# Highlands Newspaper

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## After ballot recount, 1/4 of a penny sales tax fails by 11 votes

**By Kristin Fox**

While the 2026 midterm election saw much closer results than the last two attempts, the one-quarter cent Local Sales Tax Referendum failed again for the third time. When the polls closed on election night, the referendum had failed by one vote. However, after a recount and comprehensive review held

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## Board of Ed to request RFQ for new HS turf soccer field

**By Kristin Fox**

While the goal is the same, to have a safe, playable turf field on the Highlands School campus, a new direction is being considered by the Macon County School Board to make this long time dream a reality.

For years the focus has been to fix the existing soccer field in the back of the school, but now the community and school officials want to construct a soccer field on the track field in the front of the school. This approach is a more realistic and feasible solution especially as this area is flat and does not have the same drainage issue as the field in the back of the school.

• See SOCCER page 17




Amy Passauer crosses the finish line the Overall winner of the Antarctic Ice Ultra Marathon

**Photo by Richard Ducker**

## OEI's Passauer is overall Antarctica Marathon winner

**By Kim Lewicki**

Local Amy Passauer, Assistant Marketing Director at Old Edwards Hospitality Group, claimed the overall marathon victory – beating out the men and the women -- at last week's 2026 Antarctic Ice Ultra with an official time of 04:31:14.

The Antarctic Ice Ultra™ is the ultimate ultramarathon on the frozen continent, offering distances of 50k, 81k (50-Mile), 100k, and 100-Mile, with separate male and female divisions. Participants can choose to run a half marathon or full marathon -- Passauer chose to run the Full Marathon – 26.2 miles joining 27 runners who were competing at various distances from half marathon to a 24-hour race.

The event took place at the Schirmacher Oasis, situated along the Princess Astrid Coast

• See PASSAUER page 4

## Planning Board continues to work on the Community Plan

**By Kim Lewicki**

The planning board made quick work of reviewing the "Downtown & Tourism" section of the 2022 Community Plan Monday night. They are working through the "Recommendation Topics" section by section.

Co-Chair John Muir said most of what was suggested in the 2022 plan had already been addressed.

Daryl Griswold said that much of the plan is aspirational as it applies to tourism and will require input from the town and the Chamber of Commerce.

Kay Craig focused on cross-

• See PLANNING page 8




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# • The Plateau's Position •

## •Mayor on Duty•

### Potential goals of the legislature and county important to Highlands


Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

Last week, I reviewed the future priorities I hope to see from the new state legislature. Now let me turn my focus to future town and county priorities.

One item I did not discuss last week that falls within the state preview is changing SB 382, which was passed at the end of the 2024 legislative session. We will be at the end of the 2026 legislative session in December. That bill, also known as the down-zoning bill, needs modification according to many county and municipal elected bodies. In its current form, it prohibits zoning changes that may limit activities in properties in current zones.

So, for a town like Highlands, we are limited under SB 382 in making changes to land use in zones or the UDO because those changes may be viewed as down-zoning or restricting a currently permitted use. Towns, cities, and counties will not see any significant changes to their zoning ordinances so long as SB 382 stays in place as currently written.

Macon County has little, if any, zoning ordinances impacted by SB 382, but that is not the case in Highlands and Franklin. Even ordinances designed to curtail the spread of data centers might be challenged in court by property owners under the current SB 382 bill.

I also hope the Macon County Board of Commissioners will move without delay to fund the turf soccer field that the parents, staff, and students enthusiastically supported at a community meeting just before the November election. Also, with the loss of the outdated track at the Highlands School due to the new soccer field, I hope a regulation 200-meter short track will be constructed where the current soccer field is located. I was in Franklin this past week and was delighted to see that both Franklin High School and Macon County Middle School had state-of-the-art 400-meter tracks, each costing about $1 million.

I would also like to see the county increase its current contribution to the Highlands Recreation Department, which serves both county and town residents. I would also remind my county colleagues that Highlands residents are county residents who pay both town and county taxes. In fact, Highlanders pay a huge part of the county property taxes collected even though the town is a small part of the county population.

The November 3rd election saw the District 1 elected candidate win without the people in the Highlands Township and the district casting a majority of votes for the candidate. In other words, he won because voters in the other districts elected him to represent District 1. He is

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**Obituary Policy**
Obituaries are $8 per column inch.
$10 per photo.
Payable prior to publication.

## •MileStone•


From left: Congressman-Elect Jamie Ager with Ronnie Beale.

### Long time public servant is back in the lime light

Macon County's Ronnie Beale was named to Congressman-Elect Jamie Ager's transition team.
In a press release Monday, Ager's campaign said the bipartisan team consists of respected community members from each of western North Carolina's 16 counties and the Qualla Boundary.

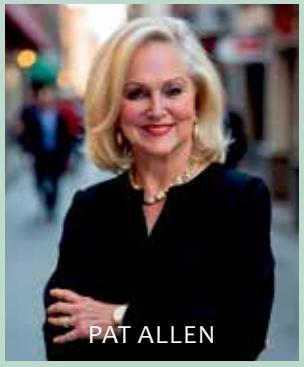
## •Weather•

| Thu, 19-Nov | Fri, 20-Nov | Sat, 21-Nov | Sun, 22-Nov |
|---|---|---|---|
| 56°F / 40°F | 57°F / 45°F | 54°F / 46°F | 59°F / 43°F |
| Partly sunny | Partly sunny | Cloudy | Times of sun and clouds |
| RealFeel® High 61° Low 35° | RealFeel® High 61° Low 42° | RealFeel® High 55° Low 43° | RealFeel® High 62° Low 46° |

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# ...PASSAUER continued from page 1

in Queen Maud Land, East Antarctica.

Passauer began running at the age of 12 while training for soccer in Brazil and now her goal is to run a marathon on every continent with Asia and South America up next.

To ready for the Antarctic ice Ultra, she trained with Highlands own "one-of-a-kind" running coach Morris Williams.

"His encouragement and tough love helped me through six days a week of hard workouts at my sub goal marathon pace of 3:59, long runs, and recovery jogs," she said. "But given the conditions and a few necessary stops along the way, I was pleased to finish in 4:31."

"Amy was maybe the best person I have ever coached. She did everyting I asked of her. She is absolutely phenomenal with so much talent. I am so very pleased with her progress," said Williams.

The PR about the race says, "the extraordinary setting offers close proximity to some of Antarctica's most remarkable natural wonders, including towering ice walls, stunning ice tunnels, and even emperor penguin colonies."

And Passauer said the hype didn't disappoint.

"The landscapes were breathtaking, with snow-covered mountains and frozen lakes that we hiked across in crampons during a few hours of free time We had multiple penguin sightings of them exploring, molting, sliding, and waddling which brought the snowy landscape to life."



Amy's sister Leah, who is holding the medal, completed her 7th continent marathon in Antarctica. Amy is holding the black Marathon Champion trophy.

– Photo by Runbuk Antarctica Ice Ultra



Running a marathon in Antarctica brought unique challenges.

Passauer said the temperature dropped to -37 degrees Celsius (-34.6 degrees F) with a blizzard on the way.

"The race started at 1 am, and none of us slept much beforehand because we were scrambling to adjust after learning at dinner that we'd be leaving the next day post-racing," she said. "A blizzard was moving in faster than anticipated, and without moving up the race time, we would be stranded in Antarctica for an extra week."

Running in that kind of cold brings frostbite risk because at temperatures and wind chills in the -28°C to -39°C range, exposed skin can freeze in 10 to 30 minutes or faster if wind is present.

On lap four of 10, an Ultima Base Camp team member shouted for her to pull her face mask down.

"Thank goodness he did. He immediately told me to get inside, where I was treated for frostbite and given the race director's impressive high-tech mask with breathing holes, which solved the condensation issue immediately," she said. The doctor cleared me to continue quickly, so it didn't take too much time away from getting back out there."

She said the biggest challenges were managing body temperature.

"I was constantly balancing layers, making sure I didn't get too warm and sweaty, only to have those layers freeze later," she said. "Each section of the race had different conditions, with some areas exposed to strong winds and others more sheltered, so I was regularly taking my thicker gloves on and off and unzipping my jacket to avoid a time-consuming outfit swap."

Passauer said she is "elated" after the experience.

"Marathons are my newest way to explore every continent and meet like-minded inspiring athletes!"

Passauer has completed a 50K in Madagascar, four 50Ks in the USA (Promise Land, Holiday Lake, Grayson Highlands, and High Bridge), the Brighton Marathon in England, the Great Ocean Road Marathon in Australia, and now the Antarctica Ice Marathon.

"We know how hard Amy worked to prepare for this race, and it was a joy to see that dedication pay off by winning her division (and beating a robot)," said Brian Crook, Senior VP of Operation at OEI. "All of us at Old Edwards Hospitality Group are incredibly proud of her for setting such a big goal and going even further. We can't wait to learn where her next race will be!"

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For buyers considering luxury real estate in Highlands, Cashiers, or the surrounding areas, a property can be both a significant financial decision and an investment in the life they hope to live here. The appeal is distinctive: mountain views and forests, celebrated restaurants and cultural events, and communities with their own character.

In the luxury market, no two properties are interchangeable. A home's setting, privacy, architecture, land, condition, and proximity to the places an owner values all shape its appeal. Thoughtful guidance means understanding those details, pricing and presenting a property with care, and helping buyers assess how it fits their priorities.

The investment also deserves a clear-eyed look. A mountain home may become a place for family gatherings, a retreat between busy seasons, or a future full-time residence. Those personal returns matter. Financial results, however, are never guaranteed. Purchase price, ongoing costs, maintenance, access, and the property's condition all affect the decision. Anyone counting on rental income should confirm the applicable community and local requirements before relying on it.

Local knowledge helps bring the details into focus. Depending on the property, buyers may need to ask about terrain, drainage, water or septic systems, road access, or community guidelines. A broker familiar with Highlands and Cashiers can help identify the right questions and locate relevant information; inspections and other qualified professionals help verify the answers.



**Joanne Bryson, Broker**
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty
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For sellers, local perspective and luxury marketing experience work together. The goal is to understand what makes a property distinctive, identify the buyers most likely to value it, and present it accurately and beautifully. For buyers, the goal is to find a home whose setting and features make sense for their plans — not simply the one that photographs best.

Investing in Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire, Lake Glenville, or Lake Toxaway calls for more than a broad understanding of luxury real estate. It calls for attention to the individual property and the particular community where it sits. When local expertise is paired with luxury-market experience, clients gain both perspective and informed guidance.

*• Joanne Bryson is a Broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty, specializing in luxury real estate in Highlands and Cashiers. A lifelong resident, she brings local expertise to helping clients buy and sell mountain homes, estates, and land. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist (CLHMS), contributing author, and content creator who is passionate about giving back to her community and investing in its future. Find her on Facebook and Instagram as Selling the Plateau or call 828-200-7951.*


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## ...FAILS continued from page 1

this week, the final results for the referendum stood at 7,893 votes "For" and 7,904 votes "Against," meaning the measure failed by 11 votes.

The ¼ of a penny sales tax referendum has appeared on the ballot in the 2022 and 2024 elections and failed both times.

With such a close vote on election night, (7,887 votes "For" and 7,888 votes "Against") the Macon County Board of Elections decided to conduct a discretionary recount on Monday, November 16 of the sales tax referendum votes.

A discretionary recount in North Carolina is a recount ordered by election officials — either the county board of elections or the State Board of Elections — on their own initiative. Candidates or voters cannot request one.

Under N.C.G.S. § 163 182.7(a), a county or state board may order a discretionary recount when it determines that one is "necessary to complete the canvass in an election" and can occur if: election officials find that the official vote count is incomplete or unclear; there are questions about ballot interpretation or tabulation that require further review; or the board decides additional review is needed to ensure the canvass is accurate and complete.

The recount was held Monday beginning at 8 a.m., with the machine counting portion completed at approximately 12:30 p.m. After the machines tallied the initial count, the Board reviewed the ballots that the machines rejected in order to determine voter intent.

In the midterm election, there were 25 overvotes; however, this does not necessarily mean 25 voters selected both "For" and "Against" the referendum. An overvote is a classification made by the tabulator when it detects markings that appear to indicate more selections than permitted for a particular contest. This can occur for several reasons, including stray marks, incomplete or unusual markings, or instances where both choices were marked.

Additionally, there were 614 undervotes recorded in this contest for the referendum. An undervote means that no vote was recorded for either "For" or "Against." This may occur when a voter chooses to skip a particular contest leaving it blank or does not make a selection that the tabulator recognizes. An undervote does not invalidate the remainder of the voter's ballot and does not indicate there is a problem with a ballot.

"I think this election is a perfect example of why we say every vote counts," said Judy Fritts, Deputy Director of the Macon County Board of Elections. "When the difference is just one vote, it highlights the importance of both ac-

• See FAILS page 8

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### Lighting of the Menorah

Friday, December 4
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Saturday, December 5
10am
Main Street

### Santa in the Park

December 5, 12 & 19
11am-3pm
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

All events, other than Ice Skating, are organized and hosted by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

## ...FAILS continued from page 6

curate ballot marking and the safeguards built into our election process."

She said the Board of Election's responsibility is to ensure that every legally countable vote is accurately reflected in the results, regardless of the outcome

"That is exactly why these procedures exist and why our staff and election officials take this responsibility so seriously," she said.

The big lesson for the public to learn from this November's Midterm Election is that "Every Vote Counts — And How You Mark Your Ballot Matters," said Fritts.

Because the voting machines use sensitive scanning technology, incomplete markings, stray marks, or unusual methods of indicating a selection can sometimes create questions about how a ballot should be interpreted.

While North Carolina law provides safeguards to protect votes when a voter's intent can be clearly determined, correctly marking a ballot helps ensure that the tabulator accurately records the voter's selection the first time.

The November 16 recount demonstrates both the importance of each individual vote and the safeguards built into North Carolina's election administration process, said Fritts.

## ...PLANNING continued from page 1

walks and bear proof garbage cans saying more cans were needed in various places along Main, specifically S. 4th to 5th streets, and crosswalks along S. 4th at Church, Spring and South streets would be beneficial.

With the Highlands Food & Wine Festival ceasing, Rachel Wilson suggested the town and the chamber partner and come up with places where more festivals could be allowed, as well as outlining restrictions and regulations.

She also suggested the chamber distribute a survey to see what kind of economic impact businesses experienced with no Food & Wine festival this year.

Extending sidewalks throughout town, specifically down NC 106, was brought up again. That plan fell to the wayside about three years ago when funding from NCDOT fell through. According to Mayor Pat Taylor, the project is supposedly still on their "books" and could potentially be considered sometime in the next decade.

Planning Director Michael Mathis explained that the town doesn't have a plan to extend sidewalks and that the $75,000 budgeted each year is to repair sidewalks.

The town has a master sidewalk plan which outlines where new sidewalks could be constructed by developers on their dime if building within the confines of the Master Sidewalk Plan.

Next month, Monday, Dec. 14, the board will tackle Recreation & Natural Resources.

Last month they discussed Land Use & Housing suggesting the creation of a new R4 zoning district to accommodate dwellings on smaller lots; changing the criteria for Addition Dwelling Units – mainly that they don't have to be attached to the main dwelling; the need for more mixed-use zones on corridors; and that an Attainable Housing Task Force be formed.

The board will be submitting their suggestions to the Town Board.

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## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

more beholden to voters in the other two districts than to those in the one he is supposed to represent. That does not seem democratic or fair to me. I still support the Patterson Redistricting Proposal, where each of the five proposed districts would elect its representative, not voters at-large. I know it will be an uphill battle to see such a plan put into place, but sometimes a good fight for what is right is in order.

At the town level, I have several initiatives I hope will happen in the future. It is time for the county, in concert with the towns, to update the current TDA enabling legislation that has been in place for the past 40 years. Instead of expenditures just for tourism promotion, like many other counties, we should allow TDA tax dollars to be spent on tourist-related expenditures. Such a change will require approval from the state legislature.

I also hope we can see several infrastructure projects move to the construction phase this year. The Mirror Lake project is nearing the construction phase, with a contractual agreement to deposit the sediment at a nearby site at hand. The project to build a new pre-clarifier and filter train at the water plant should get underway very soon. A resiliency grant project to replace several major water lines should also be moving forward, but negotiating the maze of state reviews may take more time.

I look forward to seeing the master plan project for the downtown area and the adjacent town government property getting underway in the first part of 2027. Outside professionals should bring a fresh perspective and identify new possibilities for the critical properties.

There are more items that I could discuss, but space is limited in a newspaper. I know some of our town staff are even now working on items for consideration as we move into the budget planning process in the early part of 2027.

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## • Obituary •

### Rev. James Everett Wilson



Rev. James Everett Wilson, age 91, went to be with his Lord and Savior on November 15, 2026.

Everett was born on January 21, 1935, at his childhood home in Highlands, North Carolina, to the late Jessie Maude and John Baxter Wilson. He was a devoted husband, minister, lifelong learner, and, above all, a man whose life was centered around his love for Jesus Christ. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Elizabeth Moss Wilson.

Everett's faith was the foundation of his life. He began preaching at a young age and faithfully served as a Baptist minister. He graduated from Fruitland Bible College in Hendersonville, North Carolina, where he had the privilege of being a student of Dr. Charles Stanley. His love for the Lord and his desire to share the Gospel remained an important part of who he was throughout his life.

In addition to his ministry, Everett proudly served his country as a medic in the United States Army, completing his tour of duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Everett had a lifelong love of reading and studying. He was always eager to learn and enjoyed gaining knowledge and wisdom from the many people he met along the way. He also had an interest in blacksmithing, a hobby that brought him great enjoyment. Earlier in life, he worked part-time at Reeves Hardware in Highlands, North Carolina, from 1953 until 1965, during the years between college and his military service.

Everett truly enjoyed life and appreciated the experiences, friendships, and opportunities that came his way. Above all, he will be remembered for his faith in Christ and the example he set through his life.

In addition to his wife he is survived by one daughter, Maquetta Jennings (Melvin); Sisters, Mildred Keener, Ollie Mae Buchanan (Alvin) and Betty Payne (David).

He was preceded in death by his sister, Evelyn Mason and her husband Chester, his baby brother, and brother in law, Kenneth Kenner.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Clear Creek Baptist Church, with Rev. Michael Wilson officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:30 PM until the service hour. Burial will follow in Clear Creek Community Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Jimmy Stewart, Jeff Stewart, Jeremy Stewart, Matthew Mason, Stephen Singleton, and Wheeler Sargent.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361

Kind words and expressions of sympathy may be shared with the Wilson family at www.hunterfuneralhomega.com.

The Wilson family is being lovingly served by the caring and professional staff of Hunter Funeral Home.

Public Open House
Saturday, Nov. 21
1-3 p







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# • HS Athletics Recap •

## Swim makes big splash in opener, Soccer earns postseason honors



**Brett Lamb**
**HS Athletic Director**

It was a busy week for Highlander athletics as winter sports officially kicked off with standout performances in the pool, hard-fought battles on the basketball court, and postseason recognition for the boys' soccer squad.

**Varsity Swim Opens Season With 12 Regional Marks**

The Highlands Varsity Swim Team launched its 2026–2027 campaign on Saturday, Nov. 14, traveling to Franklin for a six-team invitational. Highlands secured a strong third-place team finish, highlighted by five swimmers posting Regional Consideration times in all 12 events they entered.

The boys' relay squad of Ian Batista, Ivan Shchelgachov, Aleks Petric-Sakonjic, and Justin Powell dominated the pool, capturing first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay and third in the 200-yard medley relay — earning regional marks in both.

Individually, Shchelgachov led the Highlanders in scoring with 19.5 points, placing second in the 100-yard breaststroke and fourth in the 100-yard freestyle. Batista and Powell tied close behind with 18.5 points each; Batista took third in the 100-yard backstroke and fourth in the 200-yard freestyle, while Powell claimed second in the 500-yard freestyle and fifth in the 50-yard freestyle. Petric-Sakonjic added a third-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle and fifth in the 100-yard backstroke.

On the girls' side, Trinity Faust paced the team with 13 points, winning the 100-yard breaststroke and finishing fifth in the 100-yard freestyle to secure her own regional qualifying times. Freshman/newcomer Theresa Mendez also made a strong debut in her first-ever varsity meet, placing sixth in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke for six points.

**Middle School Basketball Battles at Summit**

On the hardwood, the Highlands middle school basketball teams hit the road for conference matchups against Summit.

The Lady Highlanders fell 39–17 after digging an early hole, though they regrouped to play Summit evenly for the remainder of the contest. Riley Brooks led the offense with nine points, followed by Valarie Olvera with four, and two points apiece from Alexa Bonilla Carcamo and Yazmin Montalvo.

The middle school boys suffered a heartbreaker in a tightly contested 25–20 loss. Trailing by just one point at halftime, the Highlanders surged in the third quarter to take a two-point lead into the final period before a hot-shooting fourth quarter lifted Summit to the five-point victory. Knox Holbrooks, Sky Nelson, and Porter Bowers paced Highlands with four points each, Jesse Ortiz and David Rogers added three apiece, and Jase Raby chipped in two.

Boys' Soccer Lands Seven on All-Conference Lists

Wrapping up the fall season, seven Highlander boys' soccer players earned postseason conference honors for their standout play this year:

- All-Conference: Michael Munoz, Blaine Dendy
- Honorable Mention: Stephen Pierson, Rowen Carnes, Chase Kenter, Matthew Morales, Camden Westendorf

**Looking Ahead**

Varsity basketball action tips off this Thursday as the Highlanders face Macon Early College for the first time in program history. The girls' game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., with the boys to follow.



# • Business/Organization News •

## Stage4Hope founder Stacy Carter talks to Highlands Rotary




Rotarian Tracy Wade, Stage4Hope Founder and Speaker Stacy Carter and Josh Bryson, Rotary Club of Highlands President

Rotarian Stacy Carter founded Stage4Hope because she knew first hand that every cancer patient needs to find the right care faster and often needs financial and emotional support along the way. Carter was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer in December 2023 and given 3 months to live. Because she found the right Cancer Center, the right oncologists and the right clinical trials, Carter is alive today. In 2025 she founded Stage4Hope located at Ferngrove, 3465 Dillard Road, Highlands. Every detail of her planning for this 501(c) (3) nonprofit is grounded in her personal experience.

With amazing speed, the S4H Welcome Center opened in September of 2026 and construction began on the Retreat & Wellness Center, with anticipated completion in late '27-early '28. Construction of housing for retreat participants will follow.

Perhaps even more astonishing is the success of fundraising which also has enabled S4H to give over 100 travel grants of up to $1,500 per year per patient; 253 people have attended 13 online retreats; more than $1M has been invested in cancer research and 21 cancer patients have been fast-tracked for care at National Cancer Institute hospitals.

Highlanders are invited to attend a Day of Hope, Strength & Connection on Nov. 7 from 10a-3p to learn about Stage-4Hope and its Wellness Retreats. For information and to register call 833/402-8391.

## Cups of Cheer



Pictured from left: Ginger Dempsey and Dollie Swanson

The Laurel Garden Club held its November meeting at the Chestnut Hill Clubhouse and invited residents to join members for a special "Cups of Cheer" program. Club members created small flower arrangements in coffee mugs and gave one to each Chestnut Hill.resident. Residents who were present joined in the creation of the flower arrangements. Additional arrangements were delivered to the rooms of those who couldn't attend. The "Cups of Cheer" brought smiles all around. Coffee mugs never looked so beautiful!

## Jody Lovell again named among Sotheby's International Realty's Top 100 Agents Worldwide

Highlands-Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty is proud to announce that Jody Lovell, broker-owner of the firm, has once again been recognized among Sotheby's International Realty's Top 100 Agents Worldwide. Lovell joined fellow honorees at the annual Top 100 Global Advisors Dinner in New York City, where the evening celebrated their achievements and the 50th anniversary of Sotheby's International Realty.

Lovell also ranked #1 in North Carolina in the 2026 RealTrends Verified rankings. She serves buyers and sellers in Highlands and Cashiers and more, combining local market expertise with the global reach of Sotheby's International Realty.

Since 2020, Highlands-Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty has closed $2.2 billion in sales volume. Over the same period,



Lovell has closed nearly $1 billion in sales volume.

"What made the evening particularly meaningful was being surrounded by remarkable professionals who share a commitment to excellence, exceptional service, and the lasting relationships that are at the heart of our business," said Lovell. "While we are fortunate to live and work in a very special corner of North Carolina, the Sotheby's International Realty network connects our clients and properties to an extraordinary world of opportunities."

Lovell said she is grateful to the clients who have entrusted her with their real estate needs over the years.

"Their confidence, loyalty, and friendship have made this recognition possible, and I never take that trust for granted. I am equally thankful for my husband and business partner, Wood, and our exceptional team at Highlands-Cashiers Sotheby's International Realty, whose dedication and professionalism have helped build the company we are so proud of today."

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## Spiritually Speaking



# Are we at war?

**Pastor Mark Ford**
First Baptist Church Highlands

I'm not talking about anywhere overseas. That's a given as conflicts continue incessantly. I'm talking about here within our borders. With the growing cultural divide, political strife between parties and even within the parties, conflict is rising with harmony and peace being distant memories.

As Christians, we likewise find ourselves marginalized more and more, and the American churches the subject of either growing indifference or targets of disdain in this present ethos. But one thing appears certain - spiritual warfare intensifies. Are we as Christians and those faithful churches remaining on a war footing? "War footing" is defined as a state of being fully prepared, organized, and mobilized to fight a war or handle a high-stake crisis.

I realize that the very idea of God's people at war runs headlong into the contrary winds of those that would pursue peace and harmony at any price. It is unacceptable to the language and stance of kindness, love, and mutual acceptance and tolerance. But we must hear the words of the Holy Scriptures which call us to a different footing when confronted with divisive, unsound, unbiblical teachings, perspectives and practices contrary to Truth. In such conditions, God calls us to war against these evils.

A few examples will suffice. Beginning with our Lord Jesus Christ, who said that He did not come to bring peace on earth but a sword that would divide and create disharmony (Mt. 10:34). He constantly warned His followers that they would be persecuted and be rejected even as he was (Mt. 5:10-12; Jn. 15:18). Simply, conflict between the world and followers of Christ is a given. Paul the Apostle told the young pastor Timothy to "fight the good fight" (I Tim. 6:12). A literal translation is to "war the good war." The Greek word for fight means to contend with adversaries, fight and struggle in difficulty and dangers. We are told to dress up like soldiers ready for war, equipped from head to toe with protections and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and prayer (Eph. 6:10-18). In this same text we are told that we are "wrestling" and our "struggles" are with rulers, powers and evil spiritual forces. Jude (1:3) tells us to "contend" for the faith – struggle and fight for the faith!

I could continue on with this subject as the Bible is replete with texts and examples that clearly convey that as God's people, we are war against untruth, anti-God, anti-

• See SPIRITUALLY page 15

## • Places to Worship •

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor 706-782-3965
Sundays: School:10 a.m. , Worship:11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7p
5th Sunday Singing featuring Georgia Mountain Trio;
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor
Sundays: School:10 a.m.;Worship:11

**CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Senior Pastor: Rev.Amy Spivey
Assoc. Pastor: Rev.Wonyeong Lee828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30;Worship & Kids 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**
743-5470 • www.cashiers.church
Sun. 4p;Wed Study 5:15p supper and childcare.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**
283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School:10 a.m.;Worship:11a.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

**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. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

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

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

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Dan Robinson • 4160 Cashiers Rd. Highway 64
Apple Mountain Shoppes • 828-526-0774
Sunday Worship is at 9a.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 11a 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.
Rabbi led service 3rd Saturday AM, 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 thru Oct 24.; 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): 9am & 11am
Visit our website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com
Bazaar Barn outreach is open Fri & Sat. 11am-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

# • Police & Fire Reports •

**Highlands Police entries from Nov. 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

**Accidents:**

**Nov. 12**

• Vehicle 1 was traveling East on SR 1603 it ran off the road to the right and into the ditch where it came to rest partially in roadway.

**Nov. 13**

• Vehicle 1 was traveling east on SR 1603 when it drove off the right side of the road in a curve and collided with a boulder where it stopped on impact staying partially in the road.

• Vehicle 1 was parked facing south on parking lot on Main Street. Vehicle 2 was parked Facing north on parking lot on Main Street. It began to back up traveling south and hit Vehicle 1 which came to rest in parking place.Vehicle 2 drove off and came back later after being called.

• During the week officers issued 5 Citations and 16 Warning Tickets

**Nov. 7**

• At 9 p.m., Edwin Lesslie, Williams III, 73, of Highlands was arrested for DUI when pulled over on Hicks Road. He was issued a $400 secured bond. His trial date is Dec. 10.

**Nov. 11**

• At 6 a.m., officers responded to a report of vandalism of property on Raoul Road by pouring paint on a car hood.

• At 3:26 p.m., officers were called about a person barred from the Highlands Civic Center.

**Nov. 12**

• At 10:04 p.m., Joshua Randall Bruce, 39, of Highlands, was issued a summoned cited arrest for DUI and failure to maintain lane.

**Nov. 13**

• At 8:55 p.m., Nanneta M. Sutton, 77, of Fernandina, FL, was arrested for DWI when she was pulled over on Horse Cove/Lower Lake Road. She wasn't issued a bond. No court date has been set.

**Nov. 14**

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a report of a simple assault at a restaurant on Main Street.

**Nov. 15**

• At 12:20 p.m., Daniel Edward McCarley, 43, of Highlands was issued a summoned/cited arrest for simple assault.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 10**

**Nov. 10**

• At 2:07 p.m., the dept. provided lift assistance at a residence on Cobblestone Drive.

• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

**Nov. 11**

• At 9:53 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire due to a downed power line on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 12:15 p.m., the dept. responded to an electrical fire at a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 5:26 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD on a structure fire on Gantes Gukh.

• At 7:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face Road.

• At 10:18 p.m. the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face Road.

**Nov. 12**

• At 10:52 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Foreman Road.

• At 12:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Laurel Heights Road.

• At 3:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 4:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

• At 5:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crystal Drive.

• At 9:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

**Nov. 13**

• At 8:13 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 11:46 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shadow Creek.

• At 1:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 4:51 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Old Orchard Road.

• At 6:14 p.m. the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD on a chimney fire at a residence on Walking Bear Trail.

**Nov. 14**

• At 7:58 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Road.

## Leadership Highlands is now accepting applications for Class of 2027

Leadership Highlands, a Highlands Chamber of Commerce community engagement program, is now accepting applications for its 2026 class.

The educational program is for emerging and existing leaders in the Highlands community, offering them an opportunity to enhance their civic knowledge and network. Those selected will commit to and engage in a seven-month curriculum, from February through October, that will include a retreat, day-long classes each month, a variety of enrichment workshops and projects, and a graduation ceremony.

"It is a pleasure to once again offer Leadership Highlands and begin the process of reviewing and selecting the next class of participants," says Johanna Fein, Executive Director of Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "Our staff, Board of Directors and Leadership Highlands alumni will be involved in the selection process."

Selection criteria will include civic involvement, leadership potential, diversity of perspective and commitment to the program and the Highlands community.

Leadership Highlands brings local experts to engage with the class on topics such as Highlands' history and cultural resources, economic development, government and public safety, health and human resources, education, arts, and outdoor recreation. Personal leadership skills are developed through principle-based decision-making and teambuilding exercises.

"Leadership Highlands was a very enriching program," said Jennifer LaRue, General Manager of Trailborn Highlands and Class of 2025 graduate. "The connections, the conversations, and knowledge it fosters about the community is truly special. I am very glad I took the time to apply and join this program. I encourage anyone seeking professional growth and/or a deeper understanding of our community to do the same."

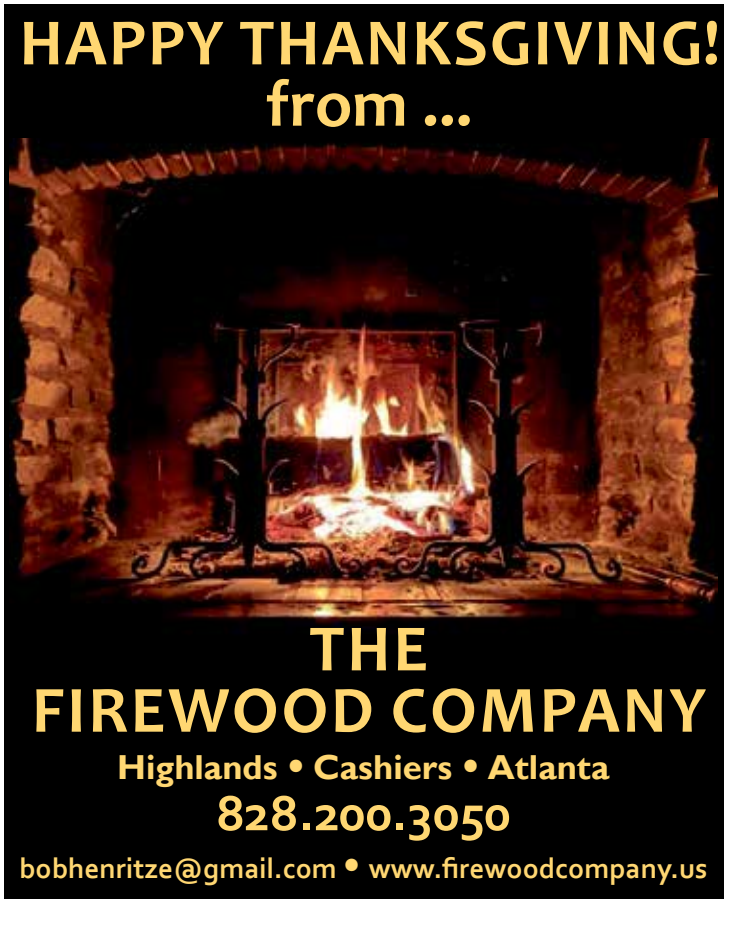
For more information about Leadership Highlands, or to submit an application, visit highlandschamber.org/chamber/leadershiphighlands. Applications for Leadership Highlands 2027 are due to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce later than noon, Friday, December 4, 2026.

For more information about the Highlands Chamber of Commerce call 828-526-5841 or visit the website highlandschamber.org.

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 14

Christian values of this present zeitgeist in our world and nation. And we are called to stand firm in the faith and declare the truth of God's Word and Good News of Jesus Christ.

As it says in I Cor. 16:13, "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like people of God, and be strong." But let me be clear. This warfare is not about bloodshed, destroying people's lives or winning. Christ already won the victory at the Cross. But our present skirmishes are about destroying the evil that is destroying our nation and people's lives. Yes, we at war. Let us fight until the Victor – Jesus Christ – returns in glory for the faithful.

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## ...SOCCER continued from page 1

This week at Monday's regular meeting of the school board, school officials took the first step to constructing a new soccer field by unanimously deciding to advertise for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a design-build. A Request for Qualifications is used primarily during the preconstruction phase to prequalify contractors or construction managers before inviting bids or proposals.

Design-build is a construction project delivery method where a single entity is responsible for both the design and construction of a project under one unified contract.

"I do think that design-build is a good fit for a sports facility, especially if you're going to use turf, because you'll select your design-builder based in part on what their product is," said Macon County School Attorney John Henning. "There are only so many of them, and it's very proprietary. You only will get their certified installers; they do it themselves."

Prior to Monday's regular meeting of the school board, School Board Members Hilary Wilkes and Diedre Breeden attended two liaison committee meetings with commissioners since the last school board meeting.

"We've had really good conversations with the commissioners about multiple projects that are on our radar and are imminent," said Wilkes. "Many are needing action now. So, the commissioners have been willing to meet with us a couple of times over the last month or so."

Commissioners requested that a town meeting be held in the Highlands community to discuss the future of the Highlands School soccer field. The meeting was a tremendous success with close to 150 attending the meeting including commissioners, coaches, school staff, parents and student athletes.

"It was standing room only with folks standing along the walls," said Wilkes. "We heard from over 20 people, some were coaches, former players, current players and a lot of parents. We had representation from both the boys' and girls' soccer programs."

"I was very impressed by the students because they spoke their heart," she added. "They represented Highlands School well. The commissioners were very complimentary of the students and their advocacy."

According to Wilkes at the next liaison meeting, the committee discussed in depth the information that was given at the town hall meeting.

"Resoundingly, the choice expressed at the town meeting was to keep the soccer field on campus, as well as to provide a turf field or an artificial surface field that will hold up to the elements and allow for practices and ongoing usage, even during our frigid winters," said Wilkes. "That was unanimous across the board, stated by everyone that spoke. The commissioners listened and heard that."

Wilkes said the goal is to potentially break ground this summer and have the turf soccer field done prior to the boys' soccer season in August.

The track would be moved to the field in the back of the school. In addition, Wilkes requested consideration be given to making the grassy area in the back remain wide enough and long enough to adequately build a flag football field. The field could potentially be used by the recreation flag football teams. Flag football is becoming quite popular and is now a sanctioned NCAA sport.

The school board will advertise in the local papers requesting RFQ's for the soccer field project. The deadline for submission will be December 3, so that the potential contractors could be discussed at the December 6 school board meeting.

## Highlands School is seeking Career Day participants

Highlands School's career day is set for Wed., Feb. 24, 2027 8:30a to 12:30p in the old gym.

Students from 3rd through 12th grade will be attending, eager to learn more about potential career paths, educational opportunities, and community connections.

If interested, please RSVP to Nicole Lui at (828)526-2147 ext 1810 by January 29, 2027. Also, indicate whether you need a table and chairs..

# • Biz/Org News •

## MC Community Foundation awards grants and scholarships

The Macon County Community Foundation, a North Carolina Community Foundation affiliate, has announced $14,580 in grants and $105,505 in scholarship awards for 2026.

The board of advisors awarded $14,580 in grants to 18 organizations supporting the local community:

• $500 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina for activity boxes

• $500 to Blue Ridge Community Health Services for behavioral health support

• $500 to Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project, Inc., also known as Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, to ensure access to dental care in Macon County

• $500 to Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas for the Macon County Childhood Cancer Safety Net

• $1,280 to Community Care Clinic for Patient Education and Healthy Growth Opportunities

• $1,280 to Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands for client scholarships for outpatient services offered on a sliding-fee scale

• $750 to First Presbyterian Church of Franklin NC for Period Pantry

• $1,280 to the Gordon Center for Children for continuing education subscriptions

• $500 to HIGHTS for fuel for youth afterschool services

• $1,280 to Highlands Emergency Council for pantry support

• $1,280 to Macon County Care Network for hunger relief programs

• $500 to Macon TRACS, Inc. for TROT: Therapeutic Riding Over Trails

• $750 to the Marcus Harris Foundation for Neighborfood Express expansion

• $500 to Otto Community Development Org., Inc. for parking lot lighting

• $750 to Pisgah Legal Services for legal services for survivors of domestic violence and child abuse in Macon County

• $1,430 to REACH of Macon County for Client Essential Needs.

• $500 to Southern Samaritans Inc. for home repair projects

• $500 to Vecinos, Inc. Farmworker Health Program for health education and community engagement

Funds for 2026 grants came from the community grantmaking fund. Each year, the Macon County Community Foundation's advisory board uses dollars from its endowment fund to make grants to eligible local organizations, including nonprofits, local governments, schools and churches.

The board also announced $105,505 in new and renewed scholarships supporting Macon County students for the 2026-27 school year:

• Three new students and nine returning students received the George and Bonnie Siek Memorial Scholarship for a total of $17,325 awarded. This scholarship is renewable annually for up to five years.

• Five students received the Grayce Wills MacDonald and Ivan A. MacDonald Scholarship for a total of $88,180 awarded.

"Local nonprofits and organizations play a vital role in our community and we're pleased to support them through our grants," said Kevin Holland, advisory board president of the Macon County Community Foundation. "We're also proud to help Macon County students achieve their educational goals through scholarships."

Visit nccommunityfoundation.org/Macon to learn more about the Macon County Community Foundation and its work or to make a tax-deductible donation.

**Macon County Community Foundation Advisory Board Members**

• *Founded in 1991, the Macon County Community Foundation is led by a local volunteer advisory board that understands community needs. In addition to Holland, board members include Faviola Olvera (vice president), Josh Smith (secretary), Julie Adams, Bryson Burt, Russell Hawkins, Regina Lupoli, Bonnie Potts and Courtney Scarborough.*

**About the North Carolina Community Foundation**

• *The North Carolina Community Foundation transforms the collective generosity of our donors into a permanent source of community support, with a focus on the state's rural areas.*

*NCCF partners with donors and a network of affiliates to sustain over 1,300 endowments totaling over $600 million in assets. Nearly $360 million has been awarded as grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to students, creating stronger communities for generations to come.*

*To learn more about how we turn generosity into impact, visit nccommunityfoundation.org.*

# • Highlands Area Events •

**SKATING RINK**
**Nov. 19-Feb. 28**
Thurs. 3:30-8p; Fri. 3:30-10p; Sat. 1-10p; Sun. 1-5p.
**Thanksgiving Week:**
11/25-11/27 1-8p; 11/29-11/30 1-10p; 12/1 1-5p.
**Christmas Break:**
12/23 1-8p; 12/24 1-5p; 12/26 1-8p; 12/27-12/28 1-10p; 12/29 1-5p;12/30 1-8p; 12/31 1p-1a; 1/1 1-8p.

**POOL SCHEDULE**
**NOTICE:**
The pool will be closed Sun., Nov. 15th-Fri., Nov. 20 for maintenance.

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18y+ only. Weekend public swim: Sat., 11am-6pm and Sun., 1-6pm

**PICKLE BALL**
• At the Recreation Dept. there are three indoor Pickle Ball courts and six outdoor courts. Pickle Ball can be played every Mon-Friday.

**MTN FINDINGS**
• Open: 10 am - 1 pm.Thurs-Sat.. Spruce Street. www.mountainfindings.org

**FIBBER MAGEES**
• Fibber Magee's Thrift Store on Laurel Street Hours. Wed. & Fri. - 10a too 4p. Sat. - 10a to 2p.

**ALL WEEK**
• Scaly Mountain/ 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 at Scaly Mountain at Grace Chapel, 9915 Dillard Rd., Scaly Mountain each Tues & Sat at 5:30 pm;

• In Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and a NEW WOMENS'S GROUP Thursdays at 5:30 pm; and on Wednesdays & Fridays at 12:00 noon.

• Open in-person meetings are also held in Cashiers at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sundays at 5 pm, on Tuesdays at 7 pm, on Friday at 5:30 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

**Mondays**
• GED Classes at the Literacy & Learning Center 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**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

**Monday & Friday**
• Karate: Build confidence, focus, and fitness with Karate! Rick Yinger will be offering classes Monday and Friday at 5:15pm. Call 828-421-3119 for more information.

**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 Vivian Brewer. 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.

**2nd 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 McDonald at 706-372-3004

**4th Mondays**
• Highlands Planning Board meeting 5:30 p.m., in the Community Building.

**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 – from 5-6:30 PM

**Tuesdays & Thurs.**
• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30.A combo class with different types of exercise. 828-526-3556

• ESL classes at The Literacy & Learning Center, 6-7 p.m. 675 S 4th St.

**Wednesdays**
• The Literacy & Learning Center offers a FREE weekly Citizenship Class led by Faviola Olvera from 5:30 to 7 pm at 675 S 4th St in Highlands, this program is designed to help students navigate the complexities of the U.S. naturalization exam.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library from 10a-noon PM, digital navigators will host a Tech Time drop-in time at Hudson Library with the goal to assist attendees with basic smartphone, laptop, iPad and tablet skills. For more information, call the Library at 828-526-3031.Free and open to the public.

**2nd Wednesdays**
• Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting at 5:30 in the Community Building

**Thursdays**
• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15a. at the Rec Park. No martial arts background necessary Contact the Rec Dept.at 828-526-3556 for more info.

**3rd Thursdays**
• Highlands Town Board meeting 7 p.m., in the Community Building.

**3rd Fridays**
• Senior Lunch at the Rec Park/Civic Center at noon.

**3rd Saturdays**
• Greenway Workday begins at 9a to noon at the Rec Park.

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. Breakfast ia at 9a; meeting is at 10a. Email ncpost370@gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

**Thurs., Nov. 19**
• The Skating Rink opens 3:30 to 8pm

**Fri., Nov. 20**
• A fundraiser for the Literacy & Learning Center, Book Lover's Tea with author Susan Beckham Zurenda, author of No Way Out but Through, from 1-3 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Coleman Hall. Tickets are $50, $100, or $750. For more information email Info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org

**Sat., Nov. 21**
• Highlands Farmers Market in the Rec Park 10a to 3p.

• A community drum circle will be held Saturday from 6-8 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. People of all ages are invited to participate. Bring your hand drums and rhythm instruments or use one of ours. In mild weather we drum outdoors so bring a lawn chair.

**Tues., Nov. 24**
• Annual tradition Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Rec Park at 6 p.m.

**Fri. & Sat., Nov. 27 & 28**
• At The Bascom, FREE Make and Take Wooden Ornaments in the SmART Space.

**Fri., Nov. 27**
• At The Bascom, FREE Holiday Market Reception with Hot Chocolate & and Letters to Santa Sations open. Also, Gingerbread House Workshop for all ages, registration is required.

**Sat., Nov. 28**
Small Business Saturday Stroll throughout town. Carolers, cookie crawl, face painting, live music, storytelling and more. 11:30a-4p

• At The Bascom, FREE -- Small Business Satruday. Face Painting with Macon Faces 1-3 p.m. and Cookies courtesy of Visit Highlands.

• Light up the Park & Main, KH Founders Park at 5:30p

**Thurs., Dec. 3**
• Bingo at the Community Building benefitting HCCDC.

**Fri., Dec. 4**
• Lighting of the Menorah in KH Founders Park at 5:30p.

**Dec. 5, 12, 19**
• Santa in KH Founders Park on Pine Street 11a to 3p.

**Sat., Dec. 5**
• Highlands Annual Christmas Parade on Main Street beginning at 10a.

• At The Bascom, Holliday Market Reception following the annual Chrsitmas Parade, 2-4 p.m. with Hot Chocolate Bar and Trunk Show.

• At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation after the parade, boxed lunch with a pulled pork BBQ sandwich, coleslaw, chips, brownie and a soft drink for $20 per person. New this year, a Christmas Market with Advent wreaths, Christmas candles, door decorations and more. All proceeds will go to support the Highlands Community Child Development Center Tickets are on sale at Church of the Incarnation and will be available the day of the parade.

• 12th Annual Cowee Christmas, 10a to 3p at Cowee School Drive, Franklin. 30+ arts and craft vendors, free kids crafts, artist open studios, soup lunch 11a to 2.

**Sun., Dec. 6**




• "Papertown," is the opening film of the HC Film Fest Prelude at 4 p.m. at the PAC big screen in Highlands. It was "The Best Documentary" winner at the 2026 HC Film Festival. The film follows the closing of the Canton paper mill and what it means for the people of Haywood County and WNC. Tickets are $20 at www.highlandsperformingarts.com/events-tickets or call 828-526-9047. Parents of children in area schools, $10 per adult.

**Sat. Dec. 12**
• Highlands Farmers Market in the Rec Park 10a to 3p.

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