

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 4

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Jan. 25, 2024



MC BOE, MC BOC, Rep. Gillespie, Sen. Corbin, Highlands Town Board members and others celebrate receipt of a \$62mm check from NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt for the new Franklin High School.

## MC Schools gets \$62mm for FHS

In a surprise move Tuesday, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt came to Franklin and presented the Macon County School system

with a \$62 million check to get the new Franklin High School off the ground.

"We could not be more excited to award you this grant

and thank you to all of you who worked so hard," she said.

Members of the board of commissioners, the school board,

• See FHS page 4

## MC teachers to get \$500 bonus increase

By Brittney Lofthouse

Macon County Schools (MCS) teachers are in for some good news as they can expect an additional \$1,995.90 in their pockets at the end of the month. The

Macon County Board of Education made this possible by approving the use of the 2023-24 supplemental pay during their meeting on December 11, held at Franklin High School.

According to Angie Cook, the Finance Director for MCS, this marks the third consecutive year that MCS has received this funding from the state. The amount

• See BONUS page 14

## Catholic Church gets OK for CZ plans

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church has just one more hurdle to scale before it can move ahead with the new sanctuary planned for its 2.39 acres on N. 5th Street.

When representatives went

to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for approval of the plans in October, the 70+ parking spaces required – based on the number of seats in the proposed structure and its R2 zoning – caused the plans to be temporarily shelved.

No one wanted to denude the property of trees and foliage for 70+ parking spaces which they said weren't needed.

A sliver of the church's property between the Hudson Library

• See CATHOLIC page 14

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•		
Mayor on Duty .....	2	Spiritually Speaking . 10
Investing at 4118 Ft. 4		Police & Fire Report 11
Obituaries.....	7	Classifieds ..... 13
Letter .....	8	



Photo by Brian O'Shea

## Bald Eagle visits Harris Lake

By Brian O'Shea  
Plateau Daily News

A bald eagle has made an appearance soaring over Harris Lake several times over the past couple of weeks.

Pedestrians who regularly walk around the lake have witnessed the eagle diving for ducks who are brave enough to swim out in the open water.

The eagle would swoop down towards a duck with claws outstretched, but at the last second the duck would dive under-

water.

Highlands Biological Station Associate Director Jason Love said this is common behavior for a bald eagle.

"Eagles primarily like fish, but they'll scavenge for carrion, chase vultures away for a fresh kill, and they'll also take waterfowl," said Love. "They pretty much take whatever they can get, especially if it's a sitting duck."

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

• See EAGLE page 11

Mountain Contemporary Home on Lake Glenville

56 Stone Pointe Lane

5 BEDROOMS | 7 BATHROOMS | MLS# 102929

• Built in 2023 • 400' of Lake Frontage

Highlands Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Rob Whitney (828) 399.1196 Jody Lovell (828) 226.6303

**McCULLLEY'S**

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

In Highlands ...on the hill  
242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407  
Open 7 days a week  
www.mcculley.com

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### The future of regional hospitals under the HCA umbrella

I reluctantly write this piece but feel compelled to do so. To be clear, our Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has been a great asset to our community over the past five years. Tom Neal has provided outstanding leadership, which has made many of us very proud of our medical facility. Our hospital is not the problem. The problem lies with HCA Mission in Asheville and its problems serving the 18-county region.

Six years ago, Dr. Ron Paulus and Dr. John Ball announced to the region that Mission Healthcare, a nonprofit organization, would be sold to Hospital Corporation of America, (HCA) a for-profit company. The Mission board supported the sale. Doctors Paulus and Ball stated the sale was necessary to maintain the long-term viability and quality of the Mission Healthcare System. To them and Janice Brumet, the Mission Board Chair, HCA was the perfect fit.

A complex Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) was rolled out that guaranteed the operation of satellite hospitals like Blue Ridge, Angel, and Highlands-Cashiers for five years. If the North Carolina Attorney General had approved this initial APA draft, 2024 would

be the year when HCA could close these satellite hospitals deemed unprofitable by HCA.

I was told by local hospital officials and some community leaders that I needed to endorse this initial agreement. I attended a meeting of elected officials at our hospital where Dr. Paulus let everyone know we should be grateful for the generous APA. He showed some agitation when questioned about the plan. I had also been at a previous meeting at UNC Asheville, where Dr. Ball and Dr. Paulus promoted the benefits of the sale and the creation of the new Dogwood Health Trust. Some attending the meeting had questions and concerns but were assured everything would work out for the benefit of Asheville and the region.

I also received feedback from legal experts who had studied the proposed APA. Their analysis was that the APA, as written, was problematic and that the Attorney General needed to address numerous issues before approving the sale. The former mayor of Franklin, Bob Scott, and I traveled to Raleigh and had an extensive meeting with the attorney general's staff about these concerns, especially about the APA provision that the smaller hospitals could be closed after five years.

By state statute, the attorney general had limited authority in approving the APA. However, he did negotiate 15 commitments from HCA concerning the system's operation, including a 10-year commitment to operate the outlying satellite hospitals.

Now, five years later, the attorney general has filed a lawsuit against HCA for not meeting all of the commitments, especially about emergency services and providing access to essential services. As for the outlying facilities, transporting and transferring patients to Mission in Asheville has had problems. In addition, a recent inspection by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services found nine deficiencies at Mission that could jeopardize their status to receive Medicare reimbursements. The assessment was some of these deficiencies could put patients in immediate jeopardy. In a recent Asheville Watch Dog article, Janice Brumet muses that HCA could have been a better corporate community partner.

In short, community leaders feel HCA Mission has lost the overall confidence of the



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

public, while at the same time realizing large profits. In 2021, the HCA national operations posted a 7 billion-dollar profit, of which \$1.2 billion came from the Mission system, according to NBC News report that was covered in an Asheville Citizens Times article in 2023.. Some may counter that HCA has invested millions in outlying hospitals like McDowell. Let's be clear: \$1.2 billion is one thousand two hundred million dollars. Those capital investments

are modest when compared to these profit numbers.

My suggestion is that HCA Mission needs to consider a new Asset Purchase Agreement and sell the system to another provider. They paid \$1.5 billion for Mission, which some critics now say was a giveaway price orchestrated by Paulus, Ball, and the Mission board. Dogwood, the re-

cipient of the 1.5 billion dollar sale, might very well have a role to play in the sale process.

I would also encourage the NC Legislature to pass a bill in this upcoming short session to grant more control to the attorney general's office in approving any future sales of healthcare systems in the state, including a sale by HCA. Such legislation would empower the attorney general to extract commitments for continued operation and services for the outlying areas of a healthcare system.

I hate to say it, but the 2019 sale of Mission to HCA has not served Western North Carolina, and major reforms are urgently needed. The notion of selling hospitals and leaving an area is not new for HCA. They left the Metropolitan Atlanta area just a few years ago. Besides, buying low, making a huge profit, and then selling for more than the original investment is a good corporate strategy that would please stockholders who would and already have received high dividends. Unfortunately, the general public in the HCA Mission service area has received no dividends, only disappointment.

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 25-Jan	Fri, 26-Jan	Sat, 27-Jan	Sun, 28-Jan
56°F 52°F	59°F 49°F	54°F 36°F	45°F 29°F
Mild with rain, some heavy	Mild with rain and a t-storm	Heavy afternoon thunderstorms	Low clouds
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 54° Low: 49°	High: 60° Low: 52°	High: 53° Low: 45°	High: 41° Low: 22°

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

### Highlands Newspaper

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

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

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

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

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

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

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

#### Letter Policy:

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

#### Obituary Policy:

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

**HIGHLANDER**  
ROOFING SERVICES INC.

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

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



*The Spa*

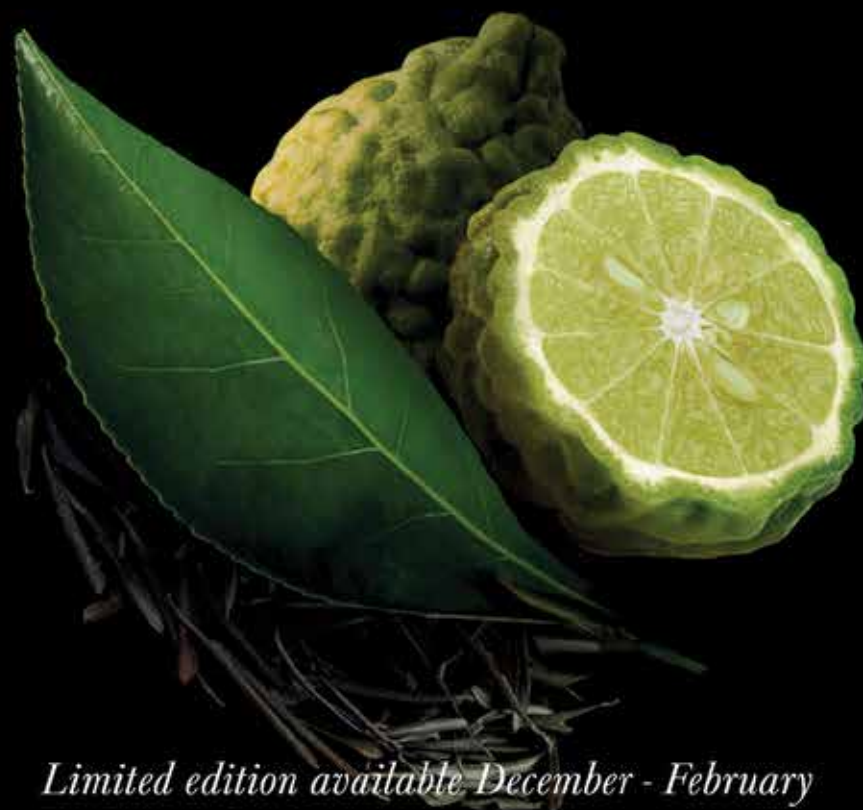
# Black Tea & Bergamot Facial

## SEASONAL TREATMENT

An original Sothys concept combining chronobiology and delicious flavors of Black Tea and Bergamot to reveal the skin's radiance, season by season. A dose of oxygen combined with a cocktail of minerals boosts the skin's defense system for harsh winter weather and a cocktail of vitamins revitalizes it before summer.



*view details*



*Limited edition available December - February*

## Chestnut Hill,

a residential retirement community on a quiet mountain top in Highlands, NC, has spacious Assisted Living Apartments. It is a full-service, Medicaid Certified community.



For further information call Linda Tiffany at  
828-526-5251 or 904-514-4896  
[www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com](http://www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com)

**Do you know, both legally and financially, what would happen to you, your loved ones and cherished possessions if something unexpected were to happen to you?**

If you're not sure, or it has been more than three years since you have reviewed your existing estate plan, schedule a complimentary consultation with me, Julie Upshaw, Esq. at Blue Ridge Legacy Law.

☎ 828-482-1241

🌐 [www.brlegacylaw.com](http://www.brlegacylaw.com)

**Get started today!**



**Julie Upshaw, Esq.**  
Personal Family Lawyer

Serving  
North Carolina  
and Georgia  
residents.



## • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

### The pipes, The pipes are calling

What unusual weather and temperatures we've experienced this January! Plummeting to 4 degrees with brisk winds blowing sleet around has prompted a pause on the plateau. The roads acquired a shimmering glaze, leaving us pondering: "Should I venture out or stay indoors?" Alaskan attire made its appearance on the streets, worn by the brave or adventurous souls willing to step out of their warm and cozy homes. Netflix and "chair" yoga took center stage as we eagerly awaited a warmup and summoned the courage to face potential black ice.

I found myself checking on clients' homes, fervently hoping and praying that their pipes didn't freeze. I took precautions by dripping faucets and opening cabinets to allow heat to circulate, warming the pipes in the process. It has always been my advice to homeowners to keep their heat on at least 55 degrees, safeguarding floors and walls from humidity and mildew that can accumulate, causing unpleasant odors when showing their homes to prospective buyers.

For effective winterizing, having pipes drained by a plumber is highly recommended. This ensures that the dishwasher, ice maker, sinks, tubs, and showers remain devoid of water, while toilets are filled with environmentally safe anti-freeze. Though there's a nominal fee involved, this preventive measure can save thousands in potential damages if pipes burst and water floods your floors or ceiling, especially if the hot water heater is on an upper level.

If you plan to be away from your pri-



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

mary or second home for an extended period, consider shutting off the main water valve leading to the home. Additionally, disconnect garden hoses and fittings from the hose bibbs, as any water left in attached garden hoses may freeze, causing expansion that water pipes can't typically handle. Keeping gutters clean is essential to prevent leaves and debris from obstructing water flow, potentially leading to ice build-up and costly repairs. Keep ice melt handy to spread on stairs and walkways leading to your vehicle to avoid falls. Instead of milk

and bread Ace Hardware sees a run on this so keep it handy!

As a delightful break from winter preparations, our annual Snow Fest awaits this weekend in Kelsey Hutchinson Park—a joyful event for both children and adults. While real snow may not be expected, the festivities promise a delightful time for all. Ice skating is adjacent with come one come all!

We have seen a trend of younger tourists visiting Highlands with the majority of buyers still being middle aged. Also, trending is those choosing to live on the plateau full-time. After living here for twenty-eight years I know I made the right choice. Rain or shine, snow or no snow, our little Hallmark town with a sense of community and caring people beckons all.

• Pat Allen is the broker-in-charge of Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group in the downtown office at 295 Dillard Road. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, a consistent award-winner, and a top producer every year for her real estate career of 20 years. You may reach her at 828-200-9179 or email her at [pat.allen@allentate.com](mailto:pat.allen@allentate.com)

### ...FHS continued from page 1

even members of the Highlands Town Board were at the school administration office when the check was presented.

Mayor Pat Taylor said the Town Board has supported this effort all along so when Senator Kevin Corbin called and asked members to come show support they did.

"We thought it was just to reiterate the importance of the Franklin High School project for all of Macon County and it turned out to everyone's surprise, the decision was already made to issue the check," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

For more than a year, Macon County and Macon County Schools have invested

significant local financial resources and time to prepare the Franklin High School project for construction.

Beginning in December of 2021 with thorough due diligence to support the replacement of Franklin High School, careful design and collaboration with district and county stakeholders began.

In May 2023, the MC Commissioners and MC School board jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming their commitment to the Franklin High School Project, expressing their intent to use funds received from the Needs-Based



*Slide! Spin! Skate!*

# SNOW FEST

@4118'

*Play in our Winter Wonderland!*

DJ

Ice Skating

S'mores

Snow Tube Merry-Go-Round

Snow Slide

Snowball Toss

"Snowga" (a twist on yoga)

Saturday, January 27 and

Sunday, January 28, 2024

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

Highlands, NC





# • HIGHLANDS DINING •

## WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO



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

**Closed January**

**Reopening February 15**

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

474 Main Street | 828.526.3807  
wolfgang.net

## Asia House

**Japanese • Asian • Thai Cuisine**

**Take-out &  
Dine-in**

**Open noon-9p**

**Closed Wednesdays**

**828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900**

**151 Helen's Barn Avenue**



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

**Closed Tuesdays**

**828.526.3554**

**595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC**

## The Secret Garden

**Modern Fast Food &  
Courtyard Market**

**Open Year-Round**

**Mon.-Fri. 11:30a to 5p • Sat. 12-5p**

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



### The Secret Garden

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

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

### Can't linger?

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

## The Ruffed Grouse Tavern & Highlander Mountain House



### Wine Wednesday

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

### Sundays

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

### Thursdays

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

*Locals receive 20% off  
all menu items*

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



**828-526-4035**

**WILD THYME GOURMET  
RESTAURANT**

**Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round  
Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar**

**Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands**



### Open except

**Closed all  
Wednesday**

**and Sunday night**

**Lunch: 11a-3:30p**

**Dinner:**

**5:30p - until**

**Wishing everyone a Warm and Happy  
January!! We will be closed for January  
and Look forward to seeing you again  
in February!!**

**Dusty's**





# • OBITUARIES •

## Veda Sanders Sherard

Veda Sanders Sherard, 104, was born in Coalfield, TN to Dr. Orvis Duane Sanders and Mabel Ruffner Sanders June 2, 1920. She died Jan. 13, 2024. At an early age, her family moved to Clinton, TN where her father was the local dentist.

Eventually, Veda decided to follow in his footsteps. In 1941, after completing her pre-dental education at The University of Tennessee, she entered Southern Dental College (now Emory). Veda was one of three female students in a class of 99.

The story goes that because of alphabetical pairing, Sanders and Sherard were designated as anatomy lab partners. Veda and Jimmy married in March 1942 and were truly devoted to each other for almost 81 years.

Veda and Jimmy made their home in Atlanta where Veda practiced general dentistry for several years retiring early to focus on her growing family. She remained very involved and active in many dental associations throughout the years. She was a founder of the Northern District (Greater Atlanta), Georgia Dental Association and Hinman Dental Ladies Auxiliaries. She worked on numerous dental health initiative programs for Georgia which trended nationally. After 50 years in Atlanta, they retired in Highlands.

She had a personality like no other. At almost 104, she was still beautiful, witty, funny and flirty. Every morning she was up, dressed, make-up applied and ready for the day. She loved life and meeting new people. Veda Sand-



ers Sherard was one of God's most delightful blessings.

Veda's family is grateful for all her many young friends (like family) who have genuinely loved, cherished and remembered her, especially the past few years after her husband's passing. A very special thank you to Dr. Patti Wheeler, who cared for Veda

and Jimmy for years.

Predeceased by loving husband James Hardin Sherard, Jr., daughter Sandra Sherard Bethea, granddaughter Mabry Morris Spence, great-grandson Whitaker James Morris. Survived by daughters Laura Gay Sherard-Mitchell (George) of Atlanta and Robin Sherard Ritchie (Jim) of Atlanta, son-in-law Bob Bethea (Leslie) of Columbia, grandsons Rob Bethea (Joy) of Columbia, Hardin Bethea (Dowell) of Orlando, Tyson Morris (Kim) of Chattanooga. Great-grandchildren Ridge, Elloise and Sanders Bethea, Hunter, Wyatt and Beau Spence, Nora and Samuel Bethea and Hardin, Veda Kate and Penny Morris. Sister-in-law Joan Sanders (Duane) and dear nephews and nieces.

A graveside service for both Veda and Jimmy will be in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Highlands Community Child Development Center (HCCDC) at [www.highlandscommunitychildcare.org](http://www.highlandscommunitychildcare.org) or Four Seasons Hospice Care at [FourSeasonsCare.org](http://FourSeasonsCare.org).

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Sherard family.

## Marion 'Petie' Wheeler Mayer

Always an athlete, our mom took the fastest route to getting ready for her day! Her pigtails caused quite a stir, and she quickly earned the nickname "Piggy!" Horrified her Mom changed it to "Petie" and it stuck.

Our Mama, Petie Wheeler Mayer, born June 4, 1932 embraced her role in our lives and was the most thoughtful, generous, fair, loving mother that any child could ever hope for. She became a surrogate mom to many of our friends as she had infinite love to share.

Our Dad, George, found Mom in college when he asked his roommate to identify the top 5 cutest girls. Mom was Number 1, they went out on a date, and were together from then on! Their 71-year marriage was a testament to their love, their respect for one another, their partnership, and their unconditional love for their children and each other.

Mom was a top athlete her entire life. She played basketball, tennis and field hockey in college, and later pursued golf and tennis. Growing up, we remember mom as always wearing athletic ware, tennis skirts or golf shorts! We've



had numerous folks tell us that they always wanted our mom on their team, no matter the sport! She was a fierce competitor and an honest player.

Marion "Petie" Wheeler Mayer was 91 when she passed away Jan. 6, 2023. All of us feel so blessed to have had her as a wife, mom, a grandmother or great grandmother! George told her every night that they had an amazing life together and that they were two of the luckiest people, that he was so grateful to have found her!

All of us left behind have vowed to try to be more like Mom - to love more, to find grace in others, to be unconditional in our love and grace, to do good things when no one is looking. We invite those reading this to do the same!

Much love, Susie and Add, Julie and Jamie, Kimi, Scott and Ry, Wyatt, Porter, Lucas, Carter

In lieu of flowers, the family knows that Marion would love to have you donate to The Literacy Learning Center in Highlands, North Carolina. You can do this online ([www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org](http://www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org)) or by sending a check to P.O. Box 2320 Highlands, NC. 28741.

## Jack Mayer

Jack Mayer passed away peacefully on January 17, 2024, at his beloved Highlands, NC family home in Webbmont, surrounded by his "three girls" Sara, Carrie, and Betsy.

He is survived by his wife, Sara Catlett Mayer; daughter Carrie Mayer; daughter and son-in-law Betsy and Frank Bishop; two grandchildren, Ev-



erett and Cate Riser; and sister, Carla Huber.

He was predeceased by his mother and stepfather, Beverly and Ramon Roig; father, Jack Mayer; grandson, Harlan Riser; and brother-in-law, John Catlett, who lived for many years with Jack and Sara.

• See OBITUARIES page 14

## Community says good-bye to Houston



On Saturday, Jan. 20, friends, family and comrades gathered to say goodbye to Bob Houston, veteran, Town Commissioner, member of American Legion post 370, Sunday School teacher, deacon, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

Old Edwards  
CHEF DINNERS 2024  
at THE FARM



view details &  
book online



RELAIS & CHATEAUX



# Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY



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

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

**Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ...  
on the street or on the web.  
Go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com). Click on Local News.  
Delivered and uploaded every Thurs.AM**

## 71 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN

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



**LANDMARK**  
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

**Pam Nellis**

45 years of experience!



Office: 828-526-4663

Cell: 828-787-1895

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

## • LETTER •

### Misinformation vs. disinformation

Dear Editor,

I liked what a David Stearns had to say in his letter-to-the-editor entitled "Be an Informed Voter" and want to elaborate further on the subject of misinformation that was mentioned by also addressing disinformation.

I want to begin by defining both terms: Misinformation is false or inaccurate information. Getting the facts wrong.

Disinformation is false information deliberately intended to mislead or deceive.

At the recent World Economic Forum, misinformation and disinformation were identified as the most severe risks facing both global elections to be held in 2024 and the health of global democracy in general. So what is our responsibility as average citizens and voters to mitigate the influence that these two factors have on us personally? I feel it comes down to how do we obtain our information.

Naturally we all have come to choose and rely on our own favorite media outlets. We particularly like the ones that support our own partisan beliefs. But, if we step back and objectively examine this behavior, we can see that it may not be the best way to obtain the information we require to make good voting decisions.

Maybe many of you have been suspecting that you weren't receiving a full report of the current news but most likely you didn't suspect that you may be actually being deceived. It concerns me that even now you may not realize the amount of both misinformation and disinformation that your favorite and probably sole news source has been giving you.

I'm not suggesting that you necessarily ditch the source that you are familiar with but do know that there are a number of unbiased news sources. It is possible to obtain the names of these sources by consulting the Media Bias Chart (Google it). This is a chart that is updated twice a year and identifies where media sources fall on a continuum from left to right. You can find unbiased or less-biased news sources this way. Some easy to access (by both TV and radio) are NPR, BBC, ABC and PBS New Hour but there are also others. Check them out!

**Vivian Brewer  
Highlands**

### COREY JAMES GALLERY & Estate Consignments

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



**(828) 526-4818**

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

### Biz Card Ads

**2024**

\$22 for BW; \$27 for color

### Classifieds

**2024**

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

**Lunch  
Tues. - Sat.  
11a to 3p**

**DON LEON'S**

**I'm baaaaaack again!**

With the same menu, low prices, FREE coffee and an older more mellow attitude!  
Come by for a visit and enjoy those Appalachian Fries and a fresh Gyro!

**Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese Steak • Shrimp Pita • Susan's Rueben  
Italian Sausage • Chicken Wings • Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings • Fried Shrimp  
Fish n' Chips • Chicken Fingers and more!**

**Dine in or Call in your order for Pickup! • 828-482-1513  
462 Dillard Road, Highlands (across from Dusty's)**





**CARL ROMBERG**  
BROKER-IN-CHARGE

**PAM NELLIS**  
BROKER

**COLE FUHRMAN**  
BROKER



**LANDMARK**  
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

---

(828) 526-4663

225 MAIN STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC

LANDMARKRG.COM

---

Connecting people, property and community

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## Being made whole

**Michael D. Matlock**  
Rector  
Christ Anglican Church

Each one of us lives in fragmentation of our whole personhood. Our gracious God wants to take our fragmentation, our problems, our messes, and pick up the pieces and put our personhood together. Our integration is part of the full redemption and healing offered in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Those in the medical profession who work toward the healing of the whole person often recognize the relationship between the body and mind. The body affects the mind, the mind affects the body. Chemically there's communication going on between the mind and the body all the time. For example, we blush when we may have a sense of shame. The mind causes the body to cause the capillaries to expand more blood in the capillaries and blushing results.

The Christian Scriptures reveal to us a loving God who seeks to bring healing and wholeness that affects us not only physically and psychologically, but also spiritually. Thus, there are three areas of healing needed. St. Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your integrated spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" (translation and emphasis mine).

In other words, God wants you to be whole in soul, mind, and body. Our "spirit" is otherwise known as our soul, and the mind (or psyche) is sometimes called the soul (confusing, I know!) in the Bible. The term "body" is self-explanatory. The "spirit" part is the arena in which grace operates and in which the mind relates to God in prayer. The areas in which God relates to us are 1) the body, the physical, 2) the emotional or psychological, and 3) the spirit (see 1 Cor 14:14 in which the human spirit relates to the Holy Spirit). As God relates to our "spirits," the connection continues in our bodies and minds. For wholeness, integration has to occur in all three areas. Our Christian wholism provides a framework for our healing and redemption. Each area of ourself can be fractured and in need of healing.

If we have an issue in the body, such as diabetes or arthritis, we need physical healing. If we have an issue in the mind such as depression or anxiety, then we need emotional healing. If we have a spiritual problem, such as guilt and not dealing with a sin, having habits of sin, or discouragement in our spiritual growth, then we need spiritual healing.

Looking at the spiritual, there are two ways that we can have a shortcoming in our spirit. One way is intrinsic damage to the spirit and that's called sin. The other is extrinsic damage from forces outside of us—spiritual forces attacking our spirit, demonic forces attacking us. This of course is the whole area of spiritual warfare. We are in need of intrinsic and extrinsic spiritual healing. Both types are mentioned in the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father" (Matt 6:9-13): "forgive us our trespasses" and "deliver us from the evil one." Repentance and receiving forgiveness take away sin or spiritual separation from God, whereas deliverance is needed for when we are attacked by forces of evil.

Everyone is in need of healing in some area of his or her personhood. Perhaps you are not confessing your sins and thus not receiving the forgiveness offered through Jesus' sacrificial death. Maybe you have committed a sin that is still haunting you, making

• See SPIRITUALLY page 11

## 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

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. VV. 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, Morning

Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

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

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

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

Highlandscentralbaptist.org • 828-526-0774

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

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

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone — 526-2418

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

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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

Visit our website [www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com](http://www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com) for schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar Barn supports outreach in the community.

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

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am



## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Jan. 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

**Jan. 18**

• At 4:37 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Oak Street near 3rd Street.

**Jan. 19**

• At 9:33 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Methodist Church parking lot on W. Church Street.

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

**Jan. 17**

• At 5:01 p.m., the dept. pro-

vided public assistance at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

**Jan. 19**

• At 6:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rural Felicity Road.

• At 2:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Naiad Terrace.

**Jan. 20**

• At 4:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 6:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

**Jan. 21**

• At 7:49 a.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hummingbird Lane.

• At 9:10 a.m., the dept. investigated the source of an odor in Highlands Plaza.

• At 4:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Oak Street.

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Fallen Leaf lane.

**Jan. 22**

• At 9:44 a.m., the dept. investigated the source of an odor in Highlands Plaza.

• At 6:26 p.m., the dept. investigated an unattended brush fire on Bowery Road

## ...EAGLE continued from page 1

stocked Harris Lake with over 2,000 trout in 2022, which can be a tempting snack to an eagle.

Bald eagles were recently removed from the endangered species list. Love said from the 1940s-60s DDT was used as an insecticide. DDT weakens an eagle's egg shell so when a mother would sit on her eggs, they would crack.

DDT has since been banned and the eagle population is making a recovery.

"This shows that if we really want to protect something, we can," said Love. "The bald eagle is our national symbol, and it received a lot of money for conservation because of that. Not all species have that luxury."

Love said bald eagles are

known to have some of the largest nests in the world, often spanning 5-6 feet across. They nest in big, dominant trees with a good perch near water.

"Eagles are known to steal food from osprey," said Love. "They let the other birds do the hard work and then take it because they're the bigger bird."

Love added that one of the only birds known to steal from an eagle's nest is a great horned owl.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 10

you feel as though you are unworthy of God's love even though you have asked for forgiveness. Perhaps you have had something horrible done to you, making you feel shame or guilt. Could it be that you have lost a loved one to death, are experiencing marital difficulties or been through a divorce, are estranged from one of your children, have an addiction that plagues

you, had an abortion, have some physical malady? Chances are that you are dealing with some physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual infirmity in need of healing.

If you are not a Christian or a Christian without a church home, we would love to welcome you at Christ Anglican Church as we grow as disciples of Jesus through the healing

work of Christ. We are sinners saved by God's grace through faith seeking to live a holy life. We offer healing prayer during the Eucharist on Sunday morning and a healing Eucharist service on Thursdays; it would be my great joy to pray for your healing offered through the restoring blood of Jesus Christ.

## THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



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

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

**828.200.3050**

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

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

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

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



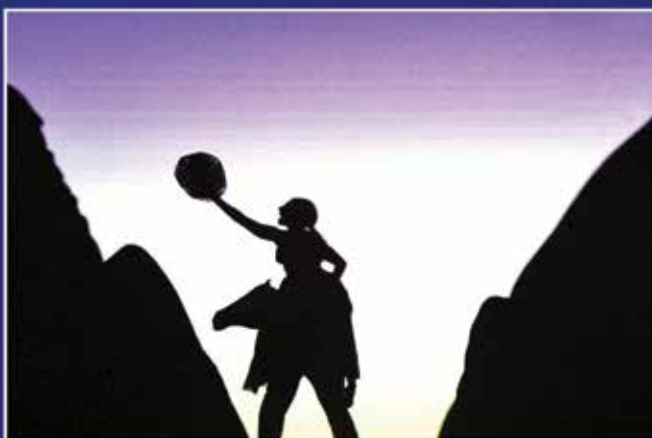
**AN UPSCALE RESALE STORE WITH 10,000 SQ FT OF SHOPPING!**



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

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
10AM-2PM**

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



**THE HEIGHT  
OF ENTER  
TAINMENT**

Highlands Performing Arts Center  
507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC

**SPECIAL EVENT  
for the Whole Family**

**America's Got Talent  
Finalists**

**Catapult**

**Storytelling through  
Shadow Dance**

**Saturday, January 27**

**7:30pm**

**Children's Tickets Available**

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



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



**Paul Corbin**  
Owner



**A&O LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC**

828-371-2240  
pcorbin1631@aol.com



**ALLAN DEARTH  
GENERATORS  
AND SONS**

▶ 828-526-9325 ◀

*Generators aren't just a "thing" we do,  
generators are all we do!*



**Whiteside Cove  
Cottages**

5 log cabins nestled in  
the hemlocks  
on 25 acres at the base  
of Whiteside  
Mountain.

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222



**Kiln dried  
FIREWOOD**  
Delivery or pickup

2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395  
highlandslawnandgarden.com

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

**Highlands Automotive**

Service & Repair



NC  
Inspection  
Station



828-787-2360  
2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com

Call Raul  
706-982-3803  
706-970-7638  
828-347-0255



**VALENCIA  
GRADING, INC.**

valenciagrading@gmail.com  
Grading • Lot Clearing • Retaining Wall  
Driveways • Septic Placement

**CHESTNUT STORAGE**

Storage Units Available

Secure 24 Hour Access  
Easy In - Easy Out  
Great Rates - Great Terms  
Call today to find out why we're  
"Highland's Premier Facility"  
828-482-1045



*Look for our sign!*

10890 Buck Creek Rd. - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Rd near the hospital



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

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

828-200-9217 Fully Insured



**MENDOZA TREE EXPERT**

Quality Tree Care & Removal 18+ years  
estimates@mendozatree.com  
mendozatreeservices.com

**Ryan M. Bears**  
Branch Leader

Cell: 803-271-5426  
Office: 828-526-8784  
ryan.bears@allentate.com



Pat Allen, Broker in Charge



**COUNSELING  
CENTER**  
HIGHLANDS, NC

864-481-0598  
INFO@COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG  
LOCATED AT THE PEGGY CROSBY CENTER  
348 S. 5TH STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741  
OFFICES: 201, 203 & 210

**COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG**

WE STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS  
BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL ABILITY.



# • CLASSIFIEDS •

## FOR SALE

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

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

**TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE.** \$25k-\$45k/ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each



- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Pressure Washing
- House Maintenance
- Drywall Repair
- Deck Repair

**Quality Work • Fully Insured**

**Lupe Gonzales**

**avpintura@gmail.com**

**828-332-1539 or 678-873-2927**



**Cosmos Flowers**

*Full Service Florist*

Store: 828-526-0044

Cell: 828-200-6101

cosmosflowersnc@gmail.com

95 Highlands Plaza

Follow us

Instagram and facebook  
@cosmosflowersnc



*Al Stoneham*

Realtor-Broker  
Luxury Home Specialist  
Licensed in NC & GA

828-332-9767

al.stoneham@allentate.com



*Pat Allen*  
REALTOR GROUP

Highlands/Scaly Mtn/Cashiers

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

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

## FOR RENT

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

**NEW FURNISHED EXECUTIVE APARTMENT FOR RENT** in highlands city limits. 1 bed/1 bath in garden setting. \$1700 with all utilities and internet included. Call/text 352-422-7200. (st. 1/18)

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

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

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

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

**BRAND NEW TRAILERS FOR RENT**, 2 bedrooms/2 baths \$1700/month and 3 bedrooms/2 baths \$2250/month. Between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy -(706) 982-0444. (st. 5/4)

## WANTED

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

## HELP WANTED

**LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION CREW LEADER** -- Thompson Landscape Company is now hiring a full-time crew leader starting \$25/hour based on capability and experience. Comprehensive benefit package including year-end bonus. Minimum 3-years experience, valid NC Driver's license. Drug test required. After 2 years of satisfactory employment, salary options available starting at \$55k with other employee benefits. Contact Greg at 828-526-5280. (st. 12/21)

**LUPOLI CONSTRUCTION** is hiring an office manager/executive assistant and a bookkeeper. Full-time, compensation based on experience. Please contact Regina@Lupoliinc.com, 770.757.5004 for more information. (st. 1/1/2)

## SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

**360 MAIN STREET  
ESTATE JEWELERS OF  
HIGHLANDS**



**WE BUY  
AND CONSIGN  
OLD JEWELRY**

**Appointment Only!**

**Call: 828-526-1960**

**Text: 770-855-0825**

**Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com**



**COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL**

**HOME REMODELING • NEW CONSTRUCTION**

**INTERIOR & EXTERIOR • REPAIR • DRYWALL**

**SHOWER REMODEL • PAINT & STAIN**

**REPAIR • DRYWALL • CARPENTRY**

**PRESSURE WASHING**

**FULLY INSURED**

**828.332.2520**

**828.371.2189**

**MENDOZAPAIN17@GMAIL.COM**



## ...BONUS continued from page 1

is determined based on various factors, including real property values, the tax rate, and median household income. For the current school year, MCS will receive a total of \$962,018 in supplemental funding.

To ensure fairness, the board decided to distribute this supple-

mental funding evenly among 363.3 eligible teaching positions throughout Macon County. This means each eligible teacher will receive \$1,995.90. Additionally, the board plans to cover taxes and benefits from the remaining funding.

The board's vote also included a vote to approved ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding to provide 17 other professionals within MCS who, while not teacher-certified, possess specialized training. Funding for the 17 positions totals approximately \$45,000.

Comparing to the previous school year, when eligible MCS employees received \$1,472 each in supplemental funding in January 2023, this nearly \$500 increase comes as a welcome boost. The increase falls in line with the increase in property values across Macon County following the property revaluation last year.

Board of Education Member Hilary Wilkes asked for clarification regarding when the supplement was provided to staff and according to Cook, the board's decision to issue the supplemental pay in January 2024 was based on the consideration that staff members receive other bonuses in December and February. If paid during those months, it would lead to a higher tax rate and potentially reduce the extra funds available to teachers.

## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 7

Jack was born on December 13, 1939, in Louisville, KY. With the exception of brief times of living elsewhere with his mother, he grew up in Louisville. He attended the University of Louisville, where he earned a degree in mathematics, and it was there that he met his wife Sara. He then graduated from U of L School of Law.

Jack and Sara were married in 1967. In 1970, they set off on the great adventure of moving to St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., where Jack practiced law and Sara taught school. Their daughters were born in St. Thomas, and the family lived there until returning to the states in 1980. After briefly living in Chapel Hill,

## ...CATHOLIC continued from page 1

and the Episcopal Church touches Main Street so theoretically the property could be considered B1 which doesn't require parking for churches – as is the case with the other churches in B1 on Main Street. However, the Unified Development Ordinance doesn't say how much property on Main Street constitutes "property on Main Street" which could have been a point of contention.

In an effort to move forward amicably without potential litigation, church representatives have requested conditional rezoning from R-2 residential to B-1 Commercial Conditional Zoning District (CZ).

The CZ plans reduce the parking by 41 spaces. The plan is

## ...FHS continued from page 4

Public School Capital Fund for the Project's construction and assuring the county's elected representatives in the NC General Assembly of both board's ongoing partnership to continual growth and improvement of MC Schools.

"I am extremely excited for the Macon County School System and the Macon County community," said Sen. Corbin. "The Macon County School Board along with Macon County Commissioners have done a wonderful job preparing for this project. Our kids and community deserve this!"

The grant monies will ensure

to do the project in three phases over the next five years – as funds become available – with 31 on-site parking spaces upon completion of both the Sanctuary, the Parish Hall and the New Parish Offices.

According to Sec. 4.5.1 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), "Conditional Zoning District decisions are legislative decisions subject to judicial review using the same procedures and standard of review that apply to general use zoning district decisions."

This means the Town Board has the final say after the request has been heard and recommendations are made by both the Zoning and Planning boards.

During the December Zoning

that Macon County students have access to high quality educational resources, ADA accessible facilities and 21st century learning opportunities.

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

Initially, the county commission was afraid since Macon County has the lowest tax rate in the state, the state would suggest

Board meeting, the CZ plan was approved with the notation that the size of the parking area – the number of spaces – be reduced to protect the buffer between the church and the Hudson Library.

As drawn, the parking area would be adjacent to the Hudson Library property line with the green buffer between the properties removed.

The Planning Board agreed with the Zoning Board's ruling and further recommended that four of the sited parking spaces be removed – leaving 27 spaces – to save the buffer which consists of a large tree and foliage.

The Town Board will likely rule on the recommendations at the Feb. 15 Town Board meeting.

– Kim Lewicki

raising taxes to fund the multi-million dollar project but collaboration and enthusiasm paid off.

"I am a product of Macon County Schools. I went to and graduated from Franklin High School as did my mom and dad," said Superintended Josh Lynch. "As I look to the future and know the impact this will have for my own kids and their kids, we are grateful and thankful."

The \$62 million will not fund the entire project, but it's a bountiful start.

Folks in Highlands hope this funding will free funding for Pre-K expansion and renovations at Highlands School.

– Kim Lewicki



**WHOLE LIFE MARKET**

Natural Products Store

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

Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS

**NECTAR** Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market

**JuiceBar**



**CREATIVE CONCEPTS SALON**

Hair • Nails • Waxing  
• Tanning  
• Facials

Walk-ins Welcome!  
Open at 9a Tues.-Sat.  
828-526-3939

**Owner/Stylist:**  
Lacy Jane Villardo

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

**Nail Tech:**  
Jenna Schmitt

Upstairs and Across the Walkway at Falls on Main Highlands

Jack took off on a weeklong driving tour of western North Carolina, with the goal of finding a good place to live and work. Jack chose Highlands and moved the family here in the summer of 1982, where he practiced law with Bob Butler, and later with Rod Magie. Starting in 1997, he also enjoyed five years of practicing law with his daughter Betsy and former son-in-law Christopher Riser. His daughter Carrie also worked a few years at the law office.

Jack greatly enjoyed the practice of law, specializing in real estate, business, and estate planning. He was a member of the Kentucky, U.S. Virgin Islands, and North Carolina Bar Associations. In Highlands, Jack served

for several years as the Highlands Town Attorney and as counsel for the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, among other local nonprofits. Jack and his much loved and appreciated assistants, including Sherry Gibson and Gibby Shaheen, were known for their attention to detail, races to the courthouse in Franklin, and good humor. In 2016, Jack retired and closed his law practice.

Jack loved God, the church, and life in the mountains. He loved working outdoors, riding and caring for his horses, and hiking. He was also an avid reader and volunteered behind the scenes at the Bookworm and Food Pantry for several years. However, most of all Jack loved his family and

spending time with them. Known for his quick wit and unique sense of humor, he kept everyone around him entertained!

A celebration of Jack's life will be planned for this spring, with the date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, or to Life Challenge of Western North Carolina, a Christian residential program for young women.

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Mayer family.



# SILVER EAGLE

Native American Jewelry  
Crystal & Gem Gallery



349 Main Street, Highlands, NC  
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com



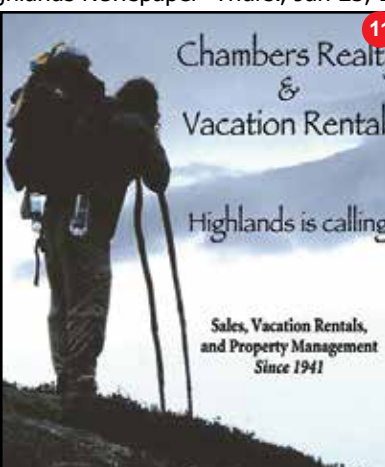
**COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES**  
Real Estate

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



**Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern**  
highlandermountainhouse.com

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



**Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals**  
Highlands is calling  
Sales, Vacation Rentals, and Property Management Since 1941

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




4.22+/- Sloping acres on Whiteside Mountain Rd, Highlands Mountain masterpiece. Unparalleled blend of sophistication and comfort.  
Up-close and long-range views. 4 BD suites. Gated entrance  
MLS #: R103071.  
Offered for \$5.3M

**Pat Allen**  
REALTY GROUP  
STRONGER TOGETHER

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



**DARLENE CONLEY**  
404.427.2448



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES** | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

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



**Andrea Gabbard**  
20 Years Experience  
c: 828.200.6742  
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com  
Top 5% of Brokers on MLS in 2022 (HCBOR)  
**Highlands Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
114 N. 4th Street  
Highlands, NC

**Ace is the Place,**

# Reeves

Hardware

At Main & 3rd streets  
Highlands 526-2157



**Highlands Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC  
Local Expertise, Global Connections.  
Licensed in NC and GA  
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706  
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com



**Team Rick Steve**  
"The Power of 2"  
Trusted advisors providing impeccable personalized service  
We are home.  
PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP/ALLEN TATE REALTORS  
(404) 219-1349 • HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS NC



**LANDMARK**  
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS  
HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET  
Cell: 828-787-1895  
Office: 828-526-4663  
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com



**PAM NELLIS**  
BROKER





## Pat Allen

Broker in Charge

pat@patallenrealtygroup.co  
m 828.200.9179

## Main Office

295 Dillard Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
828.526.8784

## Julie Osborn

Broker in Charge

julie@patallenrealtygroup.co  
m 828.200.6165

## Wildcat Cliffs Office

5121 Cashiers Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
828.526.4525

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

patallenrealtygroup.com

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

Stronger together!

Source HCMLS & RealTrends



Pat Allen  
REALTY GROUP



LANDMARK  
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 828-371-3877

Office: 828-526-4663

dana@landmarkrg.com

6



DANA ELLIS  
MCQUITT  
BROKER



WILD THYME GOURMET  
RESTAURANT

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



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

8

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

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



474 Main Street  
828.526.3807 | wolfgang.net



DAVID  
BOCK  
BUILDERS

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240

## JODY LOVELL



TOP 100

OF 26,000 SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
AGENTS WORLDWIDE, 2023

Highlands | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE  
— HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

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



Deborah "Bee" Gleeson  
404.307.1415

BeeGlee4@Gmail.com  
and

Pat Gleeson  
828.782.0472

PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.

30



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

42 Years of Fine Dining

Closed until  
mid-March

www.ontheverandah.com



McCULLEY'S  
CASHMERE

Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week

526-4407

242 S. 4th St. & Pop up  
on Main Street

9

