

# Highlands Newspaper

Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 5      Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com      Thurs., Feb. 1, 2024

## NC Health Department is tracking respiratory viruses

COVID19 test kits are a hot item right now, with some worrying a wave of the virus is about to

hit Highlands and Cashiers.

Respiratory viruses which include COVID19, the flu and now

the relatively new Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), are all sending

• See **VIRUSES** page 8

## HS Varsity Swim Team finishes reg. season 25-5.

By Steve Hott  
Head Coach

On Saturday, January 27, seven members of the Highlands School Varsity Swim Team ended their regular season in an outstanding way.

Junior Finneaus Garner, Sophomores Aniah McKim, Paolo McRae, and Jesus Mendoza, and Freshmen Jack Sumner and Chase Kenter finished 2nd out of 16 in the boys meet, ending the regular season 25-5. The 1A Highlanders were swimming against a mix of larger teams including 4A and 3A teams from Western NC.

Sophomore Tate Wilson by herself finished 12th as a team in the girls meet. Sophomore Conner Hughes was unavailable due to a scheduling conflict.

• See **SWIM** page 4



Chief Ryan Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester with the first-ever two Firemen of the Year David Leffler and RL Wilson. (See photos on pg. 5.)

## Two named 'Firemen of the Year' at award ceremony

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. annual award and recognition ceremony was Saturday night at OEI's Spring House where firefighters, their families and town commissioners enjoyed a dinner buffet and camaraderie.

Each year members of the department vote to name "Fireman of the Year." This year, for the first time, there was a tie so two were named "Fireman of the Year," RL Wilson and David Leffler.

Officers for 2024 were rec-

ognized as were Eric Pierson and Jimmy Petrone for being 25-year members of the Rescue Association.

The department was busy 2023 tallying 730 calls requiring 1,875 manhours which was up from 2022's 683 calls amounting to 1,477 manhours.

Chief Ryan Gearhart also recognized the full-time firefighters who came on board this year.

- Kim Lewicki

### •INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty .....	2	Spiritually Speaking .	10
Investing at 4118 Ft.	4	Police & Fire Report	11
Obituary.....	7	Classifieds .....	13
Letters .....	8		

## MCS Capitol Projects update - what's next?

- Part 1 -

By Brittney Lofthouse

Macon County Schools (MCS) is moving forward into 2024 with various key infrastructure projects ranging from track improvements at Macon Middle School (MMS) to the much-anticipated construction of a new Franklin High School (FHS).

### New Franklin High School Grant:

Last week, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt surprised county leaders when she presented Macon County Schools with a grant of \$62 million to help fund the construction of a new Franklin High School. Truitt commended the Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings in the grant application, highlighting the appeal of these programs.

"Our rural counties do a better job of ensuring that there are multiple pathways for students to consider so we don't have to tell all students that the only pathway to the middle class is through a four-year residential college degree," Truitt said.

MCS received the maximum possible amount from the Needs Based Public School Capital Fund grant, making it the first school system awarded the grant in this cycle. The estimated cost of the FHS project is over \$100 million, indicating the significance of this grant in realizing the new school's construction.

Various officials and community members, including N.C. Sen. Kevin Corbin, praised the local planning and preparation for the grant. MCS Superintendent Josh Lynch and School Board Chair Jim Breedlove expressed their excitement about the transformative impact the grant would have on the community and future generations of students.

"I have been on the Board for 15 years, and this is the ultimate! Since I have been on the Board, this is one of the things we have strived for is to bring this opportunity to our students and we're here. This is incredibly exciting and beyond words!" - School

• See **PROJECTS** page 5

Highlands  
**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street | (828) 526.8300

**#1 Real Estate Firm**

**\$248 MILLION**

Total Sales Volume 2023

1371 Cullasaja Club Drive | (828) 526.4104

MCCULLEY'S

The largest selection of  
Scottish cashmere in the U.S.A.

In Highlands ...on the hill  
242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407  
Open 7 days a week  
[www.mcculleys.com](http://www.mcculleys.com)

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Citizens come together in support of FHS

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, will be a day Maconians will remember for years to come. On that day, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Catherine Truitt, came to Franklin to present a state check of 62 million dollars to build a new Franklin High School.

I learned about a meeting with the superintendent last Friday afternoon when Senator Kevin Corbin contacted me. I had just arrived in Richmond, VA, to run a cross-country race when I answered his call. He invited me to the meeting with the superintendent because I, along with other Highlanders, had expressed our support for the new high school. I assured the senator that I would be at the meeting.

I also contacted all the town commissioners to see if they could attend as a statement of support for the new high school. Every commissioner expressed enthusiastic support for the high school. Two commis-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

sioners, Stiehler and Dotson, already had commitments at the time of the meeting, but both told me to convey their support for the new school. Commissioners Patterson, Pierson, and Weller attended the meeting. We had the honor of sitting next to the members of the Macon Board of Education while Senator Corbin and Superintendent Truitt made their presentations.

At our call on Friday, Senator Corbin stressed to me that the county needed to come together to ask the state to direct lottery funds for this capital project. So, I thought the meeting was going to be a last pitch sales effort to the state superintendent about the county's need and commitment to build a new school.

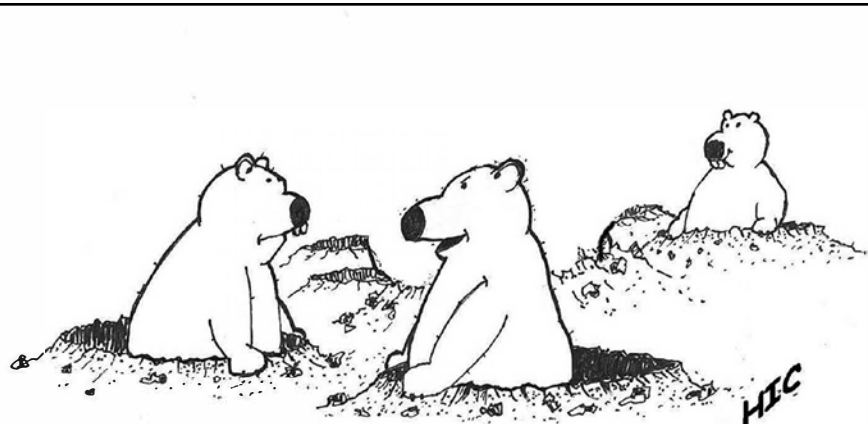
Midway through Truitt's remarks, a man walked into the room with a cardboard document in his hand. He told the superintendent that she had left it in the car. The superintendent took the piece of cardboard and turned it around to reveal the 62 million dollar check. It's hard to describe the joy and excitement that the reveal generated among the officials in the room.

After the meeting, I told Senator Corbin that he and Representative Gillespie were the mailmen for Western North Carolina. They made sure those state checks supporting this region were mailed and delivered. They played a key role with the state in securing these critical funds.

So, now that the state has weighed in with about half the funding for the new school, it is now time for Macon County to move forward with this project without delay. If funds from the county reserved fund are needed, so be it. If the county has to borrow money to build the high school, let's do it. With this wonderful state support, now is not the time to attempt a scale-down of the project. Like the state, Macon County needs to invest in building a high school that will serve the educational needs of our young people for years to come.

Congratulations to all the folks who worked so hard to make this new high school a reality: the Macon Board of Education, LS 3 Architects, and the Macon County Commission, especially Chairman Gary Shields, the former Franklin High School Principal and lifelong educator.

## • HIC'S VIEW •







"Let me get this straight. You want me to jump out of my warm hole on a cold winter day just for the TV guys? And the reason is?"

### NOTE:

**Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony**  
**Saturday, Feb. 3 at 10:30a**  
**in Highlands Veterans Plaza**  
**in front of the police station on Oak Street.**

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 1-Feb	Fri, 2-Feb	Sat, 3-Feb	Sun, 4-Feb
 56°F 33°F	 55°F 30°F	 51°F 32°F	 46°F 36°F
Mostly sunny and milder	Mostly cloudy and mild	Partly sunny	Considerable clouds
RealFeel® High: 59° Low: 27°	RealFeel® High: 57° Low: 30°	RealFeel® High: 54° Low: 31°	RealFeel® High: 43° Low: 33°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

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

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

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

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

#### Letter Policy:

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

#### Obituary Policy:

We do not charge for obituaries at this time, but we reserve the right to edit as needed for space.

## HIGHLANDER ROOFING SERVICES INC.

*New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:*  
**Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials**

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773  
[info@highlandernc.com](mailto:info@highlandernc.com) • [www.highlandernc.com](http://www.highlandernc.com)



# We Locals

Specials Through March



BOOK TODAY | CALL 866.526.8008

## AT HALF-MILE FARM & OLD EDWARDS INN | JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2024



### Half-Mile Farm

Stay at Half-Mile Farm from \$165 per night through March.



### Acorns

25% off entire purchase, some exclusions apply.



### Madison's Restaurant

Enjoy a complimentary glass of sparkling wine when reserving a dinner table at Madison's Restaurant.



### Fitness Center

Attend any of our fitness or yoga classes for \$25 per class.



### Old Edwards Inn

Stay at Old Edwards Inn from \$195 per night through March.

Local ID is required from Clay, Graham, Haywood, Cherokee, Macon, Jackson, Swain, Transylvania, and Rabun counties from each person receiving the discount.  
 \*Some restrictions apply. Not to be combined with any other discounts or specials. Taxes and gratuity not included. Sundays - Thursdays.  
 January through March 2024. Excludes holidays.



Highlands

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



**Nominated for 'America's Best'**  
**Top 5% of Brokers in 2022\* HCMLS**  
**20 years experience**

**Nominated for 'America's Best'**  
**Top 5% of Brokers in 2022\* HCMLS**  
**20 years experience**

Andrea Gabbard  
c: 828.200.6742  
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

**Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ...  
on the street or on the web.**

**Go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com). Click on Local News.  
Delivered and uploaded every Thurs.AM**

## 71 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN

\$550,000 | MLS 103057 | 3 BED | 2 BATH



**LANDMARK**  
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

**Pam Nellis**

45 years of experience!



Office: 828-526-4663

Cell: 828-787-1895

[pamela.nellis@yahoo.com](mailto:pamela.nellis@yahoo.com)

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## 3 reasons why 2024 is the year to invest in Highlands

As we usher in the new year, the real estate landscape in 2024 is brimming with promise for both buyers and sellers, particularly in our market. Expert forecasts paint an optimistic picture, with several key indicators pointing towards favorable conditions for investors and homeowners alike.

- **Mortgage Rate Projections:** One of the most significant factors shaping the 2024 housing market is the anticipated decrease in mortgage rates. Experts suggest that as inflation eases, mortgage rates should follow suit, offering prospective buyers more affordable financing options. Recent trends already show a decline in rates, a trend expected to continue throughout the year. While slight volatility may occur, the overall trajectory is towards lower rates, stimulating demand and facilitating homeownership.

- **Increase in Housing Inventory:** Lower mortgage rates are expected to spur an increase in housing inventory. Many homeowners who postponed their plans to sell in the previous year are now likely to re-enter the market, encouraged by more favorable borrowing conditions. This influx of listings translates to a broader selection of homes for buyers to choose from, catering to diverse preferences and budgets. For sellers, a larger inventory presents an opportunity to showcase their properties amidst heightened competition, potentially fetching top dollar in the



Rachel Wavra, Broker,  
Berkshire Hathaway  
HomeServices Meadows  
Mountain Realty  
828-505-6190  
[rachel@bhhsmmr.com](mailto:rachel@bhhsmmr.com)

process.

- **Moderation of Home Price Growth:** With more homes hitting the market, the rapid pace of home price appreciation is projected to moderate in 2024. While prices will continue to climb, albeit at a slower rate, the overall effect is improved affordability for buyers. This is particularly relevant in second-home market like ours, where maintaining a balance between exclusivity and accessibility is paramount. The deceleration in price growth ensures that buyers can still invest in their dream properties without being priced out of the

market.

In conclusion, 2024 holds immense potential for those looking to invest, buy, or sell. With mortgage rates expected to decrease, housing inventory on the rise, and home price growth moderating, now is the time to make your move. Whether you're seeking a serene mountain retreat or a lucrative investment opportunity, the Plateau offers the perfect blend of culture and natural abundance.

Let's discuss how you can leverage these trends to achieve your real estate goals in 2024 and beyond. As a local real estate professional deeply entrenched in Highlands, Cashiers, and surrounding areas, I'm here to guide you every step of the way. I'd love to help make your 2024 real estate goals a reality.

## ...SWIM continued from page 1

Garner Scored 46.5 points winning three events and a 2nd. Kenter scored 42.0 points with two 1sts and two 2nds. McRae and Sumner scored 38.5 pts. McRae got a 1st and 2nd and two 3rds. Sumner got three 1sts and a 2nd. McKim Scored 35.5 pts including two 1st and two seconds. Wilson scored 25 points with a 2nd and a 3rd place finish. Mendoza scored five points garnering an 8th place finish.

Garner, Kenter, McRae, Sumner, McKim, Hughes, and Wilson are now Jr. Olympians. McKim and Wilson are Academic All American Swimmers.

Next up: All eight of the Varsity Swim Team will travel to Regionals in Charlotte this Saturday, Feb. 3. The Highlanders are seeded well. Of special note Finneas Garner is seeded 1st in the 50 Freestyle.

## COREY JAMES GALLERY & Estate Consignments

**Bronze sculpture • Paintings  
Vintage & Antique Collectables &  
Furniture • Costume Jewelry  
and much more**



**(828) 526-4818**

**On the corner of 3rd & Spring**



# Annual HF&R award/recognition ceremony

# ...PROJECTS continued from page 1

Board Chair Jim Breedlove

Funding from the state was imperative for the new high school project to continue, as the Macon County Board of Commissioners have been split on how the project would be funded and if it was feasible to move for-

ward. In November, Board member Danny Antoine spoke during the board meeting and explained that after speaking with the county's Finance Director, he was assured the new high school facility could be built

• See **PROJECTS** page 9



From left: Chief Gearhart, Eric Pierson, Jimmy Petrone and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester. Pierson and Petrone were recognized as 25-year members of the Rescue Association.



Officers for 2023-'24 from left: Chief R Gearhart, member@large E Fielding, 2nd Lt. D Leffler, 1st Lt. H Leffler, Capt. RL Wilson, Asst. Chief R Forrester, and Rescue Capt. E Pierson,



RL Wilson has received the Perfect Attendance award so often they named it after him! Once again, RL Wilson was the recipient of the Perfect Attendance Award. From left: Chief Gearhart, RL Wilson and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester.

*The Coolest Golf Course  
in Georgia*



**Sky Valley**  
COUNTRY CLUB

- Incredible Views
- Par 72 Championship Course stretching 6,900 yards of Peaks and Valleys
- Open Daily • Year-Round • Public Golf

2 hrs. northeast of Atlanta • 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC

---

**For Tee Times, Membership Information or Event Rentals,  
please call 706-746-5302**

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

*Old Edwards*  
**CHEF DINNERS 2024**  
*at THE FARM*




view details &  
book online

**RELAIS & CHATEAUX**



# HIGHLANDS DINING

## WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO



**American Cuisine with a  
Creole Twist and German Flair**

**Closed January  
Reopening February 15**

**Bistro 4pm | Dining Room 5:30pm**

474 Main Street | 828.526.3807  
wolfgangs.net

## The Ruffed Grouse Tavern & Highlander Mountain House



### Wine Wednesday

1/2 off select bottles of wine  
with purchase of an entree

### Sundays

Bluegrass Brunch the Ruffed  
Grouse Tavern. Music from  
10:30a - 1p.

### Thursdays

Blues & Brews Special –  
\$20 burger and select beer  
special, paired with live blues  
music.

Locals receive 20% off  
all menu items

290 Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-2590  
highlandermountainhouse.com

## The Secret Garden



Modern Fast Food &  
Courtyard Market

Open Year-Round

Mon.-Fri. 11:30a to 5p • Sat. 12-5p

208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • (828) 305-7509



## The Secret Garden

is a year-round sandwich shop and local  
gourmet food market offering a variety of  
hot and cold specialty sandwiches,  
various salads, desserts and charcuterie.  
Stop by this winter and enjoy a hot sandwich,  
a cup of homemade soup and a daily pasta  
salad.

We have indoor and outdoor seating, a  
large variety of drink options including  
wine and beer.

### Can't linger?

Call (828) 305-7509 to place a pick-up order.



Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p

Closed Tuesdays

828.526.3554

595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC

## DUSTY'S



RHODES SUPERETTE

*Valentine's Special Menu*

A-LA-CARTE

### MAIN

- 6oz or 8oz Filets
- Petite Crab Cakes (6)
- 3oz Crab Cakes (2)
- 1/2 LB P | D Shrimp

### SIDES

- Potato au Gratin
- Portuguese Bishop Rolls
- Garden Salad

### DESSERTS

- Chocolate Cake

All items are offered a-la-carte

First come first served

We prepare . and you're the chef! Cooking  
instructions will be included with each item.

Pickup on Feb 14th-16th

Dusty's Rhodes Superette

493 Dillard Rd. Highlands, NC 28741

828.526.2762



828-526-4035

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round

Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar

Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands



**Open except  
Closed all  
Wednesday  
and Sunday night  
Lunch: 11a-3:30p  
Dinner:  
5:30p - until**



## • LETTERS •

### Don't confuse HC-Hospital with Mission Hospital in Asheville

Dear Editor,

I don't know all the politics behind it all but because I feel so strongly about this

I want to respond to the letter written about Mission Hospital and HCA.

We, Highlands, have the best director and hospital staff, the very best emergency room doctors and nurses. We are so fortunate.

I work as a volunteer at HCH and I see the response and care patients receive there from the women at the front desk, to the cleaning staff, and lunch room servers, to every and all the staff who make HCH a place of healing. Thank you to each and every one of you!

**Helen Moore  
Highlands**

### Don't let the smoke get in your eyes

Dear Editor,

Interestingly, it seems too many voters don't care about the many accomplishments of the Biden administration like lowering the cost of insulin for millions of people, like fixing roads and bridges everyone assumes are just fine until they break, causing accidents, like containing inflation which began before he took office, like managing the Covid pandemic, like bringing chip manufacturing back to the USA, creating jobs.

There are many more achievements but what people pay attention to is that he

occasionally misspeaks, stutters, or walks unsteadily. Roosevelt was president for four terms from a wheelchair! Several Presidents governed with physical limitations or physical conditions, known at the time or revealed later. These concerns are all diversion, distraction and ageism. Biden is making a positive difference in the world. He surrounds himself with competent advisors.

I wish more people could tell the difference between a true statesman and a true smoke and mirrors showman.

**Carole Light  
Scaly Mountain**

## • OBITUARY •

### Robert J (Bob) Klodosky

Robert J (Bob) Klodosky passed away peacefully on January 22, 2024 from early onset Alzheimer's disease. Bob was born December 17, 1953 in Johnstown, PA and graduated with a BA from Pennsylvania State University. Bob's work career in Atlanta, GA was as a manager and salesperson for hardwood plywood sourced in Indonesia, Russia and Latvia. He traveled to these locations as well as many in North America for his career and as a member of the International Hardwood Plywood Association.



He was both an avid sports participant

and fan. He played in men's leagues for ultimate frisbee (participating in national championships) and basketball. Running and golf were also his past times and areas where he excelled. Bob and his family moved to Highlands, NC, fulltime in 2009.

Bob is survived by his wife Wanda and daughter Kasey of Highlands, NC; sister Karen Balkman of Roswell, NM and

brother James of Houston, TX. Celebrations of life will be held in both Highlands, NC and Atlanta, GA in the spring.

### NC dahlia tubers on sale Feb. 6

If you want to grow dahlias from NC tubers, from the grower who has dominated Dahlia competition the last couple of years with his unbelievable dahlias; his tubers go on sale on February 6th.

Tim Wheatley has been growing dahlias in Whittier for several years, and has perfected his dahlia technique. He won

best of show in the professional division last year with a hybrid that he developed in Whittier.

The website [www.mountaindivagardens.com](http://www.mountaindivagardens.com) will go live at noon on February 6 with tuber sales. They sell out fast, will ship in April and are priced accordingly.



# Sunday's Snowfest is salvaged!

*Warm, rainy weather closed down Snowfest on Saturday, Jan. 27, but once it stopped and cold weather moved in, snowblowing during the night saved the day. On Sunday, Jan. 28 families went to K-H Founders Park on Pine Street to enjoy, cold weather, snow-related activities as planned.*



Photos by Rachel Lewicki and Tina Rogers

## ...VIRUSES from page 1

people to their primary care physician as well as the Emergency Room and even to the hospital.

Respiratory syncytial virus, also called human respiratory syncytial virus and human orthopneumovirus, is a contagious virus that causes infections of the respiratory tract – different from the flu and COVID19.

At the Jan. 23 MC Board of Health and Human Services board meeting, a dashboard created by the NC Dept. of Health and Human Services – similar to the one first broadcasted when COVID19 was rampant in 2020 and 2021 – was presented.

The dashboard tracks information about cases presented at hospitals and ERs – those reporting information about North Carolinians with contagious respiratory viruses that can cause cold symptoms or severe breathing problems, including COVID-19, the flu (Influenza), and RSV.

Though typically a few weeks behind, the dashboard is updated every Wednesday at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard> and compares figures one week to the next.

The MC Health Dept. board was presented the dashboards -- Dashboard #1 and Dashboard #2 – each with two charts.

One chart in Dashboard #1 tallied ER visits for Total Respiratory Viruses including COVID19, RSV and Flu-like symptoms and the other chart just tallied RSV symptoms.

Dashboard #2 also featured two charts – one that tallied hospital admissions due to the flu and one that tallied admissions to due COVID19.

As of the week ending Jan. 20, 11.8% of ER visits had symptoms of a respiratory virus, a decrease from the week before. The week before was 14.3%.

As of the week ending Jan. 20, among reporting hospitals, 717 hospital admissions for COVID19 and 308 were for the flu. This represents a decrease for COVID19 and a decrease for flu from the week of Jan. 13. The week before was 899 for COVID19 and 504 for the flu.

There are no statistics regarding the result of primary care visits and testing for either respiratory viruses or COVID19.

There are now vaccines for all three viruses – COVID19, Flu and RSV.

- Kim Lewicki

---

**Bingo for the  
Love of Learning  
is Thursday, Feb. 8  
at 6:30p at the  
Highlands Rec Park  
Benefiting  
The Literacy & Learning  
Center**



## Make 2024 the year you get a high school certificate

By Anna Norton

For those who haven't received their high school diploma, The Literacy & Learning Center (TL&LC) has a free program to help people achieve that goal this year!

A high school equivalency certificate (HSE) certificate can open the door to more advanced jobs and higher pay. It also ensures that ongoing employment is more likely throughout one's life. These advantages lead to a higher quality of life for the certificate holder and even extend to one's children and grandchildren through better overall health and well-being.

Better known as General Education Development, (GED) this program is divided into four testing categories: language arts, mathemat-

ics, science, and social studies. The computer-based test is available for anyone 16 or older who is not enrolled in school.

An alternate option is the paper-based HiSET, with the categories of writing, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. Anyone 18 or older (or 16 and up with special approval) qualifies in North Carolina.

Both options of equivalency tests measure foundational core knowledge and skills and demonstrate one has the exact comprehension as a traditional high school graduate. An HSE certificate is evidence of essential workforce skills and college readiness and is generally accepted on the same basis as a high school diploma.

The Literacy & Learning Center offers free self-paced online test prep with a companion book through Kaplan. Lessons, accessed around the student's schedule, help strengthen weaker areas. Videos are provided to explain concepts, and practice questions are included. When students are fully prepared, they simply need to find a suitable testing date at a local official testing center, such as Southwestern Community College, and TL&LC will assist with arrangements and payment.

To pursue opportunities and follow your dreams, beginning with a high school equivalency certificate, contact Caroline Cox, [ccox@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org](mailto:ccox@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org), at The Literacy & Learning Center.

## ...PROJECTS continued from page 5

without a tax increase.

"With the grant, there should be no tax increase whatsoever to build the high school. Now to be more clear on that, with the grant, let's say we get the \$60 million grant, if we choose to build Phase 1 out of the fund balance, roughly \$13-\$14 million, we are

not financing this full \$120 million," said Commissioner Antoine.

The FHS Project has often been referenced in the past as county officials debated other capitol projects, such as upgrades and renovations to Highlands School that would result in providing Pre-K classes for the first time.

With half of the FHS project funded through a state grant, it remains to be seen whether or not county leaders will see it feasible to re-evaluate the needs of Highlands School in order to prioritize capitol projects there.

Next week - Part 2

MMS Track Update and more

## Highlands Mercantile on Main



WESTMAN ATELIER



BELLA CUCINA  
Artichoke Pesto



**Fine goods for your family and home.**

Books • Chocolates • Coffee • Guy Gifts • Home • Skincare

322 Main Street, Highlands • 828-482-0818

## THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



**Delivered, Stacked & Ready to Burn!**

Here, There and Everywhere ...  
the Atlanta area, too!

**828.200.3050**

[bobhenritze@gmail.com](mailto:bobhenritze@gmail.com) • [www.firewoodcompany.net](http://www.firewoodcompany.net)

Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web.

Go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com). Click on Local News.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH



AN UPSCALE RESALE STORE WITH 10,000 SQ FT OF SHOPPING!



1846 HWY 107N in Cashiers  
(Across from Blue Ridge School)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
10AM-2PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE, CONTACT SKIP RYAN AT (828) 226-2588



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## Taking that step of faith

**Brent Metcalf**  
Mission and Direction Pastor  
Christ Church of the Valley,  
Cashiers

I have always enjoyed jumping off things. Whether that was bridges, rocks in the forest, or cliffs in the Dominican Republic, each time you jump, there is a feeling of falling that is unlike any other sense. It feels like your stomach is moving towards your throat, and time seems to stand still.

Last summer, I attended Young Life Camp at Windy Gap outside of Asheville. Young Life is a fantastic organization that introduces students to Jesus. Camp is an incredible experience full of adventure, friendships, and the opportunity to learn about faith in Jesus. Camp has high ropes courses, zip lines, and many other fun activities.

We arrived at camp, and one of my high school friends asked me to jump off the high jump into the lake. I didn't hesitate because I have always enjoyed jumping off high stuff. One thing that has changed is that I am in my mid-40s now. I am starting to realize that I can't do some of the things that I used to do, or at least can't do them as quickly.

We get up to the top of the jump, and I notice that it seems slightly higher than I imagined. I was committed in my mind to just climb the ladder and not hesitate, to walk to the end of the platform and jump. Even though I was a little nervous, I decided to take a step of faith and jump.

When was the last time you took a step of faith?

A step of faith requires trust. As I stepped off the tower towards the lake, I believed everything would be OK because I had jumped before. I knew what to expect. Uncertainty can make it difficult for us to take steps of faith.

I wonder if we live such insulated, comfortable lives that many of us never take steps of faith. Our lives are not void of good things; we attend church and try to be good people, but many of us are unwilling to budge out of our comfort zones. Honestly, we are stuck in the routine of our lives, and the most challenging part of this reality is that our faith does not grow unless we take steps of faith. For many, this means our faith in God is stagnant or non-existent.

What is a step of faith?

The scriptures would define a step of faith as a deliberate choice of trusting God versus trusting in our wisdom and perspective. It can be challenging to exercise faith because we have spent most of our lives making decisions based on what is comfortable, easy, and predictable. We don't know what will happen, so we remain frozen, almost like a person stuck at the top of a high jump, overwhelmed with the thought of jumping.

If you read and study the life of Jesus, it is easy to see that following after Jesus is not easy. The way of the cross leads us to the death of our independence. I believe many don't take steps of faith because of an unwillingness to give up their way. I admit there is a power struggle to give up my desires and plans. Giving up our way and trusting God is where our faith begins to grow. If Christianity is nothing more than attend-

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 11

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298  
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30  
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector  
464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers. NC 28717  
CAC@christanglicancashiers.org & 828-743-1701  
Sundays: 9:30 am Adult Christian Formation;

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Worship

Wednesdays: 6 pm Bible Study, Prayer, Potluck

Thursdays: 10 am Healing Eucharist

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470  
www.cashiers.church  
Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

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

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

Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447  
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)  
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am  
**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**  
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship  
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers  
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814  
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road  
Highlandscentralbaptist.org • 828-526-0774  
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily  
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.  
Sunday Worship is at 9a & 6p. Wed. Worship is 6p

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor & Rev. Christine Murphy  
526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sun. - 11 am

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Sun. 9a; Mon. 9:30a (Latin); Wed. 9:30a

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for  
schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar Barn supports outreach in the community.

Open Thurs., Fri. Sat. 10a -2p.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Jan. 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

**Jan. 20**

• At 10:39 p.m., Joseph Daniel Deetz, 24, of Cullowhee, was arrested on a warrant for an offense in another jurisdiction. He was issued a secured \$500 bond. His trial date is Feb. 2.

**Jan. 22**

• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded

to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 17.**

**Jan. 24**

• At 1:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

**Jan. 25**

• At 1:07 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a gas leak at a residence on Azalea Circle.

• At 7:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Joanna Lane.

• At 11:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a power line down on S. 4th Street.

**Jan. 26**

• At 1:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive E.

**Jan. 27**

• At 1:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

• At 11:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a fire line down

on Buck Creek Road.

**Jan. 28**

• At 3:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 4:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Short-off Road.

• At 10:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Edwards Circle.

**Jan. 29**

• A little after midnight, the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 3:53 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 8:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 3:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Elm Court.

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 10

ing church and trying to loosely align ourselves with a set of values, is that truly faith? The way of the cross is not easy to follow; it is difficult, which is why many are not willing to follow or why some only follow in word, not in action.

When we decide to jump, to follow the way of the cross, it is at that moment that the power of

God shows up in our lives, and our faith grows. I pray that God will lead you to take steps of faith. What is your next step of faith?

**I Corinthians 1:18**

*"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."*

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### McKee Properties joins Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty

The area's leading luxury real estate brokerage, Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty, is pleased to announce that McKee Properties, with its long history and unmatched brokerage experience, is joining the company. This reinforces two of the top real estate firms with local owners and community leaders as one united company generating further growth of their real estate services, as well as a commitment to support the communities professionally and philanthropically they serve.

The current McKee Properties office at the historic Minnie Cole's house located at 619 Highway 107 S in Cashiers will be rebranded to Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty. Co-founders of McKee Properties Beth Townsend and Liz Harris are known for their deep knowledge of the culture and lifestyle in western North Carolina and are excited to join the Sotheby's International Realty brand which offers worldwide exposure along with world-class resources and tools for their clients.

"We share a belief in the values of Sotheby's International Realty value proposition that 'everyone deserves the extraordinary because luxury is not about price- rather it is an experience.

When it comes to luxury real estate, experience matters. This is the gold standard that we, as The McKee Group, and Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty both share," said Townsend and Harris.

Jody and Wood Lovell, owners of Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty, have followed McKee Properties for years.

"We started our company 23 years ago with great respect for McKee Properties. We followed their remarkable accomplishments and have the utmost respect for their brokers and management. We are energized by our growth prospects with this exciting new partnership," they said.

In addition to Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty, the Lovells own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, which dominates the Highlands real estate market as the #1 company on the MLS, and, with the addition of McKee Properties to Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty, the two companies will increase their influence throughout the entire plateau. With this new partnership, the top brokers in the area will be aligned in sharing incredible networking opportunities based on reputation, relationships, referrals and repeat business.

## • MILESTONE •

### Fletcher turns 92!



Maestro Fletcher Wolfe celebrated his 92nd birthday with friends and family in his hometown of Norlina, NC, Saturday, Jan. 13 and here at his home in Highlands on Saturday, Jan. 21. Wolfe founded and directed the Atlanta Boy Choir for 60 years traveling the world while introducing the boys to world leaders and making beautiful music.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Rotary honors January 2024 'Students of the Month'



**From left:** Dave O'Harra, President, Rotary Club of Highlands, Asst. Principal Mrs. Alyssa DeBois, Rhett Clayton (2<sup>nd</sup>), Alexis Turner (12<sup>th</sup>), Aidan Rogers (middle), and Mrs. Nicole Lui (Guidance Counselor).

## WHOLE LIFE MARKET

Natural Products Store

Hours: 9am-5pm  
Mon-Sat  
828-526-5999

Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com

**LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS**



Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market

## ccs

CREATIVE CONCEPTS SALON

**Hair • Nails • Waxing**

• Tanning  
• Facials

**Walk-ins Welcome!**

**Open at 9a Tues.-Sat.**

**828-526-3939**

---

**Owner/Stylist:**  
Lacy Jane Villardo

**Stylists:**  
Heather Escandon  
Maggie Barden  
Desiray Schmitt  
Lauren Buckely

**Nail Tech:**  
Jenna Schmitt

---


Upstairs and Across the Walkway at Falls on Main Highlands



*Following Jesus makes your life better and makes you better at life.*  
 Join us this Sunday  
 (new series)  
 8:40am - Coffee/Nibbles  
 9am - Live Stream  
 w/Andy Stanley

**HIGHLAND EXCURSION**   
**mntours.com**  
*Nantahala National Forest Permitted*

**Paul Corbin**  
 Owner   
**A&O LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC**  
 828-371-2240  
 pcorbin1631@aol.com

**ALLAN DEARTH GENERATORS AND SONS**  
  
  
  
 ▶ 828-526-9325 ◀  
*Generators aren't just a "thing" we do, generators are all we do!*

**Whiteside Cove Cottages**  
  
 5 log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.  
 800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222


  
**Kiln dried FIREWOOD**  
 Delivery or pickup  
 2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395  
 highlandslawnandgarden.com

**JUNK**  
**WE HAUL IT AWAY**  
 House / Garage / Yard  
 Call for free estimate  
**828 - 421 - 5188**

**Highlands Automotive**  
 Service & Repair  
  
 NC Inspection Station  
  
  
 828-787-2360  
 2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com

Call Raul  
 706-982-3803  
 706-970-7638  
 828-347-0255  
  
**VALENCIA GRADING, INC.**  
 valenciagrading@gmail.com  
 Grading • Lot Clearing • Retaining Wall  
 Driveways • Septic Placement

**CHESTNUT STORAGE**  
 Storage Units Available  
 Secure 24 Hour Access  
 Easy In - Easy Out  
 Great Rates - Great Terms  
 Call today to find out why we're  
 "Highland's Premier Facility"  
 828-482-1045  
  
*Look for our sign!*  
 10890 Buck Creek Rd. - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Rd near the hospital

- Grading
- Excavating
- Driveways
- Build sites
- Hauling
- Septic Systems

**Edwin Wilson**  
 Cell (828) 421-3643  
 Office/fax (828) 526-4758  
 wilsongrading@yahoo.com

828-200-9217 Fully Insured  
  
**MENDOZA TREE EXPERT**  
 Quality Tree Care & Removal 18+ years  
 estimates@mendozatreecom  
 mendozatreeservices.com

**Ryan M. Bears**  
 Branch Leader  
 Cell: 803-271-5426  
 Office: 828-526-8784  
 ryan.bears@allentate.com  
  
  
 Pat Allen, Broker in Charge

  
**COUNSELING CENTER**  
 HIGHLANDS, NC  
 864-481-0598  
 INFO@COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG  
 LOCATED AT THE PEGGY CROSBY CENTER  
 348 S. 5TH STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741  
 OFFICES: 201, 203 & 210  
**COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG**  
 WE STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL ABILITY.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE

**SEASONED FIREWOOD** - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

**LAND FOR SALE** - 3 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) \$140,000; 3.99 acres with southern exposure, \$70,000. 828-974-1137. (st. 2/22)

**TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE**, \$30k-\$45k/ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to



- Interior & Exterior Painting
  - Pressure Washing
  - House Maintenance
  - Drywall Repair
  - Deck Repair
- Quality Work • Fully Insured**  
**Lupe Gonzales**  
**avpintura@gmail.com**  
**828-332-1539 or 678-873-2927**

each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (st. 1/22)

**RV site** - class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. Reduced \$192,500. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

## FOR RENT

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS** - Retail with office space upstairs. Approx. 1,700 sf. Good storage and parking on 1/2 acre at 255 Spring Street. David King 727-644-9544 (2/15)

**NEW FURNISHED EXECUTIVE APARTMENT FOR RENT** in Highlands city limits. 1 bed/1 bath in garden setting. \$1,700 with all utilities and internet included. Call/text 352-422-7200. (st. 1/18)

**TRANSITIONAL RENTAL COTTAGE**, 2 BR, 2 bath full kitchen, large LR fully furnished. 1-6 month occupancy. Scaly Mtn. Some restrictions \$1500/month plus electric. Call 229-292-0353 to discuss. (st. Jan 18)

**TLC OPEN AIR STORAGE** - Located in Highlands, NC. Spaces available for pontoon boats, ATV vehicles, equipment trailers, RV's, and campers. Minimum 1 month rental. \$75 small to medium vehicles; \$100 large vehicles. Contact Greg 828-526-5280. (st. 12/21)

**NEW 1/BED APT.** downtown Highlands in Village Square. Walk-in closet and balcony. One year minimum lease. Unfurnished. \$3,500/mth. Call Robin at 828-200-0044. (st. 12/7)

**2 BEDROOM 1 BATH** 1550 SF with great Mountain View 2 1/2 mins from Main Street. \$2200/Mo. Annual. Bobbygrace@icloud.com. Cell/Text 727-458-0787 (st. 1/30)

**BRAND NEW TRAILERS FOR RENT**, 2 bedrooms/2 baths \$1700/month and 3 bedrooms/2 baths

\$2250/month. Between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy -(706) 982-0444. (st. 5/4)

## WANTED

**PARTNER/INVESTOR FOR A DOG KENNEL BUSINESS** on my property south of Highlands. If interested and to learn more, please email Brian Grace at gracebrian907@gmail.com. (st. 1/18)

## HELP WANTED

**PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES IS CURRENTLY HIRING A PT/FT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER** for our Highlands office. The Regional Development Officer works as part of a dynamic and experienced development team. The Regional Development Officer will work with an entire legal aid staff to expand free legal assistance and anti-poverty advocacy to help a growing number of very low-income people each year to solve problems related to housing, domestic violence, health care and insufficient income. This position will work on growing Pisgah Legal Services' contributed revenue streams across its service area to sustain our essential work. While touching on all aspects of Development work, this position will focus on the Annual Campaign and major gifts in Macon, Jackson and Haywood counties. Salary ranges from \$41,812 - \$73,438 D/O/E plus comprehensive benefits package. Apply at www.pisgahlegal.org/jobs (2/22)

**LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION CREW LEADER** -- Thompson Landscape Company is now hiring a full-time crew leader starting \$25/hour based on capability and experience. Comprehensive benefit package including year-end bonus. Minimum 3-years experience, valid NC Driver's license. Drug test required. After

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 14

## Cosmos Flowers

Full Service Florist

Store: 828-526-0044

Cell: 828-200-6101

cosmosflowersnc@gmail.com

95 Highlands Plaza

Follow us

Instagram and facebook

@cosmosflowersnc

Al Stoneham

Realtor-Broker  
Luxury Home Specialist  
Licensed in NC & GA

828-332-9767

al.stoneham@allentate.com



Highlands/Scaly Mtn/Cashiers

## 360 MAIN STREET ESTATE JEWELERS OF HIGHLANDS



**WE BUY  
AND CONSIGN  
OLD JEWELRY**

**Appointment Only!**

**Call: 828-526-1960**

**Text: 770-855-0825**

**Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com**

**COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL**  
**HOME REMODELING • NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
**INTERIOR & EXTERIOR • REPAIR • DRYWALL**  
**SHOWER REMODEL • PAINT & STAIN**  
**REPAIR • DRYWALL • CARPENTRY**  
**PRESSURE WASHING**

**FULLY INSURED**

**828.332.2520**  
**828.371.2189**  
**MENDOZAPAIN17@GMAIL.COM**



## ...CLASSIFIEDS from page 13

2 years of satisfactory employment, salary options available starting at 55k with other employee benefits. Contact Greg at 828-526-5280. (st. 12/21)

**LUPOLI CONSTRUCTION** is hiring an office manager/executive assistant and a bookkeeper. Full-time, compensation based on experience. Please contact Regina@Lupoli-inc.com, 770.757.5004 for more information. (st. 11/2)

### SERVICES

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN** - Chatlos Construction - Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (4/25)

**MURPHY'S PAINT CO.** - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (3/14)

**NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY?** Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (3/28)

**DOG SITTING** - overnight, or daily checkins/walks. Call Lisa. References available. Call or text 828-424-4637. (st. 12/21)

**ANYTHING GOES CLEAN-UP SERVICE** Complete property cleanup - house, garage, property, etc. Call Danny at 828-200-2855. (st. 9/28)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

## • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### HC Health Foundation 2024 grant cycle open until Feb. 28

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (Health Foundation) has announced the opening of its grant cycle for 2024. The Health Foundation will provide one grant cycle this year, beginning with initial inquiries that address one or more of their three strategic priorities: Health, Access to Healthcare, and Behavioral and Mental Health.

"Grants serve as our primary avenue for making a significant difference in the community," said Charlotte Muir, Executive Director of the Health Foundation. "Our objective is to collaborate with organizations that align their programs and projects with our shared goals and vision, allowing

us to work together collectively to make a positive impact."

Since its inception on February 1, 2019, the Health Foundation has provided over 100 grants that delivered \$10.4 million to more than 70 organizations throughout our service area. The 2024 grant cycle will continue to fund transformational programs that fit within the mission to improve the health and well-being of everyone in our communities.

Several of the grants awarded in 2023 are aimed at supporting behavioral and mental health initiatives for the young generation in our community. The grants will fund a full range of programs and services that cater

to the specific healthcare needs of our youth. The initiatives supported through these grants include mental health professionals, school nurses, foster family counseling, prevention programs, and support for at-risk youth. Apart from these grants, there were also additional awards given to help expand access to healthcare and provide chronic disease management assistance to uninsured patients.

"Our commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of Highlands, Cashiers, and the surrounding communities remains strong," stated Muir. "We are excited to continue the work we started in February 2019, aiming to implement impactful and

lasting solutions that address health challenges in our communities and truly make a positive difference in people's lives."

The Organizational Inquiry period of the grant cycle will end on February 28 at 5 pm. Invitations to complete pre and full applications will follow, with grant awards anticipated in August. For more information about the full grant process and schedule, or if your organization is interested in submitting an Organizational Inquiry to start the grant process, please visit the Health Foundation's grant website at [www.HCHealthFnd.org/grantmaking](http://www.HCHealthFnd.org/grantmaking).

### Rotary gets update on hospital achievements



From left: James Wright, MD, Chief of Staff HC Hospital; Hollis Whitehead, Director of Hospital and Clinical Operations HC Hospital; Tom Neal, CEO HC Hospital; Dave O'Harra, President, Rotary Club of Highlands

HC Hospital CEO Tom Neal recently updated the Rotary Club of Highlands on achievements made by the Hospital:

- Designation as the #1 for Emergency Room Patient Experience HCA
- Attained accreditation for Joint Commission as an Acute Stroke Ready Hospital in December 2023
- Capital investment of \$5 million from HCA to replace MRI and CT scanner. This is on top of \$15 million invested since HCA acquired H-C Hospital.
- Winning entry in HCA's companywide food sculpture competition Healthy Food for Healthier Tomorrow - a huge canned food sculpture of a Teddy Bear that was awarded \$35,000 - which in turn the Hospital donated to The International Friendship Center's Food Pantry in Highlands and Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry in Cashiers and

Jackson County.

- A branch of the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau will soon be located at the Hospital's campus.
- General Surgery and Ortho-

pedic Surgery are now provided at Highlands Cashiers Hospital.

Neal introduced two Hospital staff members: Hollis Whitehead, the Director of Hospital & Clinical

Operations and James Wright, MD, Emergency Medicine Specialist.

Whitehead described a day in the life of a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Nurse.

Dr. Wright described the warning signals of a stroke: BE-FAST:

Balance problems; Eye or vision problems; Facial droop; Arm weakness; Speech difficulties.

Time is of the essence! Wright urged listeners to call 911 if any of these symptoms occur.

Wright also explained that the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's designation as a Stroke Ready Hospital means that all of the national best practices are in place to treat a stroke patient as required by the Joint Commission that accredits health care organizations.

For more information visit [www.missionhealth.org](http://www.missionhealth.org) click on location and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

### Realtors rally for locals in need

The Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors® (HCBOR) recently partnered with community non-profits in Jackson, Macon, and Transylvania counties to give back during the holiday season.

HCBOR members assisted the Cashiers Senior Center, located in Jackson County, with Operation

Christmas Box. They prepared and delivered a total of 60 gift boxes filled with necessities and goodies to local homebound seniors.

In addition to Operation Christmas Box, HCBOR donated \$2,000 each to the Highlands Emergency Council in Macon County and Lake Toxaway Charities in Transyl-

vania County.

The Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors® (HCBOR) is a non-profit trade association serving as the voice of real estate on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. HCBOR represents approximately 500 members who serve Macon, Jackson, and Transylvania counties.

### Read

**Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web.**

**Go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com). Click on Local News. Delivered and uploaded every Thurs.AM**

### Biz Card Ads 2024

\$22 for BW; \$27 for color

### Classifieds 2024

\$10 for 10 words, 30 cents for each word thereafter. \$2 for color highlight.



**SILVER EAGLE**  
Native American Jewelry  
Crystal & Gem Gallery

349 Main Street, Highlands, NC  
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com

**COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES**  
Highlands, NC  
Real Estate

**Country Club Properties**  
Your local hometown  
Real Estate professionals.  
3 Offices 828-526-2520  
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com

**Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern**

highlandermountainhouse.com

**Weichert REALTORS**  
Highlands Properties  
450 N. 4th St. Highlands, NC  
828-526-5522  
www.highlandsproperties.com

**Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals**

Highlands is calling

Sales, Vacation Rentals,  
and Property Management  
Since 1941

401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741  
828-526-3717 www.highlandscalling.com  
info@highlandscalling.com  
https://www.facebook.com/CRVRHighlandscalling/  
https://twitter.com/RealtyRentals

555 & 537 N 5th St.  
Highlands  
4.80 acres  
LIVE  
IN THE HEART  
OF HIGHLANDS!  
**\$5,950,000**

**Pat Allen REALTY GROUP**  
STRONGER TOGETHER

**MOUNTAIN LUXURY**  
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.

**DARLENE CONLEY**  
404.427.2448

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES** | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

**MITZI RAUERS**  
Broker / Luxury Collection Specialist  
(404) 218-9123  
mitzi@bhhsmmr.com

**Andrea Gabbard**  
c: 828.200.6742  
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

**Ace is the Place,**

**Reeves Hardware**

At Main & 3rd streets  
Highlands 526-2157

Highlands  
**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
114 N. 4th Street  
Highlands, NC

**Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY**

114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC

*Local Expertise, Global Connections.*

Licensed in NC and GA  
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706  
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

**Team Rick Steve "The Power of 2"**

Trusted advisors providing impeccable personalized service

**We are home.**

PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP/ALLEN TATE REALTORS  
(404) 219-1349 • HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS NC

**LANDMARK**  
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 828-787-1895  
Office: 828-526-4663  
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com

**PAM NELLIS**  
BROKER





**Pat Allen**  
*Broker in Charge*  
 pat@patallenrealtygroup.co  
 m 828.200.9179

*Main Office*  
 295 Dillard Road  
 Highlands, NC 28741  
 828.526.8784

**Julie Osborn**  
*Broker in Charge*  
 julie@patallenrealtygroup.co  
 m 828.200.6165

*Wildcat Cliffs Office*  
 5121 Cashiers Road  
 Highlands, NC 28741  
 828.526.4525

*Leading* REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD®

patallenrealtygroup.com

#1 in the Carolinas  
 #1 in the Country for Independent Firms  
 #1 Small Team Company-wide 2022

*Stronger together!*

Source HCMLS & RealTrends



**LANDMARK**  
 REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 404-827-0345  
 Office: 828-526-4663  
 patricia@landmarkrg.com



**PATRICIA GENTRY**  
 BROKER

**SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
 GLOBAL PRESENCE**

**\$167 BILLION**  
 GLOBAL SALES  
 VOLUME 2022

**26,000**  
 SALES ASSOCIATES  
 WORLDWIDE

**1,075**  
 OFFICES WORLDWIDE

**81**  
 COUNTRIES &  
 TERRITORIES

Highlands | Sotheby's  
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**WILD THYME GOURMET**  
 RESTAURANT

Open Year-Round • 6 days a week  
 343-D Main Street • 526-4035

Closed all  
 Wed. and  
 Sun. Dinner  
 11a-3:30p  
 &  
 5:30-til?  
 www.wildthymegourmet.com

**WOLFGANG'S**  
 RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO  
*Taste the difference. Always fresh.*

Closed January  
**Opening Feb. 15**  
 Bistro opens at 4p  
 Dinner begins at 5:30p

474 Main Street  
 828.526.3807 | wolfgangs.net

**DAVID  
 BOCK  
 BUILDERS**

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240

**Deborah "Bee" Gleeson**  
 404.307.1415  
 BeeGlee4@Gmail.com  
 and  
**Pat Gleeson**  
 828.782.0472  
 PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.

*Every home ...  
 has a story.  
 Let us tell yours.*

**CHRISTIE'S**  
 INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE  
 — HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com  
 210 North Fifth Street,  
 Highlands, NC 28731

**OTV** ...on the Verandah  
 Restaurant  
 on Lake Sequoyah  
 828-526-2338

*42 Years of Fine Dining*

Closed until  
 mid-March

www.ontheverandah.com



**M'CULLEY'S**  
**CASHMERE**  
*Scotland's Best Knitwear*

Open 7 days a week  
 526-4407  
 242 S. 4th St. & Pop up  
 on Main Street