

Highlands Newspaper

Volume 20, Number 27

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

Thurs., July 6, 2023

HF&R joins the ranks of other area depts. with full-time firefighters

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands Fire & Rescue began staffing two of six, full-time,

firefighters on 24/7 at the new station on June 29.

HFR Firefighters Travis Brooks and Jacob Pressler worked

the first shift and said departments are making the transition to staffing full-time firefighters through-

• See **FIREFIGHTERS** page 7



Firefighters, police and EMS on Oak Street responding to a gas explosion at Midpoint Restaurant.

Photo by Brian O'Shea

Gas explosion closes 3 businesses

A gas explosion that allegedly started in the kitchen of Midpoint Restaurant sent shockwaves through neighboring buildings Friday, June 30 at 11 a.m., has caused three businesses to close

until further notice.

According to Highlands Fire & Rescue Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester, EMS reported two minor injuries.

EMS Director Warren Cabe

said EMS transported two patients to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, one with minor injuries and one with moderate injuries. "Neither patient appeared to have

• See **EXPLOSION** page 13

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It was time for a tune up at First Presbyterian

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily news

The organ at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands received a tune up last week keeping its pipes in tip-top shape. Having a true pipe organ is somewhat of a rarity nowadays as many churches have gone digital.

There are few who know the beauty of a true pipe organ like seventh generation Highlander Angie Jenkins, who began serv-

ing as assistant organist at 14 and became the "official" organist in 1976.

She is also the longest tenured organist in Highlands history and said having a pipe organ is something special.

"The sound from a pipe organ is a true sound from a pipe, much like a whistle," said Jenkins. the digital and electronic organs try to duplicate that sound, but

• See **TUNE UP** page 7

The Hurricanes win again

The Highlands Hurricanes, 35 in all, descended into Canton to swim the Smoky Mountain Aquatics Club and won their 4th meet in a row -- 534-322 -- setting three team records along the way.

The Hurricanes were led by Margaret Cole, Emilina Hernandez, Junior Olympians Conner Hughes and Jasmine Abranyi who each scored 80 pts.

Cole won four events, Her-

nandez, Hughes, and Abranyi three. Abranyi broke two team records in the 100 Backstroke and the 100 Butterfly.

Emma Denisoff, Junior Olympians Chase Kenter and Lillian Chamberless brought home 77 pts. Denisoff and Kenter won two blue ribbons, Chamberless three. Chamberless broke a team record in the 100 free.

• See **HURRICANES** page 13

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The confluence of art and science

This past Saturday, Sallie and I had the honor of attending the Benefactors Breakfast that kicked off Community Day at the Bascom Visual Arts Center. It was good to be with friends and realize that the Bascom has been thriving since the facility's opening in May 2009.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The director of the Bascom, Karin Peterson, spoke to this group of supporters about the Bascom being a part of a creative community in Highlands and Cashiers. The center has a vision concept where they invite people to think, see and create. I like that concept because I see it manifested throughout this mountain community.

To me, Highlands has always been a retreat community for reflection, restoration, and resetting one's goals and priorities. Just being here with creative folks in this spectacular setting is restorative and re-invigorating. I like to think we live in a university kind of town. Many of our residents bring so much professional expertise and creative experiences to our community.

The Bascom is just one place where this creative energy can be found, as the Performing Arts Center (PAC) captures the same exciting energy. During this time of the year, creative and restorative experiences abound with the Chamber Music Festival, Bel Canto, and the Mountain Theatre productions. But this energy is not limited to the arts; we have the Highlands Biological Station in full operation this summer, with research students from several universities working from the station out into unique areas of Western Carolina.

These science students will also be thinking, seeing, and creating new experiments and studies that are vital to understanding the ecology of the Highlands and Cashiers areas. The art of seeing and the thinking involved in the arts and sciences are not mutually exclusive.

Creative thinking, whether in basic research or artistic exploration, can sometimes be viewed as wild, crazy, wasteful, and irrelevant. I remember years ago reading Nicholas Negroponte's book Being Digital. Negroponte made some very farfetched predictions in the late 1990s that are now standard operating procedures.

I recall at that time seeing a news piece featuring a goofy MIT graduate student who was developing a digital photo archive of his daily experiences. This young man did look a little goofy in that he had long hair and was wearing cutoff blue jean shorts and brogan shoes. He was actually a musing oddity on the MIT campus. He carried a backpack with a computer everywhere he went. The computer system had a small antenna projecting from the backpack. One cable coming from the backpack was connected to a trigger device that the student held in his hand. Another cable was connected to a small camera lens mounted on his large, strange-looking glasses.

He told the news person interviewing him that his computer system allowed him to photograph everything he did during the day. When he clicked the handheld device, a digital photographic image was transmitted from this backpack computer to a computer

• See MAYOR page 12

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 6-Jul	Fri, 7-Jul	Sat, 8-Jul	Sun, 9-Jul
78°F 63°F	78°F 60°F	77°F 60°F	79°F 62°F
A shower and thunderstorm	A p.m. t-storm in spots	A stray afternoon t-storm	A t-storm around in the p.m.
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'Soiree for Pre-K' is July 22

The Literacy & Learning Center is hosting Soiree for Pre-K, a fund-raising event on July 22, with all proceeds benefiting our new NC-certified pre-K program.

Soiree for Pre-K will be a fun-filled evening featuring dinner, drinks, and dancing to Steel Toe Stiletto, a premium events band based in Greenville, SC. The band was formed from friendships between some of the Southeast's most impressive vocalists and musicians. Multi-year winners of The Knot's Best of Weddings and Couples' Choice Awards, they cover favorites across genres and decades. Bring your friends to the Vineyard at High Holly and make some new ones in this charming spot nestled on nearly 30 acres of lush, rolling hills and boasts a working vineyard, award-winning dahlia garden, pond and waterfalls, an event pavilion, and walking trails throughout.

The pre-K program is designed to help children ages 3-5 develop the skills they need to succeed in school and be-



yond. The program includes a focus on literacy, math, and social-emotional development. TL&LC is dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood education to all children, re-

gardless of their family's income.

We invite all community members to join us for this excellent opportunity to support TL&LC's mission and help ensure that all children have access to quality education. Tickets can be purchased online for \$250 per person at www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/soiree.

In addition to dinner, drinks, and dancing, the event will feature a live auction with various items up for bid, including weekend getaways to several exciting destinations!

The Literacy & Learning Center is so grateful for the community's support. The funds raised from this event will help to ensure that we can continue to provide more high-quality early childhood education to Highlands' children.

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SCALY MOUNTAIN
MLS# 102410 | \$297,000

3 BR 2 BA 1 HBA

This charming home in Scaly Mtn. is a floor-upper with tons of potential. The home has large windows that let in plenty of natural light, vaulted ceilings with beautiful beams, and large bedrooms and closets. The kitchen has good bones and looks out at the beautiful yard, and the living room features a beautiful stone fireplace. The layout of the home is nice and open, and the large flat yard is a tough find in the mountains. The basement is unfinished but has great potential. With a little TLC, this home could be transformed into a beautiful mountain retreat. Only 10 minutes from downtown Highlands. In the heart of Scaly Mountain.

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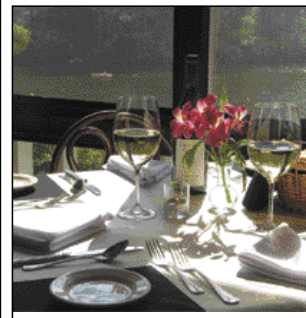
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...TUNE UP continued from page 1

they never quite make it," said Jenkins.

Sound is created by feeding wind into pipes causing the air to oscillate, which produces the tones people hear.

The pipes all stand in a line above the "wind-chest" with wind fed from down below into the pipes that Jenkins chooses to use to produce the sounds she wants.

First Presbyterian's sanctuary was built in 1885. Jenkins said they wanted to have an organ that would historically reflect the way organs of that vintage sounded and looked.

She said with the help of some very talented people, they were able to have an organ built that suited the sanctuary aesthetically and musically.

"It was the church's desire that the organ have painted pipes; these were popular in the past but have not been used for many years," said Jenkins. "The stenciled designs on the organ pipes were inspired by symbolism found throughout the Christian faith. Combined, these symbols reflect and celebrate the glory of God."

The organ receives a tune up twice a year. It was built by the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, ILL in 2004.

Jenkins said she was able to go to the Wicks Organ Factory twice while the organ was being built. Next year the congregation will celebrate the organ's 20th birthday.



Agie Jenkins at home at the organ.

- Photo by Marty Boone

...FIREFIGHTERS continued from page 1

out the area, including stations in Cashiers, Sylva, and Cullowhee.

Brooks said having firefighters on duty 24/7 means they can receive a call while sound asleep and be in the truck and out the door in under two minutes. He added that when a call is received there are both flashing lights and audible alarms to wake them up.

"When we get a page, it automatically sounds bells and turns on lights, and of course our radios and pagers will be going off," he said. "It's not something you sleep through."

Brooks said having the station staffed 24/7 does not alleviate the need for volunteer firefighters.

"It's very important that we maintain our volunteer base because we can't do our job without them," he said. "Can't do it with just two people."



Jacob Pressler Travis Brooks work maintaining equipment when not heeding a call.

Full-time firefighters work in shifts that most people are not accustomed to, 48 hours on duty and 96 hours off.

Pressler said working two days consecutively and having four days off works well for him.

"I don't mind the 48/96, having four days off gives me time to unwind and connect with my family," he said.

How do firefighters spend that time? Brooks said fighting fires is a small per-

• See **FIREFIGHTERS** page 13



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Each year, I meet dear clients who become friends. They are very conscious of how they want to spend their QTR with family, friends and activities. It is our job as real estate brokers to help newcomers decide if this area is the best place for them to spend their QTR. Here are some reasons that may convince folks to make this their home:

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Low Country Shrimp Boil is fast approaching Tickets are still available

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Family/Children's Concert & Ice Cream Social Thurs., July 13 at First Presbytererian church



The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival will present a free family/children's concert and performance entitled "Babar the Elephant & Ferdinand the Bull" at 3pm on Thursday, July 13 at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. Featured will be Julie Coucheron, Piano; Alice Hong, Violin; with narration by Lois Reitzes, the legendary voice of classical radio in Atlanta. Immediately following the performance, an Ice Cream Social will be held in Coleman Hall, sponsored by Kilwin's of Highlands. The church is located at the corner of South Fifth and Main Streets.

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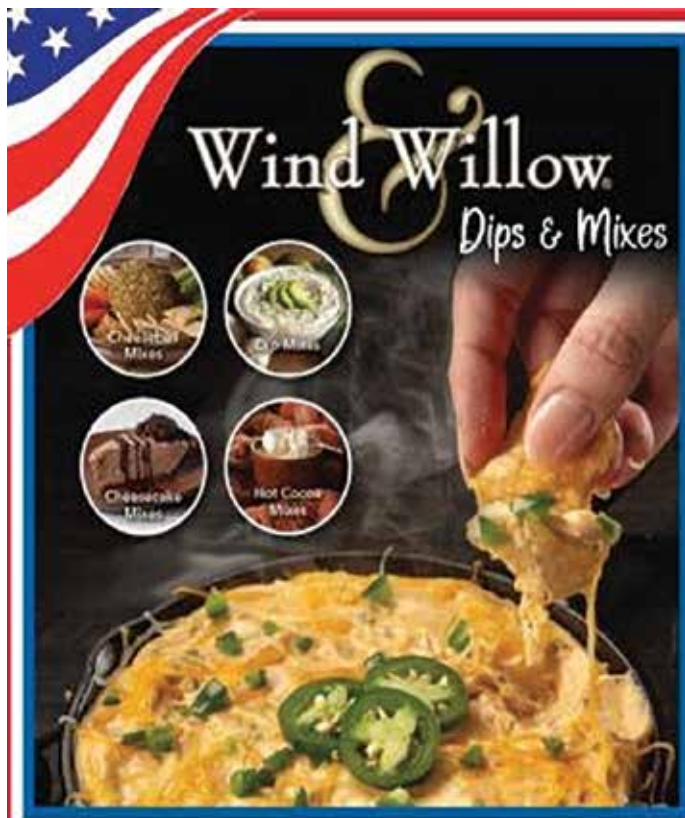


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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



This sign on the Franklin Road at Lake Sequoyah is one of four refurbished signs.

Refurbished signage welcomes all to Highlands

Notice anything different when you enter town? How about the newly refreshed Highlands 4118 roadside signs?

When a funding request was received from the Town for aged signage that was failing, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC gladly provided the monies to update the signs from the occupancy tax paid by guests staying in Highlands' accommodations.

"We are thankful the Chamber was able to provide the needed funds for this important project," said Mayor Patrick Taylor. "The signs serve as a warm welcome to residents and visitors as they arrive in the Town

of Highlands."

Formed in 1931 to serve as the voice of business, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce has grown to provide services and support to businesses, residents, and visitors. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC hosts an array of special events and programs throughout the year including Plateau Pick-Up, the Outdoor Concert Series, Meander in May, July 4th Fireworks and many more.

For more information about the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC call 828-526-5841 or visit highlandschamber.org.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

in his dormitory room. Well, we all know where this story ended up. Literally, billions of people do the same thing today with their cell phones. And what about that young student? He probably now wears a white lab coat or charcoal gray suit to work, or maybe, he has a house in Highlands now.

We never know where creative thinking and experimentation will lead us. Let's embrace being a creative community in the arts and sciences. Whether they be major societal breakthroughs or just personal discoveries, our community is a fertile ground for thinking, seeing, and creating.

...FIREFIGHTERS continued from page 7

centage of what fulltime firefighters do, it's an important part, but there is a lot more to it. This includes responding to medical and rescue calls, training, and maintenance on equipment, property, and the new building.

In addition, it's critical that all the equipment is kept top-notch so it's ready when a call comes in.

"We protect lives and we protect property, in that order," he said. "We have a lot of expensive equipment to maintain and we train, fulltime firefighters train a lot."

Brooks added that HFR will also use this opportunity for more proactive community outreach.

"We look forward to serving the community in other avenues, not just responding to fire calls," he said. "We want to put more of an effort into fire/life safety initiatives."

Some of these initiatives include fire

drills, alarm checks, and fire extinguisher education.

"We're looking for different avenues to educate people about fire/life safety," said Brooks. "It's often focused on children, but they're not the only at-risk population. Sometimes adults need a reminder too."

Brooks has been volunteering at HFR for over six years and recently left a position as a Captain at the Sylva Fire Department to work in Highlands.

"I think it's great to come back and

serve the community where I first began volunteering," he said.

Pressler is a graduate of the Blue Ridge Early College Fire Academy and Southwestern Community College.

He is a volunteer in the Cashiers-Glenville Volunteer Fire Department and is no stranger to responding to calls in the area.

"I'm excited because I'm starting my career and helping my community," he said. "I'm a part of something Highlands has never had before, part of something big."

...EXPLOSION continued from page 1

critical injuries according to the documentation I saw," he said.

The cause of the explosion is under investigation. The building that fronts Main and Oak streets houses three businesses -- Midpoint Restaurant, Elevation and The Tea & Spice store.

All three are closed until a structural engineer inspects them and declares them safe.

- Kim Lewicki

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

Blake Kenter and Ian Batista scored 76 pts. and two firsts. Aleks Petric-Sakonjic, Junior Olympians Finneaus Garner, Jack Sumner, and Justin Powell all brought home 74 pts and a 1st place finish.

Junior Olympians Aniah McKim and Paolo McRae had 73 pts and a 1st place finish each.

Alex Lopez, Penelope McRae, and Max Jestin scored 72, 71, and 69 pts, respectively. Ivan Shchelgachov and Junior Olympian Corena Dearth scored 67 pts. Dearth won the 50 breaststroke.

Annabelle Searles and Katherine Wise had 66 pts, Searles two seconds, Wise one. Bella Batista scored 65 pts, William Burnette and Cody Levy 62. Levy won a race, Bella had a 2nd, and Burnette a 3rd.

Nicole Shchelgachov scored 58 pts and a 2nd, Jayce Powell 57 pts and two 3rds, Elizabeth Burnette and Alyssa Atwood scored 49 pts. Burnette had a 2nd place finish. Asa Garner brought home 44 pts and two 2nds,

Harrison McKim 37. Kenley Birchfield scored 33 pts. Harrison and Birchfield each had a 3rd place finish. Agatha Jestin won a blue ribbon and scored 27 pts. Maxwell Basil and Angelina Levy swam well for the Hurricanes.

The Hurricanes next meet will be on Thurs., July 6 against perennial Mountain Swim League champions and undefeated Franklin Amateur Swim Team.

GET UP! GET OUT!

PARTNERS IN RECREATION

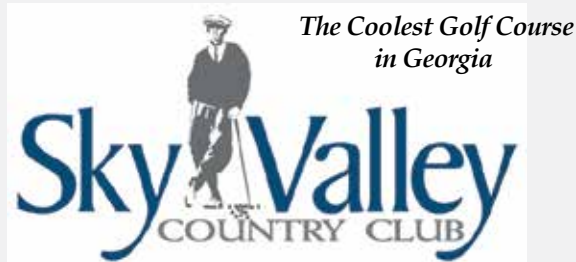
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Concerts: July 8-11



Saturday, July 8 – 5 PM, Highlands | Sunday, July 9 – 5 PM, Cashiers
"Winds in the Mountains"

Brice Andrus, horn; Marci Gurnow, clarinet; Elizabeth Pridgen, piano;
Helen Kim, violin; Aloysia Friedmann, viola; Guang Wang, cello

Monday, July 10 - 5 PM, Highlands | Tuesday, July 11 - 5 PM, Cashiers
"Gryphon Trio & Friends"

Gryphon Trio; Kate Ransom, violin; Aloysia Friedmann, viola



Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

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

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Jersey Boys is on stage at the Performing Arts Center through July 8.

Mountain Theatre Company announces new 'Rush Ticket Policy'

Mountain Theatre Company has introduced a new Rush Ticket policy. On the day of each performance, a select number of seats will open one hour before the show for \$30 each. Rush Tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office within one hour of a performance start time. These tickets are limited and will be sold at a first come, first serve basis.

Mountain Theatre Company's Director of Marketing and Outreach, Lindsay Garner Hostetler, states, "As theatre companies across the country continue to look at how live theatre can be more accessible, we are excited to launch this new initiative in our 2023 season. We recognize that not everyone can afford a full price ticket to the theatre, but we believe firmly that everyone should have the opportunity to experience live theatre. As we explore ways to expand our audiences to include more people from our community, these Rush Tickets are an exciting addition to our programming."

Mountain Theatre Company has other outreach initiatives aimed at affordable ticket options as well. All local students, ages 18 and under, in Macon, Jackson, Transylvania, and Rabun Counties receive

free tickets to any show with available seats through MTC's Student Ticket Program. Student Tickets must be reserved at the Box Office in person or via phone, and a student ID must be shown when picking up the tickets.

Other ticket programs offered at Mountain Theatre Company include discounted tickets to employees of the Town of Highlands, active military and veterans, and educators. All discounted tickets must be purchased at the Box Office in person or via phone.

"We believe the arts contribute enormously to our community here on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau," says Executive Artistic Director Scott Daniel. "We want everyone in this community to have access to quality professional theatre at affordable prices. It is our hope that these initiatives will help make Mountain Theatre Company more accessible to everyone."

Mountain Theatre Company is the resident professional theatre company at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC. Find more information at www.mountaintheatre.com.

Student urges schools to keep trauma counselors

The Rotary Club of Highlands was honored to have Gracie Parker as its guest speaker recently. Gracie is a student in Franklin and her topic was the vital role of Trauma Counselors and their importance to our schools. The focus of her moving presentation was entitled "What Are Our Children Worth to Us?" Gracie's goal is to see increased funding for MC Schools to support Trauma Counselors for elementary-age students. She has attended numerous board meetings and events with various legislators, sheriffs, mayors, representing Western NC counties, actively querying leaders, presenting her unique perspective, and articulating her vision.



Rotary president Chris Wilkes with Gracie Parker.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

CLE to Host Don McGahn, White House Counsel to Trump, as well as Andrew Weissmann and Dr. Todd Collins

Don McGahn, a partner at Jones Day law firm, has had several significant roles in government and national politics. Most importantly, McGahn served as White House Counsel for nearly two years during the Trump Administration and for five years on the Federal Election Commission.

On Monday, July 10th from 10:00 to 12:00, the Center for Life Enrichment will host a panel discussion with McGahn about the crucial and sometimes controversial role of White House Counsel in providing guidance to the President, including, notably, the process employed by the White House to select Supreme Court Justices and other members of the Federal judiciary. The discussion will also encompass his work on the Federal Election Commission as well as his service as Trump's campaign counsel during the 2016 election. McGahn will give a fascinating glimpse into what it was like working with President Trump on a daily basis.

CLE will also offer two other presentations related to the Trump presidency and McGahn's tenure in government.

In the afternoon of July 10th, from 2:00 to 4:00, audience members will learn just how successful Trump and McGahn have been reshaping the Federal courts and the jurisprudence of the Supreme



Don McGahn

Court. Todd Collins, Ph.D, J.D., Professor of Political Science and Director of the Public Policy Institute at Western Carolina University, will review the Supreme Court's just completed term, examining the Court's decisions in the affirmative action, voting rights, free speech and religion, and environmental protection cases.

Finally, on Monday July 17th, from 10:00 to 12:00, to complete the consideration of the Trump presidency, CLE will host again, Andrew

Weissmann, one of the lead prosecutors in Robert Mueller's Special Counsel investigation. Weissmann's colleagues in the investigation interviewed McGahn for 30 hours in connection with the inquiry into Trump's obstruction of justice. Weissmann will bring the audience up to date on the status of the various criminal investigations and prosecutions of Trump and discuss the perils and challenges of investigating and prosecuting a former President. Weissmann is a regular commentator on the Trump investigations for MSNBC and is a Professor of Practice with the Center on the Administration of Criminal Law at New York University School of Law.

These presentations will be held in the CLE Lecture Hall at the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 S. 5th Street, Highlands. Cost is \$30/\$40 Member/Non-Member for each presentation. Register to attend online at www.clehighlands.com or by calling 828 526 8811.

Macon County Art Council awards scholarships to local students

Mackenzie Paige Hughes and Alisia Michelle Johnson were each awarded a 2023 Arts Council of Macon County \$1000 Arts Scholarship.

A recent Franklin High School graduate, Mackenzie Hughes will major in Film and Television at Savannah College of Art and Design. She is the daughter of Sherri Hughes.

Alisia Johnson, a recent Highlands School graduate, will double major in Art and Accounting at Southwestern Com-

munity College before transferring to a four-year college. She is the daughter of Kristy and John Johnson.

The Arts Council's Arts Scholarship is awarded annually to a Macon County resident seeking a college degree in an arts field. Award criteria include talent, commitment, educational and career goals, and financial need. For further information, contact any Macon County high school guidance office, visit www.artscouncilofmacon.org, email arts4all@dnet.net, or phone 828-524-ARTS.

Highlands-Cashiers
Center for **Life Enrichment**

Enrich your life this season with these upcoming CLE programs!

Upcoming Program Highlights

The Secular State and its Discontents: Religious Freedom in France
Presenter: Max Owre, Friday, July 7, 10am-12pm, \$30/\$40

The U.S. Supreme Court: A Year in Review
Presenter: Todd Collins, Monday, July 10, 2-4pm, \$30/\$40

Botanical EcoTour: Wildflowers and Plants of Brushy Face
Presenter: Adam Bigelow, Wednesday, July 12, 9am-12pm, \$50/\$60

Creative Workshop: Repurposing and Redesigning Your Old Costume Jewelry
Presenter: Cathy Korotkin, Wednesday, July 12, 2-4pm, \$60/\$70

Music and the Movies I: How the Soundtracks We Love Bring Movies to Life
Presenter: Scott Stewart, Thursday, July 13, 2-4pm, \$30/\$40

Music and the Movies II: Classic Hollywood Soundtracks from Robin Hood to Star Wars
Presenter: Scott Stewart, Friday, July 14, 10am-12pm, \$30/\$40

How to Taste: The Practical Science of Wine Enjoyment
Presenter: Joe Frank, Tuesday, July 18, 3-5pm, \$85/\$95

Garden Tour: A Unique Woodland Garden in Highlands Falls
Presenter: Frank Langford, Wednesday, July 19, 10am-12pm, \$50/\$60

Why and How the Atlantic Revolutions of the Late 18th Century Remain Important for American Democracy Now
Presenter: Lloyd Kramer, Wednesday, July 19, 2-4pm, \$30/\$40

Why and How Fascists and Nazis Destroyed Democracies in Italy and Germany
Presenter: Lloyd Kramer, Thursday, July 20, 10am-12pm, \$30/\$40

Program Highlights

Meet Don McGahn: White House Counsel to President Trump
Monday, July 10, 10am- 12pm, \$30/\$40 Member/Non-member
In a spirited Q&A session, Don will discuss his role as campaign counsel to then candidate Trump and his following years as White House Counsel. Regardless of your political persuasion, this is sure to be a very exciting event.

Prosecuting a Former President
Presenter: Andrew Weissmann, Monday, July 17, 10am- 12pm, \$30/\$40 Member/Non-member
Join former FBI General Counsel, Andrew Weissmann, for a presentation on the perils and challenges of investigating and prosecuting Donald Trump.

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

(828) 526-8811
office@clehighlands.com

July 4th Highlands style is an all day event



Champion of the sack race Trey” with Rec Director Lester Norris.

July 4th Highlands style is an all day event



It all started Saturday, July 1 at The Bascom's Community Day which offered hands-on art projects.

Tuesday, July 4th it started with old-fashioned games at the ball-field. There was rocket launching, a rope pull, sack races, a water balloon toss, leaky bucket brigade, and the frozen T-shirt contest culminating with a visit from the MAMA helicopter and a hosing down by the Fire Department.

Tuesday night it was live music in K-H Founders Park followed by a firework display funded by the Chamber of Commerce and put on by the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept.

- Photos by Kim Lewicki and Brian O'Shea



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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. **Public Swim** Mon. thru Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. and Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ONGOING

• The "Kids Hike Highlands" trail passport program has been refreshed for the 2023 season. pick up a copy of the Kids Hike Highlands passport map at one of the four prize locations or you can download a copy at www.highlandsbiological.org.

Mon.-Fri.

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

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun

• **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 Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817

2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

1st Tuesdays

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

2nd Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will fo-

cus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Mon-Fri

• **Water Aerobics** 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• **New Mobility Class** with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more info, call 267-825-0716.

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 w/Tina Rogers** 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tuesdays

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

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers - Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated

by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

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

Tues. & Thurs.

• **Zumba class** with Gay Chaplin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

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

Thurs. through Aug. 10

• Highlands Biological Foundation's free Zahner lectures at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) at 6 p.m. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org.

Thurs-Sat.

• Highlands Historical Society Museum at 320 N. 4th Street is open 10a to 4p through October.

Thursdays

• **Kickboxing** 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Chair Yoga - from 4-5 PM. If you are interested in greater strength and flexibility but have difficulty getting up and down from a sitting or reclining posture.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga - from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience,

3rd Fridays

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

2nd Saturdays

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

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main



Jenene

Pop to Broadway
Sunday July 16, 2023
7:30pm



THE
HEIGHT
OF
ENTER
TAINMENT

Highlands Performing Arts Center
507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC

For Tickets and Information
HighlandsPerformingArts.com

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8 p.m. through Sept. 3. 828-506-0125.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service:

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

Through July 8

• "Jersey Boys" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com

Wed., July 5

• See EVENTS page 21

Old Growth Forest and Dr. Zahner to be commemorated July 13

The Highlands Biological Station and the Highlands Biological Foundation are delighted to announce two significant events taking place on Thursday, July 13th: a formal dedication of the W.C. Coker Old Growth Forest and a commemorative Zahner Conservation Lecture honoring the late Dr. Robert Zahner.

The Old-Growth Forest Network, a national organization dedicated to the preservation of protected, old-growth, native forests, will partner with the Highlands Biological Station for a designation ceremony for the W.C. Coker Old Growth Forest on Thursday, July 13th from 4 to 6 PM.

Located between Lower Lake Road and Bowery Road, this 3.7-acre forest area represents a remarkable remnant of the "primeval forest" that once thrived on the Plateau before the 1930s and '40s timber harvesting. The forest consists of old-growth Eastern Hemlock, including some of the largest remaining Eastern Hemlock in the Eastern U.S. Many of the trees likely exceed 350 years in age, with the oldest reliably dated to 1761. The dedication ceremony aims to formally recognize and honor this unique ecosystem at the Highlands Biological Station. Those interested in joining the ceremony can meet at the Station's North Campus (111 Lower Lake Road) at 4PM.

Following the dedication, the Highlands Biological Foundation will host a special Zahner Conservation Lecture beginning at 6PM at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road). This commemorative lecture will feature Chattooga Conservancy's Program Specialist, Buzz Williams - a highly respected environmental conservationist and experienced advocate for forest management. Williams' lecture, titled "History of National Forest Management in the Chattooga River Watershed, and the Compelling Case for a New Mission for the Forest Service,"

will provide an overview of national forest management practices in the Chattooga River watershed and why mitigating the effects of climate change requires a new mission for the Forest Service - one that prioritizes protecting and restoring a network of mature and old-growth forest ecosystems, to ensure biological diversity and management aimed at fighting climate change.

The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series is named for the significant contributions of Dr. Robert Zahner and his wife Glenda to land conservation efforts on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. Dr. Zahner was a distinguished forest ecologist and old-growth advocate, making these events the perfect opportunities to celebrate what would have marked his 100th year. The lecture is made possible thanks to the support of Bryding Adams & Bob Rathburn, Lynda Anderson & Ken Conover, Margie Bauer & Jim Parker, Janet & Scott Clarke, Leslie & Jim Costa, Diane Lennox & Paul Manos, Helen & Russ Regnery, and Dollie Swanson.

"We are thrilled to dedicate the W.C. Coker Old Growth Forest and honor Dr. Bob Zahner this month," said Jason Love, Associate Director of the Highlands Biological Station. "These events provide a platform to recognize the importance of conservation, raise awareness about the value of old-growth forests, and encourage discussions on effective forest management strategies."

All members of the community, conservation enthusiasts, and nature lovers are invited to attend the dedication ceremony and the lecture. Zahner lectures will be held at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) on Thursdays at 6 p.m. through August 10th. For more information, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.



MOUNTAIN
THEATRE COMPANY
EST. 1938 | HIGHLANDS, NC

JERSEY BOYS

THE STORY OF FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS

Presented in part by:

Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC,
Fred & Babs Summers, and Susie Day & Jacqueline Huges

JUNE 23 - JULY 8

LIVE ON STAGE AT THE
HIGHLANDS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

WWW.MOUNTAINTHEATRE.COM



2023 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 July 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

JULY 7

Foxfire Boys

JULY 14

Curtis Blackwell Band

JULY 21

Carter Gingerich and Friends

JULY 28

We Three Swing

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

JULY 8

Bill Mattocks

JULY 15

Lazluvr

JULY 22

Back Porch Orchestra

JULY 29

Shane Meade & The Sound



visithighlandsnc.com

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• At First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, Interlude at 2 p.m. Featuring Alan Morrison, organist, Kevin Lyons, Trumpeter. Free.

Thurs., July 6

• HCCMF presents "Bach in a Sacred Space," Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. \$80 per person includes refreshments following the performance. Reservations required. Call 828-526-9060.

Wed., July 12

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6 - 8 pm the music of Andrew Wooten & Caroline's Roost feels like a pine-covered moonshine still on a foggy mountainside somewhere in the Carolinas. Tickets are \$40. <https://www.simplerix.com/e/andrew-wooten-with-carolines-roost-orchard-tickets-125>

Fri.-Sat., July 14-15

• Highlands Historical Society resurrects its Walk Through Memorial Garden Park. Tour the cemetery and hear from the ghosts of Highland's past at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15, children are free. Park at the Civic Center and for buses to the cemetery. Tickets can be purchased at the Highlands Historical Society Museum on N.4th Street.

Fri. July 14

• At Hudson Library, local photographer and author Cynthia Strain will be at the library on Friday at 11 AM for a talk about her recently released book "Highlands Through the Years." Come hear about our own beloved town of Highlands and about Cynthia's continuing photographic exploration. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event.

Sat., July 15

• In Dillsboro, 8th Annual Front Street

Arts & Crafts Show that showcases local Artisans & Musicians once again over 40 booths on Front Street 10a to 4p.

• Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit K-H Founders Park. Doors open at 5. Dinner is at 6. Tickets are \$80 and include low country boil dinner, dessert and 2 drinks. Rain or Shine. Tented event at the park. Live Music by Lazr Luvr of Asheville. Tickets are available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

Sun., July 16

• At PAC, Jenene - Pop to Broadwa at 7:30 p.m. For tickets go to highlandsp PerformingArts.com

Tues., July 18

• Melanie Vickers will speak at 4p.m. at the Highlands Biological Center pavilion on Firding Apps on the smart phone. Beginning birders and experts are welcome. Question? 772-349-2045.

Sat., July 22

• Soiree for Pre-K at the Vineyard at High Holly, 5:30 p.m. until. \$250 per person. Eight per table. Includes Dinner, drinks and dancing. Featuring Steel Toe Stiletto from Greenville, SC. For tickets call 828-526-0863. Or email, info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org.

Thurs.-Sat., July 20-22

• PAC fundraiser. Satulah Mountain Home & Garden Tour 10 a.m. and 12:30-3p. five homes and gardens found on historic Satulah Mountain. Tickets are \$125 each. Shuttles run from the PAC every 15 min. starting at 9:45am. Last shuttle departs the PAC at 2pm. This is a walking tour so wear good walking shoes; rain or shine event.

• See **EVENTS** page 22

Jenene coming to the PAC Sun., July 16

Sunday, July 16 at 7:30pm brings the stunning Jenene to the plateau.

She has traveled the globe as a sought-after headliner at sold out top cabarets such as Feinstein's 54 below in New York City, and the Royal Room in Palm Beach, a true crossover entertainer, she is as adept at belting a Celine Dion or Whitney Houston song as she is performing an aria or captivating audiences with Broadway show tunes.

Jenene has shared a stage with Chicago, opened for the Beach Boys, kicked off major league baseball games, and performed for the Governor's Ball at the White House backed by the United States Marine Band, Navy Sea Chanters, and Air Force Singing Ser-



geants. Check out Jenene's website: www.jenene.com

"Thrilling voice... ability to roll from genres of music from today's pop to opera at a level that few reach... Jenene Caramielo performs at an elite level in so many genres..." Broadway World

"I was motivated by Jenene's commanding talent and inspired by her genuine warmth and kindness. She captivated the room with her first note, and I marveled at her tremendous skill and seemingly effortless versatility as she leapt from opera to show

tunes with thrilling success." Peter Wilson, Former Senior Enlisted Musical Advisor to The White House and Marine Violinist to Five Presidents (1990-2020)

Tickets are available online: www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com



As we celebrate Independence Day, let us also celebrate the gift of good health that enables us to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear. Health is our most precious asset, allowing us to pursue our dreams, contribute to society, and embrace life's adventures.

Wishing you a
happy and healthy
Independence Day!

 **Highlands
Cashiers
Health Foundation**

Lifting Health and Well-Being, Together

To learn more visit
www.HCHealthFnd.org or scan here



• HUDSON LIBRARY NEWS •

Game Time

Hudson Library is excited to announce a new weekly program for all ages. Game Time, every Friday afternoon in July from 2-4 PM, will feature tabletop games for all ages, from memory-matching games for toddlers, to board and card games for children, teens, and adults. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to assist with game selection, explanation, and play.

"We have about 40 games on hand at the library, and people are welcome to bring their own tabletop games to play too" said Hudson Librarian Carlyn Morenus.

Tabletop games include board, card, and dice games, and range from memory-matching and simple roll-and-move games for the youngest players, to both simple and complex games for older children and adults. Whether you're the competitive type, or prefer a cooperative game where everyone is working together to achieve victory, there's sure to be a game to suit your play style.

Children's Summer Programs

at Hudson Library

Hudson Library continues Summer Learning Programs with special events for children.

Tuesday July 11 at 10:15 AM, Highlands Nature Center will be at the library to present a special program geared toward the 5-and-under crowd. The July 11 Nature Kids program will feature Salamanders! Hands-on fun is guaranteed.

Thursday July 13 at 3:30 PM, Macon County 4-H returns for another engaging program for children with Beneficial Bugs! The insects around our yards and gardens are super important. Learn about the importance of pollinators and insects in our environment, how to identify different types of pollinators and explore how to create habitats around our home to encourage beneficial insects. The program will finish up with a fun craft.

Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM. And Kids Zone afternoon programs

each Thursday at 3:30 pm continue through the year as well.

Game Time on Friday afternoons from 2-4 is for all ages, young children through adults.

And it's not too late to sign up for Summer Reading, and earn prizes for reading all summer long.

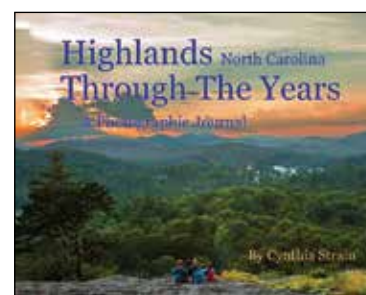
Local Author/Photographer Cynthia Strain at Hudson Library

Local photographer and author Cynthia Strain will be at Hudson Library on Friday July 14 at 11AM for a talk about her recently released book *Highlands Through the Years*. Come hear about our own beloved town of Highlands and about Cynthia's continuing photographic exploration. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event.

Born and raised in northeast Ohio, Cynthia Strain was always an outdoors kind of girl. When she was just ten, her parents gave her binoculars and a bird book, which she embraced immediately, and soon she was scouring yards, woods and fields to identify the colorful birds she saw.

After living in Kentucky, Florida, Tennessee and Arizona, she moved to Highlands in 1982 and worked at her parents' business, the Bird Barn. The bird-themed gift shop was a perfect fit for her, and she helped her father run it for 15 years.

With her interest in conser-



vation, she went on to help found the Highlands Plateau Audubon chapter, the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, and the B.E.A.R. Task

Force. In 2006 she founded the Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show (now the Mountain-top Rotary Show), which she coordinated for 17 years.

Cynthia was a painter for some years, working primarily in pastels. A photography course in 1987 changed the course of her life. Over the years she developed her skill and gained a reputation as the "Highlands Photographer." Beginning in 2004 she devoted herself entirely to her art by opening Mill Creek Gallery & Framing. Since her retirement in 2021 she has focused on photography and non-profit work.

Cynthia's 2012 coffee table book, *Highlands Through the Seasons*, was the culmination of years of photographing the Highlands area. Ten years hence she has combined her photographic talents with some fascinating history in *Highlands Through the Years*.

For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031. Hudson Library, 554 Main Street in Highlands, is open 10AM-5:30PM Tuesday through Friday and 10AM-4PM on Saturday.

...EVENTS continued from 21

July 28-Aug. 19

• "Rock of Ages" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Sat., July 29

• At HUMC, Author's Tea, Saturday from 2-4p. with Beatriz Williams, author of over 20 best selling historical fiction books. Tables of 8 are \$200. Individual Tickets are \$25 and available at the church office on Main Street. Proceeds to benefit the High-

lands Christmas Parade Camels.

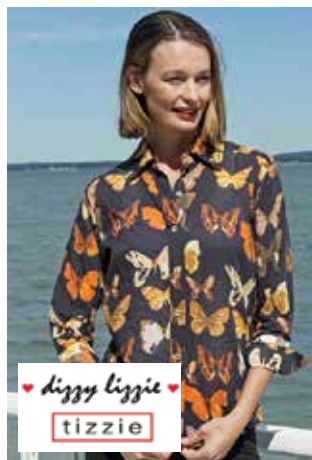
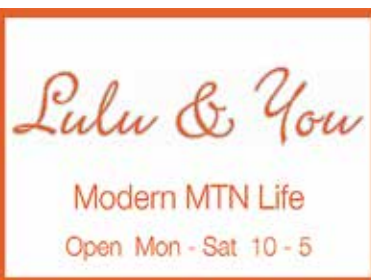
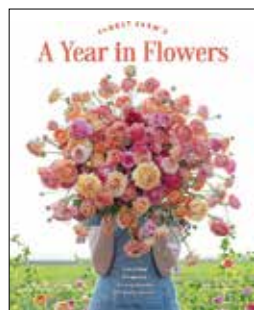
Sun. Aug. 6

• The Highlands Historical Society presents its annual fundraiser, Big Hats-Bow Ties at an estate on Kettle Rock. Brunch starts at 12:30.

Thurs., Aug. 24

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6-8 p.m., Nicole Witt a nationally-touring, award-winning Nashville songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for the soaring melodies and clever turns of phrase that have

• See EVENTS page 27



142 HWY 107, Cashiers, NC 28717 • 828-482-5011 • Open Year Round

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



From left, Kaye McHan (Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC) and Harry McDonald (Highlands Historical Society/Dalia Festival).



Top row, from: Jack Austin (Highlands Festivals/Highlands Food & Wine), Pat Gleeson (Highlands Food & Wine), Steve Mehder (Highlands Festivals/Highlands Food & Wine). Second row, from left: Billy Love (The Bascom), Lance Hardin (Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust). Third row, from left: Bianca Mitchell (The Bascom), Kaye McHan (Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC). Front row, from left: Charlotte Muir (Highlands Biological Foundation and Pennies for Preservation) and Mary Adair Trumbly (Highlands Performing Arts Center/PAC Home Tour).

Chamber/Visitor Center awards grants and sponsorships to Highlands nonprofit organizations

Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC Executive Director Kaye McHan presented leaders from area non-profits with grant and sponsorship monies.

The following grants were awarded:

Highlands Biological Foundation (\$25,000)
Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (\$7,500)
Pennies for Preservation (\$4,000)
The Bascom (\$10,000)
The Dalia Festival (\$10,000)
The Highlands Performing Arts Center (\$15,000)

Sponsorships were also provided to:

Highlands Food & Wine (\$100,000)
The Highlands Performing Arts Center Home Tour (\$1,000)

Each year Visit Highlands, NC supports local non-profits through our Tourism Grant program and Sponsorships which are funded by occupancy tax paid by guests staying in Highlands' accommodations.

Any nonprofit in the Highlands area can apply for funding through the two programs.

For more information about applying for a Tourism Grant or Sponsorship email us at grants@highlandschamber.org.

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Thank you!

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Highlands, NC would like to say THANK YOU
to everyone who made our Independence Day
Celebration a spectacular success!

For Music –

The Diamond River Band

For Food & Entertainment –

East Coast Pyrotechnics

Highlands Fire & Rescue

Mission Health Mountain Area Medical Airlift
(MAMA)

Rotary Club of Highlands

Town of Highlands Recreation Department

For Keeping Us Safe –

Highlands Police Department

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HIGHLANDS

NORTH CAROLINA

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visithighlandsnccom

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Summer academic adventures at TL&LC

The June summer camp at the Literacy & Learning Center (TL&LC) has been an absolute blast! On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm, Academic Adventures was filled with exciting activities that kept the students happily engaged.

They had a fantastic time with numerous STEAM projects, such as constructing dream treehouses, catapults, rafts, rockets, bird feeders, and even delving into saltwater experiments to deepen their understanding of ocean life and its inhabitants.

The camp's creative side also shone through, with the students crafting sun prints, spin art, shadow art, rain art, and creating unique gifts for Father's Day and Fourth of July celebrations!

One of the most memorable adventures was the nature scavenger hunt along the Highlands Plateau Greenway. The students relished the opportunity to identify native plants, observe various bird species, and gather leaves for captivating leaf-rubbing art. The camp fostered a spirit of exploration and experimentation, encouraging the students to collaborate and learn from their peers.

"Spending time with the students has been an absolute delight, and the camp month seemed to pass by in a flash," said

camp leader Allisha Mason. "TL&LC proved to be a wonderful place, allowing students to both learn and have fun! Working there for the June Summer Camp was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, leaving me eagerly anticipating my next exciting adventure with them."

TL&C offers free week-long Adventure Camps during the summer. For more information call 828.526.0863



Jackson County kicks off 'ReCodify Cashiers' to address outdated policies

By Kristin Fox

Work has started on ReCodify Cashiers, Jackson County's plan to rewrite the Cashiers 9.3 Cashiers Commercial Area section of the county's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Plans are to rework the entire code for the Cashiers Commercial District. The code in use today was originally adopted 20 years ago, and a rewrite is necessary to deal with the many changes that have occurred in the Cashiers area.

Throughout the recodification process, the development regulations that apply in the Cashiers commercial area will be overhauled, updating the procedures and rules for new development in the area.

The move to recodification was implemented through work completed with the Small Area Plan for Cashiers and the Cashiers Urban Land Institute (ULI) panel processes.

In 2019, the Small Area Plan was adopted to help guide development in a way that would promote positive growth while maintaining the rich natural environment

and strengthen the tourism economy of the Cashiers area. Anticipating continued growth in the Cashiers area, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners adopted the Small Area Plan sponsored by the Cashiers Area Community Planning Council, financed by the county, and created with widespread community input.

As the community wanted further advice to help implement the elements of the Small Area Plan, the ULI Advisory panel was asked to provide strategic advice regarding sustainable economic expansion and preservation of the quality of life and character of place sought by business, full- and part-time residents and visitors. In February 2022, the panel presented their recommendations. The panel was sponsored by the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce and the county.

Chad Meadows, a consultant with CodeWright Planners, LLC, gave a presentation on the recodification process to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners

• See CASHIERS page 30

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"HCCMF's "Martinis & Mozart"

Thursday, July 20th @ 5:30 PM

Orchard House @ Old Edward's Farm - Highlands



The Viano Quartet with Jesse McCandless, clarinet perform the Mozart Clarinet Quintet
\$100/person which includes 2 drink tickets. The reception precedes the concert.

Sponsored by Dianne and Myron Mall



**Highlands-Cashiers
Chamber Music Festival**

www.h-cmusicfestival.org hccmfnc@gmail.com
828-526-9060 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



Walk in the Park Highlands Memorial Park

Friday, July 14, 2023

4 pm - 6 pm

Saturday, July 15, 2023

4 pm - 6 pm

Tickets Available at Highlands Historical Museum

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



My Thoughts on the LA Dodgers

Fr. Jason Barone
Our Lady of the Mountains
Catholic Church

I love religious sisters. I consider them one of the prized possessions of the Catholic Church.

Some people have in their mind, be it from stereotypes or personal experience, mean elderly sisters armed with rulers, beating their frustrations out on disorderly schoolchildren's knuckles. To what extent that was true leading up to the 1960s I know not, but I do know my own experience: one would be hard pressed to find a young sister today who was anything but sweet, joyful, and self-giving.

The sisters whom I know best are the Daughters of the Virgin Mother from Charlotte. These eight sisters, average age being probably 27 or 28, are committing their lives to assist and support priests, including future priests in our college seminary. They weekly spend an entire day in a chapel praying for priests. They seek to suffer along with and for priests, encouraging them, like Mary suffering with Jesus, to remain on the Cross to bring life to the world.

One could imagine, then, that a priest would not only be offended, but moved to righteous indignation, if a group of men were to dishonor any religious sister by sexualizing and perverting their image...to mix the pure with not just the profane, but the vulgar.

Such a group of men, the so-called "Sisters of the Perpetual Indulgence," do precisely that in California. These drag queens vest in female religious habits while giving more than a hint of prurient and even the demonic (satanic horns and all). One has to wonder what these grown men, dressed as such in public, are doing in those same habits in private.

What's more is that the LA Dodgers decided to honor this group during "Pride Night" before a game a few weeks ago. Why did they honor them? We generally reserve public honors for people who selflessly serve society or heroically put themselves in harm's way to help others. What service to the community does the Sisters of the Perpetual Indulgence provide?

There is simply no defense for their actions, be it the Dodgers or so-called "sisters"—it was deeply offensive, not only to Catholics, but any admirer of taste and decency.

Despite any human frailties, religious sisters sacrifice their own families to give themselves entirely to the service of Christ and others. It is their self-sacrifice that should be honored, not those who mock and dishonor

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY 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

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

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.

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 &

Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty 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 Services: 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 en-tries from June 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

June 25

• At 11:15 p.m., Gayle M. Demarest, 58, of Atlanta, GA, was arrested for DUI. She was issued a Written Promise bond. Her trial date is Nov. 8.

June 30

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

July 3

• At 2:30 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on SR 1603.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 27.

June 27

• At 5:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a

location on Main Street.

• At 6:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Biscuit Rock Road.

June 28

• At 1 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

• At 1:10 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harbison Orchard Road.

June 29

• At 9:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut Street.

• At 7:46 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

June 30

• At 11:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a gas explosion at the Midpoint Restaurant on Main Street.

• At 6:16 p.m., the dept.

provided public assistance on NC 28 south.

• At 8:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Divide Road.

• At 8:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive West.

July 1

• At 7:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

July 2

• At 9:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Road.

• At 11:27 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Sassafras Court.

July 3

• At 12:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hummingbird lane.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

them.

It gives me no pleasure to write publicly about such things, but for any man not to defend his daughter or sister or mother or wife who is publicly disrespected is guilty of a sin of

omission and the sin of pusillanimity or cowardice.

Religious sisters are daughters to bishops, sisters to priests, mothers to those they teach, and brides to Christ. The LA Dodgers and these blasphemous

“sisters,” “whose pride is their shame” (Phil 3:19), have publicly disrespected my sisters in Christ, and so I respond publicly: shame on the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and shame on the LA Dodgers!

...EVENTS continued from page 22

brought her national acclaim in the country, bluegrass, and Christian music scenes. Tickets are \$40.

Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/nicole-witt-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-124435>

Aug. 25-Sept. 2

• The annual Cashiers Designer is August 25 – September 2, this year's theme is “Historically Cashiers” and features a classic mountain retreat in The Club at High Hampton. Local residents Stacie Platt and Ellen Turner are the 2023

Co-chairs. For more information on the Cashiers Designer Showhouse and the Cashiers Historical Society, please visit cashiershistoricalsociety.org or call 828-743-7710. For media inquiries, please contact melwhudson@gmail.com.

Sat., Sept. 9

• The Highlands Historical Society presents The Dahlia Festival.

Thurs., Sept. 14

• At OEI's The Farm from 6 - 8 pm, Olivia DaPonte, an emerging songwriter in the country music

scene. Picking up a guitar when she was 12, she learned to play songs by artists from James Taylor and Bob Dylan to Dolly Parton and Johnny Cash. Tickets are \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/olivia-daponte-orchard-sessions-at-the-far-tickets-127463>

Oct. 6-28

• “The Rocky Horror Show” at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

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COUNSELING CENTER

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...CASHIERS continued from page 25

at their recent June work session.

There are seven steps in the Cashiers recodification process — 1) project initiation; 2) policy guidance review; 3) community character discussion; 4) annotated outline; 5) initial draft of standards 6) revised draft; and 7) adoption. The project started at the end of 2022, and work up to this point has brought the project to the annotated outline stage of the project. The annotated outline is basically a road map for the changes that are suggested for the county's UDO specifically for Cashiers.

At this point in the project, the community character is being defined. This is an important step as the community character will be used as the primary review criteria for new forms of applications.

"My philosophy and my team's philosophy on development regulations is to be clear what the expectations are in the codified language so that the applicant knows what to expect, the staff knows what to expect, the neighbors know what to expect and there are no surprises," said Meadows. "You have got to have some flexible alternatives; one size doesn't fit all, and flexibility needs to be incorporated into the provisions to encourage good development or preferred forms of development."

Meadows told the board that it will be desirable to move away from the current special use permit procedure that has not serve the community nor the county well and move towards a conditional rezoning process, one that allows the board to use its legislative discretion in negotiation and decision-making processes.

"The conditional rezoning process is going to give the board, the Community Planning Council and the planning board the opportunity to speak with applicants and the community, and the opportunity to negotiate," said Meadows. "Those are three important things, particularly when it comes to the large developments. Nine times out of ten for the larger developers it is not the first time they have gone through the development review process, and they know what they want and what they're looking for."

In addition, changes are expected to the distinction of two districts in the Cashiers' commercial area, the village commercial and the general commercial. There is not a lot of difference between the two different

districts with the range of uses and dimensional standards basically the same. The key difference is the size of the development proposal that triggers the special use permit process. When the special use permit is no longer used, there will no longer be a need for the distinction between the two districts.

Meadows stated the plan is to rezone the land that is inside the commercial area to one of three sub-districts, either a mixed-use sub-district, a commercial sub-district, or a residential sub-district.

Forty-two per cent of the land uses inside the Cashiers commercial area are residential in nature yet have commercial zoning, which is a mismatch that needs to be addressed in the recodification. A suggestion to fix this would be to have mixed-used development with residential and non-residential use types in the same building at least in the core of the Crossroads area. This could be a solution for the lack of affordable housing for seasonal workers and create more opportunities for those that want to be able to live near or in the Cashiers commercial area.

Open space is another standard to be addressed in the recodification process. While open space is already important in the county, it is suggested that those requirements are broadened from open space in environmentally sensitive and active recreation areas to include development of outdoor dining, gathering spaces, plazas, and performance spaces, more of a village environment in the open space.

To address the traffic congestion in Cashiers, suggestions include creating alternative routes through additional new streets provided by the private sector, creating land uses where people don't necessarily need to get in their car and ways to make it easier for people to walk or ride bikes via pedestrian connectivity rules.

Meadows and his team will continue work to refine the community character standards for Cashiers. The initial draft for the suggested changes to UDO for the Cashiers area are expected to be ready by August for the staff to review with the final rezoning and text amendment to the UDO in front of the commissioners by October.

To learn more about ReCodify Cashiers, visit the Jackson County website under the Planning Department tab, Projects



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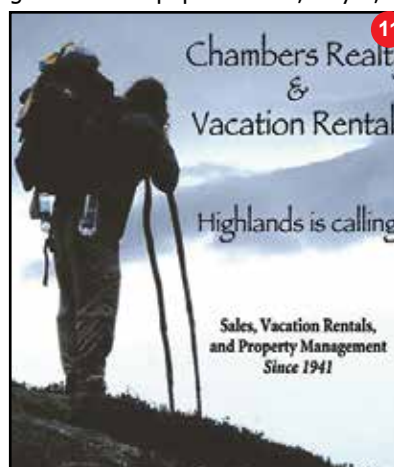
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