Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 23, Number 44 | Digital Version at www.HighlandsNewspaper.com | Thurs., Nov. 5, 2026

Highlands community wants a turf soccer field on the school campus

By Kirstin Fox

The Highlands community came together last week at a meeting held at the Highlands Community Building to discuss the Highlands School soccer field. More than 120 people attended the meeting including County Commissioner Chairman Josh Young, Commissioners John Shearl and Barry

• See SOCCER page 16

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	Here's the Thing	14
Weather	2	HS Fall Festival	17
Investing at 4118 Ft	6	Spiritually Speaking	18
Letter	11	Police and Fire	19
Obituaries	11	Events	22
Halloween Photos	12-13		



The Cornerstone is coming to 4th & Main

The now empty lot at the corner of 4th and Main streets that formerly housed Bill's Soda Shop, Highlands Hill Deli, Sweetreats, Mrs. Wong's, and the Stone Lantern will now be a retail, office, and lodging cornerstone.

The Nisbett Family Partnership is pleased to introduce The Cornerstone at 4th & Main, a new mixed-use building now under construction at one of the most prominent corners in downtown Highlands.

Located at Main Street and South Fourth Street, The Cornerstone will bring new retail, office, hospitality, and pedestrian activity to the heart of downtown Highlands. The building takes its name from both its notable location on the corner, the heritage architecture of stone construction in Highlands, and the natural stone of these moun-

• See CORNERSTONE page 6

Election night results are in

By Kristin Fox

A blue tsunami hit the country election night, but in Macon County Republican legislators held their seats.

Republican incumbent Kevin Corbin was reelected to the N.C. Senate to serve a third term defeating Democrat Tom Downing receiving 55,374 votes to Downing's 39,781 votes.

In Macon County, Corbin received 10,751 (66.5%) votes to Downing's 5,418 (33.5%) votes. Corbin serves the North Carolina's 50th Senate District which includes Cherokee, Clay, Macon, Graham, Swain, Jackson, and Transylvania counties as well as most of Haywood County.

Incumbent Republican Representative Karl Gillespie won his fourth term serving North Carolina's 120th House District, defeating Democrat Caleb Brown, 67.88% to 32.12%.

Macon County voted in favor of Gillespie with 10,001 (61.9%) votes to Brown's 6,145 (38.1%). Since 2021, Gillespie has served the state's westernmost district, which includes Cherokee, Clay, Graham, and Macon counties.

Over 54 percent of Macon County citizens cast their votes in the 2026 mid-term election. In the 15 precincts of Macon County, a total of 16,350 votes were cast out of the 29,887 registered voters.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners will swear in two new faces in December with Republicans Kellie Burns and Dylan Castle winning the two District 2 seats. Burns received 8,430 (29.3%) votes followed by Castle's 8,324 (28.9%) votes. Democrats Terry Bell received 6,442 (22.4%) votes and Janet Greene received 5,572 (19.4%) votes.

In a close race, incumbent John Shearl was re-elected to serve another term as District 1 commissioner. Shearl received 8,649 votes (54.6%) to Russ Lunn's 7,190 votes (45.4%).

• See ELECTION page 21



Where Architecture Meets the View

A Jim Fox-Designed Residence Above Cashiers

Jody Lovell
(828) 226.6303

Highlands | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

156 Devils Courthouse View | MLS 1003942

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.mcculleys.com

• The Plateau's Position •

• Mayor on Duty •

The importance of funding what's needed



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

Last Tuesday I attended the Highlands Rotary Club meeting, which was a club assembly. At a club assembly, the president reviews the club's activities from the past year and plans for the upcoming year.

One part of the program covered local projects that Rotary is doing. The project that really heightened my interest, as well as other members, was the free lunch program at the Highlands School. I did not know we had a free lunch program, and in a way, the school does not.

Of the 14 schools in the Macon County School District, Franklin High School and the Highlands School do not provide free lunch and breakfast to students. One Rotarian asked our president, Josh Bryson, why this was the case.

Josh replied that there is a federal form that is completed by students' families to determine income and need for the free lunch program in a school. If a certain number of students qualify at a school, the federal program provides free lunches for all the students in the school. So, 12 Macon County schools qualify for the free lunch program. Highlands School, like Franklin High School, did not meet the threshold, so all their students must pay for lunches.

But here is the Catch-22 for Highlands: some students have parents who cannot, or choose not to, pay for lunch, so those students do not get to eat lunch. Some families make just slightly over the income threshold on the form, but buying lunch each day is a hardship and cannot fit into their budgets, especially with the high living costs on the Highlands Plateau.

Instead, the school gives the student a hot meal but charges their account into the negative. The school nutrition director made this decision. Apparently, other paying students in the lunch line can see account balances if they are close enough to the register, so some students don't pick up a meal because their account is in the negative and they don't want their friends in line to see it. Some accounts are in the hundreds of dollars in the negative because the family cannot afford to pay. Balances are not written off; they carry over from year to year. Some students/families never have the financial ability to get out of the hole.

Josh said a program to meet these students' lunch needs costs about $30,000 a year. Rotary is taking on the project, and our members were encouraged to give to the effort. As former educators, Sallie and I are committed to donating to the project for the remainder of the year, but not beyond that point.

We both thought that, with so many resources such as the Dogwood Health Foundation and local health foundations, this might meet the foundations' commitment to addressing social determinants of health. Children need adequate, nutritious food for both health and learning, two concepts that go hand in hand. Sallie and I believe no child in any school system in Western Carolina should ever have to worry about getting enough to eat at school! These foundations

• See MAYOR page 4

Highlands Newspaper
www.HighlandsNewspaper.com
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
Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved.
5,000 copies printed weekly.
Independently verified by:
Gannett Printing Knoxville TN

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.



Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2026

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month marked the end of WW I in 1918. Originally known as Armistice Day was first observed on November 11, 1919, marking the end of WW1 and celebrated annually. Following WW II and the Korean War congress changed the name to Veterans Day horning all veterans living and deceased.

The Highlands American Legion Post 370 encourages the community to become involved in the events that recognize our veterans.

FLAGS IN THE CEMETERY

Flags placed on veterans' graves at Highlands Memorial Park

Post 370 strongly requests the community support in the placement of more than 300 flags on veterans' graves. Please meet Nov. 9 at 4pm at the cemetery flagpole. Post members are mostly Korean and Vietnam veterans and the cemetery hills have become challenging for them to maneuver.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The public is invited to attend a short Veterans Day Ceremony Wed., Nov. 11 at 11am at Veterans Plaza (in the Highlands Police Department parking lot).

The ceremony will include the installation and dedication of 19 engraved bricks in the Plaza Honor Walk.

• Weather •

Thu, 5-Nov	Fri, 6-Nov	Sat, 7-Nov	Sun, 8-Nov
68°F / 50°F	65°F / 43°F	60°F / 36°F	59°F / 37°F
A couple of morning showers	Pleasant with plenty of sun	Partly sunny	Plenty of sunshine
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High 68° Low: 59°	High 68° Low 51°	High 64° Low 40°	High 64° Low: 34°

Highlands NC 4-Day Forecast By AccuWeather.com

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

HIGHLANDER
ROOFING SERVICES INC
New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials
Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773
info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com





Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

Not The Biggest... Just The Best!

www.patallenrealtygroup.com | 828.526.8784 | 295 DILLARD RD, HIGHLANDS

Voted America's Best by RealTrends Since 2021

The Time Changed... Time for a Change?



MLS# 1003651 | $2,500,000 | Downtown location, 3BR/3.5BA, remodeled with elegance, open floor plan, high ceilings, beautifully furnished, two fireplaces, two great rooms, water feature, windows, and natural light.
PAT ALLEN | (828) 200-9179



MLS# 1003951 | $1,900,000 | 3BR/3.5BA A desirable neighborhood known for its walkability, greenspace, and pickleball near vibrant downtown Highands. Estimated completion date is April 2027.
JULIE OSBORN | (828) 200-6165



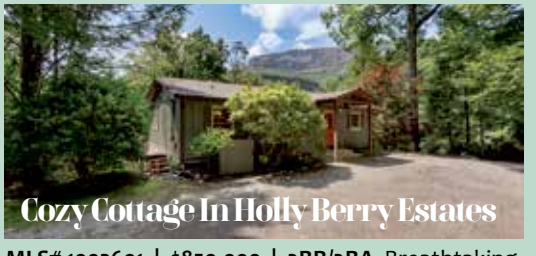
MLS# 1004227 | $1,899,000 | 4BR/4BA Storybook charm abounds in this English cottage in a gated community near downtown Highlands. Offered furnished with select exclusions. Community dock, deeded water access.
JULIE OSBORN | (828) 200-6165



MLS# 1003892 | $1,750,000 | 3BR/3.5BA This spacious ONE-LEVEL home offers light-filled, open living spaces PLUS deeded access to Lake Ravenel, two garages (one with workshop) and more.
JULIE OSBORN | (828) 200-6165



MLS# 1003473 | $1,500,000 | 4BR/3.5BA
Renovated home with sweeping mountain views, spacious decks, lower-level TV room, large primary suite with luxury bath. Gated community.
PAT ALLEN | (828) 200-9179



MLS# 1003601 | $850,000 | 2BR/2BA Breathtaking views of Black Rock and Whiteside mountains. New roof, A/C unit, and multiple bonus rooms. Seller is offering a $30K credit at closing for deck replacement.
JULIE OSBORN | (828) 200-6165



MLS# 1003971 | $385,000 | 6.96 +/- Acres Great property with a level area for building a home or for parking a camper with an easy walk to your private waterfall.
PAT ALLEN | (828) 200-9179



MLS# 1002565 | $75,000 | .41 +/- Acres Three combined lots offer the ideal site for building your mountain retreat, complete with breathtaking views of Lake Glenville.
JULIE OSBORN | (828) 200-6165

Thinking About Selling Your Property?

- Deliberately small so we can give your property the attention it deserves.
- Strong enough and with the experience needed to get you your best deal.

Talk to us today!

Pat Allen | (828) 200-9179 | pat@patallenrealtygroup.com
Julie Osborn | (828) 200-6165 | julie@patallenrealtygroup.com
www.patallenrealtygroup.com

Not The Biggest... Just The Best!

..MAYOR continued from page 2

give hundreds of millions of dollars each year, in accordance with their nonprofit status, to address these social determinants of health. They could ensure that children have no school food insecurity.

But I also read a newspaper article about this issue and came to a different conclusion. The article pointed out that the Macon County Commissioners several years ago allocated $200,000 to fund this shortfall in the school lunch program at the Highlands School and at Franklin High. But it seems that in the last couple of years, that funding was removed from the budget. Apparently, the rationale was that parents should pay for their children's lunches. I understand the concept, but do not agree that removing that funding was the right thing to do. It is not like Macon County cannot afford this program: it has 40-million-dollar plus reserve fund. What better use for $200,000 than ensuring all children in the district receive a free breakfast and lunch? I hope those funds will be restored in the next county budget.

On a side note, I attended the community meeting last Thursday evening about building a new soccer field at the Highlands School. It was a very uplifting meeting that was moderated by Hilary Wilkes, a board of education member. The Highlands Com-

• See MAYOR page 16

SALE!
HAND CLEANING • RESTORATION • APPRAISALS
OTHER SHOWROOMS: TAMPA • NAPLES • SARASOTA ORLANDO
Mon-Sat 9:30AM-6PM Sun 12NOON-5PM
We Purchase Antique Rugs
(828) 526-5759
Main Street • Oak Square
Highlands, NC 28741
www.shirazruggalleries.com
Cash or Checks Accepted
Open for the last 41 years, Shiraz has been offering wholesale prices to the public on its entire inventory of genuinely hand-woven oriental rugs. Thousands of antique and contemporary pieces from around the world.
\Cleaning & Repairs. too!

Bryson's Food Store
Proudly Serving Highlands, North Carolina since 1977
The best meals start here!
Area's Best Selection of Fine Wines!
Wine Tasting
Thursdays 2-5p
Open daily
7:30a to 7:30p
103 Highlands Plaza, Highlands, NC • (828) 526-3775



Ducky Dash Swim Meet was held at the Highlands rec center pool

Steve Hott, Head Coach
Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team

On Saturday, October 24, the Highlands Hurricanes hosted the 1st Annual Ducky Dash Swim Meet against the Jackson County Swim Team and the North Georgia Rapids. The Hurricanes won both the men's and women's meet. The combined score was 1574 - 1279 - 298.

The following eight swimmers who all won three events and scored 60 pts. Justin and Jayce Powell, Zana and Luca Maseko, Agatha Jestin, Melanie Zabrian, Stella Kerr, and Estelle Edwards.

Scoring 57 pts for the Hurricanes with two 1st place finishes and a 2nd place finish each were Aleks Petric-Sakon, Bella Batista, and Law Binder. Lucas Zabrian scored 56 pts - two 1sts and a 3rd.

Ian Batista and Blakely Sears each won an event and two 2nds for 54 pts.

Scoring 53 pts for the Hurricanes with a 1st, 2nd, and a 3rd place finish were Max Jestin, Anna Nicole Shchelgachova, Senna Sherrill, and Hananiah Edwards.

Benjamin Shchelgachov won three 2nd place finishes for 51 pts, Valerie Nadzorau and Delilah Diaz had 49. Nadzorau with two 2nds, and Diaz with a 2nd and two 3rds.

Brothers Azariah and Nehemiah Edwards each had 40 pts by way of two 1st place finishes, while Theressa Mendez and Victoria Nadzorau scored 37 pts each with a 1st and a 2nd place finish.

Sterling Binder had two 2nds for 34 pts and Ransom Bozeman had a 3rd place finish for 16 pts. This was Theressa Mendez and Ransom Bozeman's 1st swim meet ever.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices mostly in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the Rec Park Pool) unassisted. For further information, call 828.421.4121.



Andrea Gabbard
c: 828.200.6742
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com



Lori Mattice
850-544-0162
lori.mattice@sothebysrealty.com

Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY



494 Country Club Drive, Highlands NC
MLS# 1004017 | $3,875,000 | 4BR/4.5 BA In Wildcat Cliffs CC. Refined elegance. Located beside the 16th green. Chef's kitchen w/ cozy breakfast room. LR with a stone fireplace. The screened-in back porch with fireplace. Double garage + golf cart garage. Conveniently located near the clubhouse -for dinner and drinks.
LORI MATTICE (850) 544-0162 & ANDREA GABBARD (828)200-6742



396 Azalea Lane, Highlands
MLS# 1003907| $1,850,000 | 3BR/3BA In Wildcat Cliffs CC. This villa has the MILLION dollar view and has been updated from floor to ceiling! Open floor plan. Sunsets from your private deck and hear the stream below. Separate guest suite/ office with kitchenette and full bathroom. 2 car garage with additional space.
LORI MATTICE (850) 544-0162



350 Rockhouse Falls Lane, Sapphire, NC
MLS# 1004394 | $2,600,000 | 3 Br + additional sleeping areas, 3.5 baths. Greenhouse + firepit. On the Horsepasture River
Contact Lori Mattice 850-544-0162 & Andrea Gabbard 828-200-6742



177 Forest Trail, Highlands
MLS# 1004297 | $1,995,000 | 3 Br + additional sleeping areas, 3.5 Baths.
2 car garage, 2 large covered decks. Near: Horse paddock, lake, and hiking trails.
Contact Andrea Gabbard 828-200-6742

...CORNERSTONE continued from page 1



tains.

Demolition is complete, and work on the foundation and retaining walls has started. Construction is expected to be completed in 2028. Pre-leasing inquiries are now being accepted for retail and office space.

A Long-Term Family Investment in Highlands

The Cornerstone is the latest Highlands investment by the Nisbett family, whose work in town includes the renovation and repositioning of Highlands Creek Village on Dillard Road, and restoration of a Jim Fox home on Whiteside Mountain. For the family, The Cornerstone reflects the same long-term approach on a more visible downtown site.

"Highlands has become an important and integral place for our family," said Joe Nisbett, owner and developer. "This is not a short-term project. We want to create a quality building that supports downtown, serves local businesses and visitors, and remains part of Highlands for generations."

The family originally explored working with the existing structures on the site, but after evaluation by contractors, engineers, and architects, the team determined that a new building was the appropriate path forward. With a clean slate, the focus turned to designing a building that would respect the scale of Main Street while providing the quality and functionality needed for the next generation of downtown use.

What The Cornerstone Brings to Downtown

The Cornerstone is planned as a three-story mixed-use building that contributes activity throughout the day and evening.

The ground floor features three retail storefronts along Main Street and Fourth Street, with expansive glazing designed for attractive displays. These spaces are intended for high-quality shops, food and beverage concepts, or other street-level tenants that benefit from strong visibility.

The second floor provides flexible office or retail use suited to professional tenants, galleries, design-oriented businesses, or other users seeking a highly visible downtown address. A central lobby and circulation core will serve the upper floors.

The third floor includes two luxury residential units, along with space suitable for office, studio, or potentially a restaurant/bar. Outdoor terrace areas and balconies bring the third floor to life with views over Main Street and Fourth Street.

Together, the program is intended to support the kind of experience that Highlands Main Street is known for: walkable brick sidewalks, window shopping, and upscale mountain charm.

Designed for Main Street

Located at the intersection of Fourth and Main Streets, The Cornerstone has been designed with careful attention to its distinguished downtown setting. The project combines traditional materials

• See CORNERSTONE page 15

• Investing at 4,118 Ft. •

Inventory and selection of properties is high



W Terry Potts
Country Club Properties of Highlands
More than 5 generations in Highlands
828-421-3417

Fall is almost past us! But the leaves were colorful and we had an extended period of nice weather that let the leaves stay on the trees so we were able to enjoy them all of October and will have them now into early November.

The weather was nice for the annual Main Street trick-or-treating. Being on a Saturday, it was well attended!

Now to real estate.

The nice weather has kept people coming to view property and there has been a strong uptick in showings and properties going under contract. There is still good inventory and selection and prices remain steady with some reductions to get movement on the market.

I read an article on states where people are moving to, and many southern states were in the top 10 with North Carolina being number one in the nation.

I am thankful for all of the United States Forest Service land in this area that protects us from too much development and hopefully we will not overbuild this area.

Our economy here is robust and will continue to grow if we keep Highlands what people come here to enjoy.

This is a good time to check out available properties. Your investment is as safe as anything with ownership of something tangible that you can enjoy in this lovely place to live.

• Upcoming Events •

Small Business Saturday Holiday Stroll

Activities planned for Saturday, November 28 include:

11am–4pm | Cookie Crawl

Pick up a holiday cookie box at a participating local business* and stroll through Highlands and enjoying or picking up sweet treats along the way during the inaugural Cookie Crawl.

*Alison Diane Clothing, The Bascom, Bear Mountain Outfitters, C. Orrico, Elena's Activewear, Highland Hiker, Highlands Fine Art & Estate Jewelry, Highlands Kids, Highlands Mountain Paws, Hudson Library, Main Street Gifts, The Molly Grace, Monkee's of Highlands, The Pizza Place, Silver Eagle, Spruce Interiors, Town Hall Restaurant, Trailborn Highlands and Whits' End.

12:30–2:30pm | Live Music at Town Square

Enjoy live music in the heart of downtown while shopping and exploring Highlands.

1–3pm | Face Painting at The Bascom

Complimentary face painting at The Bascom.

1–2pm | Story Time at Hudson Library

Families are invited to Hudson Library for a special holiday story time.

3–4pm | Strolling Quartet of Carolers

A quartet of carolers will make its way through downtown, filling the streets with sounds of the season.

3–4pm | Ice Carving at Town Square

Watch as blocks of ice are transformed into works of art during a live ice-carving demonstration. Ice sculptures will also be located throughout town.

The Small Business Saturday Holiday Stroll is part of a festive weekend in Highlands, leading into **Light Up the Park & Main** later that evening at 5:30pm in Kelsey Hutchinson Founder Park which will include music, carolers and a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

FEATURED COMMUNITY

CHESTNUT HILL

HIGHLANDS, NC

Chestnut Hill
OF HIGHLANDS









MORE TIME FOR WHAT MATTERS

- Housekeeping Available Lock and Leave Convenience No Lawn Maintenance
- No Gutter Cleaning
- No Exterior Painting
- No Roof Replacement or Repairs
- Social & Wellness Opportunities
- Catering Available

CONDOS AVAILABLE

1 Bedroom - $350,000
2 Bedrooms- $465,000
3 Bedrooms- $750,000

Enjoy effortless mountain living! Fully updated condos with modern finishes throughout. Relax on your private patio or deck, take advantage of the community & clubhouse amenities, including a fitness room & game space. Garages available!

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

For More Information
Contact Us at 828-526-1717

© 2026 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.

• Upcoming Events •

The Bascom's Holiday Market brings free activities and art workshops for all ages



The Holiday Market at The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts is open now through Saturday, Dec. 26, with free seasonal activities for visitors of every age, hands-on art workshops for youth and adults, and handcrafted gifts by local and regional artists in the Shop and Greehey Atrium at 323 Franklin Road. Admission is free, and the Holiday Market is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

"The Holiday Market started as a one-day Holiday Maker event on our Terrace, and we quickly saw that people wanted to come and go through the whole season, at their own pace," said Jessica Lammers, Retail Manager at The Bascom. "It gives artists a place to sell their seasonal work and gives shoppers handmade gifts they won't find anywhere else. We are also happy to offer a variety of free programming throughout the season. While the kids are making ornaments or writing letters to Santa, the grown-ups can browse or catch up with friends."

Now in its third year, the Holiday Market includes a Letters to Santa Station, opening Friday, Nov. 27, and a festive photo station set up throughout the season. On Nov. 27 and 28, children can make wooden ornaments to take home in the SmART Space, free of charge.

Free events continue through December. A Hot Chocolate Bar opens Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m. On Friday, Nov. 27, The Bascom hosts a Holiday Market Reception with hot chocolate and festive treats beginning at 10 a.m. Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28, brings face painting with Macon Faces from 1–3 p.m. and cookies courtesy of Visit Highlands. On Saturday, Dec. 5, following the Highlands Christmas Parade, a second Holiday Market Reception begins at 2 p.m. with hot chocolate and a trunk show.

The season's signature hands-on event, the Gingerbread House Workshop, returns Friday, Nov. 27, with a morning session at 10 a.m. and an afternoon session at 1 p.m. The workshop is open to all ages, so parents, grandparents and children can build and decorate side by side. Each session is limited to 25 participants, and registration is $75. Because the workshop falls on the same day as the free reception, the ornament making and the opening of the Letters to Santa Station, families can make a full day of their visit.

Workshops for youth and adults run through the season. Young artists can try needle felting on Saturday, Nov. 7, or print their own wrapping paper and gift tags on Saturday, Nov. 14. Adults can learn beginner needle felting, design handmade holiday cards or gather with friends for a winter Paint and Sip on Friday, Dec. 4. Workshops range from $60–$140 and require advance registration at TheBascom.org.

Holiday Market visitors can also see The Bascom's fall exhibitions, free and open to the public: Voices of Influence: Celebrating the Impact of Women in Art in Thompson Gallery through Nov. 28; Ceramic Artists of the Bascom Clay Symposium in Joel Gallery through Nov. 16; and TRACES: Jo Sandman from the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center in Bunzl Gallery through Jan. 9, 2027.

New this year, The Bascom's Holiday Market is made possible with generous support from Visit Highlands, helping draw more visitors to town and giving them more opportunities to create and linger in Highlands.



In residence, The Am Meer Quartet.

HCCMF's annual Fall Residency is Nov. 13-16

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival has become known not only for bringing many of the world's finest chamber musicians to the Plateau each summer, but also for taking music into classrooms, churches, senior living communities, and campuses throughout the region. The annual Fall Residency Program is perhaps the clearest expression of that enduring commitment.

That commitment continues November 13-16 with this year's Fall Residency, featuring the Am Meer Quartet. Though newly formed, the ensemble has already begun attracting attention for its artistry and collaborative spirit. Founded in 2025 at the Manhattan School of Music, the quartet studies under Peter Winograd, first violinist of the internationally renowned American String Quartet, giving Plateau audiences the rare opportunity to discover an outstanding young ensemble at the very start of its artistic journey.

The residency begins Thursday, November 13, with visits to Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School, where students will experience firsthand the artistry, collaboration, and communication that define chamber music. On Friday, November 14, the quartet performs for residents of Eckerd Living Center before presenting a free public concert and wine reception at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. The residency continues November 15 with a visit to Western Carolina University and concludes November 16 at Highlands School, extending the Festival's educational mission across generations and throughout the region.

The Festival's success has never been measured solely by the applause at the end of a performance. It is equally reflected in the spark of curiosity ignited in a student, the joy of a shared musical experience at a retirement community, or the sense of connection created when neighbors gather to listen together. Those moments have defined the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival for 45 seasons—and continue to ensure its legacy reaches far beyond the concert stage.

fision®
Fiber Optics by Hotwire



PREMIUM CONNECTION. READY FOR EVERY MOMENT.

Take your Internet to the next level with Gigabit speeds.

Your connection should keep up with everything you do.

Whether you're sharing, working, or relaxing, enjoy a connection that delivers a seamless experience throughout your home with 1 Gig Internet + MaxFi.

- Fast, reliable performance for streaming, gaming, and video calls
- Smooth streaming in every room
- Multiple devices running at once without slowdowns
- Clear 4K viewing and video calls

CALL OR VISIT OUR STORE

833-986-1570 670 N 4th St, Highlands, NC 28741

Packages, prices, features, and availability are subject to change. Not all services available in all areas or properties. Taxes, fees, surcharges, and installation charges may apply. Actual speeds may vary due to network conditions, wiring, device limitations, and other factors. Other restrictions may apply. Includes Fision MaxFi+. Additional $10/mo. applies if 5 or more retail Wi-Fi devices are required. Coverage applies to weatherproof and habitable areas only. Wi-Fi speeds are not guaranteed and vary by environment and device capability. Other restrictions may apply. MaxFi is a service mark, Hotwire and Fision are registered trademarks of Hotwire Communications, Ltd. ©2026 Hotwire Communications, Ltd. All rights reserved.

• Highlands Dining •

HIGHLANDS BURRITO

Tuck into Tasty Mexican Favorites
& the Best Margaritas in Highlands



Host your next party at Highlands Burrito
for birthdays, game days & more!
CALL 828-526-9313 TO BOOK

DINE IN OR TAKE IT TO GO
226 South 4th Street, Highlands, NC

DUSTY'S
YOUR GO TO PLACE FOR
STEAK* BURGER*CHICKEN*PORK
HOT DOGS* RIBS*SAUSAGE
TAKE AND BAKE SIDES AND DINNERS
FRESH SIDES, SANDWICHES & SALADS
BAKED GOODS*WINE*CHEESE
GOURMET FOOD & MORE!!



TUES-FRI 9:30-5:30 SAT 9:30-5
493 DILLARD RD 828-526-2762

The Secret Garden



Sandwich shop and
gourmet food market
Open Year-Round
Mon.-Fri.. 11:30a to 3p
Sat., noon-4
Call (828) 305-7509 to place a pick-up order.
Catering and Custom Charcuterie

Courtyard and Indoor seating!



208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • Next to Pine St. Park

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern
at Highlander Mountain House



Open for
LUNCH
Wednesday-Saturday
11:30-3p
Open for
DINNER
Wednesday-Saturday
5:30-9p
Open for
SUNDAY BRUNCH
with Blue Grass music
10a-3p

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

HIGHLANDS SMOKEHOUSE

Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p
Closed Tuesdays
828.526.3554
595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC

Open for our 37th Season

EST. 1990
LAKESIDE
RESTAURANT

Open Tuesday - Saturday
Dinner Starts @ 5:30 PM
Serving Easter Brunch 11 AM - 2 PM
Outdoor Dining / Dine-In Art Gallery / lakesiderestaurant.info



531 Smallwood Ave. | 828-526-9419 | Highlands

828-526-4035
WILD THYME GOURMET
RESTAURANT

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



Open 7 Days

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

A HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOTEL
OUTPOST INN



Now serving wine,
beer & coffee!
Open to the public!



Coffee Bar 8a to 4p daily
Wine/Beer Bar:
Thurs-Sat 5-10p

790 North 4th Street, Highlands | info@outpostinnhighlands.com | 828-482-7736

HIGHLANDS
BISTRO
"Formerly DonLeon's"

Elevated Comfort Food | International Menu | Family Owned



AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PARTIES AND CATERING
Open Tuesday-Saturday
BREAKFAST 7 AM-10 AM | LUNCH 11 AM-3 PM
Open Thursday-Saturday DINNER 5PM-8 PM
828.482.1513 | 462 Dillard Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

• Obituaries •

Ronnie Dale Owens

Ronnie Dale Owens, 72, passed away on October 20, 2026 following a lengthy illness.

Ronnie, born in Clayton, GA in 1954, was the youngest child of Lawrence Roosevelt Owens and Dehlia Ridley Owens. He grew up roaming the beautiful mountains of the Satolah community. There he was instilled with a deep belief in the importance of hard work, self sufficiency, education, good friends, and, most importantly, family. He attended Rabun County High School, graduating in 1972. He remained a RaCoHi Wildcat for life, treasuring memories of friendships, fast cars, and victories on the basketball court. These years also saw the rise of a lifelong obsession with golf, born on the remarkable course of the Highlands Country Club where he worked as a caddy. He could watch you play three holes and know exactly what club you needed to select for the next 15. If you played with him, you rarely lost a golf ball. He compared every course he ever played to Highlands. It was a very high bar. He was always happiest on the golf course.

He attended LaGrange College where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, played on the golf team, and formed lifelong friendships. He was proud to be the first member of his family to attend college. There he met the love of his life, Leigh Scott. After graduating from LaGrange in 1976, he went to pharmacy school at Auburn University. From his tenure at Auburn he gained a profession he loved, an enormous stack of AU logo plastic stadium cups, and an impressive collection of orange and blue golf shirts.

Ronnie married Leigh Scott in 1981, and they built a happy and successful life together in Marietta, GA. They were blessed with two remarkable children, Richard and Jessica. Ronnie served the Marietta community as a pharmacist for 35 years. He was trusted and beloved by his customers, who never hesitated to interrupt a family night out at a restaurant with a question about how to treat their latest ailment. He always responded with excellent advice, and a warm smile.

Upon retiring, Ronnie and Leigh followed their son and his family to Fort Worth, TX. For the last seven years of his life, he was a ful- time Gramps. He thought it was the best job he ever had. He taught Connor and Maisie to play golf, the importance of remembering "righty tighty, lefty loosie" when building anything, and how to grow vegetables in their wonderful backyard garden. The grandchildren were his heart.

Ronnie would tell you that his most important accomplishments were holding the single game rebound record at Rabun County High School for 30 years, having three holes-in-one, and raising two incredible children. He loved golf, Corvettes, Auburn football, biscuits and gravy, a well smoked pork butt, a medium rare steak, butter pecan ice cream, and southern rock music. Most of all, he loved the mountains and his family.

Ronnie is survived by his wife, Leigh Scott Owens; their children Richard Lawrence Owens, (Sydney), and Jessica Leigh Owens; his grandchildren Connor Coleman Owens and Marguerite Ruth Owens; his siblings Latricia Owens Young, Lorraine Owens Young (Harley), Donald Nelson Owens (Linda); Loretta Owens Picklesimer (Brandon), and Lazelle Owens Calloway; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents Lawrence and Dehlia Owens; his sister Laverne Owens Horton; his brothers-in-law Dale Young and Ronnie Calloway; and his nephew Michael Calloway.

A celebration of life will be held at 3 pm on October 14, 2026, at the Satolah Firehouse.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to the Lake Rabun Scholarship Fund.

Adam L. Harner

Adam L. Harner passed away Aug., 10, 2026 of cancer at the age of 47 in Franklin, NC>

Born in Gulfport, FL, he is survived by his parents David and Gail, daughters Abigail and Kayla, brothers Andrew, Eric and Matthew. A private service will be held at a future date.

• Dining •

...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah
43 Years of Fine Dining



OPEN
7
Nights a week
5:30-9p

828-526-2338
US 64w • Highlands
www.ontheverandah.com

• Letter •

Trump will still be president after the election ...

Dear Editor,

Regardless of the outcome of the election, there is still work to be done.

Recently from the Oval Office, President Trump gave a disrespectful speech alleging "Sleepy Joe Biden" knew about an Obamacare overcharge and ignored it. (Oh, sure.) Then, just as voters headed to the polls for the midterm elections, he announced that he was mailing $500 checks to about a million people. Use calculator. That is ½ BILLION taxpayer dollars. He said he was correcting a great injustice. I say he was using your tax money, that could help you buy groceries, to influence election results.

Three of my friends received $500 checks. Two made $500 donations to the Democratic Party. YES! If many others did, it made the man even crazier than he already is and perhaps got the word out that his Big Beautiful Health Plan is nonexistent.

We shouldn't be surprised as a few weeks ago Trump announced he would issue a check for $5000 to every adult in the U.S. if the Republicans win. No way that would happen, but, just sayin', I thought it was illegal to buy votes.

Add to that, the millions of dollars which funded pro-Trump TV ads attempting to scare you into voting Republican. At bottom, "paid for by the U.S. government". Trump said they were public service announcements. I say if this was not a political ad, call me Yankee Doodle Dandy.

Trump is desperate to keep power to continue an Iran war he can't win and to complete more vanity projects like his big ballroom that will diminish the

White House; I picture huge gold letters across the front, "THE DONALD J. TRUMP BALLROOM." A pathetic Trump says if his name is not above

Kennedy's on the performing arts center he will demolish the building which was erected to honor an assassinated president. Seriously? The John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center is Kennedy's Memorial.

What next? A Trump Arch, twice as high as the Lincoln Memorial, to honor himself. The arch would dwarf the Vietnam Memorial honoring 50,000 men and women who died in a war that he managed to avoid by dodging the draft.

It will be interesting to see if all the taxpayer money used to influence the election was successful. I am writing this on the Sunday before Election Day, so we won't have long before you and I know.

But regardless of the outcome, there is still work to be donw.

Carol Redenbaugh,
Former Apple Mountain resident
Mt. Laurel Tennis Club member

Halloween Highlands style



























Saturday, Oct. 31

Photos by Kim Lewicki and Grace Waddell













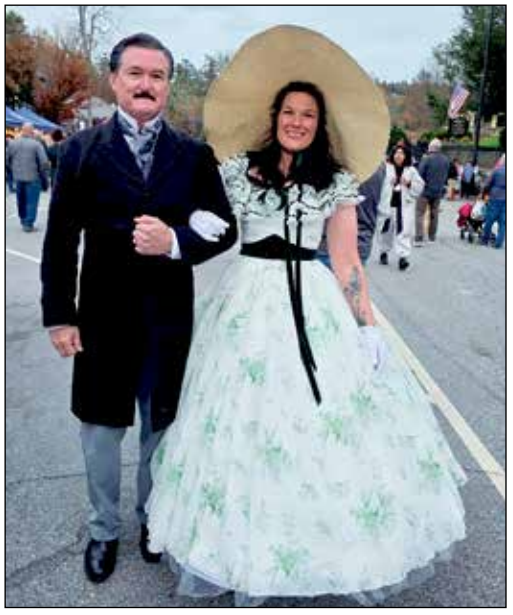












COREY JAMES GALLERY
& Estate Consignments

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



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

WHOLE LIFE MARKET
Natural Products Store

Hours: 9am-5pm
Mon-Sat
828-526-5999
Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS

NECTAR Juice Bar
Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market

Read Highlands Newspaper, Highlands' only locally owned newspaper, free from everywhere – on the street or on the web.
Digital version at www.highlandsnewspaper.com
Click on Local News. Delivered and uploaded every Thurs. AM
Sapphire, Lake Glenville, Cashiers, Highlands, Scaly Mountain, Otto and Franklin

Rejuvenate MEDICAL SPA

November Specials

PDO Threads - 20% Off

Dissolvable sutures are inserted into the skin to lift, tighten, and rejuvenate sagging or aging areas. They stimulate collagen production, improving skin elasticity and texture over time!



Prices vary depending on type and number of threads used. Please call or check our website for pricing.



Pumpkin Harvest Glow Facial - $99



Fall into your glow with our November facial, featuring pumpkin enzymes and lactic acid for a smoother, brighter complexion just in time for the holidays.

Red Light Therapy add-on $20

828-482-4430 | 828-349-1280
www.rejuvenatewnc.com

• Here's the Thing •

Wherefore art thou, Yogi



Bud Katz

Hall of Fame NY Yankee baseball catcher Yogi Berra is often credited with reminding us that it's tough making predictions, especially about the future. As I craft this missive, we won't know the outcome of the 2026 midterm election until at the earliest Thursday morning. Since the Highlands Newspaper goes to print on Wednesday, everything I'm about to consider in this edition of Here's The Thing, falls into the category of predictions. Who cares? It's fun to make predictions, especially when all that's really on the line in this election cycle is literally the future of our republic. No biggie, right?

All of those who are paid to analyze political polling are quick to make sweeping claims regarding who's going to win. As we've experienced in the past, they know about as much as Yogi did.

Polls told us Hillary Clinton would coast to victory in 2016. Didn't happen. They told us Al Gore would win in 2000. Didn't happen. John McCain should have had an easy time in 2008. Didn't happen. Take everything you see, hear, and read that predicts anything – such as that the Kansas City Chiefs would beat Denver this past Sunday afternoon – with several grains of salt.

With that aside, let's sneak a peek at what might happen in the still to be decided 2026 election since the official results are after the Nov. 13 canvass. If I'm right, then yay me! If I'm wrong, well, don't waste any time reminding me of that fact, and for heaven's sake, do not make any wagers on the so named prediction markets. You've been warned.

Democrats need to hold all the seats they currently claim and must add at least four seats in the biennial election of all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This, I predict, will happen. Voters concerned about gas and grocery prices will recast at least four congressional seats to the blue-left. That number might actually be higher. They also need to flip four seats in the U.S. Senate. Now, because we elect Senators for six-year terms, only a third of the Senate is up for reelection. Surprisingly, it appears that Democrats will achieve this goal, but it's going to be very, very close. One of those Senate flips will happen right here in North Carolina! Former Governor Roy Cooper is almost certain to prevail in the race for the seat currently held by republican Tom Tillis, who is retiring, and things are so volatile in this cycle that a Democrat could, possibly, sneak to victory in perennially red South Carolina, where the seat held by the late Lindsay Graham is up for grabs.

There's lots of precedent for the party out of power having a very strong showing in a mid-term (off year) election. The President's favorability ratings are, not to put too fine a point on it, low. He's overseeing a highly unpopular war (that he had no business getting us into), regular gas is still over $4 at the pump, and grocery costs are not, as he'd repeatedly promised, dropping but are, instead, continuing to rise. Since it appears that most voters aren't prone to anything resembling pure party loyalty, disaffected moderate Republican voters might hold their collective noses and move to the left, punishing those who received the President's endorsement.

Here's the thing. As stated, I'm drafting this column BEFORE votes are counted. All sorts of havoc may be wreaked in the days and weeks following said vote counting, which could stretch into next week in closely contested races. Additionally, if things don't go the way the President wants them to, a lot could change between election day (tomorrow, as I write this) and when the new folks get sworn in, in January 2027.

As a firm believer in not worrying about things I can't control, such as vote counts in all 50 states, I plan to go to sleep on Tuesday night not knowing how things have ultimately played out. Next month, I'll likely write on some subject completely disconnected from these elections.

On a personal note, I miss Yogi Berra.

• Bruce F. "Bud" Katz, and his wife, Lynn, have lived year-round in Highlands since 2011. Bud is the author of four published novels and a work of non-fiction. He's a member of the Highlands Writers Group and spends much of his time in front of a computer making words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, … etc. You can contact Bud, regarding this column or for information about the Highlands Writers Group, at brucefkatzauthor@gmail.com.

...CORNERSTONE continued from page 6

and architectural proportions with new spaces intended to complement the existing businesses and pedestrian character of Main Street.

"We believed the design should reflect a strong sense of permanence—something timeless that will age gracefully as the communal hum continues on Main Street," said Nathan Moore, National Director at MHK Architecture and project architect of The Cornerstone.

The design direction was to create a building that feels appropriate to Highlands without copying any one existing structure. The exterior is composed of familiar materials and forms, including a stone base, brick upper levels, arched window openings, traditional storefront proportions, and a slate mansard roof with metal-clad dormers.

The building massing and facade composition are designed to break the building down into smaller, legible elements that relate to the pattern of walkable downtown buildings. The ground floor storefronts are intended to activate the sidewalk, while the arched second-floor windows and upper-level roof form give the building a distinct profile at the corner.

The material palette is intentionally limited – primarily stone, brick, metal, and slate – allowing the building to read as cohesive, substantial, and appropriate to the Highlands setting.

Construction by Futral Enterprises

Construction of The Cornerstone is led by Bill Futral of Futral Enterprises, with an emphasis on quality craftsmanship, and careful coordination on a tight downtown site.

"The corner of Fourth and Main is an important part of Highlands, and we're proud to have been entrusted with its next chapter," said Bill Futral, builder. "Our responsibility is not only to build something that will serve the community for generations, but to be good neighbors throughout the construction process."

Peter Shipps of Pro Vision Design serves as the owner's representative, helping coordinate the project team through design, permitting, and construction.

"It is a privilege and honor to be a part of The Cornerstone team," said Shipps. "Befitting of 4th and Main and its iconic neighbor, Old Edwards Inn & Spa, The Cornerstone embodies a fresh vision, a treasured heritage, and a restored vitality to this beloved city block."

With demolition complete and approvals underway, The Cornerstone is moving from planning into construction. Retaining wall work is expected to be completed shortly, followed by shell construction.

Now Pre-Leasing

The Cornerstone is now accepting pre-leasing inquiries for its Main Street retail storefronts and upper-level commercial spaces, with occupancy anticipated in 2028.

Prospective tenants can explore the latest architectural renderings, available spaces, floor plans, and leasing information at https://thecornerstonehighlands.com/.

For leasing opportunities or to discuss specific space requirements, please contact Amy Heath of Mighty Oaks Property Services at amy@mightyoak-

Marnie's



Local Artesian Show Case &
European Candle Center
Come sip and shop!
Gourmet Italian Coffee & Hot Chocolate

Open 8a to 4p CLOSED SUN.
415 4th Street • 828-500-1827
(next to Howard Hanna RE office)

Holiday Market 10.31 12.26

Discover the magic of The Bascom's Holiday Market! Shop unique, handcrafted gifts for all ages and enjoy holiday fun with themed workshops, a Santa Letter Writing Station, kids' make-and-take ornaments, and a festive photo station.

Classes and workshops require advance registration.
Learn more and sign up at TheBascom.org

Key Dates

Nov 14 FREE - Hot Chocolate Bar

Nov 27 FREE - Holiday Market Reception
Hot Chocolate & Letters to Santa Station Opens.

Nov 27 Gingerbread House Workshop (All Ages) *Registration required.*

Nov 28 FREE - Small Business Saturday
Face Painting with Macon Faces 1-3 pm
& Cookies courtesy of Visit Highlands

Nov 27 & 28 FREE - Make-and-Take Wooden Ornaments in the SmART Space

Dec 5 FREE - Holiday Market Reception,
Following the Highlands Christmas Parade
2-4 pm with Hot Chocolate Bar and trunk show.

THE BASCOM
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
VISIT Highlands

The Bascom's Holiday Market is made possible with generous support from Visit Highlands.

...SOCCER continued from page 1



About 120 people turned out for the discussion about the Highlands School soccer field held at the Community Building Thursday, Oct. 29.

Breeden and School Board Chairman Jim Breedlove, School Board Members Hilary Wilkes and Diedre Breeden as well as Macon County Schools Superintendent Josh Lynch.

The need for a safe soccer field for Highlands School has been a never-ending battle, one that the Highlands community has been fighting for over 10 years. Despite not having a decent field for practices and games, the Highlands School soccer program, both men and women, have been very successful. This season is no different with Highlands advancing to the third round of the state playoffs to take on the winner of the Blue Ridge vs. Phoenix Academy next Monday, November 9th.

The Highlands Community is now embracing a new direction as a solution to the lack of a decent soccer field for its students and athletes. With fixing the field in the back of the school being cost prohibitive, the push is now to turn the existing track in the front of the school into a regulation soccer field and the current soccer field into a 200-meter track with lanes. Both the soccer and track programs would benefit from the new plan.

"It was unanimous among those who attended the meeting; everyone wants to see the field stay at the school grounds," said Jeff Weller who has worked for years trying to get the soccer field fixed. "There is no interest of the group to have it at Buck Creek.

"All the people at the meeting want a turf field like Franklin's football field rather than grass, especially because of the amount of rain and freezing we deal with on a regular basis," he added. "And sentiment is growing that if the commissioners don't feel that they can make the field behind the school work in their minds, then out front on the track parcel would be great."

Several community members and high school athletes spoke at the meeting.

All who spoke requested that the soccer field remain on the Highlands School campus with no one in favor of using the Buck Creek fields as solution, though that has been suggested by county commissioners. Transportation to and from the school to Buck Creek would be a problem, especially with the shortage of bus drivers and activity buses. Another disadvantage would be that practices would start and end later.

In addition, the community soccer program uses the Buck Creek fields for practices and games, and there isn't enough time to have the school's soccer programs and community programs share the field. This year there are seven community league soccer teams using the Buck Creek fields, and it would be impossible to add Highlands School soccer teams for practice and games.

"We have talked about the need for a soccer field for 10 years," said Highlands School Athletic Director Brett Lamb. "We

• See SOCCER page 21

• HS Athletics Recap •

High-stakes clash & playoff bound

Highlands varsity soccer wraps regular season, advances to 3rd round



Brett Lamb
HS Athletic Director

The Highlands High School Varsity boys soccer team closed out its regular season on Wednesday in a high-stakes clash against Summit Charter, with the conference championship hanging in the balance.

Summit jumped out to an early 1–0 lead following a successful penalty kick and quickly doubled their advantage to push the score to 2–0. Todd Vilardo put the Highlanders on the board with a crucial goal, but Summit managed to sink a second penalty kick before the break, sending the game into halftime at 3–1.

Despite a hard-fought and intense second half, Summit secured a decisive late goal to pull away with a 4–1 victory.

With the loss, the Highlanders finish the regular season with a stellar 14–2–3 record, earning 2nd place in the Smoky Mountain Conference. Following the match, the team took time to recognize its graduating seniors: Pierre Damian, Aiden Dendy, Blaine Dendy, Francisco Gooch, Elmer Hernandez, Chase Kenter, Stephen Pierson, and Jack Sumner. Over their four-year high school careers, this senior class compiled an impressive overall record of 48–23–11.

Looking ahead, the Highlanders earned the #3 seed in the NCHSAA state playoffs, which granted them a first-round bye. Highlands was originally slated to face Carolina International School (Concord, N.C.) in the second round; however, Carolina International was forced to forfeit due to a lack of available players.

As a result, Highlands advanced directly to the third round. The Highlanders will host the winner of the round-two matchup between Blue Ridge and Phoenix Academy on Monday, Nov. 9. Game time is yet to be determined.

Around the Highlands Athletics Program

Middle School Basketball:

The middle school basketball teams traveled to Rosman last week for a pre-season scrimmage to gain valuable floor experience ahead of their upcoming regular season. Highlands will host Towns County on Monday, Nov. 9, with the girls starting at 4 p.m. and the boys following immediately after. On Thursday, Nov. 12, both teams will travel to Blue Ridge, with games beginning at 4 p.m.

Varsity Girls Basketball:

The varsity girls basketball squad will head to Smoky Mountain High School on Tuesday, Nov. 10, for a pre-season scrimmage against Smoky Mountain and Murphy. Action begins at 5 p.m.

..MAYOR continued from page 4

munity Building was jam-packed with parents, staff, high school soccer players, and coaches. Board of education members and county commissioners were also there to listen to public feedback, and they heard great feedback. I hope the commissioners will make the soccer field happen by funding the project without further delays.

What really impressed me were the parents there to support the project and the overall support for the Highlands School. Many came with kids in tow to share their opinions. I could tell most had just come from work. As I listened to their comments, I thought parents now have a lot on their plates when raising children, including huge costs they try to meet on limited budgets. I said to myself, the community needs to support these families in any way we can. One simple way would be for the Macon County Commission to fund nutritious lunches for all the students at Highlands School and Franklin High School. It would be a rather modest expenditure but would provide support for all the families by them not having to worry about school lunch money. Let's ask them to do it; let's fund the lunch program for the children and show our support for their parents who work hard to provide for their families. It will not be a handout but rather an investment in the social structure of our communities.

Highlands School Fall Festival Sat., Oct. 24



















Spiritually Speaking



On death and dying… and the change of seasons

Rev. Dr. Marcus B. Robertson is Interim Priest in Charge Christ Anglican Church, Cashiers.

This time of year is always a time of reflection and deeper thought for me. My father was born in late October, and he passed away within days of his birthday, so I am often drawn to my relationship with him. I miss my father and wish he could share with me these later years of my life, but I am grateful for the time we had together. Unlike many of my compatriots, my memories of my father are sweet and meaningful, and for that I am deeply grateful.

This time of year also brings the fall colors. The dramatic changes in nature occurring this time of year are beautiful reminders that creation has its seasons which are necessary. The trees shed their leaves in preparation for the harsher conditions of winter, and during the winter months the bark hardens so that the spring boring insects will have a tougher time doing damage. All these changes have a purpose.

I just completed conducting two funerals in recent weeks. It's been a while since I've officiated at a funeral, and the Anglican liturgy for burial brings again to mind the profound transitions of life that culminate in our journey from this life to the next. It reminds me of the Scripture that says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord are the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15).

It is tempting to take a picture, a "snapshot" of life when we think it is good. We want to "freeze" things in that pleasant state, when all is well and life is treating us kindly, but that is not the nature of things. Life moves on and the inevitable cycles of life carry us from one season to the next. I sometimes struggle with life as a "moving target." I want things nice and pleasant all the time, but the realities of life demand otherwise. Sometimes I reflect on the musings of Dr. Seuss, who, when reflecting on the passing of a wonderful moment, said, "Don't weep because it's over; smile because it happened."

God, in His grace and mercy, flows over us with all sorts of experiences and events. Each one, even if difficult, contains within it a glimpse of His nature and purpose for us. Moving in step with our Creator gives us a much better chance of seeing the wonder of life with all its beauty and hope. It may even help us see death itself, not as the end of the story, but the "turning of the page" to a new and even more glorious existence.

• 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. 10:45a;Wed Study5:15p 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 • 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 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 Oct. 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Accidents

Oct. 29

• Vehicle 1 was traveling west on Dog Mountain Road, when it moved to the side of the roadway to let another car pass and while doing so, drove into a ditch damaging the front right area around the wheel well.

• Last week, officers issued 9 citations and 20 warning tickets.

Oct. 29

• At 8:15 p.m., Wesley Hedden, 27, of Highlands, was arrested on an outstanding warrant from another jurisdiction. He was issued a $10,000 secured bond. His trial date is Nov. 10.

Oct. 31

• At 7 a.m., officers receive a report of someone trespassing on property on Old Rock Road.

• At 10:45 a.m., David Allen Rochester, 38, of Travelers Rest, SC, was arrested for 2nd degree armed trespassing.

• At 11 a.m., Colton McCall, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for 2nd degree armed trespassing.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 27

Oct. 27

• At 12:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Fallen Leave Lane.

• At 2:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Oct. 28

• At 8:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

Oct. 29

• At 10:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hickory Hill Road.

• At 2:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Highgate Road.

• At 10:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Highlands View Road.

Oct. 30

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a residence on Rock Creek Road.

• At 12:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Hill Top Drive.

• At 12:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Joanna Lane.

• At 5:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

• At 6:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible gas leak at a residence on Village Walk.

• At 7 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

Oct. 31

• At 6:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falcon Ridge Road.

• At 10:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Skyline Lodge.

Nov. 1

• At 10:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• Biz/Org News •

Bob Jones Invitational raises more than $400,000 for Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation

The 2026 Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament raised more than $402,000 to benefit Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, continuing Highlands Country Club's longstanding commitment to improving health and well-being on the Plateau.

Held August 6–8 at Highlands Country Club, the annual event brought together Walker Cup players, amateur golfers and supporters to honor golf legend Bobby Jones and give back to the community he loved. Jones helped establish the club's golfing legacy by hitting its opening tee shot in 1928.

The partnership between the Bob Jones Invitational and the Health Foundation connects that tradition of generosity with the healthcare needs of local families. In recent years, tournament proceeds have supported Blue Ridge Health–Highlands Cashiers, the Health Foundation's cornerstone investment in expanding access to primary care on the Plateau.

That support has helped address a persistent challenge in rural communities: ensuring residents can receive affordable healthcare close to home. The clinic serves community members regardless of their ability to pay, helping make essential care more accessible to local individuals and families.

Established in 1982 to honor Jones and support the local hospital, the Invitational has contributed more than $7 million to vital health services on the Plateau. Its continued partnership with the Foundation carries that legacy forward as the Foundation works with nonprofit organizations to respond to community health needs.

This year's fundraising total reflects the generosity of participating golfers, sponsors and donors, along with the efforts of the tournament committee, volunteers and Highlands Country Club. The Health Foundation thanks everyone involved for their continued investment in the health of their neighbors.

Through the Health Foundation, donations support community programs and initiatives directly. Operating expenses are covered by investment income, and nonprofit partners are carefully reviewed, with ongoing communication and evaluation to help ensure grants are making the greatest impact on our region.

Walk-ins Welcome!
-HM- Beauty
Hair Cuts, Color & Styles for Men & Women

Monica
• Beard Sculpting & Trims
• Luxury Shaves
• Men's Cuts
Balayage • Eyebrow Tints & Facial Waxing
Premium Hair Extensions
Bridal Services
322 Main Street • Highlands, NC
828-482-1112

!!! FIRE SALE !!!
CALL FOR DETAILS

THE FIREWOOD COMPANY
Highlands • Cashiers • Atlanta
828.200.3050
bobhenritze@gmail.com • www.firewoodcompany.us

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Come join us
each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.
• Small group environment
• Casual
• Breakfast included
• LIVE stream ANDY STANLEY (NPCC)

For more information and location
Call Bee at 404-307-1415

Elevated Home Maintenance & Repairs, LLC
A Step Above the Rest
Carpentry • Tile Work • Drywall • Remodels
Painting • Flooring • General Labor • Realtor Punchlists
(828) 371-9071
ElevatedHomeMaintenance.com

356B MAIN STREET
ESTATE JEWELERS OF HIGHLANDS
WE BUY
AND CONSIGN
OLD JEWELRY
Appointment Only!
Call: 828-526-1960
Text: 770-855-0825
Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com

ALLAN DEARTH GENERATORS AND SONS
828-526-9325
Generators aren't just a "thing" we do, generators are all we do!
GENERAC
Cummins
KOHLER

WILSON GRADING & TRUCKING
• Grading
• Excavating
• Driveways
• Build sites
• Hauling
• Septic Systems
Edwin Wilson
Cell (828) 421-3643
Office/fax (828) 526-4758
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

Highlands Lawn & Garden
Kiln dried
FIREWOOD
Delivery or pickup
2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395
highlandslawnandgarden.com

HIGHLANDS 19 99 AUTOMOTIVE
SERVICE & REPAIR
DOMESTIC • FOREIGN
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 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.

COUNSELING CENTER OF HIGHLANDS
Offices in Cashiers and Highlands
828-482-7417
info@counseling-center.org | counseling-center.org

PIANO TUNING
Professional Service Since 1985
Bob McCollum
828-507-5760
Bobboh1@yahoo.com


EST. 1957 HOWARD HANNA ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE
#1 Family-Owned in the U.S.
Al Stoneham
Realtor-Broker
Luxury Home Specialist
Licensed in NC & GA
Cell: 828.332.9767
al.stoneham@howardhannatate.com
LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL


LISA THOMPSON
DOG SITTING
• daily drop-in visits
• overnight & extended stays
• dog walking
828.424.4637

...ELECTION continued from page 1

Commissioner Gary Shields traded in his seat as county commissioner to be elected to serve on the Macon County School Board. Shields won the District 2 school board seat with 6,743 votes (47.2%) over newcomer Kaleena Messer's 3,780 (26.4%) votes and incumbent Stephanie Laseter's 3,775 (26.4%) votes.

Incumbent Diedre Breeden won her second term on the school board with 9,097 (67.4%) votes defeating Robert Perkins 4,401 (32.6%) for the District 4 seat.

In a very close race, the local sales tax was defeated by a very small margin of 9 votes 7,862 (50.03%) against 7,853 (49.97%) in favor. This is the third time Macon County has voted against the one-quarter of a penny (0.25%) sales tax increase.

Both the Macon County Malt Beverage and Unfortified Wine Elections passed with malt beverage receiving 10,711 (70.0%) in favor of the referendum and 4,583 (30.0%) against and unfortified wine 10,672 (70.2%) in favor and 4,533 (29.8%) against. With both referendums passing, "on-premises" and "off-premises" sale of malt beverages and unfortified wine will now be permitted in the remaining "dry" areas of the county.

Several local seats were on the ballot unopposed including: District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch, Republican; Macon County Clerk of Superior Court Shawna Lamb, Republican; Macon County Sheriff Brent Holbrooks, Republican; and Macon County Director of Register of Deeds Todd Raby, Republican.

Macon County voted in favor of the photo id voting referendum with 12,173 (76.0%) in favor and 3,839 (24.0%) against the amendment.

The vote statewide was in favor of the amendment, 59.60% to 40.40%. The amendment will require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting.

Macon County voters voted in favor of the constitutional amendment to keep the state income tax rate from being raised higher than three and one-half percent (3.5%) with 11,878 (74.7%) voting for the amendment and 4,025 (25.3%) against it. The amendment will lower the maximum individual income tax rate allowed by the NC Constitution from 7% to 3.5%. Within the current law, the cap is already below 3.5%, but the amendment would lock it in the state constitution.

State-wide voters were in favor of this amendment with approval of the income tax cap at 61.9% to 38.08%.

The final state constitutional amendment to require limits on property tax increases by local governments also received the approval of Macon County voters, with 11,632 (73.4%) voting for the amendment and 4,221 (26.6%) against.

State-wide voters approved the property tax levy limit amendment 60.42% to 39.58%. Since this amendment passed, the General Assembly will be required to pass laws capping increases in local property tax levies.

All votes will become official after the provisional ballots and absentee ballots received between 4 and 7:30 p.m. on election night are counted. The canvass ends Friday, Nov. 13.

...SOCCER continued from page 16

have kicked the can down the road and now it is time to do something. We have had to cancel games; we had to play a state playoff game at Brevard High School one year because it was the closest turf field at the time. We played a game at Franklin High school this year because of the condition of our field, and we were supposed to play Franklin at home this year but had to cancel the game due to weather.

"Turf is the answer for me because of the rain we have up here causing us to have to cancel games; officials have also expressed their concern of not feeling safe on our field," he added. "Everybody has pitched in to make this work – Tate's Landscaping, Highlands County Club, Gates Landscaping, Summit Architecture, Bryson's Grading and John Shearl Landscaping," said Lamb. "The time has come to fix the field. I think the soccer field stays at the school and it goes to turf."

Ryan Bryson, whose company is one among many who has donated time to maintain the soccer field, shared his views of what should happen with the soccer field.

"I feel what we need for soccer first is to keep the field at our school," said Bryson. "We are proud of our school. My parents went there, my wife and I graduated from there, and now our children attend Highlands School; we are proud of that school, and we have had it a long time, and we feel like that is where the soccer field needs to be.

"I think it would be great out front; I think the aesthetics, driving down the hill and seeing that soccer field would be beautiful," he added. "What you did in Franklin looks awesome, and we want the same for our school."

Bryson said that with 87 inches of rain and 54 days of substantial rain per year, that turf field will dry up quicker than a grass field. The soccer teams could continue to play in the rain without tearing up the field and a turf field would be more consistent and safer for the athletes to play on. Having helped to maintain the current field for years, Bryson said maintenance would be easier with a turf field.

"I think the crowd we have tonight is a good sign of the way our community feels about this; It is very important to us," said Bryson. "We are asking you to make this happen. We are asking everybody in Highlands to stand behind it and help make it happen. I would love to see the school board and county commissioners work together to make this happen. You guys have the money, get it to them and make sure they use to help us."

No action or comments were made by the county or school officials

"Last Thursday's community meeting about a new soccer field was very positive," said Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor. "Parents, soccer players, coaches and school leaders made the case for a new field. I regret that county officials in attendance did not make a commitment to the project."

Macon County Schools Superintendent Josh Lynch said the listening session was a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the Highlands community about their needs and hopes for the soccer field.

"I appreciate the thoughtful input and the strong commitment to our students. My hope is that we can build on that conversation and work with our county commissioners to secure the funding needed to bring this project to life for our student athletes and the Highlands community," he said.

Board of Education member Hilary Wilkes said the Highlands community made it clear that the school's soccer field conditions are unacceptable, that the field should remain on the Highlands School campus, and that turf is necessary to accommodate year-round play.

"I hope to work with the commissioners to expeditiously identify and fund solutions for a playable field and, if the field replaces our existing one, a new track," she said. "With thriving soccer and track programs, Highlands School deserves the same commitment to facilities as the other campuses in our county."

There is a liaison committee meeting Thursday at 2 p.m. at the School Administration central office in Franklin. A follow-up conversation on the soccer field is on the agenda.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

LUPOLI CONSTRUCTION is looking for a quality candidate to fill our Office Manager/Executive Assistant position. Outgoing personality, extreme professionalism, and polished written and verbal skills are required, knowledge of the construction industry is a plus. Must be highly organized and proactive, able to manage multiple ongoing tasks. Compensation based on experience and skill level. Year-round position. E-mail regina@lupoliinc.com (st. 10/29)

FOR SALE

NEW MIELE SS 30" WARMING DR., New Allen & Roth gas log set, New 49" ceramic double sink top, Used Gaggenau 24" wall oven & steam oven, EGO line trimmer, New Cutter-Hammer 400amp. circuit breaker, and two 200amp. Main breaker, Antler chandelier, new moving pads. new Kenmore 3-burner gas grill 305-401-0568. (10/8)

1.06 AC LOT ON 8900 Buck Creek Rd. $79,900. 828-421-0124 (st. 7/9)

SERVICES

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. (6/25)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (6/25)

JUNK REMOVAL – We take anything. Call 828-200-0492

CUSTOM WELDING – gates, railings, trailer repairs, fencing, hand rails and more. I come to you! Call Gavin at 828-200-4219 or email smallgavin26@gmail.com

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (7/30)

• Highlands Area Events •

SKATING RINK WINTER HOURS

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

• 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, Tues, Wed, Thurs. and Friday 10am-pm outdoors for the summer

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 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.

Sat., Nov. 7

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

Wed., Nov. 11

• Veterans luncheon at HC Hospital cafeteria from noon to 1p.m. For more information, please call 828-526-1345.

Sat., Nov. 14

• At The Bascom, FREE Hot Chocolate Bar.

• HCCMF presents a FREE Fall Residency Concert with Am Meer Quartet at the Episcopal Church at 5p. Wine reception to follow. Sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

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.

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

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.

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.

SILVER EAGLE
Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery



349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com



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



Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern
highlandermountainhouse.com

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

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY



LUXURY COLLECTION™
Of the 55,000+ BHHS agents across the globe, Faye ranks in the TOP 2% and is a Luxury Collection Specialist.
FAYE WURM
828.200.1345
faye@bhhsmmr.com
2334 Cashiers Rd, Highlands
https://fayewurm.meadowsmtnrealty.com/

SPECTACULAR VIEWS



715 View Point Rd
Highlands, NC
Just Listed
Offered at $2,995,000

- 4 Bed, 4.5 Bath
- Certified Energy Efficient With Geothermal & Solar
- Meticulously Maintained
- Huge Southern View
- STRs Allowed
- Protected By Adjacent Conservation Land



Clif Gottwals
303.887.7479
Clif.Gottwals@Gmail.com
CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE — HIGHLANDS CASHIERS
HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com
210 North Fifth Street
Highlands, NC 28741



HOWARD HANNA ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE
Darlene Conley
Mountain Luxury
Your Dream. Your Journey. YOU'RE HOME.
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.
Cell: 404.427.2448
darleneconley@howardhannatate.com





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
Sheryl Wilson
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

Denise Boothby
828-482-2434
LiveLoveHighlands.com
eXp REALTY



CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE | HIGHLANDS CASHIERS
Highlands Office | 210 N. 5th Street
Cell: 828-787-1895
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com





Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

Not The Biggest...Just The Best!

www.patallenrealtygroup.com

828.526.8784 | 295 DILLARD RD, HIGHLANDS



PAT ALLEN
828.200.9179
JULIE OSBORN
828.200.6165

More than 33 years of exemplary service in the luxury housing market!

VOTED AMERICA'S BEST by RealTrends since 2021

STAY A
lifetime

LANDMARK
REALTY GROUP

For real estate, visit
LANDMARKRG.COM
or call **828-743-0510.**

your mountain story begins here—embracing both the life you lead and the getaway you crave



Jody Lovell
(828) 226.6303

#1 Broker
IN THE CAROLINAS

$1 Billion +
TOTAL CAREER SALES VOLUME

#8 Agent Worldwide
AMONG 26,100+
SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY AGENTS

PER REAL TRENDS, HCMLS AND COUNTY RECORDINGS

Highlands | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

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 of 55,000+ BHHS agents.



DAVID BOCK BUILDERS

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240



We Serve to Help You with Life's Next Chapter ... Beginning with Coffee and a Conversation.

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
HIGHLANDS CASHIERS

Bee Gleeson	Pat Gleeson	Jessica Haberkern
Broker | Realtor® | 404.307.1415	Broker | Realtor® | 828.782.0472	Broker | Realtor® | 254.718.7494
BeeGlee4@Gmail.com	PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com	JessHaberkern@Gmail.com

HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com | 210 North Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741

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

43 Years of Fine Dining

NOW OPEN
7 Nights a week
5:30-9p



www.ontheverandah.com

McCULLEY'S
CASHMERE
Scotland's Best Knitwear



Open 7 days a week

526-4407
242 S. 4th St.