

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 6, 2024

## Say 'no' to Macon County redistricting

Contact Senator Kevin Corbin and Representative Karl Gillespie - now

By Kim Lewicki

Citizens worried about further diluting the pool from which they elect the person to represent them are gathering to keep Dis-

trict 1 and District 3 from being expanded.

As explained in the May 16 story "District changes will dilute candidate pool for Highlands and

Nantahala," NC Senator Kevin Corbin and Representative Karl Gillespie have taken legislative steps in response to a local reso-

• See **SAY NO** page 10



An artist's rendition of what's to come on Oak Street on the backside of the old Scudder's building.

## TB says 'OK' to revamping Oak Street

By Kim Lewicki

For years most of Oak Street from 5th to 3rd streets resembled a back street alley. There were various kinds and sizes of trash receptacles that were frequented by crows and bears with little regard to the façade of the street.

That changed when the town got rid of the dumpsters and trash receptacles and replaced them

with uniformed bear resistant containers. That simple gesture literally cleaned up the street.

Now the new owner of the old Scudder's complex that fronts both Main and Oak streets, will be beautifying the stretch of Oak along the backside of the complex which is a single parcel with multiple buildings.

The specific area is across

from The Playhouse and the police station.

Due to the nature of the previous business - Scudder's auction house - there is a freight lift which provides access to Main Street and two, long, loading zones and one parking space.

Now, as part of the beautification, instead of two loading

• See **OAK STREET** page 4

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## Survey reveals reasons for HS soccer field issues

Possible solutions were discussed

By Brittney Lofthouse

Making the Highlands School soccer field consistently usable has been a challenge for years. The lack of drainage keeps the field wet after rain which means it can't be used for practices or games.

Two games were moved or called early due to field conditions after major rainstorms recently.

"Nobody with a grass field would have been able to really

• See **SOCCER** page 19

## Highlands and Scaly Mtn. residents to get first dibs on HF&W tickets

250 tickets reserved for one day only - Mon., June 10

By Kim Lewicki

On Monday, June 10 from 9a to 5p locals with zip codes 28741 or 28775 will get a one-day chance to buy tickets to this year's Highlands Food & Wine event to be held Nov. 7-10.

Tickets go so quickly that over the years, locals claim they missed out. This has also led to people saying very few locals are seen at the events compared to out-of-town visitors.

So, for this year's event locals will get first dibs. For the general public tickets will be available Thurs., June 13.

"We've heard for the last couple of years that local residents don't feel they have access to tickets, and we understand their frustration," said Jack Austin of Highlands Festivals which presents the event. "To thank locals for their patience and support

• See **TICKETS** page 7

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Juggling change and loss with progress and restoration

A few weeks ago, Sallie had several paintings accepted into an art show in New York, so we decided to attend the opening and make it sort of weekend vacation. The show was not in Manhattan but rather on Long Island in Queens.

We stayed at a hotel in Rockaway Beach. We had never spent much time in an outlying New York borough, but viewing the entire Manhattan skyline from our hotel window reminded us that we were not far from the Big Apple.

I always find visiting resort/retreat communities informative in that I like comparing them to Highlands. Rockaway Beach is a retreat community of sorts since it is a short distance from the big city. The hotel provided us with bicycles, and we rode them for about 10 miles on the concrete boardwalk that followed the beach. The boardwalk was full of folks walking, running, riding bicycles, especial-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

ly electric-powered ones, and, of course, skateboards.

Traditionally New Yorkers have gone to Rockaway to enjoy the beach and to surf while many commute. It was a bit cool, but plenty of folks were surfing. I suspect most surfers were permanent residents since they carried racks on their bicycles for surfboards.

What impressed me was that the boardwalk was a gateway to multiple park facilities that were also filled with athletic activities. As we rode down the boardwalk, we saw full pickleball, handball, tennis courts, skateboard parks, and numerous playgrounds.

Although huge apartment complexes filled the skyline, small bungalow homes were neatly tucked into the area's fabric, and the two seemed to live together in harmony, big and small, tourist and resident. Rockaway Beach has a lot higher population density than Highlands, but there was still a sense of environmental awareness at the shoreline. All the parks were landscaped, and the New York Park Service has done extensive beach restoration, including replanting large areas of sea oats and other indigenous plants.

But there is another story about Rockaway Beach. On October 29, 2012, Rockaway Beach was a victim of Hurricane Sandy. The old historic wooden boardwalk was destroyed as well as many historic structures. The boardwalk that Sallie and I enjoyed is a new concrete replacement structure. It serves as a wonderful access point to the restored beaches and parks and a barrier for the homes and businesses on the other side. Those parks are all new, too. I looked at photos of the damage Hurricane Sandy inflicted, and almost everything on the shoreline was either damaged or totally destroyed.

My lasting impression from our visit is that from disaster and loss often comes the opportunity for restoration and renewal. While we haven't had such disastrous losses as those incurred by Hurricane Sandy, Highlands, like all communities, has had periods of loss followed by renewal and change. We have to balance and juggle the ongoing process of change and loss with





• See MAYOR page 10

## • HIC'S VIEW •



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## • WEATHER •

Thu, 6-Jun	Fri, 7-Jun	Sat, 8-Jun	Sun, 9-Jun
 76°F 53°F	 72°F 47°F	 73°F 53°F	 72°F 54°F
A thunderstorm in spots	Breezy in the morning; sunny	Mostly sunny and comfortable	Rain, heavy at times
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Orchard Session

# Andrew Wooten

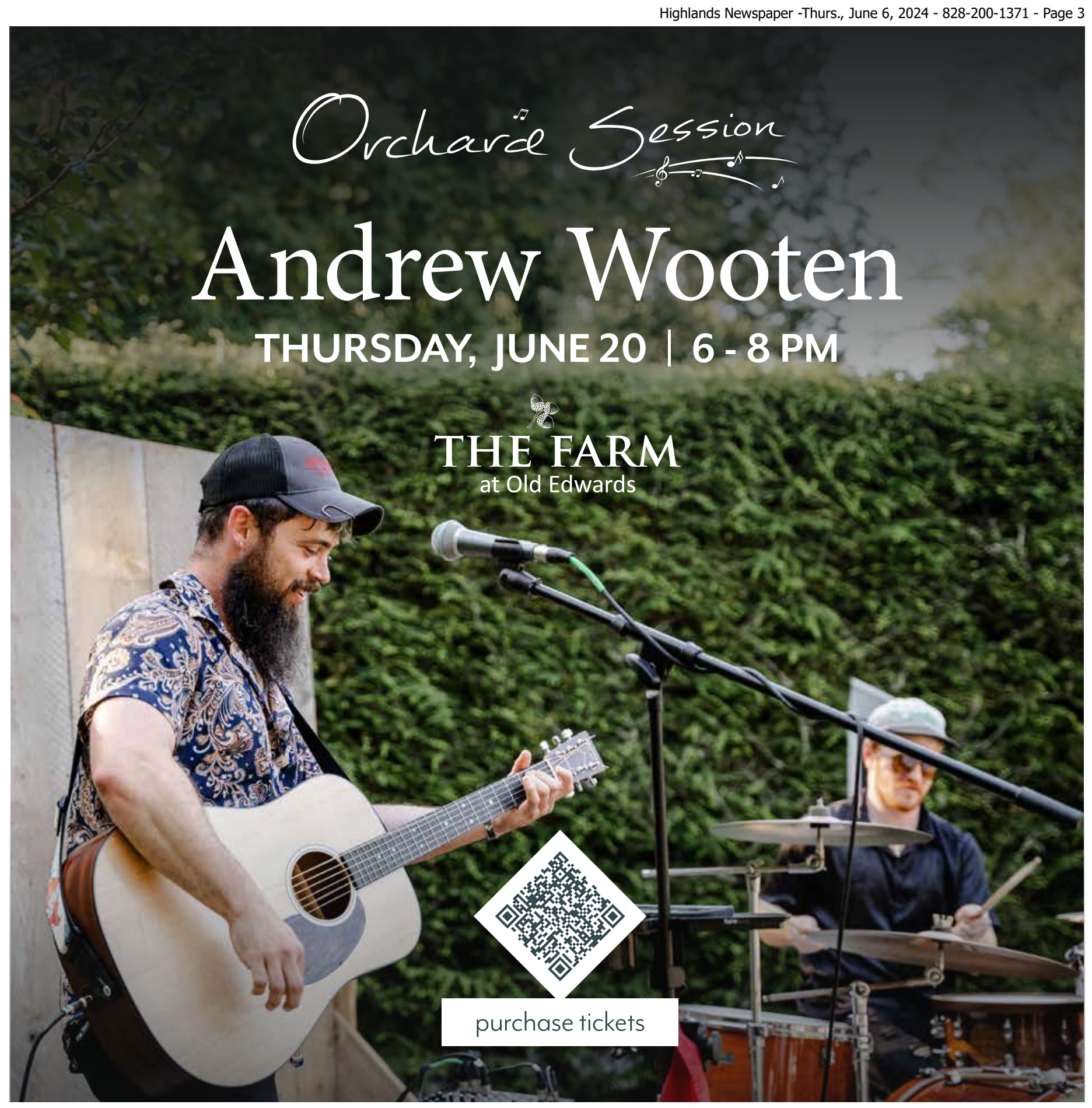
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zones there will be one which anyone can use, and two public parking spaces instead of one.

The current storage areas in the complex are being converted into spaces for commercial tenants, like on Main Street, and a wide apron sidewalk will stretch along the way – tying the complex together.

Various trees like Pin Oaks, American Smoketree and Princeton Elm were suggested as well as shrubs like Sunburst Saint John's Wort, and Bearberry for ground cover to "green up" the sidewalk.

All of this is being done at the owner's

expense but since the renovations involved adding and changing parking space designations – reducing the loading zone by 50% to make room for an additional public parking spaces – the Town Board had to give permission.

The request was OK'd unanimously and initiated discussion about tying the street together visibly on the north side from the site of the new ABC Store to Town Hall.

A finalized plan will be presented to the Town Board soon.

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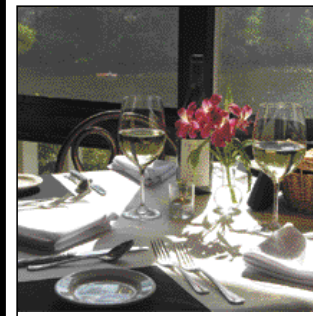
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## ...TICKETS continued from page 1

they can purchase tickets before they go on sale online to the general public.”

On Monday, June 10, the tickets will be available with proof of residency at the office of David Bock Builders at 417 N. 4th Street in Highlands 9a to 5p.

Accepted forms of proof of residency include either 1) a valid driver's license with a Highlands (28741) or Scaly Mountain (28775) address or 2) a valid driver's license outside the above zip codes AND a current (2024) utility bill with a Highlands (28741) or Scaly Mountain (28775) address.

Purchases will be limited to two tickets per event per customer. A total of 50 tickets for each event will be available during the presale.

Ticket prices for all-inclusive food, beverage and live

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music entertainment options will range from \$295 for single-event tickets to \$1,600 for VIP Weekender tickets, inclusive of the four signature events: Grand Tasting, Truckin', Main Event and Sunday's A Shot at Redemption.

Local presale tickets must be purchased in person at David Bock Builders on Carolina Way behind Posh Paws.

Any unsold tickets from this allotment will be returned to inventory for sale to the general public on Thursday, June 13 at 12 noon EST and will be available at <https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/>.

The full music and culinary lineups will be announced in the coming weeks.

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

### There is an App for that

Being that this is a real estate column, you would expect me to discuss Apps like Zillow and Realtor.com which are widely used by people who are looking for real estate and those that just like to follow what comes on the market in different areas out of curiosity. The other day I realized how many apps that I use. Some are for real estate purposes and some are for fun, but they can provide some important information about this area, or wherever you may be.



Carl Romberg  
Landmark Realty

One of the simpler apps is Altimeter, which gives the approximate elevation as well as geographical coordinates of where you are. This can be handy to know when you hike to a peak to see what the elevation is. Another simple one is Compass which can tell you which direction you are looking or heading and is often used to see which direction a house is facing. I find it interesting that many buyers want a house or lot facing a specific direction or that do not face a certain direction.

One of my favorites apps is PeakVisor. If you open the app and hold your phone up looking at the horizon, it will give you the names and elevations of peaks in the view. This is handy when showing a house if I don't know what mountain(s) I am looking at. It has maps in both 2 and 3 dimensions, offers GPS tracking and sometimes gives trails in the area.

I asked several people what their favorite app was and a common response was AllTrails, which I was not familiar with. It allows you to search for hiking, biking or walking trails in the area and you can filter results by things like views, waterfalls, wildflowers, dog friendly and kid friendly. Trails are rated on a scale of 0-5 based on user experience. The difficulty level, trail length, time to hike or walk, and elevation change is listed. It provides a map and a good general description, along with photos. You can use this app prior to traveling to plan activities.

As I have mentioned in the past, I spend a lot of time in the garden. There are many plants that I know but also many

that I don't recognize so I use the app Plant Identifier. You either take a photo of the plant or use an existing photo and it identifies it and gives you a description and basic information. You can use the app to delve deeper and find out the type of plant, lifespan, planting time, description, habitat, scientific classification and much more information. I found that I have Euphorbia or Mediterranean Spurge in my perennial garden, with no species reported

in the US according to the map. It tells me what light, how much water and fertilization it needs and how to propagate the plant. I found out that my Black Cohosh (or Black Snakeroot) needs attention due to pest problems. Another plant I didn't know of is Comfrey, which is considered exotic in this area and was used for medicinal purposes. You can save the plants and create a file of your garden, or plants noted on walks.

Merlin Bird Identifier is very interesting. It can identify a bird by sound or photo. It provides additional photos, a description, where they are located, habitats and has recordings of songs and calls. While recording the other evening, I found out that we have had both a Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill which are uncommon for this area. We also know that the Ovenbirds are back from wintering in the Caribbean.

There are many more specific to your own interests which may include identifying insects or animals, rowing trackers, stargazing and for golf or fly fishing. Do some research and find out which apps are interesting to you and see how they can assist. Apps can't do it alone, so when you are ready to buy or sell property, use one of the real estate apps to assist but contact a knowledgeable Realtor to assist you.

• *Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office and a Resort and Second Home Property Specialist (RSPS). Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or [carl@landmarkrg.com](mailto:carl@landmarkrg.com).*





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## ...SAY NO continued from page 1

lution passed with a 3-2 vote by Macon County commissioners to alter the district election format for county commissioners to include two at-large seats.

Companion bills, Senate Bill 903 and House Bill 1060, have both passed both readings and are now in committee, so the time to act is now.

Commissioners John Shearl, Paul Higdon and Danny Antoine introduced and voted for the resolution. MC Commissioners Gary Shields and Josh Young voted against the notion.

“Before we print a bill and send it to Raleigh, I feel like it’s my duty to at least ask for public involvement,” said Young who is advocating for a process that ensures broad-based community engagement.

Commissioner Shields expressed reservations about changing a system that has been in place for more than four decades.

Since 1978, Macon County has elected its five-member board from three districts, with uneven opportunities for candidates to run due to staggered terms, say supporters of the change.

District 1 is Ellijay, Flats, Highlands, and Sugarfork, with one member elected. District 3 includes Burningtown, Cartoogechaye, Cowee, and Nantahala, also with one member elected. District 2 encompasses Iotla, Millshoal, North Franklin, East Franklin, South Franklin, Union, and Smithbridge, electing three members with staggered terms.

The resolution argues that a new system with one member from each district and two at-large could provide a fairer platform for all eligible citizens to participate in

the electoral process biennially.

According to the 2020 census, Macon County had a population of 37,014. For the three electoral districts to be equal, each district line would need to be drawn to include 12,338 residents from other districts.

Currently, District 1 is comprised of 7,297 residents. To get closer to the “equal” number of residents of 12,000, Highlands would need to add 5,041 residents who have historically been within the Franklin area district.

Expanding that district will further dilute the representation for Highlands’ residents, who make up over 50% of the county’s tax base which means they would virtually have no representation. Because the law requires that redistricting keep voting districts continuous, District 1 might include Millshoal and a piece of either Cowee, Iotla, or East Franklin, or a combo of any of the three.

The move would also result in the more rural areas of the county such as Nantahala and Burningtown, losing representation and having less of a voice on the county level. To meet the 12,338 that would be needed for even districts, District 3 would most likely look at adding Smithbridge.

Citizens against the redistricting, have been encouraged to contact Senator Kevin Corbin and Representative Karl Gillespie – now – to let them know how they feel in hopes they will pull the bill. A phone call or simple email will suffice.

Email [Kevin.Corbin@ncleg.gov](mailto:Kevin.Corbin@ncleg.gov) or call (919) 733-5875; email [Karl.Gillespie@ncleg.gov](mailto:Karl.Gillespie@ncleg.gov) or call 919-733-5859.

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

progress and restoration.

Here are a few examples of rather small Highlands changes in recent years. A decade ago, we built a much more expensive all-year swimming pool. It has been more expensive to operate. But much like the changes at Rockaway Beach, which were costly, the benefits for everyone outweigh the costs.

Community change can come from natural disasters and from just changes in personal activity preferences. A few years ago, the town had several underutilized tennis courts that we had to maintain. Recognizing a change in user activity preferences, the Town Board decided to eliminate two tennis courts and created six outdoor pickleball courts. The pickleball courts are

jammed now and for most of the year with avid players. Out of disuse and with investment comes positive results.

As I remember all those children playing in the parks on Rockaway Beach, I get excited and hopeful about the proposed new, inclusive playground for the Highlands Recreation Center. The playground will be expensive for sure, but the cost will be balanced by the benefits and joy of children for years to come. I hope the town, county, private citizens, and other government sources will come forth to make this children’s park a reality. Fundraising is underway.

I have a link for information about the new children’s park at [AskMayorPat.com](http://AskMayorPat.com).



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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Marci Sherwood joins Suncoast Equity Mgt as Community Marketing Director



Marci Sherwood

Suncoast Equity Management, an independent registered investment advisory firm offering both investment management and wealth management services based in Tampa, FL, welcomes Marci Sherwood, a full-time Highlands community resident, as the Community Marketing Director in their new Highlands office. Sherwood will be responsible for developing local brand strategy, event planning and public relations for Suncoast.

"We are excited to have Marci join our team. She is a vital part of introducing Suncoast to Highlands and the surrounding areas," said Don Jowdy, Founder and Chief Investment Officer. "Marci's community ties and relationships are a perfect match for this time of significant momentum at Suncoast."

Sherwood comes to Suncoast with a diverse background including owning her own jewelry business, Isabelle Ambrose Jewelry. Most recently, she worked as the Events and Programs

Director at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands planning the Friday and

Saturday concerts series, Highlands Volunteer Fair, Chamber Business After Hours events, Light Up the Park and Christmas Parade as well as numerous other events.

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## ASK AN ECONOMIST!

According to ongoing national polls, when voters are asked what is most important, they identify the economy as high on the list.

Do you want the facts about what is happening in the U.S. Economy and what it means for North Carolina?



**Indivisible Highlands** has invited **Dr. Sean Mulholland, Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise at Western Carolina University** to provide pertinent information and answer questions.

Join us for this important event

Wednesday, June 12th @ 6:30 pm  
Hudson Library

554 Main St, Highlands, NC 28741

Please come at 6:00 pm to enjoy refreshments and conversation.

## Highlands Cashiers Hospital does first knee replacement surgery

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital did its first knee replacement in February and patient Louise Royal was thrilled with her care and outcome.

“The minute I got here, everybody was friendly, I felt so comfortable,” Royal said. “They were wonderful. After the surgery, everybody in the operating room came to see me. They bought me flowers. I made a lot of friends with the nursing staff and everybody.”

With a significant investment from HCA Healthcare, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) renovated its operating rooms and in the summer of 2021 began surgical services again, a service which had been on a 6-year hiatus.

“I think it’s important for a small community to have a local hospital where they can get services that are reasonable and safe

to be provided for that community,” said Tom Neal, CEO at HCH.

While HCH has now had surgical services for about 3 years, Royal’s was the first knee replacement done at HCH. Neal also said that HCH did a shoulder replacement recently and its first hip replacement last week.

Neal noted that the hospital offers inpatient rehab services, which some bigger hospitals don’t have. Royal did her physical therapy at HCH and is now walking well.

Asked what she was looking forward to doing with the new knee, she said, “Clogging. Square dancing – that’s the truth.”

Royal is feeling great and has had no problems since her surgery. Dr. Mark Moriarty was Royal’s surgeon, who Neal praised for his skill and offered his gratitude that he is here caring for patients on the Plateau.

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## CLE offers insight into cyberthreats and cybersecurity FBI special agent, Meredith Fitzpatrick

By Matt Salerno

CLE Summer Programs and Events Assistant

During her career as a FBI special agent, Meredith Fitzpatrick has seen it all. She has thwarted cyber-attacks from Russia, stopped theft of intellectual property by China, and led investigations into cryptocurrency laundering and investment fraud schemes. Fitzpatrick led arrest operations in Nigeria, across Europe, and domestically within the United States. As well as working to protect national security, Fitzpatrick has offered her investigative expertise to companies experiencing data breaches or falling victim to ransomware and has even offered her assistance to individuals devastated by personal identity theft.

She has since moved into the

private sector working as the Director for Cryptocurrency for Forensic Risk Alliance, a law firm that works with clients from around the world. Fitzpatrick now assists entities such as the Department of Justice and the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control to investigate illegal crypto-currency enabled money-laundering schemes and market trading practices.

On Tuesday June 11th she will be visiting the Highlands-Cashiers Center For Life Enrichment where she will be telling all you need to know about cybersecurity.

The FBI estimated that in 2022 Americans lost \$10.3 billion dollars to cybercrimes varying from scams to personal online attacks. In a digital age it is more important than ever to be technologically literate. Fitzpatrick has said that “The explosive growth

of the blockchain technology and cryptocurrency industries has produced exciting new technologies and financial products.” However, she notes the new challenges these technologies posed as “it has also completely transformed the way companies need to think about the ever-increasing regulatory environment, and risk, Anti Money Laundering and Sanctions exposure.” Fitzpatrick will cut through the confusion and tell attendees what they need to know to keep their businesses, families, and themselves safe from cybercrimes.

Admission to her lecture costs \$30 for CLE members and \$40 for non-members. For more information on programs and registration, please visit [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com), call (828) 526-8811, or visit the office anytime Monday through Friday, 9:30am to 4:30pm.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Rotarians hear about the ‘Unspoken Emotion’ and other mental health issues

David Hodgson, retired counsellor and Delta Airlines HR professional, recently spoke to the Rotary Club of Highlands about loneliness – the unspoken emotion – and other mental health issues. Members were surprised to learn that in the US population, loneliness is greatest among 11-24 year olds. Not only is this emotion connected to depression, anxiety, and rising suicide rates, but it is also related to increased physical problems that until recently were only seen in adults.

Loneliness among members of Gen Z is ascribed to the different wiring of their brains, now described as “network brains” which is very different from “community brains” of people born before Gen Z. Gen Z members have utilized technology throughout their lives and depend on it for socialization, information, entertainment and managing their personal brands. People born before the advent of cellphones and other communication



Dave O'Harra, President; David Hodgson, Speaker; Jane Jerry, Host

platforms depended on their communities for relationships, education, and feedback about how to get along in the world.

“The business of the brain is how to survive” Hodgson said. The interface between generations now often depends on the rate and role of technology during the 26-year maturation of the human brain.

The focus on mental

health issues was one of several Rotary presentations during May, Mental Health Month. Hodgson commended the Counseling Center and Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation for the Bee Kind Campaign which promotes kindness to combat loneliness and decrease the stigma of talking about mental health issues.

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ARTSPACE  
First Presbyterian Church  
Highlands, NC

Inaugural Exhibit:

*Nature and Grow*



"Pretty Place" by Michele Schwartz

**OPENING RECEPTION**  
June 13, 5:00-6:30

**First Presbyterian Church—Faith & Fellowship Building**  
Lower Level—Enter via 5<sup>th</sup> Street or Church Street

471 Main Street • 828-526-3175 • [fpchighlands.org](http://fpchighlands.org)

*Free and Open to the Public*



# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## 'ArtSpace' at First Presbyterian kicks off June 13

*Inaugural Exhibition | June-August 2024  
"Nurture and Grow"*

*Faith & Fellowship Building, Lower level  
Opening Reception on Thursday, June 13, 5-6:30 pm*

By Kim Lewicki

Highlands First Presbyterian Church has created an "ArtSpace" in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the notion that art can say what words cannot by illustrating an artist's gifts of creativity and imagination.

"Visual arts have the power to draw forth deep emotions, to inspire, and to bring even more beauty into the world," said Pastor Emily Wilmarth. "The mission of ArtSpace at First Presbyterian is to create space for the visual arts to celebrate the Holy Spirit's gifts of creativity and imagination."

Within the congregation of First Presbyterian and throughout the community, artists pour themselves into their craft, whether they paint, sculpt, sew, take photographs, draw, or design. By doing so, they tell stories that can open minds and hearts to experience God's creation and presence more profoundly.

"We seek to deepen connections with each other and the Divine, to inspire cre-



ativity, and to grow in faith as art offers us new perspectives and speaks to our souls in a language beyond words," said Wilmarth. "What we trust is that when God gives us gifts, the possibilities for creating beauty and wonder are limitless."

To kick off the new initiative, ArtSpace is centered around the theme "Nurture and Grow" and will feature works of members of First Presbyterian, but the hope is to expand to the community of Highlands and beyond.

ArtSpace will feature a curated exhibit about every three months centered on different themes, with "Nurture and Grow" followed by "Harvest" this fall and Advent in December – "From Darkness to Light."

Due to the space limitations, art will be juried by a church committee.

The opening reception for ArtSpace is June 13 at 5-6:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Faith and Fellowship Building. There will be refreshments, fellowship and fresh local art.

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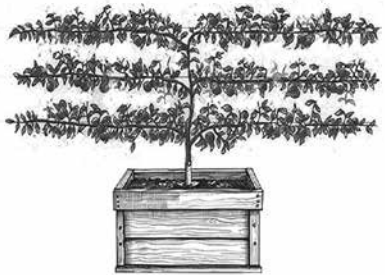
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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Dave O'Harra, President, and new Paul Harris Fellows: Bob Baxter, Jessica Jenkins, Tracy Franklin, Mark Chmar, Josh Bryson.

## Rotarians recognized for outstanding service

Rotarians Dave O'Harra and Jerry Moore exemplified the spirit of Paul Harris when they "pooled their recognition points" to celebrate outstanding Rotarians with Paul Harris Fellowships.

O'Harra said over the past year these individuals have donated countless hours in their volunteer positions.

"Bob Baxter organizes our Bingo nights, Jessica Jenkins chairs our International/Foundation Committee, Tracy Franklin is our Sergeant-at-Arms and Highlands School Interact Chair, Mark Chmar serves as Program Chair and Josh

Bryson began the year handling technology and creating PowerPoint messages for every meeting and is now our Membership Chair," said O'Harra. "Each of these remarkable people says, 'yes' to every request I make of them."

Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905 when he gathered diverse business associates together to exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions of \$1,000 or 1,000 recognition points made in their name.

**Highlands- Cashiers Chamber Music Festival**  
July 6 - August 11, 2024  
www.h-cmusicfestival.org hccmfnc@gmail.com 828-526-9060



HIGHLANDS  
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## Outdoor Concert Series

Each Friday and Saturday night from May through October, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC hosts live music downtown.

*Join us for our May and June concerts!*  
All shows take place from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

### Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Showcasing traditional 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  
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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



visithighlandsnc.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](http://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 places 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](mailto: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

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# HIGHLANDS

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## Highlands Volunteer Fair

Are you looking to get involved?  
Join us to learn more about volunteer opportunities in Highlands!

Thursday, June 6  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Highlands Recreation Center  
600 North Fourth Street

*Light refreshments will be served.*

This event is hosted by the  
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

For more information:  
[highlandschamber.org](http://highlandschamber.org)  
828-526-5841

[visithighlandscnc.com](http://visithighlandscnc.com)



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.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 craft afternoons. 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 [npost370@gmail.com](mailto:npost370@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 6

• Highlands Motoring: "One Lap of the

Mountains- Grande"- Driving Tour 8:30am-4pm

## Fri.-Sat., June 7-8

• At Foxfire in Mountain City, GA, Heritage Days, 9a to 4p. Demonstrations, Children's Village, hands-on activities, music and food. 98 Foxfire Lane. 706-746-5828.

## Fri., June 7

• Highlands Motoring: "One Lap of the Mountains - Speciale" Driving Tour 9:30am to 4pm. Main Street Parade of Classic Cars 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

• At Hudson Library, Alabama author James Ray Brown will give a talk about his recent release Death in McComb; the J Patrick Allen Story on Friday at 11 AM. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program. Death in McComb: The J. Patrick Allen Story mirrors the reality often faced by

those who have lost a loved one at an industrial site. This story, set in southern Mississippi, begins on the first day of COVID protocols four years ago as men and women stand six feet apart and have their temperatures taken. One of those in this long line loses his life that day as an operator turns on the wrong machine, a dreadful mistake that costs a man his life and leaves his wife and three children widowed and orphaned.

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – The Foxfire Boys

## Sat., June 8

• Highlands Motoring: "Classics in the Park" Invitational Judged Car Show in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park 9:30am to 4pm "Celebration Gala" 6pm to 9pm.

• HOT SPRINGS POOLS and Spas will

• See **EVENTS** page 22

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## Canticle 12 A Song of Creation

*Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

**Rev. Kirkland "Skully"  
Knight**  
The Episcopal Church of  
the incarnation

### The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,  
and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas,  
and streams, \*

O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

This is a Canticle that is read or sung as part of the Daily Office, and it reminds me of Highlands. I am new to town, moved here in January, and it seems that Highlands has become more beautiful each day that we have been here.

Whether by miracle or parable, Jesus is always helping others to see — to see things in a new way in a new light. Even when Saul has his experience of Jesus and is blinded, after a few days "something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored." His life was completely changed, and he saw the world as new. He wasn't just transformed, but when he looked at the world and the people around him, it was all new. What a gift.

I'm sure I'm preaching to choir a little bit here, but as I see Highlands blossom into spring and summer for the first time, I hope that no matter how many "seasons" you have spent here, you can, too. It is a joyous thing to see something for the first time. Conversely, there can almost be a sadness when things become normalized — when we allow amazing things to become commonplace.

One of the things that I've been reminded of in my time at the Church of the Incarnation, is that when we come to worship, first and foremost we come to be in the presence of God. And even though we come week in and week out, that should never get old. When we find ourselves in the midst of God, that never gets old. It's new and special and glorious every time, and that's the way it should be.

And when we find ourselves in the midst of God's beautiful creation, that shouldn't get old either. I hope this is a wonderful season in Highlands for all of us. May we see it in a fresh light, as something new. Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, O springs of water, seas, and streams, O beasts of the wild, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

# • 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**  
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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**  
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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
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Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays  
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ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org  
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Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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**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**  
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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers  
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from May 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## May 15

• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a report of a motor vehicle theft and a simple assault that occurred on Pine Street where a young man was removed from a black truck valued at \$10,000 which was then driven away.

## May 21

• At 5:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Satulah Ridge Road.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 28.**

## May 28

**...SOCCER continued from page 1**

play after those storms," said Jeff Weller. "But that's the reason we need the turf."

Weller, who has been involved with the soccer field as a coach and as an architect, believes a turf field will solve the problems once a new drainage system is installed.

Recent findings reported by Macon County Schools' Auxiliary Services Director Todd Gibbs to the Macon County Board of Commissioners shed light on the ongoing drainage issues plaguing the soccer field due in part to the adjacent mountain slope at Highlands School.

"There is a layer of the old pond soil back there that is keeping 60%-70% of the field from draining properly down deeper," said Weller. "The report suggested possible solutions."

The results of a year-long geological survey reveal that the field, often bogged down by heavy rains typical of the

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Church Street.

• At 6:34 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Hospital Drive.

## May 29

• At 12:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

## May 30

• At 9:18 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Way.

## May 31

• At 3:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on South Street.

• At 4:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on N. Cobb Road.

• At 8:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

## June 1

• At 9:17 a.m., the dept. investigated the source of an odor at a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 8:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Way.

## June 2

• At 3:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hudson Road.

• At 9:32 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

## June 3

• At 1:23 p.m., the dept. rescued a man who fell on the rocks at Bust Your Butt Falls. The rescue crew got him out of the water and he walked to the ambulance and was transported to the hospital.

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Upstairs and Across the Walkway at Falls on Main Highlands

Highlands plateau, is frequently rendered unusable, causing the school's soccer teams to forfeit games.

In May 2023, the county approved a proposal from Ronnie Dilbeck of CreekStone Environmental and Geological Services of Franklin to conduct a comprehensive survey. Over the past year, Dilbeck has taken soil boring samples from the field to get informed decisions on potential drainage systems and the feasibility of natural grass versus turf.

According to Dilbeck, there are two potential solutions to the problem. The first involves removing all the muck from the underlying pond and swamp, relocating it, refilling the area with aggregate, and then adding soil, sand, and grass on top. This method aims to create a more stable and dry field surface.

The second solution proposed is to design a new drainage

• See **SOCCER** page 22

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

### HELP WANTED

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### 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.
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## ...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 21

- Sales Acumen: Proven skills in sales and engagement.
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## ...SOCCER continued from page 19

system similar to the existing one. However, the geologist cautioned that, like the current system, this new drainage system would eventually lose its efficiency over time due to the persistent issues with the pond and swamp muck, which would eventually infiltrate the drainage system.

The field's drainage issues are exacerbated by the presence of four streams coming off the hill adjacent to the school with the drainage ditch in the area being higher than the field itself. This setup allows water to flow into the field, compounding the already swampy conditions. Historically, the area has struggled with water management, as evidenced by the softball field that once

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occupied the same space.

Additionally, moisture problems have been identified in the elementary wing of Highlands School, where floor tiles continuously pop up due to the moisture seeping from underneath the building.

The findings and recommendations have prompted further discussion among county officials and school administrators on the best course of action to address the drainage issues and ensure the field remains usable for the school's soccer teams and other activities.

Still in the budget process, funding discussions concerning the soccer field will continue.

## ...EVENTS continued from page 17

be hosting its first Arts & Crafts Fair in Franklin at 556 Highlands Road, on Saturday from 10a to 3p. Interested crafters, please email [khowell@hspools.com](mailto:khowell@hspools.com) to reserve your spot today!

• Saturdays on Pine features Bill Mattocks 6-8:30 p.m.

### Sun., June 9

• Highlands Motoring: "High Octane" Social and Car Gathering in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. 8:30am to 11am.

• "Exploring Scotland 2024," a visual photo tour by artist Maryellen Tully, will be presented Sunday at 3 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library. Tully invites attendees to experience the country through the eyes of five seniors (herself and four traveling companions), driving the winding narrow roads from Edinburgh to Piclockery as they explore and photograph Scotland's landscapes (gorse, heather, and thistle); culture (architecture, paintings, and sculptures); and food (blood pudding, sloes berries, and haggis).

• At First Baptist Church Highlands, a Marriage Seminar by Dr. Shanon Roberts who will focus on communication, connection, conflict, management from 6-8 p.m. It's free and all are welcome. 220 Main Street,

### Wed. June 12

• Ask an economist at the Hudson Library in Highlands at 6p. Dr. Sean Mulholland, professor of economics and Director of the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise at WCU is the speaker and can provide pertinent information and answer questions about what is happening in the US economy and what it means for North Carolina.

### 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 [fp-chartspace@gmail.com](mailto:fp-chartspace@gmail.com) for info.

### Fri., June 14

• 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.

• 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

• 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.foundersparkhighlands.org](http://www.foundersparkhighlands.org) and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

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

### 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

• 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](http://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](mailto:hope@hcltnc.org) to sign up!



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