

Volume 20, Number 22

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

Thurs., June 1 2023

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Shearl lays out priorities for Highlands

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Macon County Board of Commissioners held its first FY '23-'24 budget work session on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the county's two largest budget categories, public education and

public safety.

The work session, which ended just shy of six hours, featured budget explanations from staff representing Macon County Schools, Macon County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services as well

as reports from architects working on the Franklin High School Proiect and the county's financial advisors.

Toward the end of the meeting, MC Commissioner John laid • See PRIORITIES page 11

Mama bear brings 4 cubs to dinner





Around 7 p.m., Sunday night, a mama bear wandered into the back yard of 78 Oak Street to forage. She instructed her cubs to hang in the trees until she said it was safe. The cub on the left went one way and its three siblings went another. The single cub scaled down the tree when his mom strolled into the next yard, but the other three, who all scrambled up the same tree, stayed put until told to come down. Once down, the single cub joined mom as she tried to - unsuccesfully - get into bear-resistent trash cans. - Photos by Kim Lewicki

70 grams of meth seized at local residence

By Sgt. Tim Broughton

On Thurs., May 25, Highlands Police officers searched a residence in town on Main Street and found approximately 70 grams of methamphetamine,

along with equipment, cash, firearms and supplies to package the drugs for sale.

Thanks to a report from community members, Highlands Police officers were able to secure

a search warrant to enter the residence.

"Our department aims to keep our community safe and cases like this take time to work.

• See METH page 19

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Sheriff offers wrap-up of first-quarter in office

Sheriff Brent Holbrooks

I am pleased to be presenting my thoughts as I wrap up my first quarter of 2023 as your Sheriff. I'd like to extend my appreciation to all of you - your support has been a true God's blessing.

Last year, my candidacy for Sheriff was based on a single platform: improve the safety and well-

being of every resident and visitor to Macon County.

This was a tall order, not just because it's easier said than done, but because this was my first undertaking as your Sheriff and it was a job some of you expected me to master quickly.

The last three months have been fast and furious, partly because certain things needed to change right away, but also because every resident of Macon County

was expecting quick and decisive work within the Sheriff's Office

As you know, I was officially sworn in as your Sheriff on December 5, 2022. I spent the first couple of months orienting myself to the role of Sheriff and listening to our County commissioners. other Sheriffs and Chiefs

of Police from surrounding counties and towns, my Command Staff, sworn and non-sworn personnel, Federal Officials with the DEA, and naturally, the citizens of Macon County.

This was a serious and thorough process as I knew that the Sheriff's Office needed not only a single gamechanger, but it needed to change the game almost entirely. Let me get right to it.

• See SHERIFF page 18





The Plateau's Position AYOR ON DUTY HIC'S VIEW

Keeping up with needed upgrades

write this weekly column to keep folks informed about what is going on in Highlands town government, so let me share what has just happened at our sewer plant on Arnold Road.

We have a new belt press! Some might say so what? But most may ask, what in the world is a belt press? Or why does it matter?

Before I tell you what it does for the town, let me give you the background story. Several

decades ago, Highlands purchased a used belt press from the sewer department in Clyde, NC. The press was refurbished and then installed in our sewer plant.

The town had purchased the used belt press for a very good price and, through the years, kept it going through a lot of hard work and maintenance efforts. But in recent years, parts began to fail. Several years ago, the sewer department staff informed the public works director that the old reliable press was on life support. As a result, the town ordered a new state-of-the-art belt press in last year's budget; the new belt press and its installation cost nearly \$900,000.

Getting the unit was a supply chain

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted, Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

issue; you just don't go to Home Depot and take one off the self - it had to be built, and it took a long time to get the belt press here to Highlands. But, about a month ago, the huge new machine was trucked up the mountain to the Highlands Sewer Department. It has taken several weeks for technicians to install the belt press, but it is now operational.

So, what does the belt press do? The sewer system has large settlement tanks that hold hundreds

of thousands of gallons of liquid and solid sewage. Microbes break these solids down in a matter of hours. The resulting liquids are screened and processed -- I won't describe some of the objects caught by the screens.

The positive outcome is that water goes back to the river, but not before an ultraviolet light system neutralizes E. coli bacteria in the water before it is returned to the river. The water coming from the sewer plant is cleaner than the water going over the Lake Sequoyah Dam. This system gives us an allorganic, chemical-free sewer plant. As a point of interest, you should know that the water naturally flowing over the dam is infused with E. coli and giardia from animal waste.

A by-product of the treatment process is sludge that accumulates in the bottom of the large settlement tanks. This material is siphoned off and is also processed. The final step is to run the sludge through a belt press to form a condensed, paper-thin solid material. This material is then placed in the landfill. Unfortunately, it can't be used for fertilizer where vegetables are grown. Also, transporting it to a factory where it could be made into fertilizer for shrubs and grasses is not economically feasible.

The old belt press was very slow, and over the years, its performance had declined. It took 16 hours for the old press to process a sludge cycle. The new press can process substantially more in just three hours. It condenses the sludge into much less volume. That faster time gives the plant operators more time to attend to other plant operations. Along with the new press, improvements were made to the disposal system. The improved and more compacted

See MAYOR page 4



"You have a point but consider, you will never have to fill up or plug in,"

•	<u>Weat</u>	HER•	
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Thu, 1-Jun	Fri, 2-Jun	Sat, 3-Jun	Sun, 4-Jun
A brief shower or two	A couple of showers	Partly sunny and nice	Clouds and sun with a shower
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• INVESTING AT 4,118 F

The benefits of Highlands are monumental

Tithin the next week, I will have one of those milestone birthdays that most people dread. I think these milestones cause you to take time to reflect on your life and to look toward the future and what your goals or aspirations are. I have found that these reflections and goals change as you age, yet I feel neutral about this milestone. The reflections have made me realize what an impact Highlands and the Plateau have had on my life as well as some things that I still hope to enjoy here.

I have been coming to Highlands for 60% of my life and lived here 12% of it. The

latter number I found surprising, I guess be-

cause those years have been so great and have

gone by so quickly. I also realized that I have

owned property here for close to 40% of my

life. My daughter has been coming for most of her life and my 7-month-old grandson has

already visited twice. There have been family

weddings and reunions, birthday parties, holi-

days and get togethers for no special reason.

I chose this place to visit repeatedly, then

chose to buy a second home and eventually,

move here. The beauty of the area is amazing.

The mountains are some of the oldest in the

world and no two views are identical. There

are numerous hikes, waterfalls, and places to experience nature or outdoor activities. The

wildlife spectacular to watch and the plants

and trees fun to identify. We experience four

seasons and the weather is constantly chang-

ing throughout those seasons. Summers are

mild as compared to so many places in the

south which allows me the opportunity to get

outside and work in the garden. Our small

town is unique and charming offering many

different dining options and cultural oppor-

tunities. And for me, we do not have the box stores or chain restaurants that make every

the people make this place special. Memo-

In addition to items mentioned above,

other city in America homogeneous.

I guess there are multiple reasons why



ries have been made with friends celebrating special occasions at restaurants; clients becoming lifelong friends; getting to know the people who visit from all over the country and the world: as well as the locals who have great stories to tell. There have been dinner parties on a lawn by Mirror Lake, cocktails on porches with magnificent views, and storytelling late into the night around a fireplace. Each of the holidays is unique with July 4th and Thanksgiving being my two favorites. There

is something about gathering in town with strangers to watch fireworks and celebrating the birth of our nation. As well as family gathering in a more informal way and a natural setting is a special way to give thanks for all that we have.

Living and working here is quite different than coming for a weekend or extended period when retired. I do not find myself walking or hiking on weekends like I did when it was a second-home. Instead, I am out showing real estate or doing projects around the house. On weeknights, its more likely to find me on the porch unwinding, rather than at one of the many events that are offered during the season. I do look forward to the day I am able to retire here with the time to take those hikes, entertain more, and become more involved in community activities and attend more of the special events

I guess I could summarize by saying that my investment in Highlands and the Plateau has paid off better than any investment in stocks, bonds, or commercial real estate. Yes, there has been significant appreciation in the value of real estate, but it is all the other benefits, the free ones, that come with this place that have paid off the most.

• Carl Romberg is the Broker-in-Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands Office. Stop by his office on Main Street to say hello or reach him at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com.

...MAYOR continued from page 2 sludge is now automatically deposited in a

large loader. When the loader is full, a truck takes it quickly to the landfill.

So, this new piece of equipment has made the sewer plant more efficient. While the new belt press cost a lot more money, over the years, it will pay dividends for the department and town.

The town continuously upgrades water and sewer equipment. Those upgrades can be expensive, but they must be done. The town has other public works upgrades in the upcoming budget. A final budget review is scheduled for the June 15 Town Board meeting.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

You're invited to tour this beautiful home that offers the perfect blend of indoor and outdoor living! Start your 2023 summer season off right!



HIGHLANDS | MI S# 101539 | \$1,795.000 220 Sherwood Forest Road, Highlands | Saturday, June 3 | 10:00am to Noon

This almost new home in Highlands was built with the latest design and construction techniques ensuring that it is both beautiful and functional. The interior is designed to allow easy flow throughout. The living room is filled with natural light and provides ample room for entertaining quests or just enjoying quiet time. The kitchen is a chef's dream with upscale appliances, ample counter space, and plenty of storage for all your cooking essentials. One of the highlights of this home is the great screened porch. This private area provides a peaceful setting to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Whether you want to relax with a good book, or entertain guests, this is the perfect place to do so. With its comfortable seating and dining areas, it is sure to become the favorite place to gather. The three bedrooms are spacious and feature large windows that let

in plenty of light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The main floor primary suite has a vaulted, beamed ceiling and boasts a private bath with double vanity, a large tiled shower, a vanity area, and outfitted closet. Upstairs, guests will have their own privacy with two en suite bedrooms plus a family room that is ideal for child's play. Beautifully landscaped and set back from the quiet street, the setting is picture perfect. Whether you want a relaxing retreat or a stylish and functional home, this home is sure to meet all your needs. Fiber optic internet, public water and sewer, and an encapsulated crawl space with dehumidifier are added conveniences when considering a mountain home. Sherwood Forest also offers easy access to the greenway trails and is less than a five-minute car ride to downtown Highlands.

DIRECTIONS: From Highlands, take Highway 64 East toward Cashiers for 1.5 miles, then turn right onto Sherwood Forest Road. Drive to 220 Sherwood Forest Road on the left.

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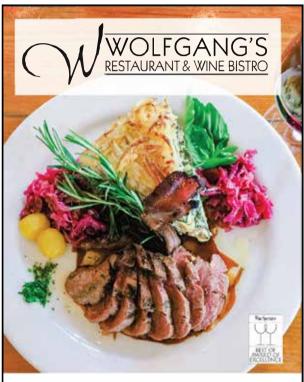




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William 'Lamar' Beck

RITI IARY •

William "Lamar" Beck, 56, of Salem, SC, passed away unexpectedly on May 20, 2023.

Born in Highlands, NC, he was the son of the late Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Beck and William "Butch" Beck. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving daughter, Sarah LeAnn Beck and infant daughter, Nikita Lynn Beck. He loved the outdoors.

He is survived by two brothers, Scott (Angela) Beck, and James Beck of Franklin; stepmother, Frankie Beck, of Highlands;

stepsister, Rhonda Oakley, of Highlands; and stepbrother,



Sam Johnson, of Franklin; maternal grandmother, Omie Webb of Franklin, Numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive.

A private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Macon Funeral Home, in memory of Lamar Beck to help cover the cost of his funeral.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Let's form our own county!

TFR •

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Dear Editor,

I propose Part Two of a larger proposal I would title "Highlands Concept Year 2043."

Yes, I understand that one would normally start with part one, but recent action or lack thereof by Macon County commissioners prompts me to start with part two. They not only declined to fund or even acknowledge the request from Highlands that Pre-K in Highlands is needed and beneficial.

They (at least one commissioner) even subjected this serious request to ridicule by saying Pre-K is just childcare. Their attitude seems to be, yes, we will be glad to take the Highlands Plateau property tax and 2 percent sales tax, but you who we tax, have no say in how the money is allocated or spent.

To me, this is their declaration that Macon County and the people of the Highlands Plateau are no longer compatible. Is it now time for a divorce or legal separation?



Just a bit of background information: there are currently 100 in North Carolina spanning the period from year 1664 to 1911, with sizes ranging from 3,433 to 1,112,883, and none beginning with the letter 'K'.

Most were created by a smaller one being split from a larger one. I propose that NC county number 101 be created in the same manner and that the name of this new county should start with the letter 'K'.

The Highlands plateau is rather isolated from the rest of Macon being at the at the southern edge seems to lend itself to being split from Macon County.

Does Kelsey County, with the county seat of Highlands appeal to you? With none of the Kelsey County taxes (property and sales) being sent to the lowlands at the bottom of the mountain, Highlands could easily afford Pre-K, Post-k and even some Special K!

I envision Kelsey County extending west from the Highlands Town Hall to Bust Your Butt Falls, eastward to the Jackson County line, southward to the Georgia State line, and southwest to unincorporated Scaly Mountain or even to the Georgia State line.

Kelsey County should, at a minimum include all parcels receiving any Highlands utilities such as electricity, water, and Hotwire/Highlands internet. It should also include any parcel surrounded by those parcels receiving Highland's utilities.

Is there anyone out there who knows what would have to be done for us to be able create our own county? If this were to happen, chances are quite good that we would then have commissioners who are a bit more sympathetic to our needs and wishes?

The Playhouse could be modified to serve as Kelsey County temporary headquarters.

Part Two of "Highlands Concept Year 2043" will address how we could use some of this tax money that we would no longer have to send away. Page 8 - Highlands Newspaper -Thurs., June 1, 2023 - 828-200-1371



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Tickets go on sale June 15 for 7th annual Highlands Food & Wine Festival

The 7th annual Highlands Food & Wine Festival taking place Nov. 9-12, will feature headliners End of the Line, Grace Potter and The War & Treaty, plus famed keyboardist Chuck Leavell returning to Highlands for an intimate performance, according to an announcement today from Highlands Festivals, Inc. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, June 15 at 12 p.m. EST and are projected to sell out quickly. Interested patrons should visit https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/.

Highlands Food & Wine Festival features world-class food from renowned local and regional chefs from across the Southeast and music from today's top artists, as well as fine wine and spirits, specialty dinners and more. Events include the popular Grand Tasting, Truckin', Main Event and Sunday's A Shot at Redemption brunch, as well as the Generous Pour fundraiser.

Kicking off the four-day, multi-venue festival will be a performance by American blues and soul band Southern Avenue at the Grand Tasting (Thursday, Nov. 9, 7-10 p.m. at The Bascom). On Friday, Matt Koziol's country rock sounds will set the stage for the Allman Brothers tribute band, End of the Line, headlining at Truckin' (Friday, Nov. 10, 1-4:30 p.m. at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park). Singer-songwriters Katie Pruitt and headliner Grace Potter will be the first all-female lineup for Saturday's Main Event (Saturday, Nov. 11, 12-3:30 p.m., Main Street).

As the festival continues on Saturday, Chuck Leavell and special guests will perform music from his impressive catalog, which includes songs by The Allman Brothers Band, Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, and more at the festival's fundraising event, Generous Pour (Saturday, Nov. 10, 8-10 p.m., Performing Arts Center) The Harlem Gospel Travelers and husband and wife headlining duo The War and Treaty will round out the weekend with soulful rock for Sunday's A Shot of Redemption brunch (Sunday, Nov. 12, 12-3:30 p.m., Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park).

Tickets will be available beginning on Thursday, June 15 at 12 p.m. EST at https:// highlandsfoodandwine.com/. Ticket prices for all-inclusive food, beverage and live music entertainment options will range from \$295 to \$500 for single-event tickets, and \$1,600 to \$2,100 Weekend VIP package options.

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



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• Hospital News •

Celebrating National Hospital Week and National Skilled Nursing Care Week: Thank you to all the special people who make Highland-Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center excellent

edication. Expertise. Diverse experience. Curious. Deeply compassionate. All of these terms describe those who choose to spend their careers in hospitals, whether they are patient caregivers, environmental services professionals, nutrition department team members, pharmacists, or administrators. No matter what department someone works in at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) or Eckerd Living Center (ELC), our community can be assured that caring for our patients and ensuring their comfort are their foremost concerns, every day.

We celebrated National Hospital Week this month, which was May 7-13. It's a time when we can consider the significant role that our hospital and ELC play in this community. And I believe that in tight-knit communities like Cashiers and Highlands, we have even greater impact.

There are few examples of community institutions that I can think of that have more investment in the quality of life of its residents than a hospital. HCH and ELC are places of healing, fellowship, support, and involvement. In our community, it's the norm for people to come together - our own team members and the members of our community (members of which often overlap) to make our community healthier. This may be visiting your primary care physician for your annual wellness exam or a preventive screening like a mammogram or colonoscopy, or it may be our participation in a community-wide health event, like the COVID-19 vaccine initiative or educating the public about health issues at community

pe- events.

Of course, our most focused-upon priority is caring for our patients with the most sophisticated tools we have available, from state-of-the-art imaging technology to offering surgical services provided by extraordinarily skilled and caring surgeons.

This may come as a surprise as well — in addition to top-notch clinical services, what makes a hospital or care facility truly superior is the team members that populate

it. It is through them that patients receive their care of course, but these special individuals in every department of the hospital and ELC work to ensure that every patient or resident not only receives the most advanced, evidence-based care, but that their experience while they are within our walls is one defined by compassion and connection. For example, when a nurse stays a few more minutes to trade a story, share a laugh, or hold a patient's hand, the impression and experiential memory that remains with a patient is pivotal to how they perceive who we are. In other words, our integrity is measured just as much through intangibles as data-driven patient outcomes.

Since we strive to see each opportunity to care for a patient or resident as unique because everyone is — we approach every task, from the routine to the one-in-a-thousand, as a heartfelt commitment. Whether you visit us with an urgent need for care in



Tom Neal CEO, CNO Highlands-Cashiers Hospital our Emergency Department or you are coming in to visit a loved who is recovering from surgery, our aim is make your experience here a positive and memorable one.

To recognize and celebrate the special teams at HCH and ELC, we had a full schedule of activities planned to show our gratitude in both heartfelt and lighthearted ways. Just a few of the festivities we sponsored included a catered breakfast, barbeque lunch, a visit from local llama friends, Carnival Day —

complete with cotton candy, funnel cakes, games, and a dunking booth, and our DAI-SY Award Ceremony. The DAISY Award recognizes HCH and ELC nurses who put everything they have — and then some into making their patients and colleagues feel cared for and deeply valued. The blend of expertise and caring is what sets nurses apart, and the fact that we can recognize our special stars each year is something everyone at the hospital and ELC looks forward to.

Staley Beck, RN was honored with the DAISY award for ELC. Here nomination stated, "Staley is an exceptional nurse, leader, mentor, and colleague. She embodies the compassionate, kind, and knowledgeable qualities that every nurse hopes to provide. She is invested in every patient, issue, and task that crosses her path — and will stop at nothing until everything is done just right. She ensures her patients, patient families, and fellow staff members feel heard, validated, appreciated, and taken care of — on AND off the clock. She is always available to answer a question, lend a hand, or to just listen. Staley is a wonderful nurse and we're lucky to have her on our team."

Kyleigh Watson, RN was honored with the DAISY for HCH, and her nomination came from a grateful family member of one of her patients: "Kyleigh Watson was so caring when my grandmother was in the hospital. She was thoughtful, cared for my grandmother's every need, listened to her, and loved her like she was family. Kyleigh made such an impression on our family and we are forever grateful for this kind, caring nurse! Thank you, Kyleigh, for loving our patients like they are your own family!"

After a capital investment from HCA Healthcare, we are also preparing to get upgraded CT and MRI machines, which will enable our caregivers to provide even better care to our patients, as they remain close to home. This new equipment brings the most advanced medical technology to the Plateau. As an example, the new CT has the ability to provide cardiac imaging, which will allow our doctors to quickly scan the heart to help diagnose coronary artery disease. The new scanners are much faster and will reduce scan times. Our technologists are very excited.

As always, every HCH and ELC team member is grateful that our community members put their trust in us. Our people are the heart of our hospital and ELC, and I couldn't feel prouder saluting them.





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Summer Camp at The Literacy & Learning Center

Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 1 - 4 pm, campers will be stimulated and challenged while they have fun with Academic Adventures Camp – completely free of charge!

This summer camp offers a range of enjoyable activities, including phonics and math skills reviews. These camp activities are designed to prevent the "summer slide," which often occurs when students lose some of their academic gains from the prior school year from not keeping them in regular practice.

Because much of learning happens best when kids are actively engaged, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects will challenge their critical thinking and problemsolving skills as they play with some of their favorite materials. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on projects such as building structures, making slime, and creating innovative solutions to real-world problems.

Nature walks will provide time for campers to explore the great outdoors while they get some exercise and learn about the natural world. Campers will learn about the specific temperate rainforest plants and animal species they encounter. Additionally, they will also learn about the environmental challenges we face today and the importance of sustainable choices.

The final component will be fun craft projects allowing campers to get their creative juices flowing and let their imaginations run wild. A variety of materials and supplies will be provided for campers to make unique and personalized take-home items, including friendship bracelets, yarn flowers, and bubble paintings.

Snacks will be provided. It is recommended that campers come dressed for play and bring a water bottle. Registration is open until filled by the first ten sign-ups. The range of activities is designed to produce a well-rounded experience for campers entering 1st - 3rd grades. To enroll your child for a month of curiosity, creativity, and socialization, visit https://www. theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/ programs or contact Caroline Cox, Programs Manager, at 828-526-0863 or ccox@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org.

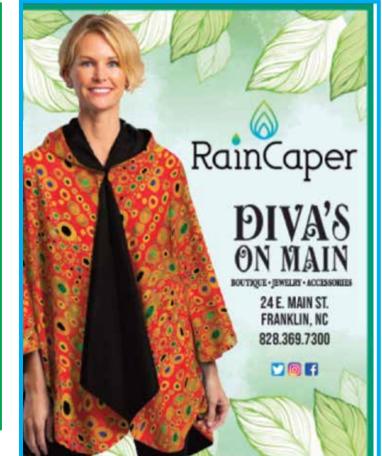


Family Classes at Scaly Mountain Crafters

Pen Turning Class Learn how to make your own wooden pen! Choose from 5 different pen styles. Cost: \$40-50 per person and includes laser engraving. Bird House/Bird Feeder & Bat House Classes

Learn how to make a Bird House, Bird Feeder or Bat House! Choose from 5 different Bird House styles, 2 different Bird Feeder styles or a Bat House. Cost: \$20-\$45 per person Call 828-526-8800 or email scalymtncrafters@gmail.com to schedule a class! Each class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals

locally for each item made.



Highlands Mercantile is OPEN!

Jouis Sherry

WESTMAN ATELIER

PINE TAR



out four priorities he would like to see in the proposed budget based on discussions he has had with Highlands constituents.

The first "ask" was for the county to reinstate funding for the Highlands Expansion Project. While the budget work session included debate around the operation and function of Pre-K within Macon County Schools, Commissioner Shearl said on behalf of Highlands, the county should fund the \$160,000 needed to complete design plans for the Highlands Expansion Project. Shearl said Highlands wasn't seeking the \$3+ million to carry out the project, just funding to complete plans for the project, which he said he supports.

The MC Board of Commissioners halted a previously fund-

ed contract with LS3P Architects earlier this year and moved the remaining funds earmarked for the project into the county's general fund.

At the time, commissioners said there was no need to move forward with design work on the expansion project, because funding to construct the project wasn't available.

Highlands residents have been diligently advocating for the funds to be reinstated and for the county to allow the design plans to be completed so the project is shovel-ready if funding comes available at a later date.

During County Manager Derek Roland's budget presentation last week, Commissioner Shearl voiced concern over conditions of Highlands





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> 2060 Dillard Rd, Highlands 2 miles south of Main

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

NEW POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6.-9:45am, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10 - I lam with Karen Chambers. Public Swim Mon. thru Thurs. 11a-7p: Fri. and Sat. | la-6p and Sun. |-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.

Thurs-Sat.

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

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 Wednes-

day 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

Ist Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm 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.

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 eniov 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.

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Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

Listen for the call of the Highlands Bagpipers as they perform from a different location the first Saturday of each month

through October.

This Month's Performance:

Old Edwards Inn & Spa 445 Main Street

Saturday, June

4:30 – 5 p.m.

Performances are made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/

Visit Highlands, NC.

HIGHLANDS

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS | ELEV. 4118

NORTH CAROLINA

828-526-2112 visithighlandsnc.com



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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

Tuesdays

• 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.

Tues. & Thurs.

• New 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

First Wednesdays

 Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, at 11a. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them.

Wednesdays

• 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

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, 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 – Thursdays 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, Chair Yoga may be the perfect fit for you. Dana Thiele has been teaching Chair Yoga since 2017 and is ready to guide you on your new health adventure.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga – Thursdays from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? More flexibility? Time to focus on YOU? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience, Dana Thiele is here to lead you in gentle, yet highly beneficial yoga routines.

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 Street in their Community Room/909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9am and hold our monthly meeting at 10amWe invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays through Sept. 3. Call 828-506-0125 if questions.

• 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 May 31

• The Fontana Regional Library system, including Hudson Library in Highlands, is starting an Active Audio Challenge. Participants who listen to 25 hours of audiobooks, while being active, will receive a prize. To register for the Challenge, come by Hudson Library and pick up the logbook used to record entries. For more information please call the library at 828-526-3031.

Thurs., June I

• Highlands Volunteer Fair from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Community Building, 71 Poplar Street. For more info 828-526-5841

Fri., June 2

• Hendersonville author Leanna Sain will appear at Hudson Library on Friday June 2 at 2p to talk about her latest romantic suspense release

Sat., June 3

 Kids Free Fishing Day 7:30anoon at Cliffside Lake. For kids 15 and under.

• OPEN HOUSE: 220 Sherwood Forest Road, Highlands, 10am to Noon.

Sun., June 4

Drum Circle at Wayfarers Chapel 6-8 PM. Drumming in a group – creating a beat and complimentary rhythms has an amazing way of energizing as it clears away stress.

Thurs., June 8

• At the Macon County Library, on Siler Road in Franklin, Jen Seymour, an avid international hiker, will share one of her eight children's publications at 6 p.m.

Sun., June II

 Death Café at Wayfarers Chapel 2-4 PM on the chapel deck. This is not a bereavement group or a therapy session, but rather an opportunity to express thoughts, con-

HIGHLANDS

ELEV. 4118 | THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

Highlands Volunteer Event

Are you looking to get involved? Join us to learn more about volunteer opportunities in Highlands! Thursday, June 8 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Highlands Community Building 71 Poplar Street

Light refreshments will be served.

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

> For more information: highlandschamber.org 828-526-5841

Highlands School Class of 2023 Graduation Sat., May 27

welcomed the crowd and Coach Brett Lamb made the

Commencement Address. Superintendent Dr. Chris Bald-

win joined Principal Brian Jetter in the presentation of

Family, friends, school board members and staff gathered Saturday to see the Class of 2023 off as they embark on the next chapter. Salutatorian Luke Hartman













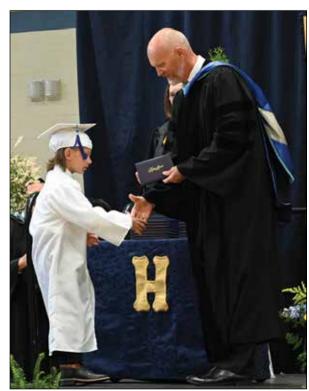




diplomas. Valedictorian Riley Conner bid her classmates goodbye. The traditional bagpipe music was played by Glenn Morris. - Photos by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News









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 May and June concerts!

All shows take place from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

MAY 19 Jay Drummonds

> MAY 26 Silly Ridge

JUNE 2 Ezra & Katie

JUNE 9 Johnny Webb Vabd

JUNE 16 Steady Hand String Band

JUNE 23 Southern Highland Band

> JUNE 30 Byrds & Crows

Saturdays on Rine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

MAY 20 The Boomers

MAY 27 The Swingin' Richards

> JUNE 3 **Nu-Blu**

JUNE 10 Firecracker Jazz Band

> JUNE 17 The Troupers



visithighlandsnc.com

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Thank you to all those who <u>"Meand</u>ered" with us on May 20!

> Downtown Highlands' Spring arts festival was a success because of you.

Thank you!

IGHLANDS

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS | ELEV. 4118

NORTH CAROLINA

Highlands Chamber of Commerce/

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Visit Highlands, NC





On Saturday, May 27 Mountain Life officially opened with a ribbon cutting. After prospering as a brokerage team affiliated with Landmark Realty Group for several years, the Realtors of Mountain Life Properties are now in their new standalone log home at the corner of Maple and N. 4th Street. The experienced team at Mountain Life Properties will find your dream estate home amongst the woods and wildlife of Cashiers, a lakefront lodge in Lake Glenville, a mountain modern house in Lake Toxaway, or a quaint cottage in neighborly Highlands that you will love for years to come. For more information 828-482-2800

... PRIORITIES continued from page 11

several county owned facilities, specifically Zachary Park, which he says have been neglected over the years.

Commissioner Shearl requested the county evaluate all existing facilities to complete a comprehensive analysis of facilities and their current conditions. Roland noted that such a document exists, the county's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The CIP was completed in 2018 and looked at space needs and facilities across Macon County. Despite saying he had not reviewed the document, Tuesday night, he asked commissioners to consider including money in the budget to fund repairs at the Zachary Park building in Highlands.

According to Shearl, the building houses the free health clinic and is in need of repairs and renovations such as new paint.

Commissioner Shearl's third funding request was paired with the improvements to the Zachary Park Building due to the location.

According to Shearl, the Highlands Recreation Director Lester Nix said there is a need for an area for Highlands youth to practice sports. He suggested the county provide funding to establish a multi-use practice field on the property across the gravel parking lot from the Zachary Park building.

Commissioner Shearl, who said \$50,000 to \$60,000 would be sufficient to cover the cost of the building improvements and the construction of the practice field. With the

practice field, using the outfield of the ballpark in Highlands wouldn't be necessary.

Shearl's fourth request on behalf of Highlands residents, was renovations to the Highlands School Soccer Field, which was already included in Roland's proposed budget.

However, Commissioner Shearl believes a renovations can be done for a fraction of the cost.

Roland's budget proposal included \$873,658 for renovations to the soccer field which would include addressing drainage issues that have caused water buildup and saturation of the field as well as the installation of turf on the field.

Shearl said that he had researched turf being used for soccer fields and has found it is not safe for soccer to be played on turf fields and that it can result in rolled ankles and injuries for players.

Shearl said he would like to see \$200,000 to \$250,000 spent to address the drainage issues and reseed the field with new grass.

Commissioner Shearl's recommendations were taken under advisement by the board and will be part of the budget discussions moving forward. The county's next budget work session is scheduled for June 8 at 5 p.m. with a public comment period on the budget scheduled for June 13 at 6 p.m.

Highlands Historical Village opens for season featuring new exhibits

On Saturday, May 27, the doors to the Highlands Historical Village opened for the 2023 season which runs June-October, Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays 10a to 4p.

Recently, as new exhibits are showcased in the museum, a ribbon cutting takes place to exemplify the additions.

On Saturday, board members and Mayor Pat Taylor were on hand to officially "open the doors" through which about 50 people entered to see what's new and to experience the exhibits for the first time.

New this year, are three exhibits – county clubs and golf in Highlands, the performing and visual arts in Highlands, and mountain music in Highlands.



HHS board members and Mayor Pat Taylor cut the ribbon.



The several country clubs and golf courses on the plateau are now showcased.



An exhibit showcases the many performing and visual arts prevalent on the plateau.

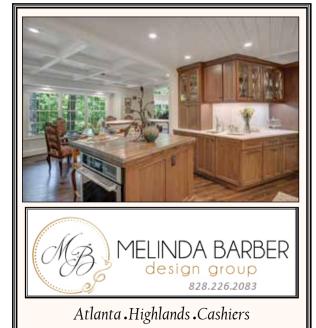


ATTENTION: Highlands Customers! Bring this ad with your first order of dry cleaning and/or laundry to our Cashiers location and receive a 20% discount on that order and all future orders!

We look forward to serving you!

45 Slabtown Road, Unit B-3 (next to Slabtown Pizza)





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melinda@melindabarber.com www.melindabarber.com

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...SHERIFF from page 1

On January 4, I called a meeting with our command staff for the purpose of discussing our fiscal budget year of '23-'24 and to begin the discussion and planning of "what we needed the Sheriff's Office to look like" in order to respond to the needs of the County.

Our first order of business did not deal simply with personnel or incidental changes; we started at the topfrankly, it dealt with how the Office, how the job of Law Enforcement, needed to be changed to meet the demanding and growing needs of Macon County. Prior to this year, the Office of the Sheriff consisted of 3 separate areas, the Sheriff's Office, Patrol and Incarceration. Today, we have narrowed the focus of each department within the Sheriff's Office but most importantly added three additional departments that have redefined goals and areas of responsibility-I think you will endorse our new direction.

We established a new "Office of the Sheriff" which consists of myself and my new Chief Deputy, Adam Wishon. This separation provides me greater time to focus on big picture issues, building important professional relationships and addressing the requirements of modern Law Enforcement, specifically for Macon County. Major Wishon focuses his time with leading the Command Staff and every unit of the Sheriff's Office to ensure optimum performance related to our goals.

We changed the name of the Patrol Division to "Crime Prevention," headed by Captain Clay Bryson. Clay's responsibility is simple, reduce crimes against persons and property with a high-profile, local presence. Until now, the department had a broader focus that included Investigation and the School Resource Officer Unit. Now, Clay focuses all his time on what is necessary to prevent crime in the County. Things such as K9 resources, newly established Neighborhood Watch programs and implementing a Zero Tolerance policy across the county are all things Clay has brought to the table.

The Detention Services Unit is headed by Captain Brent Ledford. He is a veteran of the Jail and a strong leader that is dedicated to his role. While the main purpose of the jail is housing those convicted of a crime or awaiting their court appearance, there is more that can be done for inmates during their stay at our detention facility. Our interest is not just housing those individuals that have been incarcerated, but to work with them on mental health and substance abuse issues that lead to repeat offenses and often more serious crimes. Captain Ledford has continued to make positive changes within the unit that work towards these goals.

One of our biggest changes follows my commitment to Macon County to improve and redefine our School Resource Officer program. We have established a new Unit that is headed by our newly appointed Lieutenant, Greg Rogers. When the Unit was pulled out of Patrol and Investigations, we knew we had to create a standalone operating entity that focuses 100% of its time on our Macon County schools, administration, teachers and students. We realized that crime in school systems across the Country are on the rise and that Macon County is not immune to such an occurrence. Our program focuses exclusively on prevention, protection, training, response, education, and student/par-



BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (828) 421-1315 Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11 Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m. BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH 828-269-3546 • Rev. lamie Passmore. Pastor Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 CASHIERS ÚNITED 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: 11a.m. Ist & 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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** Emily Wilmarth, pastor 828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir:6p **GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH** (Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) Sunday School:10 am. Worship Service:11 am **GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS** Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship 242 Hwy 107N. I/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: I I 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 METHÓDIST CHURCH Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376 In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services 909a Bluegrass and I Ia Traditional www.highlandsmethodist.org HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741 Rev. Ken Langsdrof Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome. Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC MACEDONIÁ BAPTIST CHUŘCH 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 SYNAGOĞUĖ** 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 Latin; Thurs. - 9:30am English; Sun. - 11am English 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 both virtual and in-person. Bazaar Barn is open Fri. & Sat. 10a - 2p. UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP 85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers Sunday School:10 am.Worship Service:11 am

• Police & Fire Reports •

Highlands Police entries from May 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

May 22

• At 7:36 p.m., officers responded a one-vehicle accident Rock Road.

• At 5:30 p.m., offices responded to a call of larceny of a road sign on Biscuit Rock Road.

May 27

• At 12:46 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Ace Hardware near 3rd Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 22.

May 22

• At 7:36 p.m., officers responded a one-vehicle accident Rock Road.

• At 5:30 p.m., offices responded to a call of larceny of a road sign on Biscuit Rock Road.

...METH continued from page 1

May 27

• At 12:46 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Ace Hardware near 3rd Street.

May 25

• At 5 p.m., officers received a call about someone trafficking meth, maintaining a dwelling for drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia at a location on Main Street.

May 26

• Around midnight, Robert Roland Anderson, 39, of Highlands, was arrested for trafficking meth, maintaining a dwelling for drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$75,000 secured bond. His trial date is June 8.

May 27

• At 5:58 p.m., Josimar Sanchez Chavez, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI and driving without a license. He was issued an unsecured bond of \$1,500. His trial date is June 14.

• The dept. received a call about a Glock 43 handgun found at Dry Falls.

to benefit Kelsev-Hutchinson Founders Park

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JULY 15th, 2022

Doors Open at 5, Dinner at 6

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

\$80 Ticket includes tasty low country boil dinner, dessert, and two drinks.

Live Music by Lrazr Luvr of Asheville 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

Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web. Go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News. Delivered and uploaded every Thursday AM



About 70 grams of methamphetamine, along with equipment, cash, firearms and supplies to package the drugs for sale.

We need more community members who are willing to step forward to report certain activity," said Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland. "I would like to thank our fellow detectives at the Macon County Sheriff's Office who assisted us in this investigation. Continued partnerships such as this with our surrounding law enforcement agencies and community partners are essential in fighting crime, keeping drugs off our streets, and keeping our community a safe place to live."



Robert Anderson

In connection with this investigation, Robert Anderson has been charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of distributing controlled substances, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Anderson was booked into the Macon County Detention Facility with a \$75,000 bond. The investigation is still ongoing, and anyone with any information is asked to contact the Highlands Police

Department at (828) 526-9431.



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ent intervention. We are very excited about this new focus of the Sheriff's Office and can already visualize where Greg, in concert with school leadership, will take this program.

Our Investigations Unit, headed by Captain Tim Holland is now a standalone Unit of the Sheriff's Office. Captain Holland and other members of my Command Staff realized that the investigation Unit "solves" crimes and "prevents" future ones and has created a response that answers to those specific needs. Our goal within this Unit is to increase the conviction rate of criminals by enacting strong and proven investigatory techniques and to prevent other crimes, such as drug abuse, domestic violence, property theft, and violent crimes. We have found that many of the crimes that are committed in Macon County are not committed by its own citizensthis is precisely the reason that we have reached out to surrounding jurisdictions to work in tandem with their investigation units. Since the first of the year, we have already made several large drug seizures and arrests, broken up theft rings and reduced domestic crime by working with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions. Due to Captain Holland's leadership and the strong team of detectives he has put together, we anticipate that our yearly crime statistics will only improve.

Our newly organized Support and Professional Regulation (SPR) Unit, headed by Captain Jonathan Phillips and Captain Tony Carver is truly where our joint efforts come together at the Macon County Sheriff's Office. Between the two Captains, we have already established centralized purchasing and procurement, grant writing, human resources procedures, recruiting, fleet maintenance, training, certifications and licensing, policy administration, inventory control and safety under one Unit. Our central clearing house for Sheriff's Office expenditures has allowed us to maintain a "budget neutral" environment for the '23/'24 fiscal year while increasing personnel, buying new and better equipment and managing our fleet in a cheaper and more efficient manner. Moreover, unnecessary overtime has been eliminated and our Sheriff's Office openings have been decreased by about 70%. In short; the SPR Unit brings a new

"checks and balances" mindset to our Office and specifically in the management of a nearly \$10 million operating budget. I anticipate great things from Captain Phillips, Captain Carver and their sworn and unsworn professional staff.

As you can see, your Sheriff's Office has been hard at work! Frankly, we listened to our residents and made changes to address their feedback as needed. We empowered some of the best law enforcement officers to continue to strive for greatness. In one quarter, we have made the Sheriff's Office far more efficient than it has ever been and restored and lifted the morale of our deputies despite of the many challenges facing law enforcement personnel today. Rest assured; we know there is still work to be done.

We hope that the citizens of Macon County are beginning to feel a new connection to our Office that is strong, reassuring and warm. I'm proud and humbled to be serving alongside some of the best officers I've ever known and can't wait to see what the remainder of the year holds.

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