

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 22

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

Thurs., May 30, 2024



The playground will be next to the current tennis courts and skateboard park.

Fundraising has started in earnest for new Rec Park playground

By Kim Lewicki

It all started in 2023, when an anonymous donor stepped forward with a \$50,000 contribution to be used toward the building of a new playground in Highlands - a playground that will be 100% inclusive, meaning for children of a variety of ages and even those with physical disabilities.

That donation spearheaded a collaboration between the town of Highlands, its Recreation Committee, Highlands Chamber of Commerce and interested businesses, nonprofits and individuals

who now plan to bring the dream of the playground to fruition.

The new playground will be on the grounds of the Highlands Civic Center/Rec Park property adjacent to the tennis courts and skateboard park.

Many design elements are planned to celebrate nature - for example, concrete-formed hollow trees will serve as sliding boards and soft, earth-tone colors will mimic nature's colors.

The Highlands Nature Center is creating a built-in scavenger hunt, to teach children about native

species and Highlands' history. And, it wouldn't be Highlands if a salamander wasn't involved so the centerpiece of the playground will be a giant salamander that kids can climb on.

Systematic reviews have consistently identified positive associations between time spent outdoors and physical activity. Children and youth who are more physically active reap multiple benefits including better motor and cognitive development, greater cardiovascular fitness, reduced cardiometabolic

• See **PLAYGROUND** page 10

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	HS Graduation.....	8
Weather	2	Events.....	16
Hic's View	2	Spiritually Speaking	18
Investing at 4118 Ft.....	4	Police and Fire.....	19
Letter	7	Classifieds	21

At joint mtg, BOC says 'yes' to new FHS and Highlands S. renovations

Commissioners Shearl and Higdon argue against it

By Brittney Lofthouse

During Tuesday night's joint budget meeting held between the Macon County Board of Commissioners and the Macon County Board of Education, a 3-2 vote was cast to proceed with the construction of a new Franklin High School. After additional discus-

sion, a 4-1 vote was cast to also advance to the next phase of the renovation project for Highlands School.

The meeting commenced with a presentation from project architects, LS3P, detailing the extensive planning and budgeting

• See **RENOVATIONS** page 11

MC School System's funding request from county comes up short

The Macon County Board of Education recently submitted its budget request for fiscal year 2025, outlining ambitious plans to enhance the county's educational landscape. However, the proposed funding by County Manager Derek Roland has sparked discussions regarding the scope and feasibility of

these enhancements.

Operational Funding

County Manager Derek Roland's FY '25 Recommended Budget proposes an increase of \$335,405 in operational funding for the Macon County School System, bringing the total annual

• See **FUNDING** page 12



Highlands Falls Country Club
Merging Comfort & Refinement

1356 Falls Drive East

4 BEDROOMS | 4.5 BATHROOMS | MLS# 104181

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Jody Lovell | (828) 226.6303

McCULLLEY'S

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

In Highlands ...on the hill
242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407

Open 7 days a week

www.mcculleys.com

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

What to do with the Playhouse?

It will be a hard decision: what is the future of the Highlands Playhouse building? First, some background.

The Highlands Playhouse has been a fixture in the town for a long time. Originally built as the auditorium for the Highlands School in 1931, in the late 1930s, the Highlands Little Theater used the building for summer productions. In 1952, the building was acquired by the Town of Highlands, and in 1972, the theater company acquired 501(c)(3) tax exemption status and then became known as Highlands Community Theatre.

There have been a lot of great performances in that building, and many grand memories have been created. But time has not been kind to the building, and it is in a very poor state of repair. It's been vacant now for well over a year.

At the town retreat in March, Mosley Architects presented a structural assessment, which was not encouraging, to say the very least. To bring the facility to code



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

and remodel it into a new, usable, and safe space would be expensive. Shannon Calloway of Mosley Architects gave a preliminary estimate of about \$2.6 to renovate the playhouse but qualified this initial assessment by stating that a deeper dive into the building's condition might even drive the costs up more. Since then, I have talked with knowledgeable people who say the costs could eventually be 3 to 4 million dollars. The cost estimates do not include any additional upgrades or functional changes. Basically, it would be a teardown and rebuild it from the foundation on up. Any historical preservation would pretty much be lost.

Keeping in mind all the good service the facility has provided, and when thinking of rebuilding or remodeling, and beyond the cost, two issues must be considered: parking and land use. First, parking has always been an issue; few spaces are directly available at the facility. Second, deed restrictions on the land use prevents the building from being sold or leased to for-profit organizations. This limits the types of uses for the space.

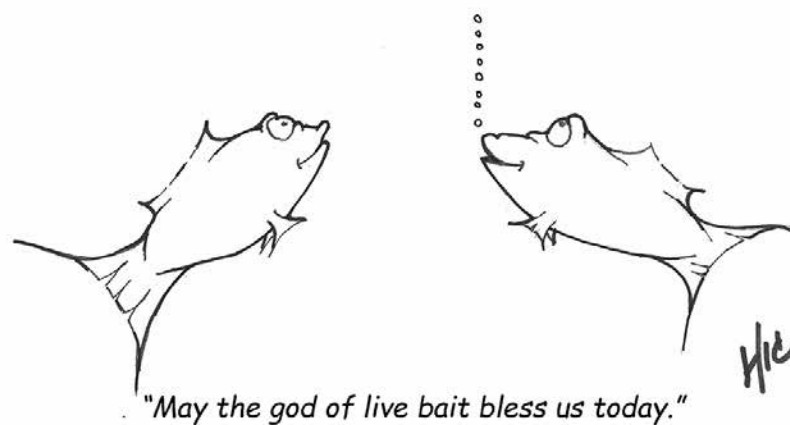
Regrettably, I think there are other capital investments that the town could make that would have a broader impact on the community. For instance, the proposed playground at the Highlands Recreation Center and a new after-school and summer program building are in need of funding. Supporting and providing childcare is critical, and such facilities would be key components in an overall childcare plan.

Another question is what would be the purpose of the restored building? Highlands has a wonderful new Performing Art Center where the Mountain Theater Company performs. Is there a need to do plays and lectures at the Highlands Playhouse? If the community wants to raise funds for more performance and lecture space, I suggest building a black box or small theater for these activities at PAC. The original PAC design called for such a small theater.

If the playhouse were restored, who would maintain and operate it? Probably the town. The restoration costs are just one initial commitment to such a project; there would be sizable, ongoing maintenance and

• See **MAYOR** page 10

• HIC'S VIEW •







• CORRECTION •

In the May 23 article entitled "What's next concerning STRs in Highlands" we reported that Commissioner Jeff Weller got the most votes during the 2023 Town Board election.

Weller was second in line not first. Incumbent Commissioner Brian Stiehler got the highest number of votes at 287; Commissioner Jeff Weller was second with 258 votes.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

• WEATHER •

Thu, 30-May	Fri, 31-May	Sat, 1-Jun	Sun, 2-Jun
 68°F 45°F	 72°F 44°F	 70°F 50°F	 68°F 53°F
Sunny and comfortable	Sunny and comfortable	Partly sunny and beautiful	Mostly cloudy
RealFeel® High: 76° Low: 54°	RealFeel® High: 79° Low: 57°	RealFeel® High: 77° Low: 58°	RealFeel® High: 69° Low: 58°

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

Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

Letter Policy:

There is a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

Obituary Policy:

We do not charge for obituaries at this time, but we reserve the right to edit as needed for space.

HIGHLANDER ROOFING SERVICES INC.

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

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



ELIZABETH LOCKE

DESIGNER SHOWCASE

JUNE 21 - 23



[view details](#)

Acorns 

45%-65% off all Cleaning and Repairs!

SALE

Open for the last 39 years, Shiraz has been offering wholesale prices to the public on its entire inventory of genuinely hand woven oriental rugs. Thousands of antique and contemporary pieces from around the world.

HAND CLEANING • RESTORATION • APPRAISALS



Mon-Sat 9:30AM-6PM Sun 12NOON-5PM

We Purchase Antique Rugs

(828) 526-5759

Main Street • Oak Square • Highlands, NC 28741

www.shirazruggalleries.com

Shiraz

Cash or Checks Accepted
OTHER SHOWROOMS:
TAMPA, NAPLES, SARASOTA

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

People, Property and Psychology

The world of real estate involves the three Ps: people, property, and psychology. The psychology of buying a home involves many different motivations and aspirations. Here are some observations after selling real estate on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau for the last twenty-three years:

1. Emotion matters more than logic. Buyers are investing in more than just houses when they buy them. They are buying a lifestyle, a dream, and a sense of community. Especially in resort communities such as this area, the decision to buy a second home triggers longing for family get-togethers, chilly nights by the fireplace, and a sense of belonging. Rational factors such as practicality and financial constraints often take a backseat to emotions.

2. Aspirations dominate the decision. A house is a canvas on which people paint their dreams; it is more than bricks and mortar. Buyers are drawn to homes that fit their aspirations whether that is becoming a noteworthy chef, a better golfer or a master gardener. You are more motivated to pursue hobbies or goals if you can picture yourself succeeding in a certain environment. Personal development frequently acts as a motivating factor in real estate decisions.

3. Extension of identity. Your house is a physical representation of your identity. The homes we select from rustic lodges to contemporary condos reflect our personalities, values, and taste. Searching for the right home is like searching for the right soul mate: you want a home that fills your sense of self. A nature lover might want lots of windows bringing the outdoor in while a social butterfly may gravitate toward the open floor plan to facilitate entertaining.

4. A next chapter. Significant life changes often precipitate home purchasing. In a second home community, retirement, empty nesters or a growing family all may initiate the search for a mountain home. This is more than just a real estate purchase; it involves the desire to have a new chapter of life experience.

5. Community connection. The search for a mountain home involves determining not only that the general area fits your



Jody Lovell
Highlands and Cashiers
Sotheby's International Realty
828.526.4104

personality, but searching for the right club or neighborhood that is comfortable for you and your family. Taking time to evaluate the different vibes of various communities is key to contentment with your decision.

6. Timing. Some people delay making a home purchase waiting on the perfect time in the market or their life. Covid seemed to infect buyers with more than germs. It created a greater sense of urgency to live your life and to create memories

now instead of waiting for a perfect time that may never come.

7. Obsessive Biases. Some buyers fixate on certain issues instead of focusing on the big picture: purchasing a home for your and your family's future. The process can get bogged down with repair issues and frustration with negotiations. My advice is always to keep your eye on the prize and to calmly work through the process.

8. FOMO: Fear of missing out. Social media portrays that others are buying homes that you wanted, thus creating a false sense of urgency in some instances. Real estate agents can assist buyers in striking a balance between good opportunities and overvalued properties.

In summary, emotions and logic sometimes collide when purchasing a home. Find a trusted real estate agent to be your coach and advisor during the process. For example, some clients were recently considering an investment property to remodel and flip. They were eager to jump in and conclude the deal. After I pointed out some fatal flaws that could not be fixed with remodeling, they pulled away and were grateful that they took the time to ask for advice. When you do find the right home for you and your family, it is truly an exhilarating feeling. If you are a buyer, may you arrive at that moment when the timing is right.

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, the top producing firm in Highlands and Cashiers. Their team of over 40 brokers in three offices spanning the Plateau are here to serve your needs. Call them today for assistance at 828.526.4104.

Highlands

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Nominated for 'America's Best'
Top 5% of Brokers in 2022* HCMLS
20 years experience

Nominated for 'America's Best'
Top 5% of Brokers in 2022* HCMLS
20 years experience

Andrea Gabbard
c: 828.200.6742
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Lunch
Mon. - Sat.
11a to 3p

DON LEON'S

New Summer Schedule!

With the same menu, low prices, FREE coffee and an older more mellow attitude!
Come by for a visit and enjoy those Appalachian Fries and a fresh Gyro!

Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese Steak • Shrimp Pita • Susan's Rueben
Italian Sausage • Chicken Wings • Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings • Fried Shrimp
Fish n' Chips • Chicken Fingers and more!

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

UNRIVALED LUXURY



#1 in the Carolinas
Since 1957



35 Hemlock Ridge

Highlands, NC 28741 | \$1,850,000 | MLS #104307
Julie Osborn & Pat Allen | 828-200-6165



237 Buckberry Drive

Sapphire, NC 28774 | \$1,550,000 | MLS #104338
Kelly Ramsay & Dan Doughty | 828-556-1252



HIGHLANDS-DOWNTOWN OFFICE | 828.526.8784
CASHIERS OFFICE | 828.547.0022
SAPPHIRE OFFICE | 828.507.3156
WILDCAT CLIFFS OFFICE | 828.526.4525

Scan to see our luxury listings



Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

Rooted locally. Connected globally.

Leading

REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD®



• HIGHLANDS DINING •

W WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO



American Cuisine with a Creole Twist and German Flair

Celebrating Our 30th Year
Taste the Difference, Always Fresh!

Wednesday - Sunday
Bistro Opens at 4pm | Dining Room at 5:30pm



474 Main Street | 828.526.3807
wolfgangs.net

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern & Highlander Mountain House



MON., TUES., WED.
Closed
THURSDAY
Open
Dinner
5:30-10p
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Open
Lunch & Dinner
11:30a to 10p
SUNDAY
Open
for **BRUNCH** only
10a to 5p

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



The Secret Garden

Sandwich shop and gourmet food market

Open Year-Round

Mon.-Fri. 11:30a to 5p • Sat. 12-5p (and during Music in the Park Saturday nights!)



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

Offering a variety of hot and cold specialty sandwiches, various salads, desserts and charcuterie prepared by a Johnson & Wales certified chef. Stop by and enjoy a hot sandwich, a cup of homemade soup and a daily pasta salad. We have indoor and outdoor courtyard seating, and a large variety of drink options including wine and beer.

Can't linger?

Call (828) 305-7509 to place a pick-up order.

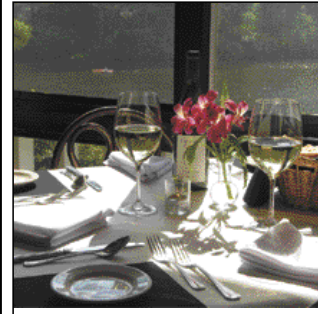


Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p
Closed Tuesdays
828.526.3554
595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah

42 Years of Fine Dining



Open
5:30-9p
7 Days a
Week

828-526-2338
US 64w • Highlands

www.ontheverandah.com



828-526-4035

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



Open
7 Days
a Week
Lunch: 11a-3:30p
Dinner:
5:30p - until



Open Tuesday - Saturday
Dinner Starts @ 5:30 PM

Outdoor Dining / Dine-In Art Gallery / lakesiderestaurant.info



531 Smallwood Ave 828-526-9419 HIGHLANDS

• DINING •

Asia House
 Japanese • Asian • Thai Cuisine

Take-out & Dine-in

Open noon-9p
 Closed Wednesdays

828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900

151 Helen's Barn Avenue

A HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOTEL

OUTPOST
 COFFEE BAR
 NOW OPEN



Thursday through Sunday —
 from 8am —

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

HIGHLANDS BURRITO



highlandsburrito.com
 Dine in or Pick up To Go • (828) 526-9313

Edelweiss Pastry Boutique

Homecraftd Scratch Bakery
 Desserts made from fine ingredients and
 Belgium Chocolate



Weddings, Catering, Bread, Patisserie and
 Custom Cakes

10a-4p Wednesday-Sunday
 828-200-2700
 892 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC

Dusty's
 Making Life
 Delicious!!

Rhodes Superette

HAND CUT STEAKS
 TAKE AND BAKE DINNERS
 WINES~BAKERY~DELI
 SPECIALTY FOODS~GIFTS

OPEN TUESDAY - FRIDAY 9-530
 SATURAY 9-5, CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY
 493 DILLARD RD - 828.526.2762

• LETTER •

A President for all?

Dear Editor,

Recently Donald Trump spoke at the NRA convention and promised to roll back gun control measures enacted under Biden and fire the head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He was awarded with a roar of approval. However, in a 2023 survey by Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions there was broad agreement for gun violence prevention policies regardless of political affiliation or gun ownership.

The approved policies include temporary gun restraining orders in domestic violence cases, a family's ability to remove guns from a relative believed to be at risk of harming self or others, the need to obtain a license before buying a gun, the necessity of locking up guns and ammunition when not in use and the funding of gun violence prevention

programs. While the support for these policies was lowest among Republicans, support ranged from 54-76% among the total group surveyed by Johns Hopkins. Whose vote was Trump seeking that day?

Regarding abortion Trump has openly touted his pride in nominating three justices to the Supreme Court who were instrumental in overturning Roe v Wade. Trump has been all over the place regarding policy resulting from that decision. In a recent Time magazine interview, he stated it would be up to individual states to determine what rights the government has to monitor women's pregnancies and/or punish them for obtaining abortions. His comments allowed for the possibility of this kind of control while not clarifying his position. The same is true for outlawing birth control.

Abortion continues to be an issue for Americans with 52% identifying as pro-choice and 44% as pro-life. As to the overturning of Roe v Wade 38% say it was a good thing, while 62% regard it as negative. Can Donald Trump be their president?

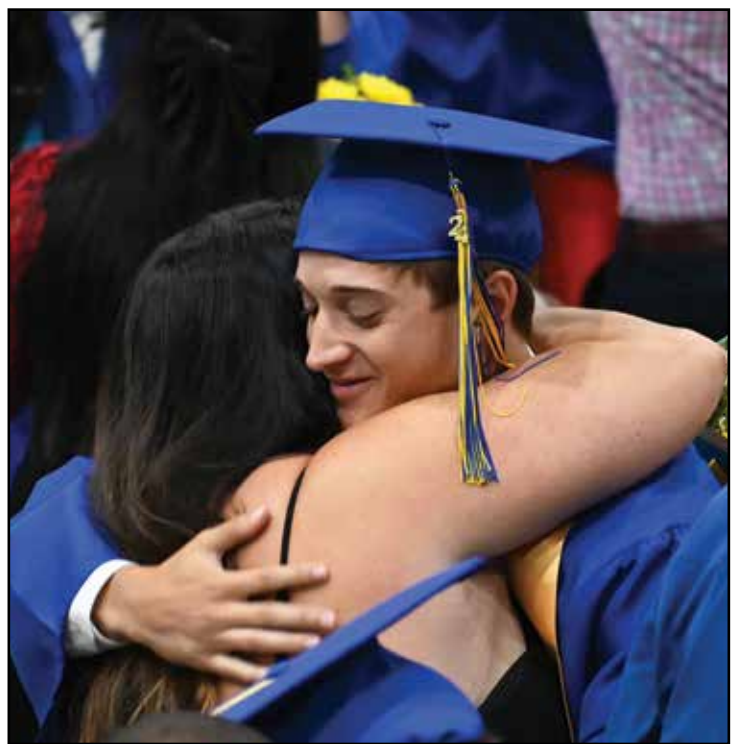
Another issue broadly touted by the candidate is immigration. Border policy has been outdated for at least the last 20 years, in critical need of updating, yet the most recent bi-partisan proposal was torpedoed by Republicans under the direction of Donald Trump. According to the Heritage Foundation's 2025 Plan, which was created with the assistance of Trump allies, in a second term he would ramp up immigration policies restricting both legal and illegal immigrants. Under the proposed plan people from some Muslim majority countries would be banned from entry, re-imposing the refusal of asylum claims. Unauthorized immigrants would be rounded up and deported by the millions, being detained in camps while awaiting deportation flights. To facilitate the policy, in addition to federal police, local police and national guard troops would be deputized. The requirement for due process hearings would be eliminated. As many as 11 million undocumented immigrants would be uprooted after years, or even decades, of settling here.

Views on immigration remain mixed and highly partisan among the US population. According to a 2023 Gallup poll no one is totally satisfied, especially since the bombing of the World Trade Center in 2001 when dissatisfaction was at an all-time high. Since then, dissatisfaction with immigration has remained steady or increased in older people while it has decreased in younger and middle-aged citizens. When queried in an NPR/Marist Poll in 2024 57% of registered voters believe welcoming others to our country is essential to our national identity. This is down however from 61% in 2021. That positive number is strongly representative of Democrats rather than Republicans, 84% vs 27%. Independents are slightly skewed to welcoming others, 55% vs 44%. Yet immigration policy is aimed at the older 44% of the electorate that is fearful of welcoming the stranger. Are these the people for whom Trump is running to be President?

There are more policy issues we could and should address, including taxation, healthcare for all, inflation, and global warming to name a few, that would give us a clue to Trump's intentions. However, the proposals addressed here, in this letter, and many more put forward in the 2025 Plan, should leave us asking "Does Trump want to be my President?" in addition to "Do I want Trump to be my President?"

Margaret Pickett
 Highlands

Highlands School Class of 2024 graduation - Sat., May 25



By Brian O'Shea

Highlands School celebrated the graduating class of 2024 at a ceremony held in the new gym on Saturday, May 25.

Salutatorian Brooke Fogarty welcomed the crowd after an invocation delivered by Justin Bohner.

Highlands Principal Sarah Holbrooks said some heartfelt remarks before Highlands Teacher Chris Green took the podium and delivered the commencement address.

Highlands seniors then crossed the stage and received their diplomas.

Highlands Valedictorian Olivia Cole delivered the Farewell Address. Class Mascots were Paisley Keener and Maverick Ramey.

Graduating seniors were: Inman Ahrens, Allison Buck, Olivia Cole, Nicolas Cotton Artega, Catelynn Couch, Brooke Fog-

arty, Henry Garcia Lopez, Harrison Gates, Landon Green, Cooper Hall, John Head, Sara McDonald, Danny Mendoza Cortez, Peyton Naron, Jasmine Oakley, Daggar Owens, Luke Ramos, Evelin Rios Gopar, Annamaria Silverthorn, Madison Smith, Darby Templeton, Caitlin Tingin, Alexis Turner, MacKenzie Woods and mascots Paisley Keener and Maverick Ramey.

**Photos
by
Brian O'Shea**



Highlands Food & Wine tickets to go on sale, at noon **Thursday, June 13**

Tickets for the 8th annual Highlands Food & Wine (Nov. 7-10), will go on sale Thursday, June 13th at 12 noon EDT, according to Highlands Festivals, Inc., the organization that hosts the fall event and the springtime Bear Shadow music festival.

“We are looking forward to celebrating eight years of the fabulous food, wine and music that makes Highlands Food & Wine Festival one of the hottest tickets in town,” said David Bock, president of the Highlands Festivals, Inc. board. “This year’s festival promises to be another premier culinary experience with an exciting array of musical performances to top it off. Mark your calendars now to get your tickets on June 13th!”

Prices are the same as 2023 and all four signature events include food, beverage and live music.

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.

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

Highlands Food & Wine features world-class food from renowned local and regional chefs from across the Southeast, as well as fine wine and spirits, specialty dinners and more. Signature events include the popular Grand Tasting, ‘Truckin’, Main Event and Sunday’s A Shot at Redemption brunch.

Ticket options include VIP Weekender (inclusive of the 4 signature events), as well as General Admission tickets for individual events. The chef and music talent lineups will be announced in the coming weeks. Tickets are projected to sell out quickly.

For more information about tickets, interested patrons should visit <https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/>.

Highlands Food & Wine Festival is proudly presented by Highlands Festivals, Inc. and presenting festival sponsor, Visit Highlands. Presenting event sponsors include: Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Meadows Mountain Realty and Old Edwards Inn & Spa.



Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

Listen for the call of the Highlands Bagpipers as they perform from a different location one Saturday of each month through October.

This Month's Performance:

Highlands United Methodist Church
315 Main Street
Saturday, June 1 | 4:30 – 5 p.m.

Performances are made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.



828-526-2112
visithighlandscnc.com

Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment Program Highlights

US Strategy in the Western Pacific, 1890 to Present

Presenter: Bill Stueck, Monday, June 3,
 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

How AI is Revolutionizing Health Care

Presenter: Dr. Ben deBoisblanc, Tuesday, June 4,
 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

Social Behavior During Disasters

Presenter: Dr. Ben deBoisblanc,
 Wednesday, June 5, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Vietnam - One Man's Perspective

Presenter: COL Lawrence Saul (Ret.),
 Wednesday, June 5, 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

Modern War

Presenter: COL Lawrence Saul (Ret.),
 Thursday, June 6, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Origins of Rock and Roll Part 1

Presenter: Tom Dell, Thursday, June 6,
 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

Origins of Rock and Roll Part 2

Presenter: Tom Dell, Friday, June 7, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Relishes: Sweet and Savory (Cooking Demo)

Instructor: Susan Hansen, Friday, June 7, 2:00-5:00, \$70/\$80

A Quantum Century

Presenter: Alan Dorsey, Monday, June 10, 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

Cyber Threats, Cybersecurity, and What You Need to Know: The Perspective of a Former FBI Special Agent

Presenter: Meredith Fitzpatrick, Tuesday, June 11, 10:00-12:00,
 \$30/\$40

Understanding Principles of Photography

Presenter: Mark Krancer, Tuesday, June 11, 2:00-5:00, \$50/\$60

Gold Leaf and the Lost Art of Water Gilding

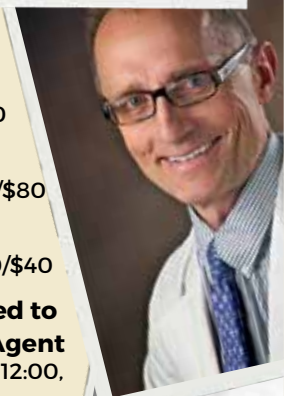
Presenter: Alan Shuptrine, Wednesday, June 12, 10:00-12:00,
 \$30/\$40

Photographing Waterfalls

Presenter: Mark Krancer, Thursday, June 13, 9:00-12:00,
 \$50/\$60

Author Book Talk and Wine Reception: "I Come From a Place"

Presenter: Alan Shuptrine, Thursday, June 13, 4:00-6:00,
 \$70/\$80



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

(828) 526-8811

office@clehighlands.com

...MAYOR continued from page 2

staffing expenditures. And I don't see how the town could justify providing free space to community organizations. Hefty rental fees would have to be in place just to cover some of the operating costs.

Some folks have suggested the town could use a restored building as a government annex with offices and a counsel auditorium. For the costs of restoring the playhouse, the town could easily build a future addition to the current Town Hall with a large public meeting room and offices in a seamlessly connected facility.

I have heard ideas for simply adding more parking and making the area a sitting or picnic area. The comprehensive plan

calls for such facilities. As of today, I believe our current downtown parking situation is acceptable, and the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park does provide an excellent area for picnickers.

One idea I recently heard was to create a new event space. The idea is to have a large open area for events and casual sitting and eating spaces, with a covered, retractable roofing system similar to the swimming pool. Such a pavilion could provide that weather-proof area for events, since in our rainforest environment there is a tendency to "rain on our parade," as they say. Additionally, it is thought that the area sits on

• See MAYOR page 12

...PLAYGROUND continued from page 1



risk and improved bone health. Plus, spending more time outdoors is beneficial for social-emotion and cognitive development, psychosocial health and vision. As to relationships, play engages children in breaking down physical and social barriers.

Town Board Commissioner co-chairs, Brian Stiehler and Jeff Weller are spearheading the project and fundraising is in full swing with hopes that the park will be open and ready for use the fall of 2025.

The total cost of the project is \$1.7 million. The good news is, \$105,000 has been secured to date.

It's expected that the Town of Highlands will make a significant contribution as

well as the county.

Grant writers are busy applying for grants with one already on the table for \$500,000 thanks to the Southwestern Commission.

The remainder of the cost - \$600,000 - will need to come from private donations.

"If this is something that excites you as much as it does me, help us make the new park a reality," said Commissioner Stiehler.

To donate, send a check to PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741, or to pay by credit card, please call 828-526-2118.

Renderings of the proposed park are on display in the lobby of the civic center.

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP BOIL

to benefit
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 15th, 2024

5:00 - 8:00PM, Dinner at 6

\$85 Ticket Includes a Tasty Low Country Boil Dinner, Dessert and 3 Drinks.

Rain or Shine, Tented Event at Oak & Pine Streets, Highlands, NC



Live Music by Back Porch Orchestra

Tickets available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and
The Dry Sink on Main St.

Hosted by Friends of Founders Park, a 501(c)3 organization, www.foundersparkhighlands.org



*The Coolest Golf Course
in Georgia*

Sky Valley
COUNTRY CLUB

• Incredible Views

• Par 72 Championship Course
stretching 6,900 yards of Peaks and Valleys

• Open Daily • Year-Round • Public Golf

2 hrs. northeast of Atlanta • 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC

**For Tee Times, Membership Information or Event Rentals,
please call 706-746-5302
www.skyvalleycountryclub.com**

Orchard Session

Andrew Wooten

THURSDAY, JUNE 20 | 6 - 8 PM

THE FARM
at Old Edwards

purchase tickets

...RENOVATIONS continued from page 1

processes that have culminated in the approval of the new Franklin High School project. The total projected ceiling amount for the new high school stands at approximately \$137 million. The project aims to replace outdated facilities and address long-standing issues such as ADA compliance, with the goal of providing a state-of-the-art educational environment for students.

During the meeting, each commissioner voiced their perspectives on the project. Commissioner Josh Young kicked off the conversation by expressing significant concerns regarding the sudden increase in projected costs, which had jumped from earlier estimates. He stressed the need for transparency and a thorough understanding of the financial implications before committing to such a large expenditure. Young highlighted the importance of having detailed plans and clear communication with constituents to justify the investment.

"We are talking about a significant amount of taxpayer money here," Young said. "I need to see detailed plans and understand where these additional costs are coming from before I can fully support this project."

In response, representatives LS3P, provided an in-depth explanation of the factors contributing to the cost increase. They discussed the complexities of the construction process, the inclusion of modern amenities, and the need for compliance with current building codes and ADA requirements. The detailed breakdown included the replacement of the football stadium and track, the construction of a new field house, press box, home side concessions building, and extensive stormwater management improvements.

"The stormwater management improvements alone are a significant undertaking," explained Emily with LS3P. "We have to resize the underground piping system to handle both on-site and off-site water, ensuring that the new infrastructure can adequately manage stormwater

and prevent flooding issues that have plagued the current facility."

Commissioner John Shearl spoke against the project saying that he was not made aware of many of the details of the project, which have changed over the last few months, until earlier on Tuesday.

"Without knowing exactly why we've had such an increase, without seeing the plans, without all this, and without talking to our constituents, I just, I'm stuck," said Commissioner Shearl. "I understand the timing and stuff, and it is best. But it's best for one category. It's not best for everybody across the board, in my mind. And so that's who I have to look out for in my mind. What's in the best interest of the taxpayers? And a \$20 million [project cost] increase without legitimate plans to see? I just can't support this. And I don't want to not support it. It's been, as everybody says, it's much needed. These children with disabilities, they deserve the right to be able to access their school facilities. I get it. And I want them to as well. I'm not downplaying the need. But to hit me with a \$137 million project unexpectedly, it's tough. It's hard."

Although Commissioner Shearl stated he couldn't support moving forward to the project because the increase project costs were not fully explained, detailed explanations were given during the budget joint session and all questions were thoroughly answered, including how inflation alone accounts for a 1 percent increase in project cost each month the project is delayed. Even after having each of his concerns answered, Shearl noted he still was not informed on the issue.

Macon County Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove expressed his confusion to Shearl's claims that he was left in the dark on the information because the board of education and the commissioners have held half a dozen liaison meetings on the topic and the school system has held community public information meetings to present the information. Both the county and the school system's websites also feature the detailed design plans and project

scope and have for months, giving anyone ample time to review the project.

"We have sponsored public meetings," said Chairman Breedlove. "We actually have put all the information out at the central office. We hired the architects to put together a mock-up showing exactly what the building pretty much looked like, along with the plans. It's been available for public review for several months now. It's actually on our website. The county put it on y'all's website also, showing the plans and what we planned on."

Chairman Breedlove also offered clarification as to Shearl's confusion surrounding the \$137 million cost estimate. "If you look at the project funding summary for the high school, you'll see that the actual construction cost for it was \$113 million and some change," explained Breedlove. "It's the other add-ons or what I would refer to as soft cost, which include all the fees, some of which have been paid, which includes architectural fees, a contingency fund of over \$6.3 mil-

• See **RENOVATIONS** page 22



**BOLD colors
make
Summer
Statements!
...Be a
"Trail Blazer"**

**Choose
carefully
crafted pieces
that serve a
multi-purpose.**

Fancy's & The Exchange
for Men

2060 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC, 2 miles South of Main Street
(828) 526-5029 | (828) 526-1029

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

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

Highlands Mercantile on Main



WESTMAN ATELIER



Fine goods for your family and home.

Books • Chocolates • Coffee • Guy Gifts • Home • Skincare

322 Main Street, Highlands • 828-482-0818

...MAYOR continued from page 10

high ground that could provide for underground parking. I believe the idea has merit, as it could be an extension of the Highlands Park and Recreation Department and thus enable its use as a rentable facility to community groups. Such a development while expensive would complement the existing Veterans Memorial Park in front

of the police station, the new renovations across the street as well and the new ABC store.

In the coming months, the Town Board, after public input and further professional exploration, will have to make a challenging decision concerning the future of the property. I know more ideas will come forward.

...FUNDING continued from page 1

contribution to \$10,031,774. However, the proposed budget falls significantly short of the Board of Education's request for a \$2,546,433 increase. Over the past two fiscal years, Macon County Schools have been granted an increase of \$1,216,043, or 13.7%, in operational funding. These funds have been critical in maintaining locally funded teaching positions and providing state-mandated salary increases for teachers and staff.

The school system's request included funding for 26 new locally funded positions, originally created during the COVID-19 pandemic and funded through the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). With ESSER funding ending, the school system hoped to integrate these positions into the local operating budget.

The requested positions include:

- 19 Teaching Positions: Annual cost of \$1,735,811.
- 7 Mental Health Professionals: Annual cost of \$489,040.
- Athletic Supplements: 10% increase, totaling \$31,720.
- 3% Raise for Classified Employees: Costing \$289,863.

Adding these positions would represent a 63% increase in the number of locally funded teaching positions, marking a substantial new commitment from local funding. Roland's recommended budget does not include funding for the new requested positions. County Manager Roland highlighted that such an increase would signal a "new level" of commitment to locally funded operations that has not yet been agreed upon by the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education.

Capital Funding

While operational funding will see a minimal increase, the county's commitment to investing in the infrastructure of the school system is slated to be substantial this coming year. The annual capital outlay will rise by \$100,000 to \$1,250,000, addressing needs such as enhanced emergency responder radio coverage. Additionally, the FY '25 Capital Improvement Plan outlines approximately \$134 million in capital improvements, including:

- New Franklin High School: \$127,000,000
- Highlands Middle School Renovation and Pre-K: \$6,000,000
- Nantahala Wastewater Treatment Plant: \$650,000

These projects represent the "pinnacle" of education-related capital spending in Macon County. The financing calendar indicates that \$70,100,000 in limited obligation bonds will be secured by September 26, 2024, to fund these projects. The exact costs will be updated once the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is delivered by the construction managers.

While the recommended budget increases operational and capital funding for the Macon County School System, it does not meet the full extent of the Board of Education's requests. The decision to not fund the additional positions and expanded programs reflects a cautious approach to fiscal responsibility, balancing current educational needs with long-term financial stability. As discussions continue, the focus remains on ensuring that Macon County's students receive the best possible education within the constraints of available resources.



L'Artiste has come to Franklin

DIVA'S ON MAIN
BOUTIQUE
JEWELRY
ACCESSORIES

sarahmilleratl@aol.com
24 East Main St
Franklin, NC
(828) 369-7300
(770) 757-7500



REJUVENATE LASER CENTER *Obagi and RLC Skincare Products available*

Monthly Specials **Free Consultations**

- Botox/Dermal Fillers
- Body Contouring
- Chemical Peels
- Dermaplaning
- Electrolysis
- Facials
- Kybella Injections
- Laser Hair Removal
- Laser Skin Resurfacing

TURN BACK TIME

- Laser Tattoo Removal
- Microdermabrasion
- Microneedling
- Pelleve
- Photofacial/IPL
- PicoSure Focus Laser
- Sclerotherapy
- Vitamin Infusion Therapy
- Vitamin Injections

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Creola named HBF's new executive director



Jamie Creola

about her new role, Creola stated, "I'm beyond thrilled to join the Foundation. Connecting people with nature and inspiring them to appreciate, discover, and preserve our natural world is both passion and purpose."

John Mitchener, President of HBF,

expressed his enthusiasm for Creola's appointment: "We are excited to welcome Jamie Creola to the HBF team. Her passion, experience, and dedication to the natural world align perfectly with our mission. We look forward to seeing Jamie lead HBF with her strong vision and inspiring energy. We are confident that she will bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to advance our mission."

Creola succeeds Winter Gary, who served as the Interim Executive Director since November 1, 2023. Winter will be leaving her staff position in June but will continue to collaborate with HBF in various capacities, ensuring a seamless transition in leadership.

Expressing her excitement

Bryson is new Minister of Music at Christ Anglican Church



Jamie Bryson

Baptist Church.

He has served churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia as Pianist, Organist and/or Music Director, having recently served at Central UMC in Monroe, NC and Clemson UMC in Clemson, SC. Jamie has played in Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Catholic churches, so he has a broad and gifted understanding of Church music and hymnody.

In addition to this appointment, Bryson will serve as the church administrator

Bryson received his undergraduate degree in Church Music from Charleston Southern University and his Master of Music Degree in Church Music and Organ from Mercer University.

He began playing in worship services at age 12 at Cashiers



CREATIVE CONCEPTS SALON

Hair • Nails • Waxing

- Tanning
- Facials

Walk-ins Welcome!

Open at 9a Tues.-Sat.

828-526-3939

Owner/Stylist:

Lacy Jane Villardo

Stylists:

Heather Escandon

Maggie Barden

Desiray Schmitt

Lauren Buckely

Nail Tech:

Jenna Schmitt

Upstairs and Across the Walkway at Falls on Main Highlands

Lulu & You

Modern MTN Life

Open Mon - Sat 10 - 5

Books

Gifts

Her

Home

PLANET
BY Lauren G

Brazilian Cowhides

Lulu Bleu-Woman's Boutique

326 Main St. Highlands

828.482.4375

142 Hwy 107 Cashiers, NC

828.482.5011

Open Year Round

PLANET

by Lauren G

SWIM

JOHNNY WAS

Lulu Bleu

DRIFTWOOD

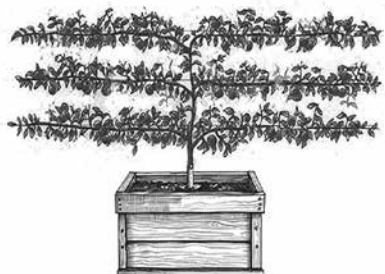
nanky
panky

THE cat's PAJAMAS

COSABELLA

JULIE VOS

HAGAN BINDER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



Now Scheduling for Spring
haganbinderdesign.com

828-482-5511

COREY JAMES GALLERY

& Estate Consignments

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



(828) 526-4818

On the corner of 3rd & Spring

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

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

HOT SPRINGS POOLS & SPAS SINCE 1989

HOT TUBS / RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL

556 Highlands Rd Franklin, NC • 828.369.2871

We have everything you need for your Pool and Spa:

- Openings
- Sand Changes
- Chemicals & Accessories
- Maintenance & Repairs
- Real Estate Inspections
- Free Water Testing
- Hot Spring Spas, Caldera Spas, and Endless Pools Swim Spas
- We service and maintain ALL brands of Spas

HOT SPRINGS POOLS and Spas

will be hosting its first Arts & Crafts Fair
in Franklin on Saturday, June 8 from 10a to 3p.

Interested crafters, please email khowell@hspools.com
to reserve you spot today!



From left: BHHSMMR Realtors Betty Holt, Tricia Cox, Tom Goldacker, scholarship recipient Cooper Hall, and Realtor Kara Hardy.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadow Mountain Realty awards Leland and Bessie Speed Scholarship to local graduating senior

On May 23, 2024, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty awarded the Leland and Bessie Speed Scholarship to Cooper Hall, son of Lindsey Hall (mother, deceased), Kip Rutter (father), Sarah Keener (stepmother), and grandson of Skip and Ladonna Keener. Hall is a recent graduate of Highlands School in Highlands, NC. The scholarship is a \$5,000 award towards tuition.

Hall will attend NC State University in the fall of 2024. He plans to earn a degree in Turfgrass Science. The Realtors and staff at BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty are happy to be able to contribute to his success.

The scholarship is named in honor of Bessie Speed and her late husband, Leland R. Speed. Hailing from Jackson, MS, Mr. Speed's life was marked by service to his community and to his fellow man, positively influencing many along the way. He was passionate about service and loved his community. As executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority, he helped rebuild the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, working for just \$1 a year because he believed in making a difference.

Education was also paramount to both Mr. and Mrs. Speed. Mr. Speed enjoyed long-

time service on the Mississippi College board of trustees as well as on the Jackson State University Foundation. He also helped start charter schools in Mississippi, opening new opportunities for students who wanted a chance to shine.

Highlands was also very important to the Speeds, and Leland was the driving force behind the development of Highlands Falls Country Club, building it into what it is today. He was president of the club for five years.

About Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty is a Highlands-based real estate firm with two offices in Highlands, NC and one in Cashiers, NC. They have been in business since 2003. For more information on BHHSMMR, visit www.MeadowsMountainRealty.com.

About Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices is one of the world's fastest-growing residential real estate brokerage franchise networks, with more than 55,000 real estate professionals, nearly 1,500 offices

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Steve Parnell, Jill Helmer, Cooper Hall, Katy Postell, and John Warner

Mountain Findings: Building stronger futures with community support

For 57 years, Mountain Findings - A community thrift store has been serving the community. It is a 100% volunteer-run nonprofit organization that has become an integral part of Highlands and the surrounding communities by providing funds for scholarships, grants, and community-based initiatives.

Mountain Findings offers scholarships to promote educational pursuits, underscoring the organization's commitment to education's transformative potential, regardless of whether students are pursuing vocational training or traditional two- or four-year degree programs.

"This year, Mountain Findings has awarded Cooper Hall with a unique opportunity. The organization will cover tuition up to \$10,000 per year for his associate degree in turf management," said Scholarship Chair John Warner. "The exciting part will be if Cooper decides to pursue a bachelor's degree afterward, Mountain Findings will continue to cover up to \$10,000 per year

in tuition for the next two years, totaling an impressive \$40,000! The members of Mountain Findings feel that this initiative is innovative and has a significant impact on changing students' lives."

Annamaria Silverthorn will receive \$20,000 distributed over four years of college. This support will offer her the freedom to begin her educational journey of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Finally, Caitlin Tingen and Brooke Fogarty will each receive a \$5,000 one-time payment toward their tuition. This assistance is aimed at supporting these two remarkable young women who are driven by ambition and determination to pursue their dreams in the fields of veterinary medicine and computer science, respectively.

Mountain Findings stands beside them, stating, "We believe in you." To learn more about how you can be part of making a difference, contact us at 828-526-9929 or visit www.MountainFindings.org.



Mountain Findings Members Katy Postell, Steve Parnell, John Warner, and Jill Helmer along with scholarship award recipients Annamaria Silverthorn, Caitlin Tingen, Brooke Fogarty, and Cooper Hall



HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS | ELEV. 4118

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
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



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 10:00am-1:00pm 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. Hudson Library, located at 554 Main St. in Highlands, is open 10AM-5:30 PM Tuesday through Friday, and 10 AM-4PM Saturday.

Mountain Findings Hours: May:

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

Thurs., May 30

• At The Bascom, Artist Talk with Paula Smith. 4-5 pm | Free
• OEI's The Orchard Sessions with Highbeams, a trio of brothers and best friends who offer a high-energy performances and rich three-part harmonies. Light bites, a cash bar 6-8 p.m. \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/highbeams-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-149352>

Fri., May 31

• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with the Mayor at 11a in the Meeting Room. The topic will be: "Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Update from CEO Tom Neal." This month's refreshments are provided by The Counseling Center.

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Byrds & Crows

Sat., June 1

• Kid's Fishing Day at Cliffside Lake from 7:30a to noon for children 15 years and under. Some fishing equipment will be available if needed. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

• At The Bascom, Trunk Show with Elizabeth Walton of Red Ren Jewelry. 12 - 5 pm | Free

• Pop-Up Bagpipers are scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat., June 1

• An evening of traditional Contra and

The Secret is Out!

Our Charcuterie Boards are the Best!

Artistic Charcuterie for Corporate Events, Private Parties, Anytime and Any Size!



at **The Secret Garden**
208 N. 5th St. Village Square

Place Your Order Today!
(828) 305-7509



HIGHLANDS

NORTH CAROLINA

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS | ELEV. 4118

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
828-526-5841

visithighlandscnc.com

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Round Dance will be held Saturday, June 1, 6:30-9 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library. Dance caller is Jennie Ingliis; Late to the Party band provides live music. Admission is by donation; children and first-time attendees are admitted free. You may bring a water bottle and snack. Wear comfortable clothes; no strong scents, please. The Library is at 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, with a hardwood dance floor, ample lighted parking, and wheelchair access. The event is produced by the Arts Council and Friends of Contra Dance in Macon County. Phone 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

• PoP-Up jBag Pipers at Highlands United Methodist Church 4:30-5 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine features High 5 at 6-8:30 p.m. – High 5

Sun., June 2

• The Literacy & Learning Center's spring fundraiser at The Farm at OEI, 336 Arnold Road in Highlands, from 6 - 9 pm. Open Bar. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, dancing. Free shuttle service looping from 200 Main. Tickets are \$150 per person.

Wed., June 5

• Josh Stein, the Democratic candidate for NC Governor, will be in Cashiers (Village Green) at 5 PM. Tickets for the event are \$125 and larger donations are accepted. You may purchase a ticket at www.joshstein.org/cashiers

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

• 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 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 to reserve your spot today!

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

Sun., June 9

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

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.

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

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

Sat., June 15

• 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 and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

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

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.oldwardshospitality.com/orchardsessions.

Fri., June 21

• Friday Night Live s on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Curtis Blackwell Band

Sat., June 22

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – The HC Oakes Band

Mon., June 27

• At The Bascom, Artist Talk with Kelly Oden. 4-5 pm | Free

Fri., June 28

• A Bourbon & Bluegrass Concert Fundraiser for REACH. Buffet and bar at 6p and concert at 7p. Tickets are \$250 per person available at highlandsp Performingarts.com/special-events.

• Friday Night Live son Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Johnny Webb Band

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. Chef to be announced. Book Online at OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners

Fri., July 5

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

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. LAURENT-PERRIER CHAMPAGNE DINNER.

Book Online at OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners

Sat., July 6

• At The Bascom, Will Henry Stevens Bridge Rededication. 10 am | Free

• At The Bascom, Community Day. 11 am – 2 pm | Free

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Blaze the City

Fri., July 12

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Silly Ridge

Sat., July 13

• Pop-Up Bag Pipers are scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Dive Bar Divas

Fri., July 19

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Leadfoot Lily

Sat., July 20

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Lazlvr

Wed., July 24

• Sky Valley Garden Club Art & Crafts show 10a to 2p inside the Sky Valley Country Club in Sky Valley, GA, and is open to the public.

Join

Resources
Education
Assistance
Counseling
Housing

with
**BOURBON
REVIVAL**

Kentucky's
#1
Rockin'
Bluegrass
Band

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

HIGHLANDS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | \$250 PER PERSON
TICKETS AT WWW.HIGHLANDSPERFORMINGARTS.COM/SPECIAL-EVENTS

**Bourbon
&
Bluegrass**

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Connect through God with nature



Ken Langsdorf
Lutheran Church of the Holy Family

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.*

- Psalm 96:11-12a

The other day I smiled when I smelled sunscreen. I smiled because when I put on sunscreen I am about to go outside for a while. I may be off for a hike on one of our amazing trails here in Western North Carolina, or I may be off to the lake to fish or relax. Often times when I put on sunscreen, I am just going out to mow the grass. But whether it is hiking, relaxing at the lake or mowing grass, when I am outside, I have the opportunity to connect with God through nature.

God's creation is incredible! I can't help but to be inspired when I spend time in God's creation. The powerful mountains, the deep waters, the bees and bugs, the details on the leaves and the smells of the flowers, the hopping critters, chirping birds, and slithering snakes; all of this tells me of an amazing God who made all of it. And not only did God make it all, but God also cares about this creation and each creature, including you and me. God wants good for creation. God wants good for you.

When you have the opportunity to put on sunscreen and go outside, look and listen for how God is caring for creation and for you? How is God speaking to you through this incredible creation? What is God calling you to do to care for and tend this creation? But especially, take in the life-giving love God has for you as you consider creation. Just as God cares for each sparrow, God care for you. God wants good for you and your life.

The cute little chipmunks don't do anything to earn God's care and love for them. In the same way, there isn't anything you need to do to earn the love God has for you. We just receive it with joy and thanks, and then we live our lives in response to this love of God. As we take to heart God's love for us and all these creatures and other humans, we are moved to have this same kind of care for these creatures and creation. Our lives respond to the love of God by reflecting it through out lives out to creation.

The challenge for me, and maybe for you too, is to reflect God's love to people who are difficult and even destructive. But when I think about it, these are the people who especially need to know that they are loved. We see this lived out in the life and ministry of Jesus. He seemed to intentionally pursue the difficult, destructive and broken people so that he could care for them, heal them and assure them that they belong to the eternal love of God. This ministry of Jesus wasn't always received well, but for

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

• 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

SkyValley. 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
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 Hwy #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)
Wed: 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. - 11 am
SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
Sun.: School:10 a.m.;Worship:10:45 a.m.;Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. 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 Fri. & Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.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 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 10:06 a.m., officers received a report of a larceny of an item from the Highlands Biological Station on Lower Lake Road.

May 20

• At 11:47 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Pierson Drive.

May 24

• At 12:15 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

• At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Spruce Street.

May 25

• At 7:47 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident in the Mountain Fresh Grocery parking lot on Main Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 21.

May 21

• At 5 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Shelby Circle.

May 22

• At 11:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

• At 11:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (The Franklin Road.).

• At 4 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.

• At 5:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (The Franklin Road).

May 24

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 7:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of power lines down on Buck Creek Road.

• At 8:36 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Helen's

Barn Ave.

• At 7:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Foreman Road.

May 25

• At 8:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bob Zahner Road.

May 27

• At 8:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible structure fire at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. There wasn't a fire.

• At 7:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on NC 28 south (The Walhalla Road).

• At 12:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Church Road.

At 4:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree blocking the US 64 east (The Cashiers Road).

At 6:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sun Ridge Road.

At 7:29 p.m. the dept. responded to a call of a tree blocking the Road.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary Bindo benefits the Counseling Center of Highlands



From left: Bryan Dearth, Super Bingo Co-Winner; Josh Bryson, Director of Marketing & Communications, H-C Health Foundation; Corena Dearth and Ian Kittrell, Super Bingo Co-Winners; Bob Baxter, Rotary Bingo Chair; Linda Kirkman, Acting Executive Director, Counseling Center

During the evening of May 23rd, The Rotary Club of Highlands once again hosted the ever popular Highlands Rotary Bingo, partnering with the Counseling Center and Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation with 15 rousing Bingo games culminating in Super Bingo. The evening drew a crowd at the Highlands Recreation Center, with net proceeds from the evening benefiting the Counseling Center's important work to strengthen families and individuals by providing access to quality mental health services regardless of financial means.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AN UPSCALE RESALE STORE WITH 10,000 SQ FT OF SHOPPING!

1846 HWY 107N in Cashiers
(Across from Blue Ridge School)

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE, CONTACT SKIP RYAN AT (828) 226-2588

THE FIREWOOD COMPANY

Delivered, Stacked & Ready to Burn!

Here, There and Everywhere ...
the Atlanta area, too!

828.200.3050
bobhenritze@gmail.com • www.firewoodcompany.net

What is Estate Planning? It's wills, trusts and so much more!

Here at Blue Ridge Legacy Law, we take estate planning into the 21st century with our innovative approach to helping you to protect everyone and everything you love. To help you do this I will waive our regular \$750 Life and Legacy Planning Session for the month of May. **Schedule today!**



Get started today!



Serving NC and GA residents

828-482-1241
www.brlegacylaw.com

Following Jesus makes your life better and makes you better at life.

Sunday mornings
(new series)
8:40am - Coffee/Nibbles
9am - Live Stream w/Andy Stanley

For directions call Bee at 404-307-1415.



Whiteside Cove Cottages

5 log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

Paul Corbin
Owner



A&O LANDSCAPING SERVICES, LLC

828-371-2240
pcorbin1631@aol.com

CHESTNUT STORAGE

Storage Units Available
Secure 24-Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms



Call today to find out why we're "Highlands Premier Facility"

828-482-1045 *Look for our sign!*

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

Highlands Automotive

Service & Repair



NC Inspection Station

ASE
AUTO CARE CENTER

828-787-2360

2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com

Call Raul

706-982-3803
706-970-7638
828-347-0255



VALENCIA GRADING, INC.

valenciagrading@gmail.com

Grading • Lot Clearing • Retaining Wall
Driveways • Septic Placement



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

Edwin Wilson
Cell (828) 421-3643
Offic/fax (828) 526-4758
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

828-200-9217 Fully Insured

Crane Rentals Available



MENDOZA TREE EXPERT

Quality Tree Care & Removal 18+ years

estimates@mendozatreecare.com
mendozatreecare.com

360 MAIN STREET ESTATE JEWELERS OF HIGHLANDS



WE BUY AND CONSIGN OLD JEWELRY

Appointment Only!
Call: 828-526-1960
Text: 770-855-0825
Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com



COUNSELING CENTER
HIGHLANDS, NC

864-481-0598
INFO@COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG
LOCATED AT THE PEGGY CROSBY CENTER
348 S. 5TH STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741
OFFICES: 201, 203 & 210

COUNSELING-CENTER.ORG

WE STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL ABILITY.



Cosmos Flowers

Full Service Florist

Store: 828-526-0044
 Cell: 828-200-6101
 cosmosflowersnc@gmail.com
 95 Highlands Plaza
 Follow us
 Instagram and facebook
 @cosmosflowersnc



- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Pressure Washing
- House Maintenance
- Drywall Repair
- Deck Repair

Quality Work • Fully Insured

Lupe Gonzales

avpintura@gmail.com

828-332-1539 or 678-873-2927



Jim's Formal Wear at
 24 E. Main St. Franklin, NC
 828-369-7300

DIVA'S
 ON MAIN
 BOUTIQUE - FORMALWEAR - GIFTS

• CLASSIFIEDS •

FOR SALE

3BR 2.5 BA SAPPHIRE - home for sale by owner - contract to purchase w local atty. Save b4 it's listed 828-361-6634. (st. 5/23)

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)

ITEMS FOR SALE: - Enclosed glass front wood hutch w/shelves, 4 drawers 2 doors on bottom, \$250; 3 drawer traditional dresser w/marble top, \$225; 3 drawer traditional dresser wood top, \$175; vintage free-standing glass front door medicine cabinet w/3 glass shelves & 2drawers, \$225. Please call 828-482-2380. Can text pictures if requested. (5/16)

HIGHLAND EXCURSION, an Active Tour Company is for sale. Call 864-373-4022 for details. Serious offers only. (st. 4/18)

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; 3.99 acres with southern exposure, \$70,000. 828-974-1137. (8/29)

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 SkyValley. 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

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

Ryan M. Bears
 Branch Leader
 Cell: 803-271-5426
 Off ce: 828-526-8784
 ryan.bears@allentate.com

We are home.

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP

HIGHLAND EXCURSION

mtntours.com

Nantahala National
 Forest Permitted

Kiln dried FIREWOOD
 Delivery or pickup

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

Al Stoneham

Realtor-Broker
 Luxury Home Specialist
 Licensed in NC & GA

Cell: 828-332-9767
 al.stoneham@allentate.com



We are home.

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP
 HIGHLANDS/SCALY MOUNTAIN/CASHIERS

ALLAN DEARTH GENERATORS AND SONS

828-526-9325

Generators aren't just a "thing" we do, generators are all we do!

GENERAC

KOHLER

Kim's Compassionate Care

Skilled Hands & A Warm Heart

Kimberly Ferrell

Certified Nursing Assistant/Caregiver

CPR Certified
 30+ years experience
 References Available

828-347-2542



...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 21

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)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS - Retail with office space upstairs. Approx. 1,700 sf. Good storage and parking on 1/2 acre at 255 Spring Street. David King 727-644-9544 (2/15)

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 ESTABLISHED CUSTOM

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

many people it transformed their life and made them like new people. And it was through these previously broken, hurting and difficult people that the love of God was spread in powerful and life-giving ways.

HOME BUILDER IN HIGHLANDS/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

INSTALL TILE! Eco-Friendly & Non-Toxic, Specializing in Shower/Bathroom, Kitchen/ Backsplash, Entrance Ways/Patios/Flooring. 25yrs experience. Also offer grout cleaning. Licensed & Insured. Mike Bertone/Owner of Bertone Tile Design & Flooring LLC. Home: 828-526-4943 or 321-303-7560 (4/11)

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.

...RENOVATIONS continued from page 11

lion. So, everything about that, I hope it's not misconstrued. Our board has met. We've talked about it. We've had the information out there. And we feel like it is a project, and the cost, to put it bluntly, is as good as it's going to get. If we continue to delay, things just continue to go up. Four or five years ago, we were looking at fees quite a bit less in terms of that. And now, the final thing to say, the \$62 million grant that we have to procure, which should make this whole thing much, much more affordable. So please don't misconstrue, we took the action because we feel very, comfortable with the people that are working for us, which is LS3P, and also Carol Daniel, we feel like that we have the best team put together, to construct a high school that the community can be proud of."

On a motion made by Commissioner Josh Young and seconded by Commissioner Danny Antoine, the Macon County Board of Education voted 3-2 to move forward with the Franklin High School Project. Commissioners John Shearl and Paul Higdon cast the dissenting votes.

Highlands School

The renovation project for Highlands School was also a focal point of the meeting. The board discussed the project's scope, which includes new classroom additions, updated facilities, and crucial infrastructure improvements. The budget ceiling for this project is set at \$8.5 million.

Representatives from Vannoy Construction and LS3P provided detailed explanations, such as unfavorable soil conditions discovered during geotechnical assessments, which necessitated additional foundation work. They also discussed the need for updated structural designs to support new construction, and the inclusion of modern facilities that meet current educational standards.

"We've learned a lot about the site conditions over the course of this project," said Kevin with Vannoy Construction. "The soil conditions, in particular, required us to design a more robust foundation to ensure the new structures are safe and durable."

Commissioner Shearl voiced support for the project but again raised concerns about the substantial cost increase from the initial estimates. He questioned the factors contributing to the rise in projected expenses and emphasized the need for a thorough understanding before committing additional taxpayer funds.

"How much fluff have you got in that? Without seeing the plans, I mean, are there things in those plans that somebody just created," Shearl asked. "Or is that sure enough what the school needs? I mean, there's got to be some reason behind this. "I mean, I'm in the dark with this, with no information whatsoever. This is the first time I've seen any of these slides, any discussion, anything"

Hillary Wilkes, who represents the Highlands District on the board of education again addressed Shearl's claims that he was not informed about the Highlands project prior to Tuesday night's meeting.

"Mr. Shearl, you've mentioned that several times, that this is the first time you've seen this, but I invited you when I presented this at Highland School about two months ago," Wilkes said. "I've offered to take you through plans, you've had access to LS3P, you hired LS3P. You could have made every effort, which you do, gathering all of your numbers to see these plans. They are available to you. I hope tonight, as my colleague and representative for Highlands, that you will consider this and I hope that you will support this along with me."

County Manager Roland reassured the board and the public that the projects were financially feasible within the county's current budget and would not necessitate a tax increase. He emphasized the urgency of moving forward to lock in current costs and avoid further inflationary pressures.

"Delaying these projects will only result in higher costs in the future," Roland explained. "We need to act now to take advantage of current pricing and ensure we stay within our budget."

Offering Commissioner Shearl additional time to review the Highlands renovation project, since there was less of a time crunch, Commissioner Josh Young made a motion to approve \$16,000 in funding needed Tuesday night to move forward with the project with the intent to vote on the full \$500,000 needed to fully move into the next phase during the board's June meeting. Young's motion was seconded by Commissioner Antoine and passed 4-1. Higdon cast the lone dissenting vote.

With the board's approval, the next steps involve entering into contract negotiations with LS3P for the Franklin High School project and proceeding with the procurement and bidding phase for Highlands School. The aim is to finalize plans and begin initial construction work over the summer to ensure minimal disruption to the school year.

"We plan to issue construction documents by early June and start the bidding process immediately afterward," said Emily with LS3P. "Our goal is to begin construction over the summer and complete key phases before the start of the new school year."

Commissioner Antoine, who voted in favor of the projects, emphasized the importance of timely execution. "We've delayed these projects long enough," he said. "It's time to move forward and provide our students with the facilities they deserve."

SILVER EAGLE
Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery

349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES
Real Estate

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

Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern

highlandermountainhouse.com

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

Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

Highlands is calling

Sales, Vacation Rentals,
and Property Management
Since 1941

401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-3717 www.highlandscalling.com
info@highlandscalling.com
https://www.facebook.com/CRVRHighlandscalling/
https://twitter.com/RealtyN Rentals

555 & 537 N 5th St. Highlands
4.80 acres LIVE IN THE HEART OF HIGHLANDS!
\$5,950,000

Darlene Conley
Mountain Luxury
Your Dream. Your Journey. YOU'RE HOME!
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.
Cell: 404-427-2448
darlene.conley@allentate.com

Allen Tate Realtors
We are home.[®]

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/
PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

MITZI RAUERS
Broker / Luxury Collection Specialist
(404) 218-9123
mitzi@bhhsmmr.com

Andrea Gabbard
c: 828.200.6742
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Ace is the Place,
Reeves Hardware
At Main & 3rd streets
Highlands 526-2157

Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY
114 N. 4th Street
Highlands, NC

Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC

Local Expertise, Global Connections.

Licensed in NC and GA
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

Team Rick Steve "The Power of 2"

Trusted advisors providing impeccable personalized service

We are home.

ALLEN TATE REALTORS/PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP
(404) 219-1349 • HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS NC

LANDMARK REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 828-787-1895
Office: 828-526-4663
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com

PAM NELLIS
BROKER



*MORE THAN 33 YEARS OF COMBINED
EXPERIENCE SERVING THE PLATEAU*

Our clients rate us 5 out of 5 ★★★★★ in service.
Experience the difference with the #1 Small Team at Allen Tate Realtors.



**JULIE OSBORN
& PAT ALLEN**

828.200.6165
828.200.9179



Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP



LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL

Leading

REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD

5

LANDMARK
REAL ESTATE SALES & VACATION RENTALS

HIGHLANDS OFFICE | 225 MAIN STREET

Cell: 843-576-9653

Office: 828-526-4663

cole@landmarkrg.com

@highlandsncrealestate

6



COLE FUHRMAN
BROKER

Highlands | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Our numbers speak for themselves.

\$1.02
billion
Sales Volume, 2020 - 2023

#1
Real Estate Firm

983
Transactions

\$1.35 Million
Average Sales Price

45
Agents

Downtown Highlands
(828) 526.8300

Cullasaja Club
(828) 526.4104



Open Year-Round • 6 days a week
343-D Main Street • 526-4035



Open
7 days
Lunch &
Dinner
11a-3:30p
&
5:30-til?

www.wildthymegourmet.com

8

WOLFGANG'S
RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO
Taste the difference, Always fresh.

Celebrating 30 years in Highlands!

Open
Wed. through Sun.
Bistro opens at 4p
Dinner begins at 5:30p



474 Main Street
828.526.3807 | wolfgang.net



**DAVID
BOCK
BUILDERS**

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240



Deborah "Bee" Gleeson
404.307.1415
BeeGlee4@Gmail.com
and
Pat Gleeson
828.782.0472
PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.

*Every home ...
has a story.
Let us tell yours.*

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
— HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

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

30



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah

828-526-2338

42 Years of Fine Dining

Open
5:30-9p
April Days:
Tues. - Sat.



www.ontheverandah.com

MCCULLEY'S
CASHMERE

Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week

526-4407

242 S. 4th St. & Pop up
on Main Street



9