

Highlands Newspaper

Early Voting until 3p Sat. • Fall Back Sunday!

Volume 21, Number 44

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

Thurs., Oct. 31, 2023

Early voting is breaking records

By Kristin Fox
Macon County has seen record-breaking turnout for early voting surpassing numbers in the busy 2020 presidential election. Early voting began on Oc-

tober 17. "Early voting, as we had expected, has been very busy at both voting locations. In Franklin, we are seeing about 1,000 or more a day while Highlands is av-

eraging about 100 or more a day," said Melanie D. Thibault, Director Macon County Board of Election. "Happily, although the early voting turnout has been high, the

• See **VOTING** page 4

EMS Director Cabe to don MC Manager hat Nov. 12

By Kristin Fox
On November 1, Warren Cabe will take over the position of county manager. At the October meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, the board voted unanimously to appoint Cabe as the interim county manager following the resignation of County Manager Derek Roland. November 12 will be Cabe's first county commissioner meeting as interim county manager.

Cabe currently serves as the Emergency Management Services (EMS) director of Macon County and has been busy working with FEMA and other agencies after Hurricane Helene's destruction.

At the September meeting of the board, Roland submitted his resignation as county manager to pursue another career opportunity. Roland has served as county manager for the last 15 years, first

• See **CABE** page 22



Sandy and Bob Trevathan and friends dressed to impress last year.

Halloween Highlands style

Halloween on Main is 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31

Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic on Thursday, Oct. 31 at 5:15p for Halloween on Main festivities which are 6-8p.

All vehicles must be removed – the street reopens around 8:30pm. Participating merchants

will hand out candy along the way to the tunes of music. Entertainment includes: ABC Combo in front of The Park on Main, High Five playing in front of Berkshire Hathaway, DJ Mike Murphy spinning tunes mid-way on Main Street

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With the Highlands School Project now a go, the soccer field is in the BOE's sights

By Kristin Fox

The future of the Highlands School soccer field was again a topic of discussion at the October meeting of the Macon County School Board.

Since the school was built on the site of an old swamp, keeping the soccer field dry and playable has been a chore.

Games have been cancelled and injuries sustained due to wet conditions.

According to Todd Gibbs, Macon County Schools HR Director/Auxiliary Services Director, the project is at the point where a design is now needed to move forward with the project.

At an estimated cost of \$48,000, the design is only for how to remove and replace the swampy soil under the current field, not the actual work to have it completed. The design would determine the best way to remove all the material down to the sand silt and swamp muck, removing

it and replacing it with aggregate and soils that would drain away any water on the field's surface.

While the removal and replacement of the underlying soil under the field is the most expensive, it would provide the most permanent solution for fixing the field.

However, before moving forward, School Board member Hilary Wilkes recommended to the school board that all solutions to providing a field for soccer and the physical education program at Highlands School be considered and discussed before committing to spending money on the initial design work.

"I feel like at this point there are a lot of different perspectives on how to proceed with the field, either with this field or another field," said Wilkes. "I have talked to Coach Lamb, and I don't think it would hurt to have some of the people who have input and

• See **SOCCER** page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Gorge Road woes will be with us a while

In the past, I obsessed over roads and paving, probably because, as a boy, I rode around South Georgia with my father, looking at roads under construction. My father was a state highway engineer, and I was fascinated with highway construction. I cherish those memories of my father driving his old Plymouth station wagon, going about 3 miles an hour on a freshly paved road, checking for correct grades and the dreaded inclusions.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

critical need for repairing NC-DOT as soon as possible. I have, too. Now, everyone needs to take a deep breath and let NCDOT do their work in the most effective way possible. They are facing a multitude of projects that also have high priority to the recovery of Western North Carolina.

Second, a pressure point has now become US 64, the Gorge Road between Franklin and Highlands. The challenge is to keep tractor-trailers off this road and

have them use the NC 107 detour that begins at Dillsboro over to Cashiers.

There has been mixed success in stopping tractor-trailer trucks on the Gorge Road. Some days, it is totally clear, and others, multiple tractor-trailer trucks attempt the impossible trip and shut down the road.

I drove the Gorge Road this week from Franklin to Highlands. There are three points where truckers can stop and turn around. First, there is the initial truck turnaround just at the Franklin town limits with signs telling tractor-trailer trucks to make the turn and not go up the Gorge Road. Second, NCDOT has put an electronic sign in the area where there is a gas station and the Assembly of God Church. The sign tells them to turn around where there is a very big church parking lot. Finally, at Walnut Creek Road, there is a sign telling truckers to turn around. Again, there is a church parking lot at Walnut Creek and US 64 intersection where a turnaround could be made.

There are additional signs on the route and nearby roads warning truckers not to use the Gorge Road. So, when an irresponsible trucker gets stuck at the Gorge, there are no excuses to be made. Now, only if the Dollar General trucks and their dispatchers would heed the warnings, not only on the Gorge Road but also on Warwoman.

On the Highlands side, our police department has increased its presence near the NC 106 and US 64 intersection. They will stop truckers who attempt to go down the Gorge Road, but they cannot be there 24/7. They must respond to other calls and make security patrols throughout the town.

I was talking with one officer this week who stated that if they see a tractor-trailer truck in town, they will follow it to ensure it does not attempt to go down the Gorge

• SNAPSHOTS •







Star light, star bright ...

A comet as seen in the western sky shortly after sunset in Cullowhee on Oct. 21.

Photo by Diana Jurss

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

• WEATHER •

Thu, 31-Oct	Fri, 1-Nov	Sat, 2-Nov	Sun, 3-Nov
 64°F 49°F	 68°F 50°F	 67°F 53°F	 60°F 47°F
Partly sunny and nice	Cloudy	Low clouds may break; mild	Partial sunshine
RealFeel® High 67° Low: 54°	RealFeel® High: 67° Low 54°	RealFeel® High 68° Low: 50°	RealFeel® High 65° Low: 53°

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Highlands Newspaper

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HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N,C 28741

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...VOTING continued from page 1

wait time in the line is only around 15-20 minutes," she said.

Thibault said it appears voters want to vote in person this year rather than with



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absentee ballots.

"In 2020, we had around 5,000 absentee ballots that we sent out, right now we have only sent out around 1,700," she said.

The early voting daily average in 2020 in Franklin was 759 and 116 in Highlands. So far for 2024, the daily average in Franklin is 958 and 127 in Highlands.

Early voting will continue until 3p this Saturday, Nov. 2. Until then, early voting is open Monday-Friday 8a to 7:30p at the Highlands Civic Center located at 600 N. 4th Street, Highlands and the Macon County Robert C. Carpenter Community Building located at 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin.

Voters can cast ballots on Election Day, Tues., Nov. 5 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. but unlike early voting, votes must be cast at assigned precincts. If you are unsure about your precinct, call the Macon County Board of Elections at (828) 349-2034.

November 5 is also the last day to turn in an absentee ballot by 7:30 p.m.

"With this busy election, I plead with voters to be patient and polite to all of our poll workers and staff that are working so hard each day to make sure that everyone can cast a ballot," said Thibault. "We could not have elections without them. I appreciate all of them and the work that they do for our Macon County voters."

In Macon County there are a total of 29,345 registered voters. The breakdown of registered voters is as follows: Constitution: 1; Democratic: 4,942; Green: 7; Justice for All: 2; Libertarian: 202; No Labels: 23; Republican: 12,872; Unaffiliated: 11,365; We the People: 4.

As of Tuesday evening, the total number of votes cast was 12,817. The breakdown of votes cast by parties is as follows: Constitution: 1; Democratic: 2,205; Green: 1; Justice for All: 1; Libertarian: 54; No Labels: 7; Republican: 6,020; Unaffiliated: 4,528; We the People: 0.

Thibault reminds voters that this year in order to vote, voters must present a photo ID.

For specific information, please visit the North Carolina State Board of Elections website.

Macon County voters are not the exception in this year's election with voters showing up to vote early at the polls in droves across the state with a new record on the opening day of early voting.

According to the State Board of Elections, more than 353,000 voters cast their ballots on opening day. This total surpasses the 348,559 first-day voter turnout record set in 2020

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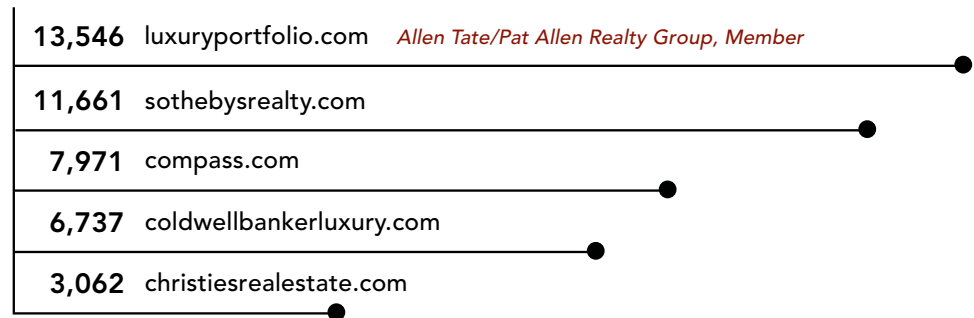
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Source: Scott Business Consulting May 2024. Chart compares brands with luxury positioning and a dedicated website with the ability to determine the difference between company exclusive properties and IDX listings.



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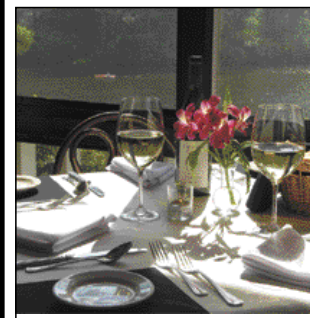
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• LETTERS •

Thanks to Wolfgang's lifesavers

Dear Editor,

I just want to share my profound thanks to the staff at Wolfgang's restaurant for possibly saving my husband's life.

While eating there last week he began to choke on a piece of food and was therefore unable to breathe. Due to the quick response of Jacque Babac and Daniel Ferriero, they performed the Heimlich maneuver on him but it did not seem to clear his airway.

Then they immediately called 911 and the paramedics were there within minutes. They blocked off the street and took him to the hospital by ambulance to take x-rays and for observation to be sure he OK.

There was another unknown couple sitting near us at the restaurant who also sprang into action. As my daughter went into shock, the lady came over to put ice on her wrists in order to help. I so wish I had gotten their names to thank them also! My profound thanks.

Susan Wolsey
Highlands

Harris wants to build people up not tear them down

Dear Editor,

Harris is focused on financial policies to benefit the middle classes. She proposes to reinstate child tax credits that Congress refused to extend and to add a new tax credit to the parents of newborns; provide tax credits to builders of starter homes, to first-time home buyers, and to small business start-ups. She will continue to negotiate lower drug costs and protect the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care, which has provided low-cost medical insurance to millions of formerly-uninsured Americans) and Social Security benefits. She would impose a 25% income tax on income + unrealized capital gains on the 0.01% of the taxpayers whose net worth is \$100 million or greater (i.e., the billionaires; current average tax rate of 8% on income only). She will sign an abortion rights law should Congress pass such a bill.

Trump is focused not on improving lives, but on punishing almost everyone except the extremely wealthy. His signature campaign promise is a "bloody" (his word) deportation of millions of immigrants and the only reason he can make that promise is because, as a private citizen, he got the Republican Congress to kill a bipartisan immigration bill that had enough support from both parties to pass. He claims, as he has since 2016, that he will introduce a new medical insurance plan that will be "much better than Obama Care." Despite 6 years of promises, no such plan has materialized. He will impose more tariffs (most administrations impose tariffs, which are taxes on imported products) he says to pay for child care. The only flaw in the plan is that tariffs help the national economy by ensuring cheap imports do not undercut the costs of domestic products, thereby protecting American jobs. Tariffs do not directly benefit households, nor do any funnel into decreasing child care costs. At least some, and sometimes all, of these tariffs are added to the cost of these imported products and passed on to consumers. He will make permanent the tax credits Congress gave to the wealthiest Americans during his first term — the same wealthy Americans

Harris proposes to tax at 25% of their total wealth. Trump will not commit to protecting women's rights to abortions.

There are a zillion studies on the economy, and economic statistics are tricky to understand, and easy to manipulate for specific outcomes. However, almost all conclude that people fare better under Democratic administrations. In general, Republicans favor tax cuts on businesses, investments, and high-income earners. Democrats believe in higher taxes on investments, big businesses, and high-net worth families. Since the end of the Depression (which skews the data in favor of Democratic administrations if it is included) GDP grew an average of 3.6% under Democrats and 2.8% under Republicans.

Harris can only implement her forward looking policies that would benefit all Americans, not just the extremely wealthy, with a Democratic Congress. That requires voters to elect not only a Democrat as president, but also Democratic legislators. No one but you knows who you vote for. Make sure you vote your best interests.

Karen Patterson
Highlands

Republican signs are missing

Dear Editor,

Oh, how curious that 80% of the near 300 Trump-Vance posted political signs have disappeared throughout Jackson County where none of the rival Democratic signs have been touched.

Both Danny Keever and I are the primary poster personnel for the Republican side and this year we timed it so that such sort might not happen like back in 2022 and farther back to 2020.

I can't imagine (the Democrats) doing something like this. Now that would be around 265 signs around including the remote areas. A campaign of its own.

So, if anyone knows of the people or person that's doing this, please notify the Jackson County authorities. By the way, it's a felony. For shame for shame.

Dick Darnell
Cashiers

Russia is stoking division

Monday, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released the following statement:

The IC assesses that Russian actors manufactured and amplified a recent video that falsely depicted an individual ripping up ballots in Pennsylvania, judging from information available to the IC and prior activities of other Russian influence actors, including videos and other disinformation activities. Local election officials have already debunked the video's content.

This Russian activity is part of Moscow's broader effort to raise unfounded questions about the integrity of the US election and stoke divisions among Americans, as detailed in prior ODNI election updates. In the lead up to election day and in the weeks and months after, the IC expects Russia to create and release additional media content that seeks to undermine trust in the integrity of the election and divide Americans."

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

The property market is solid and will attract those looking for a place to call home

It is with a heavy, yet grateful heart that I write this article for Investing At 4,118 Ft. The impact of Hurricane Helene felt in our area was much less severe than in many of our neighboring regions across Western North Carolina and while our community experienced its share of downed trees, washouts, temporary road closures, and widespread power outages, we are fortunate to have seen such a rapid recovery. However, the closure of Highway 106, also known as Dillard Road, will have lingering effects throughout the fall and winter months.

In times like these, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the damage nature can cause, but what stands out most is the strength and resilience of the people who call this region home. From the moment the storm passed, a wave of compassion, resourcefulness, and neighborly love surged throughout the community. From first responders and linemen to residents and visitors, the support for cleanup and restoration efforts has been swift and remarkable.

The efforts of local community members, alongside the selflessness of those who traveled to assist, have dramatically impacted the lives of many who have lost so much. While some homes and businesses face weeks or months of repair, there's no doubt that Western North Carolina will recover and rebuild. This part of Appalachia is more than just a beautiful landscape; it's a community built on the values of perseverance and solidarity. We know we will come together, rebuild, and ensure that the true meaning of Southern hospitality continues to shine brightly.

Hurricane Helene and the ongoing closure of Highway 106 serve as a powerful reminder of the crucial role that tourism plays in our area. We are now left wondering how our economy will be affected by the potential loss of much of our usual Leaf Season traffic. This annual event is a hallmark of autumn in Western North Carolina, drawing visitors from across the country who come to marvel at the vibrant display of fall colors. Local businesses – from shops

to restaurants, hotels, and short-term rentals – depend on this influx of tourists. The ripple effect of their absence will be felt for months.



Mandi Cantrell
 Director of Property
 Management,
 Broker at Landmark Vacation
 Rentals

Some might ask whether short-term rentals, often a point of contention in many communities, are really so bad. In times like this, they prove to be an integral part of tourism and hospitality. When families and visitors can't easily access our region, we miss out on more than just revenue. We lose out on the chance to share our way of life – the unique charm, warmth, and beauty of this place we call home. It raises important questions: How can we better balance tourism with sustainable development? How can we support our local economy through such uncertain times?

As we look ahead, it's essential to remember the importance of supporting our local shops and restaurants. These businesses are the heartbeat of our community, and they need our help more than ever. Let's also extend our support to surrounding areas in Western North Carolina that were hit harder than we were. Every act of kindness, every dollar spent locally, and every effort to help our neighbors recover counts.

Despite the challenges we've faced – and the ones we may still face in the coming months – there is hope on the horizon. Our town has always been strong, and our real estate market reflects that strength.

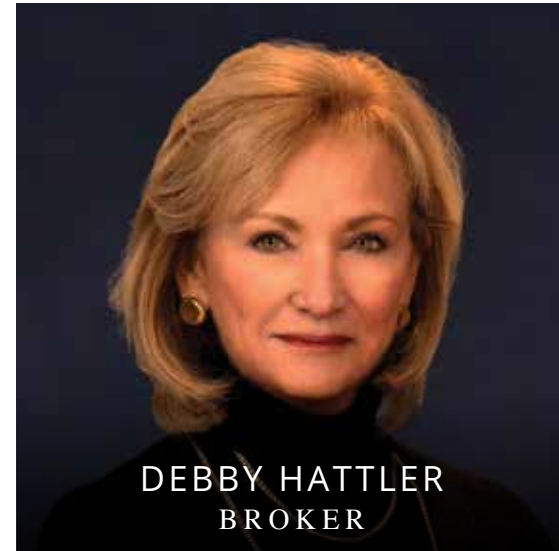
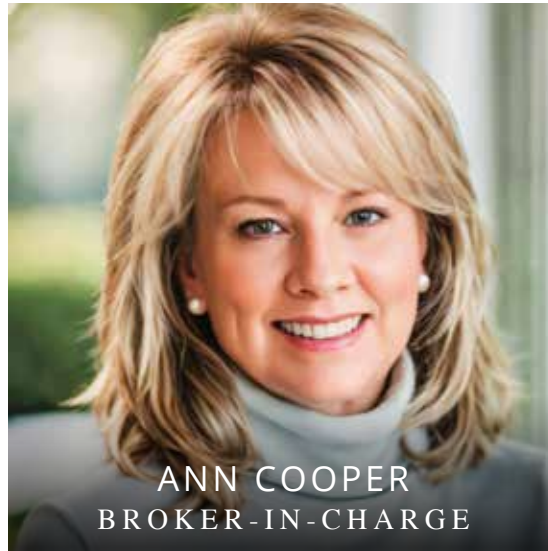
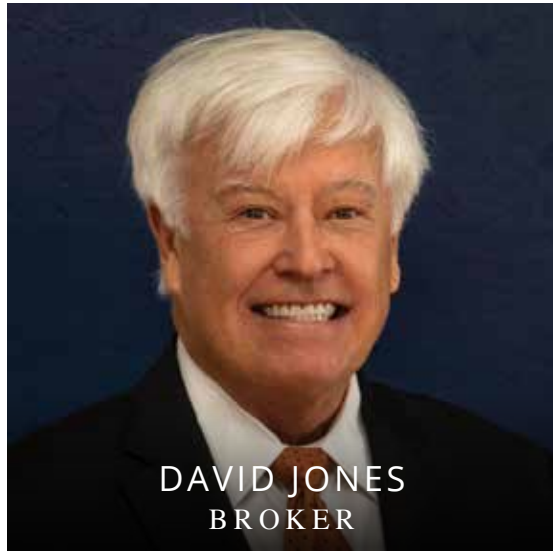
People are drawn to this area not only because of its natural beauty but also because of the resilience and character of its residents.

The property market here remains solid, and while there may be temporary setbacks, the long-term outlook remains positive.

Our town's spirit, its tight-knit community, and the unique appeal of Western North Carolina will continue to attract those looking for a place to call home.

Together, we will emerge stronger, more connected, and more determined than ever to protect and promote the special place we are fortunate to live in.

Say hello to our new brokers in Highlands!



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DECEITFUL ALLIANCE

Trump? No. He's just the PAWN. This is the real Republican ticket. Familiarize yourselves with what these guys want to do to destroy our democracy. Project 2025 is readily available online. Read it and weep.



JD Vance. Handpicked for VP by the guy on the right. Promoting a Second American Revolution meant to destabilize democratic norms.



Kevin Roberts. Architect of Project 2025 and head ideologue at the Heritage Foundation.

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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

As we navigate the aftermath of the storm, remember your health

Our Western North Carolina communities felt the full force of Mother Nature's fury when Hurricane Helene wrought havoc in our area. No matter how prepared you think you may be, you are never prepared enough for what we witnessed and for what some are continuing to endure. Our neighbors and communities have experienced such destruction and loss that it is hard to process even weeks later.

I want to thank my extraordinary team here at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and I want to acknowledge and thank HCA Healthcare and Mission Health for ensuring that we had everything we needed and for continuing to monitor our needs. I also want to say how blessed I am to live in this community and be part of the HCH family.

I will share more on the storm and the efforts of our teams in our November column. For now, I want to encourage all who are able to continue to care for yourselves. Don't neglect your screenings and primary care appointments; and this month, we cannot miss the opportunity to stress the importance of getting your mammogram.

As we recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month every October, we have more reasons to be hopeful than ever about the



**Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital**

disease that affects one in eight women, and is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, except for skin cancer. We are fortunate that researchers are constantly seeking a cure and developing innovative treatments with each passing year.

One of the most powerful weapons in fighting breast cancer, however, continues to be the screening mammogram. New developments in imaging have given Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) the capability to discover breast

cancers more easily, including for the approximately 40% of women with dense breasts. Dense breast tissue contains more glandular and fibrous tissue than fatty tissue. Women with dense breast tissue are at higher risk for breast cancer and finding it can be more difficult.

With the advent of 3D mammograms, radiologists can examine more highly detailed, clearer images of the breast tissue, including dense breast tissue. As compared to 2D mammograms, 3D breast tomosynthesis provides the added benefit of a computer being able to convert digital breast images into slim slices that then give the mammogram its three-dimensional quality. This also addresses the challenge

• See HOSPITAL page 22



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HIGHLANDS

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Halloween on Main

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

6 - 8 PM

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TRICK-OR-TREATING
HOT DOGS & HOT CHOCOLATE

LIVE MUSIC BY
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Made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

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. Meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30p and Wednesday and Friday at noon. Women's Group 5:30p, Tuesdays. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings are at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30a, Tuesday at 7p, Friday and Sunday at 5p, and Saturday at 9a. 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), everyone is welcome meetings.

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

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

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

• See EVENTS page 16

MOVIES

at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



Sun.-Tues. • Nov. 2-5

Sat. 2p;

Mon. & Tues.: 2 & 5:30p

Rated R for language, sexual references, some drug use, and brief graphic nudity.

Tickets:

Adults: \$13.20 • Children: \$11

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828-526-9047

The Highlands Cashiers PLAYERS present

November 1-3 and November 7-10

Nightly @ 7:30 pm
Sunday Matinees @ 2 pm

CABARET SEATING \$35

Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC
For tickets: www.highlandscashiersplayers.com or call: 828-526-9047

THE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY

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Directed by Ron Leslie

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872 W. US 64W • Cashiers
MLS# C104478A
\$1,499,000



69 Holt Cottage Lane • Highlands
MLS# R103605A
\$985,000



Office: 828-743-0880 Cell: 828-506-4093
betsy@betsypaulproperties • BestyPaulProperties.com

...EVENTS continued from page 14

groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

• 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

Thurs., Oct 31

• At Park on Main, Mr. Pickles

Howl-O-Ween Party. Bring your pet and costume 4-5:30p. Judging will begin promptly at 5p. Each category winner gets a prize, Best In Show wins Complimentary Night at The Park On Main

• Highlands' Main Street will transform into a festive pedestrian zone for "Halloween on Main" from 6-8pm. Participating merchants will hand out candy, Entertainment includes: ABC Combo in front of The Park on Main, High Five playing in front of Berkshire Hathaway, DJ Mike Murphy spinning tunes mid-way on Main Street

Fri. - Sun., Nov. 1-3

• Highlands Cashiers Players presents "The Savannah Sipping

Society" 7:30 nightly and 2 p.m. on Sunday. For tickets go to www.highlandscashiersplayers.com or call 828-526-9047.

Nov. 2-Dec. 28

• At The Bascom, Holiday Market is open.

Tues., Nov. 5

Monthly first-Tuesday Community Table dinner at the Community Building at 6pm.

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/

highlandsfoodandwine.com/

Fri., Nov. 8

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. FARM HARVEST DINNER & BARN DANCE. Book Online at OldEdwardsHospitality.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. \$210 per 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

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.

Tues., Nov. 26

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

Schedule your appointment Now!



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Leadership Highlands Class of 2024

Leadership Highlands, a Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC community engagement program, today announced the graduates of the 2024 class.

Graduates include: Clark de Bullet, Seanna Bresnahan, Lesley Galloway, Debby Hall, Lindsay Hostetler, Deborah Kirk, Bianca Mitchell, Mia Nelson, Tina Rogers, Cynthia Shahed, Andrew Spraggins, Julie Upshaw, Christina Vives and Rachel Wavra.

This year's graduates embarked on an 8-month journey, March-October, where they immersed themselves in a comprehensive curriculum designed to strengthen their civic knowledge, leadership capabilities, and professional networks. The program included a retreat, monthly day-long sessions, and a formal graduation ceremony.

The program also emphasizes personal leadership development through principle-based

...MAYOR continued from page 2

Road. The officer said she followed one trucker who took the NC 106 detour to Spring Street to make a delivery at Reeves Hardware. After making the delivery, the trucker still attempted to go down the Gorge Road.

When possible, the police are also stopping those driving huge RVs that many times have cars in tow. Some of these RVs are the size of a Greyhound bus and cannot make the turns on the Gorge Road without, at the very least, damaging the sides of



decision-making and team-building exercises. Selection criteria for participants include civic involvement, leadership potential, diversity of perspective, and a strong commitment to the program and the Highlands community. A selection committee composed of Chamber staff, members of the Board of Directors, and past participants are responsible for choosing each

the RV. Thanks to AARP lobbyists, by federal law, these big RVs can travel anywhere in the country. Our police stop them to warn them of the problem and to avoid the road's closure like what happens with a tractor trailer truck. Officers tell me a stuck RV can be even more problematic than a tractor-trailer. I can just see a senior citizen like me trying to back up an RV with a car in tow. Sometimes, I very much appreciate driving a Mini Cooper. It's getting to be about all I want to handle.

year's class.

Applications for the 2025 Leadership Highlands program available online at <https://www.highlandschamber.org/chamber/leadership-highlands/>. The deadline to apply is noon, Wednesday, December 11.

For more information call 828-526-5841 or go to [highlandschamber.org](https://www.highlandschamber.org).

Finally, our town road paving projects should wrap up in two weeks. Arnold Road remains to be paved as does Gibson Street. They will be the last two paving projects for the year.

NOTE:

About 7:15 Tuesday night, I was run off the road by an 18-wheeler whose trailer was in my lane as I rounded a curve going up to Highlands. I ended up in a ditch against a guardrail with minimal damage to my truck, and no injuries but the outcome could have been worse.

— Kim Lewicki

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



All Saints Day: Nov. 1 Remember the ones who inspired our faith

Ken Langsdorf
Lutheran Church
of the Holy Family

For many Christians, All Saints Day is a time to remember and celebrate people who have had an influence in our life and faith through their devotion to God. These may be famous Saints or parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, pastors, neighbors, friends, or anyone who has inspired us in our faith in God. These are people who guided our journey through life as a student of Jesus. We are grateful for these companions on our journey through life who pointed us to the Way.

Martin Luther liked to talk a lot at the dinner table. One of his students recorded this comment of Martin Luther: He said, "The Holy Scriptures call Christians saints and the people of God. It is a pity that it's forgotten that we are saints, for to forget this is to forget Christ and baptism." He continues, "You say that the sins which we commit every day offend God, and therefore we are not saints. To this I reply: Mother love is stronger than the filth and scabbiness on a child, and so the love of God toward us is stronger than the dirt that clings to us. Accordingly, although we are sinners, we do not lose our filial relation on account of our filthiness, nor do we fall from grace on account of our sin."

Saints are real people with real sins. By the mercy of God, saints are people who receive God's grace through Jesus, and in Jesus find life forgiven and loved. As saints we celebrate that we are in God's all powerful love every day and for all eternity.

On All Saints Day, November 1, I invite you to share with those who are close to you stories of the saints in your life. Who are the saints you miss sharing life with? What do you miss most about these dear ones? How did their life inspire your faith? What does the grace of Jesus mean to you as you remember these loved ones?

We are blessed as we share stories of the saints. It is good to remember these dear ones. Sharing these stories can bring us encouragement as we continue in our life as the saints of Jesus. Today we also consider how we can be saints to others, inspiring their faith and pointing them to the grace of Jesus.

An All Saints Day prayer:

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PLACES TO WORSHIP

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (828) 421-1315
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30; Worship 10:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector
464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC
CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701
Sunday: 9a Fellowship; 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a
Holy Eucharist Wed: 6p Bible Study and Prayer

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.
10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,
Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • 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
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Rev. Ken Langsdorf
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist 9 & 11 am; Coffee Hour
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www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

Our Bazaar Barn is open Thurs. - Sat. 10a -2p.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

Sept. 30

• At noon, officers received a report of cyber crime at a residence on Dixon Drive where someone obtained property valued at \$1,300 by false pretenses without paying.

Oct. 15

• At 12:15 p.m., police responded to a call of the destruction of town property at the lower Rec Park parking lot where a gate was damaged.

Oct. 22

• At noon, Sarah Anne Rutter, 40, of Highlands, was arrested for Driving While License Revoked - Not Impaired Revocation. She was issued a \$500 unsecured bond.

• At 4:57 p.m., officers responded to a hit and run report where a driver hit a mail box valued at \$250 at a residence on Lower Lake Road and fled the scene.

Oct. 23

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 5th Street.

Oct. 25

• At 11:54 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at the Carolina Way parking lot near Blue Bike.

• At 1:55 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Carolina Mountain Lane.

Oct. 26

• A little past midnight, Sarah Jean Graham, 65, from Hickory, NC, was arrested for DUI on US 64 east (Cashiers Road). She was issued a \$600 secured bond. Her trial date is Dec. 18.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log

...SOCCER continued from page 1

ideas come together in the same room and discuss the best solution.”

She said there are many people who could offer input.

“There are a handful of people I would like to get into the same room so we can all have a conversation about this, so that we not only have buy-in and excitement moving forward, but we know we are doing the right thing,” she added. “We have folks who have been so generous with helping with the current field, and I think it would be beneficial to get Todd and those folks together for their input. The town including Mayor Patrick Taylor, Macon County Commissioner John Shearl and others all have thoughts on fixing the field that I think should be discussed.”

Wilkes said it’s important to do it right from the start.

“I am not trying to delay anything, but I don’t know that we can vote on a

from Oct. 15.

Oct. 22

• At 4:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a location on Church Street.

• At 7:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 9:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cobb Road.

Oct. 23

• At 7:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crowe Drive.

• At 9:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Log Cabin Lane.

• At 8:23 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 9:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pinewood Lane.

Oct. 24

• At 9:22 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 1:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible brush fire at a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 4:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 5:59 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke at a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

Oct. 25

• At 2:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible vehicle fire at a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

Oct. 26

• At 7:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 9:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

design when it’s not necessarily going to be the right choice,” she said. “There’s a lot of different ways we can approach the situation that I think need to be discussed. I would like to get this group together and then bring something back to the board that we all feel like is the best solution.”

BOE Chairman Jim Breedlove agreed with Wilkes saying to go ahead with a meeting and then take it to the liaison committee meeting, which includes BOE and BOC members, so the commissioners are aware of what’s going on.

Wilkes agreed and said she will then deliver a report at the November school board meeting.

“I want to do the right thing for all the children that are out there on the field for P.E. and soccer, and I think there are a lot of options,” said Wilkes. “The end game is to do the most economically viable option; we don’t need to spend any more than we need to.”

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...HOSPITAL continued from page 10

of overlapping tissue that can obscure abnormalities.

Women often have questions about when they should get their first baseline mammogram, and how often they should be screened thereafter. They have good reason to seek clarity about scheduling screenings, since even highly respected medical and breast cancer-focused organizations' recommendations differ. This is why it's best to speak with your own primary care physician about when you should start getting mammograms and how frequent they should be. In general, you should start getting screened at age 40, and get your mammogram annually, but the definitive answer depends on your family history of breast cancer, your own health history, your age, and other factors.

Remaining vigilant about preventing breast cancer means taking control of the things you can that are known to lower your risk. These include getting sufficient daily exercise (at least 30 minutes, five times per week), eating a healthy diet that's abundant in fresh fruits and vegetables, lean proteins,

nuts and seeds, and whole rather than highly processed foods, and not drinking alcohol excessively or using illicit drugs. Of course, don't smoke and if you do, reach out to learn about cessation programs.

Some women are advised to get a breast MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) in conjunction with their mammogram. Your physician might recommend a breast MRI with a mammogram or in some cases, women with dense breast tissue are advised to get an automated whole breast ultrasound (ABUS) in addition to their mammogram. There are other facilities within the Mission Health System offer these as well, which your physician can refer you to if needed.

Our board-certified radiologists have expertise that enables them to review images in great detail and identify abnormalities. Contrast enhanced mammograms, where contrast dye is used, can reveal new blood vessels that form when cancer is present and growing. These screenings, as well as biopsy procedures, are offered if needed at Mission Health facilities

...CABE continued from page 1

as the county planner then in the role of county manager at the end of 2013.

Cabe started working for Macon County as a part-time 9-1-1 telecommunicator in 1990, becoming a full-time 9-1-1 telecommunicator in 1992. The following year, he transferred to EMS as a paramedic.

In 1996, Cabe was promoted to EMS director in 1996 and served in that role until 2011. He left Macon County government to become the fire chief for the Town of Franklin in 2011.

Cabe was named the Franklin town manager in 2013 and served in that role until 2014. In 2014, he returned to Macon County to serve again as the EMS director.

Cabe has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management from Mars Hill University. He is a certified NC EMT-Paramedic obtaining this certification through Southwestern Community College. Cabe previously has held a Critical

Care Paramedic Certification with concentrations for both adult and pediatric patients obtained through a shared course through the University of Maryland-Baltimore County and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

"This is a great honor to be named interim county manager," said Cabe. "I appreciate the trust the board of commissioners has placed in me to be a part of such an excellent organization that serves so many people in so many ways. I also appreciate the support that has been shown to me by the county employees and cannot say enough about the work that they do on a daily basis."

"I also appreciate the support of current County Manager Derek Roland as we transition," he added. "The work that he has put in and the things he has accomplished over the last 10 years is significant to Macon County and the path we will take for years to come."

Cabe stated he wanted to continue the work started by the previ-

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ous boards and managers providing the best quality services to the residents and visitors of Macon County in the most financially responsible way possible.

other than HCH as well. For women in need of breast surgery, local surgeons or Hope Women's Cancer Center in Asheville offer breast surgical options. HCH is proud to offer sophisticated breast cancer screening for women in our community, enabling them to access this critical care easily and locally. These tests are so vital because they can spot breast cancer in its earliest stages, before it can be felt, when it's most treatable and outcomes are most favorable.

Of course, self-care in the form of monthly breast self-exams is important too. A good tutorial we've found is available here, <https://www.breastcancer.org/screening-testing/breast-self-exam-bse>.

I urge the women in our community to put their health first when it comes to scheduling their mammograms and being active partners in their own preventive care. If the storm or other factors have made it difficult or not possible to come in for a screening, consider scheduling one for the future so it's on your calendar. We're here for you.

ous boards and managers providing the best quality services to the residents and visitors of Macon County in the most financially responsible way possible.

"The big projects we are managing at the moment are the Highlands School improvements and the Franklin High School replacement facility, and I want to make sure we move forward with those in the most responsible and effective way possible," said Cabe.

"We also have experienced issues with employee shortages including retention and recruitment over the past several years," he added. "We are starting to see improvement in those areas, and I would like to see us continue in a positive direction as we move forward."

"Roland is leaving me some big shoes that I have to fill, and I appreciate the vote of confidence from the board for me to at least make an honest attempt at that," said Cabe. "I will do my best to make sure that we keep going in the direction Roland started and the board wants to follow."

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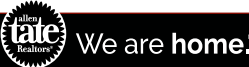
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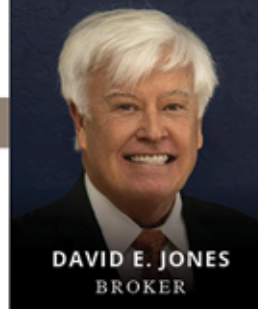
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