

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 28

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

Thurs., July 11, 2024

## County votes unanimously, 5-0, to fund Highlands Playground

By Kristin Fox

What began with a \$50,000 anonymous cash donation from a local citizen, support for a new

playground for the children of the community continues to grow with this week's backing of the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the commissioners, county officials voted unanimously to sup-

• See **PLAYGROUND** page 22

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## Grease trap breach temporarily closes restaurant

By Kim Lewicki

Around 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, Highlands Police officers were notified that a grease trap or greywater port was overflowing in the parking area of Mill Creek Village.

When officers arrived on scene, they found grease-contaminated water draining from the Mill Creek Village parking area into the Mill Creek waterway through the nearby storm drains.

Officers contacted the Macon County Health Inspector who asked Highlands PD to have The Stubborn Bull Restaurant closed until the issue could be properly resolved.

During the evening of July 4, a company was able to unclog the drainage problem, and on July 5 the restaurant was given per-

• See **GREASE** page 15



Photo by Kim Lewicki

## New Orleans comes to bridge re-dedication

By Kim Lewicki

Thanks to the Winingder family a little bit of the Big Easy was at The Bascom on Saturday.

The Will Henry Stevens

bridge to The Bascom was closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic for about a year while repairs were made to the underpinnings of the bridge where a crack had appeared.

Open now for a few months, it was re-dedicated with music, color and flair on July 6.

The bridge, the defining en-

• See **BRIDGE** page 13

## Rule about truck length is signed into law

By Kim Lewicki

Since warning signs, elaborate turn-arounds and tickets haven't kept tractor-trailers off the portion of US 64 known as the Gorge Road, Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor has been urging legislators to pass a law to hopefully remedy the situation. When long trucks can't negotiate the numerous curves, aside from safety issues, traffic can be halted for hours.

On Monday, July 8, House Bill 593 officially became state law after receiving the Governor's signature. Rep. Karl Gillespie is the primary sponsor of HB593, "Various General Local Laws."

Originally entitled, "Restrict Truck Length Through Cullasaja Gorge," HB593 underwent various changes in the Senate which included the addition of local government ordinances. How-

• See **TRUCK** page 22

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Artistic endeavors are alive in Highlands



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

In the last several weeks, I have participated in several community arts events that have been revelatory to me about our town. I have concluded that Highlands is a myriad of folks who make up the town.

First, I participated in the Mountain Tip Rotary Art & Craft Show the last week in June at Founders Park. Sallie and I sold my pottery and had the opportunity to talk with various people at the show. I noticed a pattern in who attended the show.

First, about a third were tourists from across the country. They were in Highlands on vacation, taking in the beautiful scenery and mountain air and visiting special places. The next group was our transitional, aka seasonal residents. I, of course, knew many of our seasonal friends. Then, there were the full-time residents I know and see on many occasions. Finally, there was the "bumper crop of visitors," children and friends in Highlands visiting seasonal or full-time residents.

### Highlands Newspaper

[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com)

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Kristin Fox,

Brittney Lofthouse, Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

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#### Letter Policy:

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

#### Obituary Policy:

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

The other factor that made the art show successful was the Rotary volunteers, who made sure every exhibiting artist was supported and that visitors had a pleasant experience. Those volunteers did the hard labor so that the Rotary Club could donate thousands of dollars to nonprofits in the community.

The other event I attended on Saturday was The Bascom's Founders Day Breakfast and the reopening of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge. The Bascom is a wonderful community visual arts center, and I was honored to participate in the reopening of the bridge. At the breakfast, The Bascom board members gave several updates on the money raised to support their programming. I was truly impressed with what the people living in Highlands and Cashiers have contributed to this arts education organization. It is quite remarkable.

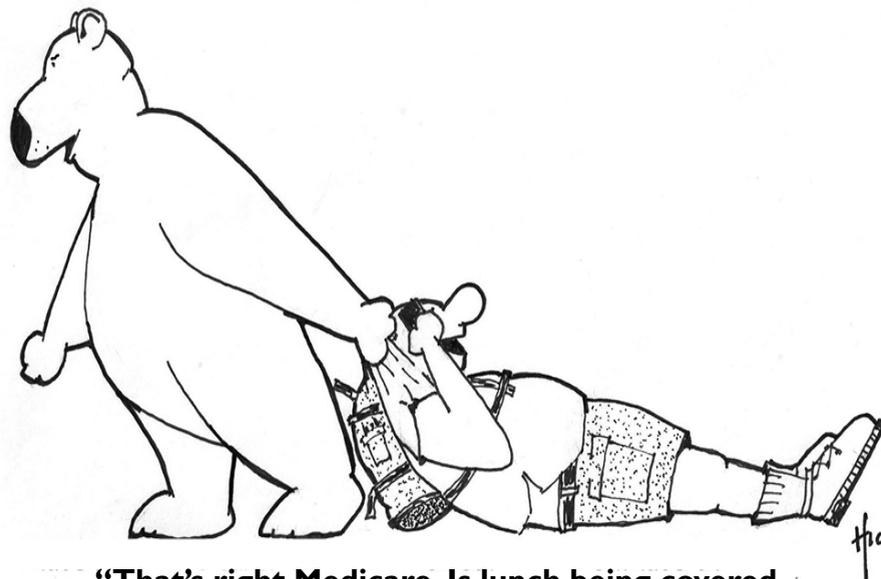
On Friday night, Sallie and I hosted a dinner at our house to celebrate the beginning of the 43rd Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival season.

One of the musicians who would perform on Saturday night gave some brief remarks, Scott Yoo. Scott is an acclaimed violinist and conductor of the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra and also the co-producer and star of the popular PBS series "Now Hear This." Scott said he was amazed at how a community of just a few thousand people was able to support such a robust and extensive chamber music concert series. All the local residents around the table were delighted and proud to support this arts event after a major leader in classical music made such an observation.

We sat in the audience on Saturday evening, memorized by the strings and piano performances. As I sat there, I thought this was a truly transformative aesthetic experience taking place right here in the mountains.

We should all be proud of our Highlands and Cashiers communities for their valuing of the arts and commitment to life-enhancing experiences in the arts, sciences, and social support endeavors. These commitments make the plateau a place where people not only want to visit but, more importantly, want to live and invest their hearts and treasures in the fabric of the community.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



"That's right Medicare. Is lunch being covered, and what's the co-pay?"

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 11-Jul	Fri, 12-Jul	Sat, 13-Jul	Sun, 14-Jul
 79°F 56°F	 78°F 61°F	 79°F 60°F	 81°F 62°F
Partly sunny and pleasant RealFeel® High 88° Low: 64°	A t-storm around in the p.m. RealFeel® High 84° Low: 66°	Pleasant with clouds and sun RealFeel® High 87° Low: 70°	A stray afternoon t-storm RealFeel® High: 90° Low: 68°

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Government - like real estate - is local

During this election year -which is unlike any we have ever seen -we are filled with thoughts of confusion and illusion. It doesn't matter which side of the fence we are on or if we choose not to be on either side, I think we all see that unfortunately we must make a decision on the information that is revealed about each candidate or spun by the press and news media. We should gather all the facts we can and cast our vote in November.

Now let's talk local politics. I have lived here full time for 30 years and initially never kept up with the Town Board which, in fact, makes all the decisions for those of us who live in downtown Highlands. The local government consists of a mayor and five commissioners who are elected by registered voters and residents who live in Highlands' town limits only. They serve a staggered term meaning the mayor and two commissioners are elected followed two years later with the election of three commissioners totaling five.

They hold Town Board meetings generally on the third Thursday of the month and make major decisions that affect anyone living in Highlands full-time or part-time. Business owners are impacted as well. For instance: signage, parking, sidewalks, subdivisions in town that require water and sewer, trees to be removed or planted, and restrictions or a ban on short-term rentals are their decision to make. They are to vote according to the will of the people and what is best for the TOWN...not their personal interests.

For instance: one commissioner is adamant that we are NOT a tourist town so obviously she never comes to town. If she thinks the stores stay in business due to locals buying, she is totally wrong.

Another commissioner is against short-term rentals because his next-door neighbor rents and sometimes there is noise. He should work with the homeowner and our police to enforce laws already in place.

Another assured a buyer that they could "absolutely" rent their home on VRBO and then proceeded to vote to ban short-term rentals.

The town purchased software with taxpayers' money that can see how many people are coming and going in your home, how many cars are in your driveway, etc. You may think this doesn't affect you if you live outside the town limits but when local gov-

ernment erodes homeowners' rights it ultimately affects us all. Let your opinion be known and your vote speak for you.

I started attending Town Board meetings a few years ago and was shocked to see how few people attend. Only when something controversial like short-term rentals is on the table do a few more attend. I am surprised that rarely do business owners attend when decisions that impact them are made by five commissioners.

More importantly, there are only approximately 1,000 registered voters in town and last November only about 420 voted. I don't think those who didn't vote or even those who did vote realize the importance of learning the candidates' views on issues and then casting their vote accordingly, rather than voting for a friend or someone they grew up with. Local jobs are at stake as well as businesses that are vital to Highlands.

Taxpayers contribute large amounts to Macon County and Highlands every year and the decisions on how that money is spent on necessary or unnecessary projects rests in the hands of five commissioners and a mayor. You need to stay informed and let them know your thoughts; that is vital!

My point is: if you don't attend the meetings, you are not informed of decisions until it's too late. If you aren't in town there is a zoom meeting to watch, and you can respond to the mayor or commissioners to voice your opinion by email or calling them. You can read the newspapers online to know when meetings are and what the agenda is that night. If you are a second homeowner voice your opinion. Even if you can't vote you are affected by these decisions. Their emails and phone numbers are online at [highlandsnc.org](http://highlandsnc.org). Speak up and give your opinion. In this regard silence is not golden.

• Pat Allen is Broker-in-Charge of Allen-Tate/Pat.Allen Realty Group: the number one independent firm in the country with sales over \$7.5 Billion last year. Allen has been a top producer and award-winning broker since her career began 20 years ago. She and her partner and daughter, Julie Osborn, broke a new record with over \$68 million in sales in 2023. She may be reached at 828-200-9179 or [pat.allen@allentate.com](mailto:pat.allen@allentate.com)



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## Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

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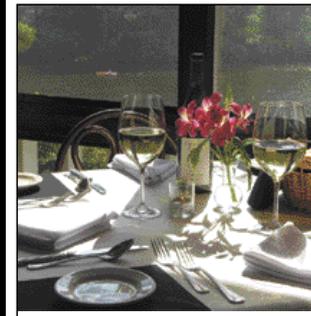


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## • LETTERS •

**This election isn't just  
about the 'near' future ...  
it's about the 'far' future**

Dear Editor:

Many Americans believe the future of America rests on the outcome of the next presidential election. I lean in that direction, in more ways than one. I believe (strongly) this election will influence permanent and consequential changes in life on this planet. That's why your vote, and my vote, matters.

We don't need a meteorologist to tell us it's hot outside. The National Weather Service recently issued its first-ever excessive heat warning of 96\* for northern Maine. Meteorologists describe a heat dome - "a high pressure system that traps air in place and bakes it with sunshine for days on end" - and forecast that this summer may be hotter than last year, which was the Northern Hemisphere's hottest in 2,000 years.

Heat waves do not topple buildings or flood cities but, in 2023, extreme heat contributed to the deaths of 2300 Americans. We could, if predictions remain stable, face similar losses this year. The science is crystal-clear: "a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, leading to more rain and more extreme weather events," and planet earth is warming.

Climate change shouldn't be political, extreme weather conditions strike indiscriminately. However, Florida Republican Governor and Trump loyalist, Ron DeSantis, signed a bill that eliminates references to climate change from state documents. "We don't want our energy policy driven by climate ideology," he said.

It's not, Governor, it's driven by scientific facts properly applied with common sense and a deep desire to save this planet for future generations. Climate alarm bells are ringing all around the globe: North and South America, Africa, Asia, India and elsewhere. Pre-summer heat waves have

• See LETTERS page 16

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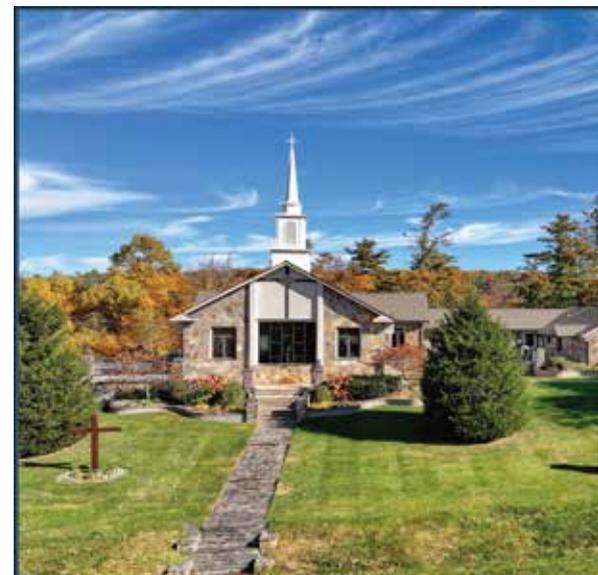
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# Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment Program Highlights

## The Melting of "Frozen Conflict" in the Baltic States: Putin's War in Ukraine and the Upending of History

Presenter: Jordan Kuck, Friday, July 12, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40

## Growing Herbs and Greens for the Kitchen

Presenter: Shannon Quattlebaum, Friday, July 12, 2-4pm, \$30/\$40

## Botanical EcoTour: Highlands Botanical Garden

Leader: Adam Bigelow, Monday, July 15, 8:30am-noon, \$50/\$60

## History of Hamas

Presenter: Eren Tasar, Monday, July 15, 2-4pm, \$30/\$40

## Challenges to Western Dominance

Presenter: Eren Tasar, Tuesday, July 16, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40

## Liquefied Acrylics: Studio Tour and Art Demo

Presenter: Barbara Jamison, Tuesday, July 16, 3-5pm, \$40/\$50

## Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era

Presenter: Rongbin Han, Wednesday, July 17, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40

## Judicial Ethics - Public Trust in the Courts

Presenter: Judge Jed S. Rakoff, Thursday, July 18, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40

## Drawing For All!

Instructor: Mary Cavaoli, Thursday, July 18, 1-3:30pm, \$70/\$80

## The New York Times: Past, Present...and Future?

Presenter: Alex S. Jones, Friday, July 19, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40

## Oliver Messiaen and the Quartet for the End of Time

Presenter: Ben Arnold, Saturday, July 20, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40

## Inside Out: Reimagining What it Means to be Outdoors

Presenter: Michael Rosenfeld, Tuesday, July 23, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40

## Demystifying the Grand Jury

Presenter: Judge Beryl A. Howell, Wednesday, July 24, 10am-noon, \$30/\$40



# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



## Outpost Inn officially opens

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filled with art, books, and vinyl records. Each guest room boasts a unique style with colorful quilts, vintage rugs and luxury linens and toiletries. Amenities include record players with curated vinyl collections and typewriters.

For more information about the Outpost Inn call 828-482-7736 or visit their website at [www.outpostinnhighlands.com](http://www.outpostinnhighlands.com).

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# Come to The Gordon Center's 40 for 40 celebration

In the Faith and Fellowship Center at the Highlands United Methodist Church July 21 at noon

This year marks The Gordon Center's 40th year serving the Highlands community and everyone is invited to show appreciation and support by joining The Gordon Center for Children in honoring Ms. Wilma in person.

Please join us at The Faith and Fellowship Center at Highlands United Methodist Church, Sunday, July 21st at noon. Please RSVP at 828-526-3376.

We also encourage you to consider making a donation to The Gordon Center for Children in Ms. Wilma's honor. Imagine if every student were to give \$1 for every year Ms. Wilma's legacy has impacted the Highlands community!

Your donation would contribute to continuing thoughtful programming and early childhood education to the children



Ms. Gordon with an class from years ago.

of Highlands year round.

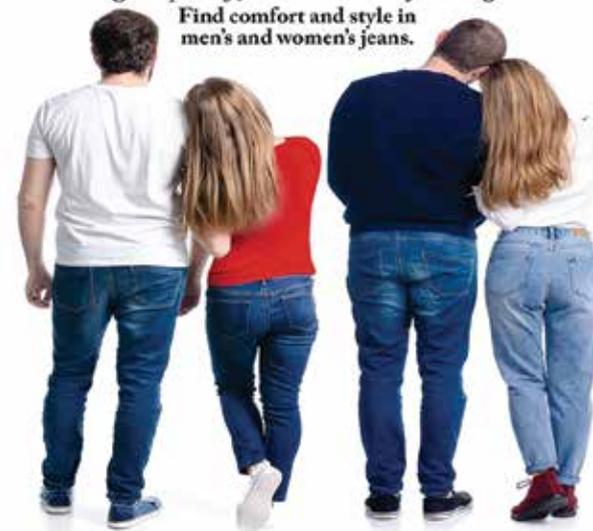
Also, if you have pictures and memories you wish to share

please post them to the Center's Facebook Event page under The Gordon Center for Children.

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### 601 VZ TOP CONDOMINIUMS, HIGHLANDS

VZTOP is all about the view, but in this case, it's about this tastefully renovated unit as well. This unique 3BR/3BA flat is all on one level. Easy care vinyl plank flooring, stone fireplace, deck overlooking mountain scenery, close to the town of Highlands. Sold either furnished or unfurnished.

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**DIRECTIONS:** From Main Street, Highlands, turn on Hwy 106. Go past Highlands CC lake and take a left on Hudson Road. Follow all the way to the top. Building is the third on the left, lower level unit.

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# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Old Edwards Inn & Spa is a 2024 'OPRAH DAILY BEST HOTEL O-WARDS' winner

*Iconic Highlands resort honored for creating an extraordinary retreat experience amidst the Blue Ridge Mountains*

Old Edwards Inn & Spa is proud to announce today its selection as a winner in Oprah Daily's 2024 Best Hotel O-Wards. The full list of awards can be found online at <https://oprahdaily.com/hotelawards2024>.

Old Edwards Inn & Spa is renowned for its world-class spa services, farm-to-table dining, and elegantly appointed accommodations. Guests can indulge in the award-winning spa, explore the lush gardens, and savor exquisite cuisine crafted from locally sourced ingredients. The Inn's rich history,

combined with modern luxury and premium leisure amenities, offers a unique and captivating experience for travelers seeking relaxation and rejuvenation.

"We are honored and excited to be recognized by Oprah Daily as one of the best hotels in 2024," said Richard Delany, President of Old Edwards Hospitality Group. "This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, who strive to provide an unparalleled experience for every guest. We are grateful for the continued support of our guests and community."

For Oprah Daily's first annual 2024 Hotel O-Wards, editors selected 68 hotel and wellness resorts in and near North America that can transform, teach, and serve as catalysts for becoming, in the words of Oprah herself, "the person you were always meant to be."

These properties touch on every aspect of self-care: physical, emotional, spiritual, social, even sensual. As with all things travel, they wanted to balance the aspirational with the tactical. Oprah Daily believes the right trip at the right moment and with the right people can feel like a year's worth of therapy, meditation, and salsa lessons packed into just a few days. For additional details about the Oprah Daily Best Hotel O-wards, please visit [www.oprahdaily.com](http://www.oprahdaily.com).

The prestigious award, bestowed by

Oprah Daily, celebrates the finest hotels and resorts across the globe that exemplify excellence in hospitality. This accolade highlights Old Edwards Inn & Spa's commitment to creating an extraordinary retreat for its guests, nestled in the scenic beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. For more information about Old Edwards Inn & Spa and to book your stay, please visit [www.oldedwardsinn.com](http://www.oldedwardsinn.com)

### ABOUT OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA

Situated in the heart of downtown, Old Edwards Inn and Spa offers a mountain retreat with luxury guest rooms, suites, cottages, and vacation homes. Perched atop the southwest plateau of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the European style Relais & Châteaux resort is woven into Highlands, NC community and culture. Guests can enjoy doing as much or as little as they want. Enjoy award-winning farm-to-table culinary experiences; a destination spa; 18-hole golf course with dramatic mountain vistas; tennis courts; outdoor mineral pools and whirlpools; game rooms; live music and so much more. Old Edwards offers ideal access to the excitement of downtown Highlands, and it is the perfect gateway to some of the region's best outdoor adventures, from exploring waterfalls to scenic drives and historical walking tours.

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

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Mission Hospital successfully performs first commercial TriClip procedure in NC

The team at Asheville Cardiology Associates has achieved a groundbreaking advancement in heart care by successfully performing the first commercial TriClip procedure in North Carolina at Mission Hospital in May. There have only been three centers in the state who have performed this procedure while it was still in its trial stage. This new technology offers hope for patients suffering from tricuspid valve regurgitation and was recently approved by the FDA.

Tricuspid valve regurgitation is a common condition where the valve fails to close correctly, causing the blood to flow backward into the heart, leading to symptoms such as fatigue, shortness of breath, and swelling in the legs or abdomen.

This innovative procedure, led by Dr. Michael Chenier, marks a significant advancement in cardiac care for our region. "The FDA provided final approval for Triclip earlier this spring and our center was the first to attend the FDA required training in a session in Austin, Texas prior to implants," says Dr. Chenier, Interventional Cardiologist at Asheville Cardiology Associates.

"Further solidifying the commitment to the community to help improve the care and improvement of human life, we believe this procedure will help expand quality of life for patients who receive this treatment," said Dr. Chenier.

If you would like to know more about heart care at Mission Health, visit our website or call 828-274-6000.

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## Concerts July 13-16



Saturday, July 13 – 5 PM, Highlands | Sunday July 14 – 5 PM, Cashiers  
"Bastille Day Celebration – Vive La France!"

Sara Sant'Ambrogio, cello; Yuriy Bekker, violin;  
Helen Kim, violin; Yinzi Kong, viola; Jasmin Arakawa, piano

Monday, July 15 – 5 PM, Highlands | Tuesday, July 16 – 5 PM, Cashiers  
"Variety is the Spice of Life"

James Zellers, flute; Jesse McCandless, clarinet;  
Yuriy Bekker, violin; Jasmin Arakawa, piano



## Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

[www.h-cmusicfestival.org](http://www.h-cmusicfestival.org) | [hccmfnc@gmail.com](mailto:hccmfnc@gmail.com) | (828) 526-9060



## Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

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

This Month's Performance:

Old Edwards Inn

445 Main St

Saturday, July 13 | 4:30 – 5 p.m.

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



828-526-2112  
[visithighlandsnc.com](http://visithighlandsnc.com)

# HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

## SUMMER POOL SCHEDULE

**Lap Swim** Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-1pm 6 lanes. **Water Aerobics** 18 years plus Mon.-Fri. 10am-1am with Karen Chambers. **Public Swim** Mon. thru Thurs. 11am-7pm, Fri. and Sat. 11am-6pm and Sun. 1pm-6pm. For info, call 828-526-1595.

## PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed), everyone is welcome meetings

## ALL WEEK

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

## SUNDAYS AND TUESDAYS

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut

Street 5:30pm Sundays and 2pm and 5:30pm. on Tuesdays.

## Thurs., July 11

• A HCLT event: Mountaintop Hike & Pranic Workshop, 6-9pm. Meet at the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 S. 5th Street, Highlands. This is a 3.5 mile moderate to difficult hike with steepness, elevation changes, rocks, and wet at times. Sign up required. Email [hope@hcltnc.org](mailto:hope@hcltnc.org). Donations appreciated.

• The Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) continues its highly anticipated Zahner Conservation Lecture series on Thursday at 6 p.m. This upcoming lecture, "Landscape Menders: Design Ideas for the South Gateway Garden at the Highlands Botanical Garden," will be presented by Warren Byrd, Jr. FASLA, Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia and Founding Principal of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. FREE.

• At Hudson Library, Talewise program (formerly ScienceTellers) presents Science Heroes: Adventure of the Lost Treasure, an exciting production with lots of special effects. at 3:30 PM. Even better, the program will also show everyone how those effects are created, and volunteers from the audience will be invited to help out. It's a delightful way to have fun with science, suitable for the whole family, best for age 4 and up.

• Chantelle Rondell, aquatic biologist with NC's Wildlife Resource Commission's Aquatic

Wildlife Diversity Program will speak at 6 p.m. at the Macon County Library on Siler Road. All are invited and membership is not required [https:// app.joinit.com/o/nantahalakingclub](https://app.joinit.com/o/nantahalakingclub). A FREE raffle is awarded. Winner must be present to claim the raffle.

## Fri., July 12

• At Hudson Library, local author Susan Posey will give a talk about her new historical novel A Weave of Old and New at 11 AM at Hudson Library. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

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

## Sat., July 13

• Highlands resident Mark Mahaffey will sign copies of "The Pathfinder" at the Highland Hiker's historic Joe Webb log cabin at 601 Main Street on Saturday, from 2-4pm. "Pathfinder" is Mr. Mahaffey's memoir of life as an officer on an aircraft carrier; at his family real-estate development company based in St. Petersburg, Fla.; his years in Highlands; long, glorious summer vacations in Ireland, and his fly-fishing excursions to Central America and Alaska. Refreshments will be served.

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

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Dive Bar Divas

## Mon., July 15

• Regional Prayer Event - Uncovering truth in the digital age of misinformation with pastors Steve Doerter and Jim Murphy at Grace Community Church in Cashiers at 6p. Visit [www.gracecashiers.com](http://www.gracecashiers.com) for more information.

## Wed., July 17

• A HCLT Community Read: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 3 - Picking Sweetgrass (Chapters 12-17) 10a-12p at the Hudson Library, 554 Main Street.

• A HCLT Community Read: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 3 - Picking Sweetgrass (Chapters 12-17) noon-2pm at Albert-Carlton Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Road, Cashiers.

## Thurs., July 18

• HC Chamber Music Festival will present a free family/children's concert and performance entitled "Paddington Bear's First Concert" and "The Three Little Pigs" at 3pm on Thursday, July 18 at Highlands First Presbyterian Church.

## Fri., July 19

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

## Sat., July 20

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

## July 23-27

• At CK Swan on N.4th St., a Clara Williams trunk show

## Tues., July 23

• Movie at Hudson Library at 2 PM. Watch a stirring WWII drama in which Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker, rescues over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia in the months leading up to World War II.

## Wed., July 24

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

## Thurs., July 25

• Bingo fundraiser for The Scaly Mountain Womens Club 6:30-8:30p in the Highlands Community Building by the ballfield.

## Fri. & Sat., July 26 & 27

• At The Bascom, 13th annual Pottery Show and Sale 10am - 4pm.

## Fri., July 26

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

## Tues July 30

• A HCLT Community Reads: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 4 - Braiding Sweetgrass (Chapters 18-25) noon to 2p. Albert-Carlton Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd, Cashiers

## Wed., July 31

• A HCLT Community Reads: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 4 - Braiding Sweetgrass (Chapters 18-25) 10a – noon. Hudson Library, 554 Main St, Highlands. Where: Hudson Library, 554 Main St, Highlands, NC 28741

• Village Nature Series Presents: Restoring Landscapes with John Lane, 5:30-6:30p at Lewis Hall at The Village Green 160 Frank Allen Rd, Cashiers. Free and open to the public.

## Fri., Aug. 2

• At The Bascom, Artist Talk with TJ Erdahl and Beau Raymond from 4:30-6p.

• Friday Night Live in Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Ezra & Katie

## Sat., Aug. 3

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

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – The Holiday Band

## Mon., Aug. 5

• High Mountain Squares is sponsoring a new class for beginning students beginning Monday. The classes will be taught by Keith Lester, caller and instructor, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on Highway 441, Franklin, NC. The first two of 12 classes are free; the remaining ten classes are \$50 per person. For more info call Betty at 828-787-2324 or Bob at 828-332-0001.

## Thurs., Aug. 8

• At The Bascom, Artist talk with TJ Erdahl and Beau Raymond 4 pm

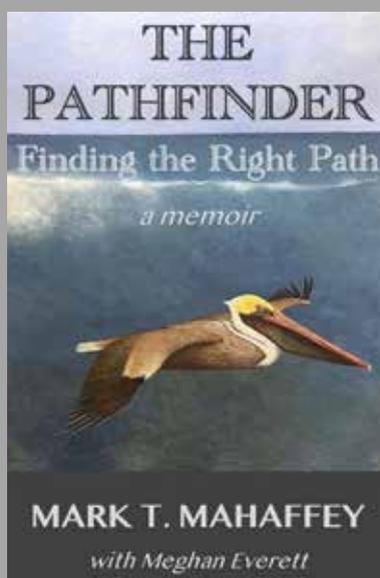
## Fri., Aug. 9

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

## Book Signing at Highland Hiker



Featuring  
Mark Mahaffey



Saturday  
July 13 2-4 PM  
Highland Hiker Cabin  
With Refreshments

# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

**Sat., Aug. 10**

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Will Thompson Band

**Fri., Aug. 16**

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

**Sat., Aug. 17**

• At The Bascom, Blacksmithing Trunk Show 1-5 p.m.

**Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 22-25**

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "The Lifespan of a Fact" at 7:30p and 2p on Sunday. For tickets go to: [www.highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.com) or call 828-526-9047.

**Thurs., Aug. 22**

• At The Bascom, From the Lowlands to the Highlands Exhibition Reception 5-6:30 pm

**Fri., Aug. 23**

• Friday Night Live on Main

Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Southern Highland Band

**Sat. & Sun., Aug. 24-25**

• Art and Craft Show in KH Founders Park on Pine Street. 10a to 5p Saturday and 10a to 4p on Sunday. Rain or shine.

**Sun., Aug. 25**

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. 3RD ANNUAL SUNDAY SUPPER. Book Online at [OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners](http://OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners)

**Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 29-Sept. 1**

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "The Lifespan of a Fact" at 7:30p and 2p on Sunday. For tickets go to: [www.highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.com) or call 828-526-9047.

**Fri., Aug. 30**

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

**Sat., Aug. 31**

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-

Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Full Circle

**Fri., Sept. 6**

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

**Sat., Sept. 7**

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

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

**Fri., Sept. 13**

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

**Sat., Sept. 14**

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – High 5

**Sun. Sept. 15**

• The Literacy & Learning Center fall fundraising event "Celebration of Education" at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Guest Speaker – Shelby Van Pelt, author of Remarkably Bright Creatures.

## CLE presents: Judicial ethics – public trust in the courts

How should the American public think about Supreme Court justices who fly flags at their homes with recognizable political messages, or those who receive millions of dollars' worth of gifts from those with identifiable interests in the cases coming before the court?

The recent disclosure of these events has raised the public's awareness of the role judicial ethics plays in the perception of the legitimacy and trustworthiness of our legal system.

To help us understand this complex and timely issue, the Center for Life Enrichment will host a presentation on judicial ethics by one of the most esteemed federal district court judges in the country: Judge Jed Rakoff, a senior judge who sits on the District Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan.

The presentation will be on July 18, from 10a to noon at the

Peggy Crosby Center.

Judge Rakoff has conducted over 300 jury trials, written over 180 published articles, given over 900 speeches, and delivered over 2,000 judicial opinions. He is the author of *Why the Innocent Plead Guilty* and *The Guilty Go Free: And Other Paradoxes of Our Broken Legal System*. In 2014, *Fortune* magazine listed him as one of the world's 50 greatest leaders. His distinctions include, among many others, the Federal Bar Council's Learned Hand Award for excellence in federal jurisprudence and the American College of Trial Lawyers' Leon Silverman Award for Distinguished Public Service.

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

## ...BRIDGE continued from page 1

trance to The Bascom campus, was named in honor of Will Henry Stevens, a Southern Modernist painter who practiced both in North Carolina and in New Orleans.

The Tom and Dian Winingder and Coleman families helped fund the bridge as well as its repairs. The Winingders were on hand to cut the ribbon for the re-dedication and explained why it was named in honor of Stevens.

Potter and Mayor Pat Taylor, who ran the pottery studio at The Bascom in years past, said the town appreciated all the work and the people who donated to make the day possible.

"This will be a structure that will serve this institution for many years to come," he said.

Dian Winingder, chair of the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, who cut the ribbon at the re-dedication, said the bridge is a connector to The Bascom and much more.

"As we re-dedicate today, there is a great light on this connection. A new light is now shining on Will Henry Stevens. He was born in 1881 and died in 1949 and for 27 years he taught at Newcomb College in New Or-

leans where my mother was one of this students; he was her mentor. Every summer he would bring students to these mountains from New Orleans and many of their works are housed at the Blue Spiral Gallery in Asheville," she said.

Winingder said from the new light emanating from the bridge, a stronger, richer connection has begun between The Bascom and the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts. For the next six months the academy will be curating with The Bascom and the Blue Spiral Gallery scheduling lectures, workshops, exhibitions and classes all honoring the work of Stevens. With that she cut the ribbon and invited all "to let your light shine!"

"So today we bring a touch of New Orleans, with a jazz band, a second line, and a jazz handkerchief," she said.

A jazz band complete with a trumpet, a saxophone, a clarinet, and snare drum led handkerchief-waving and parasol-twirling participants through the bridge from the campus to US 64 west.

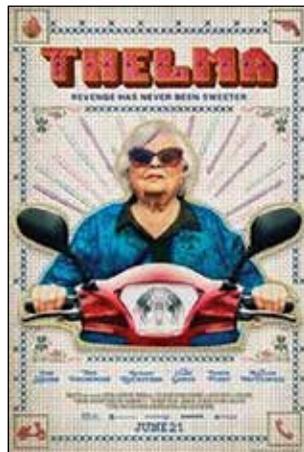
Second lines are those following funeral, wedding and festival processions with parasols and handkerchiefs.

•See photos on page 17.

## MOVIES

at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



**Sun., July 14 - 5:30p**

**Tues., July 16 - 2p and 5:30p**

**Sun., July 21 - 5:30p**

**Tues., July 23 - 2p and 5:30p**

**Tickets:**

**Adults: \$13.20**

**Children: \$11**

[boxoffice@highlandsp Performingarts.com](mailto:boxoffice@highlandsp Performingarts.com)  
828-526-9047

Let's Play Bingo!

Fundraiser, Thursday, July 25, 6:30-8:30pm

Highlands Community Building

869 N 4th Street (NEXT TO THE BALL FIELD)

BINGO!

SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HIGHLANDS,  
THE SCALY MOUNTAIN WOMEN'S CLUB

BENEFITTING THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF THE SCALY MOUNTAIN  
WOMEN'S CLUB, A 501(c)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

CASH PRIZES FUN FOOD

SPECTACULAR GIFT BASKETS: RAFFLE TICKETS, \$5 EA, 5 FOR \$20

Bingo is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Highlands and is licensed by the State of North Carolina.

# 4th of July Highlands-style!



Photos by Kim Lewicki



True to Highlands' July 4th celebration, festivities began at the town ball field with water rocket flights at 9a followed by field games - tug of war, sack races, water balloon toss, frozen T-shirt contest, a MAMA helicopter visit and the annual soak down by the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. At 2p there was a Duck Derby at the Bridge at Mill Creek with it all culminating with music and fireworks at KH Founders Park on Pine Street.

## FREE Family/Children's Concert & Ice Cream Social, Thurs., July 18 at 1st Pres. Church

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival will present a free family/children's concert and performance entitled "Paddington Bear's First Concert" and "The Three Little Pigs" at 3pm on Thursday, July 18 at Highlands First Presbyterian Church.

The event is sponsored by Mountain

Findings and features Julie Coucheron, piano; Jessica Wu, violin; Martin Gueorgieuv, cello; and Frank O'Donnell, narrator.

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 Main and Fifth Streets.

## ...GREASE from page 1

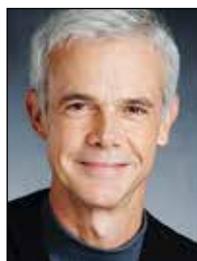
mission to reopen.

Though this instance wasn't related to bears who have recently knocked over above-ground grease tanks at various food establishments in town, it points to the necessity of securing and maintaining grease trapping apparatus to keep Highlands and its water bodies safe.

At a recent Town Board meeting, commissioners OK'd amendments to its Code of Ordinances requiring grease tanks – where used-grease is stored above ground until retrieved via a pumper truck – to be secured in various ways so that bears can't tip them over.

They can be bolted to adjacent buildings, or walls or to a cement slab as long as bears can't disturb them.

Mayor Taylor said Environmental NC has been giving restaurants written notifications about securing grease tanks as they conduct grease-trap inspections.



Frank O'Donnell



Julie Coucheron



Jessica Wu



Martin Gueorgieuv

## For Sale By Owner in Wildwood Forest

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*ccs*

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HIGHLANDS  
NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

# Outdoor Concert Series

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

*Join us for our 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 5  
Nitrograss

JULY 12  
Silly Ridge

JULY 19  
Leadfoot Lilly

JULY 26  
Kettle

*Saturdays on Pine*

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park  
Pine St.

*Featuring a variety of popular,  
regional bands and musicians*

JULY 6  
Blaze the City

JULY 13  
Dive Bar Divas

JULY 20  
Lazlvr

JULY 27  
The Breakfast Club



visithighlandscnc.com

## ...LETTERS continued from page 7

already affected vast stretches of the planet.

President Biden has endeavored to act against climate change throughout his presidency. He has enacted over 100 new environmental regulations and passed legislation that boosts clean energy (all very easy to fact-check).

Climate denialism is no longer a credible option; in reality, it never was. This November Americans will have an opportunity to join a united effort with other like-minded nations to confront global warming.

It's a certainty that a President Trump (enabled by a fawning subservient Republican Congress) would lay waste to the progress the Biden Administration has achieved and would have devastating world-wide con-

sequences. Trump will staff his White House with carefully chosen loyalists --- responsible and experienced civil servants need not apply.

There was a time the Republican Party would not have considered nominating a twice impeached congenital liar and convicted criminal as its standard-bearer nor turned its back on fact-based truth, law and order, or the Constitution.

The presence of a convicted criminal on the ballot for President of the United States is itself an affront to everything I was taught and grew up believing this country stands for. Veterans especially, should be repulsed and outraged.

This vital (and possibly final) free election may well determine whether we as a people are

as moral and decent as we'd like to believe --- or as fatally flawed and depraved as some of us fear we've become.

**David L. Snell  
Franklin**

## Is Christian Nationalism either?

On September 27, 1953, I was baptized & joined Second Avenue (United) Methodist Church. Ten years later, I felt God's clear call into the ministry. In preparation for my life of service, I received an undergraduate & two post graduate degrees. I also was an adjunct Professor at Candler School of Theology, Emory University for 19 years. Most importantly, I was an active United Methodist minister for over half a century. So I have a pretty good practical, biblical, theological and intellectual understanding of what Christianity is and what it isn't.

Therefore, if I understand it correctly, Christian Nationalism is a movement which hopes to bring

their vision of Christian values to bear more strongly upon our common culture and government today. They would like to emphasize the Christian nature of our national identity as a rebuke to the more diverse and inclusive movements within our American society in recent years. While I'm all for people being motivated by their faith to participate in the political process, I am concerned that mixing faith and politics, especially the necessarily coercive role that government must have, is not a good idea. Simply put, I fear that Christian Nationalism is not helpful to either the Christian faith or to our nation.

It is too simple to say that America was founded as a Christian country. Like most things, it is more complex than that. True, most of the original colonists were Christians; however, for many, the main reason they braved the North Atlantic in those tiny boats, was to get away from other Christians who wanted to impose their version of our common faith upon them. Also, once they got here, they wanted to keep their communities in line with their version of Christianity and often sent others packing if they didn't agree.

(See Roger Williams and Rhode Island.) For sure, all our founders were agreed that the newly formed United States of America should never have a national Church, like the one they fled in England.

Our founders were of many different minds about the Christian religion. Thomas Jefferson snipped out all the miracles in the Scriptures to produce a much thinner and more acceptable Bible upon which to base his skeptical faith. Other founding fathers practiced a faith called Deism. Not only Christianity, but the Scottish Enlightenment shaped our culture and society. That's why we have a free enterprise capitalist economy today. America was founded by people who had lots of different ideas about both Christianity and what sort of country America ought to be. We are at our best when we protect each other's views, especially those different from our own.

This is even more important now, when Christianity is one of many different religions followed, or not followed, by Americans today. Occasionally folks are so convinced their religious and political views are the right ones that they can't imagine anyone else could possibly see things differently. Even worse, they believe that if people aren't willing to change their minds, then the thing to do is to expunge those ideas, and if necessary, the people who hold them, from our society. Examples abound: The Inquisition, the Crusades, and the Reformation; as well as the rise of the fascist regimes in Italy and Germany of the Second World War and the communist revolutions in Russia, China, Cuba and elsewhere in our modern times.

Here's a reliable clue to imminent danger: Coercion. If your movement is determined to force others to see things the way you do, it is neither Christian nor American. If your vision of God or for the country is so much better: show me, convince me; but don't tell me that I'm not a Christian or a patriotic American if I don't agree.

**Rev. Dr. Mike Cordle  
UMC Minister, Retired**

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September 18 at 4 PM  
Church of the Incarnation  
Flower Arranging Demonstration and Childcare Celebration

#### Levels of Support

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HCCDC serves 100 children on the Plateau, enabling working families to thrive. With a mission to make childcare affordable, HCCDC relies on community support as tuition covers only 50% of expenses.

Together, we can help children blossom!

HCCDC is designated as a Four-Star Center by the State of NC based on the quality of its programs and the educational credentials of the staff and class size.

# Will Henry Stevens Bridge re-dedication and Community Day at The Bascom, Sat., July 6



Photos by Kim Lewicki

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## When everyone matters, everyone wins

Pastor, Emily Wilmarth  
First Presbyterian Church

I arrived at a church meeting recently only to find one of the other attendees distraught. She had just experienced a moment of road rage on Main Street.

What a shock! When I moved to Highlands 10 years ago, I was told that in this small town, everyone is so friendly, no one honks their horns. (I moved here from New Jersey, so I don't know if this was a warning or just a bit of friendly advice.) Even though I've only been here a decade, my experience has been that as we get more crowded, particularly in the summer, tensions on Main Street, or in the Highlands Plaza parking lot, can get high. It's also been my experience that the blame for incidents of rudeness on the road usually gets placed on outsiders. Tourists. People who aren't "from here."

It's true: people who aren't from Highlands don't know everything great about this place. Things like our unusually high percentage per capita of non-profits that support people in need. Or the amazing people who are dedicated to public service. Or our causal rule about not honking at each other.

Those who are "from here" (a debatable status, by the way - how many years of residence makes you "from here"?) have a choice. We can look at outsiders as the people who cause our problems. We can grumble about the tourists who don't know better when it comes to honking or following the arrows in the Highlands Plaza parking lot. I know I've had my share of complaints.

Or, we can consider what Jesus tells us about our neighbors. In the famous parable of the Good Samaritan, an obedient, faithful man asks Jesus who his neighbor is. Rather than answering directly, Jesus tells a story to illustrate his teaching. He tells about a man who fell into the hands of robbers, and was left, near death, on the side of the road. A preacher walked by and ignored the man. A local resident walked by and ignored the man. Finally, an outsider, a Samaritan, encountered the injured man. Instead of walking by, the outsider stepped in to help, providing healing and compassion.

Jesus encourages disciples to see that our neighbors are not only people who are "from here." Our neighbors aren't limited to the people we grew up with, or the people in our families, or the people who look or think like us. Our neighbors are the people in our midst. In a resort town, that's a challenge! You may be a visitor and not very invested in this place, or you may be a native, and not that interested in the visitors. But Jesus calls his followers to love our neighbors as ourselves.

It's not just a matter of visitors/residents. There are plenty of issues that divide us from each other. There is plenty to disagree about. We don't always act neighborly, lovingly, toward the people in our midst.

But we could. And when we do, the incidents of road rage diminish. Acts of violence decrease. When we are willing to view every person in our midst as someone worthy of love, dignity, and compassion, it not only helps the community around us. It helps our own hearts.

I believe it's a worthy challenge for us all.

# • 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

## CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

## CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector  
464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701

Sunday: 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a Holy Eucharist;  
6p Contemplative Worship; Wed: 6p Potluck, Bible Study  
**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS**  
Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church  
Sun. S.S 9:30a, 10:45a & 6p thru Oct. 27 informal contemplative  
service with communion and healing prayer; Tues. Guys study  
8am. Gals 10am.; Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

## 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.

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## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am  
Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays  
4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays & Thurs-  
days 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley 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, Morn-  
ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org  
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor  
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org  
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.  
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

## GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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## HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

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

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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  
(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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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

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Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for  
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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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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 July 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## July 1

• At 12:25 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Mountain Fresh parking lot on Main Street.

## July 5

• At 3:11 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 west near Mirror Lake Road.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 2.**

## July 2

• At 6:58 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

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

• At 2:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 9:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.

## July 3

• At 9:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Lake Road.

• At 11:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sagee Drive.

## July 4

• At 6:01 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hudson Road.

• At 11:14 a.m., the dept. responded to

a medical alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 2:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Potter Lane.

• At 8:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

• At 10:13 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Old Rock Road.

• At 11:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

## July 5

• At 8:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Picklesimer Road.

• At 7:25 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 6:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 4th Street.

## July 6

• At 4:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Summit Trail.

## July 7

• At 9:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Wilson Road.

• At 11:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Drive West.

## July 8

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Dillard Road.

• At 3:22 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 7:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spruce Lane.

• At 8:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

**Over \$150K and growing!  
Thank you, Highlands!**

REACH of Macon County is much closer to construction of its new building which will provide enhanced support to the victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Thanks to these businesses for their support of our June 28 Bourbon and Bluegrass event!

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**ORGANIST/PIANIST NEEDED** to play for 11am Sunday worship services and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (5:30-7pm) at First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC. \$20K annual salary. No administrative duties involved. Our organ is a circa 2004 16-rank 2 manual Wicks pipe organ. For more information, contact Angie Jenkins, Director of Music Ministry @ 828-200-0183

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**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN** - Chat-

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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## ...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 21

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## ...TRUCK continued from page 1

ever, the original intent of the bill, including the language pertaining to Cullasaja Gorge was retained.

HB593 addresses a pressing safety concern in Macon County by increasing the penalty for violating the current vehicle restriction law on a particularly dangerous road.

“The frequent incidents of large commercial trucks getting stuck on this road have created hazardous conditions for resi-

dents and first-responders, while diverting essential resources from the community,” said Rep. Gillespie. “HB593 aims to enhance road safety and ensure that our first-responders can focus on serving and protecting our residents.”

G.S. 20-115.1 also provides length limitations for motor vehicle combinations consisting of truck tractors and tandem trailers or semitrailers. The Department of Transportation has adopted

a rule prohibiting truck tractors with trailers longer than 30 feet on a segment of US Route 64 (Gorge Road) between State Road 1533 (Walnut Creek Road) and NC Highway 106 (Dillard Road) in Macon County.

HB593 would make a violation of the motor vehicle combination length restrictions on the segment of US 64 between Walnut Creek and the Dillard Road subject to an additional civil penalty.

## ...PLAYGROUND continued from page 1

port the Highlands Community Playground Project. After a motion by Commissioner John Shearl seconded by Commissioner Joshua Young, the board voted 5-0 to pledge \$350,000 to the playground project. Both commissioners stated there isn't a better return on investment than allocating money to the playground project.

The money appropriated from the county's fund balance will help the playground committee meet its goal to raise the \$1.7 million needed to construct the new playground. Other funding sources for the project include \$250,000 allocated from the Town of Highlands as well as \$200,000 in private funding and donations.

An additional \$300,000 is hoped to be raised through other private funding and donations including several upcoming fundraisers planned to benefit the playground project. The group has also applied for a \$500,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant from the state which is expected to be announced in August.

The goal of the playground committee is to provide a safe, fun, all-inclusive playground for children of all ages and ability levels. The new playground will replace

the inadequate playground, currently located at the Highlands Civic Center Recreation Park and will be expanded over the grounds located adjacent to the tennis courts, skateboard park and parking lot restrooms.

“The existing playground is in a sad state of repairs and is very minimal,” said Highlands Town Commissioner Brian Stiehler, co-chair of the playground project. “It really is just a mulched facility with one piece of equipment and two swings.”

“I will never forget as a father when my daughter was about three years old, she did a faceplant off those swings and was drug over the mulch,” he added. “Since then, it has always been a goal of mine to have something better in Highlands.”

The playground committee, under the leadership of Highlands Town Commissioners Jeff Weller and Stiehler, has collaborated with Carolina Parks and Play out of Charlotte to create a playground that focuses on a native theme. The playground will feature natural elements such as sliding boards hollowed out to resemble tree stumps and earth tone colors of nature. The project will utilize

the hillside on the site to feature downhill slides.

The committee is also working with the Highlands Nature Center to create an area of the playground for a built-in scavenger hunt to teach children about native species and animals complete with a large salamander children can play on. The goal is to have a fun, as well as, educational playground.

The new playground will be a good resource for the community, helping to bring families together by providing healthy and safe activities. Additional benefits will encourage kids to get off screens helping to develop social skills, creativity and mental/physical development while playing.

Donations for the new playground can be mailed to Town of Highlands – Playground, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 or by credit card by calling (828) 526-2118. Donations to the playground project are tax deductible.

Weller said he hoped to have all funding for the playground in place before the end of summer. He said it could take up to five months to receive playground equipment once ordered. Construction is slated to begin in the spring with the new playground completed by fall of 2025.

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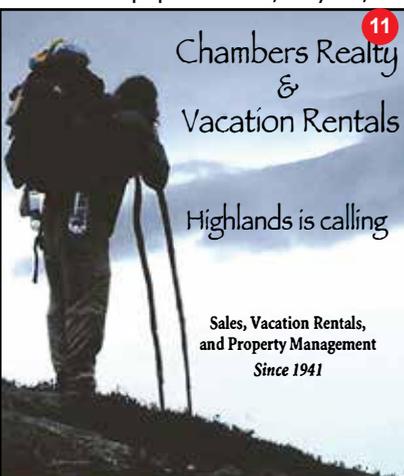
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