

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Oct. 20 2022

ELECTION COUNTDOWN:

MC Commission Candidate Q & A

By Brittney Lofthouse

Tuesday, November 8.

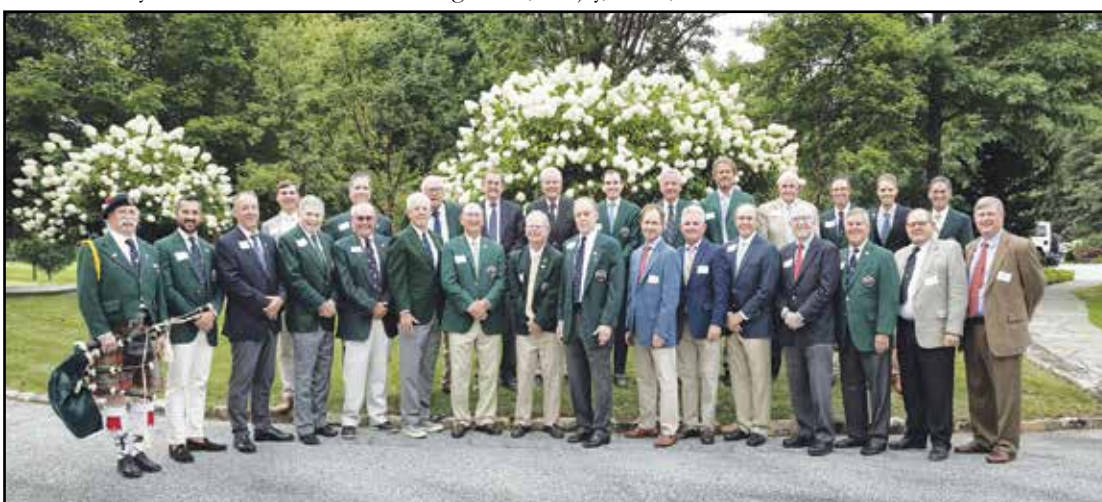
Sugarfork area of the county.

Early voting kicks off across North Carolina today, Thursday, October 20 and will continue through Saturday, November 5. Election Day is scheduled for

Macon County residents will first cast their vote for the Macon County Board of Commissioner District 1 seat – which represents the Highlands, Elijay, Flats, and

Voters will pick between either Highlands Resident and unaffiliated candidate Jerry Moore, or Ellijay resident and Republican

• See Q&A page 10



Bob Jones Tournament captains.

HCHF is recipient of 40th Annual Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament proceeds

The 40th Annual Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament was held at Highlands Country Club on August 13, 2022. The tournament is named after the legendary Bobby Jones and features Walker Cup players from the United States, Great Britain, and Ireland.

Jones was selected to play

on the United States Walker Cup Team five times and twice served as its captain. Jones loved Highlands and was instrumental in the development of Highlands Country Club where he christened the course by hitting the first ball when it opened in 1928.

This year the Tournament

raised more than \$230,000 benefiting the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF). Proceeds will go toward the funding of the Foundations initiatives, including the Blue Ridge Health Highlands Cashiers Health Clinic, the Foundation's number one pri-

• See BOB JONES page 10

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Two local swimmers qualify for Junior Olympics

On Saturday, October 15, two Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team members qualified for AAU Nationals (Jr. Olympics) during the 2022 Highlands Invitational.

The Junior Olympics will be in Des Moines, Iowa in the summer of 2023.

Both Finneaus Garner and Dasha Halldin qualified in the 50 freestyle.

Jack Sumner broke a 3-year-old team record in the 200 butterfly. Out of 87 swimmers, the Hurricanes had 57 personal records (PRs).

Finneaus Garner, Alyse Remery, Chase Kenter, Ben and Anton Halldin, and Annabella Batista

• See OLYMPICSA page 12



Delectable!

This youngster paid the Westbrook family a visit out on the Bowery.

– Photo by Viola Westbrook

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

There's a packed agenda tonight

Today, Thursday, October 20 is the start of early voting. It continues to November 5. I don't know why we call it early voting anymore, a whole lot of folks now vote well before Election Day on November 8. The early voting format has become a standard way ballots are cast.

If a voter is registered in Macon County and works in Highlands, that person can early vote at the Highlands Civic Center precinct at the Rec Park. If the voter waits until Election Day, he or she will have to vote in their assigned precinct. The long and short of it is that early voting is a very easy and flexible way of casting a ballot in North Carolina. The important point is that everyone living and/or working on the Highlands Plateau can cast a vote. It sends a message to the entire county that Highlanders are concerned and engaged with what happens in our Macon County.

Now I'm not writing this get-out-the-vote message to tell anyone who to vote for in the midterm election. I value the Ameri-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

can secret ballot tradition. Once in a voting booth a voter can vote for the candidates of their choice and not be obligated to tell anyone who or why they voted for specific candidates.

I will tell you that I am voting for the 1/4 of a penny increase in the sales tax. Of the surrounding counties, Macon County is the only county that has not approved this increase. A vote for this increase would set the sale tax rate at 7 cents (pennies) per dollar instead of the current 6.75 cents. If earmarked for education as planned, this increase will help the county provide critical support to the Macon County School System.

Tonight, Thursday, October 20, is the Highlands Town Board meeting. It begins at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field. The meeting can also be accessed on YouTube by way of the town website.

The meeting agenda is rather long. There will be a budget amendment to purchase a new pumper fire truck. The department needs to order it now and hope that is delivered in a year or so.

The board will also get an update from the Playhouse and a request for a HAM radio antenna attachment on the Big Bear Pen tower. The board will review and hopefully approve the lease agreement for the Highlands Visitor Center and chamber offices.

EnviroSpark will be making a presentation on EV charging stations for the downtown area.

Another item on the agenda is changes to the code of ordinances concerning outdoor burning, grubbing and noise. Town committees comprised of staff and board members have been working on these issues and will report to the full board for action to be taken.

In addition, Lamar Nix, our public works director, will present to the board a policy on private road maintenance and snow removal procedures.

Hope to see you at tonight's meeting. Public comment will be at the top of the agenda.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Boy am I excited. We are going to our next job, Forest Compost"

• WEATHER •

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High: 57 Low: 25	High: 67 Low: 30	High: 69 Low: 36	High: 70 Low: 40

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Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

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All About Books

• INK PENN •

Nancy Mitford, anyone?

I'd heard of the Mitford sisters but didn't know much about them until I visited the Cotswolds several years ago. On a bicycle ride during that trip, we got an introduction to their story from our tour guide not only because their family home was in the Cotswolds village of Swinbrook, but also because we ate lunch that day at the Swan Inn, owned at the time by the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, the last surviving Mitford sister. That's why I adore the two books I describe here.

The Bookseller's Secret by Michelle Gable

If, as I do, you like books about books, this one's for you. The story shifts back and forth between WWII London and the modern-day, AND includes the real-life author Nancy Mitford—making it an unput-downable read for me. Though I'd heard of the Mitford sisters, I'd never read any of Nancy Mitford's books. This story details her struggles to write another successful novel as she is supporting herself working at the Heywood Hill bookshop during the



Kathy Manos Penn

war. Her wit is one of the main attractions of these chapters. That and glimpses of characters like author Evelyn Waugh. Remember "Brideshead Revisited?"

Like Mitford, the modern fictional author Katie Cabot is enduring a similar dry spell, three years after penning a best seller. As her story unfolds, we see the parallels in their lives and struggles, but that's not the best part. For me, the best part is the mystery about a possible missing Nancy Mitford manuscript – an autobiography. Did she really write one? The mystery unfolds against the backdrop of Nancy's fascinating life during and after the war. Hence, my decision to pick up "Pursuit of Love" which is supposedly her fictional version of those years.

The Pursuit of Love by Nancy Mitford

Nancy Mitford really did work in a bookshop in London during WWII, and in 1945, she wrote "The Pursuit of Love." The

sisters in the book are based on Mitford and her sisters, though it is not a one-for-one match. The foreword in the edition I read was written by her sister Jessica in 1982. All in all, it was a fascinating and often LOL read.

How much of the story, especially the details about the main character's French lover, are true to life? It is a fact that Nancy Mitford did have a long-time affair with Gaston Pawleski, an associate of Charles de Gaulle. Did she meet him in a French train station as depicted in this novel? Did he visit her in London during the war? I could likely find the answers by spending a few hours on the internet, but I think I'll just remember the tales told in Nancy's book and the more recent "The Bookseller's Secret."

You know a novel has stood the test of time when it has been turned into an Amazon Prime series, and that's what has happened with "The Pursuit of Love." For me, thoughts about both books continued to surface in my brain for several weeks. In my mind, that's the mark of a good story.

If you find these descriptions interesting, I recommend you start with Michelle Gable's fictionalized account.

• 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/KathyManosPenn.Author/

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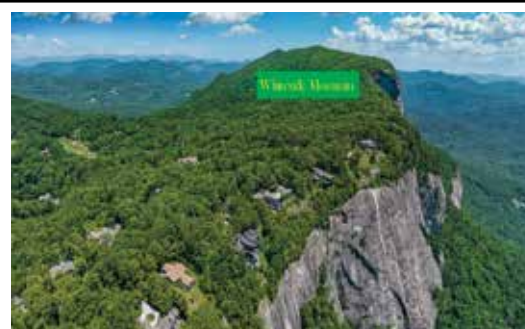
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• OBITUARY •

Ronnie Calloway



Ronnie Calloway, 74, of Brevard, passed away on October 8, 2022. A native of Franklin, North Carolina, he was the son of the late Claude Lewis and Marie Dalton Calloway. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his sister, Doris Underwood, and his brothers, W.C. Calloway Scott Calloway and Junior Calloway.

A United States Army Veteran that served during the Vietnam War, Ronnie was very proud to have served his country. After his service he worked for DuPont in Transylvania County for over 30 years until his retirement.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing, playing his guitar, telling a good joke, and was never one to pass up a good argument, but his greatest joy was his family. He loved watching his children, and his grandchildren play ball and grow up well.

His loving survivors include his wife of 53 years, Lazzelle Calloway; their children: Pam Shook (Wesley) and Mike Calloway (Laura); their grandchildren: Dalton Calloway and Bethany Shook (T. J. Newkirk) their great-granddaughter Scarlett Hughes; his sister, Victoria Thompson (Bob), and his brothers: C.L. Calloway (Melba), Joe Calloway (Linda) and Donnie Calloway (Elizabeth "Bitsy").

Military Honors will be rendered by the North Carolina National Guard and the Transylvania County Honor Guard at 3pm on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at Moore-Blanchard Funerals & Cremations in Brevard.

The family will receive friends from 1:00pm until 3:00pm at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to <http://cjd.foundation.org/> or <https://www.dav.org/>

To leave a condolence for the family of Ronnie Calloway, please visit "Tributes" at www.mooreblanchard.com

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

'Is My House Sold or Not?'

I'm often surprised to hear sellers say: "I've sold my house!" only to learn they are in the due diligence period and that prompted this article to explain the major difference!

Due diligence is simply an investigative period that is typically between 14-21 days in length. The potential buyer can have any inspections of choice, with many including a home inspection, radon inspection, pest inspection, survey, septic inspection, and/or having a contractor analyze the property for additions or upgrades. If located within the city limits, the Town Manager may be involved to analyze any additions based on the lot size and amount of imperious surface. Permits may also be involved and may require extra time.

During the due diligence period, the potential buyers can terminate for ANY reason. If there is a loan involved, there will be a bank appraisal that slows down the process of approval due to the lack of appraisers in our area. There is an automatic 7-day extension, if needed, if the loan is in process and is delayed. If the home doesn't appraise for the contract price, the potential buyer can either pay the difference, ask the seller to reduce the sales price, agree upon a new "meet in the middle" price or terminate the contract.

In our current market with so few homes for sale, buyers react quickly to tie up the home before someone else does. Sometimes it's a "panic" decision and then the potential buyers have time to realize they made a hasty decision and terminate the contract. This makes other potential buyers think something is wrong with the house and the buyers backed away due to a bad inspection.

I advise my sellers not to consider "sight unseen" offers. Sight unseen buyers place the homes into due diligence and often then arrive to see the house and decide the house is too close to another one, the driveway is steep, it's too far from town, the photos made the rooms look larger than they really are, or they simply don't like it. The seller's broker then must put the listing back in MLS as active and the other potential buyers are skeptical of it for no good reason.



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

Another important matter -- don't start moving or packing while in due diligence. There is a chance the transaction will not go past due diligence and then you are back to square one. This is not a good place to be. Have your listing broker stay in touch with the selling broker for updates regarding the buyers' intentions.

When the contract is written, there is an option for a due diligence fee. This is a non-refundable amount that goes directly to the sellers as compensation for holding their home off the

market. If the buyer moves forward and closes the transaction, this fee is credited to the buyer on the closing statement at closing. If the buyer terminates the contract, the seller retains the fee. An offering of a due diligence fee can give a buyer an advantage over others if multiple offers exist. I have seen buyers take first place if there is a "bidding war" because they offered a due diligence fee. (This is not to be confused with earnest money, which is refundable if the buyer terminates the contract during the due diligence period.)

The due diligence period starts the day after all parties have signed the offer, creating a contract. It ends at 5PM on the last day of the due diligence period. I have actually seen a buyer terminate a contract at 4:59 PM on the last day of the due diligence period! If the contract moves past the due diligence period, it goes into a pending state which means the earnest money becomes non-refundable and the seller retains it if the buyers do not close. I have seen this happen twice in my career as a broker.

I hope this helps with understanding contracts and the language written therein. Just know that the phrase, "I've sold my house!" should only be said after you leave the closing table and have handed the keys to the new buyers!

• Pat Allen is broker-in-charge of Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group in the downtown office at 295 Dillard Road. She is a certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, consistent award-winner, and a top producer every year for her career of 18 years. You may reach her at 828-200-9179 or email her at pat.allen@allentate.com



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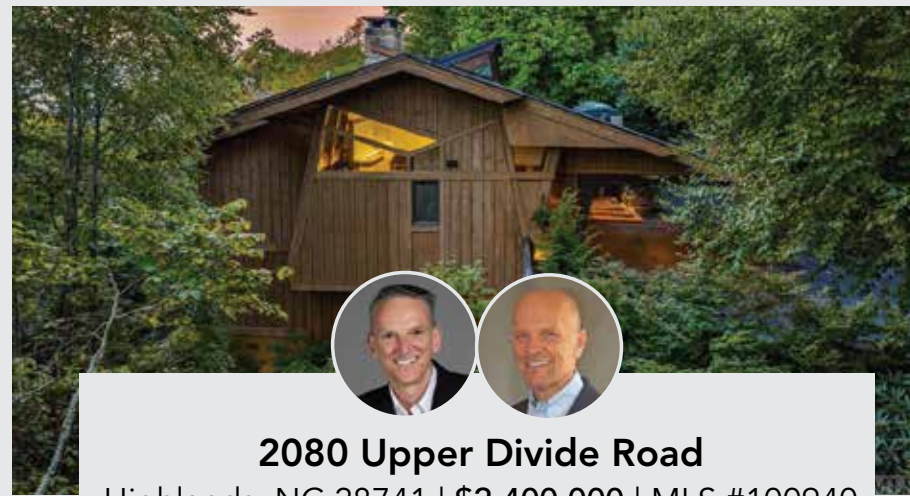
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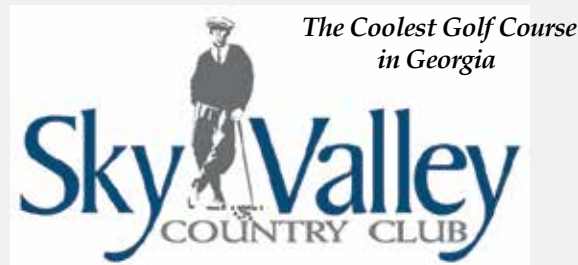
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...Q&A continued from page 1

candidate John Shearl. Both Moore and Shearl are considered newcomers in the race as the incumbent for the seat, Jim Tate, announced his retirement from the board earlier this year.

On the back side of the ballot, voters will then be asked to cast their votes for TWO candidates under the Board of Commissioner District 2 seat – which represents Iotla, Millshoal, North Franklin, east Franklin, South Franklin, Union, and Smithbridge.

There are TWO seats up for election, meaning every voter can select TWO out of the four names that appear on the ballot.

Incumbents Ronnie Beale (Democrat) and Gary Shields (Republican) are running for re-election and will be facing challengers Betty Cloer Wallace (Democrat) and Danny Antoine (Republican).

Danny Antoine will not be represented in the Q&A because he declined to participate in Highlands Newspaper's coverage.

In total, Macon County voters will be selecting THREE commissioners – and because November is a general election, not a primary election, any voter can vote for any candidate, regardless of political affiliation. All candidates will appear on the same ballot.

District 1 County Commission Candidates

Jerry Moore

Jerry Moore has been married to Kay for 29 years and they have four children. Moore has been actively involved in the Highlands community since his arrival in 2007, volunteering as little league baseball coach, youth basketball coach, youth soccer coach, Highlands School baseball and golf coach, past chairman of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, past secretary of

Highlands Tourism Development Commission, past president and current treasurer of the Highlands Rotary Club, past chair of the Highlands Zoning Board, current member of the Macon County Economic Development Council and finance chair of the Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation. Moore has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Administration Degree. Moore has been a small business owner for the past 15 years. From 2007 until 2019, he operated Kilwin's Chocolates & Ice Cream in Highlands. Moore was also employed by the U.S. Court system for over 10 years as a federal probation officer, spending the last four years as the supervisor of the presentence and pretrial investigation unit. Moore currently operates Main Street Payments which provides credit card processing and bookkeeping services to small businesses throughout Western North Carolina.

"I believe my life and work experience will allow me to bring a fresh perspective to the commission," said Moore of his reason for running for commissioner. "Additionally, Macon County is clearly experiencing a period of significant change and I would like to be a part of the solution to help maintain the character of what makes this a great place to live. I also believe the need to maintain our economic viability and improve our education system will require someone with analytical skills and the ability to work with others. I believe I am the best person in this race to accomplish those goals."

John Shearl

John Shearl and his wife Lila Munger have been married for 36 years. They have three sons Allen, Michael and Jared, all

• See Q&A page 12

...BOB JONES continued from page 1

ority project.

"We are pleased to dedicate the proceeds from the Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament to support the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation" said Jim Santo, Co-Chair of the Tournament Committee. Its important work supports health and well-being for families and neighbors across our Highlands and Cashiers area. Its commitment to Blue Ridge Health-Highlands Cashiers, and the local access to high quality, affordable health care is essential to all of us."

Supporting healthcare on the plateau is not new to Highlands Country Club. The

Bob Jones Invitational has contributed over six million dollars to vital healthcare services and initiatives over the last 39 years.

"We are extremely grateful for our historic partnership with Highlands Country Club's distinguished 'Bob Jones' event" said Robin Tindall, HCHF CEO and Executive Director. "The generous support each year is pivotal to HCHF's long term commitment to health and well-being in our communities. Thank you for making a profound difference as we continue our work to lift health and well-being, together."

Main Street COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES Mtn. Fresh

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Close to town with fenced yard and single garage. Two bedrooms, two bath cottage, with extra room, for office, den or extra sleeping. Kitchen has new tile floor all appliances and large laundry room. Main house has dining room, living room, two nice bedrooms and two full baths. Covered front porch and open back deck. All for only \$649,000. mls #99025



A golfer's dream, this 4 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath home in Highlands Country Club overlooks the golf course at 14, 15, and 16th greens. Main level includes living room, dining area, Master bedroom, guest bedroom, custom kitchen with high end appliances, and a wet bar. Open living area features a wood and beam cathedral ceiling, custom windows, hardwood floors and floor to ceiling stone fireplace. Screened Carolina room with fireplace and adjacent decks showcase the view of the golf course. Offered at \$4,160,000. mls #100792



This home is over 100 years old and is ready to be brought back to the condition it deserves. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an office. close to town and great location. Offered at \$1,300,000. mls #100745



Riverwalk. This lovely home is move-in condition. Only 4 years old and renovated last year into cutting edge design condition. 3/bed, 3/ba. Big Chill appliances, new cabinetry, and quartz tops. The greatroom connects to an outdoor Carolina Room with an artisan stone fireplace. The master bedroom is on the main level, with a huge bath. 2 additional guest suites upstairs, plus an office nook. Carport, low maintenance, well landscaped yard. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #100791



This Sagee home has a stunning daytime and night-time views and a waterfall. Master wing on main level has separate his/her facilities. Main level has additional two half baths and open floor plan. On the lower level there are an additional two bedrooms and baths and a den with an added bath, all with superb views. two-car garage has an upper level. Specked with high-end appliances, and windows. Offered at \$4,750,000. mls #100829



Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club. This lovely condo features easy access directly off Highlands Cove Drive and is close to the clubhouse, swimming, tennis courts, and golf course. 3/bed, 3/ba all on the main level, Cofered high ceilings, move-in condition. Lovely decks and porches. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$1,150,000. mls #101007



2 Bedroom 2 bath with loft. Located on Buck Creek Road. Main level living with additional loft area. Stone, wood burning fireplace in the living room. Private setting with just over 3 acres of land. Additional workshop. Offered at \$450,000. mls #100577



Located close to town, this 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath sits high upon a knoll and overlooks the shimmering water of Lake Sequoyah. Enter the main level into a large living room - dining room, Kitchen has a breakfast nook and pass through to the living-dining area. Powder room in the hall, which leads to the master bedroom and spacious bath, stairwell to the lower-level family room-game room with full bath. upstairs has two large bedrooms with a hall bath. This house has a rental history also. Offered at \$825,000. mls #100924



Located about 5 miles from town, this home has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and is perfect for year-round or a summer rental. Drive up to a 2-car carport, main room has a pellet wood stove, updated kitchen with room for expansion. 2/bed, 2/ba, upstairs suite with bedroom, laundry, office/den and bath. Huge unfinished lower level with laundry, and work area. 2-level storage building. On an acre with great winter views and a usable yard. Offered at \$645,000. mls #100826



Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. This house has everything! 3 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths. Wonderful garden area. Main level living with wood floors, cathedral ceiling in living room, which opens onto a lovely covered porch and open deck. Completely renovated kitchen, dining, powder room and master bedroom with bath ensuite. Lower level has 2 bedrooms, bath with family room, storage room, 2-car garage. Panoramic view. Membership is mandatory and has membership requirements. Offered at \$1,350,000. mls #100818



Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath Golf Villa sits atop a knoll at Highlands Fall Country Club. It has a lovely deck with a ridgeline view. Enter in the foyer to a split bedroom plan with an updated kitchen that is open to the dining and living areas. Fireplace in the great room for the chilly evenings. A great way to get into Highlands Falls Country Club. Offered at \$695,000. mls #100788



2br/3bath cottage renovation being sold mostly furnished. Main level has all wood floors, vaulted bead board ceilings, 2 fireplaces and a whole-house generator. The large fully outfitted deck looks over a pretty moss yard and babbling creek. Bonus area downstairs with bath, sitting room and a private entry from outside. The house has a STR history both as a whole house and separate units. Offered at \$565,000. mls #100962

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...Q&A continued from page 10

three of which are native Highlanders and graduates of Highlands School. Shearl also had four grandchildren.

"The spring of next year, will be the 40th anniversary of Highlands being my life," said Shearl. "I have always loved Highlands."

Shearl is a N.C. licensed contractor, owner of J&J Lawn and Landscaping Services, Inc. of Highlands, and

Founder of Shearl Produce, Inc. of Otto. He is a retired Highlands Firefighter and Medical Responder (21 years) former President of Highlands Little League, former Highlands High School baseball coach, former Highlands School Booster Club board member, recipient of the Highlands High School -Highlands School Service To The School Award and former Macon County Planning Board Member.

"I am a lifelong Conservative Republican (not someone who claims to be a conservative)," said Shearl.

According to Shearl, he is



Jerry Moore



John Shearl

running for the Macon County Board of Commissioners "to instill conservative values and leadership to District 1 County Commission seat," said Shearl.

What do you see as being the greatest issue facing Macon County?

Moore: "Clearly the most significant issue that will impact the county financially is the building of a new high school in Franklin," said Moore. "The existing structure is unsafe, outdated and not an adequate learning facility for students or teachers. We must be creative in our approach to financing this project, working hard to get state funding and other funding sources in lieu of an excessive increase in property taxes. Although the county does not have control over the outcome, access to broadband is a critical need for our county residents, and the commission will need to work with all stakeholders to deliver reliable broadband to all of our residents. I have found broadband access to be the number 1 topic on the campaign trail."

Shearl: "This depends on who you talk to or ask. The needs

are many and broad," said Shearl. "As a 35-year conservative Highlands local small business owner I am concerned about the 50.7 percent land value increase in Macon County for the 2023 reevaluation. We are going from approximately 8 billion in land values to approximately 13 billion in values. We are potentially

looking at a 25 percent increase in property taxes for capital improvement projects at this time. This is very concerning to me and should be to all landowners and taxpayers."

Macon County is in the midst of significant infrastructure planning for the school system. What are your thoughts on the new Franklin High School Project proposal?

Moore: "As previously noted, Franklin High School must be replaced to address the inadequacies of the current facility," said Moore. "The school board and commission will need to continue to work closely to get the new Franklin High School project started immediately. Early childhood education is critical to the success of our children and the future of our county and country."

Shearl: "I would love to see a brand new school for our children however with us being in a recession, people living paycheck to paycheck, inflation at the highest in many decades, the high prices of medicine, groceries, gas, heat-

• See Q&A page 14

...OLYMPICS continued from page 1

won all four of their swims.

In his first swim meet since he broke his arm which sidelined him for quite a while, Timmy McDowell won two of his events.

Eight of 23 Hurricanes had four PRs out of four swims. They were Ivan Shchelgachov, Ben Anton, and Stefan Halldin, Alex's

Petric-Sakonjic, Annabelle Searles, Bo Curcuro, and Jayce Powell.

Those with three PRs were Sadie Green, Jack Sumner, Dasha Halldin, Hayden Andrews, Alex Lopez, and Mason Johnson. Also with PRs were Alyse Remery, Ian Batista, Justin Powell, and Blake Kenter.

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...Q&A continued from 12

ing cost skyrocketing, every other costs extremely high and businesses closing because they can't get help, the cost to build at the highest that I have ever seen and interest rates are extremely high, etc. How are we going to pay for it or any other project?

What are your thoughts on the proposed expansion to Highlands School?

Moore: "The Highlands community is in desperate need of early childhood education to serve families from across the county who live and work in Highlands. I am in full support of renovating Highlands School to provide early childhood education. If we do not invest in our education infrastructure now, we will be investing in more jail cells later," said Moore.

Shearl: "I am in the middle of researching Highlands School proposal and needs," said Shearl. "This has not been discussed until recently and is new to a lot of people. Most of the people in Highlands don't even know about this expansion proposal nor the Pre K. In my research one thing I have found is there are three of these Pre Ks in other county schools already."

What are the top three things you hope to accomplish if elected?

Moore: "I completely understand that my priorities may not be the priorities of the other commissioners; therefore, I want to immediately find out what their concerns and priorities are moving forward and start working together on the issues," said Moore. "I think the commission needs to prioritize education and county infrastructure, access to broadband and work closely with agencies in the community who deliver substance abuse and mental health services."

Shearl: "1 - Provide essential services 2- Vote the will of the people 3-Vote for low taxes to protect our citizens that are on a fixed income," said Shearl.

What is your stance on the proposed sales tax referendum scheduled to appear on the November ballot?

Moore: "I fully support the proposed ¼ cent sales tax increase, which will round-up our sales tax to 7%," said Moore. "All five of the

other counties in Western North Carolina have taken advantage of this increase, and they are moving forward with infrastructure projects with these funds. Approximately 45% of retail spending in Macon County is completed by visitors who will be paying the extra ¼ cent on their purchases that will benefit our county's bottom line. This alternative funding method will allow us to keep our property taxes fair and reasonable for our residents, while still allowing us to meet the demands of our county's future."

Shearl: "The voters will decide by vote on the November 8th ballot," said Shearl

If elected, what you will you do to ensure all areas of Macon County (Highlands, Nantabala, Conwee, Franklin, etc.) and all residents regardless of political affiliation (this election could mark the first time in more than a decade that the board is made up by only one political party) receive equal and fair representation?

Moore: "I chose to run as an unaffiliated candidate for this race in an effort to leave partisan politics on the sidelines," said Moore. "I firmly believe at the local level, with only five commissioners, we can work together to address the concerns of all residents of Macon County. I look forward to addressing the needs and concerns of my district and the entire county."

Shearl: "Regardless of your affiliation, we are all residents of Macon County and need, deserve and expect the same essential services," said Shearl.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

Moore: "My experience working for more than a decade in the criminal justice system and operating small businesses for the past 15 years, gives me a unique insight into the role of government and the private sector," Moore. "I want to bring these experiences to the commission to address the concerns outlined above. Additionally, much of what the commission addresses is complex financial issues to fund

and finance the needs of the county. My experience as finance chair on the Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation and treasurer of the Rotary Club of Highlands as well as my accounting work with small businesses, will give me the base knowledge I need to be an effective commissioner."

Shearl: "I am a 35-year conservative small business owner in Highlands," said Shearl. "I am a lifelong Conservative. I am not for nor do I support the tax and spend ideology. I believe in planning and investing your tax dollars for the future."

Any additional information you would like to include?

Shearl: "I love Highlands, Macon County and our country," said Shearl. "Naturally I want the best for our children, families citizens, businesses and our home county. We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world. This is why so many come here to buy their vacation homes and this is why I am proud to call Macon County home. I look forward when elected to represent my people in Highlands, Scaly Mountain, Sugarfork, Ellijay and all of the citizens of Macon County."

District 2 MC Commission Candidates

Ronnie Beale

Ronnie Beale was first elected to the Macon County Board of Commissioners in November 2006. A Macon County business owner, Ronnie and his wife Cissy have three children, Cara Higgs (Bill), Evan, and Barrett, and live in the Iotla community.

Beale graduated from Franklin High School in 1973, attended Southwestern Community College, and has served as the President of Beale Construction since 1980. Beale also owns and operates All Seasons Storage from 1998 to 2022 and owned Carolina Mini Mart from 1999-2020.

Beale has served the residents of Macon County for four terms, during which time he has

• See Q&A page 21

• ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

A story about Loretta Lynn

Loretta Lynn recently passed away on October 4, 2022. She was 90 years old. Loretta really was a coal miner's daughter. She was the oldest daughter and second of eight children. She was born April 14, 1932 in Butcher Hollow, KY. She was named after the film star, Loretta Young. Her family was poor, but over-flowing with love.

Loretta married at age 15, against her parents' wishes. She told her parents she just couldn't help it. She was in love. She and Oliver Vanetta "Doolittle" had known each other for only a month. It is easy to understand why her parents were against the marriage. However, she and Doolittle (Doo) were married for 50 years. He died at age 70. She said many times that he was responsible for her success.

She had her first of six children at age 16, including identical twin daughters. She named her daughters Patsy and Peggy Sue. One was named after her sister, Peggy Sue, and the other was named after her best friend, Patsy Cline.

Some people do not know that one of Loretta's sisters also became a famous country singer. She is known as Crystal Gayle.

In 1976, her best-selling autobiography, "Coal Miner's Daughter," was made into a movie starring Sissy Spacek and Tommy Lee Jones. The movie became number one at the box office and won many awards. Sissy Spacek won the Oscar for her performance. I don't recommend many movies, however, I will make an exception with "Coal Miner's Daughter."

Loretta didn't start singing in local clubs until she was 25 years old. Her husband, Doo, forced her into singing. She was extremely shy. She cut her first record, "I'm a Honky Tonk Girl" when she was



Kenny Youmans

28 years old. It immediately became a hit and reached number 14 on the music charts. She began singing on the Grand Ole Opry that same year.

Loretta received numerous awards in Country and American music. She was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1983, the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2008. She was honored in 2010 at the Country Music awards ceremony. She was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2013.

Loretta wrote more than 160 songs and released 60 albums. She had 10 number one albums and 16 number one singles on the country charts. She won three Grammy awards, seven American Music awards, eight Broadcast Music Incorporated awards, 13 Academy of Country Music awards, eight Country Music Association awards and 26 fan-voted Music City News awards.

In 1972, Loretta was the first woman to be awarded "Entertainer of the Year" by the Country Music Association. In 1980, she was the only woman to be named "Artist of the Decade" by the Academy of Country Music. She was the first female country artist to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She remains the most awarded woman in country music history.

Sean of the South is a daily blog written by Sean Dietrich. He is a columnist, novelist and podcast host. His articles have been in many, many magazines and newspapers.

I'm including the following excerpt from one of Sean's blogs - "I first saw Loretta Lynn in concert when I was nine years old. She sang "Don't Come Home Drinking with Loving on Your Mind."

• See LORETTA page 30

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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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.maconcliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconcliteracy.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

1st 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. Members 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.

Wed. & Sat in October

• Autumn Amble" leaf tours this October. Every Wednesday and Saturday at 4 PM, staff will lead an exploration of the Highlands Botanical Garden to discover what leaves are already changing and (the science of) why. All are welcome to participate in these free guided tours, and no registration is necessary.

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 information.

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

Fridays

• Friday Night Live Concerts in Town Square on Main Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs.

Saturdays

• Saturdays on Pine in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic.

• 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 10AM We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

Fri. Oct. 21

• At Hudson Library, local author and entrepreneur Susie deVillie, who just released her book Buoyant, will give a talk about her recipe for successful entrepreneurship at 2 PM. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

Sat-Sun., Oct. 22-23

• Last weekend for the Porch Sale at Corey James Gallery (corner of 3rd & Spring St, Highlands): SAT 10a-6p. SUN 12-6p. UNIQUE High-End Decor:

Sat., Oct. 22

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite Met Opera Medea at 1p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Mon., Oct. 24

• At The Bascom, Art League of Highlands-Cashiers monthly meeting 4:30 – 6 pm: | FREE

Tues., Oct. 25

• Candidate Forum at the Library on Siler Road in Franklin from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Living Room.

• Celebrate Halloween the natural way! Join the Highlands Biological Foundation for their annual Enchanted Forest Halloween bash on Tuesday, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Go trick-or-treating through the forest trails of the Highlands Botanical Garden. A bonfire, hot drinks, face painting by Macon Faces, and more will be waiting at the end. Costumes are encouraged! For more information, please call (828) 526-2623.

Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 27 - 29

• Smoke Stories - Calliope Shorts: Campfire Stories at the Full Spectrum Farms Pavilion, 1185 Wayehutta Rd. in Cullowhee. Performances are at 7 p.m. and take place outdoors. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$25 for VIP seating and \$16 for children, students and seniors. For more about tickets: Calliope Shorts | Campfire Stories (ticketspice.com)

Fri., Oct 28

• At Hudson Library the last for 2022 "Community Coffee with the Mayor" Friday at 11am in the Hudson Library Meeting Room. Mayor Patrick Taylor will be joined by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital CEO Tom Neal with updates and future plans for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

• Join Jessica Willis Fisher fireside at

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

the Highlander Mountain House for the latest musical performance in their Salon Series. at 9 p.m. Tickets on the hotel website www.highlandermountainhouse.com

Sat. Oct. 29

• Highlands Historical Society will celebrate our town's founding families with a reception beginning at 2p in the Fellowship Center at Highlands United Methodist Church. The festivities are in conjunction with the inaugural Highlands Heritage Jamboree sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands NC. Does your family have roots in Highlands that go back 100 years or more? Let us know you're coming by RSVP'ing at HighlandsNCHeritage@gmail.com.

• Highlands Heritage Jamboree featuring traditional music, dancing and crafts at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 3-7:30 p.m.

• FREE Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Fall Concert at 1st Presbyterian Church at 5 p.m. Featuring Juli Coucheron, piano, Helen Kim, violin and Charae Krueger, cello. Sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

• HS Fall Festival 5-8 p.m. Carnival games, bounce houses, haunted house, hayride, face painting, cake walk, theme-box silent auction. Fun for the entire family!

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

• Fall into Dance ARTS Saturday at the Macon County Public Library at 10:30 am, for children and young families. Contact the Arts Council for details, 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnnet.net.

Mon. Oct. 31

• Annual Halloween on Main. 5-8 p.m.

Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 3 - 5

• Smoke Stories - Calliope Shorts: Campfire Stories at the Full Spectrum Farms Pavilion, 1185 Wayehutta Rd. in Cullo-

whee. Performances are at 7 p.m. and take place outdoors. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$25 for VIP seating and \$16 for children, students and seniors. For tickets: Calliope Shorts | Campfire Stories (ticketspice.com)

Thurs., Nov. 3

• FAME Jr., starring Highlands School Middle School students Thursday at 7:30 at the Performing Arts Theatre on Chestnut Street. The show is FREE but please reserve a seat. at highlandsperformingarts.com.

Fri., Nov. 4

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center, Great Art on Screen: Botticelli Florence & the Medici at 5:30p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Sat., Nov. 5

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite Met Opera La Treaviata at 1p. Call 828-526-9047.

Sun., Nov 6

Join North Carolina's very own Chatham Rabbits fireside at the Highlander Mountain House for the latest in their Salon Series at 5:30p. Tickets on the hotel website www.highlandermountainhouse.com

Fri., Nov. 11

• Farm Harvest Dinner & Barn Dance. Book at the Farm. For tickets go to OldEdwardsHospitality.com/chefdinners

Sat., Nov. 12

• Chef Dinner at OEI's Half-Mile Farm, New Orleans Kitchen Collab with Chef Sue Zemanick. Book at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/chefdinners.

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 more information 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 1p. 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.



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**For Tickets & Information:
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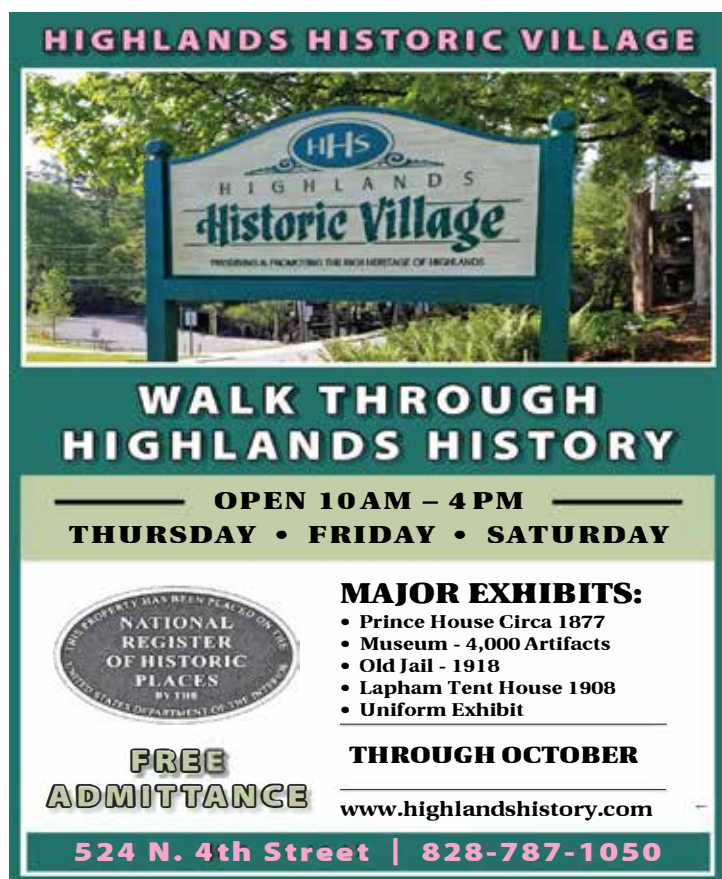
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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

October: The right time to raise awareness about Breast Cancer

There is much reason to feel positive about the strides that have been made in the fight against breast cancer since Breast Cancer Awareness Month was first instituted, some 36 years ago.

Screening technology is improved, innovative therapies have been developed, and research for a cure continues. Certain aspects surrounding breast cancer, however, haven't changed, and they have to do with the screening process. Getting your annual mammogram is still the most critical thing you can do to make it more likely that any abnormality will be detected earlier, when breast cancer is easier to treat.

Everyone at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital takes pride in the fact that we can offer our community the best in screening options. These include the 3D mammogram, a test that gives radiologists a much more complete view of breast tissue, since many more images of the breast are taken during the procedure as opposed to 2D mammograms. Additionally, it has been found that 3D mammograms are associated with a reduced number of troubling callbacks — when a woman is requested to return for more imaging; 3D mammography is also exceptional at finding tumors in women who have dense breast tissue. 3D mammograms are also better at finding tumors when they are smaller in size, which impacts treatment.

Debate exists among organizations about at what age a woman should have her first mammogram. Some say that an initial screening should be at a woman's discretion between ages 40 and 44 if they are at average risk, while others, like the American College of Radiology, recommend that a woman's first mammogram occur at age 40. Since one in six women diagnosed with breast cancer is in her 40s when she receives it, we



Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

are proponents of the American College of Radiology's guidelines.

Performing a breast self-exam is also important, so you can get an idea of what is normal in terms of how your breasts look and feel, and talk to your physician if you notice anything unusual. Fortunately, research shows that even when a woman finds a lump during a self-exam, in 8 out of 10 instances, it is benign, or non-cancerous. A good breast self-exam tutorial is available on the National Breast Cancer Foundation website, at <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-self-exam>.

Even though we are lucky to have good news on multiple fronts regarding breast cancer, one in eight women are still diagnosed with the disease, and 85% of those diagnosed have no family history of it. This means that diligent self-care and preventive screening are still critical.

We also know that certain lifestyle factors are thought to lower your risk for breast cancer. These include being within a weight range that is normal for your height and build, exercising regularly, eating a varied, nutrient-dense diet, avoiding tobacco, and limiting or avoiding alcohol. If you have children, breastfeeding has also been linked to a lower risk.

Finally, talking to your pri-

mary care physician about breast health, screening, and your risk are very important. You and your physician are a team, and these topics should be discussed at your annual wellness exam, and any other time you have questions or concerns.

This month, schedule your mammogram, encourage someone else to (some groups of family and friends even schedule theirs together, and do something fun afterwards), participate in a breast cancer awareness event, or make a donation to a cause related to breast cancer research.

I'm also happy to announce that Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has a new, state-of-the-art Bone Density Unit, where we can help patients who live with osteoporosis — a progressive bone loss condition that affects an estimated 44 million Americans.

Nearly 50% of post-menopausal women live with osteoporosis, but men are not immune. According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation, 2.8 million men live with the condition, while 14.4 million have low bone mass, known as osteopenia.

The primary danger for osteoporosis sufferers is increased risk for fracture. The disease is silent, and often, a broken bone is the first sign that you have it — unless you get tested. Fortunately, advances have been made in the technology that helps us measure bone density.

We're grateful to have a new Lunar bone densitometer from GE Healthcare, which precisely measures spine, hip, and forearm density (areas where fractures occur most often). Test results reveal if a patient is at risk for osteoporosis and whether they have low bone density or if it's decreasing at an unusually fast rate. The screening can also indicate whether osteoporosis treatment is working.

This screening is comfortable.
• See HOSPITAL page 27

...Q&A continued from page 14

served as both Chairman and Vice-Chairman. In addition to the board of commissioners, Beale has served as past chairman of the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, Macon County Social Services, Macon County Board of Equalization and Review, Macon County Planning Board, Past President of the Franklin Daybreak Rotary Club, served on the Board of Directors of Enter Bank for over 20 years, Past Chairman of the March of Dimes, the North Carolina Community Foundation and served on the board for REACH of Macon County. He is past master of Junaluskee Masonic Lodge and past ambassador to Shriner's Crippled Children Hospital.

Beale's current involvement includes serving on the board for Macon County Fair, and Board of Directors of the Chero-

kee Preservation Foundation. Beale is currently the Vice Chair of the Southwest Commission and Vice Chair of Vaya Board of Directors, the mental health arm serving 31 Western Counties.

Beale was voted North Carolina Commissioner of the Year in 2013 and continues to represent Macon County on the state level. A past president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and current member of the association's governing board, Beale is also slated to serve as the next President of the Southwest Commission, the regional council of government.

"I am running for re-election to the Macon County Board of Commissioners to continue working with our local school board to give all students across the county

• See Q&A page 22

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FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER



I'm running as an independent candidate for the Macon County Commission. I'm not beholden to any national political party or any special interest. The only interests I commit to understand and support are those of families and businesses here in our county.



To overcome the challenges and to make the most of opportunities ahead, we need to be looking for partners, not adversaries. I plan to work with others, including non-profits and businesses, as well as other government agencies, to deliver the best possible services at the lowest cost to taxpayers.



I believe government's job is to ensure taxpayers' investments serve a better future, which is why I fully support the proposed 1/4 cent sales tax increase. Almost half of this increase will be paid by visitors to Macon County, helping us keep property taxes low while we address the critical education and infrastructure needs that will improve the lives of Macon County residents.



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LANEY AND FRIENDS
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Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
October 29th ~ 3 to 7:30 p.m.

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...Q&A continued from page 21

the best opportunity to succeed,” said Beale. “It is also extremely important to me to continue advocating to provide broadband to as many households as possible in Macon County while also working every day to improve the quality of life for Maconians. Lastly, I am seeking re-election to continue working diligently in mental health and substance abuse area, which affects all of our families as I have done since being elected in 2006.”

Gary Shields

Shields was born in the Cartoogechaye Community and lived on Mill Creek until completing the 9th grade at Franklin High School. He then attended Walhalla High School due to his father’s work schedule where he completed the 10th grade. Shields’ parents moved to Waynesville, NC, where he completed grades 11 and 12 and graduated from Waynesville Township High School in June 1966. In October 1966, Shields entered the military and served two tours of duty in Vietnam completing his military service obligation in June 1969.

Shields entered Gardner-Webb College (University) in August 1969 and earned a BA Degree in Social Science in 1973. He continued his education at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte earning a MA Degree in Master of Education in 1975 and in 1985, he earned a MA Degree in Guidance Counseling from UNC-Charlotte via Western Carolina University. After graduating from Gardner-Webb College (University) in 1973, Shields began working in the Kings Mountain School System as a teacher and school administrator for eight years. In 1981, Shields was hired by the Macon County Board of Education where he served as Counselor/Teacher at Nantahala School, FHS Counselor/Assistant Principal, Union Elementary School Principal for five years and returned to be the Principal of Franklin High School for 21 years. Shields retired from Franklin High School in June 2010.

“After serving 37 years in public education and after retiring in June 2010, I was elected to the Macon County BOE where I served 4 years,” Gary Shields said when asked why he was seeking re-election. “I soon felt that my understanding of county government was very limited and how Macon County existed beyond the BOE. Being elected to the Macon County Commissioner Board in 2014, I have strived to understand the total workings of Macon County. In November 2022, I will have completed 8 years in county government and have chosen to seek another 4 year term to feel that my IN-

VESTED time has not been in vain. With INVESTED time come UNFINISHED business that I am willing to give my time and energy toward completion.”

Betty Cloer Wallace

Betty Cloer Wallace has a lifetime of public service including: 5th generation Maconian; four university degrees in California, Georgia, and North Carolina, including Doctorate in Public Administration, UGA; Associate Superintendent, Macon County Schools; Director, Western Regional Education Center (WNC); Superintendent, Vance County Schools (17 schools, 1,100 employees); Assistant State Superintendent, NC Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh; US Department of Education Fellow, Washington, DC; Associate Superintendent, NW Arctic Borough, Alaska; Adjunct Professor, WCU and SCC; served on numerous boards and commissions for industrial recruitment, facilities planning, and economic development; Amazon book author; tree farmer (native hardwoods); rental businesses (commercial and residential); NC Democratic Party, State Secretary (elected two terms), State Executive Committee, Executive Council.

“To continue using my half-century of experience and credentials in public service administration and economic development to work toward practical and sustainable change for Macon County; to help reverse the top-down authoritarianism that has controlled our Board of Commissioners for many years; to encourage a greater voice by our citizens in local government; and to help create a more moderate and balanced governmental representation of our residents as per gender, community, vocation, social needs, and financial wherewithal,” Wallace said when asked why she is running for county commissioner.

What do you see as being the greatest issue facing Macon County?

Beale: “I think the top three issues facing our county today are, “Number 1: Providing our children with the tools to succeed. We must continue investing in our children as they are the future of Macon County. Since being elected we have constructed two new schools, placed additions on three schools and totally renovated several schools. Also, provided a teacher supplement while working closely with our local board of education,” said Beale. “Number 2: Access to quality broadband. Macon County must continue working with local providers to expand broadband

...Q&A continued from page 22

internet access. In August of 2022, we completed the 1.5 million South Macon Fiber Backbone project. This would not have happened without support of the majority of the County Commissioners. Which appropriated \$580,000 to this very important project. And lastly, number 3: Housing is crucial to economic development. We have excellent schools, a new medical facility, low crime rate, abundant natural resources and great recreational facilities. These qualities combined which the continued expansion of broadband internet makes Macon County a very attractive location for potential employers / individuals. What we are missing? Affordable housing. It is the most important factor. Not only to economic development, but to the future of our county. We must work with Federal and State Governments in providing affordable housing.”

Shields: “I serve on nine assigned Liaisons by the chairman and 6 Liaisons that are unassigned,” said Shields. “Of the 35 Liaisons our county has, each commissioner has Liaison assignments and brings issues to the board that are priorities in that moment and skilled workforce, housing/rentals, health care, senior citizens to include Broadband services are always a issue topic. I think our board members would agree that to single out “one issue” would be debatable. My idea is to focus on a “group issue”. In our budget summation each year, I look at the “Expenditures Graph” and view the top 3 expenditures. For the 22/23 budget year 3 departments are in constant need. PUBLIC SAFETY which involves Sheriffs department, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management and other public safety departments make up 30% of our budget. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES includes Health Department, Social Services, Veterans, Mental Health and Senior Services and Housing makes up 22% of our budget. EDUCATION (Macon County School System) has numerous capital and current expense needs to include technology and operating budget to accommodate for ever-changing circumstances makes up 19% of the budget. These 3 important departments make up 71% of our 22/23 budget and each has single issues or multi issues that need constant attention.”

Wallace: “Lack of economic development providing jobs that can support families,” said Wallace. “Statistics for two decades shows that our poverty level remains at 30% and that we are continuously losing our young families because of lack of good jobs, healthcare, vocational options, and

social opportunities. We must change our current societal and economic trajectory if we want to slow down the exodus of our young families, take care of our elderly and disabled citizens, and move forward as a viable and economically competitive county.”

Macon County is in the midst of significant infrastructure planning for the school system. What are your thoughts on the new Franklin High School Project proposal?

Beale: “I am very anxious to see what the architect brings forward on October 18,” said Beale. “Over the years we have continued to spend money at FHS which is the same as putting a band aid on a major wound. I think a new high school is vital not only to our students, but to our community in many ways. We must continue to give our students the best opportunities to succeed.”

Shields: “The topic of a new Franklin High School has been a conversation for over 20+ years.

In the past 2 years, I have served on the FHS Project Facilities Review Team and was first involved in searching for a school site of at least 30 acres,” said Shields. “Property owners soon realized that a high school may not be “neighborhood friendly” due to over 300+ student vehicles moving twice each day, 80+ faculty and staff vehicles, 40+ school busses, parent traffic and most of all the traffic that comes with a 3A sports program with 30+ athletic teams. To top the search for a new high school, water and sewer had to be available and this was limited outside the city limits. Our next project, via LS3P Architect Firm, was to look at the FHS campus and bring in a data engineering team to evaluate the 7 identified buildings that are north of Panther Drive. The data engineering team was given directions to project an upgrade of 50 years on each of the 7 buildings and to bring all assessed buildings up to today’s building codes and needed additional square-footage. In June 2022, after approximately 3/4 months, the FHS Renovation Plan, of approximately 149 pages, was released back to the FHS Facilities Project Review team for studying. On July 26, 2022 Macon County Board of Education and the Macon County Board of Commissioners held a joint meeting in the Franklin High School Fine Arts Center, open to the public, and each board voted to authorize our county manager to negotiate a contract with LS3P for a “schematic design for a new Franklin High School at the current location.”

Wallace: “We need a new county high

• See Q&A page 24

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...Q&A continued from page 23



Ronnie Beale



Gary Shields



Betty Cloer Wallace

school, but not a little toy high school shoe-horned into the current 20.4 acres site," said Wallace. "A comprehensive high school should be at least 50 acres with easy access and egress, and facilities to house a wide range of programs. The current cramped campus will never be adequate for what our children need; and the prior decisions of our commissioners should not have taken us down this unfortunate path. The current site would be adequate for a middle school but not for a high school."

What are your thoughts on the proposed expansion to Highlands School?

Beale: "Highlands is requesting a pre-k building," said Beale. "As of now they do not have a general pre-k at all. I think this is an item that we certainly need to look at for the future for Highlands students."

Shields: "I had the opportunity to see the new site plans and toured Highlands School with Principal Jetter a few months ago," said Shields. "I will be involved in a meeting updating the Facilities Review Team on this project on October 13, 2022 at the BOE room at 9 a.m. Today's date at this writing by me is October 12, 2022. I will be listening tomorrow for additional information and future plans concerning this project."

Wallace: "Both Highlands and Nantahala Schools should be expanded as proposed to meet the needs of those communities, both educational and civic," said Wallace.

What are the top three things you hope to accomplish if elected?

Beale: "If re-elected, the top

three things I want to see accomplish are, first, securing access to quality broadband, Macon County must continue working with local providers to expand broadband internet access. In August, we completed the South Macon Fiber Backbone Project. Broadband is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for our economic growth and education of all Macon County students."

Second, I want to continue to work diligently in providing better mental health and substance abuse services to the citizens of Macon County, as I have done since being elected in 2006. This is one area where most if not all of Macon County's families are affected."

And lastly, I want to continue working with our local school board in giving the students of Macon County the best opportunity for success."

Shields: "A. Putting closure to the new Franklin High School Project, B. Affordable housing and rental dwellings and C. Broadband and Cell service available to all of Macon County," said Shields.

Wallace: "(1) Long-range facilities planning for our schools, court system, law enforcement, senior services expansion, healthcare options with specialty clinics, and a multi-purpose civic center," said Wallace. "(2) We have an Economic Development Commission that is virtually unknown and which functions outside the purview of the Board of Commissioners. The EDC should be brought under the administrative oversight of the Commissioners (or a new one formed), become transparent to the public it is supposed

to serve, and recruit retailers and industries by aggressively marketing our county through numerous commercial associations and networks. (3) Better communication between our local government and public by way of a Public Relations and Public Information Office, especially with broadband expansion into all parts of our county. Furthermore, we the people must insist that our local government illuminate the will of the people rather than continuing their authoritarian top-down decision-making."

What is your stance on the proposed sales tax referendum scheduled to appear on the November ballot?

Beale: "I support the quarter cent sales tax for several reasons," said Beale. "It will generate approximately 2 million dollars in revenue. This revenue will be earmarked for education, which will help in keeping our ad valorem taxes low. Since we are the only county in the far west that does not have the quarter cent sales tax, it will keep our money local instead of our neighbors receiving it."

Shields: "I am 100% for the 1/4 cent sales tax," said Shields. "In 2007, the NC General Assembly gave County Boards of Commissioners the authority to levy an additional 1/4 cent county sales-and -use tax, subject to voter approval. These monies brought in (\$2,000,000) equates to approximately (2 pennies) that could be used toward lowering our Ad Valorem, property taxes. This 1/4 cent sales tax revenue could be used in funding capital needs in

• See Q&A page 25

...Q&A continued from page 24

the Macon County School System where presently, school capital needs are paid for by Property Taxes or called Ad Valorem Taxes. Of the 7 counties west of Haywood County, Macon County, has the opportunity on November 8, 2022 to join the other 6 counties in Region A to become partners and move forward in supporting the Macon County School System with their capital needs projects."

Wallace: "I am in favor of the sales tax if it is clearly designated for schools without displacing other funding, which is unlikely. The sales tax hike has been disingenuously oversold by our commissioners in several ways -- primarily as revenue from tourists without acknowledging that most buying in our county is done by our own residents year-round. Also, the minuscule amount of revenue from the sales tax is not a drop in the bucket when applied to the exorbitant cost of the projected high school, a cost that conservatively will approach \$200 million over the next three decades," said Wallace. "The only reason the commissioners are putting a sales tax on the ballot now is because public voting on local sales tax is required by state law; and they are obfuscating the fact that it will do very little to help our overall economic wellbeing, that we will be paying the sales tax forevermore, and that their top-down decision (without a public hearing) to build an inadequate little toy high school has not been popular."

If elected, what will you do to ensure all areas of Macon County (Highlands, Nantabala, Covee, Franklin, etc) and all residents regardless of political affiliation (this election could mark the first time in more than a decade that the board is made up by only one political party) receive equal and fair representation?

Beale: "Since being elected in 2006, I have and will continue to serve all Macon County citizens regardless of their political affiliation," said Beale. "My record as a county commissioner has always been to have an open door policy for all Maconians and this will continue to be the case."

Shields: "Each board member represents a district (1,2,3)," said Shields. "The representative(s) from their district has an obligation to listen and promote the needs of his/her district. When needs are brought before the commissioners, the representative(s) of that district should present the problem, not based on color, race, gender, religion or political affiliation. Commissioners should remind themselves of the Oath of Office they

swore to uphold and remember the Pledge of Allegiance and support the last 6 words in the Pledge of Allegiance: "with liberty and justice for all".

Wallace: "Listen to the citizens and ensure that all are heard. Hold regular public hearings and regular public referenda on a wide range of issues," said Wallace.

What makes you the most qualified candidate for this position?

Beale: "Having had the privilege of serving as a commissioner for the past 16 years, I am very familiar with all county departments and also the budget process," said Beale. "I have had the opportunity to network and forge relationships with leaders across the region and the state. Having served as President of the North Carolina County Commissioner Association and currently serving on the Board of Directors, I have the opportunity to speak and represent MC on a state level. I also serve as Vice Chairman of the Southwest Commission for the seven far west counties, which gives Macon County the opportunity to work on issues that are vital to this region and to Macon County."

Shields: "I follow a motto of 'Earned Not Given,'" said Shields. "I am a Vietnam Veteran and have invested in our country by serving in the military. I have invested in a career of public education as a teacher, counselor, assistant- principal and building principal. I have spent 37 years as an educator with 29 of those years in the Macon County School System with my last 21 years, before retiring in June 2010, as principal of Franklin High School."

Wallace: "My half-century of experience and credentials in a wide range of public administration in education, industrial recruitment, facilities planning and construction, research, finance, and public relations," said Wallace. "The role of the Board of Commissioners is service through policy-making and oversight of legal matters pertaining to the public, oversight of administrative functions to ensure that all citizens are heard equitably and fairly, and responsible expenditure of tax revenue provided by citizens for the public good of everyone. My belief is that local government belongs to our citizens and should transpire from the bottom up, not from the top down. It is not a business with a bottom-line profit and should not be operated as a business; it is a public service for ensuring that taxpayer money is used according to the wishes of "we the people" who gener-

• See Q&A page 30

October 17-21 Thank these Merchants for supporting the Highlands Community Child Development Center (HCCDC)

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Make connections live



Curtis Fussell
Co-pastor
First Presbyterian Church

Someone has said that October through December is the season of "Hallowthankmas." It's a time of pumpkins, colorful leaves, good food, greenery, sending cards, and party going. Above all it is a time when we seek to be connected to family and friends and connected to God.

Recently, a book on this subject titled, "Connect," with the subtitle: "12 Vital Ties that Open Your Heart, Lengthen Your Life, and Deepen Your Soul," was published by Edward Hallowell. The theme of his book is this: life is only meaningful if we are significantly connected to others, to our family, to our friends and ultimately to God.

Hallowell readily acknowledges that being connected to people and God is never easy. It is dangerous, difficult, and sometimes bland. But being connected beats the alternative, which is loneliness: a life unconnected to others.

When Hallowell was a teenager, his father told him many times: "The amount of money you make has importance, fame also has its place. How much you achieve is significant. But what really matters is to have close friends. If someone will stand by you even at risk to themselves, then you have made a good life."

Jesus likewise said the greatest thing in the world is to love God and to love others as you love yourself. That's a call to get connected with God, self, and others. We were made to love, made to connect with God, self, and others, and not merely to live higher and longer, but to live better.

When all is said and done, life is about people we have touched and those who have touched us along the way. During this season of "Hallowthankmas," give thanks to God for the connections in your life that have nourished you. Seek also to strengthen and renew those connections you have with family, friends, and God.

Hallowell ends his book with these words, "Make the connections live. Take time for your friends. Express to them your love. Make peace with the relative you're mad at. At a party, speak to an old friend in a new way. Breathe life into the connections you make. Every day. Now!" That's good advice for this season of "Hallowthankmas."

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY 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

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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; 10:30am 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.

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
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

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in
Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

Sept 18: 9 AM Morning Prayer, 4:45 Festival Eucharist 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

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Pastor Zane Talley
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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.
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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

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418
Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. 9:30a; Sat. 4p; Sun. 11a
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.
ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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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 Oct. 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 5

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident at Moutyanin Fresh Grocery where a bottle of wine was taken.

Oct. 12

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a burglary breaking and entering with damage to property at the Peggy Crosby Centers, storage facility. A door valued at \$200 was damaged.

Oct. 13

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a larceny from a construction site and damage to property at a lon N. 4th Street where about \$1900 in tools was taken.

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Cullasaja Drive.

Oct. 14

• At 12:37 p.m., officers were notified of a shoplifting incident at Bryson's Food Store.

• At 5:58 p.m., officers were notified of a shoplifting inscie at Moutna Fresh Grocery where food itmes were taken.

Oct. 15

• At 8 a.m., officers resonded to a two-vehicle accident on SR 1603.

Oct. 16

• At 3:40 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue

...HOSPITAL continued from page 20

able, lasts just 30 seconds, and no preparation is necessary. Once someone is found to be at risk, a change in diet, exercise, or medication can halt any more bone deterioration.

The Bone Density Unit also has implications for women who are breast cancer survivors. Since they may be at increased risk for osteoporosis, this testing capability is a special bonus for these patients.

If you would like to schedule an appointment at our new unit, please call 828-526-1450. As always, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is here to provide the care you need, with expertise and compassion.

Before I close, I'd like to make you

log from Oct. 4.

Oct. 11

• At 1:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 8:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on North Drive.

Oct. 12

• At 12:40 p.m. the dept. provided public assistance at a location on N. 4th St.

• At 1:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 west.

Oct. 13

• At 11:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 3:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hummingbird Lane.

Oct. 14

• At 10:54 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ravenel Lake Trail.

• At 6:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Oct. 15

• At 9:36 p.m. the dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Big Bear Pen Road.

Oct. 17

• At 12:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.

• At 5:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on skyline Lodge Road.

Oct. 18

• At 5 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Divide Road.



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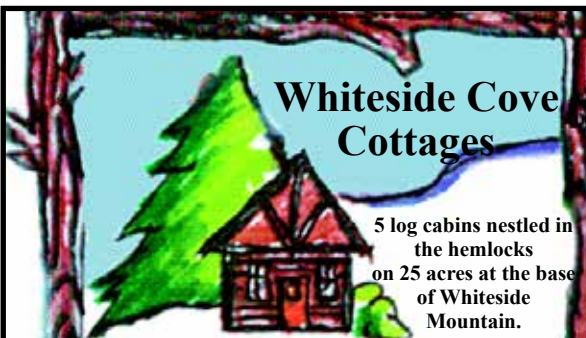
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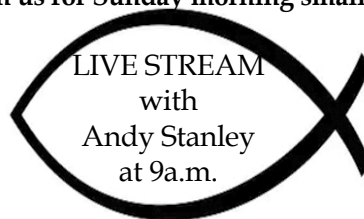
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info@counselingcenter.org

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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• CLASSIFIED page 30

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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position reports to the Development Director and has the option for some flex scheduling. Send your resume to julie.hitrust@earthlink.net. (st. 8/11)

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...LORETTA continued from page 15

My father sang along, Who is that? I asked my father. "That is the mother of country music," he said.

"And he was right, in a way. Yes, experts say that Maybelle Carter is the official Queen Mother. Others would argue that Patsy Cline is the entitled Dowager. But for my money, it's Loretta.

She was beautiful. She was true. She was Loretta Lynn for crying out loud! Today, her statue is ornamented with hundreds of colorful bouquets. As I placed my own bouquet beside her feet, a young man in a cowboy hat says, "Who is that lady statue supposed to be?" "That's Loretta Lynn," says another onlooker.

"Loretta, who?" says the young man in the cowboy hat. "Never mind," says a nearby man. "If you don't know, you shouldn't be wearing that cowboy hat."

"And somehow, I think Loretta would have liked that."

...Q&A continued from page 25

ate it—all the people, not just some with special interests."

Any additional information you would like to include?

Beale: "During my tenure as County Commissioner, we have managed to keep one of the lowest property tax rates in the State of North Carolina, Capital outlay has increased by 33% to approximately \$9.9 million in fiscal year 2023, the county's outstanding debt has decreased by 22%, The unassigned fund balance has increased by 100% making Macon County which plays a key role in Macon County's solid financial position," said Beale. "If re-elected my door is always open, as it has been for the past 16 years, to all Macon County citizens. My goal is simple. To help

our community in any way possible."

Shields: "I served 4 years on the Macon County Board of Education and I am completing 8 years as a Liaison to the Macon County BOE and will complete my 8th year as a Macon County Commissioner in November 2022. All total, I have served 49 years in public education," said Shields. "I am choosing to seek re-election for another 4 years on the Macon County Commissioner Board. I have "unfinished" business that I want to be a part of putting closure to. Macon County is my home and supporting "MACONIANS" is my goal."

Wallace: Macon County has been hard hit in recent years with major retailers pulling out of the county. Retailers go wherever

there are profits to be made. Simple as that. A local economy must be advantageous for "we the people" before the people can support significant retailers; and a local economy is dependent on jobs that can support families, educational opportunities, health-care, public safety, and affordable housing. Otherwise we are left with our current dollar store economy, part-time service jobs, and proliferation of substandard infrastructure," said Wallace. "I am a fiscally and socially Moderate Democrat who believes that our local county government should represent all of us, that fair and balanced moderation is best for the long haul, and that we need a vision for our county that focuses more on being producers instead of consumers."

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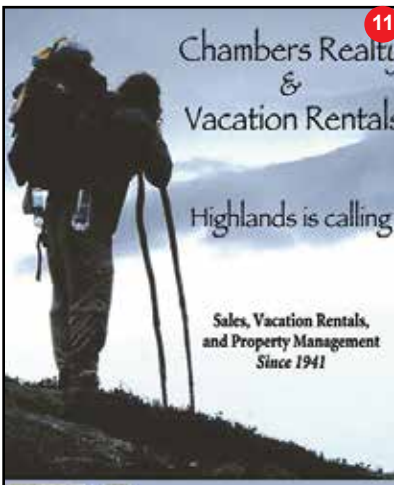
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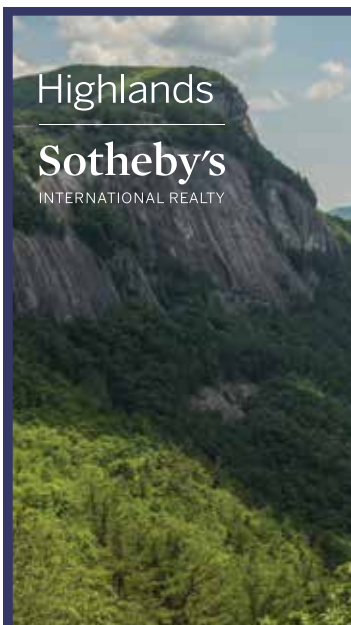
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