

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., May 12 2022

Despite Duke forecasts, Highlands electric rates will hold steady - for now

At the April Town Board meeting, Highlands Duke Energy liaison warned of a utility rate increase in the vicinity of 20%-25%

coming to Highlands by Jan. 2023. He suggested "taking a bite of the apple today" with a 10% increase starting July 1, 2022, so another

hike of 10% in January 2023 will be easier to handle than a 20% increase all at once.

• See ELECTRIC page 18

Historic change could affect Highlands

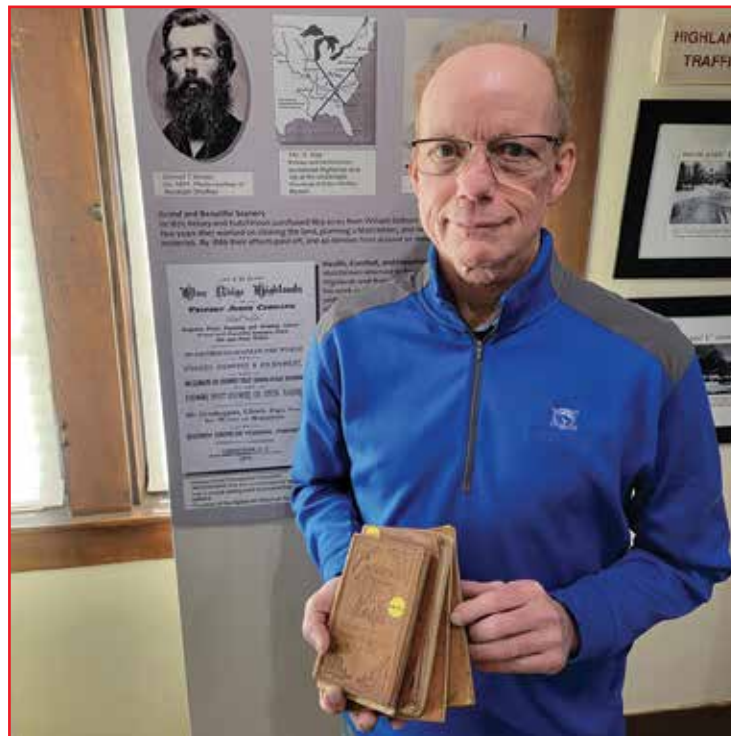
By Brittney Lofthouse

Dating back to the 1970s, the Macon County Board of Commissioner District I seat has been held by someone residing within the town of Highlands. But that could change.

Although District 1 consists of the precincts of Elizaj, Flats, Highlands, and Sugarfork, all records available within Macon County show that since 1986, voters have elected a Highlands resident to the seat...so much so, that the seat is commonly referred to as the Highlands District.

With the town of Highlands accounting for more than half of the county's overall property tax revenue — meaning the property values in Highlands generate

• See CHANGE page 12



Samuel Kelsey's great-great-grandson, Seth Kelsey III holds Kelsey's diaries in front of the Kelsey and Hutchinson exhibit at the Historical Society.

Connecting to the past

It came as a revelation. "This outdoors!" is why I am so connected to the

• See CONNECTING page 10

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Candidate Forum – Part 5 Meet the Independent MC Commission Candidate for District 1

Having met the signatures required, resident of Highlands Independent Jerry Moore will be on the ballot for the Macon County Commission seat in District 1 this November and will run against the Republican candidate – either Don Willis or John Shearl (Willis of Elizaj and Shearl of Sugarfork) – who wins the primary May 17.

He was required to obtain signatures from 4% of the registered voters in Macon County which equaled 1092.

These signatures needed to originally be submitted by March 8th which was the original primary date. This date changed to May 17 when the date was moved. He was able to secure all of the signatures by April 30.

Moore is the co-founder of Main Street Payments, a mem-

ber-based credit card processing company that serves small businesses throughout Western North Carolina. Main Street Payments was founded in 2018. Prior to Main Street Payments, Jerry was the owner of the Kilwin's Chocolates & Ice Cream franchise in Highlands, NC, for 12 years. In addition to his private business experience, Jerry worked for the United States Courts system for over ten years in the Presentence and Pretrial Investigation units, and supervised those units in Tallahassee, Florida, from 1998 until 2002. Jerry has a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University. Jerry is the current Treasurer of the Highlands Rotary Club, Finance & Property

• See INDEPENDENT page 15

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The cost of energizing Highlands

Cost of energy is a huge national issue and a major driver of inflation. At the last Town Board meeting our energy consultant informed us that Duke would be increasing wholesale electric rates in the coming months. He recommended the town approve a rate increase very soon to address this impending increase that the town will pay for wholesale electricity.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

At the budget workshop last Thursday, the board decided not to pass a rate increase to our customers, at least not at this time. From past cost adjustments and Duke court settlements the town recently received more than \$700,000. The board voted to earmark those funds to address future rate increases. So, when the Duke rate increase occurs, the town will use the \$700,000 to cover the cost. We will hold the line on rate increases for as long as we can, or at least until this earmarked money is depleted.

The town may be able to absorb even more, but if energy costs continue to skyrocket, especially natural gas, the town will have to increase rates. Highlands has not had an electric rate increase in a number of

years. Because we have a wholesale contract, Highlands customers have avoided the recent rate spikes that Duke retail customers have experienced. The major expense we have had to deal with has been those sorry coal ash fees that Duke passed to both retail and wholesale customers.

While reviewing the impending rate pressures the Town Manager and I examined the peak usage times for electricity in Highlands. We were both surprised that peaks occur around Christmas. Last year there were many hours during the week of Christmas where the town was using 13 megawatts of electricity. To put that number in perspective, back when the Highlands hydroelectric plant began operation some 90 years ago the amount of power available for the entire town was around three quarters of a megawatt. On optimal generating days that number might have gotten up to one megawatt.

In short, I see a continual increase in power demands in the coming years. The town will have to enter a new wholesale electric contract by the end of the decade with either Duke or another provider.

I don't believe everyone in town converting to solar generation will alleviate this increasing demand. The move to green energy sources will be a major development. Duke just announced its plan to double their green energy generating capacity to 24,000 megawatts by 2030. They are asking regulators for generous incentives and tax credits to make this conversion which will also involve closing their six remaining coal plants.

Duke is also asking regulatory agencies and the legislature to lower the costs they reimburse folks who sell back power to them through solar generation. I believe Duke's rationale is that they will have the biggest impact on green energy generation rather than individual household units. The final decision by regulatory agencies should happen in the coming months.





One may question my view that the production of electric power will have to significantly increase in the coming years. As the country transitions to electric vehicles, the energy to power those vehicles will require an abundant source.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"A vote for me is a vote for cheddar in every hole and a cat in every trap. Well maybe."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 12-May	Fri, 13-May	Sat, 14-May	Sun, 15-May
 68°F 53°F	 65°F 50°F	 64°F 52°F	 72°F 52°F
Sun, some clouds; pleasant RealFeel® High: 75° Low: 56°	Mostly cloudy with showers RealFeel® High: 69° Low: 54°	A shower and thunderstorm RealFeel® High: 73° Low: 57°	A thunderstorm in spots RealFeel® High: 80° Low: 58°

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

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The Godfather – Sopressa salami, shaved ham, pepperoni, red onion, smoked provolone, shredded lettuce, banana peppers, onions with Italian dressing on a baguette. **\$13**

The Muff – Turkey, Sopressa salami, ham, cream cheese olive spread, smoked provolone cheese and shredded lettuce on a sub roll. **\$13**

The Porker – Shaved ham, Jarlsberg cheese, DJs pickles with homemade honey mustard on ciabatta. **\$12**

The Hudson – Turkey, provolone cheese (Have it your way – cucumber, lettuce, onion, banana peppers, black olives, DJs pickles) **\$13**

Salads

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• OBITUARIES •

Harold Neville Neely



Harold Neville Neely, 73 of Highlands, NC passed away Monday, May 9, 2022. He was born November 19, 1948 in Rabun County, GA to the late Harry Preston Neely and Carrie Dendy Neely. Harold always had a smile when you saw him that followed with a good story or joke and was always willing to help others out. He had a love for dogs, collecting rocks and quartz, guitar music and wearing his western boots. Harold had worked as a computer programmer at Western Carolina University. He was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church.

Harold is survived by his son Matthew Neely (Sarah); three nieces, Lynn O'Dwyer, Stephanie Norris and Gloria Neely.

In addition to his parents, Harold was preceded in death by his wife, Connie Neely; a granddaughter, Marigold Neely; a brother, Herman Neely.

A funeral service was Wednesday May 11, 2022 at the First Baptist Church of Highlands with the Rev. Dr. Mark Ford officiating. Burial followed at the Macedonia Church Cemetery.

Online condolences can be sent to www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Neely family.

• See OBITUARIES page 12

Music in the Park is Saturday



Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic to K-H Founders Park where The Breakfast Club will be performing live from 6-8:30 p.m.



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• ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

Happiness

We often believe happiness, money and fame go together. This is not always true. Actually, recent studies have shown that the more someone is in the spotlight, the more money someone has, the more likely that someone will suffer from anxiety, depression and more likely to commit suicide

Bobby Darin was born May 14, 1936. He started his career as a songwriter for Connie Francis. He recorded his first million-selling single "Splish Splash," in 1958. He was also the co-writer. He won the Golden Globe Award in his first film "Come September."

In 1960 he was given the Grammy Award for record of the year, "Mack the Knife" and also, he was named the Artist of the Year. He wrote the song "Danke Schoen" and gave it to his good friend Wayne Newton. This song launched Wayne's career

When he was 31 years old, he discovered the woman who raised him was his grandmother, not his mother as he thought. The woman he thought was his sister was his mother. Those events deeply affected him and sent him into a long period of depression

In 1957 he had a son out of wedlock. Later that year he married Sandra Dee. They divorced 1967. He died at age 37.

Sandra Dee was born May 14, 1940. She started her career as a child model at age 4. She was 14 when she signed a contract for the movie, "Until They Sail." She was best known for her performances in "Imitation of Life" and "Gidget," both in 1959. Her career in 1960 began to decline. She suffered from anorexia, drugs, heavy smoking, and alcohol. She also suffered from sexual abuse by her stepfather during her teens. She died at age 62.

Ashley Judd spent 47 days at a treatment center for depression in 2006. "I needed help" she told Glamour magazine. "I was in so much pain.

Recently, her mother Naomi Judd, 74, died by suicide due to mental illness.

Lady Gaga says she has dealt with depression and anxiety her whole life

Bruce Springsteen – "The Boss" had bouts of depression in his '60s. "It's like this thing that engulfs you. I got where I didn't want to get out of bed."



Kenny Youmans

Just to name a few out of many that committed suicide:

- Robin Williams
- Alan Ladd
- George Reeves (Superman)
- Earnest Hemingway
- Brian Keith
- Montgomery Clift
- River Phoenix - drug overdose at age 23

There is a Chinese saying that goes: "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness

for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody."

For centuries, the greatest thinkers have suggested the same thing: Happiness is found in helping others.

"For it is in giving that we receive"

- Saint Francis of Assisi

"The whole meaning of life is to serve humanity"

- Leo Tolstoy

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give"

- Winston Churchill

"Making money is happiness; making other people happy is super happiness"

- Nobel Peace

"Happiness is like a butterfly, the more you chase it, the more it will elude, but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder."

- Henry David Thoreau 1848

Remember: It is always the journey. It is not the destination.

"Reaching the Station"

Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We will soon reach the station. How restlessly we are waiting, waiting for the station. When we finally reach the station, we cry! That will be it. When I'm 18. When I buy that new Mercedes. When I put my last kid through college. When I pay off the mortgage. Then I will live happily ever after.

The truth is there is no station. It's the trip. It's the journey. Relish the moment. Stop waiting. Instead eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, laugh more, cry less, climb more mountains, spend more time with your family and friends. Start today.



Pat Allen
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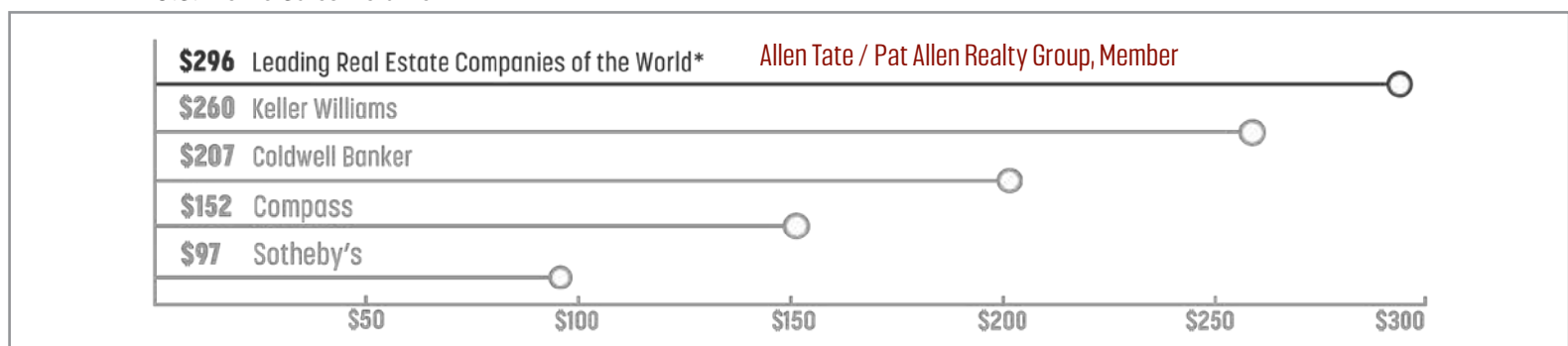
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U.S. Home Sales Volume



...CONNECTING continued from page 1

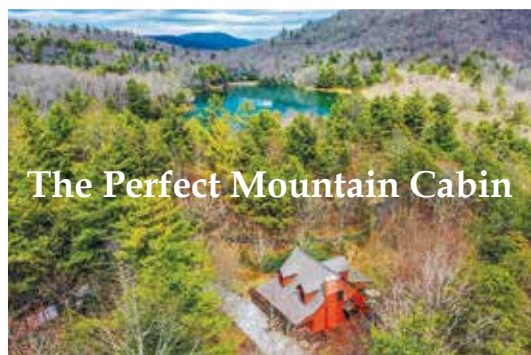
That's what Seth Kelsey III realized as he drove into Highlands on Monday to experience the town his great-great-grandfather Samuel T. Kelsey founded with partner Clinton C. Hutchinson in 1875.

The purpose for the visit, he said, was to see Highlands and try to establish an in-depth connection with his great-great grandfather Samuel and his great-grandfather Harlan Page Kelsey and what they did here.

As the legend goes, if you take a map of the US and draw a line from Savannah to Chicago and another line from New York to New Orleans, where the lines cross is Highlands. In no time Kelsey and Hutchinson were promoting Highlands as a health and summer resort and the rest is history.

In May of 1875 when Samuel's wife and their daughter and three sons – Samuel Truman Jr. the twins Harlan Page and Harry

• See CONNECTING page 30



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• INK PENN •

Checking titles off my TBR list

I learn about books in a multitude of ways and add them to my TBR list. Think book reviews in the Wall Street Journal and other papers, Amazon recommendations, Facebook ads, and suggestions from friends.

By the time I finally get around to a particular title, I usually can't recall how I discovered it. These days, I'm also likely to stop reading if it doesn't grab me – a practice that fits with my favorite mantra, "So many books, so little time."

If I don't care for a book, do I review it? No. My feeling is that just because it doesn't appeal to me doesn't mean someone else won't like it.

That means that when I recommend a book in this paper, you can rest assured I enjoyed it. The following three books feature a variety of genres – mystery, YA mystery, and historical British fiction. Enjoy!

Nine Lives

by Peter Swanson

Like his book, "Eight Perfect Murders," Swanson's "Nine Lives" is a puzzling page-turner. The hook, "If you're on the list, someone wants you dead," pulls you in right away. Why are the nine names on the list? Are they connected? If so, how? Who will die next?

Also, like "Eight Perfect Murders," this one includes references to famous works of fiction like Christie's "And then there were none," and even "Peter Pan." My favorite kind of book – a whodunit with literary allusions.

I highly recommend this unputdownable murder mystery – it says something that I finished it in three nights..



Kathy Manos Penn

Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson

Oh my goodness! I don't know how I stumbled across this book, but I'm glad I did. I didn't know it was the first in a mystery trilogy and was at first dismayed when it ended with a terse "to be continued." I found myself immediately diving into book two and finishing it in two nights. Book three wrapped it all up satisfactorily, and there's a book 4, focused on a different mystery for the amateur sleuth to solve.

The trilogy is billed as a YA historical mystery, but that didn't make it any less enjoyable to me. At its heart is a kidnapping that occurred at Ellingham Academy, a private school that opened in the 1930s. The crime took place the year the school opened, and the school is still haunted by the unsolved mystery. The story is told in alternating chapters--the 1930s and modern time – and the main character and her friends are students at the modern-day Ellingham Academy. As a mystery fan, I enjoyed it as much for the references to Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot as I did for the mystery at its heart. Grab it. I predict you won't be able to put it down.

Dear Mrs. Bird by AJ Pearce

What a delightful find. Set during WWII in London, this is the story of an ambitious young woman who longs to be a journalist. When she answers an ad for a position at a newspaper, she instead finds herself as a secretary to an advice columnist – a bossy, temperamental advice columnist. That's when the trouble begins. As does any book set during the bombing of London, this one has tragic and bittersweet moments, but there's also plenty of witty repartee. It's ultimately a story of friendship and kindness overcoming adversity. Pick up this engaging tale. You won't be disappointed.

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



• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Paradise is Personal

Whether you are seeking ultimate relaxation and solitude or this area's thriving social scene, your definition of paradise is personal to you. If you are starting your search for your mountain retreat, here are some questions to focus your quest:

1. What type of home speaks to you? Is the architectural style important such as arts and crafts, modern mountain, contemporary, traditional, farmhouse? Does it need to be younger than two years or are you willing to take on a fixer upper?

2. What home features must you have: the number of bedrooms, number of baths, type of kitchen, living areas, primary bedroom on main, fireplaces, outdoor living space, garage? One of my listings does not have a garage. When brokers show it, and I gather feedback for the seller, several of them said it does not work for their client because it doesn't have a garage. When I share this with the seller, it infuriates the seller who spent time preparing the home to show the house when all the public information states it does not have a garage. Be sure to inform your broker of features that are dealbreakers so that you don't waste your time and the sellers' time;

3. What kind of area do you prefer to live? Are you a hermit who wants to be in the middle of the woods with no neighbors? Do you want to be in a gated neighborhood? Do you want to be in a country club community with lots of amenities such as golf, tennis, swimming and dining? Do you want to be close to town?

4. Is nature important to you? Do you need to be close to hiking trails and fishing streams? Do you want to live on a lake for boating? Do you want to be adjacent to the National Forest? This area has it all, so you can choose your venue;



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Highlands Sotheby's
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5. Do you want to be a short driving distance to go to dinner at night? Some of our mountain roads are windy and narrow. When I take clients to see a home, they say that they would never drive that road at night. Ask your broker about access to homes before you set up a showing. Find out before you go if it is more challenging than you desire;

6. Is the distance from your primary residence important to you? Where you choose a home on the Plateau can add another hour to your travel time. Be clear if you have travel time requirements from your "other" home;

7. Do you need to be close to an airport? Find out where the public and private airports are, if so, and determine where on the Plateau is better for your trips;

8. Do you want the highest altitude for the best cool temperature in the summer? Find out the altitude of homes before you tour.

A unique aspect of this section of Western North Carolina is that we do not have cookie cutter homes. We have tiny cabins in the woods to sprawling estates on waterfalls with views. Only you know what the dream retreat is for you and your family. Discuss these factors and any other special wishes with your broker upfront, and you will find your sanctuary sooner and with less frustration. Happy house hunting!!

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...CLERK continued from page 1

more revenue than the rest of Macon County combined -- past representatives who have held the seat, such as current Board of Commission Chair and outgoing commissioner Jim Tate, have spoken to the importance of ensuring the residents of Highlands maintain representation on the Board of Commissioners.

For the first time since 1986, the seat, which comes up for election every four years, could potentially be held by a candidate within District I, but outside of the Highlands city limits.

Prior to 1978, the Macon County Board of Commissioners was comprised of three seats. As outlying areas such as Nantahala and Highlands grew, the board voted in 1977 to transition to a 5-person board during the 1978 election.

The first election held featuring District I was won by Milles Gregory. Gregory was elected

to District 1 and lived within the newly established District but lived closer to Franklin than Highlands.

While records are unclear as to whether Gregory won the District 1 seat running against anyone living in Highlands, during the 1982 election former Highlands Mayor Harry Wright challenged Gregory for the seat and lost by 33 votes. That election stands as the only election since District 1 was established that someone residing in Highlands was defeated for the District 1 seat.

In April 1984 the then Highlands mayor, John Cleveland, requested a meeting with the new 5-member Board of Commissioners to address concerns of a lack of representation for Highlands residents. Cleveland, supported by a unanimous Highlands Town Board, urged commissioners to reconsider how the 5-member board is elected.

• See **CHANGE** page 24

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• OBITUARIES •

James Patrick View



James Patrick View, 36, passed away unexpectedly on May 6, 2022. He was born on October 3, 1985. He grew up in Highlands, NC and was a graduate from Highlands High School in 2004. James had a calling to serve his country and joined the Marines immediately after graduation. He served two tours in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan. He was honorably discharged in 2014.

James is survived by his son, Jason View. Jason was the most precious and valuable person in James' life. A father's love could not be any stronger. James is also survived by his parents, Patrick (PJ) View and Liz View; a loving sister, Nancy View, Aunts, Margaret Taylor, Nancy Manning (Richard), and Dominique (Brad) Skaith; Cousins, Richard Manning (Carrie), Taylor Calvert, Ryan Skaith, Aaron Skaith, and his grandmother, Nancy Taylor (Ahmah).

James was a very kind soul. He touched so many lives with

the love he carried in his heart. Starting at a young age, James was spreading happiness and cheer in the halls of elementary school. He continued his good-natured ways through high school and was voted Homecoming King in 2003.

PJ and Liz are overwhelmed by James' passing.

A Celebration of James' life will be held at the home of his parents, 596 Flat Mountain Rd. Highlands, NC on May 14, 2022 from 1-4 pm.

In lieu of flowers, make a donation to either Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256 or www.woundedwarriorproject.org; or to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, New York 10306.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the View family.

William 'Butch' Beck



William "Butch" Beck, 75 of Highlands and Scaly Mtn., NC went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, May 4, 2022.

He was born in Macon County. The son of the late James William and Beulah Henry Beck. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Sarah Beck and Gavin Johnson; four brothers, Jimmy Beck, Sammie Beck, Jake Beck, and Gilbert Beck.

He was retired from the Town of Highlands where he worked in the sanitation department for more than 20 years. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and a friend to all. He loved the outdoors, hunting, working in the garden, growing flowers, and most of all spending time with family, friends, and all his babies.


He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Frankie Speed Beck, sons, Lamar of Walhalla, SC, Scott (Angela) of Franklin, NC, James of Highlands, NC, Sam Johnson

(Holly) of Franklin, NC and a daughter, Rhonda Oakley (Wayne) of Highlands, NC; grandchildren, Jeffrey Beck, John Beck, Raven Briley, Jaimie Beck, Annabelle Beck, Kaylee Oakley, Jasmine Oakley, Rylee Johnson; six great-grandchildren; one brother, John Beck; and many,

many special babies.

A service was at Highlands First Baptist Church Monday, May 9. Pastor Oliver Rice and Pastor Clay Webb officiated. Burial followed at Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Craig "Yogi" McCall, Clay Talley, Craig "Boo" James, David Leffler, Mike Beck and Jon Shaheen. Honorary Pallbearers will be Lamar Billingsley, Kenneth Norris, Kenneth Wilson, Dale "Mac" McMahan, Larry Holt, Kent Henry, Petey Bryson.

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements. Online condolences can be made to www.maconfuneralhome.com



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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

The gift of extraordinary nurses: The care at H-C Hospital and Eckerd Living Center is driven by their dedication and compassion

During May, we celebrate National Nurses Week (May 6-12) and the extraordinary nurses serving at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and Eckerd Living Center (ELC). Our nursing team is second to none, as our patients and team members will tell you.

To be a successful and impactful nurse today, you must be able to keep up with constantly evolving care protocols, clinical best practices, and both industry and institution-specific standards. Then there's making sure you keep abreast of everything going on in your own area of specialty, whether that's the Emergency Department, general inpatient care, or rehabilitation services. All of this is of course done with care and compassion, which is what I believe makes nursing special.

As I like to share, people who are sick or injured are scared and hurting. This is often their worst day, and helping someone through this experience can be difficult. Nurses hold the hands of patients during these periods of extreme pain, fear, or when coping with death or loss.

Creativity is called for too, in meeting a patient's unique needs. No two patients are the same, and nurses are called upon to carefully monitor and manage subtle changes in every patient's condition, convey them to the other care team members that come into contact with the patient, and respond to the physical, mental, social, spiritual, and emotional needs of a patient.

It's also important to remember that our nurses don't just care for patients, they really care for families as well. Our nurses ensure that family members and loved ones stay informed about how a patient is doing, and they must be able at all times to re-



**Tom Neal, CEO/CNO
Highlands Cashiers
Hospital**

spond knowledgeably and sensitively to the many questions they receive about a patient's wellbeing.

Each year, we recognize a special nurse with a DAISY Award. The DAISY award was created by the DAISY Foundation to recognize outstanding nursing care. DAISY is actually an acronym that stands for Diseases Attacking the Immune System, and traces back to its origin in 1999. The family of J. Patrick Barnes created the foundation after Patrick's loss, as they were so moved by the extraordinary compassion of the nurses who walked with them. The intent quite simply is to recognize excellent, compassionate, skillful nursing care. It is a special award, and I have been moved by many of the stories shared by patients or families. The deadline for this year's DAISY Award nominations was at the end of April, and we'll be recognizing our winner on May 6th.

It is especially important to recognize the work nurses do because we have seen them act particularly heroically over the last two years as we faced something we never could have imagined: the COVID-19 pandemic. Nurses, more than anyone else, had to shift their focus and how they delivered care to our patients continuously,

as more became known about the virus and as COVID numbers rose and fell at HCH. We had to be particularly vigilant in caring for our senior ELC patients, since those 65 years of age and older are especially vulnerable to complications from COVID.

In addition to the comprehensive clinical expertise provided by our nurses that I witness each day, if you talk to most nurses, they will note that their career is a true calling, not just a path they followed with interest. Their compassion is reflected in countless ways, whether that's taking the time to check in and hear what's really happening in a patient's life, addressing a patient's pressing concern, or going the extra mile to show them kindness or make them as comfortable as possible. In short, they make what can seem like a sterile environment, warm and human.

We support nurses in various ways here at the hospital, from providing opportunities for professional growth to more fun celebrations during Nurses Week. HCA Healthcare is committed to offering nurses opportunities for continuing their education, and advancing their careers through obtaining additional professional certifications, leadership training, and tuition reimbursement.

Nurses contribute their considerable intellect and talents to every area of the hospital, from bedside nursing to administration and institutional leadership. I myself have a background in cardiac and emergency nursing, having worked in multiple areas to include open heart recovery, ICU, and the ER. Serving patients propelled me into wanting to gain experience and make a difference as a hospital leader.

Our community couldn't be more fortunate to have the exceptional team of nurses who grace

• See HOSPITAL page 14



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...HOSPITAL continued from page 13

our hospital and our patients' lives each day. I know I have the backing of every HCH and ELC team member, as well as every community member, when I explain that

our work truly couldn't happen without them. They drive patient care and all we do here, and we are profoundly grateful for their time, dedication, and caring hearts.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary club hears about 'literacy'



Tom Graham, President of Rotary Club of Highlands with Bonnie Potts, director of The Literacy & Learning Center.

Jane Jerry, member of the Board of Directors of The Literacy and Learning Center, formerly known as the Literacy Council of Highlands, introduced our speaker, Bonnie Potts at the Tuesday meeting of the Rotary Club of Highlands. Bonnie is the Executive Director of TL & LC and has been for five years. Bonnie spoke passionately of her mission regarding The Literacy & Learning Center: to help children find their passion for what they might choose to do in their lives through education. Her message focused on the fact that "fairness" cannot always be achieved in the way we generally think about it because the children who come to TL & LC are not all the same and do not learn the same way. But, through education, the playing field becomes more level and children are opened to all the possibilities and passions the world has to offer.

TL&LC does more than just serve children as they offer GED classes, ESL (English as a second language) and other services. TL&LC has many needs that Highlanders can help with for volunteering to donating. For more information, contact info@maconncliteracy.org.



From left Mark Chmar, Tom Neal, and Tom Graham.

For the April 12, Rotary Meeting, Mark Chmar introduced Tom Neal, CEO, and CNO as the featured speaker. Neal provided a covid update for Highlands and Western North Carolina. The BA2 variant is the most common among current positive cases totally approximately 60 to 70% of recent tests in Macon County. More than 70% of the population is vaccinated, which has significantly helped with the symptoms of covid. 74% of people who test positive for covid are not likely to require hospitalization and are 91% less likely to lead to mortality. Neal does recommend that people follow the guidelines laid out by the CDC to ensure their safety.

Also on April 12, Andy Chmar was presented a Paul Harris Fellow recognition for his contributions to the Rotary Club of Highlands.

Rotary gets COVID update

...INDEPENDENT continued from page 1

Chair of the Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation, a member of the Macon County Economic Development Council and former chair of the Highlands Zoning Board. Jerry has been married to his wife Kay for 29 years and they have four children.

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing Macon County?

I believe the number one issue facing the Macon County Commission is school infrastructure. Franklin High School is more than 75 years old and is in desperate need of replacement. Highlands School also has infrastructure concerns that need to be addressed to adequately serve the current student population and to address the urgent need for early childhood education. Macon County should look 30 years down the road as we address these infrastructure needs to ensure we have adequately planned for an expanding population. Further, an excellent school system will attract companies that can deliver high paying jobs to our citizens.

Commissioners are faced with more and more request for public education funding. What is your stance on county's role in funding public education? Do you think the current levels are adequate or do you think they should be increased/decreased? Do you support the sales tax referendum that will be placed on the ballot in November?

Education funding currently makes up 19% of our total budget, which places it third behind Public Safety (27%) and Health & Human Services (24%). I do not believe money will solve all of the issues plaguing our education system in Macon County and across the nation, but providing our students and teachers with an excellent learning environment will go a long way to enhancing the education experience. The county relies significantly upon the state for funding but the Commission needs to look at ways to fill the gaps where funding is not available from the state. With regard to the level of spending, I firmly believe education expenditures have the potential to lower the amount of money we



Jerry Moore
Independent MC Commission
Candidate for District I

spend on public safety and many of the social problems facing our community. If the program is effective and produces outcomes that enhance the lives of our youth, spending additional funds could make sense.

I am in support of the .25% increase in our sales tax for the purpose of enhancing school infrastructure. Macon County derives more than \$10 million in sales tax revenue each year, much of it coming from people visiting or passing through our county. Although this increase will affect residents of Macon County, the overall impact will be minimal because of the advantage of spreading it across thousands of visitors. Additionally, all of our surrounding counties currently take advantage of the additional .25% increase in sales tax. My goal would be to have the least financial impact on our citizens while we deliver the best possible product.

Macon County has completed a large space needs analysis project to address infrastructure needs. What are your thoughts on the current direction the county is taking to address these issues?

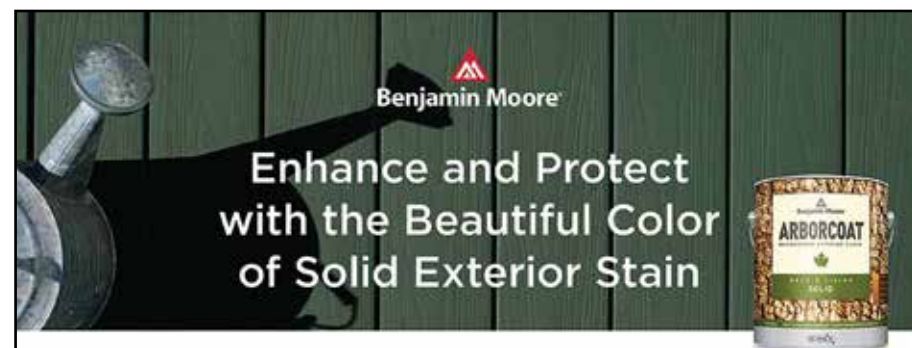
The Capital Improvement Plan details significant potential expenditures totaling more than \$144 million. The Commission will need to prioritize those projects and start moving forward. The current fund balance could be used for some of the projects and to support borrowing funds for the larger projects, such as school infrastructure. I believe my role as commissioner is to oversee the spending of any funds to make sure the citizens of Macon County are receiving the best possible return on their tax dollars. It is also important for the Commission to listen and act on the projects the public deems most critical to the success of Macon County.

Any other issues or information you would like to include for your voters?

As county commissioner, I will work with local, state and federal agencies as well as non-profits and private businesses to address the myriad of issues facing our county and the region. Some of these issues include access to high-speed internet, affordable housing, access to basic healthcare, substance abuse treatment, mental health

treatment and more. My experience in the criminal justice system and private business has given me a unique insight to these issues. Collaborating with the agencies that directly address these issues will be a significant part of my role as a county commissioner, and I believe these efforts will prevent a duplication of spending and allow us to take advantage of alternative funding sources. Raising taxes should always be the last option. Last-

ly, I believe the county needs a long-term strategic plan to determine what we want to look like as a county in 30 years. Western North Carolina will continue to be a destination for families trying to escape the problems of more populated areas, and we need to plan in order to maintain the character and quality of life we currently enjoy in Macon County.



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For more information or to sign-up for any of the HCLT programs check out the website www.hicashlt.org or contact them at hclt_ed@earthlink.net, 828-526-1111.

— Photo by Kevin Fitzpatrick

Explore our mountains with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust

Our mountains are among some of the oldest in the world. Over time, geologic processes have resulted in a complex landscape that is home to a great diversity of habitats for plants and animals.

As such, the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau is a biodiversity hotspot, with more flowering plant species documented here than anywhere else in the temperate zone. There is also a huge variety of salamander, fungi, and insect species who call these mountains home.

The Plateau has also been recognized as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society due to the high number of bird species found here including several migratory warblers that summer in our intact high elevation forests.

With the high peaks, waterfalls, cool and mild climate, and abundance of wildlife, the Highlands-Cashiers area is a destination with endless opportunities to explore. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) has several ways to help you do just that!

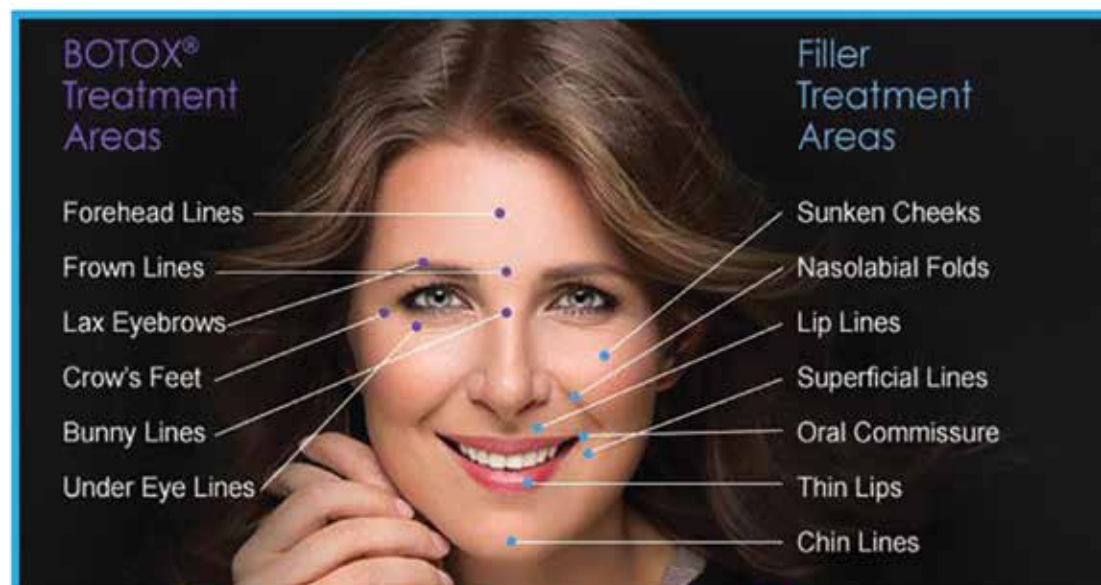
HCLT is a non-profit 501c3 land conservation organization that protects over 3700 acres of valuable land and natural resources in the Highlands and Cashiers areas. We believe that an important part of conserving land is helping people connect to nature and learn about the unique ecosystems that we work so hard to protect.

Village Nature Series: The Village Nature Series (VNS) are free, family-friendly programs about local wildlife, habitats, conservation, and cultural heritage that are open to the public. The VNS is co-hosted by the Land Trust and The Village Green, where the programs are held. VNS programs are held on the last Tuesday of each month from 5:00– 6:00 p.m. May – October. On May 31, we will kick off this year's VNS with a presentation by Rose Wall, Education Director and Senior Naturalist at Balsam Mountain Trust who will introduce us to some LIVE furred, feathered, and

scaled critters who call this region home! Check out the full schedule on our website.

Community in Nature Programs: We have several opportunities throughout the year for community members and families to explore Land Trust properties with us. On May 28th, bring the kids to Dixon Pond and explore pond life with us. On June 4th, we will be partnering with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society to lead a bird walk at our Brushy Face Preserve. On July 2nd, join us for a pop-up bioblitz on Sunset Rock. Keep a watch out on our social media for monthly pop-up "Ranger Programs" led by our AmeriCorps Member on Sunset Rock and Satulah Mountain to learn about local history and geology of our properties.

Member EcoTours: After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we are once again offering our popular guided hikes! EcoTours are typically half or full day tours to Land Trust conserved properties or other protected lands. On our tours, you will learn about the unique ecosystems, botanical diversity, and wildlife that reside on the Plateau from our expert guides. There is still time to sign up for our May 17th EcoTour! We will be hiking a trail that connects two HCLT conserved properties - from Brushy Face Preserve to our oldest conserved property, Satulah Mountain Preserve. The hike starts off on our Brushy Face Trail, which meanders through an old growth forest with soft flowing headwater streams and large white pines. We will break off from that trail and continue our route across HWY 28 to follow Old Walhalla Road through the Satulah Mountain Historic District. As we walk up the mountain, we will come upon Satulah Mountain Preserve where we will walk through a ridge-top old growth forest to the rocky summit where we will enjoy the view and have a picnic lunch. EcoTours are \$50 for Land Trust members (lunch is included). If you are not already a member, simply join at any level!



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...ELECTRIC continued from page 1

However, Mayor Patrick Taylor said few things cause more negative feedback to the board of commissioners than an electric rate hike.

Kevin O'Donnell our Duke liaison from Nova Energy said Duke is replacing in-the-ground assets, investing \$56 billion over the next 10 years for its rollout of batteries for solar and wind plus its investing in rebuilding its grid.

Those particulars, plus the rising price of gasoline, natural gas and coal – both of which have doubled since November of 2021 – mean Duke will be passing those costs on to its wholesale and retail customers next year.

“Duke is going to have to pay these costs, so we are going to have to pay these costs,” said O'Donnell. “We will see a significant rate increase at the end of 2022 beginning 2023.”

How natural gas fits in

O'Donnell described North Carolina as an island to itself in terms of energy costs with its electric rates dependent upon

the price of natural gas – not only the commodity itself but also the capacity and ability to bring that natural gas into North Carolina.

North Carolina is one of only a handful of states that is served by only one interstate natural gas pipeline – Transgo – which runs up and down Interstate 85.

Two years ago, plans in the works saw North Carolina getting three natural gas pipelines. However, Duke and Dominion cancelled the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and now the Mountain Valley Pipeline – which is 97% complete – is hung up in the ports.

Without new pipelines, North Carolina can only rely on one, but once Mountain Valley comes online, O'Donnell said the prices of natural gas will come down which theoretically means electric rates will decrease, too.

Meanwhile, due to Duke's long-term planned movement away from natural gas and coal because of cost increases in those commodities, the wholesale cost of power will be higher next year.

“The market, Ukraine, Covid, lack of inventory has created a perfect storm that is hammering every utility out there,” he said. “The only thing that will save us is if there is a lot more drilling of natural gas immediately, so talk to your representatives.”

This is just a warning shot, said Mayor Taylor.

“We make money off our electric system which stays here, and we are able to do things for the town with the electric reserve funds. If Duke was running this, the money they make would be going to their investors,” he said. “But if we don't address the rate increase issue, then it will cut into the profitability of the electric system which would mean the draining of our reserves.”

O'Donnell agreed.

“If you don't pass it on, then the reserves are going to be drained and you will have to cut fund transfers to other departments that you make from the electric reserve fund,” he said.

Highlands contract with

Duke is up in 2027 but at this time deregulation – where consumers can buy power from whomever they want – was shot down by Duke and cemented by the North Carolina General Assembly.

But there might be more options come 2027 where Highlands could buy power from other utility companies like Carolina Power Partners and others.

Upcoming electric rates.

Happily, at least for the remainder of 2022, Highlands citizens' electric rates will hold steady.

At the May 5 FY '21-'22 budget meeting, what do to about the future rate hike from Duke was discussed at length.

Each year, Duke does a true-up where it reconciles with Highlands. If it over-charged due to projections made prior to putting rates in play, then Highlands receives a credit or a check for the amount it was overcharged and which its citizens paid.

“Last year we got the true-up and two other refunds from Duke due to accounting issues on their part which meant Duke had to pay back a certain amount of money to its wholesale customers,” said Town Manager Josh Ward. “We got two checks totaling \$735,000 which we put into electric reserve where it's sat untouched.”

Ward said with the backing of the Finance Committee the thought is to use that refunded money to pay cost increases down the pike – possibly coming in January 2023.

Commissioner Amy Patterson who sits on the Finance Committee said the rationale was that this

was a credit back and customers should benefit.

“Our customers were over-charged and paid for the electricity that we were given a credit for after the true-up so not using that refund to pay rate increases seems like we would be double dipping these folks since they already paid,” she said. “We didn't give the money back to customers when we got it back, we put it in reserve. So instead of raising rates on them we could use it for these fuel-based cost increases coming from Duke.”

This doesn't mean rates won't ever go up, but the refund money will be used for as long as possible to offset an increase.

“If I recall correctly, we said this is what we were going to do with that money. So, we need to be true to what we said,” said the mayor. “Use the money that's already in the bank for that specific purpose.”

Commissioner Brian Stiehler said this plan shows responsible government.

“But we need to prepare everybody so if there is an increase, they don't look at it like it's some massive increase coming,” he said.

Therefore, Highlands electric rates will hold even – at least initially – even if there is a Duke increase.

“Once it comes, we will keep paying the increase on our end until the \$735,000 runs out. When and how much the rates go up will determine how long the refunded monies will last,” said the mayor.

– Kim Lewicki



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Dereck JONES

★★★★ FOR ★★★★★

SHERIFF

Education, Experience & Leadership
jonesforsheriff.org



Jones teaching firearms safety to a group of middle-school students



Scenario-based active shooter training



Dereck Jones leading a substance-abuse class for MCSO inmates



Jones with Tony Corbin at the Far West Conference on Domestic Abuse and Foster Care



Jones with Mike Anderson, Deputy Director of NC Center for Safer Schools

DERECK JONES:



- ★ Has experience within every division of the Sheriff's Office
- ★ Has overseen a department budget of \$3 million
- ★ Is the ONLY candidate with extensive budget and policy experience
- ★ Is a member of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Forces and advocates for expansion of those services within MCSO facilities and beyond
- ★ Will maintain a School Resource Officer at ALL Macon County Schools



- ★ Is pro-second amendment, and is a law enforcement and concealed-carry firearms instructor
- ★ Will expand upon scenario-based firearms training for citizens
- ★ Will educate citizens on case law, and changes within the system
- ★ Is pro-fourth and pro-fourteenth amendment and believes in due process for ALL citizens of our great country



- ★ Will work together with communities to improve crime prevention and community watch strategies
- ★ Will initiate after school programs and summer youth camps to build rapport with young people and educate them as to the effects of peer-pressure
- ★ Will reorganize the agency to fight the drug epidemic head-on and better serve all citizens of our communities
- ★ Will reorganize the agency to provide equal patrols to all rural areas

*Paid for by the committee to elect
 Dereck E. Jones Macon County Sheriff*

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP BOIL

to benefit
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JULY 9th, 2022

Doors Open at 5, Dinner at 6

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

\$70 Ticket includes tasty low country boil dinner, dessert, and two drinks.

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

HIGHLANDS EVENTS

Rec Pool Schedule:

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 6am-10am, Monday and Thursday 11:15am-7pm and Tuesday and Wednesday 11:15am-3:30pm 6 lanes AND 3:30-7 (shared Pool) and Saturday 10-11am 6 lanes. Adult Swim Monday-Thursday 11:15am-7pm. Call ahead for Public Swim Weekend schedule due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

Pickle Ball

• There are three indoor Pickle Ball courts and six outdoor Court open once again. Pickle Ball will be played in the gym every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1:pm (days and times have changed).

Nature Center Spring Hours

• Friday & Saturday: 10 AM to 4 PM.
Closed: Sunday - Thursday

Mondays

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further

their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

Tuesdays

• Covid-19 Testing at Village Green in Cashiers every Tuesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

Wednesdays

• Covid-19 Testing at Highlands Community Building every Wednesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at lhi.care/covidtesting.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11am.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more in-



LIGHTNER FOR MACON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

“35 years as Macon County Tax Administrator prepared me for dealing with the complex challenges that face our citizens. We need a vision for today that will become a reality tomorrow.”

SUPPORTS:

- School Funding Solutions
- Enhanced Senior Services
- Law Enforcement & EMS Services
- Strong County and Town Relations
- Transparent Government with Citizens' input.
- Office for Grants and Economic Development

“I appreciate your support and vote in the upcoming election.”

– Richard Lightner

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Richard Lightner

Saturday Nights on Pine starts May 14



The Breakfast Club Band kicks off this year's FREE Saturday Nights on Pine concerts 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic. Alcoholic beverages are permitted.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

formation, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, & Thurs,

• Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 pm \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call 828.349.2081.

Mon, Wed, Thurs

• Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 am-1 pm.

Mon, Wed, Fri

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 am.

1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas

• New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different types of exercise.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

• Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 am to 5pm at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Location subject to change. please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19> or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

Fridays

• Friday Night Live Concerts in Town Square on Main Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs.

Every Fri., Sat, & Sun.

• 1st run movies at the Playhouse on Oak Street. 1 and 4 p.m. www.mountaintheatre.com

Saturdays

• Saturdays on Pine in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic. 1st Saturdays

• Visit Highlands hosts the Highlands Bagpipers for a Town Square performance 4:30-5p the first Saturday of each month through October.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March and November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/ 909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10AM We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

Thurs., May 12

• Winter stories will be held at the High Dive from 2-4, a casual gathering of story swapping. Come, Tell, Listen.

Fri.-Sun. May 13-15

• First-run movies at the Highlands Playhouse on Oak Street. This week: THE OUTFIT, 1pm & 4pm. www.mountaintheatre.com

Fri., May 13

• Great Art on Screen at the PAC at

5:30 p.m. Marking the centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb with the biggest international exhibition ever dedicated to him. For ticket information go to www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

• Live concert in Town Square on Main Street 6-8:30 p.m. Johnny Webb Band. Bring chairs.

Sat., May 14

• Meander in May, set for 11a to 4p Saturday, May 14, will take place throughout downtown. This free, self-guided event, the product of Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands, NC, brings live musical performances, artists, craftspeople, and fun demonstrations to locations across the town. That means you'll discover music from bluegrass to jazz, and artists displaying their talents in jewelry making, painting, woodworking, metallurgy, photography and plein air painting. These musicians and artists will be situated all over town. Residents and visitors are encouraged to watch, listen, engage, and indulge in other offerings along the way. Participants will be provided with an event map to go and seek out their favorite artist/musician. The day is capped by a concert at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park at 6p. And in keeping with the theme of walking, make sure you're wearing comfy shoes!

• The Western North Carolina Wood-

turners Club meeting is at 10 a.m. at the Bascom, 323 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC. Drive across the covered bridge into the parking lot, and come into the main entrance near the covered patio. There will be directions on how to get to the wood turning studio. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Highlands the second Saturday of every month between March and November. This meeting will focus on jigs, fixtures, and other items to make your woodturning experience more beneficial.

• National Theatre Live at the PAC at 1 p.m. Set twelve years before his epic His Dark Materials trilogy, this gripping adaptation revisits Phillip Pullman's fantastical world in which waters are rising and storms are brewing. Two young people and their dæmons, with everything at stake, find themselves at the centre of a terrifying manhunt. In their care is a tiny child called Lyra Belacqua, and in that child lies the fate of the future. And as the waters rise around them, powerful adversaries conspire for mastery of Dust: salvation to some, the source of infinite corruption to others. For ticket information go to www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

• Live Concert at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8:30 p.m. The Breakfast Club. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic.

Tues., May 17

• Brushy Face to Satulah Hike – Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) Member EcoTour from 10am-3pm. \$50 per person PLUS HCLT membership (any level). Contact Sarah Pursel, hclt-ed@earthlink.net, 828-526-1111, www.hicashlt.org.

• Free state-mandated sports physical for rising 6th-12th graders at 2 p.m. at Highlands School. All students who will participate in NCHSAA sanctioned sports, must undergo a state-mandated sports physical prior to trying out for any sport. Parents/Guardians should plan to attend the sports physical, to answer questions the medical team may have during the exam. For more information please contact Will Mathiowdis at William.Mathiowdis@HCAHealthcare.com

Fri., May 20

• First-ever Justice Matters Tours at our Highlands/Cashiers office to find out how you can join Pisgah Legal Services in standing for justice. This interactive

• See EVENTS page 22

Friday Night Live Concerts start May 13



The Johnny Webb Band kicks off this year's FREE Friday Night Live Concerts held in Town Square on Main Street from 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs.

...EVENTS continued from page 21

in-person tour is 1:30 - 3p.m. and delves into how Pisgah Legal addresses domestic violence, housing, immigration, access to healthcare, and community economic development and explains how community members can get involved. Tours take place at Pisgah Legal Services, 209 Hospital Dr., Suite 203, Highlands, NC. Limited space available. RSVP to Megan Quattlebaum at 828-575-1353 or email Megan@pisgahlegal.org.

• Chef Dinner at OEI's The Farm, May Day Celebration with Celebrity Chef, author and lifestyle expert Chadwick Boyd. Book at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/

chefdinners.

Sat. May 21

• The American Legion will celebrate Armed Forces Day at their meeting at the Methodist Church on Main Street, Highlands. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. and the meeting is at 10 a.m. Armed Forces Day was signed into law July 26, 1947 by President Harry S. Truman. It was passed to unify all four branches of the military under a single executive authority, the Secretary of Defense.

Mon. May 23

• At CLE, Intro to iPhone/iPad. 10a to



Highlands School
End of the Year Activities

EVENT	TIME	DATE/PLACE
EOG Make-ups	8am	Friday, May 13
Yearbook Assembly:	11am	Friday, May 13
High school outdoor Lunch and Field Day to follow at Track. – it ends at 2:30pm		
Baccalaureate	4pm	Sunday, May 15
First Baptist Church: Dinner to Follow		
Grades K, 1, 2 Award Assembly		
New Gym	9am	Tuesday, May 17
Grades 3, 4, 5 Award Assembly		
New Gym	10am	Tuesday, May 17
Elementary Field Day	9am	Wednesday May 18
MS Academic awards	10am	Wednesday, May 18
MS Courtyard or old gym		
MS Graduation	5pm	Wednesday, May 18
MS Courtyard or old gym		
MS Field Day	TBA	Thursday, May 19
Graduation Practice	1pm	Friday, May 20
(Track or Gym: decided by Thursday, May 19)		
All seniors and mascots are required to attend.		
Seniors/mascots that do not attend cannot participate in Graduation.		
Graduation	10am	Saturday, May 21
Track or New Gym		
Teacher Workday/Faculty Luncheon: Noon.		Tuesday, May 24
Outside weather permitting		
All faculty and Staff are required to attend.		



Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning
Facials • Massages
Walk-ins Welcome!

Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Villardo

Stylists: Heachter Escandon
Maggie Barden, Bri Field, and Desiray Schmitt

Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt
Massage Therapist: Brenda Lopez

Upstairs and Across the Walkway at
Falls on Main Highlands
Open at 9a Tues.-Sat. • 828-526-3939



Natural Products Store

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

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS



NECTAR Organic smoothie/juice
bar located
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**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

The HC Land Trust announces largest conservation easement in the organization's history

More than 87 acres of land in Cashiers has been put under a conservation easement, preserving it forever. The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) enthusiastically announces Daniel Communities and Arlington Family Offices put 87.5 acres of land at High Hampton under a conservation easement that includes the saddle between the peaks of Chimney Top and Rock Mountain, the boulder field below the Rock Mountain Cliff, and acreage on Rock Mountain. This land, combined with 325 acres put under easement by Will and Becky McKee, makes it HCLT's largest conservation easement to date.

In addition to the property at High Hampton, a neighboring landowner in the Cedar Hill community added 48 acres to an existing 43 acre easement. This generosity means a total of 501 acres of Chimney Top and Rock Mountain are under the stewardship of the HCLT.

These easements permanently protect part of the scenic viewshed and headwaters of the Chattooga River.

HCLT, a nationally accredited nonprofit organization, has been partnering with landowners and developers to conserve property on the Plateau since 1909. While some lands are donated, the most common method of protection is by using conservation easements, which is a legal agreement that restricts some, or all, developmental rights. These particular easements protect a valuable viewshed, rare habitat and species, and the headwaters of the Chattooga River. All HCLT conserved lands, even if not open for recreation, benefit the public and our local ecosystem. To learn how you can help conserve your land or to support HCLT's conservation work on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, visit www.hicashlt.org.



Effective leaders live by strong values that shape and guide their decisions and behaviors. As a 9th generation Macon County resident and 3rd generation law enforcement officer, I have always remained connected to Macon County roots through direct involvement with church, the school system, volunteer services and involvement with youth activities. As Sheriff, my passion for direct, hands-on, community-based policies would be a constant throughout the department. My wife and I take pride in our public servant household who values community involvement and the youth of Macon County.

1. Increased DIRECT Involvement with our Community

- Community contact/face-to-face interactions
- MCSO Sponsored Events - Community Patrols
- Local Business Checks

2. Youth & Young Adult Support

- SROs continue to serve teachers & students through the county
- Presence in the schools across the county
- Continued Shop With A Cop
- Encouragement of local law enforcement to volunteer with community youth organizations; making a positive impact with younger generations
- Creating a partnership with various outreach programs throughout the county (i.e. Literacy Council, Rotary Clubs, youth sports, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.)

3. Officer Retention, Sustainability + Support

- Positive Work Culture - Build Rapport
- Support LEO families - Exit Surveys
- Continue to fight for equitable pay for local law enforcement

4. War on Drugs

5. Macon County is not a safe haven for criminals!
6. Protect our citizens and youth
7. Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit
8. Increased community presence
9. Increased involvement with the youth of Macon County
10. Availability of Rehabilitation programs and resources

**Elect
BRENT
HOLBROOKS
FOR SHERIFF 2022**



**Early Voting ends
Saturday.**

**Thursday, April 28
The Primary is**

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT BRENT HOLBROOKS

...CHANGE continued from page 1

While candidates for District 1 must reside within the boundaries of the district, Macon County residents at-large elect the position. The 1984 board of commissioners tabled the discussion and in the nearly 40 years since, that same request has been made a dozen times, however the election method has never changed.

Neville Bryson was the first Highlands resident to be elected to District 1 and was elected in 1986. Bryson served until 1994 when William Fred Munger was elected. Munger resided in Highlands. Munger decided to seek election for Macon County Register of Deeds in 1998, leaving the seat open for Allan Bryson of Highlands to be elected. Allan Bryson retained the seat until 2006 when he was defeated by Highlands resident Brian McClellan. McClellan later resigned from the Macon County Board of Commissioners and Highlands resident Jim Tate was appointed to replace him. Tate has held the seat ever since however, he will be retiring from the board in November.

Both Republican candidates on the Primary Ballot for the May 17 election, Don Willis and John Shearl, currently reside in District I, but not within Highlands. At a public forum held at the Macon County Public Library last week, all candidates running for commissioner were asked how they would ensure the residents of Highlands re-

ceived the same representation as they have in the past, if the candidate to be elected to the board lived outside of the city limits.

"The citizens of Highlands can rest assured that they will get the same representation from me that I will give the folks over on Nantahala, Franklin, Cowee... it doesn't matter," said Candidate Don Willis who lives in the Elijah Community. "We are all one county, folks. We need to represent all the people not just a slim majority or just the town of Highlands."

According to Shearl, he has been involved with the town of Highlands since the 1980s.

"I have been in the town of Highlands since 1986. My wife is a native Highlander. The Munger Family was the third family to ever settle in Highlands. We built our house in Highlands and we had three sons that graduated from Highlands School. I am a retired Highlands firefighter, Highlands little league representative," said Shearl who currently lives in the Sugarfork Community. "I am there every day. That is where my landscaping company is. My connections are extensive in Highlands and those people know where I will be every day."

With the possibility of the District I representative not residing in Highlands, candidates currently seeking the Republican nomination for District II also shared their

insight as to how they would ensure Highlands representatives were adequately represented.

"I will represent all communities in Macon County, no matter if it stretches from Nantahala, to Highlands, or wherever," said Candidate Gregg Jones. "I am willing to put my boots on and make sure stuff gets done. I would like to see the communities come together and work together."

Gary Shields, the only incumbent running for election noted that the various districts are important to ensure fair representation.

"We have three districts in Macon County, Districts 1, 2, and 3. I have always thought of myself as a Maconian first, but Districts have the responsibility to find who they want to come up and be their representative," said Shields. "I think a quality candidate for District I needs to come out of the leadership of District I. The District I person [candidate] is going to have to answer to District I people."

Danny Reitmeier noted that while the board is comprised of various districts, commissioners are voted by all residents in Macon County and their work should reflect such.

"We are elected by our districts because of where we live, but we are responsible for all the citizens of Macon County," said Reitmeier. "Though we may not be the 'responsible' person, we have to be there for

everybody. I have a long history of connections to Highlands through work, being involved in our community through youth sports... 20 years of my life was up there on that mountain."

Candidate Danny Antoine was unable to attend the public forum but is also running for the District II seat. He said that regardless of the district he is elected to represent, he believes Macon County should come together as a whole and said that he thinks all the candidates running for election have the same viewpoint... that the position commissioner is to serve all citizens.

The District I seat on the Macon County Board of Commissioners would have been final after the results of the May 17 primary since only two Republicans filed for the primary election, however Highlands resident Jerry Moore was able to successfully secure the 1,111 signatures required to appear on the November ballot as an unaffiliated candidate.

Since Moore was able to secure the required signatures to appear on the November ballot, there is a possibility that come November, the District I representative will reside within the Highlands town limits if Moore wins the General Election. If not — either Shearl or Willis will become the first person in nearly 40 years to represent District I from one of the other precincts rather than the town of Highlands.



HIGHLANDS

ELEV. 4118 | THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

First Ever!

Highlands Volunteer Event

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

Thursday, May 19th

11am - 2pm

**Highlands Community Building
71 Poplar Street**

Light refreshments will be served.

This event is hosted by the
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands.
For more information: highlandschamber.org or 828-526-5841

visithighlandsnsc.com

VOTE

CLAY BRYSON **FOR** **MACON COUNTY SHERIFF** **TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022**



- ✓ **QUALIFIED**
- ✓ **EXPERIENCED**
- ✓ **HONEST & FAIR**
- ✓ **PROVEN LEADER**
- ✓ **COMMITTED TO CHANGE**
- ✓ **WHAT MACON COUNTY NEEDS**



Clay

BRYSON

for Macon County Sheriff

Leadership driven by experience & integrity

Paid for by Citizens to Elect Clay Bryson

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The Sovereign God of Grace

Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian
Church, Cashiers

The greatest truth men need to know in order to establish a solid foundation for life is that this world in which we live was created by a sovereign God. That means that everything we have came from that God. Therefore, we owe to him all praise and glory. Where do we find this truth? Let's look to the Bible.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." John 1:1-2 tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." Genesis 1:2 declares, "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Is God sovereign? These three verses declare that "In the beginning" there was nothing but God. There was God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three persons, yet, one God, all of one substance equal in power and glory.

Everything that you: see, hear, feel, taste, and smell comes from the creative power of God. It was God that made all things and all out of nothing. Who was there for Him to ask counsel from? God was completely sufficient unto Himself, needing nothing or no one. Yet, He was a God moved by His own being to create. So, before the foundations of this world were laid, He devised a plan to create a world and rule over it. He decided to create mankind and from that mass of humanity to redeem a people unto Himself (2 Corinthians 6:16-18). All this was decided before any work was done to bring our world into existence. So, who gave Him any counsel?

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was ordained before the foundations of this world were laid (1 Peter 1:20 & Revelation 13:8) and who was there to counsel God? He has provided for those that would hear the Good News, it is God that gives them new hearts with which to fear Him (Ezekiel 36:24-26, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:8-12). Also it is the Holy Spirit who watches over them to see that the work begun in them is carried out to completion (Philippians 1:6). So, again, who was there to counsel God?

There was no one to counsel God for there was none but the Triune God. It is the Triune God that has made all things (Acts 15:18), it is this same Triune God that this very day sustains all things (Hebrews 1:3), and my friend, he does not seek the counsel of anyone about how to run His creation. He is the Sovereign Lord Almighty, and He and He alone is in control of this world.

Scripture says, He has the hairs on your head num-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 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

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am 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

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

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

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.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children's Program. Youth-12:15 - 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a 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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

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

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Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



The winning foursome from left: Donnie Callaway, Ronnie Waller, Dabs Potts and Donald Reese.

Rotary Club annual golf tournament raises money for town scholarship fund

On May 2 Highlands Country Club hosted the annual Rotary Club of Highlands golf tournament. Players enjoyed golf on the historic course, as well as lunch, beverages, and post tournament awards. All money raised by this tournament helps fund the many projects of the Rotary Club of Highlands.



Rotary club sponsors annual Athletic Banquet for Highlands School athletes

On May 3 the Rotary Club of Highlands continued its long tradition of support for the Highlands School by sponsoring the high school athletic banquet. Rotary members served supper for the students, their families, coaches and teachers. Photo shows Rotary members preparing for the banquet.

• FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 3.

May 3

- At 3 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Buck Creek Road.

- At 4:36 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on NC 28 south.

May 4

- At 11:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

- At 1:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Magnolia Drive.

May 5

- At 11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pipers Court.

- At 12:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on North Drive.

- At 3:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

- At 4:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

May 6

- At 8:04 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Half Mile Drive.

- At 9:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sagee Trace.

- At 9:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lucerne Drive.

- At 5:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Azalea Drive.

May 7

- At 4:25 p.m., the dept. responded to motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

2nd annual 'Meander in May' is this Saturday

The second annual Meander in May, set for 11a to 4p Saturday, May 14, will take place throughout downtown.

This free, self-guided event, the product of Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands, NC, brings live musical performances, artists, craftspeople, and fun demonstrations to locations across the town.

That means you'll discover music from bluegrass to jazz, and artists displaying their talents in jewelry making, painting, woodworking, metallurgy, photography and plein air painting.

These musicians and artists will be situated all over town. Residents and visitors are encouraged to watch, listen, engage, and indulge in other offerings along the way.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 26

bered and He knows when each sparrow falls (Luke 12:6,7). He is working out His plan and no effort of a man or any other creature will change the number of those chosen unto eternal salvation (Ephesians 1:3-5,11; Acts 13:48) nor prevent the day He has set to bring them all into His presence (Job 42:2), for He is indeed sovereign. What a great comfort we as believers can take in this knowledge, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty" (Zechariah 4:6).

Those who hear these words and understand them should find this to be a great



Participants will be provided with an event map to go and seek out their favorite artist/musician. The day is capped by a concert at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park at 6p. And in keeping with the theme of walking, make sure you're wearing comfy shoes!

comfort, to know they are in the hand of their sovereign and holy God. This is especially true in these dark days in which we face such upheaval and persecution as believers of this sovereign God.

Do you want hope and assurance in this dark age? You need but call on Jesus Christ who came into this world from the sovereign Triune God to show men where their hope originates. I Peter 5:10 "But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."



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...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 29

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...CONNECTING continued from page 10

Estes – arrived they found Samuel building his new home on the south side of Main Street across from the Hudson Library up behind Falls on Main where the chimney remains today.

When not promoting Highlands, Samuel and his son Harlan were busy cultivating a nursery.

At 13, Harlan had a half-acre plot of land on which he founded his own nursery which led to a lifelong career. He cultivated 17 species of plants and was soon considered the youngest nurseryman in America.

Over the 15 years Kelsey lived with his family in Highlands he created the Kelsey-Hutchinson Nursery which would eventually contain more than 600 species laid out in blocks across 100 acres below the brow of Sunset Rocks. It would be the first of three nurseries of the same name – one in Linville, NC which Samuel left Highlands to found and one in Boxford, MA.

When a railroad linking Highlands to the rest of the world didn't materialize, Samuel left Highlands to found Linville, NC in 1890 where he and son Harlan established nursery number two.

From there the family moved to Massachusetts, where they started the Kelsey-Highlands Nursery in Boxford which is what ignited Seth's love of nature and the outdoors.

Harlan Page Kelsey had become a national figure in horticulture, conservation and landscape architecture. He died at the age of 88 when Seth was four.

"I have a very faint memory of him [great-grandfather Harlan] being I was four. I didn't know a lot about the history of my family. But even when growing up my grandfather Seth, Sr. and my dad Seth, Jr. ran the nursery in Boxford, and as kids we had free rein running around the nursery," he said.

The Boxford nursery is now the Kelsey Arboretum and the Horticulture Society of Boxford has preserved it.

"I understand now the influence Samuel T. and Harlan Page Kelsey had on our family. My dad being a nursery man himself, had a connection to horticultural activities and parks and conservation. I now understand the vein that runs through our family; where that came from," he said. "That is my mem-



Charlie Jenks used this compass to get Samuel T. Kelsey and Clinton Hutchinson to Highlands.

ory and connection to them – being nursery men and landscape architects."

Seth and his wife Virginia have retired from the tech world and have given up the confines of the cubicle for the outdoors. They are now avid hikers, mountaineers, and have most recently become more connected to plants.

"I am more interested in being in the outdoors and being in the forests like what

I've read about Samuel who explored the woods and mountains here," he said.

The compass that the historical society now possesses was the compass Charlie Jenks a 19-year-old from outside of Franklin used to guide Kelsey and Hutchinson up to Highlands.

Jenks brought them up the old Cherokee trail (the Gorge Road) climbing up Dry Falls and eventually standing on Satulah Mountain to look down at a rhododendron forest that would become Highlands proper.

"They said we are going to build a town with roads to connect Bear Pen and Satulah (4th street) and Sugartown Falls (Dry Falls) and Horse Cove (Main Street). Those were and still are the two main roads in town," said Lance Hardin HHS historian. "So, in 1875 using that compass they stood on that mountain and laid out what is our main intersection today."

Of course, Highlands wasn't unknown in 1875. It had been a hunting camp for the Cherokee and the original owner of the land grant Joseph Dobson and some families – Webbs, Johnstons and Gibsons to name a few.

Like Hardin said, every town has a story.

"Someone founded every town, but it's rare that a town remembers its founders as much as Highlands does. It's Kelsey everything around here," he said.

Now that Seth is here in the town his family formalized so long ago he said "it's a little overwhelming."

"I couldn't wait to get here, and it's been very exciting."

– Kim Lewicki

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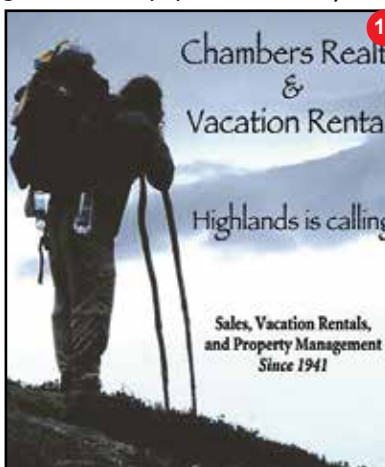


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