

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 20, Number 10

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

Thurs., March 9, 2023

## 9 1/2 hour power outage affects Highlands and Cashiers

When the power went out Friday, March 3, the rumble of generators could be heard everywhere.

With the impending storm approaching from the west, Macon County Schools were dismissed early – 12:30p for Franklin schools and 1p for Highlands. Debilitating winds were forecasted and trees did fall in the

• See **POWER** page 15

## Ultimately, the fate of HS soccer field is up to the MC B of C

By Brittney Lofthouse

Last May, the Highlands School Lady Highlander varsity girls' soccer team made history after beating Elkin High School 5-2 — becoming the first and only girls' team to make it to the third round of the NCHSAA State Playoffs. Now, a year later — the future of soccer at Highlands School is uncertain as ongoing field issues could prevent a 2023 season from happening at all.

The Highlands Soccer teams have experienced substantial hurdles over the last two seasons due

• See **SOCCER** page 18

### It sure looks like Spring!



Red buds, daffodils and forsythia are the first signs of Spring.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

### • INSIDE THIS ISSUE •

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## Medicaid Expansion could be final in North Carolina as early as next week

By Brittney Lofthouse

Republican leadership in the North Carolina General Assembly called a press conference early last Thursday morning to announce that after months of negotiations, House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate Leader Phil Berger had reached a deal that would expand Medicaid to nearly 600,000 people across North Carolina.

During last week's press conference, Speaker Moore said that the agreement reached in the state legislature will allow North Carolina, at no cost to state government, to give health insurance to hundreds of thousands of the state's working poor. Because of that, along with \$1.8 billion the federal government has offered North Carolina if expansion passes, GOP leaders have shifted their support to being pro-expansion after more than a decade of even

refusing to discuss the possibility. North Carolina is one of only 11 states that had yet to expand Medicaid.

"This is a momentous agreement that will directly improve the health and well-being of 600,000 North Carolinians," North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement released last week. "We applaud the efforts by the General Assembly to move this forward. Medicaid expansion will be transformative for access to health care in rural areas, for better mental health and for veterans, working adults and their families. For these people, today's agreement is life changing."

Following last Thursday's announcement, an amendment to the House's Medicaid Expansion bill was calendared for the Sen-

• See **MEDICAID** page 16

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Power outages and electric power

Last Friday afternoon, in anticipation of bad weather, I was in Town Hall monitoring the weather situation with our Town Manager and Public Works Director. Problems started around 1:00 p.m. with the total loss of power across the town.

After about 20 minutes into the outage, Lamar and his staff discovered the problem was with a major Duke transmission line coming from the Thorpe Power Plant located near Cullowhee and Lake Glenville. The Town of Highlands does not generate its own power. Power is bought wholesale from Duke Energy. If there is a problem on Duke Power's generation and transmission side, Highlands can be out of power until Duke crews correct the problem.

So, Lamar, Josh, and I remained in Town Hall in communication with Duke officials. They kept us updated on the power outage that affected the entire Highlands and Cashiers area. With the rain and winds increasing from a rapidly approaching front, Lamar became concerned that our crews would not know whether our electric grid was also damaged.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

Around 9 pm, Duke technicians attempted to reconnect power to our grid. There was a brief flicker of light before the effort failed. Duke linemen had to troubleshoot and test their system again to determine the source of the problem. Later in the evening, around 10:30 p.m., Duke was able to restore power to Highlands. Miraculously, our local grid remained in tack during the storm.

Some folks have asked me who was at fault for the power loss, and my response is Mother Nature. Lamar Nix reminds me all the time that we do not live in a normal utility service area and that keeping power on in the mountainous region of the Highlands Plateau can be a considerable challenge. The town has made improvements over the years to reduce the frequency of outages, but still, communication and power systems can be shut down by Mother Nature in an instant.

Thursday, March 9, is the annual town budget retreat to be held at the Highlands Community Building. The staff will present reports to the Town Board concerning budget needs for the coming fiscal year. Lamar will propose a year-long study by an electrical engineering firm to study and evaluate the town's electrical grid. We will need to follow up this study with upgrades to our electrical system in the next several years.

With the national and state efforts to embrace green energy initiatives, upgrading our power grid will be essential. The goal is to transition to electric vehicles and move away from relying on gas to heat homes and to rely on electric heat. These changes will require a huge expansion of electric generating complicity and the building a stronger electric grid. Major challenges lie ahead. "Rome was not built in a day," nor will these electricity demands have an immediate solution.

Like so many others, I can bash Duke Energy with a litany of their failings; and some town residents may criticize our electric system as well. But, when the power goes off, we all just want to know how fast workers can get it restored. To paraphrase the old Robert Palmer song, "we might as well face it, we are addicted to love," and electric power is that. In times like last week, it can be a love-and-hate relationship.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



"OK just a warning. So what brings you to Highlands."

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 9-Mar	Fri, 10-Mar	Sat, 11-Mar	Sun, 12-Mar
48°F 40°F	55°F 31°F	49°F 34°F	38°F 35°F
Cloudy	A little morning rain; cloudy	Times of clouds and sun	Colder with periods of rain
RealFeel® High: 49° Low 38°	RealFeel® High: 51° Low: 38°	RealFeel® High 46° Low 24°	RealFeel® High 36° Low 31°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

## Material facts

In North Carolina, quite a bit of time is spent covering material facts in both pre and post licensing as well as in the continuing education we are required to take every year. Because of the amount of time spent discussing this you might think that a material fact only involves the brokers, when in reality, it is much more complicated and involves all parties involved in real estate transactions.

A material fact is defined by the NC Real Estate Commission as “any fact that could affect a reasonable person’s decision to buy, sell or lease real property is considered a material fact and must be disclosed by a broker to the parties in the transaction and any interested third parties regardless of the agency role within the transaction”. That’s a lot to digest, so let’s first start with a few descriptions. Yes, I have had several unreasonable clients, but I think the general meaning is that the person is of sound mind. The broker could be a buyer’s



**Carl Romberg**  
Landmark Realty

agent, listing or seller’s agent, leasing agent or a dual agent, representing both the parties of a transaction. The parties of a transaction would be the buyer, seller, lessor and lessee. Any interested third party would be considered any potential buyer or lessee. Most often this involves buyers and sellers of real property which is primarily what I am discussing.

Brokers are subject to disciplinary action if they make any willful or negligent misrepresentation, omission and/or failure to disclose material facts to all parties in a transaction. In 2020-2021, 47% of the complaints to the NCREC were based on the failure to disclose material facts. Of those complaints, 30% were attributed to structural issues and items that showed on previous home inspections. Other major items included: stated square footage; lots, subdivisions and roads; permits; sewage/septic and water; as well as other material facts. The complaints were based on the fact the broker knew of the fact and it wasn’t disclosed, either by oversight or on purpose.

There are four types of material facts:

- 1) Facts about the property itself like structure, flooding, systems and roof leaks.
- 2) Facts relating directly to the property like covenants, zoning and adjacent property.
- 3) Facts affecting a principal’s ability to complete the transaction such as a loan denial for the buyer or title issue for the seller.
- 4) Facts known of special importance to a party such as the buyer intends to do a short-term rental or wants to raise chickens.

A material fact can be categorized as something that is known to exist; something that the broker reasonably knows and should further investigate; or something that is common knowledge. These categories cover a wide swath of items, data and knowledge. Some examples would be an obvious addition that probably wasn’t permitted or an article in the newspaper about an upcoming zoning change. It’s important that the broker is competent in three areas – geographic knowledge, market activity

• See **INVESTING** page 15



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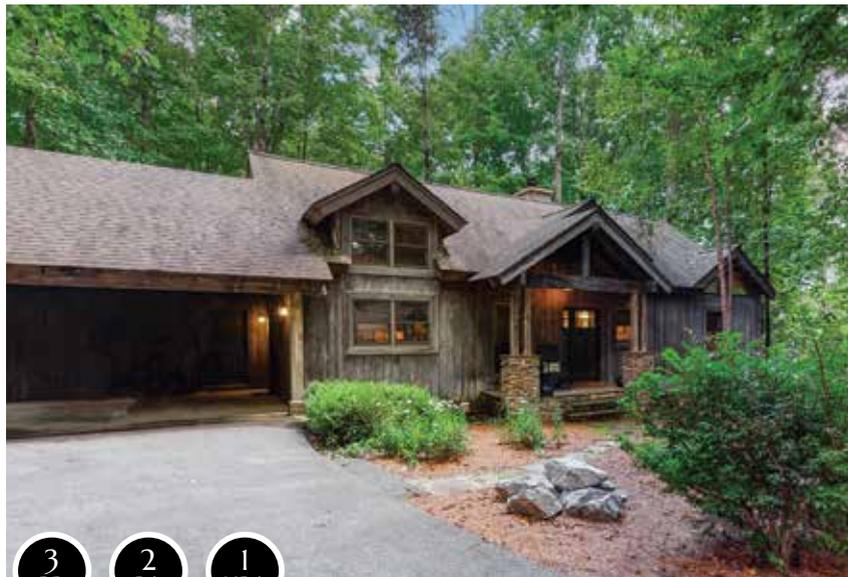
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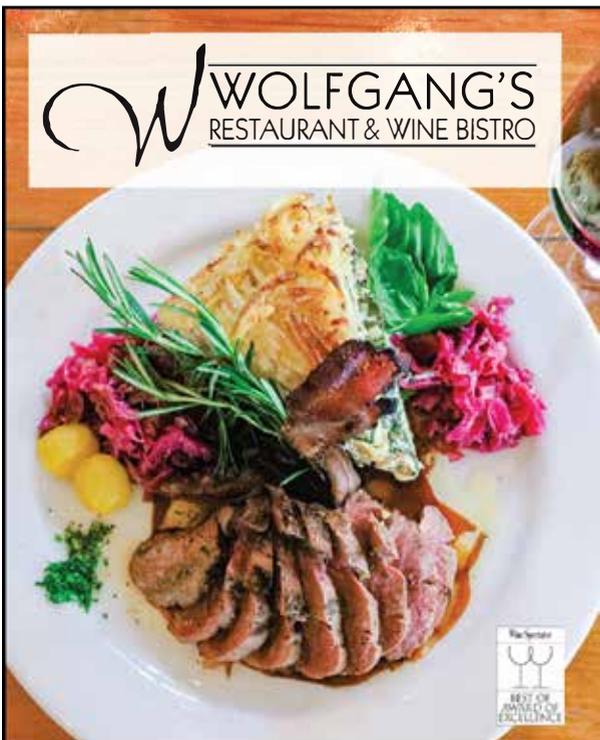
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# • OBITUARIES •

## William Vaughn Billingsley

William Vaughn Billingsley, 84, of Rabun Gap, GA, departed this world for a better place on March 6, 2023 in the early morning hours. Born and raised in Scaly Mountain, NC, his daddy taught him how to work hard and how to love the Lord. He kept that stout work ethic right up until he passed away.

He was well known in the community. He, his wife Lillie, and girls worked hard to build Billingsley's Nursery and Landscaping. He loved to farm and to see his crops and babies grow.

During his years running the nursery, Vaughn sold and shipped trees all over the country. He was even able to patent an oak leaf hydrangea and named it after his wife, the Vaughn's Lillie. In recent years, he enjoyed growing tomatoes and corn and selling his produce at the flea market and talking to anyone who would stop long enough to listen. He stayed on the road and went fishing and hunting every chance he got. Vaughn stayed busy and tried to keep everybody else busy, too, if he could.

Vaughn is preceded in death by his parents, William Franklin "Dub" and Dollie Brown Billingsley, his devoted wife of 55 years, Lillie Savannah Stancil Billingsley, and his grandson, Jackson Vaughn Cabe. He was glad to be reunited with them in glory when he went home.



He is survived by his siblings, Barbara McClure (Jimmy), Jack Billingsley (Shorty), and Darrell Billingsley (Susie), his children, Robin Billingsley, Tammy Kilby (Mack), Sheila McClain (Dean), Holly Cabe (Brian), and Steve Hicks, his grandchildren, Kasie Campbell (Clay), Savannah Kilby (Chad) Scarlett "Peaches" McCall (Weston), Billy McClain (Chelsea), Katie McClain (Travis), and Woody Cabe. He is also survived by five great-grandchildren, Weston and Sutton McClain, Elliot and Elizabeth McCall, and Lillie Campbell. He will be missed by his fishing buddy, Jason Owens, and his

trusted friend, Aurelio Guerrero.

The funeral service was held Wednesday March 8, 2023 at Beck Funeral Home Chapel at 11:00 AM, with Rev. Cale Stancil officiating. Interment will follow at Scaly Mountain Methodist Cemetery.

In Lieu of flowers donations can be made in Vaughn's memory to St. Jude 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105 or No Wrong Done for Support and Recovery 102 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at [www.beckfuneralhome.com](http://www.beckfuneralhome.com).

## Christine McCall Wilson

Christine McCall Wilson, 92, of Highlands passed away at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center Sunday, March 5, 2023 after a period of declining health.

Christine was born August 8, 1931, to the late Rev. Jim McCall and Dovie Moss McCall. She spent her youth in the Franklin, NC area and her adult life in Thompson, Georgia, where she worked in the Restaurant Hospitality industry be-

fore returning to Highlands to spend her retirement years.

She was of the Baptist faith. Her hobbies included Stock Car Racing, reading, and riding her golf cart.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband Robert Wilson, brother; James Shirley McCall, and niece; Mary Ann Houston Clayton. She is survived by sister, Margie Houston and brother, Richard (Freda) McCall, niece; Cathy (Gary) Hoffman, nephews, Jeffery (Debbie) McCall, and Jason (Sarah) McCall.

A funeral service will be held Friday, March 10 at 2 p.m. at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Franklin with visitation at 1 p.m. Burial will be in Sugar Fork Cemetery.

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Wilson family.

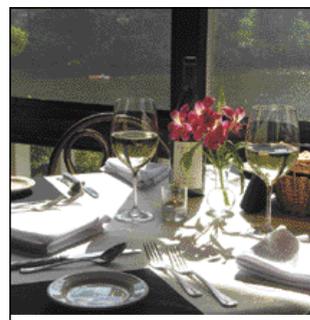
## John K. & Nancy E. Morgan Keitt

Graveside services for John K. and Nancy E. Morgan Keitt will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 11, 2023 at Highlands Memorial Park. All family and friends are invited. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored such a great family.



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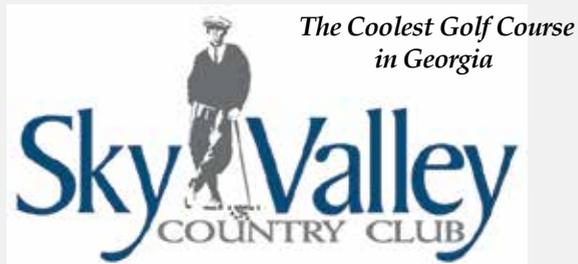
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## ALL ABOUT BOOKS

### • INK PENN •

#### Two Canadian authors

I didn't plan it this way, but the last two books I read were by Canadian authors. One a new novelist, the other an old hand. My reading selection is governed by the availability of books at the library. I don't visit there and peruse the shelves. Instead, I log on to the website and search for the books on my never-ending TBR list. That list is populated with books that sound interesting based on reviews I've seen in the paper or online. If the library has it, I put it on hold.



Kathy Manos Penn

Sometimes, they're bestsellers and I wind up as number 85 or something higher on the waitlist, meaning it could be months before I get the wonderful email that says, "Come get your book." Other times, it seems I'm the only one looking for a particular book, and it comes available almost immediately.

Though "The Maid" and "A World of Curiosities" are both bestsellers, they came in pretty quickly and in the same week, and I devoured them both.

#### The Maid

by Nita Prose

The protagonist, Molly Gray, is a twenty-five-year-old who struggles with social skills. Through the years, her grandmother has been her guide in understanding and reading the intentions of others. Molly doesn't always know when she's being made fun of or misled, and when her grandmother dies, life becomes more difficult for her.

A maid at a prestigious hotel, she is good at her job and appreciated by her manager, but not necessarily by her co-workers. She finds herself in a pickle when a guest dies in one of her rooms. The red herrings and clues abound in this puzzler. Who is out to get Molly? Who is on her side? Will her social missteps do her in?

This mystery is well-plotted and the

main character is endearing, all the things I love in a good book.

#### A World of Curiosities

by Louise Penny

As is always the case with a Louise Penny mystery, I couldn't put this one down. Inspector Gamache is back in the village of Three Pines surrounded by

family and friends and soon, of course, a crime, or perhaps several.

I found this installment in the long-running series to be much darker than the previous ones, though none of them are by any means light. Perhaps this one is more disturbing because it reveals more about Armand Gamache, his early life and early cases, and the toll that those cases have taken on him. The mystery moves between the case that brought Gamache and his son-in-law Jean-Guy together and their current life as co-workers and family. Though that case is in the past, it inserts itself into the present day.

This is a book about evil. Can someone be born evil? If so, can they ever change? What is a psychopath? What toll does evil take on the men and women who must deal with it as they seek to solve cases and put killers behind bars?

Once again, Louise Penny does a masterful job of portraying the evil that is found in our world and the impact it has. After this one, though, I may need a palate cleanser, something a bit more light-hearted. Please drop me a line if you have a recommendation.

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

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• **BIZ/ORG NEWS** •



From left: Bob Baxter, Highlands Rotary; Todd Doster, Macon County EMS Coordinator; Ryan Gearhart, Chief, Highlands Fire Department; Chris Wilkes, President

**Rotary Club of Highlands is updated on the Fire Department and Macon County EMS Goals**

Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart and Macon County EMS Coordinator Todd Doster recently reviewed current achievements and future goals of their departments for the Rotary Club of Highlands. The new Fire Station was the highlight of Chief Gearhart's presentation, which featured a Power Point photo tour of the facility. The Chief emphasized that the goal for the station's architectural plan is to serve not only present needs but sixty years into the future. The building includes plenty of room for fire trucks, a gym, kitchen and pantries to serve three shifts, a training room, 5 bunk rooms, lounge and office space.

Presently the Fire Department is staffed by 30 people: two paid and 28 dedicated volunteers. The Department's service goal is to reduce response time by increasing the paid staff to 8 people. This will allow for 6 people(2/shift with 3 shifts) to work 24 hour shifts. There will be 4 people during the day (8-4) and two people at night. The Department will continue to depend heavily on volunteer firefighters to augment its paid staff.

In 2022 Highlands Fire Department answered 683 calls, 48% of which were medical calls, so a close working relationship

with the Macon County EMS is critical.

Highlands Fire & Rescue works hand in hand with Macon Co EMS on a variety of calls. MCEMS is also dispatched on most wrecks, rescues, and all structure fires (for both victims and firefighter rehab).

Todd Doster is the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator for the three Macon County Centers – located in Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala. Macon County EMS is a public department budgeted for 41 full-time employees and 21 part-time employees who cover a service area of 517 square miles. EMS responded to a total of 7,328 calls in 2022, 647 of these in our Highlands district. Our EMS is a Paramedic level service that operates five ambulances and provides both Advanced Life Support (ALS) and convalescent service to residents and visitors of Macon County.

Macon County's EMS goals, like the Fire Department's goals, are to lower response times while protecting the lives of residents and tourists in its service area. Rotarians expressed their admiration and thanks for volunteers and staff of both organizations.

- Jane Jerry

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

*Orchard Session*

with **Mike Kinnebrew**

*purchase tickets*



at **THE FARM**

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



## Baumgarten and Issacs present Program to Mountaintop Rotary

As part of Rotary International's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Mountaintop Rotarians were recently treated to a wonderful program by Kwiyoung Kim Baumgarten and Cal Issacs, senior Human Resources Manager at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Rotarians believe that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing its vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. Mountaintop Rotary's DEI Chair Jennifer Cambrook introduced the program.

Baumgarten came here with her parents from Korea decades ago. Her parents were a minister and a nurse who wanted a better life for their children. Her thoughtful presentation included how she and her family were treated after they arrived in the United States - both positively and negatively.

Issacs discussed how brains can be easily programmed, and how this programming takes over our speech. He gave several examples and, much to the amazement of the audience, actually did some elementary programming of brains at the meeting.

## WHOLE LIFE MARKET

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Upstairs and Across the  
Walkway at Falls on Main  
Highlands



**Rhythm of the Dance**

The National Dance Company of Ireland

Friday, March 24 | 7:30 pm



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Highlands Performing Arts Center  
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For Tickets and Information  
[HighlandsPerformingArts.com](http://HighlandsPerformingArts.com)

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## THE POOL IS OPEN

### Rec Pool Hours EXTENDED

• **Public Swim:** Mon.-Wed. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p; Sun. 1-6p. **Adult Swim:** Mon.-Wed. 11a-3:30p and Thurs. and Fri., 11a-2p. **Lap Swim:** Mon-Fri 6a-9:45a and Sat. 10-11a. **Water Aerobics:** Mon.-Fri. 10-11a. 828-526-1595.

### 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. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

### Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

### Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

### Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

### Mon. & Wed.

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

### Mon, Wed, Fri

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

• Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

### Tues. & Thurs.

• New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

### First Wednesdays

Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational se-

ries on adult mental health, at 11:00 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them. The February 1 program is PTSD: Healing the Emotional Wound.

### Wednesdays

• 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)

### 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, 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.

### 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.

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

### Through May 31

• The Fontana Regional Library system, including Hudson Library in Highlands, is starting an Active Audio Challenge that will run from March 1st through May 31st. Participants who listen to 25 hours of audiobooks, while being active, will receive a prize. Some examples of activity include walking, running, gardening, cooking, cleaning, and much more. Participants will be feeding both the body and mind with this Challenge. To register for the Challenge, come by Hudson Library and pick up the logbook used to record entries. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.

### Thurs., March 9

• Chamber Chats at the Highlands

Community Building on Poplar Street from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Light breakfast with coffee and tea. To RSVP contact Colleen Kerrigan at [businessservices@highlands-chamber.org](mailto:businessservices@highlands-chamber.org) or call 828-526-5841.

### Sat., March 11

• Highlands American Legion Post 370 will host the American Legion District 25 meeting this Saturday, March 11. District 25 includes Posts in Franklin, Silva, Haysville, Brevard, Highlands and Waynesville. The meeting will be at the First Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Community room/909 Chapel. Lunch at 12 with the meeting following at 1 o'clock. Post 370 officers are asked to arrive at the church at 11 to help set up the community center. All American Legion officers and members are welcome and encouraged to attend this district meeting.

• Mystery Book Club meeting at Shakespeare & Co., in Village Square at 2 p.m. Cathy Pickens, the Carolinas' Queen of Crime and Shakespeare & Co.'s writer-in-residence will host the meeting. Refreshments by The Secret Garden. **Sun.**

### March 12

• David LaMotte at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, at 2:30 at 89 Sierra Drive, Franklin. Suggested donation \$20, \$15 with advance reservation at [robby.concerts@gmail.com](mailto:robby.concerts@gmail.com). Pay at the door. Coffee and snacks sold during the break. Vaccination & masks required.

• USAF Heritage of America Band Performs in Franklin, on Sunday, stand up and cheer! The US Air Force Heritage of America Band will perform a free concert on Sunday at 3 pm, in the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The 40+ member concert band of professional Airman-musicians from Langley Air Force Base, VA, plays great orchestral classics, marches, Broadway hits, jazz standards, movie music, and patriotic favorites. At every performance, the Band honors our American military veterans.

### Tues. & Wed., March 14 & 15

• At PAC, Youth Theatre presents Madagascar Jr. A Musical Adventure at 7 p.m. It's FREE but please "purchase" tickets so we know how many people are coming.

### Wed. March 15

• 30th Anniversary Celebration of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 2-5 p.m. with the ceremony in the cafeteria at 4p. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by Wednesday, March 8 to [Jean.MacLeod@HCAHealthcare.com](mailto:Jean.MacLeod@HCAHealthcare.com). Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is at 190 Hospital Drive in Highlands.

## Salon Series continues at the Highlander Mountain House March 24



Join us at HMH on Friday, March 24, 8:30-10:30 pm for a Salon Series featuring Daniel Tashian, arguably one of the most dynamic singer-songwriters in the world. A native of Nashville, he has spent his career in Music City honing his craft with the best of the best, writing and producing for a long list of impressive artists. Tickets are \$25.

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## Fri.-Sat., March 17 - 18

• Celebrate St. Paddy's Day, including Irish dishes in Madison's Restaurant and Irish pints & cocktails in Hummingbird Lounge. Complimentary Irish festivities in Hummingbird Lounge for guests and the public include: • The "Battle of the Barrels" Scotch, Bourbon, and Japanese and Irish Whiskey Tasting Friday and Saturday from 4 - 5 pm • Irish Hors D'oeuvres Friday and Saturday Evenings from 5:30 - 7 pm • Irish After-Dinner Sweets Friday and Saturday Evenings from 10 - 11 pm. Overnight Guests at Old Edwards Inn: let the shenanigans begin and chase your pot o' gold at the Irish Coffee Making Experience Saturday at 11 am. Book overnight stays at <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/old-edwards-inn-spa#/booking/step-1>

## Fri., March 17

• The 2023 Macon County Republican Party Convention and Precinct Meetings will be held Friday, at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin. All Macon County voters registered Republican as of January 31, 2023, are invited to participate. There will be a reception for Century Club members at 5 p.m., delegate registration opens at 5:30 and closes at 6:30 when the convention opens. The business of the convention includes the election of officers for precincts and for the county GOP, and voting for the Plan of Organization, which is posted on [maconcop.com](http://maconcop.com). There will be a merchandise clearance sale and opportunity to meet candidates. [maconrepublicans@gmail.com](mailto:maconrepublicans@gmail.com).

## Sat.-Sun., March 18-19

• Julia Tatum Banner of Delta Grind Grits and Half-Mile Farm Chef Jason Tardo will present a Shrimp & Grits experience with a special tasting and hosted Social Hour including complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Breakfast each day will feature Delta Grind's delicious products. Social Hour Saturday from 5-6 pm featuring grits from Julia's Delta Grind, in Water Valley, Mississippi, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music from 5 - 8 pm. Craft beverages available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern. Breakfast Saturday & Sunday from 8-10:30 am prepared by Half-Mile Farm Chef Jason Tardo, featuring Delta Grind's delicious, 100% natural, stone ground grits with Julia on hand to mingle. Grits Tasting and Presentation Saturday from 4-5 pm Julia's famous Shrimp & Grits in the Woodland View Room. Vegetarian options are available. Hosted events are for Half-Mile Farm guests only. Book your stay at

<https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking/step-1>

## Fri., March 24

• At PAC, Rhythm of the Dance. For tickets, email [highlandspacnc@gmail.com](mailto:highlandspacnc@gmail.com)  
• Join us at HMH on Friday, 8:30-10:30 pm for a Salon Series featuring Daniel Tashian, arguably one of the most dynamic singer-songwriters in the world. A native of Nashville, he has spent his career in Music City honing his craft with the best of the best, writing and producing for a long list of impressive artists. Tickets are \$25.

## Sun., March 26

• Bowl for Kid's Sake from either 11a-1p or 1-3p local churches and civic groups can have fun while also supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters. The event for Jackson, Macon and Swain counties is at the Galaxy Lanes in Sylva.

## Wed., March 29

• To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war the local American Legion Post will hold an event recognizing this milestone on March 29 in Highlands. Details will be published in the local newspapers, the Post 370 Facebook and webpage <http://www.amerlegionpost370nc.org/>. Area Vietnam veterans and veteran's families interested in adding their names to the list of other local Vietnam veterans can email their service information to [nc-post370@gmail.com](mailto:nc-post370@gmail.com) or mail that information to American Legion Post 370, PO Box 406, Highlands, NC 28741

## Fri.-Sun., April 7-9

• At Half-Mile Farm an Easter Celebration and Hosted Weekend at Half-Mile Farm with Chef Craig Richards. Stay at Half-Mile Farm for a grown-up Easter weekend. The Weekends Events: Friday, Fresh Pasta demo and tasting with Executive Chef Craig Richards in the Woodland View Room from 5-6 pm during Social Hour with additional complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music until 8 pm. Craft beverages are available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern. Saturday, Special Breakfast Creations from 8-10:30 am. Social Hour from 5-6 pm will feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and live music from 5-8 pm. Craft beverages are available from the J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern. Grown-up Easter Egg Hunt (outside weather permitting) from 4-6 pm with prizes including J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern cocktails Half-Mile Farm merchandise, an overnight stay, and more! Hosted events are for Half-Mile Farm guests only. To book your stay <https://www.oldedwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking/step-1>

## Thurs., April 20

• OEI's Orchard Serioes. 6 - 8 pm Celebrate the beauty of springtime in Highlands with the return of the live concert series - Orchard Sessions. Settle into comfortable seating and relax under heirloom apple trees as a stellar lineup of musicians fill the mountain air. In the magical surroundings of The Orchard, enjoy light bites, a cash bar, and an enchanting eve-

ning. The sessions kick off Thursday with the return of Atlanta native Mike Kinnebrew. The Orchard Sessions are held at The Farm at Old Edwards at 336 Arnold Road in Highlands. Tickets are \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simplenetix.com/e/mike-kinnebrew-orchard-sessions-at-the-far-tickets-124433>

## Local kids to benefit from 'Bowl For Kids' Sake 2023



Cashiers Pin-up Girls bowling last year for the cause.

It's that time of year again – Bowl For Kids' Sake, happening in March 26 to raise important funds for the mentoring programs coordinated by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina. Teams should start the new year by getting organized to have some fun and, at the same time, provide support to local youth.

Money raised during this annual event helps community children by enabling BBBSWNC staff to recruit and vet prospective "Bigs" who commit to being a steadfast presence in the child's life for at least a year. Supported by professional BBBS staff locally in each of the 18 Western North Carolina counties that BBBSWNC serves, these matches have shown that they improve a child's success in school and in life.

The theme of this year's Bowl For Kids' Sake – Once Upon A Time – reflects BBBSWNC's commitment to improving its Littles' reading skills. BBBSWNC is enlisting literacy partners locally to make books and reading more available to Littles here at home. The literacy initiative is meant in part to help local children make up ground they lost during the pandemic.

Plus, reading is fun!

As in former years, Bowl For Kids' Sake invites bowlers to raise money and create or join a team online (bowlers are already registering at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/bfks2023/>). Bowlers are asked to raise at least \$50 each from their friends, family members and co-workers, so that the four- to five-member teams raise at least \$250. Bowlers will bowl for two hours (shoe rental is included) while having a blast. There will be door prizes and contests. Costumes are encouraged (in keeping with the "Once Upon A Time" theme, bowlers can consider their favorite book characters for inspiration).

BBBSWNC's goal this year is to raise \$100,000 to further its mission to create and support mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. The place to register and learn more about Bowl For Kids' Sake is <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/bfks2023/>.

Bowl For Kids' Sake Buncombe County: Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Sky Lanes, Asheville. For more, contact Jamye Davis, BBBSWNC vice president of programming, at [jamyed@bbbswnc.org](mailto:jamyed@bbbswnc.org), 828-253-1470.

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• **LETTERS** •

**Why care?**

Dear Editor,  
 What are the treasures of the Highlands Plateau and can we do anything to keep them special?

I suppose one answer is, don't know, don't care. Or, I just bought into it as a business deal and really have never stuck around.

For many years, visitors have come up here to enjoy the cool and often cold mountain air, especially those from the hotter states.

I find that we are getting warmer. Trees are mowed down and being replaced by asphalt. It seems that is happening a lot which heats up the air. Air conditioning, which was rare 30 years ago, now stays on 24/7 in the summer months and those units also warm the air. Not to mention the leaf blowers. (Do you know that leaves harbor small mountain creatures during the winter?)

Many of us came to Highlands because the water was

pollution free and delicious. On hikes we could drink water out of multiple springs. The water is not as pure and not any different now from water in large cities.

In the past 20 or so years we have only run out of water once in my memory but the consumption is so great now that it's only a matter of time before it either happens again or we have to take measures.

And the sewer lines are stressed to the maximum. No telling how long it will take and how expensive it will be to replace the oldest ones which are not accustomed to such heavy use.

We have just built a large and most impressive fire station. However, with the enormous houses which now cover our mountains, will its equipment be able to handle massive fires?

No one has to care. Think about it though. Do we really have to waste water and heat? Do we have to be in such a hurry? Those speed limit signs used to be about right – but now 60 is the new 30.

This disregard seems to be the new attitude.

What has happened to our sense of wonder? You finally reach a place you travel to get to and where is our sense of relief and joy? Here we are miles from responsibilities, free to hike and meet our friends and walk around and shop and picnic or just lie around and read. It is all easy and cool and fresh. We have reached a place to enjoy the differentness, a unique opportunity to relax and unwind.

A lot of what has happened in Highlands is good. There are jobs in the winter – but over twice as many people need food at the Food Pantry. There are opportunities for advancement – but as the same time everything is so much more expensive.

When is it enough? Just enough. Maybe we need to stop wasting and start realizing we could easily kill the goose that laid the golden egg if we aren't careful.

**Glenda Bell  
Highlands**

**One thing that I thought would never change!**

Dear Editor,

I read an announcement today that the Mobile Press Register News Paper was ending operation. If you would have asked me as a youngster growing up in Mobile the one thing that would be around forever, I would have said the newspaper. I remember my grandfather would get up at 5AM and walk out and get the paper. God forbid if the paper boy was fifteen minutes late. Also growing up in Mobile my parents would have the morning paper delivered, and my father would buy the evening addition from a street paper boy on the way home. We are talking about the Mobile Press Register closing after its origination in 1821.

Possibility many of you may have been or remember paper boys. My cousin was a paper boy and often I would either help or

fill in to run his route. That meant loading up the papers on your bike and throwing the paper rain or shine seven days a week. Oh, collections also was also the responsibility of the paper boy.

We are very fortunate to have our two weekly newspapers covering Highlands. They do a great job keeping Highlands informed. They have distribution either through the mail or newsstands around town and the internet so they are not dependent on paper boys. I love our newspapers, and it is fantastic to hold the paper and read it with my morning coffee.

In today's world the only thing that is not changing is change itself. When I was in college, I had a great job working for Pepsi Cola-Dr Pepper bottling company with a route they added for the increased summer demand. One hundred percent of

the sales were in returnable bottles. No plastic or canned drinks. The toughest part of the job was gathering the empty bottles at the store before the store operator would place an order.

I mention the hugely significant event of discontinuing a 200-year-old newspaper, and the lighter issue of the lost paper boy and no more returnable soft drink bottles, to illustrate how the world is changing. Hopefully Mobile has a Historical Society that has archives and a museum that exhibits and preserves and promotes its rich history for present and future generations. Fortunately, Highlands past leadership created a great small town historical museum and today's HHS board is focused on keeping Highlands history alive.

**Harry McDonald  
Highlands**

## ...INVESTING continued from page 4

and industry standards in order to disclose material facts.

It is a listing broker's duty to discover all information about the property prior to marketing it. This would include if it is in a flood zone, within town limits, subject to zoning or HOA covenants, researching the septic system, etc. They must also look at the property for any obvious signs of material facts like foundation cracks, rot, additions or renovations that may not have been permitted. It is not required for the broker to crawl through attics and crawl spaces but to ask questions and look for red flags that may require further investigation. The homeowner must complete the Residential Property and Owners Association Disclosure and can choose to check "no representation" on any item, however, if the broker knows there to be a defect it must be disclosed, even if the owner

requests that it not be disclosed.

It is a buyers agent's duty to discover and disclose items that the listing agent may have overlooked as well as anything that might be specific to the buyer's needs. Part of this process includes the confirming how the property was advertised (in the MLS) as well as inspections with any discrepancies found to be reported to the listing agent. Inspection reports are confidential, however a material fact identified in a home inspection prepared for the buyer must be disclosed to the listing agent even if the inspection itself is not shared. Most sellers are unaware of this, but once the listing agent knows of something, it must be disclosed, or investigated with a professional opinion that the inspection was incorrect. Even if this occurs, it is best to disclose the potential defect along with the opinion of the professional.

Upon review, it isn't surpris-

ing that 47% of the complaints are related to material facts. No matter the size of the transaction, it is important to research and disclose all material facts up front, or as soon as they are discovered. It impacts all parties of the transaction and if something isn't disclosed, or found to be known and intentionally not disclosed, parties may end up in litigation. It's also important to keep in mind that when a transaction is occurring without the use of a licensed broker, that material facts may not be disclosed to buyers or a specific need might be overlooked. Also, just because you use a licensed broker, if they are not familiar with the area, a material fact could be overlooked.

Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or [carl@landmarkrg.com](mailto:carl@landmarkrg.com).



# A 'Diva' wearing Diva's!

  
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 24 E. MAIN ST. - FRANKLIN, NC  
 828.369.7300

## ...POWER continued from page 1

storm's wake on Walnut Creek and in Cullowhee which is what caused the power to go out across Highlands and Cashiers from about 1 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

When a tree fell on a major Duke transmission line coming from the Thorpe Power Plant located near Cullowhee and Lake Glenville, Highlands and Cashiers went black.

Though such widespread power outages don't happen often, when it does, many in Highlands wonder if a company other than Duke could do better or should Highlands become self-sufficient?

Currently, the town doesn't generate its own power. Highlands buys its power wholesale and resells it to citizens.

At this point the town buys power from Duke Energy, so if there is a problem on Duke's generation and transmission side, Highlands can be out of power until Duke crews correct the problem. Such would be the case with any wholesale supplier.

"Short of building a multi-

million-dollar generating plant, we have to rely on Duke or another supplier like Georgia Power," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

In recent years, there has been talk about resurrecting Highlands' hydro-electric plant below Lake Sequoyah on the Cullasaja River.

"That would be a multi-million-dollar effort, too, with big environmental impact questions," said Mayor Taylor. "The best a hydro-plant like that could do would be to produce about 1 megawatt. The town currently uses 10 to 14 megawatts on a given day."

Public Works Director Lamar Nix said the town's electric grid was not affected by the storm.

"But, Duke transmission is the only connection to the town's grid so no matter who the town buys power from, the town is still at the mercy of the weather even far outside our grid," he said.

According to Duke, 43,583 people were affected by the power outage on Friday.

- Kim Lewicki

## Highlands Mercantile is OPEN!



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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Buckely joins Creative Concepts



**Lauren Buckely**

Lauren Buckely, a stylist with more than five years experience, has joined Creative Concepts on Main Street at Falls on Main.

Buckely is master certified in Bellami professional hair extensions.

She is also versed and experienced with five methods - volume wefts, hand-tied wefts, tape-ins, K-tips, I-Tips - which allows her to custom-fit the method to each head of hair and each lifestyle.

She also enjoys working with dimensional color as well as natural color.

To make an appointment, call Creative Concepts at 828-526-3939 They are open at 9a Tues.-Sat.

## THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



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**bobhenritze@gmail.com**  
**www.firewoodcompany.net**

## ...LETTERS continued from page 14

### Canceling the Highlands Pre-K project is bad business

Dear Editor,

I would request that the Macon County Commissioners reconsider the recent decision not to pursue the Highlands Pre-K project. This project was initiated by the previous Commission and approximately \$36,000 has been spent to study and prepare a schematic design.

Additionally, the Commission previously agreed to allocate a total of \$329,000 for the design phases of the project. I understand the need to be good stewards of taxpayer's dollars but this is a critical project that will benefit working class families of Macon County for years to come.

Highlands is a unique town with unique requirements for continued success. Highlands' businesses generate significant tax revenues that benefit all of Macon County. It is these businesses that require numerous employees who reside in Franklin and other parts of Macon County and surrounding counties. The need for additional childcare for these employees' children has been growing with

approximately 60 kids on waiting lists for childcare and Pre-K.

Of the approximate \$12,000,000 in sales tax revenue received by Macon County each year, Highlands' businesses generate a significant amount of this revenue. However, the small number of year-round residents only use a small amount of these funds to meet their needs. Additionally, Highlands' properties generate approximately 50% or more of the \$33,000,000 in property tax revenue, but the approximate 3,500 year-round residents only need a small portion of this revenue to meet their needs. The proposed Highlands Pre-K is a significant need for Highlands working class families as well as families who work in Highlands but live in Franklin.

When considering the need for additional revenue for important projects like Highlands Pre-K, it is important to note that Macon County voters rejected a 1/4 percent increase in sales tax which would bring us in line with all of

the surrounding counties. This slight increase would have generated a minimum of \$1.5 million annually and could have been used for important projects like the Highlands Pre-K and other important school and county infrastructure projects. Maybe the Commission could consider putting this issue on the next ballot due to the admitted shortfall in current revenue to address critical county infrastructure projects.

Allowing the Highlands Pre-K project to move forward in light of the approval by the Macon County Commission on November 8, 2022, will ensure this project is shovel ready when full funding is available. I would respectfully request that Macon County

Commissioners reallocate the \$329,000 previously approved for the Highlands Pre-K to allow this project to come to fruition before it is too late for the kids and families it aims to serve.

**Jerry Moore**  
**Highlands**

## ...MEDICAID continued from page 1



**Sen. Kevin Corbin chairing the health committee where expansion passed Tuesday, March 7.**

ate's Health Committee on Tuesday afternoon – and according to North Carolina Senator Kevin Corbin, who chair's that committee – will move through the rest of the committees throughout the week.

As long as the legislation makes it through committees this week, the bill would be headed for a full vote by the Senate as early as

next Tuesday. From there, the bill would head back to the house for concurrence, the last hurdle needed before heading to the Governor's desk for his signature.

Governor Cooper released a statement regarding the announcement of a deal last week – and while supportive, said he would still need to review specific

items and would also like to see the measure implemented immediately rather than along with the budget, which is supported by Senate and House leaders.

“An agreement by legislative leaders to expand Medicaid in North Carolina is a monumental step that will save lives and I commend the hard work that got us here,” said Gov. Cooper. “Since we all agree this is the right thing to do, we should make it effective now to make sure we leverage the money that will save our rural hospitals and invest in mental health. I look forward to reviewing the details of the bill.”

The negotiated bill includes amendments to the bill passed last month in the House of Representatives and will include revisions to the state's certificate of need laws, the driving force that regulates how much healthcare facilities can expand and other operational aspects.

# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation names new board leadership for 2023

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) announced that the Executive Committee of its Board of Directors has elected Dr. Barbara Bloomer Corcoran as Board Chair. She succeeds Dr. Walter Clark who, after serving as Board Chair since the inception of the Health Foundation in 2019, has transitioned to the role of Retired Chair. Dr. Corcoran had served in the position of Vice Chair since 2019.

"It has been a great honor to have served as Chair of the Health Foundation Board of Directors," said Dr. Clark. "I am incredibly proud of our accomplishments beginning with the transition from the Hospital Foundation to the Health Foundation in 2019. We have helped over 70 organizations through grants and thousands of people through programs ranging from COVID vaccination clinics, adding primary care providers to our community, expanding mental health awareness and resources, and so much more. I am confident in our future and in Barbara's leadership as we continue to grow and expand the impact of the Health Foundation."

"It is a great honor to be named Chair of the Board of Directors of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation," said Dr. Corcoran. "We all deeply respect and appreciate Dr. Clark's leadership; he set a high bar for me and for future Chairs. The strength of this Foundation is the diverse and impressive expertise of its directors, community advisors, and staff. I look forward to bringing strong, positive leadership to this already skilled group."

Elected to the role of Vice Chair will be Dr. Patricia Morse. Dr. Morse currently serves as a professor in the Department of Social Work at Western Carolina University and has served on the Health Foundation Board of Directors since September 2019. Also serving as board officers are Secretary Barrett K. Hawks and Treasurer Jerry Moore. In addition to the officers, the 2023 Board of Directors includes Ghislaine Austin Belcak, Christopher J. Byrd, Stephanie Edwards, Dr. Richard Elin, Dr. Jerry Hayes, Harriet Karro, and George T. Manning.

"This is a significant time in the history of our Foundation," said Robin Tindall, CEO and Executive Director. "Our Board of Directors is exceptionally engaged in serving our Foundation purpose to improve health and well-being throughout our communities. I am deeply grateful to Walter for his vision, passion, and dedication during the time he served as Board Chair. Equally, I am excited about what the future holds under Barbara's leadership. She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and strategic vision and I look forward to working with her in the Board Chair role."

I know I speak for everyone at the Foundation in saying how grateful we are for the incredible generosity of our unique Plateau communities," continued Dr. Corcoran. "I look forward to working with all of you to continue to advance our mission of lifting health and well-being, together!"

## Again, Highlands is named a 'Best Small town for Shopping' in USA Today 10BEST Readers' Choice Travel Awards Contest

Highlands is a winner in the 2023 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice travel award contest for "Best Small Town for Shopping." After four weeks of online voting, Highlands placed fifth among the towns nominated nationwide.

Highlands was nominated by a panel of relevant experts which include a combination of editors from USA TODAY; editors from 10Best.com; relevant expert contributors; and sources for both these media and other Gannett properties.

The contest allowed voters to select the winner, allowing one online vote each day until voting closed on February 20. The top ten winners in the "Best Small Town for Shopping" are as follows:

1. Ocean Springs, Mississippi
2. Rhinebeck, New York
3. Cape May, New Jersey
4. Chagrin Falls, Ohio
5. Highlands, North Carolina
6. Taos, New Mexico

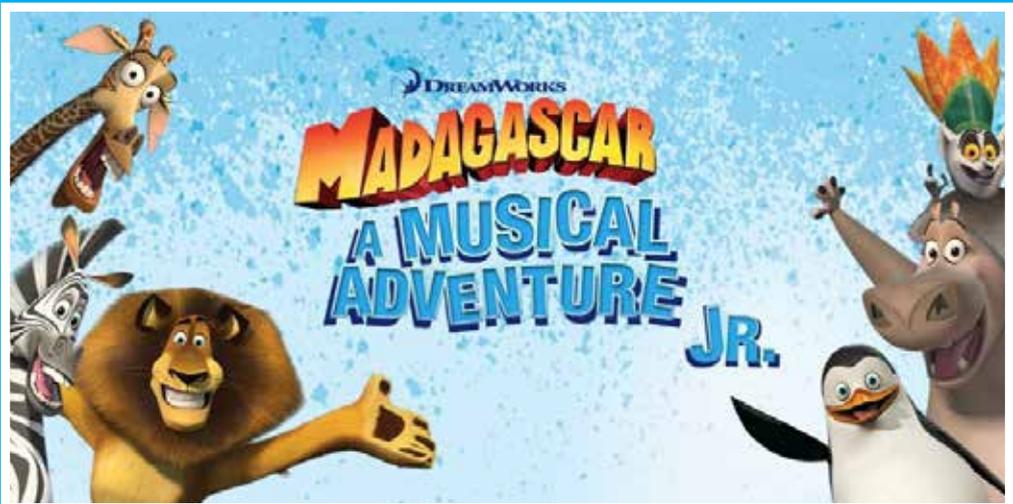
7. Ashland, Oregon
8. Bath, Maine
9. Fairhope, Alabama
10. Northfield, Minnesota

"The picturesque Main Street in the small North Carolina town of Highlands is a shopper's paradise stocking a little of everything – sportswear, gift items, European and American antiques, home decor and accessories, fine art and kitchen gear," reads the description on the 10Best website.

"We are pleased by the continued recognition of Highlands by USA TODAY and its readers," says Kaye McHan, executive director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "Our local community and businesses take great pride in the shopping experience for our residents and visitors alike. The recognition proves their continued efforts to offer unique, quality items and a warm friendly atmosphere have paid off."




Highlands School



**Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14 & 15, 2023**  
**7pm**  
**Tickets are FREE but please log on to Reserve your Seat**  
[www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com](http://www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com)



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# ...SOCCER continued from page

# 1

to the field being in such a state of disrepair that conditions were unsafe for games to be held. The men's team in the Fall battles rains and a frozen ground preventing play and the girls' team in the Spring faces unpredictable rainfalls and late season snow possibilities.

Officials have skirted around environmental problems on the field since its inaugural season in the Spring of 2009. Not only a field for soccer teams to compete, but the area adjacent to Highlands School also serves the students as a location for outdoor recreation and classes. With record rainfall this past year, the field was not able to drain in between rain and games, preventing the field from being used by the mens team.

In October, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to solicit bids for the Highlands Soccer field turf resurfacing project, with Commissioner Paul Higdon voting against the measure.

"At the direction of the commissioners, MCS put an artificial turf project for Highlands Soccer field out to bid in December," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "Additionally, MCS is in communication with engineers and architects with the goal of determining if the site can be improved to allow for a natural surface to remain."

Todd Gibbs informed the board of education during the February meeting that February 28 was the deadline to receive bids for the Highlands soccer field project and that two firms had expressed interest in the project and developing the field into a turf surface to address the draining issues.

Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove said that he wanted to be sure that turf was the best move forward and not just the avenue the district was going because no other companies bid on the project.

Highlands representative Hilary Wilkes requested a volunteer committee to head up work to explore the viability of turf and working with a site engineer to determine the feasibility of moving forward. Wilkes said she would like to see the project completed by this fall in attempt to prevent another fall season from being impacted by the field conditions.

The bids for the project or plan to address the issues now have to be presented to the county commissioners for consideration. It will be up to commissioners to decide whether or not they will fund any repairs or renovation to the soccer field.

According to Baldwin, the district received one bid for \$873,658 by the deadline. However, with only one bid, the county will be required to put it out for his once more. If no other bids are received, the \$883,658 will be sent to commissioners for consideration, hopefully at the March or April meeting.

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUE VALLEY 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

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717

www.christanglicancashiers.com

9:30am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship Service. Mon. Night

Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am. S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

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

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

Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

### 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 Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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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 a.m. Choir: 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.: noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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schedules of activities both virtual and in-person.

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

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

## • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •



From left: Ed Saidla, Kilwins Highlands Team Member; Kostas Ioannidis, Regional Director; Cathrin Emberson, Assistant Manager; Savannah Emberson; Clark de Bullet, General Manager; Ashley Clark, Owner; Talulabelle Clark; Landon Clark, Owner and Chris Wilkes, Rotary Club of Highlands President, celebrate Kilwins Sponsorship of Rotary activities with a new Sponsorship decal on the front door.

### Rotary Club of Highlands recognizes sponsors with 2023-2024 Sponsorship Decals

The Rotary Club of Highlands recently launched a new program to recognize its Sponsors: decals for placement on front doors or windows of its sponsors.

“Rotary’s efforts would not be possible without the generosity of our community,” Rotary President Wilkes said. “The decals acknowledge and thank our donors for their participation.”

Kilwins Highlands Owners Landon and Ashley Clark said they are happy to join other generous merchants and individu-

als by giving to the Sponsorship Program. “I know Rotary helps our community in many different ways and this is a significant way for us to leverage our contribution dollars.”

President Elect Dave O’Harra noted that “the Sponsorship Program provides seed money to help the Club meet unexpected needs in times of natural disasters and unforeseen emergencies as well as grant funding for many of our local non-profit organizations.”

Over the last year Sponsor-

ship funds from the Rotary Club of Highlands have provided assistance to a medical clinic in Ukraine, rushed water and emergency supplies to tornado victims in Kentucky and Alabama, and helped local families recover from devastating injuries and home loss caused by fires.

The deadline for inclusion as a 2023 Rotary Club of Highlands Sponsor is March 31, 2023. For more information, please contact Dave O’Harra at [oharradc@com-cast.net](mailto:oharradc@com-cast.net)

### Rotary students for February

The Rotary Club of Highlands celebrated “Students of the Month” from Highlands School at the meeting on February 21. Recognized were Rylee Bryson (Elementary), Charlotte Westendorf (Middle School) and Riley Conner (High School).



**Highlands Police entries from Feb. 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

#### Feb. 23

- At 8:17 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Mirror Lake Road and US 64 west.

- At 7:55 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Hicks and Flat Mountain roads.

#### The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 2.

##### March 2

- At 10:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

##### March 3

- At 9:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Skyline Lodge.

- At 1:01 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on NC 106.

- At 10:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Cullasaja Country Club.

#### March 4

- At 12:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 east.

- At 2:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 west.

- At 7:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Persimmon Lodge Road.

#### March 6

- At 5:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sun Ridge road.

- At 6:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence at Highlands Mountain Club.

- At 8:07 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a location on Blue Valley Road.

### Bounty from Harris Lake



On Saturday, Stephen Pierson, Timmy McDowell and Hudson Tilley bagged eight trout from Harris Lake. Mayor Pat Taylor told the boys to “catch them all!” “We want them gone before the lake water gets warm,” he said.

- Photo by Rachel Lewicki



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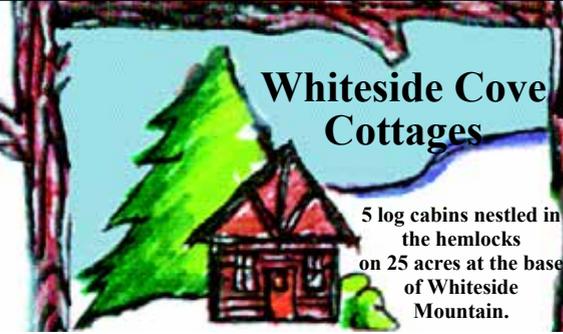
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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

## LOST

**LOST JAN. 29, 2020** - 2 gold bangle bracelets - one thin and one wider. Reward offered. Contact Carol Haughes at 706-982-2658.

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## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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**HOTWIRE COMUNICATIONS IS HIRING!** LOCAL Highlands opportunities. FULL-TIME, year-round, customer facing, Field Service Technicians & Fiber Splicer jobs available. Excellent pay & benefits. Forward your resume to samantha.baker@hotwirecommunication.com. (st. 9/15)

**SWEETREATS AND HIGHLANDS DELI IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT** and is hiring full and part time staff for the season. Competitive starting wage, great tips, and reasonable hours (not too early, not too late). Pick up an application in store at 115 S. 4th Street or apply on Sweettreatshighlands.com. (st. 5/19)

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility currently hiring CNAs and Dietary Staff. Flexible Schedule, Competitive Pay, Great Atmosphere. Call 828-526-5251 or stop by for an application. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

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**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.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Last year's winners.

**Mission now accepting applications for Kesha Young Scholarship**  
**Anyone in our surrounding 18 WNC counties can apply.**  
**Deadline is April 14**

Mission Health is accepting applications from throughout the community for the Kesha Young Health Careers Scholarship, with the aim of supporting the education goals for high school seniors and college students of color from Western North Carolina who are pursuing careers in healthcare.

For more than 25 years, Mission Health has been awarding the Kesha Young Health Careers Scholarship, with more than \$1 million given to make college more affordable for high school seniors and college students of color from Western North Carolina who are pursuing careers in healthcare. The scholarship is named in honor of Kesha Young, a 22-year-old, bi-racial woman who was born with mental and physical disabilities and underwent multiple surgeries at Mission Hospital. Kesha died just months before she was scheduled to earn her high school diploma. Despite her health struggles, Kesha was described

by her adoptive parents as embodying the characteristics that are vital to how healthcare team members engage with patients, families and visitors, with a strong spirit, warm smile and positive encouragement.

At Mission Health, we recognize that having a diverse workforce, especially in healthcare, is very important to provide the best possible care to our patients and communities. This is integral to who we are as a company. Our mission statement is based around recognizing and affirming the unique and intrinsic worth of each individual: "Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life."

The completed application, along with all additional materials, must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 14th, 2023 for consideration. Recipients will be notified in early May and invited to a reception at Mission Hospital on Wednesday June 7th.

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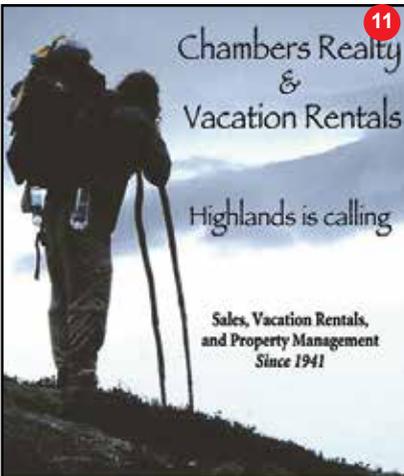
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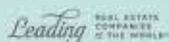


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