

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 13, 2024

It's movie-time again in Highlands!

First showings are June 21-23, 2 and 5:30 p.m.

By Kim Lewicki

It's what everyone has been waiting for ... movies aired again in Highlands.

Over the weekend of June 21, 22, and 23, the first movie "Summer Camp" a lighthearted, family-friendly comedy filmed in

Western North Carolina around Hendersonville starring Diane Keaton, Kathy Bates and Alfre

• See MOVIES page 14



Photo by Emily Rich

Grease is still the word!

By Kim Lewicki

The Mountain Theatre Company presents one of the most beloved musicals of all time through June 22 at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

This high-octane production featuring all the hit songs you love, including "Summer Nights,"

"Greased Lightnin'," "You're the One That I Want," and "Hopelessly Devoted To You," exemplifies once again the polished, professional, high-energy cast and crew that have put the Mountain Theatre Company on the map enticing audiences to return each season.

Join Rydell High's senior class of 1959 as they take you back to

a time when drive-in movies, sock-hops, and tough talkin' Pink Ladies defined a generation.

After a whirlwind summer romance, leather-clad greaser Danny and girl-next-door Sandy are unexpectedly reunited when she transfers to Rydell High for senior year. But can they survive the trials and

• See GREASE page 4

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Filing for MC School Board elections begins

By Brittney Lofthouse

The filing period for candidates interested in running for the Macon County School Board officially opened Monday at noon. Aspiring candidates have until July 5, 2024, at noon to submit their candidacy for three crucial seats.

The elections will cover Dis-

trict 1 (Highlands), a seat currently held by Hilary Wilkes, District 2 (Nantahala), a seat currently held by Melissa Evans, and an At-Large seat for District 4, currently held by Jim Breedlove, who also serves as Chairman of the board.

As of Wednesday at noon,

• See ELECTIONS page 17

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians approves recreational marijuana sales

Sets historic precedent in North Carolina

By Brittney Lofthouse

In a landmark decision that could redefine the landscape of marijuana legalization in North Carolina, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Tribal Council has voted to amend their Tribal Ordinance, allowing for the sale and consumption of recreational marijuana. This decision, passed by an 8-2 vote during last week's Tribal Council session,

paves the way for the first legal recreational marijuana market in the state, beginning this summer.

The amendment follows a September referendum where 70% of tribal members supported adult recreational use on the Qualla Boundary. This overwhelming support mandated the council consider legislation regulating the recreational marijuana market.

• See MARIJUANA page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

We need to protect and appreciate the nature around us

What do Saint Francis of Assisi, Lao Tzu, John Muir, and Henry David Thoreau have in common? It is a realization that we are a part of nature and at our best when connected to the amazing natural world of the land, water, air, plants, and animals.

Last week, I attended the annual celebration event of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the oldest organization of its kind in North Carolina. Mercedes Heller was the keynote speaker and honoree. She faithfully served as the Land Trust president for several years, and many of the organization's achievements occurred under her watch.

Mercedes's speech about the uniqueness of the natural world and the land of the plateau made me think about those mystics of the past who called for humanity not to forsake our connection and communion with the natural world. I am reminded of the poem by Williams Wordsworth, "The World Is Too Much With Us." One line in



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

the poem is: "Little we see in Nature that is ours; We grave given our hearts away, a sordid boon!" In this poem, Sordid boon refers to the 'materialistic progress of society'. Wordsworth thinks that we, I say many of us, are obsessed with our materialistic needs and are not devoting time to nature.

Mercedes reminded the assembled group of conservationists that the community cannot lose sight, even in the face of growing development and economic boom, of our mission of stewardship to maintain and preserve this unique mountain realm. As she relocates to be closer to her family, Mercedes's voice will be sorely missed. But there are many other voices of the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust that will continue to proclaim this ongoing commitment to preservation.

Sallie and I have lived on the plateau for almost 25 glorious years (moving from a cluttered, trashy, polluted, 24/7 environment right off I-75). We have witnessed several generations of folks move here to get away from the sordid boon of urban life. They sought to reconnect with nature and the people of a small community. As I have often said, people seek to retreat to Highlands for a simpler and more natural life.

Here is what I heard from Mercedes and others at the Land Trust meeting. The community has to continue to be vigilant and mindful of not embracing actions that will degrade and destroy this natural and unique environment.

I hope our new residents and ones in the future will develop a mindfulness of a sense of thankful privilege and, at the same time, a commitment to stewardship of this land. It begins with understanding that the baggage that one acquired living in urban, metropolitan communities can be left behind. Most of the conveniences and amenities of big city living are not found on this plateau, such as fast food with drive-in widows, malls, and 24-hour shopping. Generations of Highlanders have guided our progress with the belief that an accumulation of such things would degrade what is found naturally here.

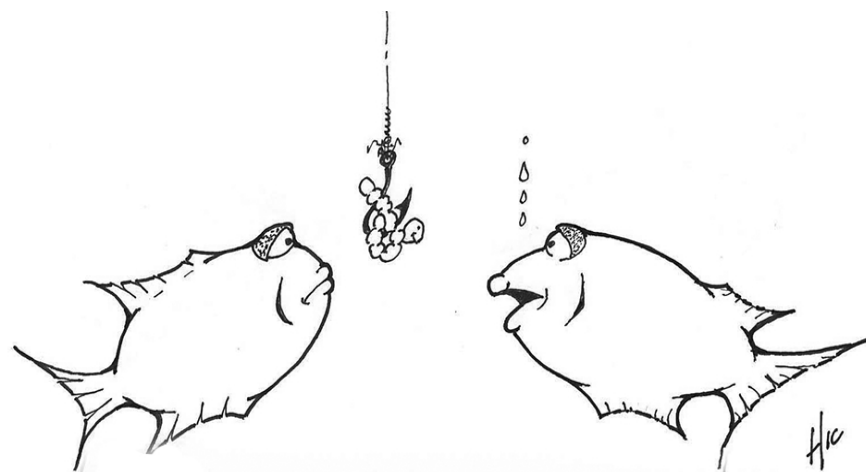
One concern I noted at last week's gathering was the notion that it is acceptable to cut down any number of trees to gain a mountain view. Another concern is the rationale that the new house being built on the plateau has to

be the same size as the house next door, or it should be a clone of the home they continue to own in the city they left.

One of my current concerns is the idea that when developing a property, one





• See MAYOR page 4

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Careful Finn. There is no such thing as a free lunch."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 13-Jun	Fri, 14-Jun	Sat, 15-Jun	Sun, 16-Jun
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Pleasant with some sun	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
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...GREASE continued from page 1

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• INK PENN •

Branching out beyond mysteries

My TBR list is filled with mystery titles as is my Kindle. If you were to glance at my hold list or the books that fill my "For Later" shelf at the East Roswell Library, that's pretty much all you would see. Still, from time to time, I branch out. I see a novel described in the paper or online and think, "that's one I need to read." The selections for this week are two that I stumbled across. Both were absorbing reads.

The Soulmate by Sally Hepworth

After reading this book, I understand why its reviews label it so many different things. Is it a crime novel, a thriller, a novel of domestic suspense, or a psychological study? Whatever it is, it packs a punch.

Each time I thought I had it figured out, the author threw a new twist my way. The story is told in first person by two women in alternating chapters and in alternating time frames. The time frames are now, before, after, and then. Chapter one is Pippa (now) and we meet the other woman in chapter 4, Amanda (after).

It opens in a seaside town in Australia in a cottage on a cliff. What's special about this cliff is that it is a popular spot for people to end their lives. Since the current family has lived there, Gabe, the husband, has successfully talked every despondent soul out of jumping off the cliff. "Until one day he doesn't." Therein lies the story. Why was he unsuccessful? Was it inevitable there would be a first time?

Unputdownable is a common descriptor for books these days. Add page-turner, and you've described "The Soulmate," a book I highly recommend.

The Seven Year Slip by Ashley Poston

This book was not only named a New York Public Library Best Book of 2023, but also a most anticipated book by "Entertainment Weekly," "Harper's Bazaar," and "Real Simple" magazines. Could it possibly be that



Kathy Manos Penn

good? Trust me. It is.

It's a story of grief, of love, of loss, and friendship. Clementine is dealing with the death of her beloved aunt, the charming adventurer who took her on trips to faraway lands and enriched her life in so many ways.

Bit by bit, we learn about Clementine's relationship with

her aunt, who lived every moment to its fullest. When she died suddenly, a devastated Clementine inherited her NYC apartment and attempted to pack away her grief along with her aunt's belongings.

Despite the changes, she pictures her every time she walks in the door after a long day at her publishing job. An over-achieving career woman, she has long-time friends, but no romantic partner. Those come and go.

Until, one day, she "finds a strange man standing in the kitchen of her late aunt's apartment. A man with kind eyes and a Southern drawl and a taste for lemon pies." The problem is that he exists seven years in the past in an apartment filled with her aunt's belongings, as though she never left.

Yes, this book is a romance with a bit of fantasy thrown in. It's whimsical yet serious and portrays Clementine's grief in a way that makes you feel it. Dealing with romance and grief makes her reflect on her life and question what she wants from it.

What she learns about herself and the decisions she makes are at the heart of this book. Pick it up. I predict you won't be able to put it down.

Happy reading.

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

...MAYOR continued from page 2

has to create and impound a small pond. While bogs are critical to local species, ponds are not a natural occurrence on the plateau. When small creeks fed by cold water springs are dammed, those impoundments tend to function as water heaters. In this time of climate change, the rise in water temperatures certainly impacts the viability of aquatic life on the plateau. It should be noted that higher water temperatures degrade the town's efforts to make the cleanest water possible.

Above are just a few examples of simple actions that have an accumulative effect on this mountain paradise, but there are certainly more. It is my hope that all of us residing here, with our busy, active lives, don't lose sight of what Mother Nature and what the previous generations of Highlanders shared with us. Their wisdom is for our contemplation and understanding in this modern age.

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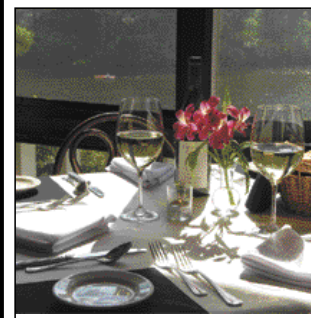


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• FORUM •

For crying out loud, North Carolina, legalize weed and use the revenues for good



John Boyle
Asheville Watchdog

• LETTERS •

Pamela Kimmell has an idea that is just so crazy, so out there whackadoodly-do — I'm talking Martians-tripping-on acid at a Grateful Dead show weird — that it's just going to blow the top of your head clean off.

"I'm serious that mental health and addiction services should have to be funded from the legalization of cannabis," Kimmell told me over tacos in West Asheville on a recent Tuesday.

See what I'm talking about, people? Talking about legalizing the Devil's lettuce and then using the proceeds to do something sorely needed in the Tar Heel state? My mind is in splinters.

Perhaps I exaggerate. That's because Kimmell, 73, makes perfectly good sense, even though the chance of legalizing marijuana in this state this year, or perhaps in the next 20, is about as good as the Pit of Despair downtown being turned into, well, anything useful.

State Sen. Julie Mayfield, D-Buncombe, summed it up nicely for me.

"Not a chance of legalization for recreational use," she said via text last week. "I think not even of medical marijuana this year."

State Rep. Linsay Prather, D-Buncombe, co-sponsored a bill last year to legalize recreational cannabis, with tax proceeds going to benefit a plethora of good causes. She, too, is clear-eyed about its chances.

"There are a hundred reasons why legalizing cannabis would be a good idea," Prather told me, rattling off good programs that could come from it. "It has zero chance in the legislature. Absolutely zero chance, right now, with the makeup that we have."

She cited Republican leaders, including state Rep. Jimmy Dixon, R-Warsaw, who chairs the Agriculture Committee, for their opposition to legalization. It's a tough bunch to sway.

Poll: Most North Carolinians favor legalization

This comes despite most North Carolinians favoring some form of legalization.

Meredith College published a poll in February that showed overwhelming support for medical marijuana.

• See FORUM page 8

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Every car imaginable - old and older - was on exhibit at the car show this weekend.

Highlands Motoring Festival is an annual tradition

Dear Editor,

My wife Ann and I have been coming to Highlands for 10 years, first attracted by The Highlands Motoring Festival, a World Class Automotive event.

This year, for the 5th time, we showed a car. Over the years we have become friends with some wonderful Highlanders who make us feel most welcome. This is such a truly special place we convinced 16 friends from Mississippi to join us for last weekend's event.

Thanks to many for some great and continued memories.

Mike & Ann Marsh
Brandon, MS

• See LETTERS page 9

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493 DILLARD ROAD

...FORUM continued from page 7

A news release about the poll noted that last year the state Senate passed the North Carolina Compassionate Care Act, “which would allow doctors to prescribe marijuana for a number of physical and mental conditions.”

The House didn’t vote on it, but there was hope it might come up in this year’s session, although that looks like it’s not going to happen, as Mayfield said.

“A large majority of North Carolinians (78%) support the passage of this type of bill with only 18 percent of our respondents being opposed,” Meredith Poll Director David McLennan said in the release.

McLennan also noted, “North Carolina is one of only 12 states without some form of

legal medical marijuana. With the public strongly behind such a law and most within the medical community supporting this legislation, it seems like this might be a good time to pass such a bill.”

We’re just stupidly stubborn about this here, much like we were with enacting lottery legislation that finally made it legal in 2006 for North Carolinians to buy tickets here instead of driving to South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia and every other state that wanted a slice of the enormous revenue pie that I call the “stupid tax.” Hey, I play the lottery on occasion — won 10 bucks last week on a scratch-off! — but let’s be honest: you’ve got to be stupid to play it and think you’re going to come out ahead.

Or how we waited a decade to expand Medicaid because the Affordable Care Act was enacted under a president, Barack Obama, that conservatives didn’t like.

If you don’t like vices that can inflict financial damage and familial misery, you have to laugh at North Carolina so giddily allowing sports betting this year. I can’t imagine how much money, or homes, people are losing on that.

Prather noted that the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the bible of the mental health profession, lists gambling on the same level as heroin when it comes to addictiveness.

So go lay down those bets, North Carolinians! But legalize weed? Hell no, you commie hippie!

Honestly, it’s just bizarre at this point.

As Smoky Mountain News pointed out in an excellent article in April about the chances of weed legalization here, writer Cory Vaillancourt cited figures that should make every North Carolinian perk up.

“The states where recreational cannabis products are legal have seen revenues associated with its taxation grow to hundreds of millions of dollars each year,” Vaillancourt wrote. “Financial advice website Motley Fool said in November 2023 that were North Carolina to adopt an average cannabis taxation structure, it would see revenues of more than \$182 million a year within three years of establishment.”

I suspect that’s on the low end. I mean, have you walked through downtown Asheville recently and taken in the wafting aroma of the dude in front of you burning down in public?

Plus, I suspect we could benefit on both ends of this equation, with farmers taking advantage of our mountain soil that was ideal for growing burley tobacco to grow weed — yes, I know this is already happening — and processors processing it and distributing it to retail shops. Down east was a center of flue-cured tobacco, and I suspect they could grow a few marijuana plants, too.

We’re missing out, and it’s just dumb at this point. I know we have a lot of CBD shops, and some of

that stuff is engineered to get you quite high, as my colleague John Reinan reported last month.

But a well-regulated and taxed legal marijuana industry could be a huge boon to the state. Yes, it comes with a need for regulations and safety, as some of this stuff is incredibly strong, but we’ve managed to regulate alcohol — and profit from it handsomely — since Prohibition ended in 1933.

Still, I suspect local attorney Ben Scales might be right when he told Reinan, “I like to say, we’ll be the 52nd state (to legalize marijuana).”

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, technically a sovereign nation, has legalized weed, but that seems to have had no effect on our state legislators.

Prather also is not optimistic about North Carolina suddenly seeing the light.

“I’ve been saying for years that I think the country will go legal before North Carolina does,” Prather said. “I really do.”

The federal government has recently moved toward reclassifying marijuana as a less dangerous drug, so maybe that will come to pass.

1.5 million people in North Carolina have a mental illness

The wasted opportunity is a shame, because Kimmell has a good idea when she talks about using marijuana revenues to provide better mental health care in NC.

As I reported in our Down Town series last year, “One in five adults in North Carolina have a mental illness — some 1.5 million people — and more than half of those are not receiving treatment, according to the report, ‘2022: The State of Mental Health in America,’ by the nonprofit Mental Health America.”

West Asheville resident Pamela Kimmell, who struggles with clinical depression, says she’d like to see North Carolina legalize marijuana and use part of the tax proceeds to fund mental health care in the state.

Regarding Kimmell’s idea, Prather said, “The mental health piece, I love that idea from her. We absolutely need to increase our funding and support for mental health services, particularly for young people.”

Prather concedes that weed is not harmless, and we would need serious guardrails in place, especially for youth, but she also knows that “there are science-based reasons to legalize it” and “medical benefits to THC when it comes to certain conditions.” Not even discussing it on the floor of the legislature is “extraordinarily frustrating” to her because it’s such a lost opportunity.

“I think it’s a lot easier to have those fact-based, science-based discussions about it and learn about it” out in the open “if we’re not all scared to talk about it,” Prather said.

We talked about alcohol and the problems it causes, which include plenty of car accidents and family strife.

“Honestly, going through this entire process makes me wonder if alcohol was up for a vote today, would North Carolina legalize it?” Prather said. “I don’t know.”

I kind of doubt it. She did, too.

North Carolinians surely would fight about where the money from weed sales and production would go, and we would need to be careful about allowing the strongest types of weed to be sold, while seriously protecting minors. But alcohol causes way more societal woes, accidents, and deaths than marijuana ever has or will.

So here we are, stuck again. I think I’ll go buy a lottery ticket with a one-in-7-gazillion chance of winning, bet money I don’t have on an NBA playoff game and then check the stats on how many North Carolinians died during the decade state legislators dawdled instead of expanding Medicaid.

It’s the Carolina way. You can bet on that.

• *Asheville Watchdog* is a nonprofit news team producing stories that matter to Asheville and Buncombe County. John Boyle has been covering Asheville and surrounding communities since the 20th century. You can reach him at (828) 337-0941, or via email at jboyle@avl-watchdog.org. The *Watchdog’s* reporting is made possible by donations from the community. To show your support for this vital public service please visit avlwatchdog.org/donate.

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...LETTERS continued from page 7

An Open Letter to Isabel Chambers

Dear Isa,

I learned today, June 10th, that you closed the book on your splendid life as a sixth-generation native of Highlands. You were as much an integral part of Highlands history as you were a recorder of it, and for the 93 years that you lived the variegated life of Highlands you regaled its residents and visitors with timeless stories of all that made the town and its people real, unpretentious, colorful, mischievous, courageous, unscrupulous, reverent and irreverent, fun loving, both wise and foolish, naïve, charming, and unique. And I must confess that you too could be all of these with a twinkle in your eye and a warmhearted laugh.

Truth and legend intertwined in your charming character to the extent that a good story was really what mattered, and



Isabel Chambers

your life itself was as much a legend as it was an authentic story.

You gave us the Highlands Community Club, Hill-billy Day, the Chambers Agency, the Chambers family, the Highlands Historical Society, the Elizabeth Wright Prince House, a Walk in the Park, and a book remembering Highlands, along with a wealth of fond memories that endeared you indelibly to all who were fortunate enough to call you friend.

Whatever the Lord has planned for your eternity, I'm sure you'll revise it for the better and have a good story to tell about what you did and how you did it within and outside the regulatory confines of heavenly history. That book, for sure, will never close.

Ran Shaffner
Archivist Emeritus
Highlands Historical Society

Death Announcement

Isabel Hall Chambers, 93, passed away at her home June 10, 2024. Obituary and arrangements not available at press time, available at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home.

• OBITUARIES •

Shirley Adele Merchant Johnson

The friends and family of Shirley Adele Merchant Johnson, age 77, a resident of Highlands, NC, and Decatur, GA, mourn her death in April 2024. She passed away peacefully at the Benton House, Decatur, GA.

Shirley's parents, Shirley Adele Anthony Merchant and Thomas Curry Merchant, Jr., lived in Madison, FL, when Shirley was born, and she was the first of four siblings. Shirley attended Madison schools, and was graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, VA, with a degree in political science. She also spent semesters at Drew University in Madison, NJ, for studies at the United Nations in NY City, and the University of Texas, Austin, TX. Shirley attended Emory University College of Law, and graduated in 1974 with a J.D. degree.

She married James Dean Johnson in 1970, and spent several years of their early married life crossing the country from San Diego, CA, to Woods Hole, MA, where Jim was a postdoctoral research scientist. After a fun-filled year in New Orleans, LA, where Jim was teaching at the University of New

Orleans, they returned to Atlanta to live.

Shirley's legal practice included years as a lawyer with the Small Business Administration and in insurance law in Atlanta. She was also the real estate agent for their homes in Hunting Island, SC, and Fripp Island, SC, - homes that many friends and family enjoyed over the years. She and Jim moved to Highlands, NC, and they enjoyed being residents there for many years. Jim predeceased Shirley in 2022.

Shirley made long-standing good friends in all phases of her life, and these friends continued to travel with her, visit her and be in touch with her for her entire life. She often corresponded with her friends and family, and was always helping them in any way she could. She is survived by her siblings, Mae Merchant Clark (Larry), Thomas Curry Merchant III, and Mary Anthony Merchant (John), and her nieces and nephews, Mel Johnson (Michele); Mary Beirne Vela (Gil); Polly Pinke (Brandon); Will Clark (Danielle); and Corrie Clark (Andy); and their children, her great nieces and nephews. A celebration of Shirley's life and friendship will take place at a later time.

• See OBITUARIES page 11

Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment Program Highlights

How "Doing Your Own Research" is Manipulated for Political Gain

Presenter: Dr. Francesca Tripodi, Monday, June 17, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Digitize Your Family History

Presenter: Loraine Smith, Monday, June 17, 1:00-3:00, \$40/\$50

Apple Watch

Presenter: Loraine Smith, Monday, June 17, 3:30-4:30, \$40/\$50

Impeachment: Lessons from Watergate to the Present

Presenter: Joseph Crespino, Tuesday, June 18, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Art Workshop: Botanical Art Graphite Rubbings

Presenter: Norma Hendrix, Tuesday, June 18, 1:00-4:00, \$100/\$110

Author Book Reception: "Tell It True"

Presenter: John Pruitt, Wednesday, June 19, 4:00-6:00, \$70/\$80

Current Design Trends and How to Incorporate Them Into Your Home

Presenter: Stacie Platt, Thursday, June 20, 2:00-4:00, \$40/\$50

East Meets West: Five Insights from Five World Religions

Presenter: Jeffrey Small, Friday, June 21, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Easy, Quick, Nutritious Meals (Cooking Demo)

Presenter: Susan Hansen, Friday, June 21, 2:00-5:00, \$70/\$80

One Continuous Grave: How Infectious Disease Remade the American Revolution

Presenter: Woody Holton, Monday, June 24, 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

Myth-Understood America: The Most Entrenched Myths About Crucial Topics of US History

Presenter: Woody Holton, Tuesday, June 25, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Enjoying Wine! (A Tasting)

Presenter: Guy Davis, Tuesday, June 25, 3:00-5:00, \$80/\$90

Creative Book Journals: A Two-Day Workshop

Presenter: Cindy Guinn, Thursday, June 27 and Friday, June 28, 2:00-4:00, \$130/\$140



To register for these and other CLE programs, please visit clehighlands.com

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Greensky Bluegrass, Lee Fields & The Expressions, Love Canon and Wilder Woods to headline 8th annual Highlands Food & Wine Festival

Tickets go on sale Thursday, June 13 at 12 p.m. EST

The 8th annual Highlands Food & Wine festival taking place Nov. 7-10 will feature headliners Greensky Bluegrass, Lee Fields & The Expressions, Love Canon and Wilder Woods, according to an announcement today from Highlands Festivals, Inc. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, June 13 at 12 p.m. EST and are projected to sell out quickly. Interested patrons should visit <https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/>.

“We’re thrilled to be celebrating the 8th annual Highlands Food & Wine festival, where an exceptional lineup of both

emerging and established artists will take the stage,” said David Bock, president of the Highlands Festivals, Inc. board. “The team is also curating an impressive array of local and regional culinary talent, making it the South’s premier weekend to enjoy food, wine, and music together in the mountains.”

Highlands Food & Wine features world-class food from renowned local and regional chefs from across the Southeast and music from today’s top artists, as well as fine wine and spirits, specialty diners and more. Events include the popular



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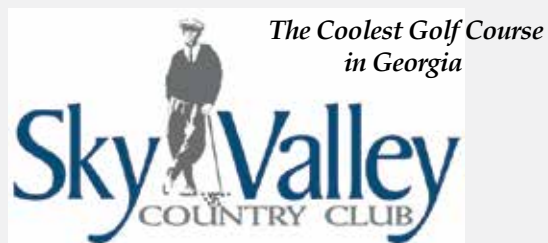
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Grand Tasting, Truckin’, Main Event and Sunday’s A Shot at Redemption brunch.

Kicking off the four-day, multi-venue festival will be a performance by Virginia bluegrass cover band Love Canon at the Grand Tasting (Thursday, Nov. 7). Friday’s Truckin’ event (Friday, Nov. 8) will feature a blend of neo-soul and roots rock where American Idol semi-finalist Alex Lambert will set the stage for Wilder Woods with frontman Bear Rinehart, founding member of NEEDTOBREATHE. Legendary flatpicking guitarists Larry Keel and Jon Stickley will open for the high-energy, “jamgrass” headliner Greensky Bluegrass for Saturday’s Main Event (Saturday, Nov. 9). Abraham Alexander and headliner Lee Fields & The Expressions will round out the weekend with soulful, electric rhythm performances for Sunday’s A Shot of Redemption brunch (Sunday, Nov. 10).

The full roster of culinary partners will be announced in the coming weeks.

Tickets

Tickets go on sale Thursday, June 13 at 12 p.m. EST at <https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/>. Ticket prices for all-inclusive food, beverage and live music entertainment options will range from \$295 for single-event tickets to \$1,600 for VIP Weekender tickets (inclusive of the 4 signature events).

A portion of proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Bascom, Highlands Performing Arts Center and Friends of Founders Park, as well as to support the Louis Osteen Legacy Scholarship.

Highlands Food & Wine Festival is proudly presented by Highlands Festivals, Inc. and presenting festival sponsor, Visit Highlands.

...OBITUARIES continued from page 9

Linda Wright David



Linda Wright David, 79, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and long-time resident of Highlands, NC, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

Linda was born in Greenwood, SC, on December 26, 1944, to the late Chester Nicholas and Ersie Vereen Wright. Growing up, Linda spent summers and weekends with her sister and cousins in Highlands. Her lifelong love of Highlands was born exploring the mountainous woods and rocky creeks and falls.

Her grandfather, Charles Wright, famously saved Gus Baty who had fallen from "Fools Rock" on Whiteside Mountain and was the first recipient of the Carnegie Hero Award. Her grandmother, Helen Cabe Wright Wilson, was the famed founder of Helen's Barn, where Linda danced on a clogging team with her cousins.

Linda graduated from the University of Tennessee in the Spring of 1967 with a degree in Child Development and Family Relationships. Her greatest joy during that time was seeing her children grow, flourish, and start lives and families of their own. Every one of her children, stepchildren, and grandchildren felt her immense love and never-ending support.

In 1994, Linda and her husband, Kenton David, moved to Highlands permanently. Once there, her deep and enduring love for this land and its history was evident in so much that she did. She became highly involved in Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, working tirelessly to preserve the pristine mountainous landscape of the land she so cherished from overdevelopment. Her efforts helped the Trust purchase 7 plots totaling 29 acres, and secure 25 easements, protecting over 1,000 acres of precious lands within the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Linda was also a member of the Highlands Historical Society where she played a significant role in helping preserve the oral,

written, and pictorial history of Highlands. In furtherance of that mission, Linda founded the Kelsey Kids Camp to pass on Highlands history to the next generation of kids in her community and ran it for many years. Along with her cousin Robert Wright, Linda founded the Wright Memorial Garden. She and several of her cousins worked to designate it as a historical land site and to maintain it since its inception.

Linda joined the Community Bible Church choir and became the Ladies Retreat Coordinator, a role she held for over 20 years.

Perhaps Linda's greatest gift was the pure, God-given, unconditional love she shared with everyone she came across.

Linda is survived by her husband, Kenton David; her daughters Jennifer Thompson of Highlands, NC; Karen Salthouse of Greensboro, NC; Laura David of Wake Forest, NC; her stepsons Jeff David of Fairfax, VA, William David of Arizona; sister, Aura "Barbara" Wright of TN; her children's spouses and her thirteen grandchildren.

A funeral will be held Saturday, June 15th, at 1am at Community Bible Church in Highlands. The family will receive friends from 10-11am, one hour prior to the service. Jeremy Hughes and Pastor Steve Kerhoulas of CBC and Pastor Mark Ford of First Baptist Church will officiate. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Burial will be in the Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Highlands Historical Society, 520 N 4th St, Highlands, NC 28741, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, 348 S. 5th St #214, Highlands, NC 28741, or the Wright Memorial Garden, make check payable to Buddy Watson with "For Wright Memorial Garden" on the "For" line, 611 Millstone Drive, Evans, GA 30809.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Marjorie Faye Allen Dillard



Marjorie Faye Allen Dillard, 88, of Cashiers NC, passed away surrounded by friends and family on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

Faye was born in Jackson County to the late Frank and Marjorie Baumgarner Allen. Her dad was Sheriff of Jackson County. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Thomas F. Dillard and six siblings. She at-

tended Cashiers United Methodist Church, where she played the organ. She loved gardening, doing flower arrangements, and cooking.

She is survived by her children, Libby Jones (Marty), Tommy Dillard, Randy Dillard; sister-in-law, Marilyn Allison (Jim) of Watkinsville; four grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and sev-

• See OBITUARIES page 19



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Whooping Cough cases are on the rise in Macon County

Macon County Public Health is issuing a public health alert in response to a concerning outbreak of whooping cough that is spreading across WNC. Currently, 6 cases have been confirmed in Macon County, affecting multiple age groups.

Whooping Cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection that spreads through coughs and sneezes. Symptoms typically show within 5 to 10 days after exposure, but may take up to 21 days to appear. Symptoms of Whooping Cough start out like symptoms of the common cold and include sinus congestion, low grade fever, apnea (potentially life threatening pauses in breath), and cyanosis (babies turning blue/purple).

If whooping cough goes untreated, symptoms become more severe to include a whooping like cough lasting weeks to months, often leading to coughing fits

or vomiting, labored breathing, and exhaustion due to excessive coughing.

Infants under 12 months and individuals with weakened immune systems face the highest risk of severe complications and even death. To combat this outbreak, Macon County Public Health urges all residents to ensure their vaccinations are up-to-date.

For people who can't or choose not to get vaccinated and develop symptoms of Whooping Cough, it is essential to seek medical attention and treatment as soon as possible to reduce the length and severity of illness and disease spread within our community.

"All teens and adults should receive at least one Tdap vaccine. Check with your health care provider to see if you are due. Vaccination during pregnancy is especially important, as it offers

protection to infants in their first months of life," said Dr. Allison Smith, Medical Director, Macon County Public Health

In addition to vaccination, the Health Department emphasizes the importance of good hygiene practices, including coughing and sneezing into elbows, frequent hand washing, and staying home if symptomatic.

Call Macon County Public Health at (828) 349-2081 to schedule a vaccination appointment.

Everyone who develops Whooping Cough symptoms should seek medical attention as soon as possible to reduce the length and severity of sickness. For more information on Whooping Cough and vaccination guidelines, visit the CDC's website.

NC House passes vet care for retired law enforcement dogs bill that started in MC

By Brittney Lofthouse

On Tuesday, June 11, 2024, The North Carolina House of Representatives passed HB1042, "Vet Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs," a landmark bill that ensures reimbursement for veterinary care for retired law en-

forcement dogs.

Representative Karl Gillespie, who introduced the bill as the primary sponsor, introduced the bill after K9 handlers from the Macon County Sheriff's Office, with the support of Sheriff Brent Holbrooks, brought the is-

sue to his attention.

"This important legislation is significant because it honors the invaluable service and dedication of our canine heroes who have devoted their lives to making our communities safer," Rep-

• See **VET CARE** page 15



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The Bolivia Mission continues; growing stronger



Dr. John Baumrucker (center) with the boys that live at the mission in Bolivia.

The Bolivian Mission was just honored at the 50th anniversary of the General Hospital in Montero, Bolivia. In a speech given by Dr. Roberto Soliz, a cardiologist, he took the opportunity to honor well-known figures and organizations responsible for the improvements in the hospital.

The first group mentioned was the Highlands Bolivian Mission, a benefactor not only to the hospital, but to the city of Montero.

“Life always rewards those who have a big heart,” said Soliz. “For instance, just before his 60th birthday on March 7, 2004, Dr. Baumrucker, our dear colleague, had a heart attack. Just months before he and his mission had donated an EKG machine with which we made the diagnosis. We treated him in our new ICU unit with all the monitors and equipment donated by the mission. Later, after our initial treatment, he was sent to

a heart institute in Santa Cruz where he underwent a heart catheterization and thankfully had no heart damage.”

Soliz went on to mention several other prominent members of the Montero city that were treated successfully in their ICU unit that didn't exist before.

Dr. Soliz said the hospital has grown a lot and needs to improve even more for the medical staff to be able to utilize all the skills and knowledge they have, but unable to do so for lack of equipment. Over 26 years, The Bolivian Mission has donated over one million dollars-worth of much needed medical equipment to this and other hospitals and clinics.

The Mission opened its foster home for street boys in 2002 and the home is thriving. With little help from the government, which provides a modest sum of one dollar per day for each child, the mission gives these abandoned boys a safe place to live, grounds in which they can play sports, grow vegetables, be educated and learn life skills such as working in the guest house where they can begin to learn economic skills.

The government quits paying the dollar a day for food when the children are 18, but the mission believes that the boys are family, and continues to support them if they are pursuing educational goals and have a part-time job.

As the home has several boys who are still in the university, the board of the mission decided to construct a four-bedroom struc-

ture with a study area to house up to eight young men who are being raised with excellent values in regard to education, lack of alcohol or drugs, religious values and treating women as equals.

The cost of this structure is set at \$65,000 and could eventually be less as the boys will help with the construction as a learning experience because, in the future, they will be building their own house when they leave the home and begin a family.

Building your own home in Bolivia is a long-time tradition, building what you can afford, and slowly, when economic conditions improve, expanding the structure. Building skills are important to achieve these goals.

To help their educational goals, the boys make pens and other turned items, like ice cream scoops and cork screws available for purchase at the Farmers Market at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street on Saturday mornings and at the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Craft Shows on the last weekend of June and August.

The funds from the sale of these items go to the educational fund of the Bolivian Mission. The foster home also has an eight-bedroom guest house with private baths, a large dining area and a modern kitchen available to volunteer groups that wish to visit Montero and work with the local hospitals, clinics and churches. If you are interested in volunteering, call Dr. Baumrucker at 828-200-0902 for more information.

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Turning crafts on a lathe.

...MOVIES continued from page 1

Woodard will be shown.

Show times are 2pm and 5:30pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in the Martin Lipscomb Theater (MLT) at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street.

After this first rollout, due to ongoing schedules of resident companies at MLT, movies will be limited to Tuesdays and perhaps one other day of the week in the summer if schedules permit. In September a more regular schedule will begin.

Plans are to air movies with mature themes, movies suitable for all ages and potentially a daytime Kids Series during the summer months.

"Bringing movies back to Highlands has been an expensive and time-consuming undertaking, but we are all set," said Jack Austin Operations Director

Highlands Performing Arts Center. "A special thanks goes to Rachel Friday and Jeff Schenk, whose generosity has made it all possible."

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children plus processing fees and taxes. Popcorn, candy, soft drinks and



bottles of wine will be available at the concession stand.

Austin said securing movies is a long, multi-stage process.

First, the theatre's projection and sound equipment must be calibrated and certified by an independent cinema installation company. There are just three such companies in the country that do small, independent theatres, so their waiting lists are long.

"In addition, the theatre must meet strict criteria in order for the film distributors to work with us, which is a studio-by-studio process," he said. "To secure first-run movies, you can't go directly

to the distributor. Instead, you have to go through an independent booking agent."

Most of the time, movies can only be requested a week or two in advance, which is why theatres are unable to publish long-range schedules, said Austin.

"The Highlands Performing Arts Center is pleased to offer great cinema to the Highlands-Cashiers area and beyond. We hope it will further broaden the already growing audience for the PAC and our resident companies," said Austin. "To keep ticket prices low, we'll be selling on-screen ads to local businesses and organizations."

HCCMF kicks off five weeks of classical music July 6

The regular season of the 43rd edition of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival which assembles world renowned classical musicians, takes place from July 6 to August 11. Festival director, William Ransom, who has dedicated 24 years to curating this grand spectacle, remains as fervent today as he was at the inception of his tenure.

"The festival brings major artists together in astounding ways, brilliant young people who are destined to become the stars of tomorrow, and established artists. It serves as a true celebration of music at the highest level," said Ransom. "The intimate setting of chamber music performances allows the artistry of the musicians to shine in a way that would not be apparent in larger venues. One of the most captivating elements of these evenings is the enthusiastic participation of the audiences. Their energy and appreciation contribute to the overall atmosphere, inspiring and uplifting the performers."

Throughout the 5-week season, the festival will present a total of 27 concerts at various stages in Highlands and Cashiers. Performances will take place at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Saturdays and Mondays at 5 pm, as well as at the Village Green Commons in Cashiers on Sundays and Tuesdays at 5 pm. Highlights of the season will be the return of music to the grand setting of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Highlands, as well as intimate performances at smaller, yet equally exquisite, venues scat-

tered throughout the community.

Opening the regular season on July 6/7 is the highly acclaimed violinist Scott Yoo, known for his role in the PBS show 'Now Hear This.' This marks his festival debut and sets the tone for the exciting summer of extraordinary performances that lie ahead. Eagerly anticipated is the appearance of renowned clarinetist and 3-time Grammy nominee David Shifrin who debuts for Plateau audiences on July 20/21. Chamber music devotees can look forward to the Bastille Day celebration, on July 13/14 with Sara Sant'Ambrogio and Yuriy Bekker. On July 29/30 the festival welcomes the Dover Quartet, hailed as "one of the greatest quartets of the last 100 years" by BBC Music Magazine. Concluding the season with flare is a flight of performances by festival stars, including Alice Hong, David Coucheron, at the Gershon/Cohn Gala and Dinner on August 11.

In addition, the festival offers a variety of innovative and fun programs. Intimate Salons and Feasts provide a unique and immersive musical experience while family concerts, Ice cream Socials, classes with CLE and an All-Star brass Quintet at the Bascom ensure that music lovers of all ages can engage and participate in the magic of the festival.

Details on these events, and other highlights and tickets are at www.h-cmusic-festival.org or by calling (828) 526-9060.

...MARIJUANA continued from page 1

The result is an ordinance that initially limits sales to tribal members starting in July, with plans to expand access to all adults over 21 by early to mid-August.

The EBCI's initiative comes just weeks after Great Smoky Cannabis Co., which is owned and operated by the Tribe, opened its doors on April 20, exclusively selling to adults with a tribe medical cannabis patient card or an approved out-of-state medical marijuana card. The new ordinance will now permit any adult over 21 — regardless of their affiliation as enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians -- to purchase and use marijuana on the reservation.

Director of the tribe's cannabis subsidiary, Forrest Parker, spoke during the Tribal Council session to highlight the financial implications of this expansion during a recent council work session. According to Parker, the dispensary is projected to potentially generate \$385 million in gross sales revenues in its first year if the product is avail-

able to all adult users. This is a significant increase compared to the projected \$200 million if sales remain restricted to medical patients.

The EBCI's move to legalize recreational marijuana sales is historic, given that marijuana possession and use remain illegal in the rest of North Carolina. As a federally recognized tribe, the EBCI possesses the sovereignty to establish its own cannabis regulations independent of state law.

The medical marijuana program, which has been operational since the dispensary's opening in April, will continue to function alongside the new recreational market. The expansion of the customer base is expected to transform the dispensary into a major revenue generator for the 14,000-member tribe, providing much-needed economic benefits and potentially setting a precedent for other tribes and jurisdictions considering similar measures.

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Highlands Hurricane boys upset Franklin; girls swim well

By Steve Hott
Head Coach

On Thursday, June 6, 39 members of the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to Franklin to swim against FAST (Franklin Amateur Swim Team). The boys team upset FAST 358-308 and the girls swam well.

The Hurricanes were led by Emilina Hernández, Bella Batista, and Jr. Olympian Finneaus Garner, all of whom won all three of their individual events and were on two winning relays.

Garner broke team records in all three of his individual events (the 50 and 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke). Nikita Denisoff, Jr. Olympic qualifier Aleks Petric-Sakonjic, and Jr. Olympian Ben Halldin all scored 22 pts., by winning two individual events and being on two winning relays.

Wylie Hinton, brothers Jayce Powell and Jr. Olympian Justin Powell all brought home 21 pts. Justin Powell qualified for the 2024 Jr. Olympics in the 50-freestyle. Dodo Zhang, AnnMarie Hinton, Ivan Shchelgachov, Jr. Olympic qualifier Alex Lopez, and Jr. Olympian Conner Hughes scored 20 pts.

Of special interest, while qualifying (again) for Jr. Olympics in three events and helping to win a relay Hughes broke the team record in the 100-butterfly, while Alex

Lopez won an individual event, helped win two relays and qualified for his 1st ever Jr. Olympics in the 50-freestyle.

Nicole Shchelgachova and Stefan Halldin each won an event and scored 19 pts. Emma Denisoff and Jr. Olympian Aniah McKim each won an individual event and scored 18 pts. Denisoff qualified for her 1st Jr. Olympics in the 50-freestyle.

Ian Batista and Max Jestin each scored 13 pts. Charlie Hinton, Maxwell Basil, Valerie Nadzorau, Agatha Jestin and Jr. Olympian Chase Kenter brought home 12 pts. Margaret Cole and Ben Shchelgachov won 11 pts, while Ellie Bysura and Asa Garner scored 10.

Rocco Basil brought home 8 pts. and Jr. Olympians Jack Sumner and Dasha Halldin, 7 pts. Newcomer Senna Sherrill scored 3 pts., Hayden Bysura 2 pts., Briella McKim 1 pts. Harrison McKim, and visitors Cade Cundiff, Grayson and Annabelle Banks also swam well.

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 for a prospective swimmer is that they must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the recreation park pool) unassisted. For further information call 828.421.4121.

...VET CARE continued from page 12

representative Karl E. Gillespie. "HB1042 reflects our deep gratitude for these loyal companions who have served alongside our officers with courage and dedication."

Law enforcement dogs play a crucial role in drug prevention, search and rescue missions, suspect apprehension, and more. If HB1042 becomes law, owners of retired law enforcement canines will be eligible to receive up to \$1,500 each fiscal year in reimbursement for veterinary care.

House Bill 1042 proposes providing a maximum of \$1,500 annually in financial support for certified retired police dogs — as long as they had worked for a law enforcement or correctional agency and had received certification from a nationally recognized organization. Handlers of the retired animals would pay the initial veterinary bill, then apply for reimbursement through North Carolina's Department of Public Safety within 90 days of the animal's vet visit. To fund this initiative, the Retired Law Enforcement Canine Fund will receive \$300,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund. This effort

reflects the growing recognition of the invaluable contributions these K9s make to public safety.

"The bill's title — House Bill 1042 might be a coincidence, but it actually makes all of this a little more meaningful as a 10-42 code is the call made when a law enforcement officer ends their tour of duty," said Sheriff Brent Holbrooks. "So I can't think of a better way to honor our state's K9s as the finish their service to our communities than to make sure they are taken care of in their well-deserved retirement"

The bill has received full backing from the Department of Public Safety and aims to cover a range of veterinary services. These services include wellness examinations, testing and treatment of illnesses, medications and vaccinations, emergency care, and surgeries. Owners of retired law enforcement dogs will be able to apply for reimbursement of these veterinary services through the Department of Public Safety.

HB1042 now heads to the North Carolina Senate for consideration.



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mountain music and local talent

MAY 17
Silly Ridge

MAY 24
McClain Family Band

MAY 31
Byrds & Crows

JUNE 7
The Foxfire Boys

JUNE 14
Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

JUNE 21
Curtis Blackwell Band

JUNE 28
Johnny Webb Band

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular,
regional bands and musicians

MAY 18
Continental Divide

MAY 25
Southside Station

JUNE 1
High 5

JUNE 8
Bill Mattocks

JUNE 15
Back Porch Orchestra

JUNE 22
The HC Oaks Band



visithighlandsc.com

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

SUMMER POOL SCHEDULE

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

PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed), everyone is welcome meetings

ALL WEEK

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

ON-GOING

• At Hudson Library, Readers from 0 to 99 will have adventures this summer as Hudson Library presents "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer learning program. The 2024 Summer Learning Program is free to all participants and starts June 1. No registration is needed for any of these programs. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031, or stop by the library during open hours.

Mountain Findings Hours: May:

• Fri. and Sat. 10a to 1p. **June:** Thurs.-Sat., 10a to 1p.

Mon.-Fri.

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

Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.

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

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m. More meeting plac-

es call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

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

2nd Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm.

Community invited to hear about HCA Healthcare compliance

Affiliated Monitors, Inc. to facilitate meeting for Highlands and Cashiers June 18 at Hudson Library

Dogwood Health Trust recently selected Affiliated Monitors, Inc. to provide independent monitor services and oversee HCA Healthcare's compliance with its commitments outlined in the purchase agreement for Mission Health System.

As part of their expanded scope of increased community engagement and education, Affiliated Monitors will host six community meetings throughout the region.

The format for each meeting will be to educate community members on

the monitoring process while gathering input about each HCA facility in their community. Attendees will have an opportunity for structured time to share information and ask questions about the process. As room capacity will be limited attendees are encouraged to pre-register.

In Highlands, the Highlands/Cashiers community meeting is on Tuesday, June 18 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Hudson Library Meeting Room. The address is 544 Main St. in Highlands.

If you plan to attend, please email media@formationpr.com.

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"Brass @ The Bascom with the All-Star Brass Quintet"

The Bascom: Center for the Visual Arts - Highlands
Sunday, June 30th @ 5 PM



Hakeem Bilal



Juan Berrios



Scott Nadelson



Kevin Lyons



Gabe Colby

The All-Star Brass Quintet, led by trumpeter Kevin Lyons, perform music by Bach, Gershwin and Piazzolla.

Wine & hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Sponsored by J. F. & Peggy Bryan and Phyllis & Tom Davis.

Price: \$80/person. Call 828-526-9060 for required reservations.



Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

www.h-cmusicfestival.org
hccmfnc@gmail.com | (828) 526-9060

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email info@maconnc literacy.org

3rd Tuesdays

• Free Community Stretch & Yoga in the Park Summer Series, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce-Visit Highlands NC, will be offered by Certified Instructors/ Yoga Highlands on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 6pm beginning May 21. Please bring a mat and water, dress comfortably, and let's celebrate health and relaxation. No experience necessary! (next dates: 6/18, 7/16 and 8/20)

2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

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

• Pickle Ball inside and outside at the Rec Park. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a-6p.

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

2nd & 4th Thursdays

• Dementia Caregivers Support Group, Moderators Chris and Fred ensure that the group is a safe place for judgement-free discussion. The next meeting of the Dementia Caregivers Support Group is February 22 at 10:15 AM at Hudson Library. For more information about the group, contact Chris at 772-473-1088.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. No martial arts background necessary Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues during the summer, every Thursday morning at 10:40 AM. We'll read books, sing fun songs, and move with the music.

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs. June 6 features Aquatic Insects, an EcoSplash program presented by Mainspring Conservation Trust. Kids will have the chance to learn all about the macro invertebrates in our local rivers, getting hands-on with them and also viewing them through a digital microscope (who doesn't like looking at cool bugs!)

Fridays

• At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and crafternoons. The June 7 STEM program will feature a variety of building sets, including some that are brand-new to our library collection. Kids will love seeing what they can create!

Saturdays

• Story Ballet - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm. 828-421-6720

• Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

2nd Saturdays

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

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email nepost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood, Horse Cove RD, Highlands. Sunday 7-8 p.m. traditional hymn-sing. Call or text Gwyn Hardin for information or directions. 919-523-7067. All are welcome.

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

Thurs., June 13

• At First Presbyterian Church, the opening reception for the inaugural ArtSpace exhibit at First Presbyterian Church will take place in the lower level of the Faith and Fellowship building 5-6:30 p.m.. The public is invited to meet the local artists and see the space that will house rotating exhibits throughout the year. (828) 526-3175 or fpchartspace@gmail.com for info.

Fri., June 14

• See EVENTS page 22

...ELECTIONS continued from page 1

three candidates have filed for the District 4 seat - Incumbent Jim Breedlove, Danny Reitmeier, and John deVile.

The Macon County School Board holds significant responsibility in overseeing the district's educational policies, budget allocations, and administrative appointments. Effective leadership on the board ensures that the educational standards and resources provided to students meet the community's expectations and state requirements.

To run for a seat on the Macon County School Board, candidates must meet the following requirements:

Residency

Candidates must be residents of the

district for which they are filing. For the At-Large seat in District 4, candidates must be residents of Macon County.

Age

Candidates must be at least 21 years old by the time of the election.

Citizenship

Candidates must be citizens of the United States.

Voter Registration

Candidates must be registered voters in Macon County.

Criminal Background:

Candidates must not have any felony convictions unless their citizenship rights have been restored.

Join

Resources Education Assistance Counseling Housing of Macon County Inc.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28
6 PM BUFFET + BAR
7 PM CONCERT

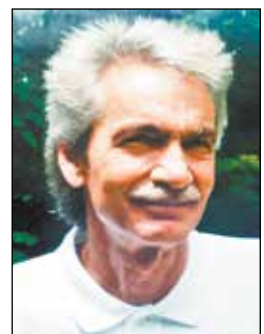
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Bourbon & Bluegrass

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The Bridge Is Out!

Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church

For months the residents of Highlands saw this sign posted at the Will Henry Stevens Covered Bridge entrance. How grateful all of us should be that the sign was there. We would have ignored it to our absolute peril.

This is a perfectly apt metaphor for the Gospel of Jesus Christ with which every Christian is entrusted. The word, Gospel, simply means Good News. It is Good News that Jesus Christ died on the Cross thereby paying the penalty for sin for the entire human race. It is Good News that after three days He resurrected, and later ascended, and now is making preparations to return to the earth. One day, He will make every wrong, right. Every heartache healed. His eternal kingdom will indeed be perfect. ALL OF THIS IS GOOD NEWS!

However, there is another side. As unbelievable as it may sound to you, there are men and women around the world who believe nothing of what I've already said. Jesus Christ may be considered a good man by them, or even the best man who ever lived. Yet for them to embrace the Truth that He is the only way to Heaven (John 14:6) would be a truth they would absolutely reject. Some would even scoff in derision.

For them, the bridge is out. There is danger ahead for them. And the danger is such as has never even been imagined by them.

The Bible calls this danger, hell.

Does it not strike you as extraordinary the fact that no one talked about hell more than Jesus Christ? How consistently He warned, The Bridge Is Out! For men and women to continue on casually toward death and eternity, ignoring the loving warnings of Jesus, is really beyond comprehension.

We would never venture on past a sign warning of danger ahead. Yet, that is precisely what untold numbers of our world population do.

Are you thinking to yourself just now, "I can hardly believe some preacher still believes in hell. He must be unsophisticated, uneducated and generally rough. He clearly lacks erudition and finesse."

You may be right! But even a man in that condition can call out, There's danger ahead! The bridge is out!

Dear friend, I say to you again as I've said in most of these articles, No one knows you better than Jesus Christ and no one loves you, more."

I hope you will consider what I've said. For every person in the world, there is indeed a hell to shun and a heaven to gain.

It's been said (although I cannot verify it) that famous people such as Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Pierce have crossed over the William Henry Stevens

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30; Worship 10:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers. NC 28717

www.christanglicancashiers.com

9:30am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship Service. Mon. Night

Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD,

Horsecove Rd, Highlands - 919-523-7067

Traditional Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8p, thru Sept 21.

Everyone welcome.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays & Thurs-

days 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30

am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morn-

ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

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. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

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 Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kirby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for

schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar Barn is open Thurs. - Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

May 18

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

June 3

• At 8:20 a.m., officers responded to a call of damage to personal property on Spring View Lane in Highlands where the left side of the gate code box was forcibly torn. Damages are estimated at \$500.

• At 9 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Holt Road.

June 5

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on Hickory Hill Road.

June 6

• Officers responded to a call for service regarding verbal harassment of a minor at TJ Bailey's for Men in Town Square.

June 9

• At 1:10 a.m., Edward d'Arcy Adams IV, 33, of Sapphire, NC, was

arrested for making an unsafe movement in his vehicle while driving under the influence. He was issued a written promise. His trial date is July 10.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 4.

June 4

• At 12:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 7:21 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Split Rail Row.

June 5

• At 9:24 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Ridge Lane.

• At 4:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hickory Hill Road.

June 6

• At 6:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an unattended fire on Queen Mountain Road.

June 7

• At 11:07 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 8:07 p.m., the dept. stood by for the Cashiers FD.

June 8

• At 6:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road.)

• At 4:54 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurel Branch.

• At 5:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 5:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders for a rescue call on Walk-Ingstick Road.

• At 7:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blackberry Lane.

• At 9:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a location on Main Street.

June 10

• At 7:57 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at the hospital.

• At 9:28 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Log Cabin Lane.

• At 9:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders at a residence on Hedden Lane.

June 11

• At 3:16 a.m. and 5:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Way.

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BAZAAR BARN

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...OBITUARIES continued from pg 11

eral nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her beloved dog, Shaggy.

The family wishes special thanks to Four Seasons Hospice; her caregivers, Genise Jennings, Penny Stewart, Loretta Picklesimer, and her primary caregiver, Susan Dillard, who remained with her until her passing. And to Sandy Fugate and Connie Watson for their weekly visits, that she truly loved.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, June 13, at 3pm at the Cashiers United Method-

ist Church. The family will receive friends from 2-3pm, one hour prior to the service. Rev. Aryn Williams-Ruebel and Rev. Steve Kerhoulas will officiate. Burial will be in the Upper Zachary Cemetery in Cashiers.

Pallbearers will be Todd Dillard, Rob Herstek, Alec Ware, Evan Jones, Andrew Dillard, and Albert Dillard.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from pg 18

Bridge when it was still in New Hampshire before being dismantled and moved here.

Wouldn't it be great to add that to your list of "Been-there-done-that?" After all, how many can say, "I've walked where Presidents have walked?"

But obviously (and greater still) it is to walk the same path as Jesus did. I cannot go to the Cross. I cannot pay the price for my own sins. But I can walk the same path as He did by simply following in His footsteps now.

He is the Bridge that will lead to eternal life. Amen.

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LOST DOG!



“**TEMBA**” was last seen on Hwy 64 // Little Bear Pen Rd // Cullasaja Dr on Monday, June 11th around 6pm. He is a 15 yr old golden/terrier mix (medium size ~30 lbs). Temba has a thin build from age and has poor hearing. He is dearly loved. Please call Chelsea at 678. 689.3084 if you have any information! Reward if found!

FOR SALE

ROCKY KNOB. 9.9 +- acre lot. 3,800 ft. elevation. Private quiet. Clean lake. Ready to build. 3-bed septic. Water. Power. Completely developed and established site and access. \$595,000. Leave message at 828-526-5981 (st. 5/23)

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

LAND FOR SALE - 3 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) \$140,000;



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TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE. \$30k-\$55k/ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (st. 11/22)

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

LOOKING FOR A WINTER CONDO IN PALM BEACH COUNTY? - PALM BEACH, WEST PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH GARDENS, OR JUPITER? Great inventory of condos

- existing, brand new or under construction, like The Ritz in Palm Beach Gardens. Contact me, Steve Feldman, Realtor Associate, Centruy 21 West Palm Beach, Palm Beach at 561-379-8222 either by text/phone or email, stephenwestpalmbeach@gmail.com. I'll be happy to answer any questions and will send you information on whatever you are interested in. (6/6)

FOR RENT

DREAM SUMMER GETAWAY IN KEY LARGO, FLORIDA. Newly remodeled 2 bed 3 bath condo on the bay. Amazing sunset views, great amenities and more. CasaPalmaKeyLargo.com. (st. 5/23)

2 BDRM/2 BATH FURNISHED APT - living room with fireplace, dining area, full kitchen-huge covered porch - W/D - 1.5 miles from Main St. \$3,000 month utilities included - avail. June 1. 561 310-5085. (st. 5/9)

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH free standing furnished cottage for rent. Single level house has new washer/dryer, new heat pump, new bed, covered deck, back up gas heat. Two miles from center of town. Water and sewer included. \$1,200 per month. Available for one year lease. Call or text 828-342-4819. (st. 5/2)

SEASONAL NEW LOG CABIN ON SAGEE DRIVE. 2 bedroom & 2 bath suites on Creek. 1 1/2 mile to downtown. Monthly or seasonally \$8,700 (1) month \$7,200 (3) Months. email: renee7726@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

LIKE NEW 1/BED APT. downtown Highlands in Village Square. Walk-in closet and balcony. One year minimum lease. Furnished. \$3,500/mth. Call Robin at 828-200-0044. (st. 3/21)

WORKFORCE HOUSING - 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/2 bath with between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water,

...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 21

& washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy (706) 982-0444 or (828)-482-4239, (st. 5/2/24)

HELP WANTED

ORGANIST/PIANIST NEEDED to play for 11am Sunday worship services and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (5:30-7pm) at First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC. \$20K annual salary. No administrative duties involved. Our organ is a circa 2004 16-rank 2 manual Wicks pipe organ. For more information, contact Angie Jenkins, Director of Music Ministry @ 828-200-0183 (6/27)

JOIN OUR TEAM AS THE BUSINESS & MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER! The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC is seeking a dynamic and dedicated individual to fill the role of a full-time Business & Member Services Manager. This crucial position acts as the liaison to our business community.

Key Responsibilities:

- Membership Recruitment and Retention: Engage with and grow our member base.

- Program and Event Development: Plan, execute, and manage impactful events and programs for our members.

- Data Tracking and Reporting: Maintain detailed records and provide insightful reports.

Ideal Candidate:

- Highly Organized: Ability to manage multiple tasks efficiently.

- Sales Acumen: Proven skills in sales and engagement.

- Tech Proficient: Comfortable with standard office practices, computer fundamentals, and business software.

- Effective Communicator: Skilled in compiling data, and preparing correspondence, reports, and presentations.

Why Join Us?

- Collaborative Environment: Work with a supportive team dedicated to enhancing the community.

- Impactful Work: Play a key role in making Highlands a better place to live, visit, and do business.

Ready to make a difference? Visit

www.highlandschamber.org/live-work/job-board to learn more and apply. (6/13)

ESTABLISHED CUSTOM HOMEBUILDER IN HIGH-

LANDS/CASHIERS area looking for project superintendent to manage multiple sites and subcontractors. Please send resume to: JW Underwood Construction LLC P.O. Box 147, Highlands NC 2974. Or email: john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com (st. 5/2)

SERVICES

CAREGIVER/SITTER with 40 years experience available for part-time personal care, errands, transportation, meals, etc. Highlands full-time resident. Robert Doe 828.399.0262. (st. 6/13)

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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (4/25)

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (8/1)

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

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

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

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

...EVENTS continued from page 17

- With CLE, Award-winning Appalachian author Ron Rash will be joining us at High Country Wine and Provisions on Friday from 2-4pm for an exclusive reading and Q&A for his new novel, *The Caretaker*. Wine and charcuterie will be provided. Books for sale and signing.

- American Legion Post 270 is commemorating Flag Day at the Eckerd Living Center with a brief ceremony at 10AM on Friday. I hope we can have a good American Legion turn-out to honor our flag and to show respect to the aging veterans living at Eckerd.

- At the Literacy & Learning Center, 675 S. 4th St., Tinker Time for Tots, 10 am FREE / No registration required.

- Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for a unique Geology EcoTour to High Falls in Glenville, NC with local geologist, Bill Jacobs, author of *Whence These Special Places?* The Geology of Cashiers, Highlands, & Panther-town Valley. 10am – 1pm. Space is limited, and you don't want to miss this rare opportunity to learn from local legend Bill Jacobs. This will be a moderate to difficult 3/4-mile hike with a 700 ft descent and ascent down/up steep stairs, wet and slippery spots, and mud. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust EcoTours are open to HCLT all with a sliding scale suggested donation of \$15 - \$50 per person.

- Friday Night Live in Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

Sat., June 15

- Highlands Greenway annual meeting and luncheon and workday. The workday will be from 9a to noon, then stay for the annual meeting. We will be voting on new board members, electing our officers, reviewing our accomplishments for the year, and awarding our Trail Worker of the Year! The meeting will be held at the REC Park pavilion. RSVP lunch! Meet at the large upper parking lot behind the Recreation Center at 9AM for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and equipment.

- Brent Martin signing at the Highland Hiker in Highlands and Cashiers "A Hiker's Guide to the Bartram National Recreation Trail in Georgia and North Carolina" (\$21.95, Univ. of Georgia Press) Martin will sign copies of his new cultural history and naturalist guide to the Bartram Trail at the Highland Hiker (561 Main Street at the Falls on Main) in Highlands from 2 to 4pm on Saturday. There will be refreshments.

- At The Bascom, Artist Talk with Erik Mace. 3-4 pm | Free

- Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit KH Founders Park. Doors open at 5. Dinner at 6. \$85 per ticket. Includes dinner, dessert and 3 drinks. Live music. Tickets available at www.fouundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

- Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Back Porch Orchestra.

Tues., June 18

The Highlands/Cashiers community meeting on Tuesday from 5:30 - 7 p.m. with the Independent Monitor, Affiliated Monitors, Inc. which is overseeing HCA Healthcare will be held at the Hudson Library Meeting Room. The address is 544 Main St. in Highlands. If you plan to attend, please email media@formationpr.com.

Wed., June 19

- Brent Martin signing at the Highland Hiker in Highlands and Cashiers "A Hiker's Guide to the Bartram National Recreation Trail in Georgia and North Carolina" (\$21.95, Univ. of Georgia Press) Martin will sign copies of his new cultural history and naturalist guide to the Bartram Trail at the Highland Hiker in Cashiers (at the crossroads) on Wednesday from 2 to 4pm. There will be refreshments.

- Join HCLT on a journey of cultural exploration and ecological wisdom with our free upcoming summer 5-part book club series, delving into the pages of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Over the course of the summer, HCLT will host 5 in-person discussions in both Highlands and in Cashiers, over a 10-week period. 10a-noon at Hudson Library and 3-5 at the Cashiers Library. Books available for FREE for participants, on a first come, first serve basis, available at HCLT's Highlands office (Suite 211, 348 South 5th Street), as well as the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce

Thurs., June 20

- Join the Cashiers Historical Society for their 2024 Jan Wyatt Symposium, "Work and Leisure: Tourism and the Making of Modern Cashiers" Thursday at the Albert Carlton - Cashiers Community Library. Morning lectures will start at 9 am followed by a roundtable discussion. At 12 pm, guests will enjoy a box lunch picnic then a driving tour of historic Whiteside Cove. Discussions will be about the history of tourism in Cashiers and Western North Carolina, Modern Impacts of Tourism, and about Working in Tourism in the 1950s & 1960s. Tickets are \$35 and available to purchase at: <https://www.cashiershistorical-society.org/2024-jan-wyatt-symposium>

- The Hudson Library welcomes back Big Bang Boom at 3:30 PM. There will be dancing, singing, and lots of fun! Big Bang Boom is a band made up of three dads playing parent-friendly kid music. This is a high-energy show, and both parents and children will find it hard to stay in their seats!

- OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Andrew Wooten. Ear-catching vocals and genuine lyrics. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. www.oldedwardshospitality.com/orchardsessions.

- Join HCLT and Mark Ellison of Pinnacle Forest Therapy for a special shinrin-yoku practice on top of Satulah Mountain Preserve at sunset! The walk will take place from 6:30 – 9pm. This free event is limited to 15 participants. Email hope@hcltnc.org to sign up!

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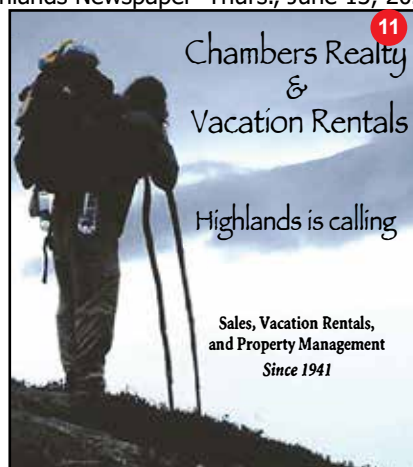
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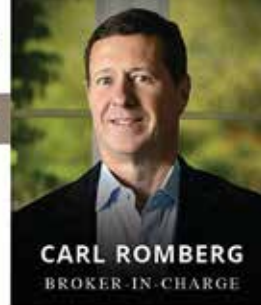
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