Highlands Newspaper

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Public comment addresses construction; Town parking plan changed and more

By Kim Lewicki

During the public comment portion of the June Town Board meeting, a petition from the residents of Cullasaja Drive and the Mirror Lake neighborhood was presented requesting the town to address construction traffic on Cullasaja Drive.

Gretchen and Truman Chidsey represented the group of 50

• See COMMENT page 8

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A Mama bear and her three cubs visited the Kilpatrick's home on Hummingbird Hill for breakfast Monday morning.

– photo by Tim L. Kilpatrick

A BGCP facility at Rec Park is moving forward

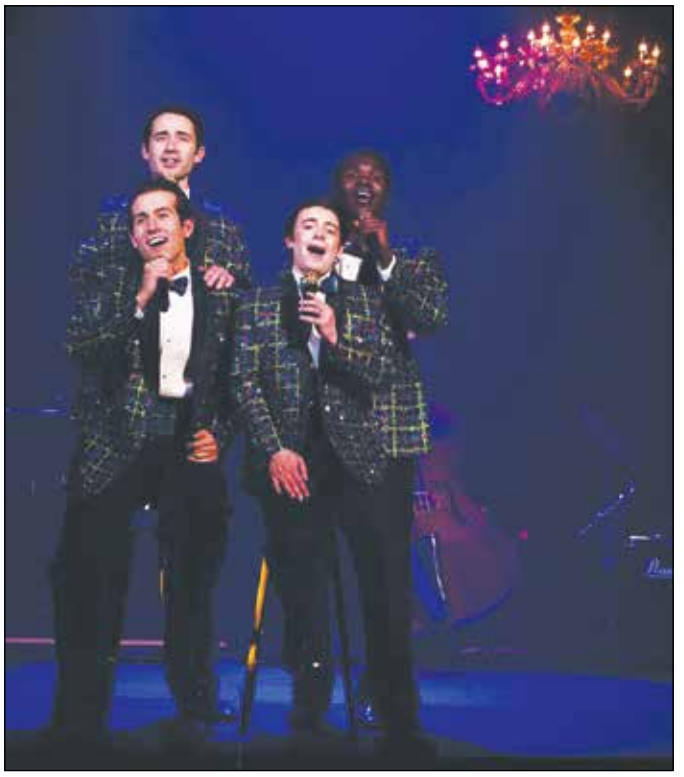
By Kim Lewicki

The town has long planned for the previous Houston House parcel fronting Foreman Road alongside the Rec Park back parking lot to become a Kid's Center, but the project proved to be too costly and was shelved.

Now with a likely partnership with the Boys&Girls Club of the Plateau (BGCP), that dream will probably come true fulfilling not only the dreams of both the town and the club but fulfilling a dire need in the community.

At the June Town Board meeting, BGCP board member Mike Kistner shared the club's plan expounding on the its mission, vision, proven success and benefits for children, parents and the communities in Cashiers and

• See BGCP page 13



The Mountain Theatre Company presents "Forever Plaid" and "The Marvelous Wonderettes" through July 13, alternating performance days and times which are either at 2p or 7:30p. Singing in close harmony, and executing their charmingly outlandish choreography with overzealous precision, the "Plaids" will bring you joy and laughter. For shows, showtimes and tickets, go to www.mountaintheatre.com

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• The Plateau's Position •

•Mayor on Duty•

Remembering Stell Huie

Sallie and I recently took a two-night getaway, mini-vacation to another location in Western North Carolina. I may be biased, but it is hard to beat a vacation site in WNC. No area is more beautiful than here and surrounding venues.

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

The late Stell Huie

One morning on our trip, we had a picnic lunch on board our mini-cooper, and we simply drove around to find a good picnic site. We discovered a dirt forest service road that took us down by a beautiful mountain stream. We searched for a site with a picnic area for several miles but to no avail.

We both thought we were so off the beaten path as no pull-off sites existed. I decided to look for a turnaround area but could not even find that. But, as I was about to lose hope, there was a turn-off near the creek we had been following. Even more to our surprise, there was a campsite next to the creek with a picnic table.

I had a fly rod in the car, so I brought it down to the campsite. As I set up for the picnic, Sallie explored the creek. She had heard an interesting bird singing and wanted to identify it. She returned in short order and told me the creek had a wonderful sand bar for fishing. After lunch, I rigged my fly rod and checked the sandbar out. She was right; it was a perfect place to fish. The creek had deep runs and a fast current. I just knew trout would be lying in wait for that exactly right presented fly.

I go into my fly box to make the first selection. I had a plan. First, I would use a streamer. If that didn't work, I would use a nymph and go deep into the holes in the creek. Finally, if all else failed, I would resort to a top-water dry fly. I tend to use nymphs on creeks because one doesn't have to make long casts with a fly in such heavily vegetated areas.

Well, my first two patterns failed, so I opened my fly box to select a top water dry fly. And there it was, a small Jack Cabe fly. All of a sudden, the spirit of my recently departed fishing buddy, Stell Huie, came forth. Stell told me, by all means, to tie that Jack Cabe on my line. And I complied.

Stell was probably the best fly-casting fisherman in Highlands. He could place a Jack Cabe fly anywhere on a river or creek like no other person could. The funny thing was that when we fished together he always ragged me as being the lead man. I tend to rely on a nymph that is rigged with a lead sinker about 18 inches above. Stell never really thought that was a legitimate fly fisherman, and he was probably right. The joke among local fly fishermen was that Stell used only one fly, the Jack Cabe. He had been a close friend of the legendary Jack Cabe and had full faith in Jack's fly pattern. I have to say; I saw Stell catch a whole lot of big fish on Jack Cabe's while the rest of us were having no luck.

So, in the spirit of following Stell's advice, I tied on the Jack Cabe. It was as if he was standing by me, saying, by all means, use that fly. But here is my confession: I

• See MAYOR page 8

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Obituaries are $8 per column inch.
$10 per photo.
Payable prior to publication.

•SnapShot•

Otto likes to make his own kind of music

Photo by Austin Burrell

Do you have a heartfelt, funny, interesting, or beautiful photo you would like to share in our "SnapShot" section? Email it to highlandseditor@aol.com or text it to 828-200-1371, with a brief description and a name. No anonymous photos will be accepted.

•Weather•

Thu, 26-Jun	Fri, 27-Jun	Sat, 28-Jun	Sun, 29-Jun
78°F / 61°F	77°F / 59°F	76°F / 60°F	77°F / 61°F
Humid; an afternoon t-storm	Humid; an afternoon t-storm	A stray afternoon t-storm	Humid; an afternoon t- storm
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• Investing at 4,118 Ft •

HOAs...You're either in or you're out

Pat Allen BIC
Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group.

In many neighborhoods across North Carolina and beyond, the letters H-O-A can spark strong feelings ranging from appreciation for well-kept streets and manicured lawns to frustration over rules about mailbox colors. But not all Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are created equal. In fact, there's a significant legal and practical difference between mandatory and voluntary HOAs and understanding that distinction can save you time, money, and stress.

Mandatory HOAs function almost like a mini-government, with real power and real consequences. Voluntary HOAs act more like a neighborhood club -- helpful but not binding.

Mandatory HOAs: Binding by Deed:

When you purchase a property in a mandatory HOA community, you're not just buying a house you're also signing on to a set of rules, responsibilities, and financial commitments that are recorded in your deed. These HOAs are formed by the developer and legally recorded as part of the property's Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CCRs). Homeowners must pay dues, follow the HOA's rules, and are subject to enforcement -- including fines and, in extreme cases, liens or foreclosure for noncompliance.

Roles of a Mandatory HOA:

• Enforce community rules and architectural guidelines

• Maintain shared amenities (pools, parks, clubhouses)

• Manage roads, landscaping, and infrastructure

• Collect dues and manage the community's budget

• Represent the legal and administrative interests of the community

While some homeowners find these rules restrictive, others appreciate the consistency and property value protection they provide.

Mandatory HOAs are comprised of board members, typically 3-7 members, whose role is to enforce the HOAs rules and regulations. They also manage the budget and finances, maintain the common areas, collect dues and assessments and handle disputes and rule violations.

Being in a predominately second-home market like Highlands creates a challenge in acquiring members since they aren't here full-time to oversee maintenance so some hire managers to take on that responsibility. I recommend that one board member be full-time if possible who can see if trees have fallen, a fence is down, or bears have moved in!

Also, friendships occur with some homeowners but the board members must enforce the rules based on their obligation to ALL homeowners. A beautifully maintained community assures values will increase. When an issue arises all board members should hold a conference call or meeting and vote to find a solution. One board member should never speak for all without a vote by all.

Boards also have legal obligations to the state of North Carolina requiring annual reports and following state guidelines regarding an annual meeting with a quorum of members or proxies and a budget that must be approved by the board and members. Minutes must be maintained and available to all members.

If a lawsuit occurs all property owners should be advised that if they put their unit or home for sale they must disclose this to the real estate broker and potential buyers. This will likely impede the sale. Any HOA should carry liability insurance to protect the board members and homeowners.

Voluntary HOAs: Opt-In by Choice

Voluntary HOAs, on the other hand, are exactly what they sound like -- voluntary. These associations are often formed in older neighborhoods where no HOA was originally created, but residents later banded together to improve and maintain shared spaces or build community connections.

In a voluntary HOA, homeowners choose to join typically by signing a membership form and agreeing to pay dues. If you don't join, you're not legally bound by the HOA's rules (and you generally can't be fined or penalized). However, you also forfeit the benefits, like voting rights or use of any amenities.

If you do sign an agreement to join and become disillusioned with the HOA you can usually send a certified letter resigning as a member, depending on the agreement in its entirety. Consult your real estate attorney if you need help documenting your desire to opt out. Even if you have

• See INVESTING page 16

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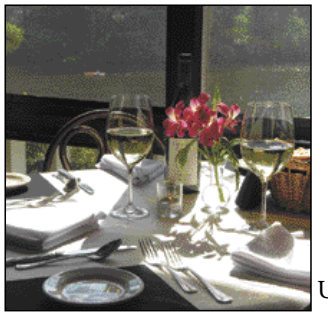

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• Letter •

Unprofessional destruction

Dear Editor,

I live near this area on Walnut Creek and Stockton road and watched the horror of the needless destruction of these beautiful hardwoods being cut down without proper supervision! They left the dangerous mess for months and destroyed the creek. Now after months of complaints they have removed the trees but the danger of mudslides and the bridge being taken out by falling mud and debris is real! The "before and after" pictures and pictures of the so-called clean up that have left an eyesore.

We've tried finding out who is responsible for this but still no answer. We think it might be the fiberoptic company but now it isn't going to install here. The company and county need to be accountable for this. Someone needs to look at the damage and respond accordingly.

Felecia Henderson Franklin

• Biz/Org News •

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Playground fundraising still on

On Sunday, folks gathered at Western Carolina Brewery for a fundraiser for the town's new playground. So far, $1.3 million has been raised toward the goal of $1.6 million. The playground will be carefully designed to promote play among children of differing abilities, ages, and communities. To donate go to highlandsplay.net or contact Commissioners Brian Stiehler or Jeff Weller.

Dear Highlands Community...

I am Mirror Lake, and for more than half a century, I've been neglected and ignored. I've survived uncontrolled construction runoff, hurricanes, pollutants from unknown sources, and unregulated water release. As a designated North Carolina Trout Stream, it breaks my heart that I can no longer shelter trout in my waters – my streambed has become too shallow and too warm. I remember when families used to paddle through my bays and channels, but now they lie choked by sediment and deadfall.

I need your help... and now is the time.

This year, there is hope. A dedicated group of my neighbors have begun the crucial work of dredging my waters – a chance to restore me to health. Through the summer months, they will work to remove years of accumulated sediment, giving me back my depth and clarity. I know there will be some disruption – unusual sounds and activity along my shores – but please understand that this temporary disturbance is my chance at renewal.

Remember me as I once was: a haven for trout, a playground for paddlers, a peaceful retreat for all who visited my shores. With your support, I can be that place again.

But I cannot do this alone. The Mirror Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) has established a Dredging Fund to support this vital work. If you value my presence in our community, if you remember the joy I once brought, or if you dream of the beauty I can be again, please consider contributing. Your generous donation will help secure my future for generations to come.

To help restore my waters, please contact Pat Gleeson at 828.782.0472.

During the project, you'll notice changes:

- Dredging equipment along my shores
- Varying water levels as the work progresses
- Construction sounds during working hours
- Some areas' traffic will be temporarily restricted for safety

But imagine what I can become again – clear, deep, healthy waters teeming with life. A restored Mirror Lake, ready to serve as your community treasure once more.

Thank you for hearing my voice. Thank you for caring. Thank you for helping me become whole again.

With hope and gratitude,
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...MAYOR continued from page 2

have never caught a trout on the fly after all these years of periodically fishing a Jack Cabe. But I thought surely this day would be different. I made some very good casts and got a couple of strikes, but again, I didn't catch a fish. Very soon, it was time for us to leave, so I put the Jack Cabe back in the fly box and told Stell it would be another day before I caught that big trout.

Jack Cabe fly

Nevertheless, it was a precious fishing moment as I remembered and thought about my wonderful fishing buddy, Stell Huie. As we all celebrated at his funeral, he was a Titian of community service and leadership. He loved and sang music and advocated for so many great causes both here and in Atlanta.

But, I also remember Stell as a great outdoorsman, whether he was bird hunting or engaged in his passion for fly fishing. He loved nature and the Western North Carolina wild and natural areas. Believe me, Stell would trek anywhere with his Jack Cabe if he thought that special trout was there.

Stell was a one-of-a-kind, unique character who continues to be missed by his friends, family, and community. And yes, I will continue to periodically throw a Jack Cabe fly as a remembrance of Stell. I have hope that one day I will catch that big fish like Stell loved to do.

...COMMENT continued from page 1

who signed the petition. They believe the 11 elements listed on the 2005 preliminary subdivision plat for Riverwalk stipulating no construction traffic be allowed on Cullasaja Drive should be adhered to.

The 2005 Planning Board recommended that "All construction traffic for single family construction as well as any infrastructure construction to be entering Riverwalk subdivision use the entrance on Highway 64 east and not the entrance on Cullasaja Drive."

In 2005, Cullasaja Drive was a dirt and gravel road owned by NCDOT, which is likely why the Planning Board recommended it not be used by construction vehicles. Since then, it has been paved and is now owned by the town.

Now that development has started back up again in Riverwalk, citizens want the construction traffic to stop but Chief Holland said it isn't legal to keep people from using a public road.

"What's happening at Riverwalk is affecting our neighborhood," said Gretchen. "It's a private community versus a public safety issue."

Dustin Hirschfeld, the current owner of Riverwalk is constructing a single-family home in Riverwalk near the back entrance and had been using Cullasaja Drive to enter the subdivision that way.

The Town Attorney said that though in 2005 the Planning Board made that recommendation, Planning Board recommendations aren't binding because they are just recommendations which the Town

• See COMMENT page 15

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The new veterinary clinic will be on the humane society's 10-acres campus at 200 Gable Drive in Sapphire. It will be open to the public five days a week providing examinations, x-rays, lab tests, surgeries, dentals, pharmaceuticals and preventatives, and more. The anticipated opening staff will include one veterinarian, two veterinary technicians and one office administrator.

Sapphire veterinary clinic to open Fall 2027

By David Stroud
Ex. Director CHHS

The Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society (CHHS) unveiled plans at its annual fundraising gala to build and open a new veterinary clinic that will serve publicly-owned pets as well as shelter animals.

The two-story CHHS Veterinary Clinic will feature a 2,280 sq. ft. clinic on the main parking lot level, with two exam rooms, a main treatment and dental area with a lab and pharmacy, a surgical suite, a room for pre- and post-op recovery, x-ray room and isolation area. The lower level of the building is a 2,280 sq. ft. two-bedroom two-bath apartment for the veterinarian to live onsite. Currently the CHHS shelter manager and assistant shelter manager both live on campus in two of the CHHS "caretaker cottages."

The new veterinary clinic will be built and located between the current CHHS Canine Adoption Center and CHHS Feline Adoption Center on the humane society's 10-acres campus at 200 Gable Drive in Sapphire. The clinic will be open to the public five days a week providing examinations, x-rays, lab tests, surgeries, dentals, pharmaceuticals and preventatives, and more. The anticipated opening staff will include one veterinarian, two veterinary technicians and one office administrator.

"This new veterinary clinic is the missing piece of the puzzle," says CHHS Executive Director David Stroud. "With the support of this great animal-loving community, we have done amazing lifesaving work for the animals. Since our founding in 1987, we have rescued thousands of strays and owner-surrendered pets, cared for them as if they were our very own, and we found each one a new loving, forever home. And we also reunite lost pets with their worried and heartsick families.

"We provide low-cost spay/neuter and low-cost rabies vaccinations for local animals, and our community outreach programs include our free food pet pantry for families facing financial hardship, and our innovative humane education program for children – the CHHS Critter Camp," Stroud continues. "But having an onsite veterinary clinic that not only cares for shelter pets but also public pets fills the gap to complete our lifesaving mission for local animals and the people who love them."

Consulting veterinarians who have donated time and expertise for the design and operation of the clinic include 2015 CHHS Humane Heroes of the Year Dr. Emily Allison of Cornerstone Animal Hospital in Alto, GA, and Dr. Brad Smith of Animal Wellness Hospital of Highlands.

The Country Club of Sapphire Valley hosted the CHHS Pawsitively Purrfect Party on June 16th, and the more than 200 patrons at the sold-out gala pledged a total of $1.3 million towards the total estimated construction cost of $2.5 million.

Groundbreaking for the new CHHS Veterinary Clinic will take place in Fall 2025 with a projected Grand Opening on the humane society's 40th anniversary in Summer 2027.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit chhumanesociety.org/vetclinic or call (828)743-5752 for more information.

Highlands Hurricanes swim in Waynesville

On Thursday, June 19, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to Waynesville to swim against SMAC (Smoky Mountain Aquatics Club). SMAC won 2730 to 2273.

Though the team lost, members swam well. Exceptional performances included:

Dodo Zhang breaking a 2-year-old MSL (Mountain Swim League record) and a 9-year-old team record in the 100-yard backstroke; and Jasmine Abranyi qualifying for her 2nd event in the 2025 AAU Jr. Olympics, the 100-freestyle (she had previously qualified in the 50-freestyle).

Zhang and Abranyi were co-high scorers for the Hurricanes with 80 pts each (3 individual wins and 2 relay wins each). There are 82 events in a MSL meet. These two accounted for, or assisted with winning 10 of them.

Jr. Olympians Aniah McKim, Conner Hughes, and Emma Denisoff each won 77 pts (2 individual and 2 relay wins). Ellie Bysura, Emelina Hernandez, and Jr. Olympian Bella Batista brought home 74 pts. Ian Batista and Jr. Olympian Elizabeth Burnette had 73 pts. Anna Shchelgachov earned 70 pts, Rocco Basil 69, Justin Powell 68.5, Alex Lopez 67, Zana Maseko 66, Aleks Petric 65.5, Ivan Shchelgachov 65.

Brother Ben Shchelgachov and Jay Herman scored 64, Kate Vanderweile and Jaycee Powell 63, Morgan Mason 62, Melanie Zabrian 61.5, Maxwell Basil 61, Hayden Bysura 60, Andre Jimenez 58, Valerie Nadzorau 56, Emily Mason 53.5, Luca Maseko 53, Agatha Jestin 49.5, Lucas Zabrian 49, Senna Sherrill 47, Cooper Fisher 42, Zoey Ivey 38, Victoria Nadzorau 33.5, Nikita Denisoff 33, and Sadie Bysura 32.

All of the Highlands Hurricanes scored.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a year round Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices mostly in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to join is that a perspective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the rec park pool) unassisted. For further information please call Steve Hott, Head Coach, at 828.421.4121.

MOUNTAINTOP ART AND CRAFT SHOW

28-29 | JUNE | 2025

A WEEKEND FEATURING OVER 100 ARTISANS

SATURDAY 28TH -10-6PM

SIP AND STROLL

3-6PM

HIGH COUNTRY WINE AND PROVISIONS
CAROLINA BREW AND WINE

KIDS ZONE

10-4

FREE /ART/FACE PAINTING/TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL/
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: PAC YOUTH THEATRE ON THE STAGE
11AM

LIVE MUSIC

1-4

FEATURING: NITROGRASS

SUNDAY 29TH-10-4PM

KIDS ZONE

10-4

FREE /ART/FACE PAINTING/TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL

LIVE MUSIC

12-3

FEATURING: LISA RANKIN

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS
HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA
ELEV. 4118

SEE YOU THERE:
KELSEY HUTCHINSON
FOUNDERS PARK
HIGHLANDS

MOUNTAINTOP
ROTARY CLUB OF HIGHLANDS

HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC

Join us for our June concerts!
All shows take place from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live
Town Square | 343 Main Street
Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

JUNE 6
The Foxfire Boys

JUNE 13
Southern Highland Band

JUNE 20
Curtis Blackwell & Dixie Bluegrass Boys

JUNE 27
Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

Saturdays on Pine
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
411-499 Pine Street
Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

JUNE 7
Peggy Ratusz

JUNE 14
Boogietherapi

JUNE 21
Spalding McIntosh & The Lionhearts

visithighlandsnc.com

Weston 'Celebration of Life'

A Celebration of Life for Barbra (Babs) Weston will be held on July 26 at Rabun County Church of Christ at 11a in the sanctuary.

A reception will immediately follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to attend, bring along a fond memory to share.

Rabun County Church of Christ, 876 Bethel Road, Tiger GA.

Art for All: The Bascom hosts annual 'Community Day' on July 5

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts will host its annual Community Day on Saturday, July 5, from 11a. to 2p. This free, family-friendly event invites guests of all ages to explore The Bascom's six-acre campus with hands-on art activities, live artist demonstrations, free popcorn, and special exhibitions on view in the galleries.

This year's Community Day features an inspiring lineup of artist and community demonstrators.

The Jackson County Green Energy Park, returns to dazzle audiences with live glassblowing demonstrations that showcase the power of repurposed energy and the beauty of glass.

Frank Vickery, The Bascom's Director of Ceramics, and Ester Lipscomb, Ceramics Artist-Educator, will guide visitors in throwing clay on the potter's wheel.

Additional activities include beadmaking, jewelry design, and a creative project led by Caryn Raming,

The Bascom's Community Engagement Associate. The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers will also be on hand, offering opportunities to engage in collaborative art-making.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will host its beloved Teddy Bear Clinic, helping children learn about medical procedures and reduce anxiety through play. Children will receive a stuffed animal for a "check-up" with caring hospital staff in a welcoming, supportive environment.

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, The Bascom's summer exhibitions include Inspiring & Empowering: A Journey Through The Bascom's Exhibition Legacy, Looking Back: A Retrospective of The Bascom's Artists-in-Residence Program, and The Rain Crow by 2025 Photography Resident Margaret Holland Adams.

The Bascom Shop and Atrium Series will also be open, offering unique works by regional artists. Whether you've visited many times or are just passing through, Community Day is an open invitation to create, to connect, and to feel at home in the heart of the Plateau's creative community.

July 4th activity lineup

The Rec Park's annual July activities will be at the Town Ballfield on Friday, July 4. Highlands Rotary Club will be shooting off water rockets starting at 9a; at 11a the Recreation Department will host traditional field games until noon -- Tug a War, Three-legged Sack Race, Water Balloon Toss and Frozen T-Shirt Contest). At noon the MAMA med vac helicopter will arrive and when it leaves, the Highlands Fire Department will do its spray-down. Rotary will be serving food at the ballfield starting at 11a. The annual fireworks show will start about dark on Friday, July 4.

Open for Lunch
11a to 3p

DON LEON'S
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Pet Friendly Place Where Friends Meet
With the same menu, low prices, FREE coffee and an older more mellow attitude!
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Shrimp Gumbo • Soups
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462 Dillard Road, Highlands (across from Dusty's)

...BGCP continued from page 1

Rendition of the Rec Park facility for the Boys & Girls Club.

Highlands.

"Partnering with the town to create a center and a permanent club in Highlands is a legacy opportunity that will long benefit the town and the community," he said.

After a successful fundraising campaign, during the 2014-'15 school year, a newly constructed BGCP facility opened April 2022 in Cashiers on 558 Frank Allen Road. At that point children and youth grades K-12 and their parents benefitted from a daily, after-school enrichment program and free summer camps.

But Kistner said BGCP is much more than afterschool childcare.

"We are not babysitters. As a youth development organization, we positively affect the lives of children in a significant way. We are a franchise, so we have to comply with strict regulations and the Boys & Girls Club of America is known as a Top 10 charitable organization," he said. "In addition, our 'Read to Learn' program has been named the best in North Carolina."

Kistner said through the BGCP, children learn to give back to the community and to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

"Through our program, success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle," he said.

BGCP has earned national recognition from Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA) as one of the top 20 out of 5,400 clubs nationwide

As the need in Highlands and Cashiers continued to grow, during the 2024-'25 school year, the Highlands center was opened on the HC Hospital campus, and just recently, the Abell Teen Center opened in Cashiers offering free summer camps in both locations from 7:30a to 6p Monday through Friday.

Mitzi Rauers with Berkshire-Hathaway Meadows Mountain Realty, who is on the board said BGCP helps the area's workforce because parents need a place for children to go after school.

Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland said her officers use the facility at the hospital both during the school year and now during the summer.

Now BGCP needs to expand further, and the Rec Park's Houston House parcel is the perfect location.

BGCP wants to work with the town to develop a private/public partnership structure where the town would provide the land at the Rec Center where the club building would be built utilizing private and public funds with the club spearheading fundraising efforts.

The club building would be owned by the town and the town would lease the land and the building to the club for a nominal fee and the club would be 100% responsible for total club operations.

Mayor Pat Taylor said he sees this as an investment in the Highlands community where its young people can develop their full potential.

"I see this as a partnership," he said. "There are a lot of needs out there -- affordable housing, childcare and afterschool care – and there are committed people in town who want to address this."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said at a recent Southwestern Housing Summit, the importance of partnerships was stressed.

"There are three things every county is struggling with: housing, broadband and childcare. No one can afford to do it alone. We wanted to do something like this, and Paul Schmitt drew up the plans, but we couldn't afford it. Partnerships are the only way," she said.

BGCP presented a proposed architectural exterior and interior layout. The board agreed to move forward with planning sessions made up of BGCP members, citizens and town officials.

Once the proposed BGCP center opens at the Rec Park, the facility on the hospital campus will become a Teen Center for Highlands' youth like the new one in Cashiers.

Pickleball on the Plateau Tournament

MOUNTAINTOP PICKLEBALL ON THE PLATEAU

JULY 12 & 13

Highlands Rec Center- 4th Street

Saturday- Men's & Women's

Sunday- Mixed

Prizes/Raffle/Swag Bag

highlandspickleballtournament@gmail.com

Info: Dr. Sue Aery 828-200-9191

https://swishtournaments.com/product/pickleball-on-the-plateau/

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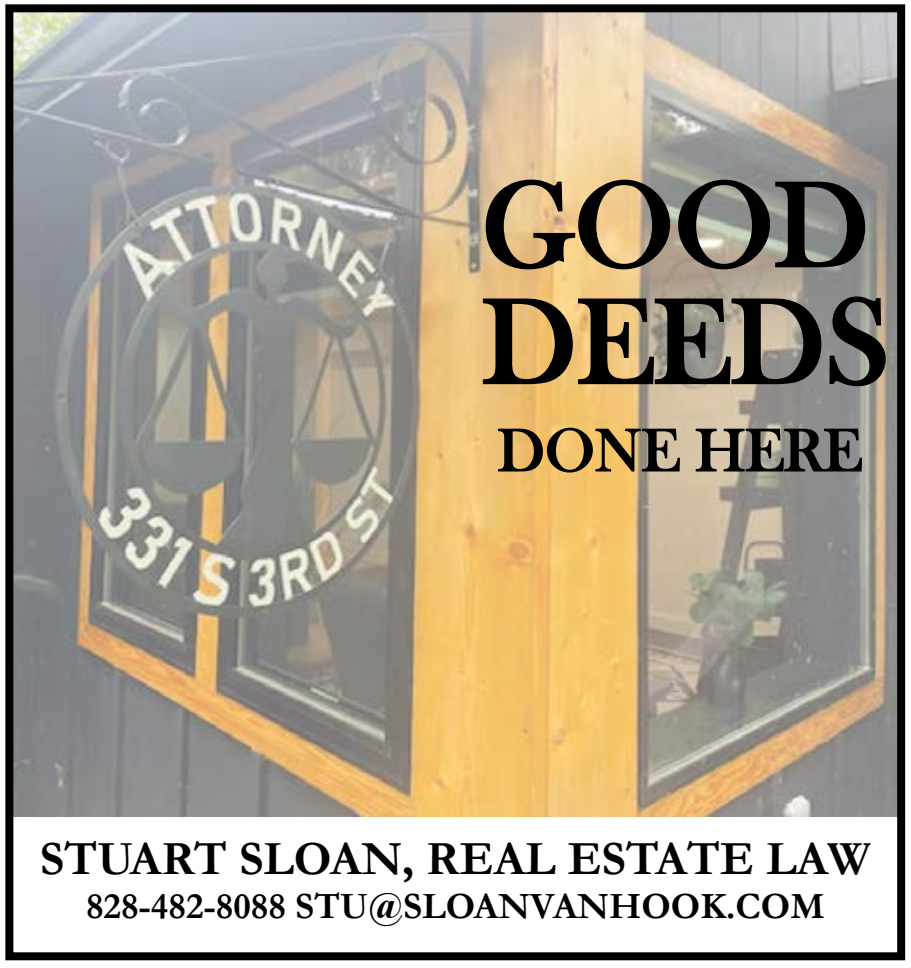


• Biz/Org News •

Highlands is hopping!

Hundreds of people turned out for the annual Highlands Motoring Festival. This year's nonprifit recipients are The Community Care Clinic, R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County, and The Literacy and Learning Center.

The Center for Life Enrichment opened the season with a celebration at Highlands Wine & Provisions. To learn about their "enriching" courses go to clehighlands.com.

The annual Low Country Shrimp Boil was a sold out event Saturday with proceeds going toward KH-Founders Park.

– Photos by Jim and Kim Lewicki

...COMMENT continued from page 8

Board doesn't have to comply with.

Furthermore, he said that particular stipulation wasn't on the final plat or listed in covenants for the subdivision which has changed hands four times.

Mayor Pat Taylor and Town Manager Josh Ward both said they had traveled the road numerous times and hadn't noticed an uptick of construction traffic.

"I haven't seen any intense increase of traffic," said the mayor. "And there is a lot of development going on in the area, not just Riverwalk."

Ward said he had talked to Hirschfeld numerous times and Code Enforcement officer Bobby Henry drives the area daily.

"No one has seen an abundance of traffic," he said.

Meanwhile, Hirschfeld, who attended the meeting, said that he was almost finished with the home near the back gate and had instructed all construction personnel to use the entrance on US 64 east (Cashiers Road) to enter the subdivision from now on.

"I have told the guys to use the front gate, not the back gate," he said. "I want to mitigate the problem and not burden the Cullasaja neighborhood."

Parking Plan

Changes to the town's parking plan recommended by the Planning Board were accepted with commissioners going even further.

1. To change employee-restricted spaces between 1st and 2nd streets on Main Street to unregulated spaces;

2. To make unregulated spaces on Oak Street between 4th and 5th streets along both the north and south sides of the street employee-restricted NOT just the north side as recommended by the Planning Board.

3. To change the spaces along N. 4th Street across from

• See COMMENT page 17

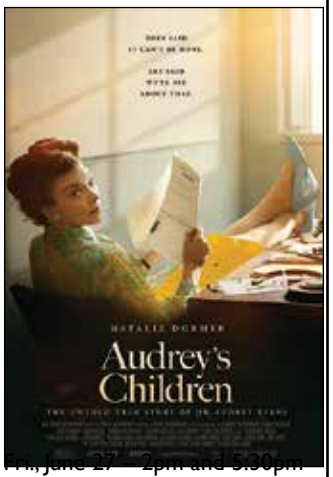
• CHHS News •

Photo by Marti Boone

Perla is a 2-year-old sweetheart and she would love nothing more than a human family of her own. She adores receiving gentle affection but she's not a clingy cat who will be constantly begging for attention. Perla and her sister Blossom are not a "bonded pair" but we will waive the adoption fee for the second kitty if both are adopted together. For more information call (828)743-5752.

MOVIES at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



Fri., June 27 – 2pm and 5:30pm
Sat., June 28 – 2pm and 5:30pm
Sun., June 29– 2pm w/captions and 5:30p

Tickets:

Adults: $13.20 • Children: $11

boxoffice@highlandsperformingarts.com
828-526-9047

We're Still Here For You!

The Highlands Vyve retail location is permanently closed.
However, our commitment to serving the Highlands area remains unchanged!
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Don't miss our
HUGE PORCH SALE
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2 miles south of Main

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...INVESTING continued from page 4

paid a road fee WITHOUT signing to join the HOA you are not obligated to be controlled by the HOA rules. This has arisen recently with regard to short-term rentals in Highlands.

Roles of a Voluntary HOA:

• Organize neighborhood events and communications

• Coordinate shared maintenance (entrance signs, landscaping)

• Promote neighborhood pride and unity

• Offer a central voice for resident concerns

Voluntary HOAs have no legal power over non-members unless the HOA is tied to a covenant in the property deed -- which is rare in voluntary cases.

As a real estate broker in Highlands, I've seen both sides: HOAs that bring tremendous value to a neighborhood, and those that cause confusion or conflict. The key is education and transparency. Before you sign on the dotted line or decide whether to pay those voluntary dues, take the time to understand your rights, responsibilities, and the role your HOA plays. If you buy in a community with a mandatory HOA request the restrictive covenants before you end due diligence to make sure this is a good fit for you.

• Pat Allen is Broker-in-Charge of Allen-Tate/PatAllen Realty Group. Allen has been a top producer and award-winning broker since her career began 21 years ago. She is author of Hurdles in a Girdle…Holding Life Together When You're Bursting at the Seams and a transformational therapist and coach and professional speaker. She may be reached at 828-200-9179 or pat.allen@allentate.com

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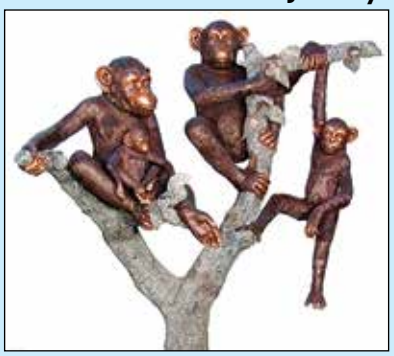

(828) 526-4818
On the corner of 3rd & Spring

WHOLE LIFE MARKET
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LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS
NECTAR Juice Bar
Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market

HUMC
Highlands, North Carolina

Looking to Hire Office Manager

Due to retirement, Highlands United Methodist Church is looking to hire its next Office Manager. Basic responsibilities include, but are not limited to, general office oversight, preparation of weekly bulletins and newsletter, maintaining website, record-keeping, administrative support for clergy, staff and church membership. The ideal candidate will possess strong people skills and be committed to the ministry of the church. Office hours are 9am - 4pm, Monday - Thursday.

Contact Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas - randyhumc@icloud.com

For SALE by Owner
1302 Highlands Mountain Club

3/BD, 2BA turn-key upstairs unit. Updated, beautiful and furnished with stunning year-round views of 5 mountain ranges.

Highlands Mountain Club, near Highlands Country Club, is a 55+ club with all the amenities.

For more information, call 678-641-7642 or email davidspirt@yahoo.com

Offered for $730,000

...COMMENT

continued from page 15

Town Hall in front of CK Swan and The Molly Grace from unregulated to employee-restricted.

4. To change the unregulated spots on Spring Street along the Ugly Dog Pub's Dog House to employee-restricted.

Planning Board members were glad their recommendations were accepted.

Chamber Lease

The Chamber/Visit Highlands lease was finally finalized with Director of the Chamber Kaye McHan presenting a check for $40,000 to the town to be used at its discretion for landscaping.

"We are pleased to provide $40,000 from occupancy tax receipts to be used by the Town of Highlands for landscaping expenses. This funding is part of our Beautification Campaign started in 2021. During this ongoing campaign we have been able to provide downtown hanging baskets, upgrades to two planting areas downtown, landscaping at the Welcome Center, which is also one of the main entrances downtown and new landscaping at the Town Dog Park used frequently by residents and visitors. We look forward to supporting the Town in your efforts to keep Highlands a beautiful place for residents, visitors, and businesses," she read from a letter to the board.

The lease will be considered each year with a cost of $1 per year to the Chamber. The $40,000 is extra money from the chamber in addition to the landscaping projects it is committed to.

This all started because the town wanted $40,000 to pay for the upkeep of the bathrooms in Town Square, but occupancy tax money couldn't be used for that purpose. However, It can be used for beautification for tourists.

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162 Legacy Point Clayton, GA 30525

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www.mountainlakesmedicalcenter.com / www.mlmcphysiciansgroup.com

Highlands | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

2 Open Houses
July 3 – 11a-2p

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66 Summit Trail
$2,995,000

Only 6 minutes to downtown Highlands! In Prestigious Highgate. Five-bedroom, 4 full baths-and-2-half-bath(s) home. Blending modern luxury with classic charm

ANDREA GABBARD
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21 Mountain Laurel Dr.
$1,495,000

This enchanted English cottage just minutes away from downtown Highlands is a picturesque retreat with a convenient single-level layout, accentuated by wide-planked hardwood floors that offer timeless elegance throughout.

JODY LOVELL
828-226-6303

Spiritually Speaking

For Peace

Rev. Kirkland "Skully" Knight
The Episcopal Church
of the Incarnation

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.
-The Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

These are challenging and uncertain times to say the least. It is nice to live (or be here for a time) in Highlands, and while it may feel like an escape from the "real world," the real world is still present. We are in the midst of it whether we feel its weight and pressure or not. As much as life on the plateau might feel "perfect" at times, in being that way it is a reminder that we are, if only for a while, getting away from a world we know is anything but perfect.

But knowing and realizing that we do not live in a perfect world, is no excuse to not strive for it. As the prayer above reads, "Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love…" it might cause us to say that we do not live in God's perfect kingdom. We live in a world where swords will be drawn and strength will be shown in violent and destructive ways. This is the real world!

Yes. I suppose it is the real world. It is certainly the world in which we find ourselves. But it is not the world we have to settle for. Jesus didn't. He told us and taught us that there is a better way. A better kingdom and that we were to strive for it, even when, maybe especially when it was hard. He preached a kingdom of peace in the midst of an imperial kingdom of violence. When we asked, he taught us to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Jesus opposed the violence of this world. He did not join in. He did not seek a bigger stick. He could have done anything in response to the violence that was all around him, and he chose love. He did not just choose to put his stick down, he chose to love those who sought to do him harm, those who misunderstood him, and even those who abandoned him. We live in a complicated, broken, and imperfect world, but we can do better. We have been taught to do better. We pray to be able to do better.

Violence and war are easy. They are the lowest common denominators. We are better than that and Jesus knew it. Knows it. Peace takes hard work, forbearance, and it is inevitably messy. And to some, striving for peace may look like weakness, but I believe that the love that Christ has brought to us and continues to teach us, is the most powerful force in the world. Let's use it to help bring about God's perfect kingdom, right here, right now.

• 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: Adult Christian Ed, 9:15a; Holy Eucharist, 10:30a;
Fellowship 11:45a;Wed: Bible Study/Contemplative Prayer, 5p

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS
Pastor Jacob Tedder • Jacob@cashiers.church • 743-5470
www.cashiers.church
Sun. 10:45a;Wed Study5:15p supper and childcare.

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.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7.p.m.
Wednesdays –Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm;Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.
10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

GRACE CHAPEL ON HIGH HOLLY
9615 Dillard Rd Scaly Mountain, N C.
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas. http://www.Graceonhighholly.com
Sunday School 9:45a Worship 11a Prayer Service Wed. 5:30p
Men's and Women's Bible Study throughout the week

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary,Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,
Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Emily Wilmarth, pastor, Rev. Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10a;Worship 11a.;Tues: Men's Group 10a;
Wed: Bell Choir 4p. Chancel Choir:5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School:10 am. Worship Service:11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
Hwy 107N. • Glenville. NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.;Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship:11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA
2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Rev. Ken Langsdrof
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School:10 a.m.;Worship:11. Choir:6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.:7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.
Services: 1st Fri. and 3rd Sat. and Rosh Hashanah & Yom
Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge
(4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Youth Group 6 p.m.; Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418
Sat. 4pm 5/24/25-10/25/25; 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: Sun. 9a (English); Mon. 9:30a (Vatican II in Latin); Tues. 7p
(Spanish);Wed.,9:30a (English)

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist 9 & 11 am; Coffee Hour
following 11 am Service
Bazaar Barn is open Friday & Saturday 10a-2p
www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers •828-743-2122

• Police & Fire Reports •

Highlands Police entries from June 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

June 16

• At 3:38 p.m., officers responded to a call of simple assault, false imprisonment and a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence when the victim was scratched and kicked at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 4:30 p.m., Chloe Nicole Bergeron, 30, of Highlands, was arrested for simple assault, false imprisonment and a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. She wasn't issued a bond. Her trial date is July 17.

June 20

• **A**t 6:56 p.m., Nicole Michele Tiddick, 44, of Franklin, was arrested for an outstanding warrant in another jurisdiction. She was issued a $5,000 secured bond. Her trial date is July 17.

June 22

• At 7:12 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 18.

June 18

• At 11:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bearpen Road.

June 19

• At 11:15 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence at Fairway Condos.

• At 11:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lost Trail.

• At 7:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

June 20

• At 2:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 5:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut Street.

June 21

• At 10:59 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Old Cove Road.

• At 1:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke at a residence on Upper Carriage Hill.

• At 11:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 9:30 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County at a location on Spring Valley Road.

June 23

• At 9:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke at a residence on Big Bearpen Road.

• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Split Rail Road.

• At 2:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

• At 2:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Main Street.

June 24

• At 10:09 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Blue Valley Falls Drive.

HPD Officer Castle named' DARE Officer of the Year'

The Highlands Police Department has always believed in building strong, positive relationships within our community. As part of that mission, we recognize that one of the most important connections we can make is with our young people. One way we do that is through the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, taught each year to the 5th grade at Highlands School.

Officer Ronnie Castle has been involved with the D.A.R.E. program since 1989 and brought that experience with him when he joined the Highlands Police Department in 2005. Since then, he has continued teaching D.A.R.E. to local students. In 2012, the D.A.R.E. curriculum was updated for elementary students to place a stronger focus on decision-making and helping kids develop the skills to make safe, healthy choices.

This summer, at the annual D.A.R.E. training conference, Officer Castle was honored with the prestigious D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year award.

Officer Castle represents the true meaning of "service before self" and serves as an exemplary model for what an instructor of D.A.R.E. should be.

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- Sales Acumen: Proven skills in sales and engagement.
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- Effective Communicator: Skilled in compiling data, and preparing correspondence, reports, and presentations.

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RV SITE - Class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. $192,500. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

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POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18y+ Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3:30pm, Friday 11am-1:30pm. Public Swim: Mon. thru Fri.. 11a-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday - Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed),

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

• Audrey's Children. See ad on page 14. Movies are at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street.

MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm. Spruce Street. www.mountainfindings.org

SATURDAY MARKET

• Farmers Market in KH Founders Park on Pine Street from 8a-12:30p rain or shine.

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. Women's Group 5:30, Tuesdays. 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. For more info, visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.

• Balance, Stretch & Strengthen Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is $30 a month and is led by Cathy Hodgson. Call the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

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• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combo class with different types of exercise. 828-526-3556

Mondays

• At the Literacy Council, Free Online Weekly Classes. 6:30 - 7:30p. Online via ZoomFor the link, visit http://theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/esl

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. For more info call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

• Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

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 info contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost.

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

Wednesdays thru Sept.

• Farmers Market every Wednesday May-Sept. at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage building in Franklin at 51 Cowee School Dr.

2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, at 11 AM.. To register, stop by the library or cll 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appts are required - all are welcome.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15a. at the Rec Park. No martial arts background necessary Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

• At First Presbyterian Church a free concert "Music for Prayer" at noon. These casual concerts are almost entirely improvised and last 30-45 minutes. This offering is called Music For Prayer.

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs.

• At the Highlands Nature Center, free Zahner Conservation Lectures at 6 p.m. Small reception follows.

Fridays

• At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and crafts.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend. Email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9am.

Sundays through August

• Church in the Wildwood, on Horse Cove Road. Old Fashioned Hymn Sing 7-8 p.m.

Sundays

• 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).

Thru July 13

• Presented by the Mountain Theatre Co., The Marvelous Wonderettes and Forever Plaid at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to boxoffice@mountaintheatre.com

Fri., June 27

• At Hudson Library, local author Diane Pike Heiler will introduce her newly-released memoir, A Widow's Fire: An Intimate Memoir of Heartbreak, Survival, and Moving Forward at 11a. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

Sat. & Sun., June 28-29

• Annual MountainTop Art & Craft Show in KH Founders Park on Pine Street. 10a-6p on Saturday and 10a to 4p on Sunday. Sip n Stroll 3-6p on Saturday. Kid Zone and Live Music.

Sat., June 28

• The Cashiers Historical Society will host its inaugural S. Robert Lathan Lecture, featuring NPR's Steve Inskeep at the Cashiers Community Library on Saturday from 4 - 5pm. Inskeep, will share insights from his latest book, Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America. Following the lecture, guests thre is a meet-and-greet and book signing. More information can be found at CashiersHistory.org.

• Ham Radio operators from the Franklin Amateur Radio Club in HIghlands and Franklin will be participating in a national amateur radio exercise Saturday, 11a to 4p at the Highlands Rec Park for a demonstration of amateur radio and their emergency communications capabilities

Sun. June 29

• At the Rec Park, Pisgah Legal Services presents The Immigration Conundrum, myths, facts & supportive services. A panel discussion. 2:30-4:30p. Reception and refreshments to follow.

July 4

• Independence Day Concert & Fireworks. Celebrate the Fourth of July in classic Highlands style with an entertaining concert and a fireworks display that lights up the mountain sky. For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

• The Highlander Mountain House will host a highlander-style celebratory weekend, featuring free live music all weekend, sparklers for the kids, a satellite bar, and a Saturday pig roast on the lawn.

Sat., July 5

• At The Bascom, the dedication of the new Soda Kiln Pavilion at 10a followed by the annual Community Day celebration at 11a. Free, family-friendly event featuring hands-on art activities, live artist demonstrations, and special exhibitions.

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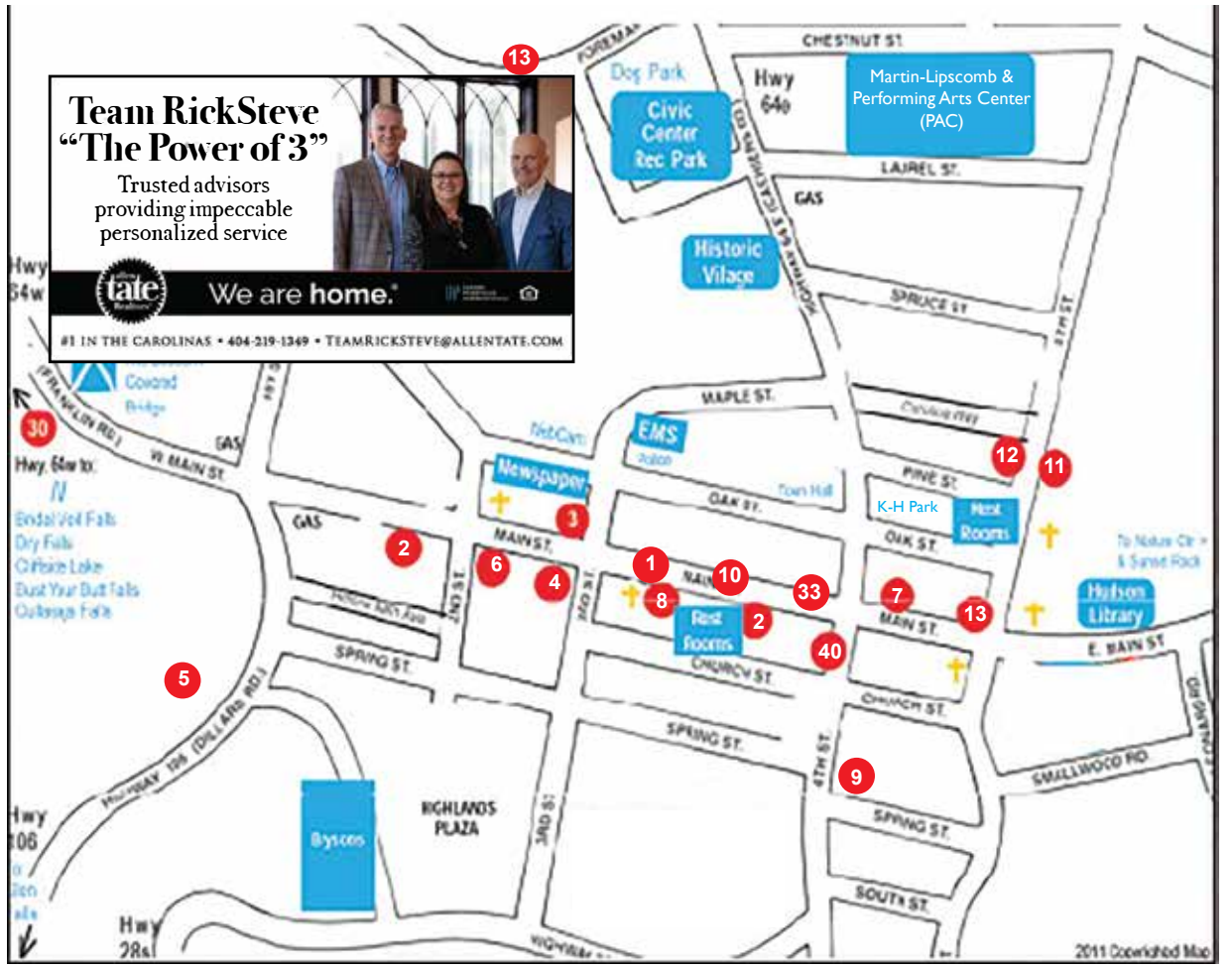

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