

# Highlands Newspaper

Happy Halloween!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 19, Number 43

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: [HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com)

Thurs., Oct. 27 2022

## MC Commissioners vote to bid out Highlands School soccer field project

*Commissioner Paul Higdon voted no*

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Highlands School soccer teams have experienced substan-

tial hurdles over the years due to the state of disrepair of the field at the school.

Officials have skirted around the field's environmental problems

• See **SOCCER** page 14

## MC BOC split on funding renovations at H. School

*Commissioners Higdon & Young voted no*

By Brittney Lofthouse

Seven months after the Advancing Highlands Education Committee (AHEC) explained the need for renovations to the Highlands Middle School building and the need for two preschool classrooms, the board of Commissioners unanimously voted to move forward with the RFQ (Request For Qualifications) for architectural design services for the project.

Macon County received three responses to the RFQ and the Joint Facilities Review Committee, which is comprised of representa-

• See **RENOVATIONS** page 4



## 'A Wrinkle in Time' to kick off new TYA program

*Lease extended through May for additional TYA spring performance – the last performance at The Playhouse*

Mountain Theatre Company is launching its new Theatre for Young Audiences program with "A Wrinkle in Time" set for November 4 – 12.

Madeleine L'Engle's Newber-

ry Medal winning children's novel will come to life on stage in this exciting theatrical adaptation. This new Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) initiative is aimed directly at

• See **WRINKLE** page 12

## Halloween on Main and the Highlands Heritage Jamboree are featured events Oct. 29 & 31

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC is sponsoring two major events this weekend – one traditional and one new.

The Highlands Heritage Jamboree is Sat., October 29 and will celebrate and honor the town's history with traditional music, dancing and more. Residents and visitors will enjoy bluegrass, clogging and bagpipes performances.

"We're excited to provide this event to Highlands in honor of the rich heritage of the area," says Kaye McHan, executive director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "The skill, artistry and joy that goes into the creation of music and dance is something we want to continue to preserve and celebrate."

Performances will be at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park and will include:

- Margaret Tooke of the Highlands Bagpipers, 3 – 3:30 p.m.

- Bailey Mountain Cloggers, a championship dance team from Mars Hill University, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

- The band, Laney and Friends, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

On Monday, Oct. 31, it's the annual Halloween on Main where ghosts and goblins of all ages, will descend on Highlands' Main Street (from 2nd to 5th streets) will be open only to pedestrians 6-8 p.m. Participating merchants will distribute candy.

New this year is A Kid Zone, in the street across from Reeves/

• See **HALLOWEEN** page 8

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

## • HIC'S VIEW •

### A myriad of issues were discussed

The Town Board meeting last Thursday was a marathon session, with almost every item on the agenda taking longer than anticipated. Let me hit some of the highlights, or rather the "longlights."

We had a request from Dave Healy, the chairperson of the Mountain Theatre Company, concerning the Highlands Playhouse.

The theatre company has had a tremendous season. The plan is for the theatre ensemble to relocate and merge efforts with the Performing Arts Center by the end of May. Until then, they will remain in the Playhouse and produce important youth theatre programs. The board agreed to extend the current lease until they transition to the new PAC Performing Arts Center. I know they will deliver outstanding productions in this new venue. It is a win for everyone.

The board also heard a presentation from EnviroSpark concerning placement of electric charging stations in parking spaces in our downtown area.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce proposes to partner with EnviroSpark and the town in delivering this emerging service. The folks from EnviroSpark will meet with our town engineer, Lamar Nix, and the public works committee to address issues that board members brought up during the presentation.

The board had an involved discussion concerning the renewal of the lease for the building the houses the Chamber offices and the Highlands Visitors Center.

There were thorny issues raised about the payment of rent versus the Chamber's financial support for maintaining public restrooms.

These facilities are used primarily by visitors. No decision was made. The Chamber will consult with the county attorney about whether room tax revenues can be used to maintain the bathrooms. The town directed our attorney to draw up a proposed lease after receiving the opinion from the county attorney.

The board also reviewed proposed ordinance amendments concerning outdoor burning, grubbing and noise.

Grubbing occurs when contractors burn logs and other debris for a continuous time to clear a building site.

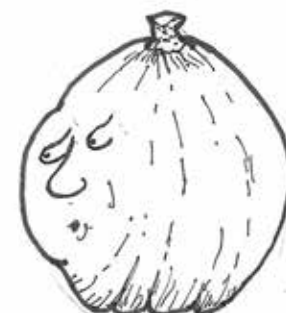
Board members discussed this issue as well as the burning of leaves and other vegetation by homeowners. More research by the staff and fire chief will be done before a final decision.

Another amendment change centered around the noise ordinance. The board did change the time when music and noise has to stop from 11 pm to 10 pm. But this was just an initial change to the noise ordinance. Other issues will be addressed in forthcoming meetings.

The board approved the purchase of a new fire truck that will be delivered hopefully in about a year and a half. The new fire department is days from completion.

The policy on the use of credit cards was also reviewed. The decision was to direct the staff to implement a system that will allow folks to use credit cards to pay at

• See MAYOR page 10







Hic

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Then they scoop out your guts.  
Oh yeah, and no job benefits."

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 27-Oct	Fri, 28-Oct	Sat, 29-Oct	Sun, 30-Oct
			
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### Highlands Newspaper

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## ...RENOVATIONS continued from page 1

tives from the county and school system, reviewed the three firms who answered the RFQ and recommended the county contract with LS3P to complete the architectural design services for the project.

County Manager Derek Roland presented the Joint Facilities Review Committee recommendation to the Macon County Board of Commissioners during the October 18 joint meeting between the county and school board. Despite unanimously approving to move forward with the RFQ process in May, Commissioners Josh Young and Paul Higdon voted against contracting with LS3P and moving forward with the middle school renovations and the Pre-K expansion project at Highlands School.

Commissioner Josh Young said he doesn't deny the need for the projects, but he believes the project should be part of the overall planning from the school board and the county. He said though the improvements listed in the project were part of the county's capital improvement plan and were requested by the school board during the budget session, he felt more planning was needed.

Macon County Commissioner Chair and Highlands representative Jim Tate re-

sponded to Young's concern saying that Young voted to support the \$120 million new facility construction project in Franklin and should give Highlands the same consideration. More than 50% of the county's tax revenues come from Highlands.

"You are talking about a \$120 million for the FHS project, but where are half of those funds coming from to pay for that?" Tate asked. "It would be nice to throw Highlands a bone, since they will be paying for a significant part of this Franklin High School project."

Commissioner Paul Higdon said the full scope of the project was not part of the capital improvement plan and due to the county's obligation concerning 50-60 other buildings — many of which have significant needs — he couldn't support the project further.

"I think it is a worthy project, but as leaders of the county and of the school board we must exhibit better planning and better appropriation of taxpayer dollars and providing services at all levels and all sections of Macon County," said Higdon.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tate and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Beale, the vote to enter into negotia-

tions for the architectural design services for renovations at Highlands School with LS3P passed with a vote of 3-2 with Commissioners Young and Higdon voting no.

Roland then asked the board to vote to approve an application for North Carolina Lottery Funds in the amount of \$500,000 for the Highlands School renovation project. The funds, which are part of the repair, renovation, and expansion fund with the NC Lottery, are earmarked for Macon County and only require the grant application for Macon County to receive the funds.

Commissioner Higdon said because he voted against the Highlands Renovation Project earlier in the meeting, he would also be voting against applying for the grant to fund the project.

The vote to apply for the lottery funds, which will offset the taxpayer dollars needed to fund the project, passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Commissioner Higdon opposing.

The renovation of the middle school and reconfiguring of the elementary wing for Pre-K — fiscally considered one project — started due to a lack of available early

• See **RENOVATIONS** page 12



## Restrictions on Short-term Rentals in Highlands

On September 15, 2022, the Town of Highlands amended its zoning to stop the proliferation of short-term rentals.

Short-term rentals IN OPERATION on September 15 in residential neighborhoods are permitted to continue until such time that the Town takes further action to prohibit ALL short-term rentals.

We understand IN OPERATION to mean a house that has been actively rented to paying guests before September 15 and the owner was paying occupancy taxes. Further clarification will be coming from the Town, so stay tuned.

No NEW short-term rentals are allowed after September 15, 2022.

- ☒ If you see NEW STR activity in your neighborhoods, please contact Michael Mathis ([michael.mathis@highlandsnc.org](mailto:michael.mathis@highlandsnc.org)) and Josh Ward ([josh.ward@highlandsnc.org](mailto:josh.ward@highlandsnc.org))
- ☒ If an STR is creating a nuisance - loud music, uncontained trash, dogs incessantly barking, fireworks, illegal parking - please call 911 or the after-hours non-emergency Town number (828-526-4131) and specifically mention that the disturbance is coming from a short-term rental. Also, please e-mail Michael and Josh to document your concerns.
- ☒ Check the Town's website ([www.highlandsnc.org](http://www.highlandsnc.org)) for updates.

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# • OBITUARY •

## Christopher Nathan Alley

Christopher Nathan Alley, 81, peacefully ended his long battle with Alzheimer's at his home in Highlands on October 18, 2022, with his wife, daughters, and cherished kitties by his side.

Chris was born in Lowell, MA on September 2, 1941. Shortly after his birth, his family moved south. His educator parents relocated often, creating fond memories in Florida, South Carolina, Illinois, and Georgia.

After attending Grady High School in Atlanta, Chris joined the Navy, cultivating his lifelong love of the sea. He was stationed in Puerto Rico. He served on the USS Oglethorpe during the Cuban Missile Crisis before taking a tour of duty throughout the Mediterranean.

Following his four years in the Navy, Chris settled in Atlanta. He worked as a bartender in Underground Atlanta and The Henry Grady Hotel. He was instrumental in opening The Lark and the Dove, as well as The Regency Hotel, where he had fond memories of serving Mickey Mantle.

His charismatic networking ability led him to become a buyer for Sonesta Hotels, and later the owner of Interior Service Group, a commercial systems installation company. While carrying out a job for AT&T, he met his wife Donna, a commercial interior designer. They shared a dream of escaping the city, and four years later moved to Highlands after purchasing Colonial Pines Inn, which they owned and operated for 36 years while raising their daughter, Meghan.

During his time in Highlands, Chris worked as a Realtor for The Chambers Agency. He also served on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, on the vestry at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and selflessly donated his time on mission trips to Mexico, South Dakota, and Haiti.

Chris will be most remembered for his sharp wit, quirky sense of humor, appreciation for all things beautiful, love of laughter, and the ever-present twinkle in his eye. He inspired many with his tireless zest for life.

Chris was preceded in death by his beloved British mother, Enid Mary Noel MacDonald; his father, Samuel Brown Alley; his stepfather, Franklin Henry Kaler; and his brother, Peter Brian Alley.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Donna Alley; son, Brian Alley, of Fajardo, Puerto Rico (Arlene Alley); daughter, Heather Alley of Athens, GA (John Donnelly); daughter, Meghan Alley of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands (Jeremy Schachner); sister, Susan Porter of Gainesville, GA (Janet Scott); sister-in-law, Heidi Benz of St. Mary's, GA; sister-in-law, Pam Ammar of Naples, FL (Nick Ammar); brother-in-law, Tom Hill of Tucker, GA (Annette Shakespeare); grandchildren, Nicole, Kevin, Owen, and Lucas; and many dear nieces and nephews, to whom he was a favorite uncle.

The family would like to thank his caregivers: Vicki Palmer, Juliani Arteaga, Delores Jones, and especially Robert Doe, Melissa Stiwinter, and Jenny King. Because of them, he was able to live out his final months at home, surrounded by those who will cherish him in their hearts always.

Memorial donations may be made to Cure Alzheimer's Fund, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society, or Four Seasons Hospice.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfunerals.com](http://www.moffittfunerals.com).



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**...HALLOWEEN continued from page 1**



**Halloween on Main Street in 2021.**

Ace Hardware and The Park on Main.

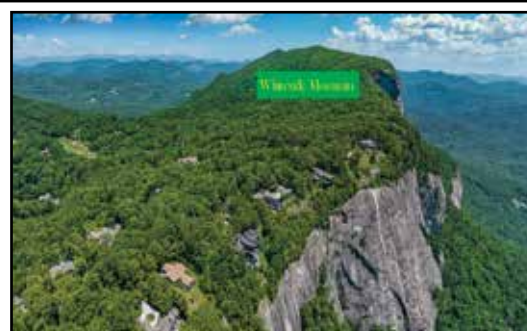
An inflatable slide and an obstacle course, provided by the Highlands School PTO, will be part of the fun. Additionally, popcorn, provided by the Highlands School Booster Club, and hot chocolate, distributed by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Plateau will be given away.

Volunteers from both rotary organizations, MountainTop and Highlands, will grill and give away hot dogs. Drinks and food will be supplied by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands,

NC, and all civic/nonprofit organizations will collect donations to be used in the community for their respective causes as they manage distribution of the items.

There will be three types of music this year – a bluegrass band, a DJ and the band High Five.

“We continue to provide this long-standing and popular event, offering an accessible, free experience for everyone – all ages of residents, businesses and visitors – to enjoy Halloween as a community,” says McHan.



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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

### Shifting Market Challenges

There are so many aspects to appreciate being a real estate broker.

Firstly, the amazing people you meet as clients who become good friends and fellow brokers who support and encourage each other.

Secondly, this is one profession that you can mix and mingle with so many other professionals: attorneys, architects, engineers, builders, subcontractors, designers, landscapers, lenders, and appraisers, just to name a few. It is incredible in this market how hard each of these professionals work to accomplish their jobs.

This weekend when I was trying to recommend a listing price to a seller, I realized that appraisers must be having a challenging time in shifting markets.

Rapidly fluctuating markets present unique challenges for appraisers. Whether property values are increasing or decreasing, oftentimes market conditions are not yet evidenced in closed transactions. Thus, appraisers must do additional research and utilize other tools and techniques at their disposal. Appraisers must base their opinion of value on facts unlike agents who can be more subjective and can advocate the interest of a party.

Besides closed transactions, here are additional sources of information that appraisers must consider:

1. General market inventory;



**Jody Lovell**  
Highlands and Cashiers  
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2. Trends in listing prices;

3. Contract-to-listing ratio (pending sales)

4. Contract dates versus closed dates (market change)

5. Exposure time and marketing time;

6. New construction patterns;

7. Number of available competing properties.

We real estate agents can help appraisers with our listings by providing the accurate and complete listing sheet as well as a "brag" sheet that includes property features and upgrades, as well as the parameters for competing properties and local benefits.

We should share what closed sales we believe are valuable comparisons as well as justification for the listing price.

Appraisers have been overstretched like most professionals on the Plateau the last two years, and we real estate agents should do our best to provide information to represent the best interests of our clients.

Have a wonderful Halloween!

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands and Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty with over thirty top producing brokers on the Plateau. As the top-producing firm on the Multiple Listing Service, you may call them or stop in at one of their three locations to discuss your real estate needs. 828.526.4104

### ...MAYOR continued from page 2

venues such as the swimming pool and ice-skating rink. Also, there will be changes in the fee structure for folks using credit cards to pay for utility bills. The staff will publish these changes before they are implemented in the coming weeks.

Lamar Nix, public works director, presented a review of policies concerning minimal maintenance of private roads and policies for plowing roads after snowstorms.

Private roads will be plowed after all town roads are cleared. There is a list of about six steep private road sections that

will not be plowed due to worker safety concerns. However, in the event of a medical emergency, town crews will work with EMS staff to insure emergency access to these sections.

The board tabled a review of auditor recommendations until the next meeting. It was felt that more time was needed to carefully consider these recommendations. The presentation of the annual audit findings may also be on the agenda at the November meeting.

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## ...WRINKLE continued from page 1

providing a professional theatre experience for young people and families in our local community.

By working with local schools in surrounding counties, more than 800 students will attend educational field trips to The Highlands Playhouse free of charge to the student, the family, and the school Tuesday - Friday at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. the week of Nov. 4-12.

There will also be public performances offered on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. and Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m. for all to attend with a "pay what you can" ticketing plan. All money collected for tickets will go directly back into our TYA program with the next performance scheduled for spring 2023 which will be the last production set at the Highlands Playhouse.

While aimed at a young audience, this show is for families and people of ages! Whether 8 or 88, come see this beautiful story brought to life on stage! Reserve your tickets soon! You won't want to miss this incredible staging of a classic story!

### **TB Playhouse Agenda item**

At Thursday's October Town Board meeting Dave Healy, presi-

dent of the Mountain Theatre Company board, asked the town to extend the Playhouse lease at \$1 per year through May 31, 2023.

The current lease ends at the end of November but with annual holiday shows coming in December and a TYA performance promised the schools in the spring, an extension was requested.

Healy said the Mountain Theatre Company housed at The Playhouse has had a hugely successful season.

In 2020 it was able to get expenses to zero - thanks to not having to pay rent, said Healy. Then when it reopened, the board invested significantly in the hiring of a new executive artistic director, Scott Daniel. This year the board hired two full-time managers, one in marketing and one in operations as well as hiring 87 contract employees who spent the season in Highlands.

"That investment paid off," said Healy. "2022 has been a record year for us. Sales were well above anything we have experienced in our 84 years. July through our last show more than 9,000 people came through the Highlands Playhouse to see musical theater. And we have more to go."

Healy went on to introduce the company's Theatre for Young Audiences with the first show "A Wrinkle in Time" set for Nov.

4-12.

"Statistics show that by simply seeing live theater benefits students academically, socially, emotionally," said Healy. "We decided it's something we want to invest in. Thanks to a donation from Mountain Findings, between 800 and 1,000 students are coming to see the performance."

Healy said a lease extension is needed because the schools asked for next year's show to be scheduled in the spring because it's easier curriculum-wise.

"So instead of doing a show in another year, we will be doing another in the spring which is just five months away," he said.

The Mountain Theatre Company lease with PAC is being hammered out and once that is signed, the company will leave The Playhouse and take up residence in its new digs at PAC.

"Our goal is to get the lease signed, begin the move right after we finish our holiday show Dec. 31, move all our equipment that PAC wants to use over there through January. Move into the building in February and move our offices in March. We would like to do the spring TYA show in April for the students but will vacate Highlands Playhouse permanently and completely by May 31," he said.

The board voted unanimously to grant the extension.

**- Kim Lewicki**

## ...RENOVATIONS from page 4

learning spots in Macon County.

Macon County Schools currently has space for just under 100 preschool spots, all of which are located in Franklin area elementary schools. They are located at South Macon (two classrooms) Iotla Valley (two classrooms) and one at Cartoogechaye.

AHEC raised funds for a planning study to determine needs of the school and initially those needs were estimated at \$8 million. However, that number was reduced to \$5 million ahead of the joint session with the proj-

ect scope being changed to address the most pressing needs.

According to the planning study funded by AHEC, Highlands School needs two pre-K classrooms at 1,200 square feet each, for 36 students and a playground that is 2,700 square feet.

While the preschool classrooms were the focus of the discussion, the bulk of the project actually consists of renovating the middle school building to accommodate classroom space and career and technical educational

• See RENOVATIONS page 21



**FAME Jr.**  
Starring  
Highlands  
Middle School Students

Thursday, November 3, 2022  
7pm



Admission: No Charge, but please reserve a seat



For Tickets & Information:  
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## PAC Youth Theatre to present 'Fame, Jr.' Nov. 3

The PAC Youth Theater Program is collaborating with Highlands School music and drama teacher Joi Chapman, the programs artistic director, to present its first show, FAME, Jr., Thurs., Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. in the new theater in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

The purpose of the collaboration between PAC and Highlands School is to bring instruction and experiences to students that encompass all of theater.

Acting, directing, analyzing text, light and sound technical, backstage, props, front of house, publicity, creating the set and the costumes, will all be part of the "curriculum."

Where age appropriate, students will learn by viewing and discussing the MET Operas and productions of the National Theatre of London presented at PAC and will produce and perform in two productions each year to showcase what they learned.

According to ARTS NC: "Socio-economically challenged students with high arts participation are five times more likely to graduate high school and twice as likely to achieve a college degree. Students involved in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, and on average achieve 100 more points on their SAT score. 72% of business leaders say that creativity is



**Joi Chapman**

the number one skill they are seeking. Rural counties with performing arts organizations have three times more population growth, attract more workers and jobs, and provide higher incomes."

This all benefits the students, Highlands and the plateau in general, said Mary Adair Trumbly, executive director of PAC.

"This combined program will continue to provide an avenue for students to become more self-aware and confident, more successful in their studies, more inquisitive, exposed to more literature and history; to analyze text, plays, literature, and to connect history to the backstory of a play which gives in-depth meaning and understanding to the literature and the significance surrounding the culture when the play was written and the era it was set in," said Trumbly. "This also offers insight as to why a set is built the way it is, and why the lighting and sound are programmed the way

they are. All of this translates to "thinking" students who become "thinking" adults, which is good for our community, whether they continue in the theater or not."

She said the program's goal is to offer students the opportunity to explore, experience and learn the world of the performing arts – to gain powerful tools for understanding human experiences, both past and present; teamwork and collaboration; adapting to and respecting others' diverse ways of thinking, working, and expressing themselves; analyzing nonverbal communication, improving verbal communication; gaining self-esteem and poise which crosses over into the classroom to support academic success, including STEM classes while studying a wide variety of literature, history, sociology, art, music and dance.

The PAC Youth Theater Program takes place right after school instead of at night and on weekends.

FAME, Jr. is Thurs., Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in the new theater.

The show is FREE but Trumbly asks that seats be reserved at [highlandsp Performing Arts Center](http://highlandsp Performing Arts Center).

## ...SOCCER continued from page 1

since its inaugural season in the Spring of 2009.

With record rainfall this past year, the field couldn't drain between rain events and games, which meant the field couldn't be used for practice, games, or PE.

During the joint meeting with the Macon County Board of Commissioners and Macon County Board of Education, Jeff Weller a parent, retired soccer coach and an architect who has been involved with the field since it was first designed, spoke about the drainage issues on the field and what needed to occur to fix it.

Weller told county leaders that

the 100-125 inches of rain that fell during the Fall soccer season caused the field to be water-logged and resulted in games being cancelled or home games moved to other schools.

In addition, during the spring girls soccer season, games are often cancelled or rescheduled because as the temperatures cool, the field freezes, resulting in the field turning into a skating rink.

Prior to the field's construction, soccer practices were held on a small open area at the school's track field and all "home" games were played at Macon Middle School in Franklin.

The first boys' soccer team at Highlands School came in the mid-1990s. The first varsity girls season started in the early 2000s.

Weller explained that the only way Highlands can continue to host home soccer matchups and use the field for practice is to repair the existing field, which is expected to cost just shy of \$900,000.

While the Buck Creek recreation area has a soccer field, the field isn't regulation-size for competition play. State regulations require a minimum length of 100 yards by 50 yards wide.

• See SOCCER page 30



# • ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

## Martha Berry and Berry College



Kenny Youmans

peanuts were grown by her students.

Henry Ford was so surprised that he took a train to Rome and met her. He watched her students work and study. He was so impressed that he gave her \$3 million. With the donation from Henry Ford, Martha Berry was able to increase her efforts for the boys' school and

start a school for girls. Henry Ford gave more than \$4 million to the school, and his donations encouraged to help Martha Berry raise more than \$25 million. Andrew Carnegie gave her a \$50,000.00 endowment, and other donors added to that total. President Woodrow Wilson and his wife, Ellen Axson Wilson, who was from Rome, helped her expand, but most of the school's financial support came from women's groups and small anonymous donors. Her school grew, and by 1929, it included 129 buildings on twenty-seven thousand acres.

Martha Berry became a national figure in education and presented the Roosevelt Medal by President Calvin Coolidge. Other honors include honorary doctorates by the University of Georgia, Duke University and the University of North Carolina. The Georgia General Assembly honored her and she was the first woman appointed to Georgia's Board of Regents.

After she died in 1942, Martha Berry continued to receive honors. A portion of Highway 21 in Rome was named the Martha Berry Highway, and her portrait hangs in the Georgia Capitol Gallery of Distinguished Georgians. Today the college has nearly two thousand students, and 99 percent of its professors hold a PhD. The campus is called the most beautiful college in America, and U.S. News and World Report has named Berry University one of the best universities in the South.

• Printed with permission of Neely Young from his book "Georgia Made."

Martha Berry was the founder of Berry College. A liberal arts college located in Rome, Georgia. At an early age, she wanted to help children of poor tenant farmers who had no way to learn math, writing and other basic educational skills. Her father, a wealthy merchant, was also concerned about the plight of poor farmers near their home, Oak Hill, outside Rome. She opened a high school for boys in an abandoned church to help them.

Her school started with only four students and was opened to those who were willing to study and work the land around her father's 150-acre farm that surrounded the school. Today, that first school has grown into a four-year college, with more than two thousand students and the nation's most extensive work-study program.

Her philosophy was to teach Appalachian boys' and girls' educational skills and modern agricultural farming training. She had a fourfold approach that included "Bible for prayer, the lamp for learning, the plow for labor, and the cabin for simplicity." She chose as the school motto, "Not to be ministered unto but to minister."

During the depression of the 1930's, time was hard for the school. Berry sent a letter to auto magnate Henry Ford asking for his support. The story goes that he sent her a dime. Discourage, she took the dime to a feed store and purchased 10 cents worth of peanuts. The students planted the peanuts, and at the end of the season, she harvested the crop and sold it for \$1,500.00. Martha Berry deposited the money, then wrote out a \$1,500.00 check, which she sent to Henry Ford along with a note that read: "Mr. Ford, here is your \$1,500.00 return for your dime invested in Berry College. She noted that the

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## 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](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call 828-526 – 0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto: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

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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](http://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 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](http://www.highlandermountainhouse.com)

### Sat. Oct. 29

• Pill turn in at Highland Cashiers Hospital 10 am - 12 pm. Accepted items: Tablets or capsules in any packaging, patches, liquid medications (in leak-proof containers), vape cartridges (without batteries), pet medications and Medicated ointments, lotions, or drops. Not accepted items: Needles, syringes, lancets and illegal drugs. For more information, please call 833.582.1970.

• 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



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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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](mailto:HighlandsNCHeritage@gmail.com).

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

- At Shakespeare & Co., the well known animal (horses, dogs) rescuer and author Melanie Sue Bowles is launching her new middle-grades kids novel "Liberty Biscuit on Saturday, from 1-4pm with a signing. There will be refreshments. For more info, phone 828-526-3777 or visit the website at [Shakespeareandcompanyhighlands.com](http://Shakespeareandcompanyhighlands.com)

- 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.

- Highlands School 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 10:30am-12:30, for children and young families. Contact the Arts Council for details, 828-524-ARTS or email [arts4all@dnet.net](mailto:arts4all@dnet.net).

## Mon., Oct. 31

- Parts of two downtown Highlands streets – 1st to 5th streets and S. 4th to Spring streets – will temporarily close to vehicle traffic to allow for the "Halloween on Main" event on Monday from 5:15 to 8:30 p.m.

- Halloween on Main from 6-8 p.m. Creating a safe, fun experience for ghosts and goblins of all ages, Highlands' Main

Street – between the intersections of 2nd and 5th streets – will only be open to pedestrians. That's when participating businesses will distribute candy that has been purchased by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC and delivered to them by the Highlands School Interact Club. New this year: A Kid Zone, across from Reeves/Ace Hardware and The Park on Main. An inflatable slide and an obstacle course, provided by the Highlands School PTO, will be part of the fun. The Highlands School Booster Club will provide popcorn. Volunteers from both rotary organizations, MountainTop and Highlands, will grill and give away hot dogs. Drinks and food will be supplied by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC, and all civic/nonprofit organizations will collect donations to be used in the community as they manage distribution of the items. Three types of music will be part of the event: Bluegrass by Southern Highland Band, DJ Mike Murphy, and the popular band High Five.

## Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 3 - 5

- 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 tickets: Calliope Shorts | Campfire Stories ([ticketspice.com](http://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](http://highlandsperformingarts.com).

## Nov. 4-12

- At the Highlands Playhouse "A Wrinkle in Time" is 7 p.m. on Friday and 2p on Saturdays. All student tickets are free for under 18 and adults pay what they can. School performances are Tues.-Fri at 10a and 1:30p.

## Fri., Nov. 4

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

## Sat., Nov. 5

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2 mile out and back easy hike on the Cove Forest and Anselm's trails. There are several gentle ups and downs. You do not need to be a member to join our hike. Meet in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, GA, at 10 AM and carpool to Patterson Gap out of Dillard, GA on Betty Creek Road. After the hike we will drive a short distance up Betty Creek Road to Barker's Creek Mill to see the mill operate and have lunch (bring your own lunch). Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome. Bring food and fluids as needed. There is no charge. Reservations are not needed. For more information or in case of foul weather, call hike leader David Stearns at 828-349-7361.

- 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](http://www.highlandermountainhouse.com)

## Fri., Nov. 11

- Farm Harvest Dinner & Barn Dance. Book at the Farm. For tickets go to [OldEdwardshospitality.com/chefdinners](http://OldEdwardshospitality.com/chefdinners)

## Sat., Nov. 12

- The Literacy & Learning Center will be hosting a Golf Ball Drop fundraiser that will take place on November 12th at Kelsey & Hutchinson Park in Highlands, where one lucky winner, whose ball lands closest to the target will receive \$5,000! Festivities will begin at the park with live music, drinks, food, and fun games that the whole family can enjoy! At the end of the evening, the golf balls will be dropped from a Highlands Fire Department truck ladder, and the ball closest to the target will win the grand prize! Balls are available for purchase at \$10 each and there is no limit to the number of balls one individual can purchase in order to increase their odds. Additionally, you do not have to be present to win. A live stream will be available for you to watch the drop

from home!

- Chef Dinner at OEI's Half-Mile Farm, New Orleans Kitchen Collab with Chef Sue Zemanick. Book at [OldEdwardshospitality.com/chefdinners](http://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.



**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
HIGHLANDS, NC

**THE HEIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT**



***Sideline***

**Bluegrass**

**Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**7:30pm**



For Tickets & Information:  
[HighlandsPerformingArts.com](http://HighlandsPerformingArts.com)

Highlands Performing Arts Center  
507 Chestnut Street Highlands NC





## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Bear info signs pepper the town and greenways

B.E.A.R. Task Force has provided signage to help hikers in the Highlands area know what to do and not do to stay safe while on the trail.

Bear information signs have been installed at several sites at the Highlands Biological Station and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust properties. In addition, Greenway Trail volunteers have installed them in key locations along their trail system in town.

— Cynthia Strain



From left are: Michael Levine John Akridge and Jim Ward.

### LIVE CONCERT

### 'Sideline' is at PAC Sat., October 29 at 7:30pm.

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present live in concert, in the brand new theater, Bluegrass favorite and International Bluegrass Music Association award winner, Sideline on Saturday, October 29 at 7:30pm.

Sideline was formed in 2012 as a "jam band" for a group of friends that played professionally in other bands. They started playing together as a fun alternative when their bands were not performing. In a short time they discovered their own identity and style, and realized their tour schedule was getting full. They decided to take a leap of faith and commit to the group full time. The band was named "Sideline" by founding member Darrell Webb, due to its origin as a "side band". Sideline has had different configurations over the years, but the three founding members Steve Dilling, Skip Cherryholmes, and Jason Moore led the band through it all until Jason's untimely passing in November of 2021. Steve and Skip

decided to continue on with the band in honor of Jason's commitment to the band and love for the music. In just under a decade Sideline has achieved a list of musical accolades. The song "Thunder Dan" not only held the #1 spot on the charts for multiple weeks, as well as the #1 song for the entire year 2018, it also won the 2019 Song of the Year award with the International Bluegrass Music Association. Sideline has had many chart-active/chart-topping hits, including, "Just A Guy In A Bar", "I'll Always Be A Gypsy", and "Jesse's Barn" from the group's latest album release "Ups, Downs and No Name Towns". Both in title and in musical performance, acknowledging the recent struggle of the music industry. The song "Old Guitar Case" delivers a depiction of the details of a road musician's life....The fact that it still stands symbolizes our resilience and ability to persevere. Ups, Downs, and No Name

Towns is by far the most musically developed project we've recorded to date, but it is also the most connected and inspired effort we've ever experienced, personally or musically." - Skip Cherryholmes

Steve Dilling and Skip Cherryholmes are joined by Jamie Harper, Nick Goad, Andy Buckner, and Kyle Windbeck. Each with a commitment to working as one unit to deliver high-energy, innovative, hard-driving, variety-packed entertainment night after night throughout Sideline's lengthy tour schedule. Always seeking new breakthroughs in music, while holding to the core of their proven success - A love for each other, a love for their ever-growing loyal fanbase, and a true love and passion for the music they create.

Tickets are available online: [www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com](http://www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com) 507 Chestnut Street Highlands NC

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- Lapham Tent House 1908
- Uniform Exhibit

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[www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com)



## ...RENOVATIONS continued from page 12

opportunities.

Although the board voted 3-2 to contract with LS3P Architects to complete the design and scope of work for the renovation, like the Franklin High School new construction project, nothing is set in stone.

With three of the five seats on the Board of Commissioners up for election in November, it is very likely that the outcome of the November election will also determine whether the Highlands School project becomes a reality.

Both Young and Higdon, who are not up for election but will remain on the board after November, have already expressed their opposition to moving forward. If one of the three seats up for grabs during the election also votes

against the Highlands project, it would not move forward.

### Candidate Stance:

John Shearl who is running against Jerry Moore for the District 1 seat on the board, said he didn't believe people knew about the renovation project and questioned a need for additional preschool classrooms since the Franklin area already has classes.

"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 PreKs in other county schools already."

• See **RENOVATIONS** page 22

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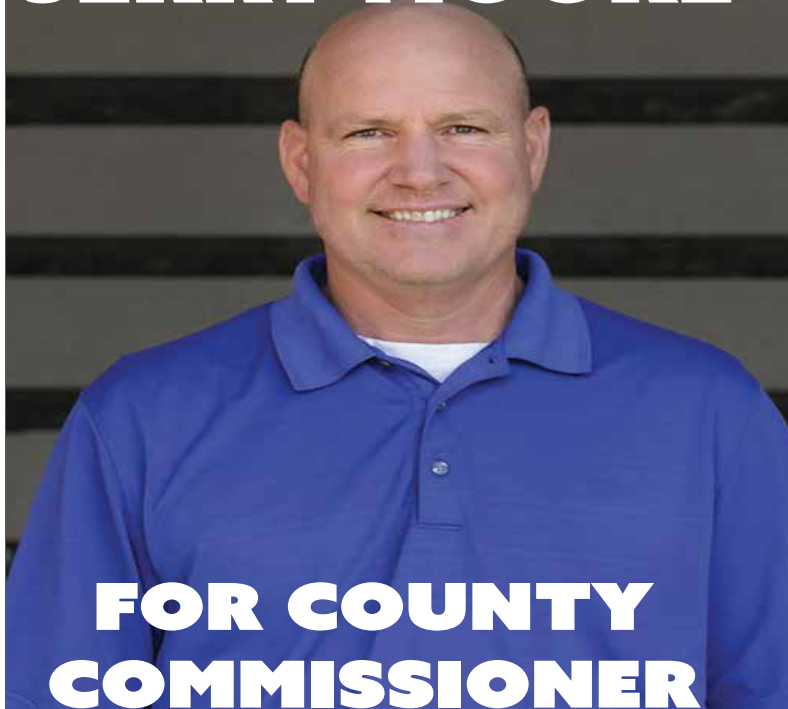
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## JERRY MOORE



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President - Highlands Rotary Club  
Chairman - Highlands Zoning Board  
Finance Chair - Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation



### EXPERIENCE

12 Years County and Federal Criminal Justice  
5 Years Insurance and Financial Services  
15 Years Owner of Small Businesses  
B.A. Criminal Justice & Masters of Public Administration



### SERVICE

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Highlands United Methodist Church - Lay Leader  
Youth Baseball, Basketball and Soccer Coach  
Member of H.E.L.P. Committee  
Highlands School Baseball & Asst. Golf Coach  
Macon County Economic Development Council



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[www.JerryMoore2022.com](http://www.JerryMoore2022.com)

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## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

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From left: Dixie Barton, Michael Burel, Lorine Spencer, Jim Spencer

### MountainTop Rotary Club of Highlands holds annual award meeting

At the annual awards meeting of the Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands, four awards were presented to well-deserving members of the club. Outgoing President Michael Vavrek announced the awards.

Dixie Barton was named "Lifetime Honorary President" of Mountaintop Rotary. "This person lives, breathes and serves Rotary," according to Vavrek. He called her the "Spirit of the Club." Barton describes her twenty plus years in the club as full of good and difficult. She remembers that when the club was started some 20 years ago, there were "lean" times – few members,

few women, waning spirits. But, as she recalled, "we kept going and look at us now!" Barton credits the club with keeping her spirits high, and says that the club has served her, and not vice versa. She was presented with an inscribed crystal obelisk and pin.

Michael Burel was voted the 2021-2022 "Rotarian of the Year" by the membership of the club. He was described as the "eyes of the club – caring, gentle, and all-seeing." Michael is said to be one who is "always is looking for ways to improve the club. He has served tirelessly and has been devoted

to membership development and club operations". Michael was presented with an engraved plaque honoring his achievements and a lapel pin.

Jim and Lorine Spencer were given the President's Award. The Spencers were called the 'hands of the club'. Jim and Lorine were given this award for amassing an amazing number of service hours over the last year. Outgoing president Vavrek noted that they were always involved "in whatever was going on with our club, and truly embody the spirit of Rotary – service."

### ...RENOVATIONS continued from page 21

Jerry Moore, who is running against John Shearl for the District 1 seat on the board said, "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.

There are two seats up for grabs in District 2 on the board of county commissioners.

Incumbents Gary Shields and Ronnie Beale have both expressed their support of the Highlands project and voted to move forward at the October 18 meeting.

"Highlands is requesting Pre-K classrooms," 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."

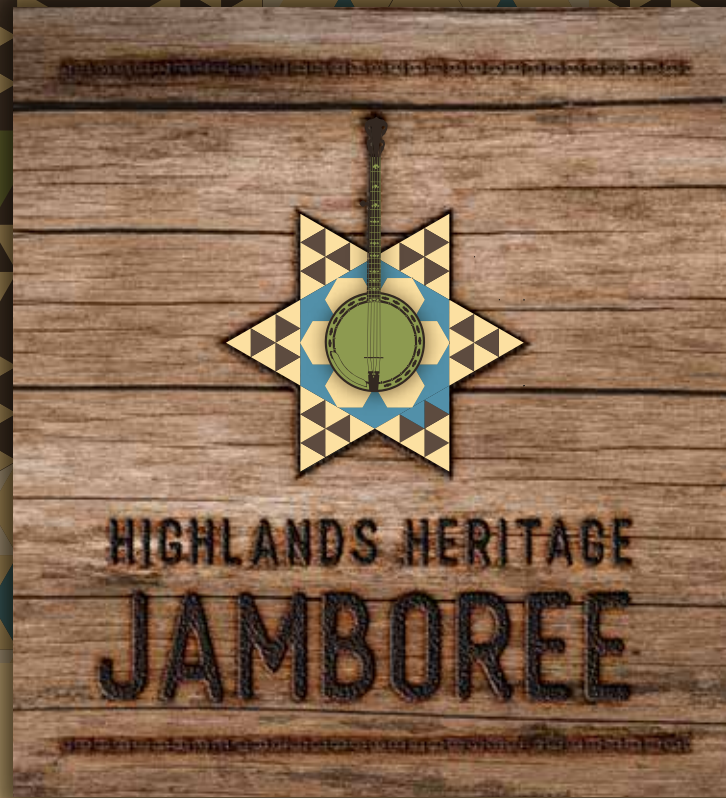
Betty Cloer Wallace, who is also running for one of the two open District 2 seats, said, "Both Highlands and Nantahala Schools should be expanded as proposed to meet the needs of those communities, both educational and civic," said Wallace.

Danny Antoine, who is also running for election, declined to answer questions from Highlands Newspaper for a candidate profile, which included his stance on the Highlands School project.





*Margaret Tooke*  
Highlands Bagpipers



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## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### **Inflation Reduction Act is good news for ACA Marketplace Health Insurance Consumers** *New policies deliver lower prices for healthcare*

The recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act is good news for senior citizens on Medicare and for consumers enrolled in Affordable Care Act health insurance through the Marketplace.

For people who have their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, the lower premium rates that were implemented during the COVID emergency will continue through 2025. The new 100% - 150% Special Enrollment Period will also continue. If you have never checked out your out of pocket costs for good health insurance through the Marketplace, now would be a good time to do so.

If you still need coverage for 2022, you may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period that could get you coverage.

Beginning with the 2023 coverage year, seniors on Medicare can get vaccines with NO out of pocket costs to them. Also the price of insulin is capped at \$35/month beginning in 2023. Medicare beneficiaries with Medicare Part D will have their out of pocket costs for their prescription drugs capped at \$4000 or less per year in 2024 and at \$2000 in 2025. Knowing what the yearly maximum cost of your drugs will be extremely helpful for seniors on tight budgets.

Everyone who has

Marketplace coverage, now and will need coverage in 2023, needs to renew their coverage during the upcoming Open Enrollment.

Open Enrollment for the 2023 coverage year will start November 1, 2022 and be open through January 15, 2023.

There are free, experienced and certified, in-person coverage counselors available to help you understand the numerous health plans that are available. Coverage counselors can assist you with the application process.

Call Mountain Projects at 828-452-1447 for the name and number of a coverage counselor in your community.

### **A new surge of Variant Polio is afoot**

Very few remember a day when children in neighborhoods suddenly were paralyzed by polio. Nothing is scarier for a child to run and play with a friend one day, and the next day not to be able to move. Thankfully, most grew up in an age when vaccines that eliminated this fear were taken freely. All were delighted to get protected. For many decades now, American children and their parents have not had to worry about this devastating disease.

Recent outbreaks in New York City, London, and other locations have health departments scrambling to reach out to unvaccinated children to get protected. A new variant polio vaccine is being developed, and the fight continues to protect all children in the world.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since its first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. In 1988

when the initiative started, poliovirus paralyzed hundreds of children every day, with an estimated 350,000 polio cases across more than 125 countries that year. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort. In areas of low vaccine usage, these new poliovirus outbreaks are making the efforts by Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative very complicated and difficult.

There are still two countries in which vaccination programs are unfinished-Afghanistan and Pakistan. The efforts there have been hindered by war, lack of trust and religious beliefs. From January to early August of this year, fourteen cases of polio were confirmed in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan. Four additional cases were reported in Mozam-

bique and Malawi in 2021- an area thought to be protected by full vaccinations.

If all polio eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

Every year on October 24, Rotary celebrates World Polio Day, and clubs around the world use the month of October to raise funds to continue the efforts to eradicate polio on our planet. Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands invites friends, individuals and businesses to sponsor vaccinations for children across the globe in our October campaign to BEAT POLIO. For a donation of \$100, you can be responsible for protecting multiple children from the polio virus and preventing paralysis or death. To donate please write a check to: Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands and write on the memo line "Polio" and send to Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands, Attn: Polio, PO Box 372, Highlands, NC



# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Dr. Thomas Jones joins Highlands Dental Practice

Dr. Christopher T. Dyer, DMD is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Thomas C. Jones, DDS to his Highlands, NC dental practice.

Dr. Jones comes to Highlands after 30 years of owning a successful practice in Palm City, FL. "I am so thankful to have a dentist like Dr. Jones here in our practice to serve the dental needs of our community. He comes with great credentials and experience and is a caring person. I look forward to working together for years to come," said Dr. Dyer.

Dr. Jones arrives on the heels of Dr. Matthew Ricke's relocation to a practice in Raleigh, NC. "We will miss Dr. Ricke. I appreciate all he has done during his time in Highlands, and wish him the best with his new wife and life in Raleigh," said Dr. Dyer.

Dr. Tom Jones was born in the small town of Jackson, OH where he resided until moving to Columbus to complete both his undergraduate studies and dental school at The Ohio State University. After graduation, he decided to move to Florida to open his practice in Palm City, where he enjoyed helping his patients for over 30 years.

While practicing in Florida, Dr Jones met his now-wife Patty and had two children who live in Chicago and Seattle. While living in Florida, they had a summer home on Lake Glenville, NC for 20 years and realized their ultimate desire was to one day move here permanently. Dr. Jones enjoys



Dr. Thomas C. Jones

helping his patients restore their smiles with an expertise in complex cases using both natural teeth and implants. He achieves this with a focus on cosmetics with a personal touch. He has completed extensive continuing education courses including Dawson, Pankey, Spear Occlusion and Restorative Dentistry Continuums and has also been a member of several implant study clubs.

Dr. Jones is currently an active member of the American Dental Association, and plans on joining the local North Carolina state and district dental societies.

Dr. Jones places a large focus on wellness and nutrition by going to the gym. Patty and he enjoy hiking, kayaking, boating. During college football season you will find Dr. Jones cheering on his Ohio State Buckeyes.

"We are so happy to be here in Highlands and I look forward to my partnership with Dr. Dyer. We have known each other for over 10 years and are glad the timing has worked out. The practice has a long history of taking care of the dental needs in the Highlands-Cashiers area, and I am glad to join in that tradition and be a permanent part of the community," said Dr. Jones.

Please call (828) 526-3513 or come by the practice at 479 South St. in the Highlands Professional Building across the street from the Peggy Crosby Center to meet Dr. Jones and schedule an appointment.



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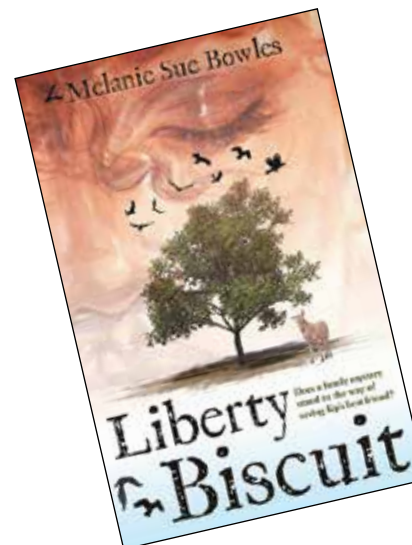


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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Pastor Mark Ford  
First Baptist Church  
Highlands

## Spoke in the Wheel

It was Dietrich Bonhoeffer who - early in his ministry and prior to World War II - would advocate for the Church to be a “spoke in the wheel” of an oppressive government and social decay that was running over the innocent and treading down the weak and oppressed in Germany. He said, “We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.”

Simply, the church has a role to play prophetically in speaking to those issues which are overturning values of Christian, Biblical truth and righteousness that are foundational for a stable, God-fearing society.

In his day it was National Socialism and the Nazis that would grind under their wheel the Jews and other minorities. In our day, it is a form of neo-Marxism among cultural and political elites that promotes its goals of moral and cultural superiority in the guises of progressivism, “woke,” cancel culture, and unbounded tolerance in the name of equality and equity - except as it applies to traditional, conservative voices of the Christian ilk.

The church is to be the constant voice throughout history declaring, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done” - and this is clearly set forth in His eternal manifesto we call the Holy Scriptures.

This manifesto of God’s written truth clearly stands juxtaposed to the present-day spirit of openness and “live and let live.” The true church with its directives from the Lord and King Jesus Christ, must unequivocally oppose abortion and the destruction of the innocent life in the womb from conception, while offering compassionate and material assistance to every woman who finds herself in crisis with an untimely pregnancy (Jeremiah 1:5).

The true church with its clear directives from the Holy Scriptures must oppose the harmful sexualization and grooming of our children and youth under the guises of transgenderism and LGBTQ+. These “woke” ideologues stand contrary to God’s creation fiat of man and woman created by Him for the purpose of portraying His image and purposes for holy union, procreation, family, and the welfare of society in general (Genesis 1:26-2:25; Romans 1).

These sexual perversions are nothing less than distortions of the Creator’s intent and His creation (I Thess. 4:3-8). Such perversions are idolatry by definition (Romans 1:18-20). The church with its multiple directives in the Scriptures must cry out for justice, righteousness, and rule of law to pervade our courts and system of jurisprudence.

The Church is to be a “spoke in the wheel” and unashamedly and courageously declare the will and Word of

• See SPIRITUALLY page 27

## 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

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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Pastor Jim Kinard

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1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women’s Bible Study: Mondays

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

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

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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

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am



## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Oct. 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

### Oct. 15

• At noon, officers received a call about an unauthorized person taking money out of a bank account.

• At 10 p.m., officers received a call about someone selling fake sterling silver jewelry for \$400.

• At 10:25 p.m., Christopher Scott Flowers, 37, of Highlands, was arrested for an outstanding warrant in another jurisdiction. He was issued a secured \$5,000 bond. His trial date is Oct. 27.

### Oct. 16

• At 3:40 p.m., Jesse Boyd Coffeen, 43, of Otto, NC, was arrested for DUI on NC 106. He was issued an unsecured bond for \$800. His trial date is Oct. 28.

### Oct. 17

• At 11:59, officers received a call about vandalism to Highlands School.

• At 9:55 a.m., officers received a call about shoplifting at Mountain Fresh where someone took pre-made food valued at \$20 without paying for it.

• At 3:32 p.m., officers received a call about a shoplifting incident at Bryson's Food Store where someone pocketed medicinal items valued at \$16 and left without paying for them.

### Oct. 18

• At 10:27 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Reeves lower parking lot.

### The Highlands Fire & Rescue

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 26

God for the good of society and the individual.

Sadly, Bonhoeffer would declare to his fiancée Maria von Wedemeyer in 1945, just months before his execution by Hitler, these sobering words. "I fear that Christians who venture to stand on earth on only one leg are standing in heaven on only one leg, too. We have been otherworldly ever since we discovered the devious trick of being religious, even 'Christian,' at the expense of the Earth."

He will go on to decry the church of his day "leaping into the air and soaring to heaven" relieved from persecution as it chooses to be silent and soars into thoughts of the eternal realm that awaits them. He

log from Oct. 18.

### Oct. 18

• At 9:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

• At 7:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Skyline Lodge Road.

### Oct. 20

• At 10:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

• At 10:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

• At 1:55 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 8:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

### Oct. 21

• At 7:04 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Department.

### Oct. 22

• At 10:25 a.m., the dept. responded to the call of a brush fire on Shelby Circle.

• At 11:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Happoldt Drive.

### Oct. 23

• At 6:14 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

### Oct. 24

• At 7:43 a.m., the dept. was called to a location on Blue Valley Road to investigate an incident.

• At 1:41 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Main Street.

• At 3:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on the Cashiers Road.

says poignantly, "Otherworldliness makes it easy to preach and speak words of comfort. And such an otherworldly church will in time attract the weak and all of those who are glad to be deluded and put to sleep, not realizing they are disloyal children of the Earth."

The role of the church today, as long as we remain here and await His coming, is to stand on both feet in this world and stand for the eternal Truth of God's Word and God's will for His creation. As God's "spoke in the wheel" for this day and place, let us as God's church be compassionately clear that our Lord opposes the anti-God, anti-life philosophies and so-called progressive and "woke" ideas that are corrupting and destroying our nation — "for such a time as this."

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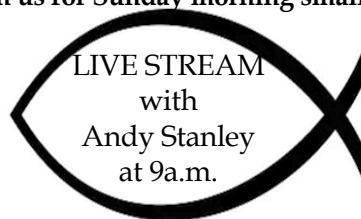
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• CLASSIFIED page 30

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## ...SOCCER continued from page 14

The area behind the school was a pond long ago which meant water problems, but it could fit a field 108 yards long by 55 yards wide. To deal with the inherent water problem, a “herringbone” drainage system was constructed under the entire field. In addition, the field was sloped for surface drainage but rain and drainage continued to cause problems. To fix them, Highlands School is asking the county to fund the replacement of the field grass with turf.

Commissioner Higdon said the Highlands soccer field was not part of the school system's capital outlay request, therefore he could not support it.

Highlands School Board member Hilary Wilkes explained that the issue couldn't have been part of the capital outlay request, because that request was made prior to the current issues as this year's record rainfall was unprecedented.

School Board Chairman Jim Breedlove agreed with Wilkes and said they were not

aware of the significant issue at the time of the original capital outlay request and now that they are aware of the issue the school system wants to prioritize the repair — and if action is not taken now, the school is looking at missing two additional seasons of home games and field use.

Higdon said such a request should be included as part of the county's annual budget process instead of coming up mid-year after the budget is finalized.

However, county leaders noted that factors such as rainfall cannot be controlled by the county and issues arise throughout the year, which is why the county has a contingency budget — which by definition is developed to provide funding in case of events or circumstances that cannot be predicted with certainty, are unforeseen and serve as an incidental expense.

Each year, the Macon County Board of Education holds a meeting to prioritize capital expenditures for Macon County Schools.

Each school sends in a “wish list” of projects to the board, and then the school board evaluates each item and prioritizes the requests for county consideration.

In addition to that meeting, a Joint Facilities Review Committee meets regularly and discusses school system building and facility needs. The school board is responsible for identifying needs within the school system and those needs are presented to Macon County Commissioners for consideration as the county is responsible for funding the needs identified by the school board. Both groups discussed the need for turf on the Highlands field and the school board made the recommendation to commissioners for the project.

Commissioner Josh Young said he agrees there is a need for turf, but he wants to be sure that whatever company puts turf on the field warrants the work so the county isn't spending money on something that might fail down the road.

Macon County Manager Derek Roland asked commissioners how they would like to move forward at which time Commissioner Young made a motion to put the project out to bid so companies could submit plans and cost estimates.

Although Young's motion did not include anything other than getting cost proposals from companies for consideration, Commissioner Paul Higdon voted against the motion.

“I will not be supporting anything that was not included in the capital improvement plan until we can have a smaller meeting, with less people, take out the emotions, and prioritize capital improvement spending for our educational facilities in Macon County,” he said.

Nevertheless, commissioners voted 4-1 to solicit bids for the Highlands soccer field turf resurfacing project, with Commissioner Higdon voting against the measure.

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