

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Feb. 15, 2023

BOC votes to move forward with Highlands Renovation project as part of 5-year Capitol Improvement Plan

By Brittney Lofthouse

In a decisive 5-0 vote, the commissioners have given the green light to proceed with negotiations for a construction manager at risk contract with Vannoy Construction for the Highlands School project.

This project, which combines the Highlands Middle

School renovations and the Pre-K/Media Center endeavor, comes with a budget of \$5,491,772. Of this sum, \$4,660,931 is allocated for the cost of work and escalation, while the remaining \$830,841 is designated for professional fees, owner/site contingency, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and instructional technology.

Commissioner John Shearl, who has been a vocal opponent of the Highlands School project has changed his stance and has even began advocating for the project and the need for Pre-K space for the 70 kids in the Highlands area.

The county has already secured \$902,187 in N.C. Repair and

• See HIGHLANDS page 8



From left: Seniors with family members, Mackenzie Woods, Annamaria Silverthorn, JD Head, Landon Green, Harrison Gates, Brooke Fogarty and Olivia Cole. See more photos on page 14.

Highlands School seniors and more recognized Tuesday night at home

Tuesday night, was Highlands School Senior Night as well as Cancer Awareness Night and the night the school and commu-

nity recognized law enforcement, firefighters, first-responders and EMS. Between the girls and boys games against Nantahala the senior

basketball players and cheerleaders were recognized.

Highlands Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity beat Nantahala.

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Man reported missing found deceased

Emergency personnel spent the weekend searching remote areas of Highlands after a seasonal resident from Alabama was reported missing from his Highlands home on Whetstone Drive on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

The disappearance sparked a widespread search effort involving multiple emergency services and volunteers.

Sadly, Sunday evening, it was reported that the missing man had been found by family members deceased in a wooded area in the Glen Falls vicinity close to his home.

The family of the deceased expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Highlands Fire Department, Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Fire Department, Cowee Fire Department, Cashiers Glenville Fire Department, Rabun County Fire Station 8, Glenville-Cashiers High Angle Team, Macon County Sheriff's Office, Highlands Police Department, South Carolina Search and Rescue team (K9 teams),

USFS Law Enforcement, Macon County Squad 4, and all volunteers and community members who assisted in the search.

Sheriff Brent Holbrooks commended the efforts of the emergency services, stating, "The Highlands Fire Department did an outstanding job alongside all the other emergency services. Macon County Sheriff's Office would also like to thank the community for their interest and concern for finding the Highlands resident."

In respect for the family's privacy during this difficult time, no names have been released, and authorities have confirmed that no foul play is suspected.

Highlands Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart extended his condolences on behalf of Highlands Fire & Rescue and all agencies involved. He expressed gratitude for the professionalism displayed during the search and acknowledged the community's support

• See MISSING page 10



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Rundown for tonight's Town Board meeting at the Rec Park

Thursday night, February 15, the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners will meet at the Highlands Recreation Center. The proceedings can also be accessed by a YouTube link, which is located on the town website. The monthly town workshop will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by the official business meeting at 7 pm.

The main item for the workshop will be round table discussion with business leaders concerning how the town can better support the business community. I encourage anyone interested in the topic to come and participate in the discussion. If there is time remaining the board will review several follow-up items concerning noise and equipment operations and eligibility qualifications for folks serving on town commit-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

tees and boards.

The agenda for the business meeting at seven is full. The board will hear a conditional zoning request from Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in reference to the new sanctuary being planned. This request has been reviewed by both the zoning and planning boards. The Town Board will make the final decision on this conditional zoning request.

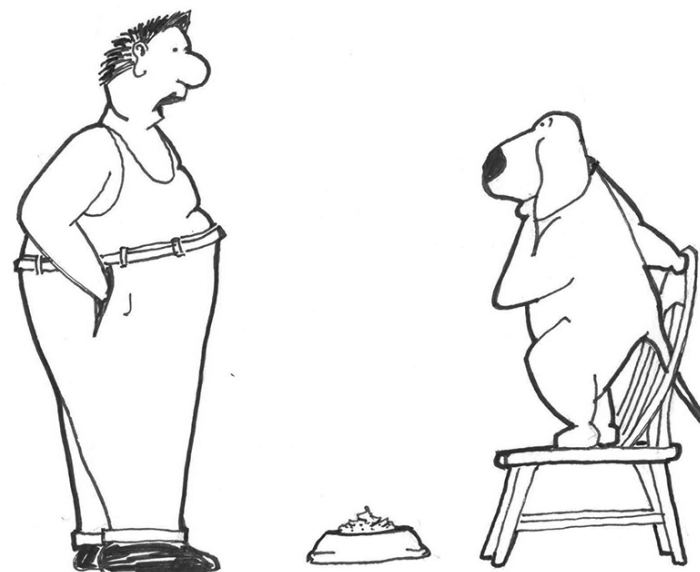
The board will also hear proposals for two amendments to the unified development ordinance. One amendment is a definition of commercial, public and civic building constructions. The second amendment concerns street paving requirements for subdivision roads.

The board will also hear requests for two grant submittals. One grant is for knotweed eradication, the other is for the construction of a major, new playground at the recreation department. The board must endorse these two grant proposals before they can be submitted.

An update on project bids for utility pole replacements will be marked by the town IT director, Matt Shuler. Town staff has identified about forty-five poles on the town electric grid that need to be replaced with taller poles. In the past, thirty-five-foot poles were the standard. Now in critical areas, the town needs to install 50-foot poles to carry all the equipment and lines that are being connected, especially by private communication companies. This project is just one in a series of projects designed to upgrade our electric grid.

Requests to take over a private sewer line and replace a scissor lift at the recreation department will also be covered. Hope to see you Thursday evening.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Well you asked what they really put in dog food."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 15-Feb	Fri, 16-Feb	Sat, 17-Feb	Sun, 18-Feb
55°F 39°F	52°F 33°F	43°F 18°F	49°F 24°F
Mostly sunny	Mainly cloudy	Some sun, then turning cloudy	Mostly sunny
RealFeel® High: 55° Low: 33°	RealFeel® High: 51° Low: 36°	RealFeel® High: 41° Low: 28°	RealFeel® High: 51° Low: 17°

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

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Sunday, September 22

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Market conditions and projections

As in past years, I have been researching the last year's market activity and trends. I do this so that I can provide clients with up to date and accurate data, and want to share a brief summary with you. I looked at the entire MLS, which includes some sales that are not on the plateau in areas like Franklin, Sylva, Brevard. I also looked strictly at Highlands data, which outperformed the MLS, and is what these statistics are based on.



Carl Romberg
 Landmark Realty

The number of new listings was up 8%, but the number of closed sales was down 5%. The median and average sales price were both up 16% and the closed sales volume was up 10%. In summary, what this shows is that there were fewer sales (actually only 11 fewer) but the prices were substantially higher, thus the increase in dollar volume. Compared those with numbers to national statistics, which had sales down 19% and median price only up 2.1%. There are several reasons the US was down: high mortgage rates, low inventory, and with prices are still being high. Because of that, many buyers and sellers stayed on the sidelines.

Obviously, buyers and sellers didn't stay on the sidelines in Highlands. Inventory is still very low as compared to 2019 and 2020, but we are seeing some indications of a change. The percent of list price received was down 1.6%; the average days on market up 12%; the months' supply of inventory up 22%, and the available inventory up 16%.

I am sure that the high mortgage rates may have kept some buyers from pulling the trigger in Highlands, but most buyers here don't have to have a mortgage. Many of the current listings are properties that previously sold between 2020 and 2022, with sellers trying to take the equity that they gained with the price increases the past few years. However, we are seeing many of those homes come on the market at prices that are much higher than what they are worth, and buyers are not falling for it. With all the apps, buyers can see exactly what a house previously sold for and many times look at the photos and see that there haven't been any improvements made since the last sale. There have been a few properties that

sold more than once during that 3-year period which is somewhat worrisome to buyers. If there are two sellers that made a nice profit, what is the chance that they will also, or are they going to be the buyers that don't make any money?

So, what is in store for 2024? First, I think we are going to continue to see a slight increase in new listings. There will be more sellers who decide

to try to take their gain. The rental market is over saturated and there will be sellers who are not obtaining the income that they projected, or possibly need to keep the property. And, there will be the usual listings due to change of life circumstances, illness, death, divorce, job relocation or family relocation. As one example, I know one couple who are selling because their children and grandchildren relocated to the west coast.

We will continue to have buyers who want to move here full time, as western North Carolina is very desirable area of the country. But we will have buyers for other reasons like becoming empty nesters, or they have finished paying for their children's education and can afford a second home. Retirees will continue buy here and expanding families will need larger homes. Likewise, there will be those that are downsizing and need a smaller home.

I expect prices will continue to increase, but probably not at the double-digit range like the past few years. Although inventory will expand some, there will still be a shortage of inventory. Properties that are in good condition and priced right will continue to sell quickly and those that are overpriced will sit until the price reaches the actual market value.

If you are contemplating selling, it should be noted that 60% of sellers spend at least 3 months preparing their home to sell. Nationwide, April is the prime month for selling, but I would say that June is the prime month to list on the plateau, when the market is in full swing.

• *Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office and a Resort and Second Home Property Specialist (RSPS). Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com.*

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• OBITUARIES •

Georgetta Penland Dixon

Georgetta Penland Dixon, 81 of Cantonment, FL, passed away Thursday, Dec. 8, 2023. Georgetta was born Nov. 2, 1942 in Highlands, NC to James N. Penland and Mozelle Chastain Penland. She married Joe F. Dixon, Aug. 7, 1962 in West Palm Beach, FL. They were happily married for 49 years. Georgetta worked for nearly 30 years for the state of Florida as a benefit recovery specialist.

Georgetta enjoyed spending time with her son Jeff and his wife Melody; her grandchildren Madison, Hudson, and Lillian. She was an avid reader and fan of races at Five Flags speedway and NASCAR racing.

Georgetta is preceded in death by her husband Joe. F. Dixon; mother Mozelle Burrell; stepfather Shirley Burrell; and her father James N. Penland.

She is survived by her son Jeffery S. Dixon and his wife Melody of Tallahassee, FL; grandchildren Jennifer Dixon and Wesley Dixon; great grandchildren Madison, Hudson, and Lillian; sister Elaine Tilson of Highlands, NC and nephew and nieces David, Gabrielle and Jessica.

She will be laid to rest with her husband Joe F. Dixon at Barrancas National Cemetery.

Charles Eugene 'Gene' Moss

Charles Eugene "Gene" Moss Jr., 68, of Atlanta went to be with the Lord on December 30, 2023. He was born on September 6, 1955, in Charlotte, NC to the late Charles and Claudia Moss.

Mr. Moss was a graduate from Georgia Tech and worked in the construction industry as a construction executive. After retirement he moved to Cashiers, NC with his wife Maribeth. He was an avid fly fisherman and loved being in the outdoors. He loved to hike and explore the mountains in Western North Carolina. He was of the Methodist Faith and was a member at Cashiers United Methodist Church.

Charles is survived by his wife of 47 years, Maribeth Moss. In addition, he is survived by one son, Johnathon "Reed" Moss of Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by one son, Charles Eugene Moss III.

A service will be held at a later date, in the spring at Cashiers United Methodist Church.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

• THANKS •

Samaritan's Purse says thanks to the community

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the people of Highlands and Cashiers, Operation Christmas Child had a very successful season in your area. Across the U.S., the Samaritan's Purse project collected 10 million shoebox gifts in 2023. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2023, the ministry is now sending over 11.3

million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes—packed with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items—Highlands and Cashiers area volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across Western North Carolina, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Although local drop off locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 18 – 25, 2024, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Brenda Hackett

• LETTERS •

Is a new Franklin High School really needed?

Dear Editor,

Sometimes it's the "dumb" question that leads to the best answer. I would like to ask a dumb question: Why are we spending so many millions to build a new high school building in Franklin?

Unless the current building is nearing condemnation, I would opine that we would get vastly more bang for our buck by extensive renovations and putting a whole lot of the money into better pay and support for our teachers.

Students do not learn because they are in a pretty building (I admit that if there is no air conditioning, for example, they will suffer), but rather because they have excellent, dedicated, teachers who create excitement in their students.

Teaching is one of the most important and challenging jobs in our society, yet we pay our teachers a pittance, then complain when our children don't meet our expectations.

Take a big chunk of the money we're now planning to give to our local building contractors and double the pay of our teachers and see who applies for teaching jobs here! And see the results we will get in terms of how our children learn and thrive.

I agree that having a track for our students to run on is very nice, but not when many of our teachers have to work a second job to make ends meet.

How can we expect to have the best educational experience for our children if we don't have and support the best teachers and teaching programs?

As long as the physical facilities are safe and comfortable, the emphasis must be on the intellectual resources and our children's brains, not on the physical environment in which we teach them.

Beautiful school buildings do not accomplish educational goals – that depends on our teachers. Recruit the best and pay them well (well enough to actually be able to recruit and adequately support the very best).

Robert E. Wood, PhD MD
Highlands

What is a strong President?

Dear Editor,

I asked myself a question. What do I want in a President? To be "strong"?

In about nine months from now I will have to choose to vote for one of two or more people to become (or, in one case, remain) President of these United States, or to not vote. I could, of course, simply vote based on a political party membership, and not think too hard about the choice. But if I take seriously the question of what I want in that person, some descriptions come to mind. One of those characteristics is "strong." Indeed, we often say we want a President to be strong. What does it mean to me that

• See LETTERS page 8

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...HIGHLANDS continued from page 1

Renovation Lottery funds for the Highlands Middle School segment of the project, albeit it was not explicitly included in the financial presentation.

Macon County Finance Director Lori Hall has outlined a plan for the county to acquire a \$72 million loan to cover both the Highlands School Project and funded needed to complete the construction of a new Franklin High School.

According to Hall, this approach consolidates the financing into a single large loan. Hall emphasized that this strategy would expedite the process, with the bond sale slated for July to ensure funds are available by August 1.

With Franklin High School and Highlands School integrated into the capital improvement plan, Hall underscored the financial advantage of borrowing upfront. By investing the borrowed funds into a capital reserve, the county can accrue interest before making payments.

During the meeting, the Macon County Board of Commissioners also received updates on the financial status of the Franklin High School project. Following deliberations, they voted 3-2 in favor of initiating a request for

qualifications process to secure a construction manager at risk for Franklin High School

According to LS3P, the design firm for the FHS project, the latest estimated cost for the high school stands at \$127,086,271, up nearly \$10 million from the original \$118 million proposal. The cost increase is due to inflation and increased construction costs as well as adding 9,000 square feet to move Bartram Academy to the FHS campus, which was essential in being able to secure the \$62 million loan from the state.

This amount encompasses \$97,608,825 for the new FHS building and demolition of existing structures, \$12,560,217 for the stadium complex, \$4,406,762 for cost escalation, and the remaining \$12,510,467 for professional fees, contingency, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and instructional technology.

To complete both projects, Macon County will leverage the recently approved \$62 million grant from the state, \$20 million of the county's fund balance, and the \$72 million loan.

Commissioner John Shearl said that he has been "bombarded" by people in Macon County who support a new high school,

but oppose a high school being built at the current location. Shearl said he would like to further delay the project and instead place the measure on the ballot for voters to decide in November.

However, with 15 months of delay debating the project, the FHS project has already seen a \$10 million increase while commissioners argue back and forth. Commissioner Danny Antoine said that 100% of the people he has spoken with are in favor of moving forward and don't want to see the project delayed even further.

"These kids need a new school," Antoine said. "I don't see why it needs to be kicked down the road."

Commissioner Paul Higdon agreed with Shearl and said the nine-month period between now and November "isn't that far away" and supported placing it on the ballot. Higdon also began the argument of debating "a new shiny building" and said the board should instead look at the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's annual School Report Card to discuss school grades to see if there are getting a return on their investment in building a new

• See **HIGHLANDS** page 9

...LETTERS continued from page 7

a President is strong enough?

As I begin to write, I realize that this is not about one election. It is about all elections and all the Presidents and candidates to come, whoever they may be. So, I will address those known and unknown individuals directly.

You, who are, or hope to be, President, I want you to be strong enough.

Strong enough to, as a poet wrote,

"Keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you."

Strong enough to remember the difference between justice and revenge.

Strong enough to remember the difference between steadfast and stubborn.

Strong enough, when the law and ambition are at odds, to keep to the law.

Strong enough to listen to the things you do not want to hear.

Strong enough to question the things you do want to hear.

Strong enough to admit when you have made a mistake.

Strong enough to act decisively when necessary and acknowledge the risk when the data is incomplete.

Strong enough to wait to act when possible despite political pressure.

Strong enough to listen to your opponents with respect, and to consider that they might have a point, even if it may not be the point they think they have.

Strong enough to remember

the difference between leadership and domination.

Strong enough to resist the seduction of power, even the legitimate powers you are given.

Strong enough to hold those who serve under you to your own high standards.

I know that is a lot to ask of anybody, of any fallible human mortal, let alone someone charged with the awesome responsibilities, challenges, and powers of the Presidency. All I, or any of us who will have voted for or against you can ask is that you will do your best, and in good faith to honestly keep the promises of your oath of office.

**Robert Wertzler
Franklin**

• INK PENN •

Team building can be murder

Two of my recent reads involved death—or at least the possibility of it—during team-building trips. For a portion of my corporate career, I worked in Personnel and facilitated leadership programs. And, yes, I facilitated team-building events, too. Thank goodness no one ever died.



Kathy Manos Penn

Why did I read two books like this? The answer is that I've been desperately trying to finish writing the latest book in my cozy mystery series and it's set during a conference that includes outdoor team building activities. Because my books usually include a book club meeting where the book that's read that month loosely ties to the plot, these two selections appeared to fit the bill.

For example, book five in my series is set in Tintagel, where King Arthur was allegedly conceived, so the book club selection was "The Once and Future King." For my Christmas book, I chose "Mr. Dickens and his Christmas" as the choice. In search of something to fit the bill for my current book, I stumbled across two that might work.

"Force of Nature" by Jane Harper

As this book opens in the bushland of Australia, five women on a corporate retreat in the wilderness are late to their rendezvous point. They've been camping for several nights. Are they experienced campers? No, but they have maps and food and equipment, and this experience has been set up by an outdoor event company. It's not the norm for a group to be late, nor is it the norm for only four of the five to make it back.

What is the norm, based on my experience, is for tensions to rise. My groups never did overnight trips, but they did spend ½ to a whole day outdoors working through puzzles and problems. One program even had them building a bridge across a small ravine. All of that creates an environment ripe for competition and disagreements over the best solution, even raised voices and arguments.

Is the missing woman dead or injured? You'll have to read the book to find out. The author slowly reveals the backstory of the office relationships and how they spill over into the wilderness, and you'll be on the edge of your seat until the

very end.

I realized as I read this one that I'd also read the first book in the series, but I couldn't remember much about it other than that I enjoyed it. That means "Force of Nature" can easily be read as a standalone.

"Death by Team Building" by Cheri Baker

Given the title, there's no doubt that someone will die in this book. It's just a question of who it will be. Again, the setting is a team building retreat, except this one happens at a remote resort in the Pacific Northwest. The participants are the executive team of a hospital, there to bond and work on goals for the next year. There's also an external consultant and Kat Voyzey, who's there representing the Director of Personnel, who can't make it.

I laughed when I read the tag line, "Group work always bites you in the a__." That was true in ninth grade history class, and just as true in a murder investigation." The dialogue is snappy, and the mystery kept me guessing. As one review says, "The amateur sleuth is smart and funny, which makes this cozy mystery very enjoyable. The setting is very Agatha Christie meets the Pacific Northwest." Like an Agatha Christie mystery, there may not be that many characters, but everyone has a possible motive for doing away with the victim.

The addition of a snowstorm that means the group can't leave and the police can't get to them heightens the suspense. Will a second person die? You never know. This is book three in a four-book series, but I had no problem enjoying it, even though, in this case, I had not read any of the earlier books.

Though both books involve team building, the tones are very different. The second one is a cozy mystery and a bit lighter than the first. The first has federal agents and police working to solve the case. The second is solved by an amateur sleuth. I predict you'll enjoy both.

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

...HIGHLANDS continued from page 8

school based on student performance.

Commissioner Antoine disagreed and defended student scores by pointing out that student learning was interrupted during COVID19 and the school system is still working to combat that loss in instruction.

Despite opposition from his fellow commissioners, Commissioner Shearl made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Higdon to delay the FHS project until November. Shearl's motion failed by a vote of 2-3 and then was followed by the

3-2 vote to move forward.

Both school projects are part of a detailed five-year capital improvement plan, going through the fiscal year 2028-'29, totaling \$180,709,610 presented by Macon County Manager Derek Roland.

A total of \$92,544,912 of the proposed cost for the project would come from utilizing the county's fund balance and taking on debt. A detailed breakdown of the 5-year plan will be featured in next week's edition of the Highlands Newspaper.

Lunch
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands Motoring Festival presented checks to local charities

The 2023 Highlands Motoring Festival® was the most successful in festival history by every measure including financial support to local human needs charities. To commemorate this accomplishment, there was a presentation of the funds to the three human needs charities. Representatives for the Literacy and Learning Center of Highlands, REACH of Macon County, and the Community Care Clinic of Highlands and Cashiers along with HMF volunteers and Town officials were on hand for the official check presentation.

The festival's net proceeds of \$105,000 have been distributed equally between the three charity organizations. Highlands Motoring Festival® is a 501.c3 non-profit and is an all-volunteer team of classic car enthusiasts.

The 16th annual Highlands Motoring Festival® was held on June 8-11, 2023. Amazing collector cars could be seen on town streets during the four-day festival which consisted of two days of driving tours, two evening gatherings, a Main Street parade, and two car shows.

The centerpiece of the motoring festival was Saturday's "Classics in the Park" juried car show that attracted an attendance estimated to be upwards of three thousand people, to view eighty-five classic cars. The motoring festival has grown significantly in stature over the years, not by increasing the number of show cars, which is limited by the capacity of Kelsey Hutchinson Park, but by raising the level of quality of the cars by going to an invitational entry process.

Over 50 volunteers joined the 15-member planning committee to stage the events. The Highlands Motoring Festival® Committee would like to thank the entire Highlands community, including citizens, volunteers, businesses, organizations, and Town officials and staff, without whom none of this would have been possible.

The 17th annual Highlands Motoring Festival® will be on June 6-9, 2024.

Along other classic cars, the featured theme for 2024 will be pre-WWII classics including brass era, American and European cars. Registration is open at: www.HighlandsMotoringFestival.com

2024 HMF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Thursday June 6, 2024

"One Lap of the Mountains-Grande"- Driving Tour 8:30am-4:00pm

Friday June 7, 2024

"One Lap of the Mountains-Special"- Driving Tour 9:30am to 4pm

Main Street Parade of Classic Cars 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Saturday June 8, 2024

"Classics in the Park" Invitational Judged Car Show in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park 9:30am to 4pm

"Celebration Gala" 6pm to 9pm

Sunday June 9, 2024

"High Octane" Social and Car Gathering in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. 8:30am to 11am.

For further details contact: Steve Ham, HMF Communications Director, (828) 526-0598. steveham@dnet.net. www.HighlandsMotoringFestival.com

...MISSING continued from page 1

with food and drinks, stating,

"I would like to offer on behalf of Highlands Fire & Rescue and all the agencies involved, our heartfelt condolences to the family," said Gearhart. "I would to thank each and every agency in-

involved in this search effort for the utmost professionalism displayed during this event. HF&R will forever be indebted to you. Thank you to this beautiful community for the support with food and drinks. It is greatly appreciated."



Representatives of three human needs charities - The Literacy and Learning Center of Highlands, REACH of Macon County, and the Community Care Clinic of Highlands and Cashiers - along with HMF volunteers and Town officials were on hand for the official check presentation Monday morning at the Rec Park.

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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

The finances of Washington and Lincoln

The finances of Presidents Washington and Lincoln, two iconic figures in American history, differed significantly due to the contrasting economic landscapes of their respective times.

President Washington

George Washington, the first President of the United States, assumed office in 1789. At that time, the country was grappling with the aftermath of the Revolutionary War and was burdened with a considerable national debt. Washington's personal finances were also affected by the financial strain of the war. Despite his distinguished military service, he faced challenges in managing his Mount Vernon estate, which had suffered neglect during his years of public service. Washington's decision to forgo a salary during his presidency demonstrated his commitment to the nation's well-being, as he sought to set a precedent for future leaders.

Washington's financial difficulties were further exacerbated by the limitations of the federal government under the Articles of Confederation, which lacked the power to levy taxes. The implementation of a more robust federal government under the new Constitution, with the ability to tax and establish a national bank, helped stabilize the nation's finances over time. However, Washington's presidency primarily focused on establishing the foundations of the new government, and his personal financial situation remained somewhat strained.

President Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln, on the other hand, assumed the presidency during a tumultuous period in American history. Lincoln, who took office in 1861, faced the challenge of preserving the Union amidst conflict and economic upheaval.

Unlike Washington, Lincoln did receive a salary as president, but his financial circumstances were not immune to the strain of the war. The Civil War imposed enormous financial burdens on the government, leading to the introduction of new taxes and the issuance of paper currency.

Lincoln's financial acumen played a crucial role in navigating the economic



Michael P Henderson,
CFP® CKA®
Founder/Wealth Advisor
Crossover Point Advisors

challenges of his time. His administration implemented the first income tax to fund the war effort and established a national banking system. The issuance of the Legal Tender Act in 1862 marked the introduction of the greenback, a fiat currency, as a means to finance the war. Despite the economic challenges, Lincoln's leadership and financial policies played a pivotal role in preserving the Union.

In comparing the finances of Washington and Lincoln, it is evident that both faced unique challenges shaped by the historical context of their presidencies. Washington grappled with the aftermath of the Revolutionary War and the establishment of a new government, while Lincoln confronted the economic turmoil of the Civil War. Their financial legacies, intertwined with their leadership during critical periods in American history, contribute to the enduring significance of both Presidents in shaping the nation's destiny.

• *Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Crossover Point Advisors, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial*

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Highlands School Swim Team does well at 'state'

Steve Hott, Head Coach

HS Varsity Swimming and Diving

On Saturday, February 13, the Highlands Varsity Boys Swim Team travelled to Cary, NC to compete in the State Championship at the Triangle Aquatic Center. Highlands School finished 28th out of 214, 1A/2A schools in the state.

The 200-yard medley relay of Freshman Chase Kenter (Backstroke), Sophomore Aniah McKim (Breaststroke), Freshman Jack Sumner (Butterfly), and Junior Finneaus Garner (Freestyle) dropped 0.87 seconds off of their seed time and finished 13th.

ished 13th.

Finneaus Garner finished 11th in the 50 freestyle and 13th in the 100 Freestyle.

The 200 yard Freestyle Relay of Aniah McKim, Sophomore Conner Hughes, Sophomore Paolo McRae, and Finneaus Garner finished 16th.

With one Junior, four Sophomores (Jesus Mendoza rounds out the team), and two Freshman, next year looks even brighter than this outstanding year.

This culminates the '23-'24 swim season for Highlands School.

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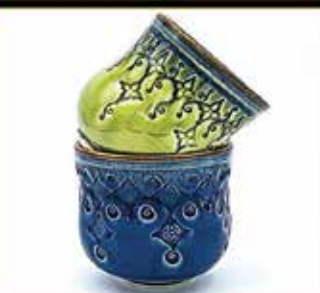


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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SENIOR NIGHT •

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024



Kasen Mitchell and Landon Green



Mallory Shriver

Photos by
Nicole Taylor,
Cayden Pierson and
Claire Worley



JD Head



Law enforcement officers and first responders after being recognized.



Charlotte Westendorf



Highlands Cheerleaders stunting during halftime.



Highlands Basketball, Highlands Cheerleaders, and Nantahala Basketball team in their black out cancer shirts.

• RABUN GAP NACOOCHEE NEWS •

Rabun Gap delights audiences with outstanding winter musical production of 'High School Musical'

By Megan Morris

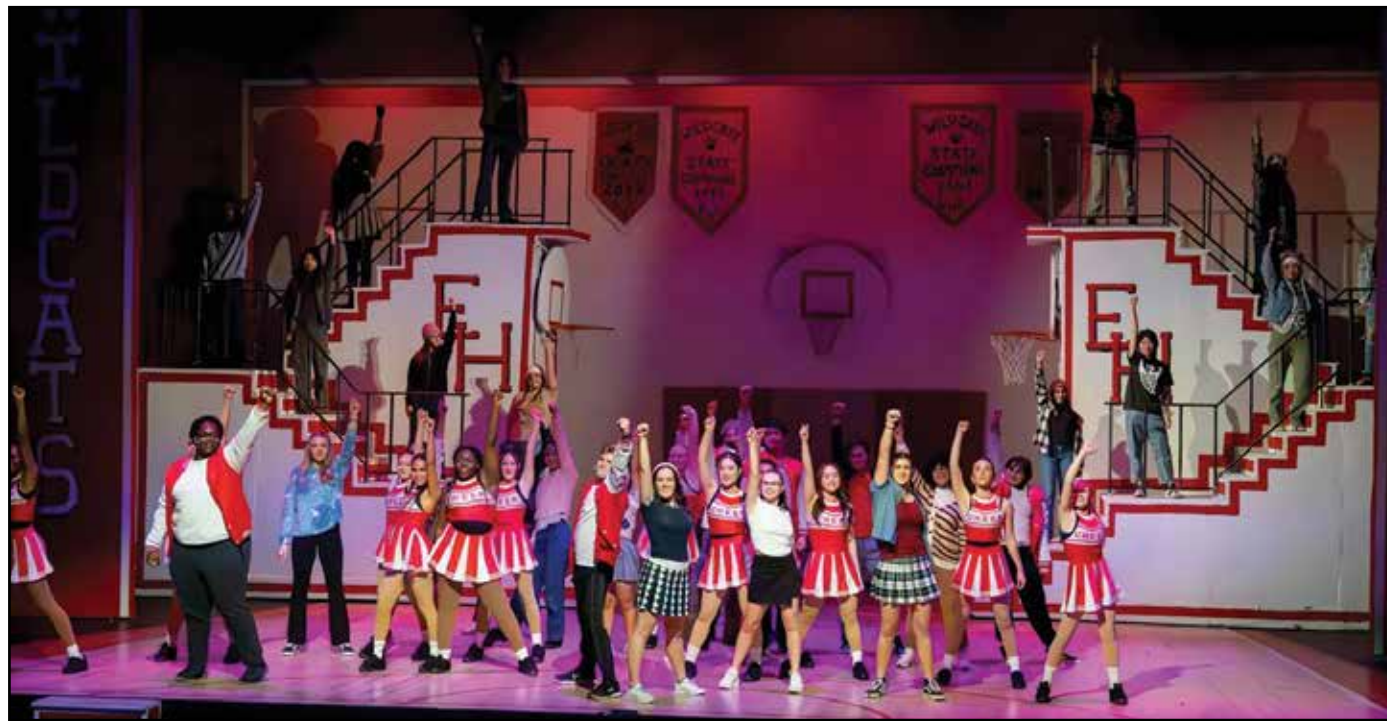
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School brought the magic of Disney's "High School Musical" to the Rearden Stage on February 8-10, wowing audiences with an outstanding performance full of catchy songs, dynamic dance numbers, and a heartwarming message for all ages.

The production featured a talented ensemble cast led by Cyrus Manoogain '24 of Rabun Gap, GA as Troy and Lauren Eubanks '24 of Clayton, GA as Gabriella. Other named leads included McKenna Green '24 of Alvin, TX as Taylor, Tyler Price '24 of Sky Valley, GA as Chad, Edwin Wood '24 of Clarkesville as Ryan, Sophia Moore '24 of Highlands, NC as Sharpay.

Students from Highlands and Cashiers involved in the "High School Musical" cast included Sophia Moore '24 of Highlands as Sharpay, Savanna Jones '25 of Cashiers in the Brainiacs ensemble, and Cameron Abranyi '25 of Highlands in the Jocks ensemble. Crew members from the Highlands area included stage crew member Izzy Edelheit '26 of Scaly Mountain.

Under the direction of Mr. Joshua Miller, Rabun Gap's artistic director, more than 50 Rabun Gap students started preparing for this year's musical in November.

"We are so proud of our students for their hard work and dedication to making 'High School Musical' a resounding success," said Miller. "This production has not only showcased their artistic talents but has



The cast of "High School Musical" at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School performs on the Rearden Stage Feb. 8-10.

also brought our school community together in a celebration of creativity and teamwork."

Ms. Kimmie Gee was the show's choreographer. Ms. Mary Lauren Keeny was music director, and Ms. June Baumann was assistant music director. Mr. Joey Wade led the production team as technical director, with more than 20 students working alongside him to build sets, design sound and lighting, and run technical aspects of the show. Dr. Rachel Chaves was the show's assistant director.

"We are so grateful for the support the community continues to show for our arts program. The success of "High School Musical" stands as a testament to Rabun Gap's vibrant and thriving arts community, and I am incredibly proud of everyone involved," said Head of School Jeff Miles.

A gardeners delight in Clayton, GA

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Mountain Ivy Garden Club is hosting "Pre-lude to Spring: a Garden Symposium," on Tues. March 19 at St. James Episcopal Church, on 260 Warwoman Rd., in Clayton, GA. The event is from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. with registration at 8 a.m. Tickets, which will be sold in advance, are \$50 per person and include lunch. For ticket information contact Bess at 706-491-5577 or visit them on Facebook at Mountain Ivy Garden Club. The day-long event will feature expert speakers, demonstrations and a variety of garden related vendors and activities. Garden presentations will include How To Plant a Cutting Garden by Victoria Carver, Rabun County resident and owner of Firmly Rooted Flower Farm. Tori is well-known for her fresh cut flowers and bouquets, especially her tulips and dahlias.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Mon.-Fri.

• Pickle Ball will be played inside the Recreation Center 10am-1pm for the winter.

NEW POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6-9:45a, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18 years old+, Mon.-Thurs 11a-3:30p and Fri., 11a-1:30p. Public Swim Mon.- Thurs. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ICE RINK SCHEDULE

• Thursdays 3:30-8p; Fridays 3:30-10p and Saturday's 1-10p; Sundays 1-5p.

Week-long meetings

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for

anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the

Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

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

• Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings. For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

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

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. The November 1 program is Dementia: A

Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appointments are required - all are welcome.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside at the Rec Park. 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-6p.

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

2nd & 4th Thursdays

• Hudson Library is hosting a new program for dementia caregivers. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, you are invited to join the Dementia Caregivers Support Group, a welcoming group of people that understand what you are going through. They come together to offer each other support, resources, and a listening ear. Moderators Chris and Fred ensure that the group is a safe place for judgement-free discussion. The next meeting of the Dementia Caregivers Support Group is February 22 at 10:15 AM at Hudson Library. For more information about the group, contact Chris at 772-473-1088.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Learn the proper form and technique to execute jabs, hooks, uppercuts, and front and side roundhouse kicks in a non-contact setting. No martial arts background necessary Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more in-

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2024 SUMMER CAMP

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

formation about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

Saturdays

- Story Ballet - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm.

- Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm.

2nd Saturdays

- The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. thru Nov.

3rd Saturdays

- The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

- At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

Thurs., Feb. 15

- Registration begins for Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp. Pick up and drop off in Cashiers at facility and at Highlands facility on the hospital campus. June 10-Aug. 9. Rising 1st-6th graders. \$200 per camper. Teens (7th-12th grade) Free. For more information, visit BGCplateau.org.

Fri., Feb. 16

- Tinker Time for Tots: Color Recognition. 10 a.m. Free to attend. No registration required. 675 South 4th Street, Highlands, NC. For more information: 828-526-0863. CMiddlebrooks@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org

- Senior Lunch will be Friday, at 12:00 noon at The Faith and Fellowship Hall at the Methodist Church Due to early voting being held in the Meeting Room at the Rec Dept. For any other information call Lester Norris or Janice Mathis at 828-526-3556.

Sat., Feb. 17

- Greenway workers to meet at 9a at

the Rec Park to focus on repairing handrails and support posts as well as some maintenance. Please bring your gloves and loppers. Lunch is at the High Dive, Greenway's treat. Please let Jim Chance know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly. Jim Chance at jamesallenchance@gmail.com

Thurs., Feb. 22

- Green Drinks at Whiteside Brewery in Cashiers 4-6:30 p.m. with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Sat. Feb. 24

- National Theatre Live at PAC featuring Andrew Scott in VANYA at 1 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 28

- Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Walking Wednesday 3:30-5 p.m. through Dixon Woods. No registration necessary. Go to americorps@hcltnc.org with questions.

Fri. & Sat., March 1-2

- PAC Educational Theatre & Highlands School present The Aristocats Kids. For tickets visit www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

Through March 3

- Ice Skating in the Park is opening soon. Thursdays 3:30-8p; Fridays 3:30-10p; Saturdays 1-10p; Sundays 1-5p. \$5 with or without skates.

Mon., March 4

- Highlands Nature Camp registration begins at 10 a.m. Call 828-526-2221.

Fri., March 8

- Great Art on Screen presents The Immortals at 5:30 p.m. This documentary is a journey among the most beautiful archaeological finds Egypt has left us. For tickets visit www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com.

Sat. March 9

- Met Opera at PAC featuring La Forza Del Destino by Verdi at noon. For tickets visit www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

Thurs., March 14

- The guest speaker for NHC's March 14 program is Skye Cahoon where she is Mainspring's Conservation Outreach Associate. She earned her Zoology B.S. from the University of Maine. Bird migration begins March and lasts through June in our state and specifically in the 70 acres of Tessentee Bottomland Preserve. Habitat diversity in the Preserve provides a great place for viewing wildlife; 129 bird species and 56 butterfly species have been sighted. You guessed it: the March program is all

about bird migration and ways migration affects local pristine habitats that we call community. Come join us and learn more about birding and preservation. March 14, 6pm at the Library, Siler Farm Rd, Franklin. All are welcome to participate. <http://www.mainspringconserves.org/>

Fri. & Sat., March 15-16

- PAC Educational Theatre & Highlands School present You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. For tickets visit www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

Tues., March 19

- In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Mountain Ivy Garden Club is hosting "Prelude to Spring: a Garden Symposium," on March 19, 2024, at St. James Episcopal Church, on 260 Warwoman Rd., in Clayton, GA. The event is from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. with registration at 8 a.m. Tickets, which will be sold in advance, are \$50 per person and include lunch. For ticket information contact Bess at 706-491-5577 of visit them on Facebook at Mountain Ivy Garden Club. The day-long event will feature expert speakers, demonstrations and a variety of garden related vendors and activities. Garden presentations will include How To Plant a Cutting Garden by Victoria Carver, Rabun County resident and owner of Firmly Rooted Flower Farm. Tori is well-known for her fresh cut flowers and bouquets, especially her tulips and dahlias.

Fri., April 5

- OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. CHEFs NICOLA FEDELI and CALVISIUS

CAVIAR. Book Online at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/ChefDinners

Fri. April 12

- Great Art on Screen Titian, the empire of color; at PAC at 5:30 p.m. For tickets visit www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

Thurs., April 18

- OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Mike Kinnebrew at The Farm. Indie folk fueled by soulful inspiration. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simplerix.com/e/mike-kinnebrew-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-149347>

Sun., May 5

- OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. CHEF TERRY KOVAL. Book Online at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/ChefDinners

Sat.-Sun., May 11-12

- The 4th annual Bear Shadow will be held again at Winfield Farm in Scaly Mountain. Visit <https://bearshadownc.com/> for information about how to purchase tickets.

Thurs., May 30

- OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Highbeams, a trio of brothers and best friends, Highbeams is Adam Pendlington, Ian Pendlington, and Stephen Quinn. Emotive, high-energy performances and rich three-part harmonies. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simplerix.com/e/highbeams-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-149352>

OEI's Orchard Series begins



OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Mike Kinnebrew is Thursday, April 18 at The Farm. Indie folk fueled by soulful inspiration. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simplerix.com/e/mike-kinnebrew-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-149347>

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



God's Grace Psalm 40:1-5

Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church,
Cashiers

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set me upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth - Praise to our God; many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord."

Psalm 40 opens with this picture of the grace God poured out upon David after he repented of his sin with Bathsheba. This Psalm clearly shows God's grace and thus becomes the voice declaring Jesus Christ to all the world as the Savior. It shows that our salvation is by God's grace as it is carried into this world by Christ alone.

Hebrews 10:5-6, *"In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.'"*

This is a quote from Psalm 40:6-8 showing that it is Christ who forgives sins and that the works of men in offering burnt offerings and sacrifices give God no pleasure. His pleasure comes only from belief in Christ and repentance of sins.

Christ came to earth as the incarnate Son of God. It is Christ, David was waiting for. It is Christ that fully implemented the condescension of God, as He humbled Himself and took on flesh and blood coming in the form of a servant. It is Christ that reached down into the pit and pulled you out. It is Christ that is the rock you were set upon and it is His works that are coming forth from you, as a hymn of praise to God, and it is by those works that God had planned from before the foundation of the world to save you as His chosen child. You had nothing to offer God for your salvation, it was a gift of God's grace alone. God's grace is the foundation of salvation.

It is because of Jesus that grace works in your heart to change, teach, and produce in you assurance of God's love. It is because of Christ that you know how to live with other men. It is His love that teaches you to love your enemies, it is His humility that prepares you to see your need of total dependence on God. It is His sacrifice that educates you so you can watch and wait for His return with joy. It is Christ that is the perfect fulfillment of God's grace, and it is true that without Christ, you can never experience the peace of knowing God's grace, of living in your redemption.

Paul lays this out for you in Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Open your heart and receive this word of God's grace. Accept that Jesus is the sole author of your salvation. He is the giver of God's grace and your faith. He makes it clear

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

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

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

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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.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

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

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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

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Sunday Worship is at 9a & 6p. Wed. Worship is 6p

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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.

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Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Jan. 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Jan. 7

• At 4 p.m., officers received a report of identity fraud at First Bank on Carolina Way
Feb. 5

• At 1:50 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106.

Feb. 7

• At 4:45 p.m., offices received a report of a simple assault of a male at the Gold-n-

Clipper on Main Street when the victim was struck on the left upper arm.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Feb. 5.

Feb. 5

• At 4:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive.

Feb. 6

• At 5:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Franklin Road.

• At 3:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Falling Water Drive.

Feb. 7

• At 9:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Eyebrow Ridge.

Feb. 8

• At 1:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

Feb. 10

• A little past midnight, the dept. began a search from a residence on Whetstone Dr.

• At 1:46 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 4:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Street.

Feb. 11

• At 11:48 a.m., the dept. provided public

assistance at a location on Main Street.

Feb. 12

• At 8:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Franklin Road.

• At 11:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

your salvation is not of works and that you have nothing to boast in. He also shows that any works you do are not from your own thoughts and imaginations but were things prepared in advance by God's grace

for you to do in the name of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 40 paints this picture of God's grace, it is mirrored in the works of Paul from Ephesians 2. Open your hearts to this wonderful message of grace and salvation.

Place your hope and trust in Jesus alone. Won't you turn this very day from your sinful ways and believe on Christ and repent of your sins? Please, let His grace work its fantastic peace in your life.

Discovering the health of our streams

**Submitted
HCLT**

There are six distinct headwaters located on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. All provide homes to aquatic species, larval invertebrates, and clean drinking water to thousands of people. Understanding the quality of our headwaters gives us a glimpse of what the health of our ecosystems looks like.

The plateau is located on the eastern continental divide, making it hydrologically unique. This invisible line follows the Blue Ridge escarpment and bisects countless valleys. What exactly is the eastern continental divide and why is it important? The eastern continental divide determines whether water on this line will eventually make its way to the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico. Water east of the divide will make a long journey and flow into the Atlantic Ocean while western flowing waters will travel into the Mississippi and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. All of that water flows through a lot of land and comes in contact with plenty of elements that determine its quality. That's why being informed of how the water looks at the start of its long journey is so important. To get an up close look at water quality, we can run chemical tests on water samples to get an accurate breakdown of how much (if any) sediment and chemicals are found.

Based out of Black Mountain, Envi-



ronmental Quality Institution (EQI) works with countless counties in Western NC to ensure communities have accurate data as to the health of North Carolina's streams. EQI is a non-profit that was founded by UNC Asheville in 1988. Although EQI is no longer a part of UNC Asheville, they still work together. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) prides itself in protecting the land, people, wild organisms, and waterways of the Plateau. That is why we have decided to partner with EQI to start testing the qual-

ity of the streams that run through our conserved properties.

We recently start sampling the headwaters of Clear Creek at Brushy Face Preserve, one of our public access properties. We seek to understand a baseline level of what different forested waterways in the area may look like. When we sample the water, we'll be looking for pH levels, ammonia, nitrates/nitrites, and phosphorus levels. All of which can help determine the health of the water. This is not a one and done operation, but an on-going process that takes time and lots of data collection. Not only will we have a baseline of our waterway health, we are working on community education events to ensure citizens know why good water quality is important and what we can do to restore or maintain healthy water. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is excited for our partnership with EQI and are looking forward to understanding the health of our waters throughout the plateau.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is a nationally accredited 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve valuable natural resources in and around Cashiers and Highlands for the benefit of our and future generations. We do not receive significant government funding by rather, rely heavily on the support of people in our community like you. To learn how you can help save mountains, visit www.hicashlt.org.



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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)

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SENIOR COUPLE FROM HIGHLANDS SEEKING A YEAR ROUND RENTAL. Will consider neighboring towns in our Western NC area. Please call Lynn Kimball at 828-421-8193. (st. 2/15)

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)

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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...CLASSIFIED
continued from
page 21

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\$10 for 10 words, 30 cents for each were thereafter. \$2 for color \$5 for color photo.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rotary president Dave o'Harra and Bill Grubb.

Rotarians learn about Narcan

Our guest speaker this week at the Rotary Club of Highlands was one of our newest members, Bill Grubb of Noramco. Noramco is a pharmaceutical company that produces the major ingredient for Narcan, a nasal spray medication that be used to treat an opioid overdose in an emergency. Narcan can be purchased over-the -counter and is widely available. One of the effects of opioids is slowed breathing. The active ingredient in Narcan is naloxone. It works by rapidly reversing the effects of opioids such as slowed breathing and can help restore normal breathing. While the number of prescriptions written for opioids has dramatically decreased, overdose deaths have sharply risen primarily due to illicitly manufactured fentanyl. The presence and availability of Narcan can save many lives.



From left: President Dave O'Harra, Carmen White - Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau, Pat Hedden - Executive Director HCCDC and Bonnie Potts - Executive Director The Literacy & Learning Center.

Rotary presents checks to 3 youth organizations

At the meeting held on January 30, the Rotary Club of Highlands presented 3 local youth organizations with checks to help continue their efforts in supporting the youth on the plateau. Recipients of the \$1,600 checks are the Highlands Community Child Development Center, the Literacy and Learning Center and the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau.



From left: Bingo Chair Bob Baxter, Super Bingo winners Donna Lathem, Jan & Pamela Potts, and TLLC Executive Director Bonnie Potts.

Bingo for TL&LC

On February 9th, The Rotary Club of Highlands once again hosted the ever popular Rotary Bingo, partnering with The Literacy & Learning Center in providing pizza and 15 rousing Bingo games, culminating in Super Bingo. The evening drew a roomful of community members at the Highlands Civic Center, with net proceeds from the evening benefiting The Literacy & Learning Center's important work with kids and families on the Plateau.



From left: President Dave O'Harra, Pat Gleason, John Bryant and Thomas Craig.

Rotary get Mirror Lake update

At the meeting held on January 30, the Rotary Club of Highlands had the privilege of hearing from Pat Gleason and John Bryant of RSI- River Sand Incorporated on updates to the planned dredging of Mirror Lake. Rotary host was Thomas Craig. John presented a captivating visual presentation on the equipment and processes used to complete such a project. He also talked about the impacts dredging has on the lakes, land, water quality and environment surrounding them.

February is 'heart' month

Did you know one person dies every 33 seconds in the United States from cardiovascular disease? As we step into February, we didn't just welcome Valentine's Day, staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital also dove headfirst into Heart Month by participating in National Wear Red Day on Feb. 2! Wear Red Day is an initiative pioneered by the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign. Launched in 2004, its primary goal is to raise awareness about heart disease in women. The iconic red dress swiftly emerged as the symbol of this impactful campaign, serving as a powerful emblem for women's heart health. For more, visit Missionhealth.org/heart

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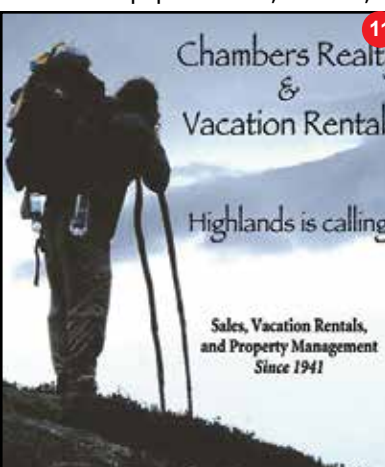
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