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

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

Oct. 26

• At 9 a.m., officers responded to a call of a larceny of vehicle parts and accessories valued at \$114 from Reeves/Ace Hardware.

Oct. 27

• At 2:09 p.m., officers responded to a call of a breaking and entering of a residence on Oak Lane.

Oct. 28

• At 1:45 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

Oct. 30

• At 10:34 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 (Walhalla Road).

Oct. 31

• At 3:30 p.m. officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Hudson Library parking lot.

Nov. 1

• At 3:58 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Mr. Lori Drive.

Nov. 2

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a report of someone obtaining money under false pretenses, forgery and credit card fraud from a local resident at a store in High Point, NC where \$1,053.15 was taken.

Nov. 3

• At 11:52 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Brewster Lane.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 26.

Oct. 26

• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 5:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

Oct. 27

• At 8:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Strawberry Lane.

• At 10:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Half Mile Drive.

• At 11:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible fuel spill on Foreman Road.

• At 1:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hudson Road.

Oct. 28

• At 2:19 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Cole Mountain Circle.

• At 4:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Eastover Drive.

• At 6:38 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke a location on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

Oct. 30

• At 10:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cobblestone Drive.

Oct. 31

• At 10:59 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Carolina Way.

Nov. 1

• At 3:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible motor vehicle accident on Mt. Lori.

Nov. 2

• At 12:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 2:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Azalea Circle.

• At 6:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible chimney fire at a residence on N. 4th Street.

• At 8:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

• At 8:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bowery Road.

Nov. 3

• At 1:32 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Sherwood Forest.

• At 1:50 p.m., the dept. investigated a controlled burn at a location on N. 4th Street.

Nov. 4

• At 1:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Franklin Road (Gorge Road).

NOTE:

“Public Assistance” responses can mean various things: keys locked in vehicles, batteries in a smoke detector and more.

...BEAR continued from page 1

Sec. 6.5-37 to ‘hunt, kill, or take, or in any way molest wildlife in the vicinity of Lake Sequoyah.”

This incident is under investigation, and HPD is working jointly with the North Carolina Wildlife officers assigned to the Highlands area.

To report additional information, contact HPD Captain Leah McCall at 828.526.9431.

The 2024 bear hunting season in Western North Carolina is October 16 – November 18 and December 11 – January 11. To hunt bears in North Carolina, hunters need a valid hunting license with big game privileges, a Bear Management E-Stamp, and dogs or blinds.

Hunting is prohibited in many protected areas, including national parks, state parks, and bear sanctuaries. Hunters are allowed on private property with the owner’s permission, as long as it’s not within Asheville city limits.

Hunters are also required to submit a premolar tooth from a bear to the NC-WRC for tracking purposes.

Hunting is one of the primary ways to manage bear populations. Other methods include practicing BearWise, which means never feeding or approaching bears, securing food and garbage containers, cleaning and storing grills, not leaving pet food outside, and removing bird feeders.

– Submitted

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

And finally, for whomever it may be, a prayer for our President of the United States and all in Civil Authority:

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

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

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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

HIGHLANDS COMPLETELY FURNISHED 2BD, 1BA COTTAGE. Starlin movies, water included. \$2,000/mth. Text 828222-9319. (st. 10/17)

SEASONAL NEW LOG CABIN ON SAGEE DRIVE. 2 bedroom & 2 bath suites on Creek. 1 1/2 mile to downtown. Monthly or seasonally \$8,700 (1) month \$7,200 (3) Months. email: renee7726@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

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HELP WANTED

Church Organist. Lake Toxaway UMC, worshipping in a historic 100+ year old Gothic-Reverial 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

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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.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary learns about Special Liberty Project

The Rotary Club of Highlands recently enjoyed an inspiring program from Jessica and Cory Merritt, founders of the Special Liberty Project.

A Franklin-based retreat, the Special Liberty Project is focused on bringing physical and emotional strengthening to our veterans and their Gold Star families.

The mountain retreat experience provides veterans, widows, families opportunities for nurturing and healing with horses (SERVS), and other outdoor educational experiences. Retreat spon-



From left: Randy Foster, President, Rotary Club of Highlands; Cory Merritt, Co-Founder, Special Liberty Project; Jessica Merritt, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Special Liberty Project; Bill Swift, Assistant Governor, Rotary District 7670)

sorship and volunteer opportunities are available.

For more information visit speciallibertyproject.org.

...TRUMP continued from page 16

Corbin (Rep) defeated opponent Adam Tebrugge (Dem) for his third term as NC State Senator District 50. Corbin received 66.62 percent of the vote to Tebrugge's 33.38 percent. Incumbent Karl Gillespie (Rep) won another term as NC House of Representatives District 120 defeating Nancy Curtis (Dem) with over 71 percent of the vote.

The constitutional amendment "to provide that only a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age and otherwise possessing the qualifications for voting shall be entitled to vote at any election in this State" passed overwhelming with over 77 percent voting for and 23 against the amendment.

North Carolina judge seats unopposed on ballot:

- Tessa Shelton Sellers (Rep) – NC Superior Court Judge District 43A Seat 1
- Monica Hayes Leslie (Dem) – NC District Court Judge District 43 Seat 4
- Kristy L. Parton (Rep) – NC District Court Judge 43 Seat 5

- Kaleb Wingate – NC District Court Judge District Court Judge 43 Seat 6

- Virginia Hornsby (Rep) – NC District Court Judge District 43 Seat 7

- Justin B. Greene (Dem) – NC District Court Judge District 43 Seat 2 (Unexpired term ending 2027)

Other North Carolina race results:

- Lieutenant Governor – Rachel Hunt (Dem) 49.5% to Hal Weatherman (Rep) 47.6%.

- NC Agriculture Commissioner – Incumbent Steve Troxler (Rep) 52.6% to Sarah Taber (Dem) 45%.

- NC Attorney General – Jeff Jackson (Dem) 51.4 % to Dan Bishop (Rep) 48.6%

- NC Auditor – Dave Boliek (Rep) 49% to Incumbent Jessica Holmes (Dem) 48%

- NC Commissioner of Insurance – Incumbent Mike Causey (Rep) 52.1% to Natasha Marcus (Dem) 47.9%

- NC Commissioner of Labor – Luke Farley (Rep) 52.8%

to Braxton Winston II (Dem) 47.3% percent

- NC Secretary of State – Elaine Marshall (Dem) 51% to Chad Brown (Rep) 49%.

- Superintendent of Public Instruction Mo Green (Dem) 51% to Michele Morrow (Rep) 49%

- NC treasurer Brad Briner (Rep) 53% to Wesley Harris (Dem) 47%

The State Board states that the unofficial results reported by the end of election night will include about 98 percent of all ballots cast in the election. However, elections are not officially over on election night.

In the days after the election, bipartisan election officials in all 100 counties will ensure every eligible ballot is counted.

During the "canvass" process, election officials will audit and ultimately certify the results. For local contests, the county boards will certify results on November 15. For all other contests, the State Board will certify final results on November 26.

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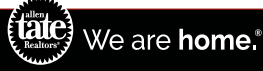


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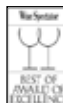
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