Volume 22. Number 39

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

Thurs., Sept. 25, 2025

Commissioners attempt to curtail agressive sales techniques in town

By Kim Lewicki

The purpose of Thursday night's worksession at 6 p.m. prior to the regular September Town

Hurricane Helene is still fresh in WNC's mind

By Kim Lewicki

Sept. 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene scoured WNC leaving communities, their residents, and businesses - devastated in its

Western NC's economy has rebounded by some measures, particularly in Highlands, but one vear after Helene, limited access to food, housing and good jobs persists elsewhere.

In addition, many areas, including the town of Highlands, are still waiting for FEMA reimbursements.

Mayor Pat Taylor said government organizations at the local, state and national levels learned a lot from this storm and hopefully will be better prepared • See HELENE page 15

Highlands

Board meeting was to discuss solicitation on public sidewalks in town and to strengthen the town's ordinance on the matter.

According to merchants, citizens, visitors and the Executive Director of the Chamber of

· See SALES page 19



Mayor Pat Taylor presented retiring Brian Stiehler with a plaque commemorating his 14 years of service to the town.

Stiehler departs the Town **Board with fanfare**

By Kim Lewicki

Though Commissioner Brian Stiehler resigned from the Town Board at the end of July, he returned to the September Town Board meeting to report on the annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, the playground and as it turned out to be commemorated for his 14 years of service to the

During the public comment period James Worrell, treasurer

· See STIEHLER page 7

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	HS Sports	18
Weather	2	Spiritually Speaking	22
Snapshot		Police & Fire Report	23
Letter	7	Classifieds	25
Fall Home Imp	12-13	Events	26

HNC wants residents to fill out its survey

By Kim Lewicki

The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition - the group that convinced the Town Board to curtail and eventually amortize Short-term Rentals - is conducting a survey of town residents.

Whether full-time or seasonal. HNC wants residents to make their voices heard by completing the 2025 HNC Resident Survey at www.highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com.

"We advocate on behalf of residents, and this annual survey guides our efforts because the residents tell us what is important to them," said Cathy Henson, president of the HNC.

HNC identifies as a nonprofit, grass-roots organization of neighbors and neighborhoods with a mission to preserve the past, protect the present, and advocate for the future of the Town of Highlands and the local community.

According to its website, HNC's mission is to preserve the historical nature, character and

scale of the Town of Highlands and the surrounding plateau: protect our neighbors, neighborhoods, and community by ensuring the long-term peace, tranquility, and viability of our traditional, single-family neighborhoods; and advocate for appropriate and responsible development and growth, protecting our neighborhoods from incompatible commercial activity.

"Residents' views of our town change as the town changes," said Henson. "We need to hear what they think and share those views with our elected officials to help address issues and make improvements that will meet resident expectations and keep Highlands a great place to live.

In September 2024, the Highlands Town Board voted 4-1 to amortize STRs in the R-1 and R-2 residential zones, effective September 15, 2027. This means all existing STRs in these zones must cease operations by

• See SURVEY page 10

A European-Inspired Estate in the Heart of Highlands



424 Big Bear Pen Road | MLS 1001584

Jody Lovell | (828) 226.6303

McCULLEY'S

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

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

> > www.mccullevs.com

THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

Mayor on Duty

Events for all filled Highlands this weekend

Highlands Mayor

Patrick Taylor

ighlands had a big weekend with a lot of events going on that brought folks to town. The Highlands Film Festival was a huge inaugural success with large crowds at the PAC for the screening of full-length and short films.

The Performing Arts Center was the sponsor at my community coffee on Friday. After Charlotte Muir, the PAC director of development, spoke to the group about the film festival and other events at the PAC, I then discussed historic

buildings and referenced the board's decision to demolish the Playhouse building.

We tend to view historic buildings

We tend to view historic buildings from the past rather than in to the future. The late architect and Highlands' resident, Peter Jefferson, once spoke at a planning board meeting about the preservation of historic buildings. He pointed out that the then-recent restoration of the Old Edwards Inn was an example of building a structure that would become historic for centuries to come, more so than for its past history. I went on to point out that the new-



Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki Reporters: Kristin Fox Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki Locally owned and operated by Kim & Jim Lewicki Adobe PDF version at 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

Obituaries are \$8 per column inch. \$10 per photo. Payable prior to publication. ly constructed PAC is the same. The way it was built with ample concrete and masonry materials ensures it will become a historic structure, as it continues to provide programming for decades to come. Who knows, the film festival, like the Chamber Music Festival, will become events that last into the next century. Future generations will view the people who brought these programs into

existence as founders of the PAC

and its programming. The same can also be said about the Bascom.

I also attended the Carnaval Cultural on Saturday evening. The International Friendship Center sponsored it. The food was wonderful, as well as the music and dancing. I hope this event, too, will become an annual tradition for Highlands. Our friends and workers from other countries contribute so much to the economy and culture of our community. I thought about the recently installed Rotary Peace Pole at the Community Center, which features a proclamation in four languages: English, Gaelic, Cherokee, and Spanish, encouraging us to live in peace.

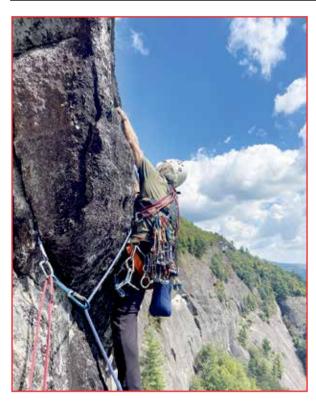
I was back at Founders Park and around town on Sunday afternoon for Porchfest. It was a wonderful event featuring a variety of musicians and music.

I came away from that event with a renewed and revised vision of visitors and tourists in Highlands. Yes, this event and the others I have mentioned bring traditional tourists to the town, but they also bring another type of resident/visitor to the town.

On the plateau, we have a tremendous number of second homeowners, long-term visitors in a certain way. It is important to provide events in the downtown area to bring our visitors and residents to town for special events. Highlands competes for residents' support, especially this time of the year. These folks have options. Seasonal residents can go to their other communities to partake of a special event, or they, like so many of us, can go on a tour anywhere in the world. I was delighted to see so many of these special residents here in Highlands on a wonderful Sunday fall afternoon. I want them to stay in Highlands as much of the time as they can.

· See MAYOR page 20

• SNAPSHOT •



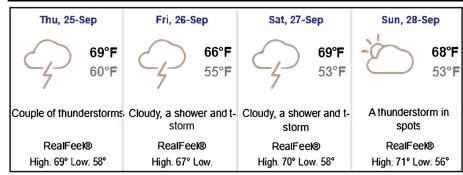
Never stop reaching

For the past 50 years, local Mark Lassiter has been celebrating his birthday by climbing Whiteside Mountain. He marked his 74th birthday doing the

His climbing partners were Matt Chrestman and Thomas Craig.

Photo by Thomas Craig

•WEATHER•



For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

ROOFING SERVICES

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

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773 info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com

UNRIVALED LUXURY



#1 in the Carolinas
Since 1957



27 Dwarf Mountain Road

Sapphire, NC 28774 | \$474,000 | MLS #1001362 Kelly Ramsay | 828.556.1252



378 Hurrah Ridge

Scaly Mountain, NC 28775 | \$1,125,000 | MLS #1001428 Darlene Conley & Al Stoneham | 404.427.2448



HIGHLANDS-DOWNTOWN OFFICE | 828.526.8784 CASHIERS OFFICE | 828.547.0022

SAPPHIRE OFFICE | 828.507.3156

WILDCAT CLIFFS OFFICE | 828.526.4525

Scan to see our luxury listings



HOWARD HANNA









Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web. Go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News. Delivered and Uploaded every Thurs.AM







Fox Den | 220 Worley Road, Highlands, NC

\$2,875,000 | Four Beds | Four and a Half Bath | 1.52-Acres

- One-of-a-kind Jim Fox Design
- Historic Satulah Mountain Location
- In-Town With Long-Range Views
- Completely Renovated And New Systems
- Multiple Private Balconies
- Large Deck Below The Structure

CHRISTIE'S

CARL ROMBERG, RSPS Broker | Realtor® | 678.936.9309 — HIGHLANDS CASHIERS — Carl@HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com



• Investing at 4,118 Ft•

Everything I need to know about real estate, I learned in kindergarten

have this clear mental picture of a poster that hung in the copy room of my high school in rural Alabama — which, in true small-town fashion, was also the elementary and middle school. I used to stare at it while making copies for a teacher or, on occasion, serving time for a smart-aleck remark.

The poster quoted Robert Fulghum's 1986 book. All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. Its list was simple but profound: share everything, play fair,

don't hit people, put things back where you found them, clean up your own mess, say you're sorry, wash your hands, flush, enjoy warm cookies and cold milk, live a balanced life, take a nap, hold hands, stick together. be aware of wonder, remember that seeds grow and pets die, and above all - LOOK. (I paraphrased!)

As I've settled into my role at Landmark these past few months, I've realized how surprisingly true those words are when it comes to everyday life — and especially in practicing real estate. Of course, we are mandated as real estate licensees to uphold the law and rules, and as REALTORS®, we follow a strict Code of Ethics. But what I'm talking about goes beyond all that. It's about being a good person: someone others both brokers and clients — want to work alongside.

First, there's sharing. We share information. We share listings. And in a perfect world, we share our earnings with cooperating brokers in a fair and balanced way. While the Code of Ethics encourages cooperation, it doesn't require sharing commission — but doing so fairly helps everyone, and it sets the tone for professionalism and trust.

Next, and perhaps most importantly, we play fair. We not only abide by the RE-ALTOR® Code of Ethics, but we go above and beyond to first serve our clients and then treat other brokers and customers with fairness and humility. Negotiations can get tense, deadlines can loom, and emotions can run high; but fairness, honesty, and respect never go out of style.

We put things back where we found them. Quite literally, that means when we're granted access to someone's home, we re-



Lauren Dahl 828-279-4700 lauren@landmarkrg.com

spect that intimate and personal space. We lock up. turn off the lights, remove our shoes, and leave it as we found it. Being invited into someone's home is a privilege — and one we never take lightly. When things go south - and let's face it, they sometimes do — we clean up our messes. That can mean having difficult conversations with clients, taking on extra work or expense to make things right. or simply admitting fault and committing to do bet-

ter. And of course, it means saying, "I'm sorry" when mistakes are made.

Then there's "LOOK." We look closely at contracts, disclosures, and details — but also at people. We pay attention to what clients aren't saying, notice the small signs that point to their true needs, and anticipate challenges before they become problems. Observation is a superpower in real estate, and it's amazing how often a simple look — truly noticing — makes all the difference.

Finally, we "hold hands" and stick together. Real estate is not a solo sport. We rely on our colleagues, lenders, attorneys, inspectors, and clients to pull together toward the same goal. When we work collaboratively with mutual respect and trust, the process runs more smoothly (and evervone benefits!).

Fulghum's list may have been written for kindergartners, but I'm convinced it was just as much for the rest of us. Real estate, like life, comes down to the basics: share, play fair, clean up your messes, say you're sorry, and never stop looking for wonder.

Simple doesn't always mean easy but it almost always means right. And that's something every agent, every client, and every person could remember — whether they're signing a contract, walking through a new home, or just navigating life's unpredictable journey.

• Lauren Dahl is the General Manager and Broker-in-Charge at Landmark Realty Group and Landmark Vacations where she supports an elite team of brokers. She can be reached at 828-279-4700 or via email at lauren@landmarkrg.



IGHLANDS DINING •





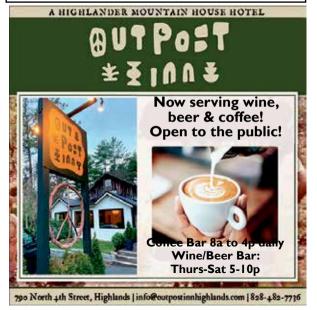




Wednesday-Saturday Wednesday-Saturday 5:30-9p Open for

SUNDAY BRUNCH with Blue Grass music 10a-3p

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







Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands



Open 7 Days

for Lunch & Dinner

Lunch: 11a-3:30p Dinner: 5:30p - closed





29

Ice Cream

Flavors!

19

Popsicle

Flavors!

Know yourself and know your adversaries

Dear Editor.

The reason the right-wing folks and the left-wing folks are feuding is because certain rich and powerful people want

"Know yourself and know your adversary and you will be safe in 100 battles."

- SunTzu (tarathrased).

The Heritage Foundation and the authors of Project 2025 have a plan and are pursuing it aggressively.

Right-wing media is constantly encouraging fear, hate, and anger. Fox News et al has captured the imagination of 40% or so of our countrymen and women.

All the kindness and cajoling in the world cannot compete against the constant barrage of misinformation, appealing to the worst instincts of human nature.

John Lewis, before he passed, said that there are forces in our country who don't want ordinary Americans to have a say in their government. You can't fix things unless you get to the root cause.

Progressives must stick together and come up with their own plan, if we are to get our democracy back.

David Stearns

...STIEHLER continued from page 1

of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, sang Stiehler's praises noting that it will take a lot for whomever takes his seat at the table to fill his shoes.

Local Alice Nelson also bid Stiehler farewell saving she appreciated his service and his booming voice.

Mayor Pat Taylor also thanked Stiehler for his years of service and for the work he has done and continues to do, to elevate the Town Scholarship Golf Tournament, which thanks to the Bryson family, who covered all the expenses for the second year in a row, netted the most ever -- \$72,000.

Mayor Taylor also thanked Stiehler for being the master mind behind the new playground destined for the Rec Park which will hopefully open the summer of 2026.

Stiehler thanked everyone for the kind words and said he would like to continue his work on the Scholarship Golf Tournament for years to come and said the plan for the playeround has come to fruition. To date \$1.56 million has been raised and collected. He has also applied for a \$50,000 grant through the Hospital Foundation to fill the small funding gap. Now it's time for the playground's site prep.

"I'm asking the board and staff to begin the process of bidding on this project and I'm hoping for a grand opening the summer of 2026. I'm really excited about what's going to come and this will be a wonderful addition for the children of Highlands," he said.

What followed was an emotional farewell from Stiehler as he spoke from the heart about his time on the board and about each of his co-board members.

He said he was grateful to the Highlands community who elected him four times, to his employer Highlands Country Club that never curtailed his "town" work, and to his wife and daughter who supported him throughout the years and throughout the many required meetings.

"We have faced a lot of challenges and opportunities, some easier than others. What I learned more than anything was that regardless of the level of government, every decision made has one or more unintended consequences," he said. "Whether you agree with the decisions made in this room, I know this Town Board has the community's best interest at heart. Working with the five of you benefited me more than you'll ever know," he said.

He spoke directly to each of the board members and

To Commissioner John Dotson: "One of my best memories is walking endlessly through those fields in Mor-

ganton with you looking for the next Highlands Christmas Tree to be planted in KH Founders Park. Then in 2011, we were tasked with picking out the new Holiday decorations for the light poles in the business district, which I think was the most nerve-wracking position I've ever been put in!"

To Commissioner Amy Patterson: "I can't think of anyone who is more intelligent and articulate and fights for what they believe is right, even if it's not popular. Even if I didn't agree with you, I could never question your thought process. To me you are the epitome of public service."

To Commissioner Weller: "While we've only served together for a short eight months, I'll always appreciate your friendship and the advice and direction you've provided me over the years. You are a great addition to this board, and I know you'll serve Highlands well."

To Mayor Pat Taylor: "You've set the bar for anyone who ever serves as mayor of Highlands in the future. Your passion and commitment to Highlands is incredible. I

• See STIEHLER page 14



2025 SURVEY OF RESIDENTS

The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition works with the Town to make things better for all of our residents whether full-time or seasonal. Tell us what you think will make Highlands an even greater place to live!

> Go to our website and participate before October 5th.

www.highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com





Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main Street

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

SEPTEMBER 5 Silly Ridge

SEPTEMBER 12

Johnny Webb Band

SEPTEMBER 19

Curtis Blackwell & Dixie
Bluegrass Boys

SEPTEMBER 26
Nitrograss

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 411-499 Pine Street

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

SEPTEMBER 6

The Parks Brothers

SEPTEMBER 13

Continental Divide

SEPTEMBER 20

Brandon Crocker Trio

SEPTEMBER 27

Shedhouse Trio with Darren Nicholson



visithighlandsnc.com

• Hospital News •

A personal message to raise awareness about prostate cancer and screenings

have talked about the importance of getting cancer screenings many times, especially for breast cancer and colorectal cancer. As we know, early detection is critical, as it is linked to better outcomes. But a type of cancer that's less talked about is prostate cancer. If you saw a light blue ribbon, would you understand what it symbolized as readily as you would the pink ribbon?

The light blue ribbon signifies prostate cancer awareness, and you may see it more in the month of September because

this is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

One fact we know about men's health is that, unfortunately, men on average are slower to go seek care overall, whether that's scheduling a yearly wellness exam or ensuring that they stay on top of their regular cancer screenings. There are many possible reasons that we lag behind in this area, including that our wives or partners are often the ones to manage household healthcare — and if they don't insist we get a checkup, it won't happen. Most of us have also been raised in a "tough it out" type of culture, where unless we're in an absolute health crisis and in need of immediate care, such as a heart attack, we just seem to coast along.

According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, about 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their lives, and this year alone, it's estimated that more than 313,000 new cases will be diagnosed in men.

Not too long ago, I was surprised to learn that I was one of them. To any that know me, I am a very healthy person. I am an avid runner and have always tried to keep healthy habits. In fact, I have served in healthcare for 40 years and have never been a patient.

The last few years, I have had a PSA (prostate-specific antigen) that has creeped up each year. Just a few months ago, and I should add at the insistence of my wife, I had the test repeated. It increased again. We made an appointment with a urologist, again much to my wife's insistence. This started my journey as he felt a "bulge" on my prostate. I experienced MRIs, biopsies, and a PET/CT which revealed I had prostate cancer.

In July, I proceeded with a robot assisted prostatectomy. I cannot express how relieved I was to receive a "great" report from the



Tom Neal CEO, CNO Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

surgeon and a pathology report which the surgeon told me could not have been better. Essentially, I am now cancer-free. I also will share without detail, that I have not experienced any of the complications men fear most from prostate surgery. I am still on my journey to recovery and look forward to the day I can resume my active lifestyle, but I know this is to come.

If you're a man at average risk for prostate cancer, it's not advised that you get a prostate exam until you're 50, but if you have a family history of prostate

cancer or you are Black (since Black men are at higher risk), screening should begin at age 45. Your provider generally performs a rectal exam, where they can feel the surface and edges of your prostate gland to detect any abnormalities. They also perform a PSA blood test, which measures the prostate-specific antigen (a protein your prostate gland produces) level in your blood. If it's high, more testing will be done.

My experience has prompted me to encourage male readers to be sure to schedule their prostate checks and discuss their risk with their primary care providers. I also advise that you listen to your wives or partners like I did, when they remind you to take care of yourself in this way.

This is the message I hope you hear. I was fortunate as my prostate cancer was caught before it spread and I have every reason to believe I will resume a normal life. This is only because I acted early enough. (My wife would tell you it wasn't soon enough.) Get your screening tests as recommended and take action when there is a finding of concern. It could save your life.

I cannot emphasize enough how important preventive care is — this means making sure to get your annual physical with your primary care provider, who you should build a good relationship with over the years. If you do this, they are better able to notice differences from year to year, and you can feel comfortable enough to have open conversations with them about any symptoms you may be experiencing.

I also want to remind readers to schedule all of your cancer screenings, whether that's your mammogram, colonoscopy, skin cancer check, or another test. By doing this, you significantly lower your risk of being

• See SCREENINGS page 14

UPCOMING EVENT

The Bascom presents the 15th Annual **Clay Symposium: Forms of Inspiration**

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts proudly announces the 15th Annual Bascom Clay Symposium, "Forms of Inspiration," taking place September 26–27, 2025. This celebrated event gathers prominent ceramic artists Kirsten Stingle. Natasha Dikareva, and Thaddeus Erdahl to explore narrative and figurative ceramic sculpture.

The symposium begins Friday, September 26, at 4:00 pm with a keynote address by Bethany Chaney, Executive Director of the John C. Campbell Folk School, discussing craft traditions and their vital role in fostering community and creativity. The keynote will be followed by a public reception, providing attendees with the opportunity to meet the artists and engage with fellow art enthusiasts.

On Saturday, September 27, attend-

from 10:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:30-4:00 pm. showcasing the innovative techniques and creative insights of Stingle, Dikareva, and Erdahl. Each artist uniquely explores themes of mythology, memory, and social commentary, transforming clay into poetic and evocative works.

In conjunction with the symposium, the Ioel Gallery at The Bascom features the exhibition "Forms of Inspiration: Ceramic Artists of the Bascom Clay Symposium," running through November 29, 2025. This exhibition includes selected works by each symposium artist, available for purchase.

Due to the generosity of Bascom Supporters, the symposium is free and open to all, welcoming both those who wish to drop in and those who want to engage in the full event experience.

For additional details and the complete ees can enjoy live artist demonstrations event schedule, please visit thebascom.org.

he 15th Annual Bascom Clav Symposium

Prominent ceramic artists Kirsten Stingle, Natasha Dikareya, and Thaddeus Erdahl explore narrative and figurative sculpture through live demonstrations. Keynote by Bethany Chaney. Exhibition on view. Free and open to all. More at



^{rg}Featuring Kristen Stingle Natasha Dikareva

Thaddeus Frdahl

Due to the generosity of Bascom Supporters, the symposium is free and open to all, welcoming both those who wish to drop in and those who want to engage in the full event experience.



Sept 26 4 - 5 pm

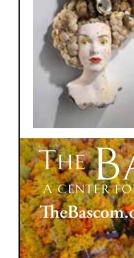
Kevnote Address by Bethany Chanev, followed by a public reception.

Sept 27 10 am - 12 pm 1:30 pm - 4 pm Demonstrations by featured artists















HIGHLANDS EXPERTISE ELEVATED

EXPERIENCE

- Highlands resident for 17 years
- Representing buyers and sellers across the Plateau
- Seamless service from Atlanta to the mountains
- Backed by 78+ years of **Dorsey Alston trust**

LET'S TALK Brian Seifried, REALTOR® 770.309.1143

Dorsey Alston

404.352.2010



...SURVEY continued from page 1

that date, following the three-year transition period.

New STRs have been prohibited in these zones since September 2022.

The commissioners who voted for amortization at the urging of HNC were John Dotson, Amy Patterson, Eric Pierson and Brian Stiehler. Jeff Weller voted against amortization.

On the ballot for open seats on the Town Board in November are Amy Patterson, Eric Pierson and Jim Tate. Brian Stiehler resigned from the board on July 31, leaving two years of his term open. Jim Tate is running for that seat.

HNC's goal is to reach every resident with the survey.

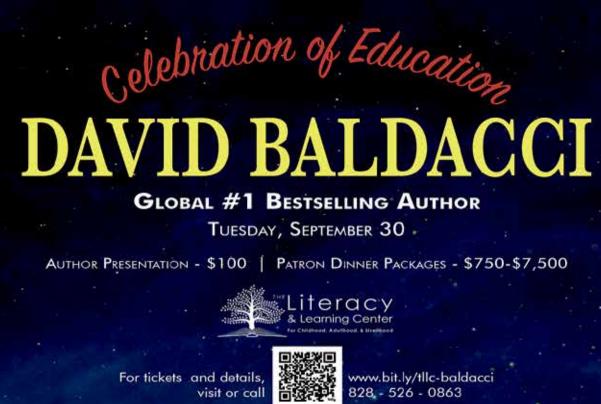
The following questions are on the survey:

- Residents are those of us who own a home for our personal use whether fulltime, part-time or seasonal. Please check the appropriate box;
- If a part-time or seasonal resident, approximately how many days a year do you reside in Highlands?
- How many years have you owned a home in Highlands?
- Where is your home in Highlands? Street name or neighborhood name.
 - What is your name? (Optional)

- As a resident, what do you find special about Highlands?
- What are the greatest threats to the viability of Highlands as a place for resi-
- What local businesses do you frequent most often?
- •What additional businesses would you like to see added in Highlands?
- Which local charities do you support through your contributions and/or volunteer work?
- Please share your additional comments about any other concerns you have or improvement ideas you have for Highlands.
- Do you want to learn more or become a supporter of Highlands Neighborhood Coalition? If so, add your name and email address below.

Except for full-time resident Lila Howland, the remaining members of HNC's Board of Directors consists of four seasonal, part-time residents: Cathy Henson, President; Tom Coley, Carol Gable, and James Worrell, Treasurer.

The survey will be open through October 5th. Residents can participate by going to the HNC website at www.highlandsneighborhoodcoalition.com.





• Biz/Org News •

The Community Foundation of WNC grants \$975,000 to MANNA FoodBank

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC) has awarded MANNA FoodBank \$975,000 to help purchase and distribute nutritious food for families across Western North Carolina. This critical funding comes at a time when food insecurity across the region is at historic heights. Each month, neighbors make more than 170,000 visits to MANNA's food pantries, the highest level in the organization's 42-year history.

The grant will support the purchase of essential staples, such as fresh produce, proteins like meat, dairy, and eggs, and shelf-stable items most requested by families. These foods will reach neighbors through MANNA's network of more than 300 community-based nonprofit agencies, schools, and direct-to-neighbor programs across 16 counties and the Qualla Boundary.

Even before Hurricane Helene devastated Western North Carolina last year,

food insecurity in the region exceeded state averages. The storm worsened already fragile conditions, destroying farmland, displacing thousands of families, and driving costs even higher.

Since Hurricane Helene, MANNA has distributed nearly 18 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 15 million meals, and launched its Essential Foods Program, a multi-year commitment to ensure nutrient-dense foods are consistently available to families. This new grant from CFWNC will help MANNA sustain its purchasing power and continue to deliver critical nutrition to children, senior adults, veterans, and working families who are still struggling with recovery.

Donors to our disaster fund made this grant and more than 500 others possible. We are grateful for their support and for MANNA's work in the region," said CF-WNC President Elizabeth Brazas

Josephine's Gift Shop

Apparel - Gifts - Some - Decor at the Asia House • 151 Helens Barn Ave.





Open Mon.-Sun. at noon, Closed Wed. • 718-664-3571

Open for Lunch

DON LEON'S

11a to 3p

Open Tues. - Sat.

Pet Friendly Place Where Friends Meet

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 Gyro!

Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese Steak • Shrimp Pita • Susan's Rueben

Italian Sausage • Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings • Jambalaya • Kabobs

Shrimp Gumbo • Soups

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







Depend on the experts.

The MLS (Multiple Listing Service) is a trusted resource that ensures accuracy, transparency and fairness, providing the data that consumers see on their home searches.

With Canopy MLS, real estate professionals utilize a comprehensive, full-service system, with the tools and resources to maximize exposure and visibility of homes in the market.

Work with a real estate professional to access the full power of the MLS.





Your One-Stop Garden Shop Celebrating 31 Years!

Open Mon.-Sat. 8a to 5p

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



FALL SALE
All perennials,
trees, shurbs
and pottery
20%





Fall Home Improvement

5 things you need to do in your home to prevent catastrophe

Some maintenance projects are (much) more important than others.

By Dan DiClerico

f you own a home, you know how much goes into maintaining it. No one gets to every last item on the to-do list. (Seriously, who lubricates their door locks and hinges once a year, the way manufacturers recommend?)

We get it: home maintenance can be a little tedious. But there are some upkeeps that you absolutely must stay on top of, since skipping them could lead to catastrophe, including fires, floods, mold and more. Our experts in the Home Improvement & Outdoor Lab at the Good Housekeeping Institute pulled together this essential to-do list, aimed at keeping your home and everyone in it safe throughout the year.

Clear the dryer vent.

Of the nearly 3,000 home dryer fires that are reported to fire departments each year, the leading cause is inadequate cleaning, since it allows the buildup of

combustible lint inside the machine. Cleaning the lint screen on a regular basis is important, but at least once a year you also need to clear the vent.

Start by turning off the power to the dryer at your home's electrical panel. To access the vent, you'll probably need to pull the machine away from the wall. Separate the vent from the dryer, then use the crevice tool on your vacuum to suck up lint and other de-

bris from both ends of the duct.

Our cleaning experts are fans of the Hurricane Lint Lizard, which saves you from having to move the dryer. Instead, simply attach the plastic contraption to the end of your vacuum, insert it into the dryer through the lint screen compartment, and it will suck lint from deep inside the vent.

Insulate water pipes.

A single burst pipe in your home can cause upwards of \$5,000 in damage, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Many homeowners think frozen pipes only happen in cold parts of the country, but the truth is they're a bigger threat in mild regions. That's because pipes in these areas tend not to be insulated, making them susceptible to freezing and bursting during unexpected cold snaps.

Pipes in unheated spaces like basements, attics and garages are vulnerable, as are water lines that run through cabinets or exterior walls. Wrap these pipes in foam insulation sleeves, available at home centers and plumbing supply stores for less than \$1 per linear foot.

Check smoke alarms.

Roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or none that are working, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. For maximum protection, alarms should be placed inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Once a month,



• See PREVENT page 13

Fall Home Improvement - 2025

Best Whole-House Generators

Home standby generators from companies like Champion, Generac, and Kohler can be pricey, but they provide immediate backup power during outages

By Allen St. John

If you often lose power where you live. whether because of seasonal storms such as hurricanes or due to other problems with the electri-

cal grid, having a wholehouse generator can be very convenient. It ensures that vour appliances are available when you need them—even hardwired devices like your well pump, water heater, and

from a garden hose to re-

move smaller debris, and to

check that water is draining

freely through the down-

spout to the ground below.

air conditioning and heating systems—not to mention lifesaving devices like medical equipment.

These professionally installed units, also called home standby generators or whole-home generators. pump out lots of electricity and, unlike a portable generator, kick on automatically when the power goes out, letting you go about your daily life almost as if there isn't an outage at all. They're about the size of a central air conditioning unit and sit permanently on a concrete pad. They can run on natural gas, which provides an essentially limitless source of fuel, or on a large propane tank, which needs to be refueled much less often than the gas tank on a

portable generator. "A home standby generator does a great job of supplying backup power during an outage," says Dave Trezza, the test engineer who heads CR's generator testing program. "But standby generators aren't cheap, and the installation can be complex and expensive—not a DIY job. That's why you need a properly sized, top-performing model from our tests that delivers steady, reliable power."

The largest models we test deliver at least 10.000 watts of electricity, enough to power everything in an average home. Smaller models provide at least 5,000 watts, enough to power many key household appliances, electronics, and systems in your home. They will, for example, keep your refrigerator, air conditioner, and well pump running.

Our generator buying guide can help vou select the style that's right for you. Our generator ratings also include portable and inverter models, in addition to home standby generators. CR members can read on for reviews of the best home standby generators in our ratings.

Best Large Whole-House Generators

Large whole-house generators have an output of 10,000 watts or more, which means there's enough power for all your appliances. On average, these big models run from 140 to 200 hours on a propane tank, which is a shorter duration than their smaller counterparts.

Best Small Whole-House Generators

Small whole-house generators in our ratings are those that put out less than 10,000 watts of power. The upshot is that they often run longer on propane than larger standby generators. Note that while smaller models are less expensive to purchase, the installation costs are comparable to a larger model, so your overall savings might not be as large as you expect.

There are many benefits to installing a wholehouse generator: they start automatically; they give you a choice of fuel; they run a self-diagnosis and let you know when maintenance is needed: they're professionally installed outdoors. with the exhaust properly diverted away from your

...PREVENT continued from page 12

make sure the alarms are working by pressing the test button.

Carbon monoxide is another danger that claims about 400 lives every year in the U.S. Known as "the silent killer," it's an odorless gas that can escape from faulty gas-fired equipment, like clothes dryers and water heaters.

Our experts recommend combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors that protect against both threats. Most of the devices are interconnected. meaning you'll be alerted to danger in one part of the house when you're in

Keep gutters clean.

Clogged gutters lead to a host of problems, including leaky roofs, damaged foundation walls and mold outbreaks. Climbing up on the roof is dangerous work, so this is a good project to hire out, at an average cost of around \$150.

If you decide to clean the gutters yourself, make sure your ladder is on firm, level ground and at a safe angle from the house. Wearing work gloves, scoop out leaves, pine needles, and any other muck that's preventing rainwater from reaching the downspout. Then spray water installing gutters guards is a great way to prevent clogs

Our experts say that

from occurring in the first place. In our tests, micromesh screens were excellent at keeping debris out of the gutter while withstanding even the heaviest of rainfall.

Sweep the chimney.

If your wood-burning fireplace gets a lot of action in the winter, a smoke residue called creosote will start to form on the chimney walls. Left unchecked, it can block the flow of smoke up the chimney, and even release carbon monoxide back into the home.

Sweeping the chimney is not a DIY project, since it involves a lot of specialized equipment, like cameras and long wire brushes. The website of the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) lets you search its online directory of some 2,000 members by zip code. The service will likely cost around \$250.

Chimney sweeps get busy during the winter, when fireplace issues arise the most. So take advantage of their downtime by scheduling your tune up during the summer or early fall.



Custom Garage Doors & Automatic Openers

Installation • Service • Repair 828-369-5014

Owner: Steve Raby • 7290 Highlands Rd • Franklin







HIGHLANDS, NC

FALL Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8a to 5p (Across from the Post Office) 135 Franklin Road 828-526-3956

...SCREENINGS continued from page 8

diagnosed with an advanced cancer. This means you won't have to endure taxing treat-

ment and it boosts your odds for survival. Each of these screenings aren't time-consuming and are well worth the peace of mind they deliver.







For beauty that goes deeper than the surface.

The ultimate protection for outdoor beauty. Our innovative formulas minimize film build to reduce cracking and peeling for less prep, easier coating, and long-lasting results.

See the Love



330 Dillard Road Highlands NC 28741 8282009226 www.highlandsdecorating.com

Color accuracy is ensured only when tinted in quality Benjamin Moore" paints and stains. Color representations may differ slightly from actual stain.

©2024 Benjamin Moore & Co. Benjamin Moore, the triangle "M" symbol, and Woodhuke are registered trademarks licensed to Benjamin Moore & Co. 2724

...STIEHLER continued from page 7

know it must feel like a thankless job, but I hope you realize how good you are at what you do and how revered and respected you are. I'm grateful for you and the mark you've left on Highlands."

To Josh Ward and the Town Staff: "You all have tough jobs, balancing the everyday needs of the town while adapting to the ever-changing world around us. We are fortunate to have a staff with all your talents."

And to Eric Pierson who was not at the meeting that night: "I've always admired your service on the board as someone born and raised in Highlands. I've always appreciated the perspective you bring to the table because you've seen and experienced many of the changes Highlands has experienced over the years. Like Amy, you are steadfast in your opinions and what you feel is best for Highlands regardless of how popular the decision is."

Jim Tate is running for the remaining two years on Stiehler term.

COREY JAMES GALLERY & Estate Consignments

Bronze sculpture • Paintings
Vintage & Antique Collectables &
Furniture • Costume Jewelry



(828) 526-4818
On the corner of 3rd & Spring

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

web. w.highl

Go to www.highlandsinfo. com. Click on Local News. Delivered and Uploaded every Thurs. AM

...HELENE continued from page 1

to respond to natural disasters in the future.

"As we approach this tragic first anniversary of Hurricane Helene, I hope Highlanders will pause to remember those who were lost in the storm. Please pray for their family and friends with the hope they can heal and recover from their loss," said Mayor Taylor. "Also, we should be mindful that there are those who still struggle to recover from the storm that destroyed their homes, property and businesses. On the other hand, Western Carolina has been resilient and is making progress in building things back even better than before."

Starting Sept. 26, heavy, consistent rainfall – clocking between 18 and 30 inches across the region – caused rivers and creeks to rise and land to slide off the

mountains. Interstate 40 between Tennessee and North Carolina is still dealing with landslides that closed the road and continue to hamper travel.

The mountains of Western North Carolina acted as a natural barrier, forcing the storm's moisture to rise, cool, and precipitate out.

In addition, the region had already experienced significant rainfall from storms that occurred before Hurricane Helene, leading to saturated ground which meant trees were easily toppled by winds, root balls and all.

Immediately following Helene, businesses, area rotaries, the HC Hospital, numerous churches, various nonprofits and volunteers in Highlands and Cashiers

• See HELENE page 16





ACP Home Interiors



1990 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 28741 828-526-4500

VISIT OUR NEW SECOND LOCATION IN TOWN LOCATED AT 215 N. 4TH STREET - NOW OPEN!





Let us help you make your house ... your home.

Follow ACP Highands on Facebook and Instagram for Specials!

Open to the Public since 1983

www.acphomeinteriors.com

...HELENE continued from page 15

joined forces to collect and distribute food, clothing, household items and more to families and communities in Asheville and beyond who fared far worse than Highlands and who were left with nothing – not homes, ve-

hicles, clothing, medicine, or food. Mayor Taylor said all should

Mayor Taylor said all should be grateful for the first-responders and volunteers who stepped forward in this tremendous time of need to help their neighbors, both here locally and in the many effected towns in Western North

"I am so proud of our churches and non-profit organizations in Highlands that did everything they could possibly do in this relief effort," he said.

When NC 106 blew out, the road was closed for about three months which severely hampered the business community and families in Highlands who still needed to get their children to and from school. Thankfully, Bryson Grading and Paving was able to fix the road sooner than planned and the road opened just before Christmas. Still the normally fruitful Leaf-looker season was lost.



Though town crews and contractors worked day and night clearing roadways of downed trees and lines, it was days and weeks before power was restored across the plateau.

Trees and powerlines were down across the plateau causing widespread and long-term power outages. Luckily, Hotwire never went down and the town also got Starlink kits set up so people could gather at the Rec Park and in front of Town Hall to get on the internet.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Johanna Fein said Highlands was truly fortunate in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

"While many Western North Carolina communities experienced devastating damage, our town was spared the worst of the storm's impact. Like much of the region, however, we still felt the effects in our local economy. Business slowed as visitors heard widespread messaging to avoid Western North Carolina, coupled with the closure of Highway 106/Dillard Road," she said.

Richard Delany, CEO of Old Edwards Hospitality Group said looking back, he feels nothing but gratitude for the safety of their guests and employees, for the strength of the community, and for the opportunity to be of service when it mattered most.

"A year has passed since Hurricane Helene swept through our region, and the memories remain vivid – equal parts humbling and heartening. Though Old Edwards was spared the worst of the storm's wrath, with no injuries and only minimal damage to the property, we watched as much of the surrounding Western North Carolina community endured profound hardship. In those early hours and long days afterward,

• See HELENE page 17





Photos by Kim and Rachel Lewicki

...HELENE continued from page 16

we were reminded just how strong and compassionate our team and neighbors truly are." said Delany.

Powered by generators, OEI staff stepped up in extraordinary ways.

For four days, with no phone lines, text messages, or internet, the stillness was broken only by the sound of rain and a steady hum of determination.

"Hot buffet meals were served twice daily to more than 300 employees and their families, along with thousands of bottles of water," said Delany. "At 200 Main, rooms were made available for first responders and some of our team so they could take warm showers, rest, and prepare for their day, which was especially important for those who couldn't return home."

Fein said thankfully, the Highlands community enjoyed a busy and vibrant summer season, and businesses are now looking forward to welcoming visitors for the fall "leaf-peeping" weeks ahead.





PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

TODAY! THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 10AM-2PM

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED







22 JOE PYE TRAIL, HIGHLANDS MLS# 1001884 | \$790,000 | 3 BR / 2 BA

Charming single-level home just outside Highlands' city limits! This beautifully updated home offers the perfect blend of modern comfort and convenient location. Featuring three spacious bedrooms and two fully renovated bathrooms, the home has been thoughtfully remodeled to meet today's standards. Enjoy cooking and entertaining in the brand-new kitchen, complete with contemporary finishes and quality appliances. A stylish new wet bar in the living room adds a perfect touch for hosting guests. Additional highlights include a whole-house generator for peace of mind, and a fully fenced backyard. This move-in ready home combines comfort, style, and location. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity!

DIRECTIONS: From Highlands, take Hwy 64 east then turn left onto Buck Creek Road. Turn right at Chestnut Hill, then left on Joe Pye Trail. Follow to number 22 on left.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

HOMESERVICES

HOSTED BY

JOHN BYNUM | 828,200,0144

john@bhhsmmr.com I 2334 Cashiers Road, Highlands, NC MeadowsMountainRealty.com

©2025 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

• HS Sports Weekly Recap •

Busy HS athletes across the board

This past week was packed with action for Highlander athletics, featuring exciting matches and strong performances across multiple sports.

Middle School Highlights

MS Volleyball had a mixed week, falling to Summit 0-2 before bouncing back with a 2-1 victory at Rabun Gap. MS Soccer had a dominant run, securing an 8-3 victory over Summit with goals from Porter Bowers (3), Jensen Bowers (2), Camden Westendorf, David Rogers, and Todd Vilardo.

They continued their winning streak with a 2-0 win at Rabun Gap, thanks to

goals by Porter Bowers and Matthew Morales.

In **Cross Country**, the girls' team finished 3rd at the Towns County meet, with standout performances from Riley Brooks (4th) and Valentina Gooch (10th). On the boys' side, Asa Gardner finished a strong 5th...

The **Middle School Swim Team** meet hosted by Brevard Academy was Thurs. Sept. 18.

There were eight teams and Highlands boys team of two finished 6th. Aleks Petric scored 40 with two 1sts in the 50-butterfly and the 50-breaststroke; Justin Powell

scored 34 points finishing 2nd both of his races, the 100-IM (Individual Medley) and the 50-backstroke.

The girls team finished 5th.

The 200-Medley Relay of Nicole Shchelgachova, Bella Batista, Emilina Hernandez and

Valerie Nadzorau finished 4th and their 200-freestyle relay got 5th.

Emilina Hernandez scored 51 points including a 1st place finish in the 50-breaststroke and a 3rd in the 50-freestyle.



Brett Lamb Athletic Director

Bella Batista scored 47 points finishing 3rd in both the 100 IM and the 50-butterfly.

Valerie Nadzorau scored 29. 9th in the 50-butterfly and 12th in the 100-freestyle.

Anna Nicole Shchelgachova scored 25. 9th in the 100-IM and 17th in the 50-backstroke.

The next meet is Friday, October 3 at home at the Rec Park pool at 5 pm.

High School Highlights

The **HS Soccer** team's lone match against Andrews was postponed but has been rescheduled for October 2nd. HS Cross Country competed at Murphy HS, where Claire Worley finished 6th with a time of 22:49, and Francisco Gooch placed 58th with a time of 24:52.

HS Volleyball faced tough opponents, with the JV team losing 0-2 to Swain and the Varsity team dropping a close 3-2 match, losing the 5th set 11-15. At home against Hiwassee Dam, the JV team lost a tight 0-2 match (20-25, 23-25), and the Varsity team also fell 3-2 in a nail-biter, losing the 5th set 12-15.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars to support our Highlander athletes!

- Tuesday 9/23 MS Cross Country at Rabun Gap, HS Volleyball at Rabun County
- Wednesday 9/24 MS Soccer at Swain, HS Soccer at Swain, HS Cross Country at Hiwassee Dam
- Thursday 9/25 HS Volleyball Home vs. Summit. This will be Senior Night and Pink Night to honor those who have battled Breast Cancer. We will also recognize our Highlands youth volleyball teams. Let's pack the gym and cheer on our Highlander seniors!





Your Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) & Audiology Care
All in One Location!



Dr. Keith Jackson, MD, ENT Emory University and Medical College of Georgia



Dr. Erica McVey, Audiologist University of Texas

Contact: (706) 782-0478

CONNECT

(0)







 $www.mountain lakes medical center.com \ / \ www.mlmcphysicians group.com$

...SALES continued from page 1

Commerce Johanna Fein, aggressive and intimidating sales tactics by employees of two cosmetic stores in town – one on the south side of Main Street and another on the north side – are intimidating potential customers from entering adjacent stores and thereby affecting their business.

"I have a stack of emails from residents and visitors complaining about this saving these practices are affecting their experience in Highlands and it's been going on for several years," said Fein. "I know Town Manager Josh Ward and Mayor Pat Taylor have also been hearing from many residents and visitors about this same issue. This is a serious matter that impacts more than just individual interactions. It affects the overall experience on Main Street, the reputation of our town as an appealing destination, and the vitality of neighboring businesses. Highlands has always prided itself on its charm and sense of community, and addressing this issue is essential to preserving that reputation."

Owners of the Art Highlands on the south side of Main Street said the aggressive sales techniques at the store in the alcove adjacent to them has severely hurt their business claiming 2,000 to 3,000 potential customers have avoided them by crossing the street and then returning to the sidewalk further down.

Aggressive solicitation crossing from private property to public property (sidewalks) has never been allowed but at the worksession commissioners heard a revised – stricter – version of the ordinance from Town Attorney Nick Tosco.

The cost of a citation will be increased from \$250 per incident to \$500 at which point it is classified as a misdemeanor. Captain McCall said the parties involved have been issued a number of \$250 citations which they simply pay.

In addition, to the citation increase, the definition of certain actions relating to solicitation have been clarified.

Aggressive Manner means approaching or speaking to a person in a way that is intended or likely to cause a reasonable person to fear bodily harm, or the commission of a criminal act upon their person, or upon property in their immediate possession. Aggressive manner also includes: touching someone without the person's consent; using obscene or abusive language toward someone while attempting to solicit the person.

Solicit means engaging in the temporary or permanent business of selling, soliciting, taking orders, attempting to take orders, offering for sale, or distributing free samples in an attempt to sell, any goods, wares, or merchandise to someone located on public property.

Person means both the singular and plural of the word and includes any individual, firm, partnership, company, society, entity, or other organization or association.

Hence, the amended ordinance now clarifies that it is unlawful for any salesperson to solicit or act in an aggressive manner to a potential customer.

But the current and soon-to-be amended ordinance only applies to actions on public property not on private property – like the alcoves in front of establishments that border on the public sidewalk.

Salespeople cannot cross their private threshold onto the public sidewalk to verbally sell or physically hand out samples of their wares on to the sidewalk to engage verbally or physically. They can only do so from inside their store and on their private property adjacent to their stores. Neither can they engage physically because that is considered assault which falls into a different category.

"From what I understand from our attorney, they would not be able to hand out samples across the public property line," said Town Manager Josh Ward. "The question is for the lessor, though – was the area in front – as in alcove – leased to them for use of their business?"

Attorney Tosco said harassment would begin once an individual says, "No thank you" and the salesperson continues to hawk or carry on a conversation with the pedestrian.

According to Highlands Police Captain Leah McCall, the police can only issue citations if they witness unlawful solicitation or harassment or if someone who was harassed or felt threatened is willing to file a complaint at which point the police can then intervene.

Requiring a business permit, which could enable the town to not issue one, as suggested by one merchant – isn't an option because several years ago, the North Carolina forbade the issuances of business licenses or permits.

The board agreed to discuss and likely amend the ordinance at the October Town Board meeting.

• Biz/Org News •



The 2025 Cullasaja Women's Club Leadership Team from left: Dawn Van Fleet, Jo Hill, Jane Adams, Margaret Eichman, Lindy Colson-Harrison and Nancy Harrison.

Cullasaja Women's Outreach grants a record \$380,000

Cullasaja Women's Outreach (CWO) – an independent collective of 109 women – which focuses on supporting nonprofits in the local community, is awarding \$380,000 in grants to Highlands and Cashiers area organizations.

Since its founding in 2006, CWO has invested over \$3,525,000 in local 501(c)(3) organizations.

Funds raised this year are being awarded to 30 entities through a sophisticated grants process jointly chaired by Lindy Colson Harrison, Nancy Harrison, Jo Hill and Dawn Van Fleet.

Individual awards range from \$3,000 to \$30,000. Grant recipients for 2025 include: Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic; Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau; Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society; Cashiers Historical Society; Cashiers Valley Preschool; Center for Learning Enrichment; the Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers; Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands; Fishes and Loaves; Friends of the Albert Carlton Library; Friends of Panthertown; Girls on the Run; Hampton Pre-School and Early Learning Center; Highlands Biological Foundation; Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival; Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; Highlands-Cashiers Community Players; Highlands Emergency Council; Highlands Historical Society; International Friendship Center Food Pantry; Junior Appalachian Musicians® of Blue Ridge; The Literacy Council of Highlands, Inc.; Mountain Theatre Company; Peggy Crosby Community Service Center; Performing Arts Center Educational Theater Program; Pisgah Legal

Services; Southern Blue Ridge Hikers; the Summit Charter School; and, The Bascom.

Thirty-nine percent of CWO grants this year fund preschool, in-school, afterschool and summer educational programs for local children.

"The importance of providing wellrounded educational experiences for our young cannot be overstated. As a community, we need to do all we can to nurture our kids, enabling them to navigate the world responsibly and effectively with skills that will open doors of opportunity," noted Grants Co-Chair Jo Hill. "Each program funded this year strives to ensure academic success while working to build personal responsibility, self-esteem and positive lifelong values. Whether promoting literacy, the study of the physical or natural sciences, or participation in the arts, local programs have at their very heart, the goal of unlocking the potential of each child."

Over one-third of 2025 CWO grants are invested in organizations dedicated to providing safety-net health and humanitarion services

"There are unique challenges faced locally for the underinsured, underprivileged, hard-working people who provide many of our services here on the Plateau," noted Lindy Colson Harrison. "They have limited access to affordable medical and mental health care, dental services, diagnostic testing, and the treatment and management of chronic conditions. Our dollars help support the incredible local organizations and their volunteers, who provide access to therapeutic care, as well as to those who

• See GRANTS page 25

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 22

ing child-like not childish. I want to learn far more from my five-year-old granddaughter than I do the media. I want to be in "awe" of God not just for what He has created but what He is creating in me. I want to ask more questions of Him that start with "I wonder!". I long to share more with others as children often do. I think I will hug more, hold hands more, maybe cry more because my heart hurts. Yes, I want to be as passionate as ever. I think I will maintain my own "prayer fort" where I can go and be a curious boy asking questions of my Heavenly Father, I want to be bewildered and struck with "awe" when I truly listen to people. I want to see beneath facades, masks, and words as I curiously look to connect with others. I want to see with empathetic and understanding eyes. I want to live life with

the excitement of my first little league pitching start. I want to be a trusting kid again.

There is a whole world out there to be enjoyed today. Maybe we need a rest from being the alpha wolf in the pack. Maybe today we can also be an inquisitive pup? Maybe we don't always have to be the dominant bull—maybe we can frolic about and be adventuresome with others. As you grow up today, don't all together abandon growing down. As you grow older today. don't all together abandon your youthful spirit. There is no doubt that something or someone can potentially steal your joy. Just remember—your Creator wants you to be full. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).



• Biz/Org News •

'Rocket Man' hikes for B&GC STEM program

John "The Rocket Man" Godbold is trading rockets for hiking boots as he walks 500 miles across Spain in support of the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau.

He is specifically hiking in support of the science, technology, engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program.

Godbold, previously a rocket scientist and operations engineer with NASA and the Space Shuttle, is now a beloved volunteer and mentor at the Club, where he leads hands-on STEM activities like robotics, circuitry, and — you guessed it — rockets.

Recently honored as the Club's Volunteer of the Year, Godbold is known for his infectious enthusiasm and his ability to make science and math fun and accessible.

His involvement and passion for bringing fun and engaging STEM activities to the Club earned him the nickname "The Rocket Man."

His goal is to bring STEM activities to the Club where kids can have fun and not think they are being taught math and science. By showing them that math and science can be fun and relevant, he aims to help shape the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and leaders.

Godbold's latest endeavor takes him on a remarkable 500-mile journey, walking 1 million steps in support of the BGCP STEM program.

He began his Camino Francés trek on August 24th in the French Pyrenees, and plans to culminate the journey at the iconic cathedral in Santiago, Spain, in early October

Supporters can get involved by making a per-mile pledge or flat-rate donation, helping Godbold take every step with purpose— and helping more youth discover the power of science and exploration.

To support John and the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau's STEM initiative, visit www.bgcplateau.org/giving.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

I also want to thank everyone who made the annual Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament a remarkable success by raising \$72,000 in scholarship money. The Bryson Family again provided tremendous support to cover the tournament overhead and made a great contribution to the fund. The Cullasaja Club again did a wonderful job in hosting the event and

providing a fantastic course for the golfers. I must give a great shoutout and thank you to Brian Stiehler for organizing another great tournament. Rebecca Shuler, our Highlands Financial Director, always does an outstanding job in handling the finances of the event. And of course, a great thank you to all the golfers who made up the 33 teams of the tournament. Thanks so much to everyone.



Larry and Jeannie at the Wine Shoppe



Breeze Cable at the Stubborn Buddha



Hollow Body Tour in Town Square



Zack Couron at The High Dive

From left: Highlands School students Miley Zagal-Damian, Keely Bosdell and Anabelle Hays sporting faces painted at The Bascom that featured music and family activities during the the day.

Porchfest 2025

Hundreds of people

– residents and visitors –
turned out for a day of
music, food and comraderie
on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 1-6
p.m.

More than 35 musicians from every genre performed all over town at numerous restuarants, KH Founders Park, Town Square, The Bascom and even First Presbyterian Church.

Musicians moved from one venue to the next as the day progressed so there was music all day, everywhere.

The fifth annual event was presented by the Center for Life Enrichment and sponosred by the Art Council of Macon County and Johnny and Anita Lupoli.

Photos by Kim Lewicki



Low Tide Band at KH Founders Park on Pine Street

PIRITI IAI I Y SPEAKING



Thoughts from Yellowstone **National Park**

Sr. Pastor **Gary Hewins** Community Bible Church

e have a moth that frequents our barn at night. He can often be found fluttering about the light seemingly looking for something in the growing darkness. He can be counted on to be enthusiastically searching for something as if he really needs to find it. My wife and I seem to frequently hover about Yellowstone National Park. We seem to be searching for something that we really want, we truly need, and we hope to experience. We want to recenter on our Creator and His artistry seen in Yellowstone, like no other place on earth. We want to recenter on one another and how our remaining years can be as adventuresome as those years past, if not more.

Armed with a little knowledge, some growing experience and a telephoto lens—we journey this week into the world of wildlife, muted sagebrush, winding rivers and brilliant vellow aspens to see magnificent creatures searching daily for something. We've captured grizzlies searching for grub worms, a covote searching for the half-eaten elk leg that he had hidden away, wolves searching and seizing a vulnerable bison for dinner.

After four trips to Yellowstone, I have discovered that as a 62-year-old man, I am really searching for a maturity and contentment that starts with a bovish curiosity. To be the man, husband, father, grandfather, friend and pastor I feel called to be, I need a life seasoned with more boyish adventure, peppered with curiosity and dry rubbed with a whole lot of imagination.

To be the man or woman with a spiritual legacy, we must discover and free the little boy or little girl within each of us. Someone important once commented on such a phenomenon; What was His Name? Oh yes, Jesus. "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3).

The kingdom of heaven is not only a future postmortem experience. The kingdom of heaven is now at hand. The kingdom of heaven is a daily reality available to be enjoyed. Our current trip to Yellowstone and Glacier National Park will be all that it needs to be if we will return home with a deeper sense of "awe". We will soon return to a world, that doesn't exist within this naturally splendid, insulated, and majestic bubble. We will return to a world that is growing desensitized to assassinations, assassination attempts, active shooters and a level of unprecedented childishness among leaders.

In that world, I hope to retain and cultivate a "boyish maturity". I want to remain teachable in a world where everyone claims to have the answers. I am interested in be-

WORSHIP

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor 796-782-3865 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. lamie 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

GRACE CHAPEL ON HIGH HOLLY

9615 Dillard Rd Scaly Mountain, N.C.

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas, http://www.Graceonhighholly.com Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11; Prayer Service Wed 5:30p Men's and Women's Bible Study throughout the week

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Marc Robertson & Rev. Nick McGee 464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701 Sunday: Adult Christian Ed, 9:15a; Holy Eucharist, 10:30a; Fellowship 11:45a:Wed: Bible Study/Contemplative Prayer, 5p CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Jacob Tedder • Jacob@cashiers.church • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45a: Wed Study5: 15p supper and childcare.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Iim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 1 la.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 Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues. 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

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,

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

Rev. Emily Wilmarth, pastor, Rev. Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor 828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10a; Worship 11a.; Tues: Men's Group 10a; Wed: Bell Choir 4p. Chancel Choir:5:30p

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. I/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 IIa & 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: 1 I

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church. Sunday Worship is at 9a. & 6p. Wednesday Worship is 6p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376 In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services 909a Bluegrass and I Ia Traditional www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdrof

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 (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418 Sat. 4pm 5/24/25-10/25/25; 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. Richard Salmonson Sundays: School: 10 a.m.: Worship: 11 a.m.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Sun. 9a (English); Mon. 9:30a (Vatican II in Latin); Tues. 7p (Spanish); Wed., 9:30a (English)

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S., Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood Sunday Service (summer): 8am, 9:30am & I Iam Visit our website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com Our Bazaar Barn supports outreach in the community. Open Thurs - Sat. I Iam-3pm

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers •828-743-2122 Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• See SPIRITUALLY page 20

Police & Fire Reports

Highlands Police entries from Sept. 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Sept. 16

• At 5:57 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Cullasaia Drive.

Sept. 17

 At 2 p.m., officers responded to a onevehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road.)

Sept. 18

• At 5:12 p.m., officers received a report of a license plate being taken off a vehicle when parked on N. 3rd Street.

Sept. 21

• At 2:51 a.m., officers responded to a call of a larceny at a bag store on Main Street where a window was broken and 13 high-end hand bags valued at \$133,000 was stolen.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 16.

Sept. 16

- At 9:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bartram Way.
- At 9:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Clubhouse Trail
- At 4:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mountain Laurel Drive.
- At 7:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dixon Drive.
- At 8:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Orchard Road
- At 9:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

Sept. 17

- At 10:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.
- At 12:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a resident on Trillium Circle.
- At 4:42 p.m., the dept. conducted a medical carry-out at a residence on Spruce Lane.
- At 9:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

Sept. 18

- At 11:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.
- At 11:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hammond Road.
- •At 12:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Brushy Face Road.

Sept. 19

- At 9:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on VZ Top Road.
- At 10:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hammond Road.
- At 11:13 a.m., the dept. conducted a rescue at a residence on Chestnut Hill Drive.
- At 1:35 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on S. 5th Street.
- At 7:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Half Mile Drive.
- At 11:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west, (Franklin Road).

Sept. 20

- At 9:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hammond Road.
- At 2:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th. Street.
- At 6:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.
- At 7:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Drive. East.

Sept. 21

- At 7:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dixon Drive.
- At 8:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Walk.
- At 8:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Arnold Road.

Sept. 22

- At 9:27 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Cullasaia Club Drive.
- At 12:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spruce Street.
- At 1:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Overlook Road.
- At 5:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Cullasaja Club Drive.
- At 6:14 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a location on Sprint Street.
- At 11:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

Highlands PD asks for community's help

By Lt. Tim Broughton

In the early morning of September 21, Highlands Police officers were called to 374 Main Street's All About Bagzzz in response to an alarm activation.

When officers arrived at the business, they found the door standing open with shattered glass on the ground.

Highlands Police Department investigators were called to process the crime scene and begin the investigation.

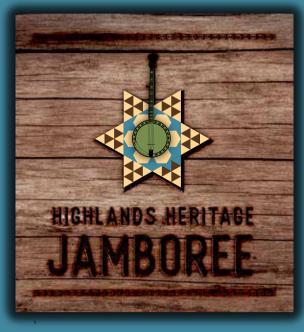
As part of the investigation, officers

viewed security footage from the business and determined that two individuals entered the store, collected multiple handbags and other items, then fled the scene in a white sedan at approximately 3am.

Both individuals were wearing masks, gloves, and hoods.

Anyone with any information can contact the Highlands Police Department at 828-526-9431 or email amber.wright@highlandsnc.org





CELEBRATING HIGHLANDS' HERITAGE FEATURING TRADITIONAL MUSIC. DANCING, BBQ & MOONSHINE

PERFORMANCES BY
U.S. NAVY BAND: FOUR-STAR EDITION
J CREEK CLOGGERS
HIGHLANDS BAGPIPERS &
SLEDHOUSE TRIO WITH DARREN NICHOLSON

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park Saturday, September 27, 1-7:30pm

Join us!



Highlands Chamber of Commerce/

Visit Highlands, NC

<u>visith</u>ighlandsnc.com

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

9a Sunday mornings LIVE STREAM: Andy Stanley

Following Jesus makes your life better, And makes you better at life!

For details, text Bee at 404-307-1415







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

Edwin Wilson Cell (828) 421-3643

Office/fax (828) 526-4758 wilsongrading@yahoo.com

COUNSELING CENTER OF HIGHLANDS Peggy Crosby Center • 348 South Fifth Street 828-482-7417 info@counselingcenter.org · counseling-center.org

We are nonprofit and provide counseling on a sliding scale fee so

everyone can receive the care they need regardless of ability to pay.

Ryan M. Bears Rranch Leader Cell: 803-271-5426 Off ce: 828-526-8784 rvan.bears@allentate.com We are home.

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP





LISA THOMPSON DOG SITTING

- daily drop-in visits
- overnight & extended stavs
- dog walking

828.424.4637

HIGHLANDS CHRISTIE'S CASHIERS

Colleen Kerrigan, Broker 615-400-5498

colleen.kerrigan.wnc@gmail.com

Authenticity, Honesty, Integrity Highlands Office 210 N. Fifth Street

360 MAIN STREET



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 "Highlands Premier Facility"

828-482-1045



Look for our sign!

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



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

mendozatreeservices.com



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

Kiln dried

FIREWOOD

Delivery or pickup





HEI PWANTED

WE ARE LOOKING for professional, responsible, positive people with a team-player attitude to fill, waitstaff, bartender, Busser & host positions. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet 343-D Main Street. No phone calls please. (st. 8/14)

FOR SALE 11.62 ACRES, 7 MILES SOUTH OF





828-787-2360

2851 Cashiers Road, Highlands

We're proud to be a family-owned company with 43 years in the business, and even prouder to now serve the Highlands community. ~ Bob Saladna, Owner

Here's what's Highlands Automotive Is all about!

- Same-day service for most maintenance and routine repairs.
- Top-tier diagnostic & programming tools - just like the dealer.
 - New tire, alignment & balancing equipment for precision and speed.
 - Same experienced technicians.

We service ALL domestic and foreign vehicles.



Also serving customers in: Atlanta, GA | Dallas, TX | Houston, TX Come see the difference.



HIGHLANDS, \$287,301. Owner financing, 200 mature blueberry plants, 3 springs, Email rickhayron@gmail.com. (st. 8/14)



2005 PANOZ GTLM, CONVERTIBLE, -

67k miles. Factory Flag/Press Car, Road & Track Article. Flown to 24 Hour@LeMans. \$45K. I have it all. Call Sid at 478-731-8451 or email, siddumas@gmail. com (st. 9/18)

COACH CLUB - Class A motorcoach lot and auxiliary building. One Half mile from Main Street! 850-572-8308. (st. 8/14)

LAND - 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000, 828-974-1137, (8/1)

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

TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE, \$55k-\$85k ea. Each lot comes with GREAT MOUNTAINVIEWS. water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (10/30/25)

FOR RENT

828.482.2554 (st. 8/21)

I BR/I BAAPT - LEAF & HOLIDAY SEA-**SON RENTAL** - located 6 miles from downtown Highlands off of Hwy 106. Fully furnished \$175 per night/ 3 night minimum - Starlink internet. Call Pam

HIGHLANDS I-2 SPACES - I large or 2 smaller spaces for rent in popular Mill Creek Shopping Center next door to Blue Bike Cafe. Each space is 800 sq/ft at \$2,333/mo OR both spaces at 1,600 sq/ft for \$4400/mo. Inquires to Debi: bock7@ me.com or 404-323-9444. (st. 7/10)

4 BDM/3 BATH FOR RENT HIGHLANDS

- Updated farm home, located between Highlands & Cashiers off Hwy 64. \$3200/month, includes all utilities with high speed wifi. Call Marcy 828-482-4239 (st. 7/10)

2BD/2BATH SINGLE WIDE \$1,200 per

month internet included. First last security. Mark 828-200-0765. (st. 5/29)

SERVICES

RETIRED SPEECHTHERAPIST with years of geriatric experience offering private caregiving services, 828-564-6493, (st. 8/28)

PLATEAU PAINTERS - Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, decks, and sanding and staining wood floors. Division of Chatlos Construction. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (6/26)

JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE - We take anything, Call 828-200-0492 (7/31)

DUMP RUNS. Competitive Pricing. Call for details. 828-421-2655. (4/30)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN

 Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting, References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (4/30)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANY-THING HAULED AWAY? Call or text lames of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (7/31)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VIN-

SON: 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.



NOW HIRING for Key Sales Office Roles

HOSPITALITY GROUP

- EXPERIENCED HOTEL/RESORT Sales Manager
- EXPERIENCED HOTEL/RESORT Catering & Events Manager
- Sales Office Manager
- Sales Associate

Apply at www.oldedwardshospitality.com/careers Email careers@oldedwardsinn.com

Phone: 828-787-2631

...GRANT continued from page

help alleviate food insecurity, and those who address basic needs, such as heating fuel or warm clothing in the winter."

Partnering with the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, CWO established a CFWNC-CWO Charities fund, which enables the group to raise funds each summer and award them through a judicious grants process to make a meaningful difference in the local community. To date, Cullasaja Women's Outreach has assisted over 44 local not-for-profit and charitable organizations in their efforts to enhance the community.

hlands Area Events •

POOL SCHEDULE

· Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes, Water Aerobics: 18 v+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18y+ Mon.-Thurs, Ilam-3:30pm, Friday Ilam-1:30pm. Public Swim: Mon. thru Thurs., 3:30-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday I-6pm

PICKLE BALL

 At the Recreation Dept. every Monday - Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed),

MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm. Spruce Street, www.mountainfindings.org SATURDAY MARKET

· Farmers Market in KH Founders Park on Pine Street from 8a-12:30p rain or shine.

ALL WEEK

· Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays @ noon. Open in person

meetings are held in Cashiers @ the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sunday at 5 pm, on Tuesday @ 7 pm, on Friday at 5 pm and on Saturday at 9 am. For more information, please visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. 24/7 call our HELP Line 828 349-4357

Mon. Thurs.

· At First Presbyterian Church, ArtSpace is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The next exhibit will start in mid-August. For information contact fpchkelley@gmail.com

Mon-Wed-Fri

- · Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.
- Balance, Stretch & Strengthen Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$30 a month and is led by Cathy Hodgson. Call the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

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 combo class with different types of exercise. 828-526-3556

Mondays

· At the Literacy Council, Free Online Weekly Classes, 6:30 - 7:30p. Online via ZoomFor the link, visit http://theliteracvandlearningcenter.

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. For more info call president Paula Mc-Donald at 706-372-3004

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 info 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.
- · At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers - Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM.

Wednesdays thru Sept.

 Farmers Market every Wednesday May-Sept. at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage building in Franklin at 51 Cowee School Dr.

2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, at 11 AM.. To register, stop by the library or cll 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

 Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays IPM - 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 appts are required - all are welcome.

Thursdays

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15a, at the Rec Park. No martial arts background necessary Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.
- · At First Presbyterian Church a free concert "Music for Prayer" at noon. These casual concerts are almost entirely improvised and last 30-45 minutes. This offering is called Music For Prayer.
- · At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs.

Fridays

 At Hudson Library Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and crafts.

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 9a and hold our monthly meeting at 10a. We invite ALL veterans to attend. Email ncpost370@ gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

Sundays

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

Thurs., Sept. 25

· At First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, Artists' Reception celebrating the fall ArtSpace exhibit. Meet the artists and enjoy refreshments. Faith and Fellowship Building 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 27

- •The Heritage lamboree Descendants' Reception will be held from IIa - Ip at the Highlands Community Building at 869 N. 4th Street. The event is free and a light lunch will be included. If you are interested in participating in this year's Descendants' Reception, please preregister at highlands I 00 plus@gmail. com. For more information go to highlandshistory.com.
- Highlands Jamboree a celebration of Highlands' 150th Anniversary, - at Ip in KH-Founders Park. Music by the Navy Band, bluegrass music with Darren Nicholson and the Shedhouse Trio, clogging, moonshine and more! For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

Mon., Sept. 29

· Highlands-Cashiers Hospital invites the ommunity to Ribbon Cutting from 3-5p celebrating the hospital's new CT Scanner, MRI scanner, therapy gym, and laboratory. This \$5 million investment advances Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's ability to provide high quality, compassionate care for our community. Facility tours and light refreshments will be available.

Tues., Sept. 30

 To benefit The Literacy & Learning Center, Celebration of Education, Guest Speaker - David Baldacci at 2 p.m. at PAC. Tickets are \$100. VIP Dinner at Old Edwards

Club, 688 Highlands Cove Dr, Cashiers is a 6 p.m. For tickets, go to https://www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/events/coe

Sat., Oct. 4

- loin the Highlands Plateau Greenway for a hike on the historic Kelsey Trail.Register now before it fills u. Email highplateaugreenway@140687645.mailchimpapp. com, \$100 per person, Shuttles will leave from the back parking lot of the Rec. Park (600 N 4th Street) on Saturday morning at 7:30, 8, 8:30, and 9. The five-mile walk takes about fours hours.
- Fall Fest at Skyline Lodge. 2-7pm. pumpkin decorating, axe throwing, a bounce house and slide, a festive apple cider bar, and an outdoor movie under the stars with popcorn. Tickets for children under 12: \$10. Adults: \$20. Axe Throwing: +\$20 (available for purchase day-of). Portion of proceeds to benefit the Highlands Biological Foundation.

Sun., Oct. 5

· At Blue Valley Baptist Church, Homecoming at 10am with music by High Mountain Harmony.

Fri., Oct. 10

· Join La Poste and the Cashiers Historical Society on Friday, from IIa to 3p for their first-ever Cooking Through History class. This hands-on workshop brings the past to life through food and conversation. Register at lapostenc.com.

Sat., Oct. 11

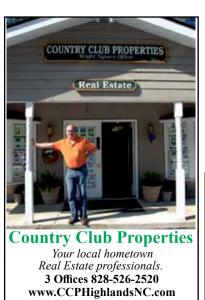
• The Cashiers Ouilt Show, featuring a quilt display, bake sale and boutique sale of handmade crafts and gifts, will take place Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Cashiers Library. The quilt pictured, which is currently on display at the library. will be raffled at the end of the show. Tickets are available for purchase from members and will also be available at the show for \$1 each or six for \$5.00. Winner does not need to be present to win.

Sun., Oct. 12

• The 14th annual Empty Bowls community lunch is at the Highlands First Presbyterian Church from Ham to 2 pm. Proceeds go to the Highlands Food Pantry. Tickets are \$35 per person and include a handmade bowl and soup. Tickets online at https://highlandsfriendshipcenter. org/empty-bowls-2025 or at the Highlands Food Pantry, on the bottom floor of the HUMC, accessible via Spring Street, on Mon., Tues., and Thurs., between 10 am and 5 pm.







Highlander highlandermountainhouse.com

Mountain House Ez The Ruffed Grouse Tavern

*l*eichert,

REALTORS

Highlands Properties 450 N. 4th St. Highlands, NC 828-526-5522

www.highlandsproperties.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY I UXURY COLLECTION

Of the 55,000+ BHHS agents across the globe, Fave ranks in the TOP 2% and is a Luxury Collection Specialist.

FAYE WURM

828 200 1345 fave@bhhsmmr.com 2334 Cashiers Rd. Highlands

https://favewurm.meadowsmtnrealtv.com/



Highlands Newspaper -Thurs., Sept. 25, 2025 - 828-200-1371 - Page 27

4 BR 4 BTH 2 fireplaces 2 screened-in porches Gated community Sold furnished

Offered for \$2,100,000

Charming

Mountain

Retreat

Near Downtown

Highlands

42 Hemlock Ridge

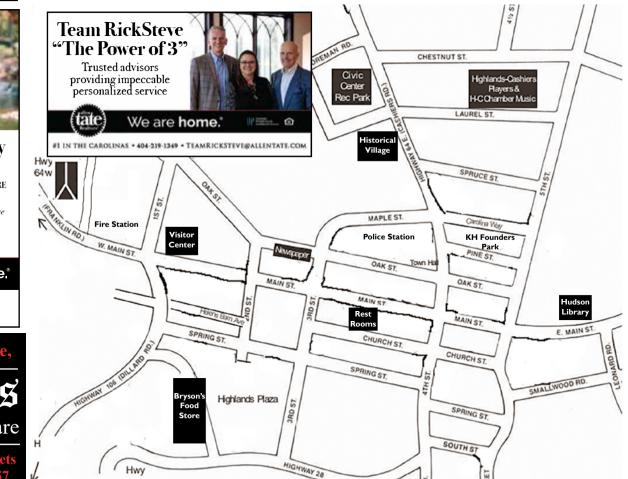


Andrea Gabbard c: 828.200.6742 AndreaGabbard@ gmail.com

Highlands

Sotheby's

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









MORE THAN 33 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON THE PLATEAU

Our clients rate us 5 out of 5 *** VOTED AMERICA'S BEST AMERICA'S BEST

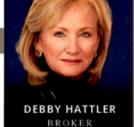






HIGHLANDS OFFICE I 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 828-506-0173 Office: 828-526-4663 debby@landmarkrg.com





JULIE OSBORN & PAT ALLEN

828.200.6165 | 828.200.9179 iulie.osborn@allentate.com pat.allen@allentate.com











Jody Lovell

Why call Jody?

Ranked the #I Broker in North Carolina for over a decade—and for good reason! Whether you're buying or selling, she brings unparalleled market expertise, top-tier negotiation skills and a commitment to delivering exceptional results. Your dream home or top-dollar sale is just one call away-you deserve the best! With over \$1 Billion in sales. you can be the next beneficiary of this track record. Call her personally at 828.226.6303.

#1 Broker IN NORTH CAROLINA

\$1 Billion + TOTAL CAREER SALES VOLUME

Top 100

SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY AGENT

Sotheby's Highlands

...on the Verandah

Restaurant on Lake Seguoyah 828-526-2338

42 Years of Fine Dining Open

7 nights

5:30-9p

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES

MEADOWS MOUNTAIN

If you want an award-winning real estate experience. choose an award-winning agent.



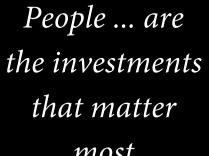


MITZI RAUERS Broker / Luxury Collection

Specialist (404) 218-9123 mitzi@bhhsmmr.com

*Based on 2023 sales data. Out of a global network

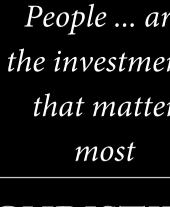




CHRISTIE'S

INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE **HIGHLANDS CASHIERS**

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



CASHMERE

www.ontheverandah.com

Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week 526-4407

242 S. 4th St.



828.782.0472

PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com