

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 22, Number 6

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

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025

## Men hospitalized after argument over dogs

Around 3:45 the afternoon, of Feb. 1, two men on 5th Street near the Kelsey Trail, got into a physical altercation regarding their dogs which resulted in injury to both men.

One man was walking one dog on-leash and the other had three dogs off-leash.

During this altercation, one of the men suffered an injury from a sharp object and the other suffered an injury due to a fall.

Both men were taken to the

hospital where they received medical attention for their injuries.

The incident is still under investigation by Highlands Police.

Police Chief Andrea Holland said this is all that can be disclosed at this time. —submitted

## Cabe is in place, but search for County Manager continues

By Kristin Fox

With an interim in place to run the business of the county, the search for the new county manager to fill the permanent position is still underway. The county will continue taking applications for the position until the end of the fiscal year.

Last November, the county commissioners appointed Warren Cabe as the interim county manager. Cabe replaced former County Manager Derek Roland. Prior to his appointment as county manager, Cabe served as the Emergency Management Services (EMS) director of Macon County.

At the recent meeting of the

• See SEARCH page 7



HS Varsity swim team participated at regionals and made it to state this past weekend. — Photo by Jackie Powell

## Highlanders finish 11th out of 109 at Regionals

Steve Hott  
HS Head Coach

On Fri., Jan. 31, the fastest High School Swimmers from the 109, 1A&2A High Schools in the

Western Region of North Carolina swam in annual championships at the Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center in Charlotte.

• See HIGHLANDERS page 7

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## Tariffs on Canada and Mexico halted for 30-days

*But possibility of looming tariffs hit home*

By Kim Lewicki

On Monday, one day before President Trump's tariffs on Canada (25%), Mexico (25%) and China (10%) were to go into effect, Trump declared a 30-day reprieve for Canada and Mexico but as of press time, not for China.

The reprieve is said to be the result of the countries' new border security plans. The metrics of the plan are unknown at this time.

The tariffs are one step toward delivering on campaign promises – to reduce illegal immigration and trafficking of illegal drugs.

A tariff is a tax levied on imported goods with the main objective to raise revenue.

President Trump intends to extend the 2017 tax breaks he enacted during his first term that mostly benefit the wealthy. Those expire in 2025, but with his planned extension of the tax breaks, tariff revenue will help offset that tax deficit and will help keep the government's coffers full.

Households with incomes in the top 1 percent will receive an average tax cut of more than \$60,000 in 2025, compared to an average tax cut of less than \$500 for households in the bottom 60 percent.

But President Trump says he is using the tariffs levied on Canada, Mexico and China as an incentive to reduce border crossings of people and drugs and boost American domestic production.

In FY 2024, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) seized 21,148 pounds of fentanyl at the southwest border mostly from Mexico using chemical precursors from China and 43 pounds which were intercepted at the border with Canada.

However, according to the Canadian Border Services Agency, (CBSA) drug flow is not one-way. In 2024, CBSA intercepted 10.8 pounds of fentanyl coming into Canada from the U.S.

• See TARIFFS page 9

Amazing Views of Whiteside, Terrapin and Black Rock



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Power to be cut Wed., Feb 26 from 8a to 6p

Highlands lost power for an extended period during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and the recent winter storm. The problem was with the Duke transmission line to Highlands around Hicks Road due to trees falling on these major transmission lines. It takes Duke a prolonged period to restore this highly energized system.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

To further minimize this hazard and problem, Duke plans to remove 28 trees in their right of way that could fall and knock out the transmission system feeding power to Highlands. Working around such high-power lines in removing trees is an unacceptable danger to Duke workers. Normally, a project of this size takes about 3 days using a normal staffing level, but Duke is bringing multiple crews to do this work from 8 am to 6 pm on Wednesday, February 26. Duke may also be replace and repair some of the transmission poles. Duke will have to cut power to Highlands for only about 10 hours. The initial plan was to do the work on Friday,

### Highlands Newspaper

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#### Letter Policy:

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

#### Obituary Policy

Obituaries are \$8 per column inch.

\$10 per photo.

Payable prior to publication.

March 7, but now the work will take place on a day in the middle of the week as some merchants requested.

About 100 workers will be on the worksite. Duke will have specialized transmission crews on site, distribution crews, and multiple tree removal crews. They also plan on having two cranes at the work area. There will be traffic control personnel on Hicks Road directing traffic to alternative routes. Residents on the road will have controlled access to their homes.

Duke anticipates the work being done and full power restored within 10 hours. This projected schedule may be longer or shorter given the conditions and barring unforeseen circumstances.

The outage will impact the town of Highland's electrical customers only. There are some town electric customers in outside areas like Horse Cove who will lose power. On the other hand, some town residents are served by Haywood EMC and will not be affected by the outage.

Town generators will be operative during the outage. The Town Hall and the recreation center will remain open. Generators at all pump stations will operate the water and sewer systems. We also have generators to keep the police headquarters and fire departments operative. The local EMS facility also uses a generator system.

The work to be done is on the Duke Energy grid, and they have decided on the outage date. They have to stage about 100 personnel from various locations and equipment to remove the tree as fast as possible. After February 26, Duke crews will continue to clean up the tree removal areas while the power flows overhead to the town.

Duke has coordinated with the Highlands School to select a date when school would not be in session. February 26 was scheduled to be a half day for students. Now the school will be closed on that day.

Some folks would question if there were alternatives to shutting the power off for a full day during the workweek. One merchant told me the work should be done on Sunday when his business was closed. I pointed out that churches have services on Sundays, and they would be impacted by a loss of power, as well as Restaurants which

• See MAYOR page 4

## • SNAPSHOT •







Photo by Ruthie Oliver

### Mother nature's artwork

*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](mailto: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, 6-Feb	Fri, 7-Feb	Sat, 8-Feb	Sun, 9-Feb
 60°F 50°F	 64°F 47°F	 56°F 52°F	 64°F 44°F
An afternoon shower or two	Low clouds, then some sun	Cooler with a shower or two	Mostly cloudy, showers around
RealFeel® High: 58° Low: 47°	RealFeel® High: 67° Low: 49°	RealFeel® High: 56° Low: 48°	RealFeel® High: 66° Low: 52°

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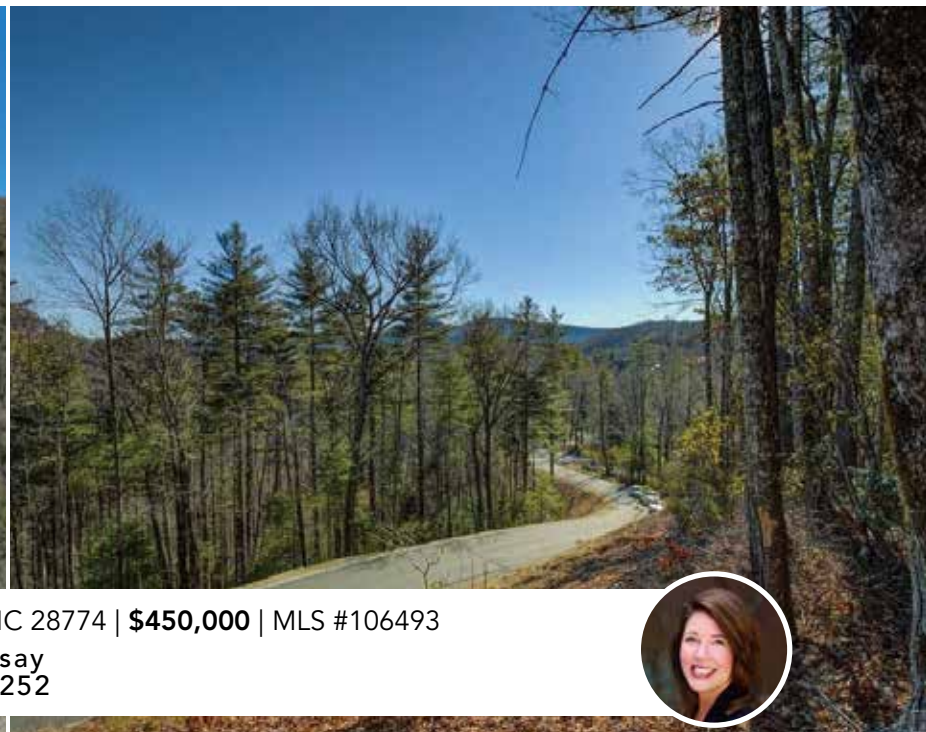


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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

## It's wise to stay informed

Prospective home buyers often ask me, "Where do your second home buyers tend to come from?"

I frequently respond "Many weekenders come from Atlanta, Greenville, and Charlotte, and seasonal residents often come from Florida and the rest of the

Southeast, with an increasing number from Texas."

Coincidentally, an article by Guilia Carbanoro of Newsweek, regarding the current housing markets in Florida and Texas, was just published and noted the tide seems to be changing for those states markets.

Demand for homes in both states became greatly elevated during the pandemic, when many Americans from the rust belt moved south to escape both the cold and higher costs of the north.

The increased demand in Florida and Texas spurred significant new housing development, however, it now seems both states suffered over development.

Combined with a decreased rate of incoming new residents, the rise in home values in those major markets has quickly cooled.

What does that mean for Highlands-Cashiers? I believe some homeowners in Florida and Texas are likely to consider whether it is better to retain ownership of a high value residence in an area with a flattening and potentially down-turning value curve ... or whether to sell and reinvest in another state where their real estate asset might maintain or hopefully appreciate in value at a higher rate.

Considering the size of Florida's and Texas' populations, it would take the most miniscule percent of their homeowners to potentially shift demand our way to hugely impact our local market.

If you own a local residence and have any desire to purchase or upgrade a Florida or Texas home, then the stars may be aligning for you. An environment where you could sell your home here for a good price



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and conversely make a value purchase in Florida's or Texas' escalating Buyers-market.

Moreover, if our local real estate market does become the recipient of increased housing demand from Floridians or Texans, the impact would not be isolated to Sellers, Buyers, and their representing real estate firms. There are significant ancillary impacts to local businesses and institutions. Any shift in population impacts utilities, local government services, groceries, dining, health care, delivery

services, etc.

Leaders in each of those sectors all keep a close eye on the general health and trends of the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market.

Many months ago, I wrote an article that suggested our local residents pay less attention to the news of "national real estate trends" and instead keep their focus on what they actually see in our local sales data.

That said, I am going to make an exception in this case. With Florida and Texas being population behemoths and consistently two key feeder pools of local real estate Buyers, I suggest we also keep an eye on their real estate markets for early indications on what demands might flow to our neck of the woods.

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

would also be affected. Others think this work can be done at night or while the power is still on. Working at night or near electrified transmission lines is potentially dangerous or even deadly to linemen and tree removal workers. Another alternative suggested was to work only 5 hours a day for two days to minimize the impact on businesses. The Duke folks state that they are amassing 100 personnel to accomplish the job in a single day, which is a difficult logistical task. Getting the personnel over two days and to work on Sundays would be problematic.

The good news is that this outage is almost a month away and there is time for businesses and residents to make plans to minimize their daily routine for 10 hours. While the outage is underway, our town electric crews will be making upgrades to the grid and replacing old parts. The benefit of doing town work on the same day is that areas of town will not have to lose power on another day.

If Duke Energy were to take no corrective action, the town would face the probability of unforeseen transmission outages that could easily take 10 hours to repair, as illustrative in the recent storm. While there will be an impact on the economy, an unforeseen outage where the town is full of tourists would have a much more severe economic impact.

I want to thank Duke Energy for doing this very expensive work to improve service to one of its smallest wholesale customers. Highlands' use of Duke power is about 2-tenths of one percent of their total output. I appreciate that they are not overlooking the needs of this small mountain community. Duke Energy continues to address infrastructure problems caused by Hurricane Helene. This project is one part of their focus on upgrading their electric grid to continue providing reliable service. I also thank them and the Highlands School for their flexibility in scheduling the work.

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## New music instruction program for homeschooled students announced

The Blue Ridge Music Academy in Clayton is creating a new Homeschool Musical Arts program for regional Homeschooled students ages 11-18. The program offers small, group classes in basic musical concepts and group and individual instrument instruction in guitar, banjo, violin, and piano.

In addition, Homeschooled students who take part in morning and early afternoon classes are offered discounted fees.

For more information, contact the Blue Ridge Music Academy at 706-490-0539 or via email at CEO@BlueRidgeMusicAcademy.com

*The Blue Ridge Music Academy's Homeschool Musical Arts program is funded in part by grants and private donations to the Southern Highland Music Foundation, a 501 C-3 non-profit organization dedicated to supporting traditional Appalachian music instruction for people of all ages. More information is available at [www.SouthernHighlandMusicFoundation.com](http://www.SouthernHighlandMusicFoundation.com)*

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## ...SEARCH continued from page 1

Macon County Board of Commissioners, at the request of Chairman Josh Young, Tammy Keezer, Director of Macon County Human Resources, gave the board an update on the recruitment of the county manager permanent position.

According to Keezer, the county has received nine applications for the position including Cabe. Of the nine applications, three meets the requirements as stated on the job posting, three are undetermined and three were not qualified. The position is being advertised on NC Works, the county's social media outlets, Indeed and other job posting sites.

Each applicant has received a letter stating that their application has been received with the understanding they will not hear back from the county until the new fiscal year because an interim county manager is now in place.

Currently Warren Cabe is serving as the interim county manager until June 30, 2024. Interviewing for the new county manager will not take place until after July

1, 2025. Commissioners did not set a deadline for the applications and will continue taking applications for the next few months.

Commissioners Shields asked Cabe if he was one of the six applicants. Cabe responded that he is one of the applicants that have applied for the permanent position.

Commissioners discussed if they wanted to go ahead and hire Cabe; however, while he is one of the applicants, the commissioners plan to interview all qualified applicants.

"I think we need to keep this in our sights," said Young. "I think we need to put together an interview team and interview all qualified applicants whether Cabe gets it or not. I think it validates the position."

"I would like to put together a five-to-six-member interview team," said Young. "Maybe by our next meeting, we can have some names for the team."

Cabe is a long-time employee of Macon County. He started working for the 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 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, a position he held until being appointed to interim county manager.

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.

When Cabe took over as interim county

manager, the county had begun work on two major school projects. Working with the county commissioners, Cabe continues to work on managing the Highlands School renovation project and the Franklin High School replacement facility.

"I want to make sure we move forward with those two projects in the most responsible and effective way possible," said Cabe.

In addition, Cabe is working on employee shortages including retention and recruitment that the county has been facing for the last several years.

## ...HIGHLANDERS continued from page 1

There are three regions in the state and the winners go the state championship.

The Highlands Boys Team finished 11th and the girls team finished 24th out of 109 schools.

All five boys will travel to the Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary, NC for the 2025 State Championships this Sat., Feb. 8.

The boys were led by senior Finneas Garner who finished 4th in the 100 freestyle, and 5th in the 50 freestyle and scored 36.5 pts.

Junior Aniah McKim was 10th in the 100 breaststroke and scored 15.5 points.

Sophomore Jack Sumner finished 16th in the 100 butterfly and scored 9.5 points.

Junior Paolo McRae swam the 200 IM (Individual Medley) and scored 8.5 points.

Junior Jesus Mendoza swam in the 400 freestyle relay and scored 1 point.

The boys' 200 yard medley relay and 200 free relay with Garner, McKim, Sumner and McRae finished 9th and 11th, respec-

tively.

The boys 400 freestyle Relay with McKim, Sumner, McRae, & Mendoza finished 15th.

Junior Layla Babac finished 19th in the 200 IM and 21st in the 100 breaststroke.

Sophomore Trinity Faust also made the trip.

Garner, McKim, Sumner, McRae, and Babac are all Junior Olympians.

McKim is a two-time Academic All-American Swimmer.

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## • CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marty Boone

Four-year-old Nala is one of the longest-term feline residents at the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. Nala's ideal forever home would contain a patient and gentle human, along with another cat or two for companionship. Please call (828)743-5752 for more information or complete the application online at [chhumanesociety.org](http://chhumanesociety.org) to adopt this beautiful, sweet, shy orange tabby.

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# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## MOVIES

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From left: Randy Foster, President of Rotary Club of Highlands, Rotary host Tom Neal, CEO Highlands-Cashiers Hospital; Dr. James Osborne Jr

## Rotary meets new General Surgeon at HC Hospital

The Rotary Club of Highlands recently enjoyed an informative program hosted by Rotarian, Tom Neal, CEO/CNO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. His guest, James Osborne Jr, M D, is a general surgeon specializing in colon health. His topic: colorectal cancer and the importance of early detection. Citing that 1 in 20 adults statistically

are at risk of colon cancer, he stated that a periodic colonoscopy offers the best standard of detection at the earliest stages and is part of effective preventative health regimen. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital provides colonoscopy services weekly and appointments or more information available at 828-743-2491.



## Rotary celebrates reopening of NC 106

Club President Cath Connolly welcomes Mountaintop Rotary members to a fiesta at the home of Debi and David Bock to celebrate being together again following the reopening of NC 106 following repairs after Hurricane Helene.



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## TL&LC calls for volunteers to champion literacy in Highlands

The Literacy & Learning Center is seeking dedicated volunteers to support its vital literacy programs for youth and adults in the Highlands community. TL&LC seeks individuals passionate about education to fill two key volunteer

roles: individual tutors and after-school group support staff.

### One-on-One Tutors Needed:

TL&LC seeks patient and encouraging volunteers to serve as one-on-one tutors for both youth and adult learners. Tutors will help

students build essential reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Whether retired teachers, college students, or simply individuals with a love of learning, volunteers can significantly impact a student's academic journey. Tutoring sessions are flexible and can be scheduled to accommodate volunteer availability.

### After-School Support Staff Wanted:

Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to assist with TL&LC's after-school program. This program provides a safe and enriching learning environment for students. Volunteers will support group activities, provide homework assistance, and help facilitate engaging educational projects. Individuals who enjoy working with children and possess a passion for learning are encouraged to apply.

### How to Get Involved:

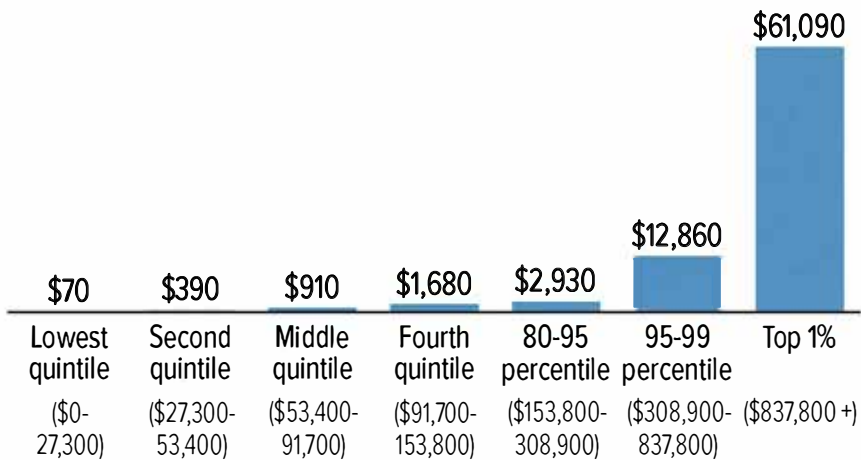
Individuals interested in volunteering with TL&LC are encouraged to contact Caroline Cox, Programs Manager, at 828-526-0863



...TARIFFS continued from page 1

## Households With Incomes in Top 1 Percent Benefit Most From 2017 Trump Tax Law

Average federal tax change, 2025



Source: Table 2, Distributional Analysis of the Conference Agreement for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Tax Policy Center

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

Due to the tariffs, economists and market analysts are warning that Americans should brace for higher prices on a myriad of everyday goods.

Manufacturers have been stocking up on parts and supplies for months to blunt the impact of Trump’s tariffs, but it’s harder to stockpile food and the latest electronics – like iPhones – meaning consumers are likely to see the results soon, say financial experts.

In retaliation to Trump’s tariff, China just imposed a 10% and 15% tariff on the U.S. for prescription drugs and other goods. Now, the cost for generic drugs coming to the U.S. from China will increase. About half of generic drugs for cancer, antibiotics and blood thinners are made entirely overseas where manufacturing is less expensive.

“Any increase to prescription drugs for whatever reason impacts the out-of-pocket cost and the retail price for the customer and the problem of reimbursements for pharmacies,” said Sherry Sims, owner of Highlands Pharmacy.

According to William Reinsch, a former U.S. trade official, there are grocery items that aren’t stockpiled which are imported on an ongoing basis which will rise. “For instance, you don’t stockpile avocados or cut flowers. You don’t stockpile bananas,” he said.

Mexico and Canada are both the largest suppliers of fruits, vegetables, grain, livestock, meats, and poultry to the U.S.

The U.S. imports more than 80% of its avocados from Mexico at \$3.1 billion, according to the US Agriculture Department.

Canada also happens to be the biggest supplier of cherry tomatoes and maple syrup in the U.S., with the cost of both expected to rise.

Local Ingles and Walmart stores were reluctant to speak on the matter, but Bryson’s Food Store Manager Terry Watson said they have no new information about prices, yet.

“But I am sure price changes will come through attrition,” he said.

To compound matters, the roundup of illegal immigrants going on across the country will likely affect the upcoming growing season, since traditionally undocumented farm workers plant and harvest the nation’s fruits and vegetables.

According to the Des Moines Register in the heartland of Iowa, farmers are very worried about how the tariffs and deportation of undocumented farm workers will affect them.

Alcohol imports from Mexico and Canada will be affected by tariffs, too, which will increase the cost of alcohol for consumers.

A price increase is likely for Tequila, Mezcal, Modelo and Corona beer as well as Canadian whiskey like Crown Royal, Seagrams, VO, Black Velvet and more.

However, as of Monday, Kevin Vinson, manager of Highlands ABC Store, said he hasn’t gotten word on anything concerning price increases but said it could be coming.

“I don’t think product passed through Canada to the U.S. would be affected like scotches from Scotland. I believe the product has to be made in Canada – like its whiskeys – to be affected by the tariff,” he said. “But I really don’t know much at this point.”

The tariff on Canadian goods like lumber – particularly soft woods – which is a major import used in home construction, means higher prices for builders, developers, and ultimately, homebuyers.

According to a The Home Depot representative, who asked not to be identified, said no one knows when an increase in lumber prices will begin. There is product in their warehouses and also enroute on “the water” and by trucks, etc. It’s suspected that those prices are set and wouldn’t be affected by the new tariff.

“The effect of the ultimate tariff will depend on where the lumber is coming from. Yes, The Home Depot gets lumber from Canada, but we also get it from Israel, Cambodia, Vietnam, and South America,” said the representative.

John McCall, lumber manager at Reeves in Highlands, said people need to remember that lumber is a commodity whose prices can be affected by weather conditions not just tariffs.

“We don’t know, as of yet, how the tariffs will affect us. We do get lumber from Canada but also from overseas,” he said. “Commodity prices are released Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and can be affected by snow in the north or rain in the south.”

Lumber prices coupled with the absence of many Hispanic workers on construction sites will likely continue to affect the building industry in Highlands and Cashiers and beyond.

The energy industry is set to take a hit following the White House’s call for a 10% tariff on Canadian crude oil, as Canada serves as the top exporter to the U.S. with more than \$97 billion worth of oil and gas imported last year.

Analysts say Americans will see an average

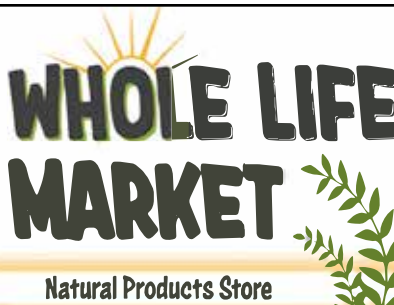
increase of 10 cents a gallon at the pump, with the cost expected to go up from there and differ across states.

If the tariffs are enacted, an analysis by the Budget Lab at Yale shows if the tariffs were to continue, an average U.S. household would lose roughly \$1,245 in income in 2025, an equivalent of a more than \$1.4 trillion tax increase over the next 10 years.

Prices could further increase after Canada and Mexico wage their own tariff war on the U.S. in response to Trump.

A Goldman Sachs analyst stressed that tariffs will likely proceed at some point – “a last-minute compromise cannot be completely ruled out,” he said. “Due to the possible economic damage, we think it is more likely that the tariffs – once they are enacted – will be temporary, but the outlook is unclear.”

The National Economic Council director said in terms of tariffs, Trump will ultimately decide “what he’s going to call off and what he’s not.”



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# SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

## Praying for Presidents?

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

In this cultural moment, there is something about politics and government and living in a “divided” nation that provides an incredible opportunity for learning, growing and living within a “higher calling.”

If one claims to be a Christian, in the sense that Christ is both their personal savior and their personal Lord, they have entered a relationship unlike all other relationships. One could say, they have accepted a calling, a high calling. A high calling beckons us to rise above that which is culturally common and expected.

The trajectory of a Christian’s life is shaped by a proper understanding and application of the Bible. The Bible calls believers to live beyond their own limitations and desires, while relying on Christ to live His life through them. Said another way, one would expect Christians to be motivated more by wisdom, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control. Such fruit in a person’s life would no doubt exemplify a “high and uncommon calling.”

Without the divine presence of Christ in one’s life, no such calling will truly be materialized. A Christian isn’t any better than anyone else. In fact, sometimes Christians can be a little rough at first, even ridiculous at times. This is no surprise, right? We are all a work in progress. We all need to grow up in some areas. Common sense isn’t so common, and the uncommon life of a Christian isn’t so visibly prevalent in our society either. We need to be wise as serpents and gentle like a dove.

Consider the following as a biblical reality: A follower of Christ is called to pray in earnest for those in authority. I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

To pray for another in earnest, is to pray without bias, resentment, anger, unforgiveness etc. etc. Jesus did this a lot, or was it always? This defines a “high calling.” Today, this is a big “ask.” I don’t know very many Republican Christians that truly prayed in earnest for President Biden, and I doubt there are very many Democrats who follow Christ who truly pray in earnest for President Trump. This seems like too much to ask in this day in time, but how much of an ask was it during the Emperor Nero’s reign? Christians have a higher calling to see the Spirit of God lead them in prayer (Rom. 8:27), not their political ideology, personal hurts and frustrations. This only makes sense if you want to bring the Bible into a discussion of what it means to live as a follower

• See SPIRITUALLY page 11

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**BLUEVALLEY 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 Tues., 9a; Thurs., 12p Prayer & Book Study

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

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

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

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

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY**  
706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447  
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Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

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

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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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**  
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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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

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

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

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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Pastor Zane Talley  
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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

**Jan. 26**

• At 10:35 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Church Street.

**Jan. 27**

• At 1:26 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Moorewood Circle.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 29.**

**Jan. 29**

• At 10:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible gas leak at a location on N., 4th Street.

**Jan. 31**

• At 10:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

**Feb. 1**

• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 5th Street.

• At 6:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 11:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja

Drive.

**Feb. 2**

• At 3:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 8:47 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 10

of Christ. Not praying at all won't work in our lives. Praying without earnestness doesn't really work either. If we truly love Christ first, we naturally obey Him (John 14:23). He calls us to pray in earnest for those in authority, especially those with whom we disagree. If you really love your country, live toward loving Christ more.

Look at any nation in the world, look at the health of the Christian church in that nation, and you will get an indication of the state of that nation. If you see a weak or virtually nonexistent church, you will likely see religious or financial oppression, corruption, apathy and/or self-reliance. At the end of the day, "righteousness exalts a nation" (Prov. 14:34). No person or nation has an acceptable righteousness without Christ. Christ calls His church to pray in earnest for those in

authority, regardless of who they are or are not. The future of this nation, good or not so good, is connected to earnest prayer. Earnest prayer comes from the church, "a house of prayer for all nations" (Mark 11:17).

We can choose not to pray for those in authority, but we must be willing to accept the consequences of such a lame choice. We can also treat each other with a lack of consideration and respect but we must also realize such a practice will hinder our own prayers for those closest to us (1 Peter 3:7). This too seems lame.

The call to follow Christ necessitates a reliance on Him to rise above the culture. If we do not rise above the common, we should not expect the uncommon. Regardless of your political/policy views, pray for our current president and our leader-

ship. He and his administration really need prayer as will all future leaders. Call on God for wisdom, honesty, clarity, compassion, rest, faith, insight and humility. We tend to get what we pray for, and we leave

ourselves having to accept that which was never covered in prayer. Choose passivity or fervent prayer, a vote we get to cast every day.

## • LETTER •

### An Open Letter to Tillis, Budd and Edwards

Dear Messrs

I believe your primary responsibility as an elected official is to look out for the interests of your constituents.

Musk was not elected by anyone. I have never seen nor heard of any edict appointing him to an official government position. Nor have I seen any evidence that DOGE is a legitimate government agency. Yet the new SecTre (whom you, Messrs Tillis and Budd, voted to approve) gave Musk, a private citizen with countless conflicts of interest, access to the financial information of me and every other US citizen.

ASK QUESTIONS! DEMAND REAL ANSWERS!

Stop the overthrow of this country. I know this puts your heads above the ramparts, but damn it, you wanted these jobs, and the bad comes with the good.

**STOP THE STEAL!**

A mealy-mouthed response to the SecTre action or to your angry constituents will make me even angrier.

**TELL US SPECIFICALLY WHAT CONGRESS IS GOING TO DO. AND DON'T TELL US YOU CAN DO NOTHING.**

Trump has broken enough laws in his first two weeks to be impeached and removed from office. That is your job.

**Karen Patterson  
Highlands**

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## WINTER POOL SCHEDULE

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

Water Aerobics: 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers.  
Adult Swim: 18y+ Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3:30pm, Friday 11am-1:30pm  
Public Swim: Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

## ALL WEEK

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. Women's Group 5:30, Tuesdays. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more info, please visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-

4357.

## PICKLE BALL

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

## MOVIES

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street. See ad on page 8.

## 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.

## 2nd Tuesdays

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

## Tuesdays

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

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

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

## 2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. 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 apts 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.

## 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 [nccpost370@gmail.com](mailto:nccpost370@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).

## Beginning in Feb.

• At the Mountain Learning Center Youth Programs – Spring Elementary CON (3rd-5th Grade): Feb 14 - 16; Spring Intermediate CON (6th-8th Grade): Feb 28 - March 2; Spring Senior High CON (9th-12th Grade): March 14 - 16 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/event/homecoming-2/>

## Thru Feb. 7

• MC Youth Soccer signups for the spring re open for ages 5-15. Registration is online at [maconsoccer.net](http://maconsoccer.net) through January 31st. For any other information call Lester Norris or Janice Mathis at 828-526-3556.

## Through-March

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

## Ongoing on Thursdays

• Christ Anglican Church on 64 East in Cashiers will host "lunch and learn" brown bag sessions beginning

Thursday, at noon led by Michael and Robin Matlock. For eight weeks, the book, Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Peter Scazzero, will be the focal point. Come learn how healthy spirituality and healthy emotions are inseparable! Purchase your book copy at Amazon or your favorite bookstore. Call 828-743-1701 or email [cac@christanglican-cashiers.org](mailto:cac@christanglican-cashiers.org) with questions. All are welcome.

## Sat., Feb. 8

• At Summit Charter School, SummitFest from 2-5 p.m. Come celebrate the winter season with your family and friends at Summit Charter School's Annual Family Festival – in the Summit Center gym. This fun-filled community event, organized by and supporting the Summit Family Association, will be bigger and better than ever, with yummy food, inflatables, carnival games, prizes, face painting, and much more! The event is free for adults and children under the age of three. Activity wristbands can be purchased the day of the event. For more information, please email [onesummitfamily@gmail.com](mailto:onesummitfamily@gmail.com) or call the school at 828-743-5755.

## Thurs. & Fri., Feb. 13 & 14

• HCP presents Valentine's Dinner Theatre at PAC at 6 p.m. 3-course pork loin dinner catered by Kristy Martin begins at 6:30 p.m. Performance begins at 7:30 p.m. The entertainment portion of the evening will consist of duo vignettes directed by Scott Ewing. A Matter of Husbands will feature Diandra Mundy and Sarah Mathowdis, Yesterday will feature Emily Wright and David Spivey, and Trysting, an original written by Ewing, will be performed by Berney Kirkland and Michael Kirkland. Tickets are \$55. Non-alcoholic beverages are included. Wine and cocktails will be available for purchase. Table seating is first-come, first-served. Tickets are available at [highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://highlandscashiersplayers.com), or by calling the PAC box office at 828-526-9047.

## Thurs., Feb. 13

• Highlands Chamber of Commerce members are invited to a presentation "Setting up simple IRAs for employees" with Todd Holder with Edward Jones at the Community Building. Light breakfast from 9-10:30a. R.S.V.P. Jane Ford Clark at [businessservices@highlandschamber.org](mailto:businessservices@highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-5841.

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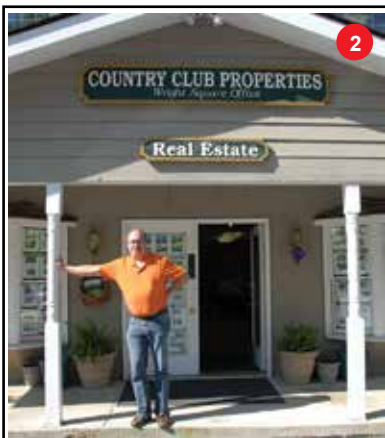
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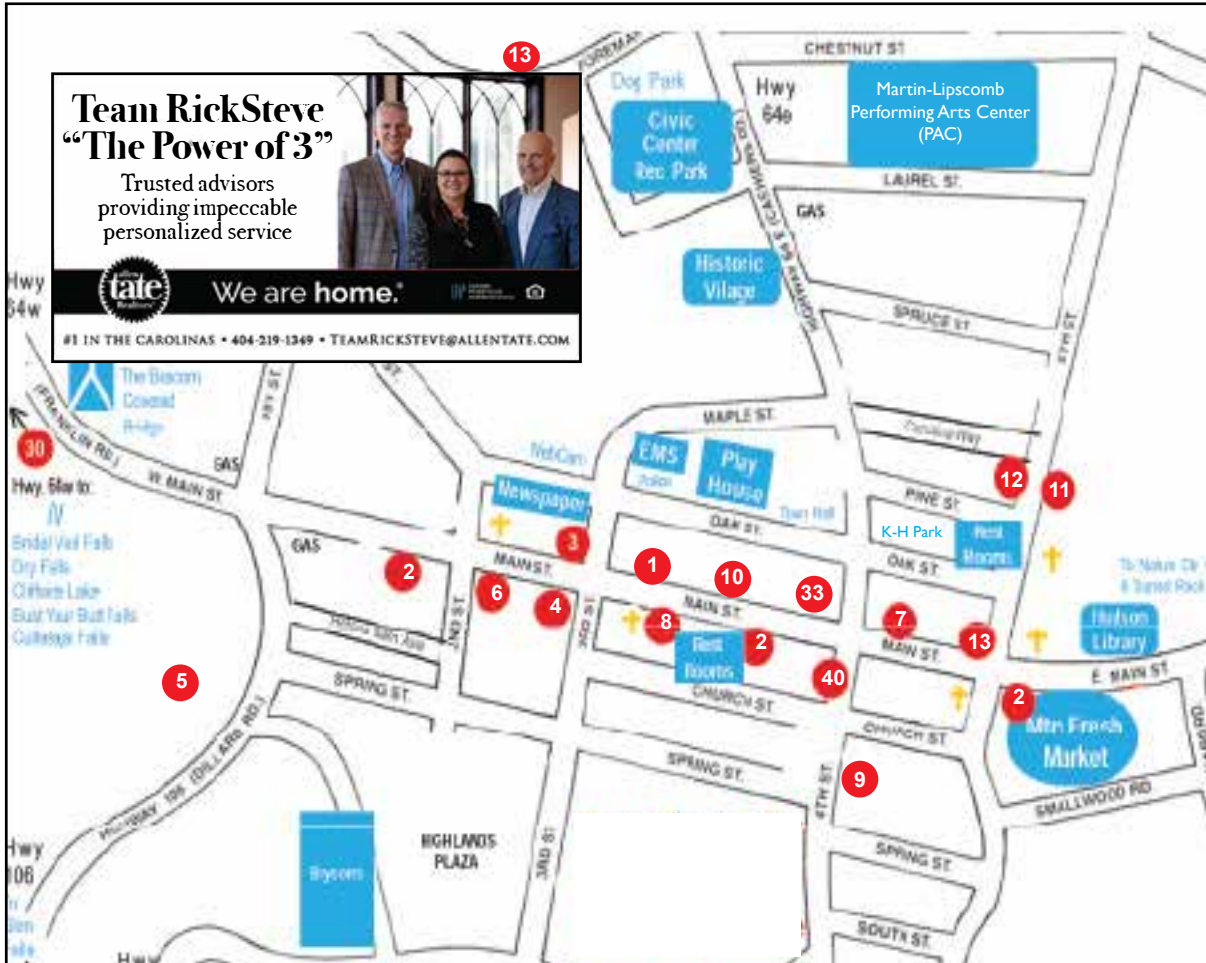
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