Volume 19, Number 46

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

Thurs., Nov. 17, 2022

## County approves architect for potential Highlands School expansion

#### By Brittney Lofthouse

After soliciting bids for proposals for architectural services, the Macon County Board of

# Hospice House is recipient of needed grants

Hospice House Foundation of WNC (HHFWNC), whose mission is to construct an in-patient hospice facility in Franklin to serve the residents of far western North Carolina and northeastern Georgia, has been awarded grants totally nearly \$100,000 in the past four months. This major support brings the Foundation within \$250,000 of its final fundraising goal, according to Foundation President Michele Alderson

The Foundation's most recent grant awards include:

- The Church of the Good Shepherd - \$10,000
- Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation - \$31,420
  - See HOSPICE page 17

Commissioners voted 3-2 to contract with the Architectural firm L3SP to develop the designs for renovations and expansion of

Highlands School that would allow for two new classrooms to be utilized for preschool.

• See SCHOOL page 22



Old Crow Medicine Show, an Americana string band based in Nashville, TN, drew hundreds of people to Highlands Food & Wine Festival's Main Event Saturday, Nov. 12.

- Photo by Brittney Lofthouse

## Highlands Food & Wine gave Highlands its fill last weekend

Though the rain and cold temperatures threatened to dampen spirits last week, the Highlands Food & Wine Festival went on as planned with more than 3,000 people turning out for the 4-day event.

Thursday night's The Grand Tasting ended up being the only

event under a tent due to rain that muddied the venue but since everyone dressed appropriately –

• See HF&W page 16

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## Officers to light the roads blue Nov. 23

If you are driving in Western North Carolina at 6 p.m. on November 23, you might see a patrol vehicle sitting on the side of the roadway with its blue lights on.

Officers in Western North Carolina are doing this to remember loved ones killed by impaired drivers. Thanksgiving weekend 2021 resulted in 1,750 arrests for DWI.

Finding a sober driver is a very simple thing to do to prevent a fun night from turning into a tragedy. Let's all do our part to stop people from driving impaired – so they don't kill themselves or others out on the road. Please help us keep our loved ones safe this holiday by not drinking and driving.

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### PLATEAU'S POSIT

#### Re-examining short-term rentals in regards to the occupancy tax

he Asheville Citizens-Times recently reported that Buncombe County officials were reviewing whether short-term rentals operated by commercial companies like VRBO and Airbnb could be valued at a higher property tax rate than single family residences. The rationale for the review is that STR units are actually business properties rather than neighborhood homes. The short-term rental industry has

impacted communities across the country and such arguments about whether or not STRs are commercial enterprises abound, along with contentious discourse over the impact of STRs on community life.

The article in the Citizen-Times went on to emphasize that a strong case can be made that state law prohibits the higher tax valuation on short-term rental properties. I see the merit in state statues that require a level playing field when it comes to property valuation.

On the other hand, another tax source

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Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

that should necessitate more scrutiny by elected officials, especially at the state legislative level, is the hotel and motel room occupancy tax. When implemented several decades ago, this room tax was specifically targeted for hotels, motels and vacation rentals. The proceeds from the tax went to various tourist development authorities throughout the state for the limited purpose of promoting tourism. Municipalities were not the

actual beneficiaries of this tax source. Enabling legislation for the room occupancy tax did not allow any substantial funding for local infrastructure projects such as sidewalks, road paving, etc.

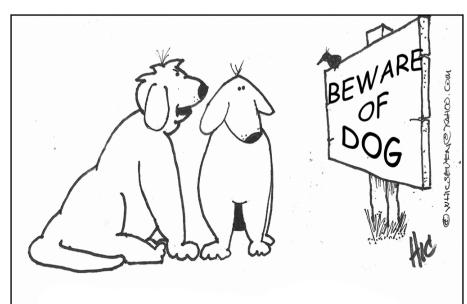
Short-term rentals have been subjected to this tax in North Carolina, even as the STR industry contends that they should be free of other commercial regulations but not subject to higher property taxes

Meanwhile, the allocation of room occupancy taxes from STRs has created a windfall for tourist development authorities. At the same time, local elected officials must provide more services to address tourist issues, yet no significant revenues from room occupancy taxes are available. Local governments are also increasingly looked to for solutions to housing affordability, in part, caused by short term rentals.

Like many mayors of towns in the crosshairs of these issues, I believe it is time for the state legislature to revisit the room occupancy tax. It is time to jettison the local enabling legislation and have consistent statewide statues for room occupancy taxes.

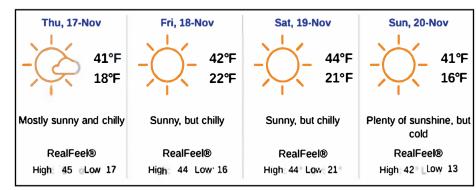
We can maintain the tax rate for hotels and motels at a low rate of around 3%, but increase the rate for short term rentals to a rate of 10% or more. Tax coming from commercial hotels could continue to go to the promotion of tourism, but for STRs the distribution should be shared between local governments and the state. A distribution formula might provide 3% going to local governments for infrastructure and public services, while the remaining 7% could go

• See MAYOR page 4



"I have anger management issues. But with therapy I snarl and growl less and wag more."

#### FATHER •



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## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

to the state to meet critical needs such for workforce housing and related infrastructure projects.

We also need better accounting at the state level to ensure that local governments where the rentals took place receive the revenue.

Finally, the entire concept of using tax dollars to recruit tourists, under the rationale that many visitors will also relocate to the state, needs careful review. While growth may translate into a robust and expanding economy, growth also means more pressures for local governments to provide additional services. How to meet these new service requirements involves securing additional revenues and/or increasing taxes for current residents. The way the existing room occupancy tax is structured does nothing to address these expanding growth pressures.

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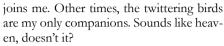
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#### **All About Books**

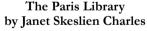
#### • INK PENN •

#### Reading on the porch

reading on my screened porch over the summer. And even in early November, the temps in Atlanta are often warm enough for coffee and lunch out there. Picture the ceiling fan turning slowly overhead and a book in my hands as I relax on the cushioned glider. When my eyes grow heavy, I mark my place in the book and stretch out for a brief nap. Sometimes, Puddin' the cat



My recent reads carried me away to France and England. One was deadly serious—the other more lighthearted. I think the saying "variety is the spice of life" applies to reading material too.



Tragic yet inspiring. Characters who stay with you--both real and fictional.

This is the account of how "real people" worked to ensure the survival of the American Library in Paris as the Nazis occupied the city and destroyed other libraries--but not this one. By "real people" I mean those who were there, people whose actual stories are woven together to bring the tale to life.

The first-person narrators are fictional--a young woman in WWII Paris and a high school girl in Montana in the 1980s. The story moves back and forth between the two narrators and eras. As an avid reader, I treasured the book titles and quotes scattered throughout as much as I did the story.

Having only recently read a tale of French resistance fighters, I realized that the librarians were resistance fighters in their own way. They may not have picked up weapons, but they stood their ground not only to preserve the books but in their



Kathy Manos Penn

clandestine work to provide reading material to subscribers whom the Nazis banned from the library. This is a tale of courage and conviction that I highly recommend.

#### Murder at Mallowan Hall by Colleen Cambridge

What could be better than a mystery set at the manor house of Agatha Christie and her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan? A highly capa-

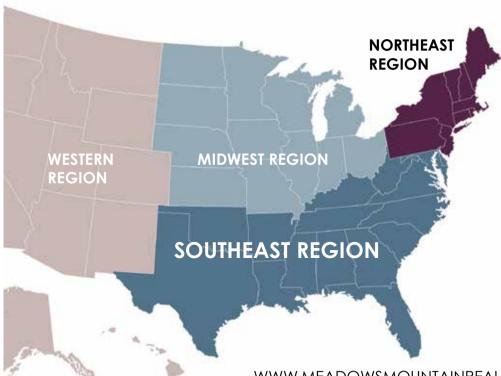
ble and intelligent housekeeper who turns amateur sleuth, that's what! Very little of Phyllida Bright's back story is revealed, but we know she met Dame Agatha during the war, and they have remained friends. She has read all of the Christie books and is a fan of Hercule Poirot. Thus, she employs his sleuthing methods as she goes about solving the mystery of the dead body she finds in the library of her employer's home.

I can't wait for the next book, in which I'm sure the author will share more of Phyllida's history and develop the other characters introduced here--handsome Dr. Bhatt, the irascible butler, and the enigmatic chauffeur.

Now, I've been at my desk most of the day, and I hear the porch and another book calling. Late afternoon on the porch seems like a grand idea. Wouldn't you agree?

PS. Please stop by Shakespeare & Company on December 3 after the parade. I'll be signing books, and I'd love to see you there!

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries in Franklin at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts and at Shakespeare & Company in Highlands, and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.



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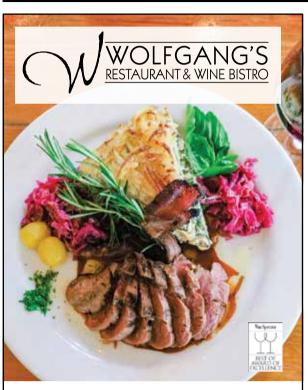
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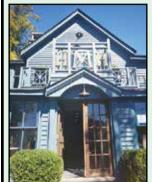
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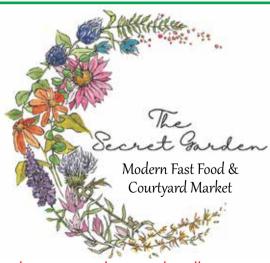
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#### • OBITUARY •

#### Virgie Leo Keener



Virgie Leo Keener, 93 of Highlands passed away Wednesday November 9, 2022. She was born August 7, 1929, in Macon County to the late Carl Keener and Helen Smith Keener. Virgie was a loving mother and grandmother, she loved going to church and all her church family, she liked working outside, reading, puzzle books, and cooking. She loved life and lived it to its fullest. Virgie was a member of Goldmine Baptist Church. She was a virtuous woman that will be missed deeply by her friends and family.

Virgie is survived by her son, Grady Keener (Beverly) of Livingston, TX; two daughters, Mary Lee Simmons of Highlands, NC and Caroline Winn (Terry) of Clayton, GA; grandchildren, Judy Constable (Dominic), Douglas Keener, Jr. (Lisa), Ashley DaSilva (Jon), Jennifer Vickery (John),

Allison Corbridge (Josh), and Jeremy Winn (Reisha); 13 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren; a brother, Bobby Keener.

In addition to her parents, Virgie is preceded in death by her husband, Henry B. Keener; her son, Douglas Stacey Keener, Sr.; a son in law, Randall Simmons and her brother, leter Keener.

A funeral service were held Saturday November 12, 2022, at Goldmine Baptist Church with the Rev. Gary McDaniel and Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. Burial followed at the Miller Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Carter Mosely, Dominic Constable, Terry Winn, Grady Keener, John McCall and Doug Keener Ir.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that memorials be made to the Miller Cemetery Fund or Mount Moriah Cemetery Fund.

Bryant Grant is serving the Keener family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.



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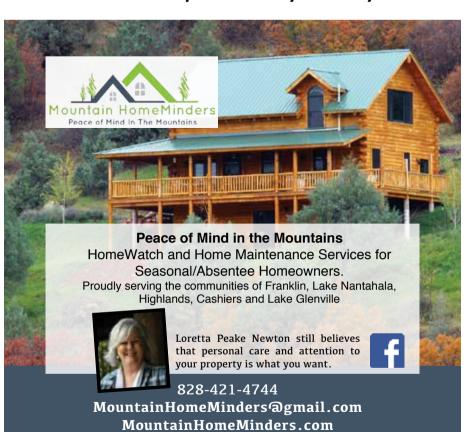
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#### • LETTER •

## Thanks for the support and hoping the best for Macon County

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my gratitude to the Macon County community for their support and encouragement throughout my campaign for county commissioner. I knew from the beginning that running as an independent candidate would present significant challenges for victory. I was even encouraged by many to run as a Republican to have a better chance to win. As I digested the political landscape on a statewide and national basis, I truly believed we had arrived at a time when an independent candidate could enter the arena and make a difference. Of course after the election results are in, I now realize how naïve I was to think we may ever vote outside of a two party system. Even though we have almost 10,000 unaffiliated registered voters out of 27,000 registered voters in Macon County, we are clearly a Republican county and the voters chose accordingly.

Another element of the campaign that surprised me was the constant effort to bring national party politics into our local election. Potential voters were less concerned about where I stood on the issues affecting Macon County, it was more about who I voted for in 2020 and who I may vote for in 2024. I repeatedly told my detractors the voting booth was designed by our forefathers to be private for good reason. As a nation, we never want to be oppressed for who we may or may not have voted for in an election. It is important to remember, a certain political party may not always be in power, but we will always want the protections afforded by our constitution.

As I walk away from my effort to get elected, I better understand the challenges affecting Macon County and I hope our elected commissioners are ready to face these challenges. The effort to vote down the 1/4 cent sales tax increase was successful, but this will leave a

• See LETTER page 19

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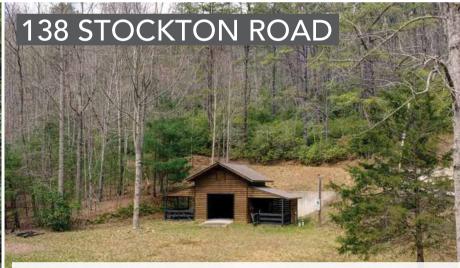
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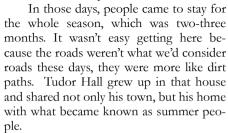


#### Investing at 4.118 Ft

#### The past, present and future of Vacation Rentals

ometimes, to plan for the future, we need to look to the past. It's what myths, legends and all the once-upona-times are for, to show us what can happen, what we can look forward to in our version of happily ever after.

In our town, the Hall House dates back to 1896, just 21 years after Highlands was founded. It was a small hotel started by Tudor Hall's parents, but there were also cabins for guests who wanted their own place.



Fast forward 80 years, and Tudor's daughter, and husband, Isabel and Tony Chambers, continued the trend by offering vacation rentals as well as the family tradition of selling real estate. None of the homes were owned by them; they were pioneers in local property management.

By the mid-1970s, some vacationers still came for the season, but most came for a week or two. In 1992, Isabel and Tony moved The Chambers Agency into its present location, the same house where Isabel had grown up, on some of the same property where The Hall House once stood.

Moving forward another few years when Tudor Hall's grandson, Tucker Chambers and his wife Jeannie took the helm, still offering real estate and vacation rentals, now known as Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals.

Isabel remembers, back in the old days when summer people arrived, sometimes the husbands/fathers would return to their homes and to their jobs while their family stayed in Highlands, a trend that continued for decades. Now, with the aid of internet, parents can live, work and play in their vacation rental, whether they're here for the weekend or months at a time.

Although today's article is mostly about vacation rentals, hotels have always played a big role in guest stays in Highlands. Two of the first hotels are still in opera-



Jeannie Chambers Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

tion and are beautiful landmarks along Main Street, Some hotels were used like boarding houses, where people lived in them all

In the 1970s, besides Highlands Inn and Edwards Hotel. there was King's Inn, Lee's Inn, The Townhouse Motel (where Town Square is) Kalmia Court (across from Dusty's Market), The Talley Cottages, (across from Highlands Smokehouse), Mountain High Motel (now 200 Main) Phelps House (now

Highlander Mountain House) Skyline Lodge, and Chandler Inn (now Wells Ho-

In later years, Inn at Half-Mile Farm began and later grew, Hampton Inn came to town (to be renovated in 2023 by Trailborn, a subsidiary of Castle Peak Holdings). Besides hotels, in the '70s, Bed and Breakfasts started popping up to house vacationers mostly on weekends. Tudor Hall's wife, Margaret Hall had a B&B for a few years before our office moved there. There were two on 4 1/2 Street, and one of those used to be a boarding house, The Fairmont Inn, both of those have reverted to private homes.

In the 1990s more real estate companies became active in vacation rentals, and when VRBO started in 1995, some homeowners decided to share their homes on their own.

Here are some stats from an internet search using hotel tech report dated October 28, 2022:

- The US vacation industry estimated 13.3 billion and is expected to reach 20 billion by 2025. The hotel industry is projected to hit 110 billion.
- In 2021, one in eight people have stayed in a vacation rental. By 2025, nearly one in five will have stayed in a vacation rental.
- · A 2016 study showed the main reason for staying in a home instead of a hotel is having access to a kitchen and having more privacy and space to themselves. With that knowledge, Marriott, in 2019 launched 2,000 units in their Homes & Villas properties, now there are over 25,000 (worldwide) units.
  - VRBO was founded in 1995, and
    - See INVESTING page 16

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## Mission Health collects 270 pounds of medications during national drug-take-back day

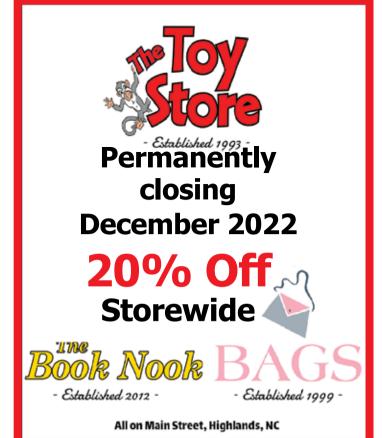
Mission Health collected 270 pounds of medications during its 3rd annual "Crush the Crisis" na-

tional prescription drug take back day on Saturday, October 29. This event aligns with the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, to raise awareness about the danger of drug misuse and the importance of safe and proper disposal of unused or expired medications. Community members participated in the event by dropping off unused and expired medications which were collected by law enforcement officers from the various law enforcement departments in our participating com-

These are the totals from across Mission Health:

- Angel Medical Center: 15.5 pounds
- Blue Ridge Regional Hospital: 14 pounds
- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital: 10 pounds
- Mission Hospital: 142 pounds
- Mission Hospital McDowell: 58 pounds
- Transylvania Regional Hospital: 30.5 pounds

The 270-pound total eclipsed last year by 91 pounds!



#### • Biz/Org News •



Pictured from left is Jessica Farrell, Fran Foster, and Rotalry President Chris Wilkes.

The guest speaker at the Tues., Nov. 8 at Rotary Club of Highlands meeting was Fran Foster, security officer for Regions Bank. Fran spoke to the club on the types of fraud that that are being perpetrated through e-mail on unsuspecting victims. She elaborated on how it is done, things to look for and mainly what to do in the case one thinks they are or have been a target. She said to report it to the bank and even more importantly, report to police authorities immediately. E-mail financial fraud is not a "once in a while" occurrence, and she said it is up to us to protect ourselves.

#### Welcome Dr. Jones!

The Dental Practice of Christopher T. Dyer DMD is pleased to announce the addition of Thomas C. Jones DDS

- 30 years experience owning a successful practice in Palm City, FL
- Graduate of The Ohio State **University College of Dentistry**
- Advanced training in cosmetic and restorative dentistry with a caring touch
- Relocating with his wife Patty to the community year-round

Call (828) 526-3513 for an appointment. 479 South St., Highlands, NC



Dr. Thomas C. Jones



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Highlands

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#### Highlands Events

#### ICE RINK SCHEDULE (Nov. 17 - March 5)

• Thursday: 3:30-8 p.m.; Friday 3:30-10pm; Saturday1-10pm; Sunday1-5pm. \$5 for skate rental & skating

#### **NEW Rec Pool Schedule**

• Public Swim: Sat. 11a-6p; Sun., 1-6p. Adult Swim: Tues & Wed 11a-5p and Mon., Thurs., Fri., 11a-2p. Lap Swim: MOn-Fri 6a-9:45a and Sat. 10-11a. 828-526-1595.

#### **Mondays**

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

#### **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

#### 1 st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

#### 2nd Tuesdays

 Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings held on the second or third Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Member's receive weekly notification regarding when and how the group will assemble."We welcome participation from anyone interested in writing, or just hanging out with writers," said Bud Katz. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

#### **Tuesdays**

• Strength Training 8:15-

9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

#### Mon-Fri

- Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.
- Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

#### Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

#### Mon. & Wed.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

#### Mon, Wed, Fri

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.
- Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

#### Tues. & Thurs.

- New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.
- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

#### **Thursdays**

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorieburning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.
- At Hudson Library, Family Storytime at 10:40a. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.
- At Hudson Library, Kids
   Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide



#### • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

#### Fridays Saturdays

• Live music at Frog Quarters just before the bridge over the Little Tennessee River in East Franklin.

#### 2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

#### 3rd Saturdays

- The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9am and hold our monthly meeting at 10amWe invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.
- At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

#### Sat., Nov. 19

- Greenway Workday. Meet at the end of Poplar Street at 9am-3pm. The focus will be on Quin's Loop on the Bear Pen Mountain Trail System. Please bring your gloves. When finished it's lunch at 4118. If attending, email Jim Chance at jamesallenchance@gmail.com
- At The Bascom on the Terrance, Holiday Arts & Crafts Show 10 am 4 pm.

#### Fri.-Sat., Nov. 25-26

• Christmas on The Village Green in Cashiers. Cashiers Mistletoe Market, features artisan vendors with a unique assortment of handcrafted Christmas gifts and decorations 10a-5p. Friday and Saturday. Santa will be hearing wishes from 2-5p on Friday in the Lewis Hall. Appointment slots for Santa visits are available on The Village Green website and a \$5 per child donation is suggested at the door. Christmas Tree lighting ceremony 3:20-6:30p on Friday at the Gazebo near the crossroads.

#### Fri., Nov. 25

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center, Masters of Soul at 7:30p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

#### **Sat.**, Nov. 26

• Light Up the Park from 6 to 8 p.m. in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. Anticipation will fill the mountain air as the community gathers in the park to enjoy treats and a program that includes live

music and carols led by Silly Ridge, a display of children's artwork and a reading of the Christmas story. Then, Santa arrives atop a firetruck to usher in the lighting of the park and Main St. Watch the park come alive with thousands of holiday lights that will stay up all season, along with ice skating and photo-op fun.

#### Fri., Dec. 2

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center, Great Art on Screen. Venice: Infinitely Avant Garde at 5:30p. For info call 828-526-9047.

#### Saturdays in December

• Santa in the Park in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. Santa will appear in the park each Saturday to hear wishes from children of all ages. He will also periodically stop by to retrieve letters placed in a special mailbox in the park.

#### Sat.. Dec. 3

• Highlands Christmas Parade from 10:30 a.m. to Noon along Main St. Marching bands, llamas and camels, creative floats and – of course – Santa Claus as part of this longtime tradition. Those who want to participate in the parade must submit a completed application to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC no later than Nov. 17. To apply and for more information, email events@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

#### Sat., Dec. 10

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite Met Opera The Hours at Ip. For more information call 828-526-9047.

#### Dec. 16-31

• The Mountain Theatre Company presents Home for the Holidays, a Christmas Tradition. Celebrate the season as we make magic in the mountains this holiday. at The Playhouse on Oak Street. Wednesday - Saturday @ 7:30p and Saturday & Sunday @ 2p. For tickets go to www. mountaintheatre.com.

#### Sat., Dec. 17

• Ceremony and wreath laying at noon in the cemetery. Ceremony is at the Community Building and shuttles will take volunteers to and from the cemetery to lay veteran wreaths. For more info, call Phil Potts at 828-200-9753 or email ppotts63@frontier.com

#### Sat. & Sun, Jan. 28-Jan. 29

• Snow Fest in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. It's back and better! Bring friends and family for guaranteed winter fun (courtesy of snow blowers, if needed) in the park. A snowball toss, a merry-goround, a snow slide, s'mores, "snowga" (a twist on yoga) and more will be waiting.



## THE BASCOM

## Holiday Arts & Crafts Show Nov 19

Saturday 10 am - 4 pm

The Bascom's Holiday Arts & Crafts Show provides a unique shopping experience on the plateau, showcasing a selection of high-quality handmade works by local and regional artists. Additional work by Bascom Studio Members will be on display in the Dave Drake Studio. Gift wrapping for a fee will be provided.

#### Three Opportunities to Shop

#### The Bascom's Terrace

Participating local artists:

Stan Allaben, Beth Bowser, Ken Bowser, George Ellison, Barbara Jamison, Peggy Marra, Annell Metsker, Jo Miller, Edward Madison Minus, Craig Ragsdale, and Taylor White

#### Dave Drake Studio

Enjoy handmade pottery including both functional wares and sculpture. All work is made by Studio Members.

#### Participating Studio Members:

Phil Botham, Cedar Chan, Janet Chmar, Jo Hill, Brent Steele, and Martha Sutherland-Wright

#### The Bascom Shop

The Bascom Shop showcases a wealth of local and regional artistic talent, representing over 150 artists each year.

Representing over 150 local artists

THE BASCOM
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

323 Franklin Road | Highlands, NC heBascom.org | 828.526.4949

#### Chestnut Hill,

a residential retirement community on a quiet mountain top in Highlands, NC, has spacious Independent and Assisted Living Apartments. It is a full-service, Medicaid Certified community.



For further information call Linda Tiffany at 828-526-5251 or 904-514-4896 www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com



#### ...HF&W continued from page 1

which was the cry from presenters throughout the event – fun was had by all. People listened to music by Lyric and sampled food and wine from numerous vendors throughout the night.

The Truckin' event went off as planned with food and libation vendors set up in the KH Founders Park on Pine Street where tunes by Lilly Hiatt and The Texas Gentlemen kept people hopping.

Friday night's A Generous Pour featuring tunes from Durand Jones & The Indications and food and beverages was moved to the park since the tented area on 2nd street continued to prove unusable due to weather. Though folks were in the elements sans tent, no one seemed to care.

The Main Event on Saturday was on

Main Street like in years past and hundreds turned out to eat, drink and be merry to the tunes of Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway and Old Crow Medicine Show that "brought down the house."

Sunday's Shindig, also moved to the park sans tent, was cool but sunny and featured food, drink and music by The California Honeydrops with folks lounging tableside or in sofas set up in the park.

Throughout the event, despite the weather, people were determined to have fun and they did.

Stay tuned for details about next year's Highlands Food & Wine Festival set for the second weekend in November.

- Kim Lewicki

#### ...INVESTING continued from page 10

Airbnb went public in 2020, with over four million hosts worldwide, touting atypical properties from igloos, Airstreams, private homes (full or partial) all the way to castles.

According to VRBO, the demand for cabin and chalet rentals is up 20%. Over 60% of vacationers surveyed said they'd rather pick an outdoorsy destination.

So, what's the future of vacation rentals? Forbes magazine, quoted Demetrios Barnes as saying "Short-term rentals are here to stay."

The future of vacation rentals in Highlands (and other resort areas) will continue to grow as well as face the pushme-pull-me affect. The towns need the continued income and tax revenue from short-term rentals, but they'd rather have it without the renters. We must all work together for the good of our town. Be a good neighbor.

If someone in your neighborhood is making too much noise, parking somewhere they shouldn't, disposing of their trash the wrong way, or if you suspect a short-term rental is in a home not sanctioned by the 2022 UDO changes, do NOT call 911. None of those things are emergencies and should not be clogging up the emergency service. The non-emergency number to lodge complaints is 828-526-9431. But, before you do, remember, don't sweat the small stuff. Take a breath and be glad you can because life is short.



#### ...HOSPICE continued from page 1

- Mountain Findings \$25,000
- Philip L. Van Every Foundation - \$25,000

"SECU Hospice House of WNC, so named in recognition of and appreciation for an extraordinary \$1 million lead gift from the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation, is slated to open this time next year," Alderson said. "It will be through the philanthropic spirit of organizations like those listed here, individuals and corporate donors that our mountain region will one day soon be blessed with a Hospice House."

The need for an in-patient hospice facility in the far western mountain region is great, said Alderson, considering that 25 percent of the population in this geographic area is age 65 or over, the age group most served by hospice.

"When we open the doors next year, SECU Hospice House of WNC (SECUHH) will become the only in-patient hospice facility in North Carolina west of Asheville, increasing the percentage of WNC residents living within 35 miles of such a facility from zero to nearly 75 percent," she said.

SECUHH was designed incorporating a 50+ year old 3.300 sq. foot home at 272 Maple Street in Franklin which will provide the home-like environment with which Hospice Houses have become synonymous, where loved ones of SECUHH patients can access comfortable areas for resting, cooking, and spiritual reflection. And, because of the slopped typography of the property, the facility has been designed to include a 3,000-square-foot lower level that will be utilized in support of palliative care and hospice services. Palliative care helps improve quality of life in people with serious illnesses, including but not limited to hospice patients, through relief of pain (and other troubling symptoms) and stress management, as well as helping the patient understand treatment options and answering questions about their illness/care.

An immediate funding need facing the Foundation is for architectural/engineering services related to renovation of the residential home and completion of the inpatient facility's lower level, an estimated \$35,000 expense that was not part of the original fundraising campaign budget, Alderson said.

SECUHH is a collaborative

initiative between two not-forprofits, HHFWNC and Four Seasons The Care You Trust. It aims to address three health and wellness gaps existing in the western counties:

- 1) A lack of quality end-of-life in-patient care – SECUHH will address the area's long-distance barrier to receiving dedicated end-of-life in-patient care, including symptom and pain management;
- 2) Inadequate access to mental health support As a result of SECUHH, Four Seasons is projected to increase its grief and loss support by helping more families cope with the illness and death of loved ones:
- 3) Health risks associated with caregiving SECUHH will provide respite care (temporary institutional care of a sick individual, providing relief for the caregiver), helping caregivers get the rest they need to stay well.

Construction of the in-patient care unit is 80 percent complete. Its completion, along with renovation of the residential home and construction of the lower level of the in-patient facility, is anticipated to be finished Summer/Fall 2023.



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#### • Spiritually Speaking •



#### A Thanksgiving Prayer

Pastor Randy Lucas Highlands United Methodist Church

Almighty God,

In one week we will celebrate our Thanksgiving holiday.

Families will gather. Food and fellowship will abound.

Parades and football will delight.

For some families, the day will be filled with unbridled joy.

For some, the day will be bittersweet. For those who have experienced loss, family holidays can be hard.

We hold the hurting in our hearts today.

With Thanksgiving one week away We bow our heads in gratitude. We are grateful for the gift of life, for the gift of memory, the gift of joy and laughter, the gift of goodness and grace, the gift of mercy and compassion, the gift of love and forgiveness, the gift of hope and beauty, the gift of faith, family and friends.

We lift our thankful hearts in praise.

In these days of November, we bask in the beauty of your good creation. Having just experienced the vibrant colors of October.

the frigid temperatures this week remind us that Winter is not far away, not far away at all.

We marvel at the rhythm of the seasons.

Grant us, Lord, an appropriate appreciation for the bounty you daily set before us. Give us grateful hearts. Enliven our faith, steady our steps, strengthen our resolve to live each day as an offering of praise and worship to you.

In your holy name we pray, Amen.

#### Proverbs 3:5

#### PLACES TO WORSHIP •

#### **BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965 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

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30
CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley. GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

#### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701• 464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers. NC 28717 www.christanglicancashiers.com

9:30am Sunday School; I 0:30am Worship Service. Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

#### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching. Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

#### CHRISTIÁN 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: 11a.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 Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays & Thursdays 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

#### EPISCÓPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev.W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a 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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors 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.

John 3:16

#### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: I I

#### 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 I Ia Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

#### HOLY FAMILY LÜTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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 SYNAGOĞUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.
Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.
and 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 Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

#### Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m. OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

**CATHOLIC CHURCH** Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Tues. - 9:30am Latin; Thurs. - 9:30am English; Sun. - I I am English

#### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

#### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

#### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

#### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon; Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

#### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for schedules of activities both virtual and in-person.

Bazaar Barn is open Fri. & Sat. 10a -2p.

#### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

#### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School:10 am. Worship Service:11 am

#### Police & Fire Reports

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

#### Nov. 3

• At 10:50 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on N. 3rd Street.

#### Nov. 5

• At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on Wilson Road.

#### Nov. 8

• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on N. Ist. Street.

#### Nov. 9

- At 2 p.m., Brandon James William Bird, 28, of Highlands, charged for one count of misdemeanor shoplifting by concealment.
- At 2 p.m., Brandon James William Bird, 28, of Highlands, charged for one count of misdemeanor shoplifting by concealment.

#### Nov. 10

- At 10:30 a.m., Donald Peck Leslie,
   76, of Atlanta, GA, was issued a Criminal Summons for one count misdemeanor larceny.
- At 10:31 a.m., Donald Peck Leslie, 76 of Atlanta, GA, was issued a Criminal Summons for 1 count misdemeanor larceny.

#### Nov. 12

• At 6:30 p.m., Susan Whittle Waller, 59, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI. She was issued an unsecured bond of \$1,500. Her trial date is Dec. 7.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 8.

#### Nov. 8

- At 8:22 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Skyline Lodge.
- At 12:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Skyline Lodge.
- At 6:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Buck Creek Road.
- At 8:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to residence on Songbird Lane.
- At 9:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

#### Nov. 9

- At 10:43 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wingina Place.
- At 7:41 p.m., the dept. first-responders to a location in Highlands Plaza.

#### Nov. 10

• At 4:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

#### Nov. 11

- At 4:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Paul Walden Road.
- At 8:56 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road.
- At 4:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.
- At 6:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Chestnut Street.

#### Nov. 12

- At 12:39 p.m., the dept. rescued an animal on Yellow Mountain Trail.
- At 5:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

#### Nov. 13

• At 10:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

#### ...LETTER continued from page 8

significant gap in funding for education infrastructure. It will be interesting to see how a new high school and other important projects will be built without a significant increase in property taxes, considering we walked away from approximately \$2,000,000 in annual revenue, of which 45% would have been paid by non-residents. The most talked about issue on the campaign trail for me was access to high speed Internet. Making headway into this issue will require significant collaboration from our elected leaders and community leaders, and it will need to be accomplished if we do not want our children and community left behind. Other issues that will continue to have a significant impact on the day to day lives of Macon County residents include affordable housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, access to healthcare and economic development. There is much work to be done.

I would encourage the people of Macon County to stay involved in the policy making process by reading the newspapers and attending or watching online the county commission meetings. We all need to be held accountable for our actions and this new board will need input from you to keep Macon County a great place to live and raise our families. I am grateful I had a chance to be a part of the election process and I look forward to staying involved as a citizen.

Jerry Moore Highlands, NC





From the entire Hotwire Communications team, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Highlands community. We are grateful for our incredible partnership and the support you have given us.

## We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!



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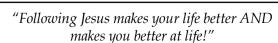
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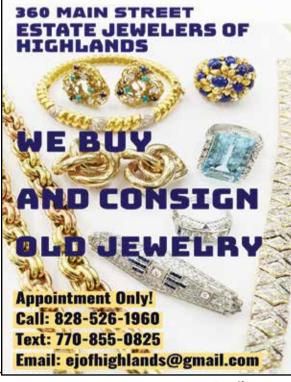


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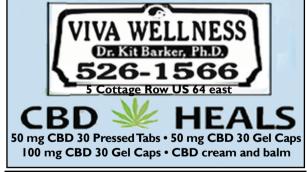
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DO YOU LOVE TO COOK, PUT TO• CLASSIFIEDS page 22











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#### ...EXPANSION continued from page 1

Commissioner Paul Higdon and Commissioner Josh Young both said they believe the project was worthy, however because renovating the school was not included earlier in the Board of Education's capital outlay request, they do not support moving forward at this time.

Commissioner Chair and Highlands representative of the board Jim Tate, along with Commissioner Gary Shields and Vice-Chair Commissioner Ronnie Beale voted in favor of allocating \$329,255 for the architect fee. While the project's full scope work will follow L3SP's design renderings, the anticipated cost of the expansion project is \$4.7 million. The \$329,255 in architectural fees will be paid for over six phases in the coming months while planning the project.

L3SP is the same firm currently working with the county on the potential new Franklin High School construction project. Emily Kite, who now works as a Senior Project Manager for L3SP was part of early design discussions for the Highlands School and is familiar with the needs of the school.

The primary focus of the Highlands School expansion project would take place in the middle school wing of the facility and will accommodate needed space for career and technical education courses. Besides expanding the middle school building, the project proposal includes renovation to the elementary wing of the school that would repurpose two classroom spaces to be used for pre-k classes — which has been identified as a significant need on the Plateau.

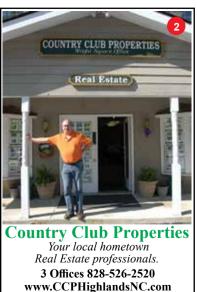
Although the county approved the \$329,255 for architectural services for the project — the future of the project is anything but certain.

The Macon County Board of Commis-

sioners will see a change in leadership in December when Chairman Jim Tate leaves the board — with John Shearl winning the election to his seat. Incumbent Commissioner Ronnie Beale will also be leaving the board in December, as he was unable to retain his seat during the November election and will be replaced by Danny Antoine. Incumbent Gary Shields was re-elected to the board and has been a vocal support of the Highlands project, however, for the project to continue, both Antoine and Shearl would have to vote in favor of the expansion project.

During campaign season, both Antoine and Shearl expressed their hesitancy to support the expansion of Highlands School or the construction of a new Franklin High School — both citing concerns regarding funding sources.





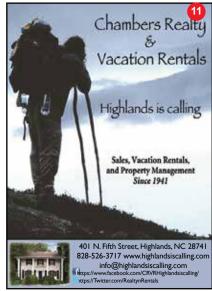


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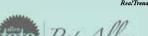


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