# Highlands Newspaper

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# HS CTE program to expand for '25-'26

By Kristin Fox

For more than 20 years, Highlands School has offered Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming, serving high school students in a variety of career pathways that prepare them for success in both college and the workforce.

At the recent meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, CTE Director Colleen Strickland gave school officials an update of the CTE program.

In the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, Highlands School will expand its CTE program adding

• See CTE page 7

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# HHS creates walking tour

*Cullasaja Women's Outreach funds endeavor*

If you are someone who likes to learn while you get your steps in, you are in luck.

To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Highlands, the Highlands Historical Society has created a walking tour of 17 of the most historically important buildings in downtown. Participants can use a map and their smartphones to scan QR-codes on plaques that are located at each site to hear an audio recording about the history of the buildings and its past owners.

"What better way to celebrate the 150th Anniversary than to learn something about some of its most influential residents and buildings through the years," said Tracy Foor, president of the Historical Society. "We are excited to offer an easy and accessible way for everyone to deepen their knowledge about what makes Highlands the special place that

• See TOUR page 12

# Highlands Food & Wine ticket pre-sale is June 6

*Pre-sale is for Town of Highlands and Scaly Mountain residents*

Highlands Food & Wine festival returns to the Highlands Nov. 13-16 celebrating 10 years of bold flavors, euphoric sounds and memorable moments in the mountains.

On Friday, June 6 from noon to 2p there is a one-day-only, in-person, ticket presale for full- and

• See HFW page 19

# Community is ready to make Pine Grove School shine again

By Kristin Fox

At the foot of the Cullasaja Gorge tucked just below the Highlands Road is a small piece of history that has significant importance to one local community as well as Macon County. Built in 1912, the old Pine Grove School building located at 38 Peeks Creek Road, Gneiss (Franklin) stands today as a living history lesson, alive to honor the past and teach the future.

The reopening of Pine Grove School was celebrated with a recent open house, attended by former students, neighbors, and friends. A steady stream of visitors attended to show their support of the old school house and its future.

Last year after an offer was made by an individual to purchase the school from the county, a new group banded together to form the Pine Grove School Community Club with the goal of regaining ownership of the school to preserve this important piece of county history.

Before making a decision to sell the property, the county held a public hearing seeking input from the community. Members of the community club spoke during the public hearing requesting that the school be given back to the community.

Among those speaking to commissioners were current board members Marci Holland, president; Lori Smith, vice president; Julie Tastinger, secretary; Sherry Brewer; treasurer; and Bill Baker, member at large.

"Our group went to the public hearing to express that we would like the opportunity for the building and property to be turned back over to the community and told them that we were willing to oversee the care and upkeep of the building," said President Marci Holland. "The

• See PINE GROVE page 14

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# • The Plateau's Position •

## • Mayor on Duty •

### Comparing New York to Highlands

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

It was late, and I was tired and sleepy. But I continued to think about our busy day. Sallie and I had driven my pickup truck all the way to New York City, loaded with 18 of her paintings. She was having a solo exhibition at an art center in Rockaway, which is in the borough of Queens. I am so proud of her for being awarded the show. She put a tremendous amount of work into doing the paintings and packing and transporting them to the Big Apple.

The trip was uneventful until we hit New York, but things got interesting upon arriving at rush hour on a workday. But eventually we made it to the gallery and unloaded the paintings. To her delight, the paintings avoided damage during this long journey.

Once at the gallery, I had time to spare since other folks would hang the show. So, I decided to make a mayoral call to Gracie Mansion, the residence of New York Mayor Eric Adams. I arrived at the mansion's front door at late afternoon cocktail hour.

I knocked on the door, and an aide to the mayor answered. I told him who I was and wondered if I could speak with Mayor Adams. He said wait here and promptly left. To my surprise, in about three minutes, Mayor Adams came to the door, greeted me, and said, "Mayor, come on in for a drink." He asked what I was drinking, and I responded, "A Manhattan, of course."

We sat down, and he asked me how things were going in Highlands. I said great, but I thought we could compare notes since we were both mayors. I told him it was like we were in the same fraternity. He chuckled and said, "Mayor Pat, you got that right." I asked if I could call him Mayor Eric, and he replied, "Of course you can. I watch your video updates and read your articles every week. You are a legend among mayors."

I started off by saying I thought New York City needed a new road paving initiative. I recounted how, going through Brooklyn and Queens, I thought my truck and the precisions cargo paintings were about to fall apart. I asked him if his city council had ever thought about fixing all those potholes on the neighborhood streets. I told Eric that Highlands had started a vigorous road paving project in Highlands five years ago, and about every road that needed paving had a fresh layer of asphalt. He was extremely impressed until he asked me how many miles of town roads we had. I responded about 30. He had an incredulous expression as he took a big gulp of his drink, and we moved to the next issue.

Next, I told him about the Highlands BeeKind Program that our nonprofit community has started. I told Eric it might help New Yorkers calm down by pointing out all the honking horns and finger gestures I saw in their rush hour traffic. I even pointed out some of the horn blasts, and gestures seemed directed toward me! One irate taxi driver who had been following me came up to my left and shouted, "Get off the road, you stupid Tar Heel!" I confided to the mayor that I thought Highlanders were more courteous than New Yorkers

• See MAYOR page 4

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**www.highlandsinfo.com**
**Phone: (828) 200-1371**
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**HighlandsEditor@aol.com**
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Brian O'Shea
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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**
Obituaries are $8 per column inch.
$10 per photo.
Payable prior to publication.

## • SnapShot •

### But for the grace of God ...

*On Tuesday, Chloe Woods left the Rec Park and got into her car to leave but took a minute to check her phone. At that moment, without warning, a massive limb fell from the tree next to the car crushing the vehicle.*

*Miraculously, Woods wasn't injured, in fact the driver's side of the car sustained the least damage. She exited the vehicle unharmed. Town crews were called and Mayor Pat Taylor said the limb was so big and so heavy it took heavy equipment to remove it.*

Submitted by
Pat Taylor and Kim Lewicki

*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, 5-Jun | Fri, 6-Jun | Sat, 7-Jun | Sun, 8-Jun |
|---|---|---|---|
| 73°F 57°F | 76°F 57°F | 76°F 58°F | 76°F 54°F |
| A stray afternoon t-storm | Mostly sunny and pleasant | A shower and thunderstorm | Couple of thunderstorms |
| RealFeel® High: 84° Low: 66° | RealFeel® High: 85° Low: 65° | RealFeel® High: 81° Low: 62° | RealFeel® High: 78° Low: 58° |

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## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

and nice to our visitors. He did not challenge my assumptions.

While I had the mayor's attention, I told him he needed to get rid of all the traffic speeding cameras stationed on every street. I said, besides, you have so much traffic that no one can go beyond a snail's pace in your town anyway. I bragged that we did not use speed or intersection cameras in Highlands or used in-person policing. He responded that the tactic must take a lot of personnel for any one shift. I said, "You bet, sometimes all two or three officers on a shift are monitoring traffic." Eric had a one-word response, "Amazing!"

He followed up by asking what our murder rate was in Highlands. He pointed out that his administration was committed to bringing it down in New York City. I told him I believed our rate was zero. He responded, "per week?" I said, "A lot longer time than that, but I couldn't remember if we have ever had a murder." He smiled, took another sip of his drink, and said, "What kind of a city is that?"

We then shifted the subject to town and city parks. I complimented Mayor Adams on all the neighborhood and city parks they have in New York, especially Central Park. He asked me if we had a town park. I said, "Oh yes, we have Founders Park!" His response was how big of a park was it? Hard to maintain? My reply of a little over an acre made him have a puzzled look on his face. I sensed the New York Mayor was beginning to feel our two situations were not the same and that we did not have as much in common as I initially suggested.

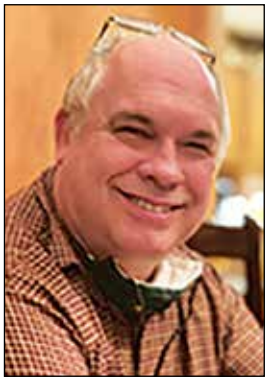
I tried to reconnect with Adams by talking about folks trying to give us major gifts. I emphasized a mayor cannot take gifts for vacations and trips to special places nor accept personal gifts like Rolex watches without drawing scrutiny. He replied, "Tell me about it." I did by suggesting he follow the emoluments statutes in North Carolina as a guide to keep out of trouble with the Feds. I stressed that following North Carolina laws, I cannot even accept a box of Christmas cookies given to me by a constituent without sharing them with all the town staff. Adams said he would follow that same spirit next time someone offered him a special gift. I replied, "Good. Just trying to help one fellow mayor!"

After finishing our drinks, I knew I had overstayed my welcome. I got up, shook the mayor's hand, and invited him to visit Highlands next time he is in North Carolina or Atlanta. I realized I needed to diplomatically fib, so I told him our restaurants were not as good as the top New York restaurants, but they were rather good. I had to make something up to give a departing compliment about his town.

Then I woke up! Darn, in my dream I forgot to set Eric straight on an orderly parking system. Unlike Highlands, New York does not have one.

# • Investing at 4,118 Ft •

## Buying and living the 'Highlands Lifestyle'



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Investing in Highlands is somewhat an emotional decision, the nuts and bolts approach does not always work in this area as most normals do not apply.

In my entire career in real estate brokerage in Highlands, most investment buildings have never brought back a 10-12 percent return on the investment that most investors are looking for, but the values and emotional security of owning a Highlands property has always paid off handsomely in the long term, and sometimes short term.

You do not have to worry if the stock market crashes, steady income plus appreciation over the Big Picture. Brick and mortar does not vaporize into thin air.

The housing market here is the same way; you will usually not remember what the return was on the house you love when it's a family gathering spot for generations to make memories and enjoy.

Short term flippers have always been a driving force in our market as they purchase homes that need updates and provide move-in ready properties for the people that do not want to wait to enjoy the Highlands lifestyle. We call that the Quality Time Remaining.

Whether residential or commercial, Highlands has historically been a great investment area, and the best investment is one that you love and protect what it has to offer. That is the Highlands Lifestyle.

*• W. Terry Potts, CCP of Highlands, over five generations in Highlands. 828-421-3417.*

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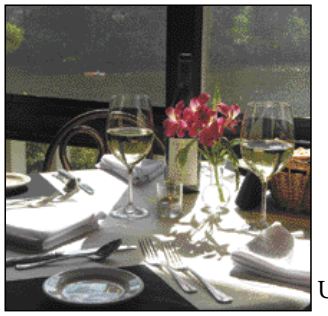

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• LETTER •

## It didn't work for Reagan and Bush and it won't work for Trump

Dear Editor,

Since 1945 the world has been more peaceful and prosperous than any other time in history. That is because of American's leadership role in the world under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

We were an America committed to the rule of law at home and a universal mission abroad to constantly work to make the world freer and more democratic, more decent and a healthier place for more people. That is an America that Project 2025 seeks to destroy.

What do we have now? We have a president who is the most corrupt person to serve in that role. Of the 25 major holders of his crypto business, 19 holders are from foreign countries who paid $1 million to attend a private dinner at his luxury resort. We will see in the future how he rewards them at the expense of our citizens.

The Trump Organization has made major deals with countries headed by dictators to build his properties. His acceptance of the airplane from Qutar is outrageous with an estimated cost of $1 billion dollars to make it secure. These corrupt actions will finally make him a REAL Billionaire.

ASAID has been gutted which will result in millions of deaths saving less than 1% of the U.S. budget. He continues to want to leave NATO, has bullied our allies, cozied up to dictators, and backed Russia rather than Ukraine in a fight for democracy.

President Trump wants to deny aliens due process which is clearly stated in our constitution and his staff has even floated the idea of suspending habeas corpus. Of course, we must reform our broken immigration system but to violate our constitution to do it only makes us a weaker country.

President Trump has successfully neutered the House of Representatives and Senate. This branch of government has stood by and watched him fire government employees he had no right to fire, gut agencies, and impound funds appropriated by Congress. These actions exceed the powers granted by our constitution to the President.

According to the Wall St. Journal his "big beautiful bill" will increase projected budget deficits by nearly $3 trillion through 2034, "locking in tax cuts and spending increases that outweigh reductions in spending on Medicaid, Medicare, and nutrition assistance."

Both Ronald Reagan and George Bush insisted as our President is doing today, that higher economic growth will fill the gap. It did not do that during the Reagan and Bush administrations, both leaving a higher national debt, and it will not do that for the Trump administration either. This bill will definitely worsen the U.S. fiscal picture.

When will all Americans wake up to the damage this administration is doing to our country? I hope soon before a once great country is no more.

**Linda Beville Arnold**
**Highlands**

## ...CTE continued from page 1

CTE 2025 graduate Seth Wilson, helps Kindergarten students make their own pizzas last week which is a plus in a K-12 school.

new teachers as well as new and refreshed courses.

All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in CTE courses. There are no specific prerequisites, making these courses accessible to all high school students who want to explore career pathways and gain real-world skills.

In the past, Highlands has offered robust CTE pathways in Business, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education.

Next year, the school will expand offerings with three dedicated CTE teachers: Nicole Rice – Business, Melissa McKinnon – Family and Consumer Science and Phillip Cope – Technology.

Upcoming new and refreshed courses include: Robotics, MineCraft Expert, Food Sciences, Interior Design, Fashion and Textiles (transitioning from Apparel and Textiles), Food and Nutrition, Computer Science, Business Essentials, Project Management, and Career Management

Many of these courses include opportunities for students to earn industry-aligned credentials, giving them a competitive edge for employment or further education.

Last year, four students participated in paid internships, and many more engaged in credentialed coursework, such as earning Career Readiness Certifications through the Career Management course.

The CTE program at Highlands School is primarily funded through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which supports programs that prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, in-demand careers.

"A unique aspect of the CTE program at Highlands is the collaborative planning led by Principal Sarah Holbrooks and her team, CTE Curriculum Manager Josh Brooks and myself as director," said Strickland. "Together, we have designed a rotating schedule of course offerings to ensure that students have access to a wide variety of classes over their high school years. This innovative approach maximizes student opportunity while making the best use of teacher expertise."

Strickland said Highlands is particularly proud of its student internship opportunities.

"These internships offer real-world experience and often include paid placements with local businesses," she said. "The program is designed to not only to teach skills but to apply them in authentic workplace settings -- preparing students for both college and careers."

According to Strickland, enrollment varies by semester and course availability, but participation remains strong across high school grade levels.

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# • Highlands Events •

## Highlands Motoring Festival lineup

For 2025, as always, the Highlands Motoring Festival returns the second weekend of June, with seven events spanning four days June 12-15.

It all starts with the "One Lap of the Mountains" driving tours on the roads of WNC in carefully curated routes to explore the area's natural beauty and wonderful mountain roads creating a unique driving experience.

Both of this year's driving events sold out in January, but there is another option for everyone. Ten years of driving tours from past festivals have been packaged into softbound tour books. Look for the "One Lap" and "Second Lap" books on sale year-round at Highlands Hiker on Main Street in Highlands.

On Friday afternoon, classic cars will start gathering in Kelsey Hutchinson Park in preparation for the much anticipated "Main Street Parade" which departs precisely at 6:05pm for a round-trip tour of Main Street, Highlands much to the delight of hundreds of spectators who have learned to bring chairs and find the best spot for viewing rare and priceless classics. It is free to spectators and participants. All interesting cars are eligible but must be in the park by 5:15pm.

The centerpiece event is Saturday's "Classics in the Park," a judged showing of classic cars that have been invited by the Selection Committee. Every car on the show field has undergone a rigorous vetting process to curate a display which tells stories of a bygone era. Sometimes, more interesting than the car itself, are the stories of the owners and their history with the car.

This year, the featured marque will be "The Cars of Enzo Ferrari" and will showcase two dozen Ferraris along with other judged classics from later periods through the 1980s.

At noon all the cars on the show field will participate in the annual "Drivers- Start Your Engines" exercise. Winners of the judged classes are announced at 1pm and the show ends at 3:30pm.

Also, this year four museums are sending vehicles: the Lane Museum, the Coker Museum, the Savoy Museum and the Cogan Collection. But most of the cars come from private collections. To give a sense of the quality level of these invited classics, half of the 85 show cars will arrive in Highlands on transporters.

On Saturday night the excitement continues with the "Motoring Gala" at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, with adult beverages, dinner, silent and live auctions, and a special presentation.

Past speakers have included Miles Collier, Bill Warner, and Brian Redman. This year, Mr. Corky Coker will take the stage to share his experiences with the vintage and classic cars. Coker pioneered the tire industry for antique cars. His long-time involvement with classic cars goes back to the family business "Honest Charley's Speed Shop" an early mail order source for performance parts. This paid event starts at 6pm and all proceeds go to the festival's three charity beneficiaries: the Literacy and Learning Center, REACH of Macon County, and the Community Care Clinic of Highlands and Cashiers.

The final event of the festival is back in the park on Sunday morning with a second, less formal, car show "High Octane" where all interesting vehicles are invited to display their pride and joy, from 8:30am to 11am. There is no judging or entry fee, and cars are allowed to arrive and depart anytime.

In 2019, the festival was awarded the "Best Concours Event" in the land by Classic Motorsports Magazine. That same year Dennis Gage was on the HMF show field recording an episode of his TV show "My Classic Car," seen weekly by millions of viewers worldwide.

Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, June 14th and can sign-up on the group's website homepage at www.HighlandsMotoringFestival.com

### Schedule of Events

**Thursday June 12**
"One Lap of the Mountains- Grande"- Driving Tour 7:45am-4pm

**Friday June 13**
"One Lap of the Mountains- Speciale" Driving Tour 7:45am to 4pm
Main Street Parade of Classic Cars 5:30pm to 6:30pm

**Saturday June 14**
"Classics in the Park" Invitational Judged Car Show in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park 9:30am to 4pm
*(This event is free to the public, but donations will be accepted at the gates which open at 9:30am.)*
"Horsepower Charity Gala" Vineyard at High Holly 6pm to 9pm

**Sunday June 15**
"High Octane" Social and Car Gathering in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. 8:30am to 11am

# • Highlands Events •

## CLE welcomes historian Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor

Pulitzer and Bancroft prize winner Alan Taylor joins CLE for two presentations. Many Americans may have been surprised by the recent uneasiness in the relationship between the US and Canada and Mexico. But it is hardly unprecedented as Professor Taylor will discuss in his first presentation on June 9 from 2 to 4 pm. In that presentation, he will explore the untold connections of the American Civil War and conflicts in Canada and Mexico. Americans only think of the Civil War in terms of the conflict between Union and Confederate armies fought on American soil. But, as Professor Taylor will explain, the outbreak of the Civil War created a continental power vacuum.

To the North, Canadians long alert to the covetous eyes of annexationists to their South, reacted with concern at the Union triumph. John Macdonald, the dominant Canadian political figure, foresaw a crisis, fearing Yankee forces would invade Canada to spite the British. An abortive invasion by Irish-American radicals across the Niagara River only served to cement Canadian unity and hasten the move towards confederacy. To counter the ambitious Americans, Macdonald persuaded the British to press the maritime provinces into a Canadian confederation, to which British Columbia and Manitoba were later added.

In Mexico, French forces invaded in 1862 and established an empire ruled by a Habsburg archduke. This invasion inflamed an ongoing power struggle between Mexican conservatives who aligned themselves with the French forces and Confederate soldiers along the southwestern border. Initial American neutrality prolonged the Mexican conflict. But, when the Union triumph restored the continental balance of power, the French forces withdrew and the US government brought enough pressure to enable the Republican cause to prevail.

On Tuesday, June 10 from 10 to noon, Professor Taylor returns to examine Thomas Jefferson's vision for public education and his belief that it was essential to train citizens who would defend the Commonwealth of Virginia against demagogues and tyrants. Despite Jefferson's urgings, the Commonwealth of Virginia refused to fund Jefferson's quest to fund such a program. Professor Taylor will also explore the origins and early years of the University of Virginia and Jefferson's attempts to reform the leadership class in that state.

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

## Mystery Car of the Week

**Italian word for luxury?**

Highlands Motoring Festival
June 12-14

## Books & Bluegrass at Fire Mountain Inn

On Thursday, June 19, there is a Books and Bluegrass event at the Fire Mountain Inn at 700 Happy Hill Road in Scaly Mountain.

Tickets are $75 per person and include live music, food and drink. They are available at the Hudson Library in Highlands or at the Book Worm in Highlands. Music is provided by the Foxfire Boys.

Proceeds go to planned improvements to Hudson Library which include an expanded outdoor space.


Highlands-Cashiers
Center for Life Enrichment

## Program Highlights

**North, South, and Beyond: The Untold Connections of the American Civil War and Continental North American Conflicts**
Presenter: Alan Taylor, Monday, June 9, 2-4pm
$30 Members /$40 Nonmembers

**Jefferson's Vision: Education, Democracy, and the Struggle for a Republic**
Presenter: Alan Taylor, Tuesday, June 10, 10am-12pm
$30 Members /$40 Nonmembers

**Introduction to Wines**
Presenter: Guy Davis, Tuesday, June 10, 3-5pm
$80 Members /$90 Nonmembers

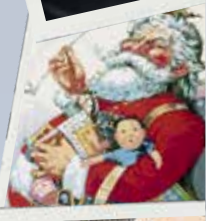
**Not Your Ordinary Greeting Cards**
Instructor: Cindy Guinn, Wednesday, June 11, 10am-12pm $60 Members /$70 Nonmembers

**Thomas Nast: The Power of a Pen and the Art of Political Influence**
Presenter: Rick Kistner, Wednesday, June 11, 2-4pm
$30 Members /$40 Nonmembers

**Edison Unplugged: The Genius, the Myths, and the Man Behind the Inventions**
Presenter: Rick Kistner, Thursday, June 12, 10am-12pm
$30 Members /$40 Nonmembers

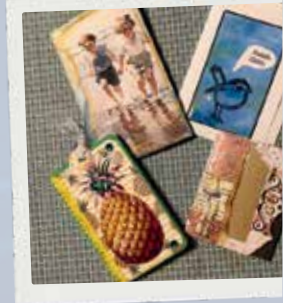
**A Shell-A-Bration Art Workshop!**
Instructor: Cindy Guinn, Thursday, June 12, 2-4pm
$60 Members /$70 Nonmembers

**Global Rivalry: Navigating the New Cold War Between China and the U.S.**
Presenter: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang, Friday, June 13, 10am-12pm
$30 Members /$40 Nonmembers



**Social Media's Threat to Democracy**
Presenter: Dr. R. Jarrod Atchison, Monday, June 16, 2-4pm
$30 Members /$40 Nonmembers

**We Are Not One People: Secession and Separatism in American Politics Since 1776**
Presenter: Dr. R. Jarrod Atchison, Tuesday, June 17, 10am-12pm $30 Members /$40 Nonmembers



**The Pursuit of Happiness: Virtue, Self-Government, and the Legacy of the Founding Fathers**
Presenter: Joseph Crespino, Wednesday, June 18, 10am-12pm $30 Members /$40 Nonmembers

**Call (828) 526-8811 or visit clehighlands.com to register today!**

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# • Biz/Org News •

## Greenway gazebo is freshened up

Volunteers from the Highlands Plateau Greenway recently painted the gazebo at 1st and Oak Street following recent renovations to improve access. To learn more about the Greenway visit www.highlandsgreenway.com.


HIGHLANDS
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*Highlands Volunteer Fair*

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

Thursday, June 12
11am - 2pm

Highlands Community Building
869 North 4th Street

*Light refreshments will be served.*

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

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

visithighlandsnc.com

# • Here's the Thing •

## It's 'season!' Yay!

Bud Katz

As we ease into what is referred to here as "season" I thought it a good idea to offer some friendly advice to help new visitors.

During season there are five kinds of people here.

Our natives were born here and have had the sense to remain here. If you encounter one of our natives, please treat them with the respect and good fortune they've earned.

Next, our locals. Yours truly, and Ms. Yours truly, for example. We live here all the time and seldom leave, other than for an essential appointment, or for the occasional excursion. We return as quickly as possible and always decompress.

Third, we enjoy often lengthy visits from folks who own second homes here. Some call them summer people. Many are retirees from nearby states, while others come and go for different lengths of time because they aren't ready to pull the plug. I say we enjoy these fun folks because they pump lots of energy and dollars into the local economy. They support businesses who might otherwise struggle during the off-season.

Our vacationers – folks visiting for a shorter time – keep our hotels, short-term rental homes, and restaurants packed, and spend lots of money in our shops. They include a thriving destination wedding industry, for which our town is grateful.

Finally, our day-trippers and weekenders live largely within an hour or two and typically come to experience our cooler, higher elevations and our friendly hospitality.

Now that we've established the human eco-system of "season" up here, a bit of simple advice for those who might be new or who don't yet understand this special place.

First, the name of our town is Highlands, not THE Highlands. Were this Scotland, THE Highlands would be fine. Here, no THE, please. It's like the music group, Eagles. It's not THE Eagles. It's Eagles. Look it up. This is Highlands, North Carolina.

Please don't ask where your favorite chain restaurant, coffee shop or supermarket is. They're not here. We have what you want, just not what you asked for. With few exceptions, Highlands is "unchained."

Here's the thing; most people come to Highlands to experience our natural world. If you must have a mall, consider Duluth, GA, Greenville, SC, or Asheville, NC. All are two- to two-and-a-half hours away.

Newbies are often surprised there are no straight four-lane roads. This is because most of our roads were originally Cherokee trails. The Cherokee did not have 350+horsepower SUVs. They had their own moccasins, and maybe one horse. The speed limits on our two-lane roads are low because there are all those twists, turns, and switchbacks. Driving, especially in darkness, is not for the lazy, sleepy, inattentive, or inebriated. Be careful out there.

During season there are not enough parking places for workers, visitors and residents. Please be considerate and use only one at a time. Watch yourself when backing up. Chances are someone's waiting for the space you're vacating. And please don't blow your horn. We don't like that.

Please honor the walk/don't walk indicators at our four crosswalks with traffic signals, especially those at 4th and Main. Most days during season, especially weekend days, Highlands is very busy.

There are four ways into and out of Highlands. This means everyone, including you, us, and a majority of our workforce, drive those roads. If you're sightseeing and someone follows you too closely, use any of the pull-offs you see and let them pass. Chances are they're natives/locals who are comfortable with our roads, or workers needing to get to or from work. We and they appreciate the consideration.

Finally, please treat the folks who serve and take care of you in our hotels, restaurants, supermarket, shops, spas, salons, etc., with kindness and respect. They don't get paid nearly enough to put up with rudeness or disrespectful behavior. It's that whole "do unto others" thing.

Thank you. Welcome to Highlands. Enjoy your visit.

*• Bruce F. "Bud" Katz, and his wife, Lynn, have lived year-round in Highlands since 2011. Bud is the author of four novels and a work of non-fiction. He facilitates the Highlands Writers Group and spends much of his time in front of a computer making words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, … etc. You can get to know Bud better by visiting his website, brucefkatz.com, and you can contact him, regarding this column, his books, or for information about the Highlands Writers Group, at brucefkatzauthor@gmail.com.*

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## ...TOUR continued from page 1

it is. Beyond the names and dates, there are some wonderful stories that are told of these amazing places and the people who made them unique."

The tour is the result of the talents of many creative people. WCU graduate student, Nicole Freeman researched and produced the original scripts for the audio. The scripts were rough edited by Ran Shaffner and Stuart Ferguson, each steeped in the history of Highlands. The final audio was then combined with historic photos for a short, two-to-three minute history that will be accessible at each site.

"We are so appreciative of the work put in by the talented contributors to this project," said Foor. "In addition, none of this would have been possible without a grant from the Cullasaja Women's Outreach, which has funded much of this project. We are also so grateful to the building owners who have consented to have a plaque placed at their site for this important history to be accessible to all."

Churches, civic buildings, homes and businesses are all included in the tour. Sites on the tour include buildings whose original purpose has never changed, buildings which have had multiple owners and many purposes, and some buildings which are no longer there. One site, the first home in Highlands built by Highlands' founder, Samuel Kelsey, is marked simply by its surviving chimney - a stark reminder of the fortitude of Highlands' early settlers through the many struggles that they faced.

In the month of June, the Historical Society will be hosting several groups of young people from the Boys and Girls Club who will be challenged to learn some of the history of Highlands through a contest they are calling "The Hunt for Highlands History." Those who answer a list of questions correctly will win a gift certificate for an ice cream cone from Kilwins in Highlands. "This is a great opportunity to partner with the Boys and Girls Club and Kilwins to help pass on some of our important history to the next generation of Highlanders," said Foor. "On Saturday, June 28, we will offer the same challenge to anyone 15 or under. Information on that contest can soon be found on our website highlandshistory.com."

The audio tour will be accessible throughout the year and available to everyone for as long as the plaques remain in place. Maps for the tour are available at the Historical Village, 524 N. 4th Street and at the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, maps can be downloaded from the HHS website at highlandshistory.com. The entire tour should take no more than one and a half hours for the average walker.

The Highlands Historical Society, located at 524 N. 4th Street, is open for the 2025 season on Thursdays thru Saturdays, from 10-4 and on Sundays from 1-4. As always, admission is free. The 2025 season runs thru Sunday, November 23rd.

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Fein named executive director of Highlands Chamber of Commerce

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC has appointed Johanna Fein as its new Executive Director.

Effective June 2, 2025, Fein began transitioning into the role and will assume full responsibility on July 1.

She brings nearly 30 years of leadership experience in destination marketing and hospitality, with a proven record of advancing strategic initiatives, building stakeholder relationships, and elevating brand presence. Most recently, she served as the organization's Director of Marketing & Communications.

"Johanna loves Highlands, and we believe that her passion for this community combined with her strategic mindset, will enable her to be a true ambassador for our business community and lead the organization into its next chapter," said Blye Hunsinger, Chair of the Chamber Board of Directors and Head of Human Resources for Old Edwards Hospitality Group. "Her approachability, work ethic, and integrity will benefit our members, residents, and visitors alike."

Fein joined the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC in early 2023. She previously held positions at renowned organizations including Pinehurst Resort, Ventana Inn & Spa, Sea Island Resorts, and the San Luis Obispo Visitors & Conference Bureau.

Fein is also a 2025 graduate of the Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) program, the highest individual educational achievement in the tourism industry. She will officially be recognized at the Destinations International (DI) Annual Conference held July 9-12 in Chicago.

"I am honored and excited to step into this leadership role," said Fein. "Highlands is a remarkable place - rich in beauty, culture, and community spirit. I look forward to building upon the strong foundation Kaye has established and continuing to support our members and partners through thoughtful leadership and collaboration."

Fein succeeds Kaye McHan, who is retiring as Executive Director. McHan has led the organization through pivotal moments, including the COVID-19 pandemic, while advancing board governance, strategic planning, impactful programs, and sustainable financial practices.

"Working alongside Johanna over the past two years has been a joy," said McHan. "She brings creativity, focus, and a genuine commitment to service. I have complete confidence in her ability to lead the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC with strength and purpose."

As Executive Director, Fein will oversee the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC's operations, lead strategic initiatives, serve as the organization's spokesperson, and continue fostering positive relationships with local government, business, and civic leaders to advance the prosperity and vitality of the Highlands community.

She resides in Highlands with her three dogs and her husband Brandon Fein who is the Executive Director of Spa and Wellness at Old Edwards Hospitality Group.


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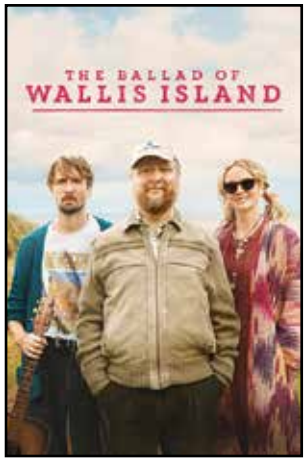


Fri., June 6 – 2pm and 5:30pm
Sat., June 7 – 2pm and 5:30pm
Sun., June – 2pm and 5:30pm with captions

**Tickets:**
**Adults: $13.20 • Children: $11**

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# – Bolivian Mission update –

During her two-week visit to Montero, Bolivia with mission founder Dr. John Baumrucker, Betty Wang visited with the boys in the orphanage and helped them make pizza one night.

Dr. John Baumrucker and previous store owner in Highlands, Betty Wang went to Montero, Bolivia to work with the children in the foster home.

"I was amazed that a woman 86 years old could work twice as hard as the children. She was amazing," Dr. John said.

Betty Wang and her husband had the House of Wong on Main Street for 40 years, and Betty was well aware of the Bolivian Mission and was a donor every year until she decided to make the trip in person to see what was going on.

In the past year, a new structure was constructed for the four older boys who are still in college and have a part-time job. The government dictates that the boys over 18 should be kicked out to allow more children to come into the home. The government pays a dollar a day for food, and provides other services like a visiting psychologist, medical and dental visits and some free food.

Betty was in full agreement that education is the path to a brighter future and related some of her past growing up in China and Hong Kong before coming to the United States. "Education is the most valuable part of growing up. It lasts a lifetime, and it encourages continued learning. I take courses all the time and volunteer in Atlanta where I live now. It keeps me young," she said with a laugh.

With three buildings in need of new roofs, Baumrucker has upcoming fundraisers in sight.

"Using tile roofs is the culture here, but all of them leak when it rains hard, and it rains hard a lot here, he said.

The original building was built in 2002 and now the older boys dormitory and the Mamma Joanna House all need new roofs.

The composite roofs will cost about $22,262, including materials and labor.

The Mission Board here in Highlands is anxious to have another auction to help fund the roof project. Date to be announced.

Some items for auction include two beautiful pendants and a ring made from the national jewel of Bolivia, Bolivianita or ametrine as it is known in English and several pieces of art from the estate of Barbara Green. The jewelry was designed by Jannie Bean Designs and T. A. Andreson. Also available are several Oriental Rugs donated by Shiraz Oriental Rug Gallery.

"This is going to be a wonderful event that has been delayed for way too long," said Dr. John Baumrucker, president of the Highlands Bolivian Mission.

The mission relies on the generosity of donors and funds from sales of pens, ice cream scoops and pizza cutters made by the boys in the foster home and jams, salsa and other items sold at the Farmer's Market every Saturday morning at the Founder's Park.

Donations can be made to the Bolivian Mission by sending a check to Highlands Bolivian Mission, P. O. Box 1358, Highlands, NC 28741.

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This Month's Performance:

**Highlands United Methodist Church**
**315 Main Street**
**Saturday, June 7 | 4:30 – 5pm**

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

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# ...PINE GROVE continued from page 1

commissioners asked us to obtain tax exempt status and expressed that they were in favor of the Pine Grove School being turned back over to the community where it belongs."

The county's liaisons for the project are Commissioners John Shearl and Barry Breeden.

"The county has been very supportive of our endeavors and to helping ensure that our group is successful in re-establishing the property for community use; we are very grateful for their support," said Holland. "We are in the process of working with the county to assess and determine any needed repairs. We plan to raise money and to get the community involved in preserving the building."

She said the vision for the school is for it to be utilized as a community center.

"We would like to rent the space out to citizens for things such as family reunions, wedding and baby showers, book club meetings, craft meetings, or any other event that would enrich the community," said Holland."

The group has reached out to officers from the Holly Springs Community Development Center, the Otto Community Development Center and the Cowee School to guide it through the process.

The Pine Grove School was built to replace an older school located across the street by the river that had served the community from 1855 to 1900s until it was destroyed by a fire. The two-room schoolhouse served the community's students who traveled from as far away as Walnut Creek and Gold Mine seeking an education. In 1949, the school's doors were closed to students due to school consolidations.

The school remained open as a polling place for the Sugarfork voting precinct. In the early 2000s, after serving the community for 80 years, the building had fallen into such bad disrepair that it was deemed unsafe to remain open for the community. At that time, the county had considered closing the Sugarfork precinct and combining it with Ellijay.

Pine Grove School house on the Gorge Road.

In 2005 – 2006, Wayne Haire and a group of community members came together to raise money and organize labor for the repairs and renovations of the school building which would become the home of the Pine Grove School and Community Association. The county supported the restoration project providing $15,000 to help get the project started and pledging to match funds raised.

The Peeks Creek disaster of 2004 was a driving catalyst for the restoration project. A plaque hangs on the outside of the school remembering the tragedy that has had a lasting impact on the community. The renovations of the old school house were also a memorial to the five victims who lost their lives in the disaster.

Remembering the impact the disaster had on the community, the plaque reads: "We rejoice for the lives that were spared. We will always remember those that were lost. Tropical Storm Ivan September 16, 2004."

A few modern conveniences including a kitchen area, restrooms, small stage and a handicapped ramp were added to the school. In addition, new windows, floor and roof repairs were completed at the school. Each board of the pine board flooring was taken up and sanded one by one and re-laid to its original place after also being insulated.

The classroom was recreated to resemble an old-fashioned classroom complete with a bookcase with vintage school books and lunch bucket, chalkboard and teacher's desk. Rows of old school desks fill up the classroom each bearing a plaque honoring the names of former students. A wooden oak tree is featured on a wall of the school with hand carved leaves also honoring the memory of former students.

The group has gotten tax-exempt status and now upcoming fundraising events are planned to help raise the necessary funds to preserve the school for generations to come.

# • Biz/Org News •

From left: Sally Copeland, Peggy Boruchow-Arnette, Glenda Bell, John Warner and Ruth Claiborne

## Keeping your trees healthy

The Laurel Garden Club's May meeting featured a talk by John Warner on tree health and maintenance. Warner is a certified forester with the Society of American Foresters as well as a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture.

He pointed out that one effective method of enhancing plant resilience and survival rates is through root washing. Root problems are a significant contributor to tree health issues, particularly in young and newly planted trees. Root washing involves removing growing media, often comprised of organic and inorganic materials such as peat moss, bark, sand, compost, and vermiculite. Correcting root issues before planting promotes improved root establishment and fosters a robust root system.

The Laurel Garden Club continuously strives to aid in the protection and conservation of our natural resources. Monthly meetings always include gardening hints and instructions as well as lectures such as the one John Warner provided at its May meeting.

For more information on the Laurel Garden Club, please visit its website at www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com. Further information on tree health and maintenance can be found on www.treesaregood.org

# • CHHS News •

**Photo by Marti Boone**

Clyde arrived at the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society after he was found as a stray in Franklin. He is a handsome male Mountain Cur mix who loves going for walks and we estimate that he is about six years old. What we don't have to estimate is Clyde's capacity for affection. He loves every human he meets. For more information, visit chhumanesociety.org or call (828)743-5752.

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

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# • Biz/Org News •

## Chamber announces Highlands nonprofit grant and sponsorship recipients

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC has awarded grant and sponsorship funding to several local nonprofit organizations in recognition of their valuable contributions to the community.

"Supporting the work of our local non-profits is one of the most meaningful ways we can invest in the wellbeing of our community," said Kaye McHan, Executive Director. "These organizations are the heart of Highlands, meeting vital needs, enriching lives, and strengthening the spirit of our town. We're honored to provide grant and sponsorship funding to help them continue their important missions and create a lasting impact."

**Grant recipients include:**

The Bascom ($25,000)

Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival (15,000)

Highlands Performing Arts Center ($25,000)

Mountaintop Rotary – Arts & Crafts Shows ($25,000)

**Sponsorships were also awarded to support the following organizations and programs:**

Highlands Motoring Festival ($25,000)

Highlands Performing Arts Center ($25,000)

**Grants**

Grants provide financial support to eligible organizations seeking funds to assist them in producing and promoting their event or program which drives travel and tourism to the Highlands area and Macon County.

Funding eligible organizations conducting initiatives and activities related to the promotion, advertising, marketing, enhancement of attractions, and implementation of their event/program which draws visitors to Highlands, NC area.

**Sponsorships**

We sponsor eligible organizations that are promoting travel and tourism in the Highlands area and Macon County.

The sponsorship program funds advertising and marketing of Highlands, NC through events and programs that broaden the audience of potential visitors beyond the capabilities of Visit Highlands, NC, by expanding marketing and advertising to a desired demographic and assists in the promotion and advertising of Highlands NC area through product placement and branding.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC for their generous support," said Jeanne Piazza, Executive Director of the Highlands Performing Arts Center. "These grant and sponsorship funds make a meaningful difference, helping us bring world-class performances and impactful arts education to our community. Their investment in the arts ensures that the Performing Arts Center continues to thrive as a vibrant cultural hub for Highlands."

Visit Highlands, NC supports local nonprofits through a Tourism Grant program and Sponsorships which are funded by occupancy tax paid by guests staying in Highlands' accommodations. For more information about applying for a Tourism Grant or Sponsorship visit highlandschamber.org/chamber/grants-sponsorship.

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## HHS awards first 'Ran Shaffner Scholarship'

**Highlands Historical Society Scholarship Committeeawarded its first Ran Shaffner Scholarship to Finn Garner. He is pictured with Highlands Historical Society Scholarship Committee members, Kim Daugherty and Carlton Cole.**

# • Biz/Org News •

From left: Zach Claxton, Obie Oakley, Ed McCloskey, Finneaus Garner, Ken Knight, Bob Travathan, Chip Snyder

## American Legion Post 370 awards Garner

**By Chip Snyder**

Highlands American Legion Post 370 recognized an exceptional Highlands School Senior for his dedication to leadership, scholarship, and citizenship.

The prestigious honor highlights the recipient's commitment to academic excellence, service to the community, and strong leadership qualities. Garner's application essay entitled, "Do or do not, there is no try" clearly described his outlook during his successful high school years.

The first annual award, presented by American Legion Post 370, recognizes a young individual who embodies the values of integrity, responsibility, and civic engagement. This year's recipient, Finneas Garner was praised for his contributions to school and community programs, demonstrating individual service that aligns with the American Legion's core mission.

Post 370 Chaplain Ed McCloskey commended the student's achievements, stating, "This award recognizes the next generation of leaders who inspire through their actions and dedication. We are proud to celebrate his hard work and character."

## RGN awards scholarships and awards

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School honored students for their academic success on Saturday, May 17 at the Upper School Awards Ceremony. The following students from Highlands and Cashiers were honored:

• Outstanding Achievement in Technical Theater:
Cameron Abranyi '25 of Highlands

• Outstanding Achievement in Sophomore Humanities:
Ava Klapdohr '27 of Cashiers

• Outstanding Achievement in Calculus:
Owen Madden '26 of Cashiers, NC

• Outstanding Achievement in Science class of 2027:
Sloan Mattis '27 of Highlands, NC

• Advanced Award in Mandarin:
Savanna Jones'25 of Cashiers, NC

The following seniors earned community and named scholarships:

• **STAR Student**
Anthony Qemali '25 of Cashiers, NC

• **Mountain Lakes Board of Realtors**
Savanna Jones'25 of Cashiers, NC

• **Conkle-Rowe Scholarships**
Erin Turner, Oliver Dyer, and Savanna Jones; all of Cashiers, NC

• **Scholarships and Named Awards**
The following returning students earned named Rabun Gap scholarships and awards:

• **Mrs. Gladys Waybright Christian Scholarship Award**
Timmy McDowell '27 of Highlands, NC,

• **W.L. Monroe Christian Education and Personality Award in Honor of O.C. Skinner**
Owen Madden'26 of Cashiers, NC and Alyssa Ashe '26 of Franklin, NC

• **The Sullivan Work Award**
Leela Chrestman '27 of Highlands, NC


SAVE THE DATE
LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP BOIL
to benefit
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
SATURDAY, JUNE 21st, 2025
Doors Open at 5:30, Dinner at 5:45
$85* Ticket Includes a Tasty Low Country Boil Dinner, Dessert and 2 Drinks from The Ugly Dog Pub
Rain or Shine, Tented Event at Oak & Pine Streets, Highlands, NC
Live Music by Spalding McIntosh & The Lionhearts
Tickets available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main St.
Hosted by Friends of Founders Park, a 501(c)3 organization, www.foundersparkhighlands.org
* Additional Donations Accepted at the Event



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# Spiritually Speaking

## A Toast

**Pastor Randy Lucas**
Highlands United
Methodist Church

Today I lift a glass
to the quiet helpers.
the unselfish givers,
the patient listeners
and gossip killers.

Today I say three cheers
for the forgiving forgiver,
the generous grace-giver,
the merciful, hospitable,
gentle and kind.

Today I speak a word
of appreciation,
gratitude
and recognition.

Why?

Because there's enough
of the other stuff!

So keep it up,
do your best,
make us proud,
do good,
extend grace,
be gentle,
empathetic,
understanding,
hospitable
and loving.

We need this from you.
We need you
to be you at your best,
the best you you can be.

And if you can do that
you'll be a source for good,
a vehicle of grace,
an agent of the Almighty.

And on behalf of all
who will benefit due
to the best
version of you,
I simply say,
Wow!

# • 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

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY**
706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

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

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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
Sunday School:10 am. Worship Service:11 am

# • Police & Fire Reports •

**Highlands Police entries from May 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

**May 17**

• At 4:55 p.m., officers responded to a call for service regarding a man with dementia leaving the residence on Bowery Road and missing. He was located.

**May 23**

• At 8:15 a.m., officers responded to a one vehicle accident in the parking lot of the Blue Bike Cafe where when attempting to park, the driver struck a building.

• At 5:01 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

• At 6 p.m., officers responded to a call from T.A. Anderson regarding larceny of a gold necklace valued at $5,300 that was taken from the store.

**May 24**

• At 11:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Pierson Drive.

• At noon, officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road) and Arnold Road.

**May 29**

• At 3:23 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Big Bearpen Road.

**May 31**

• At 8:28 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

**June 1**

• At 10:18 p.m., officers responded to a call of domestic violence at a residence on Hickory Street where a 22-year-old woman was assaulted leaving bruises on her neck.

**June 2**

• At 9:19 p.m., Broghan Mackenzie Ann Elizabeth Hackler, 23, of Cullowhee, was arrested for domestic violence, assault on a law enforcement agent, and resisting, delaying, and obstructing arrest. She was issued a secured bond. Her trial date is June 26.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 27.**

**May 27**

• At 2:50 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at the Highlands Mountain Club.

**May 28**

• At 1:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 8:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

**May 29**

• At 7:02 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 1:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 1:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road.

• At 3:13 p.m. and 3:42 p.m., the dept. was called to respond to a fire alarm at a residence on Peace Mountain Road, but both were cancelled en route.

**May 30**

• At 10:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Lower Cliff Road.

**May 31`**

• At 8:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

• At 9:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Hicks Road.

• At 12:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a gas leak at a residence on Arnold Road.

**June 1**

• At 9:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 11:57 a.m., a search and rescue was called in on Princess Pine Circle but was cancelled.

• At 3:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

**June 2**

• At 11:14 a.m., the dept. was called about a welfare check at a residence on Holt Knob Road.

• At 10:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Lane.

**June 3**

• At 1:30 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bee Tree Lane.

# HPD seeks help solving jewelry theft

The Highlands Police Department is seeking the community's help in identifying a suspect believed to be involved in thefts from multiple jewelry stores.

On May 23, officers were called to T.A. Anderson Goldsmith regarding a gold chain necklace that had been stolen. Officers reviewed security videos and were able to see a woman place the necklace into her purse, then leave the store without paying for the necklace. Once the woman left the store, she got into a silver-colored Nissan SUV with a monogram decal on the back windshield. Officers later received a tip from a Facebook post stating that the woman in the security video had reportedly stolen jewelry from another store in Georgia.

If you recognize the woman or the vehicle involved in this theft, please contact Detective Amber Wright at the Highlands Police Department. You can reach Det. Wright by phone at 828-526-9431 or by email at amber.wright@highlandsnc.org.

## ...HFW continued from page 1

part-time residents of the Town of Highlands and Scaly Mountain at David Bock Builders, 417, N. 4th Street in Highlands..

Residents with a 28741 or 28775 zip code who show proof of residency will have access to the presale. Accepted forms of proof of residency include either 1) a valid driver's license with a Highlands (28741) or Scaly Mountain (28775) address or 2) a valid driver's license outside the above zip codes AND a current (2025) utility bill with a Highlands (28741) or Scaly Mountain (28775) address.

Purchases will be limited to four General Admission tickets per event per customer. A total of 20 VIP Weekender tickets will also be available during the presale. Any unsold tickets from this allotment will be returned to inventory for sale to the general public.

A limited number of VIP Weekender tickets will go on sale Tuesday, June 10, at 12 p.m. ET. Single-day general admission tickets will go on sale Thursday, June 12, at 12 p.m. ET.

Ticket prices for all-inclusive food, beverage and live music entertainment options will range from $150 for single-event tickets to $1,600 for VIP Weekender tickets, inclusive of the four signature events: Grand Tasting, Smoke Signals, Main Event and Sunday's A Shot at Redemption.

Highlands Food & Wine features world-class food from renowned local and regional chefs from across the Southeast, as well as fine wine and spirits, specialty dinners and more. Festival staples will once again anchor the weekend:

- Grand Tasting on Thursday, Nov. 13 at The Bascom, Center for the Visual Arts
- Smoke Signals (formerly Truckin') on Friday, Nov. 14 at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park
- Main Event on Saturday, Nov. 15 on Main Street
- A Shot at Redemption, the Sunday brunch finale, Nov. 16 at The Bascom

A Shot at Redemption – this year's culminating celebration will move from its traditional park setting back to The Bascom for a more intimate and elevated seated brunch experience. With a limited number of tickets available, the new format promises a refined close to an unforgettable weekend.

Additional, smaller events will be added, including:

- Her Voice, Her Vintage on Friday, Nov.14 at Skyline Lodge
- Vines in the Pines on Saturday, Nov. 15, location to be announced

"Reaching our tenth year is more than just a milestone; it's a tribute to the chefs, musicians, staff, partners, and visitors who've made Highlands Food & Wine what it is today," said Jack Austin, President of the Highlands Festivals, Inc. board. "This year, we're inviting patrons to take a trip down memory lane with some of the most iconic culinary and music experiences from festivals past, while also welcoming fresh faces and new talent to the table."

For more information about tickets, interested patrons should visit https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/.

## HIGHLANDS CHURCH
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**LIVE STREAM: Andy Stanley**
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And makes you better at life!

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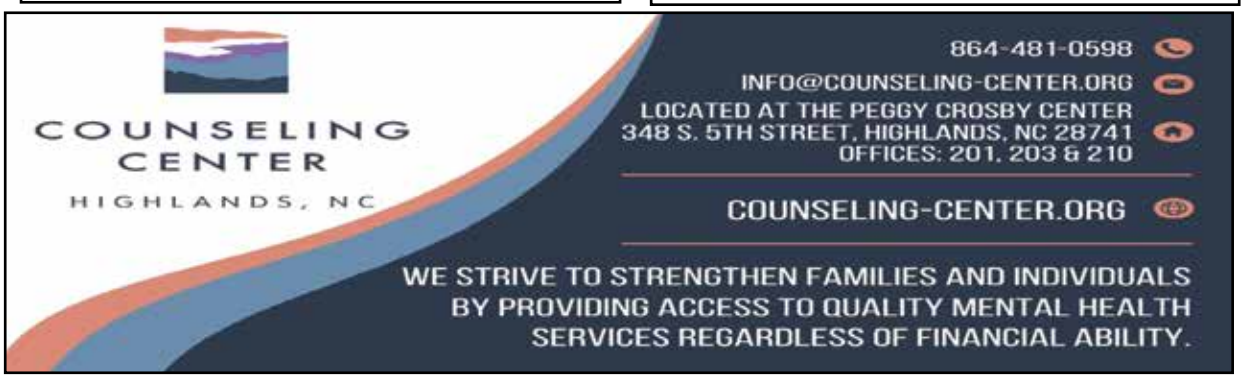

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Locations in Franklin and Highlands, NC

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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

**YARD SALE**

**AT SHAKESPEARE BOOKSTORE IN VILLAGE SQUARE AT OAK AND 5TH STREET** -- Liquidation. Everything must go including books, appliances and housewares. 9a to 8p through Saturday, June 7.

**AVAILABLE**

**CLIMATE-CONTROLLED CAR STORAGE.** Limited availability. Email if interested: LB@vsurgic.com (st. 3/6)

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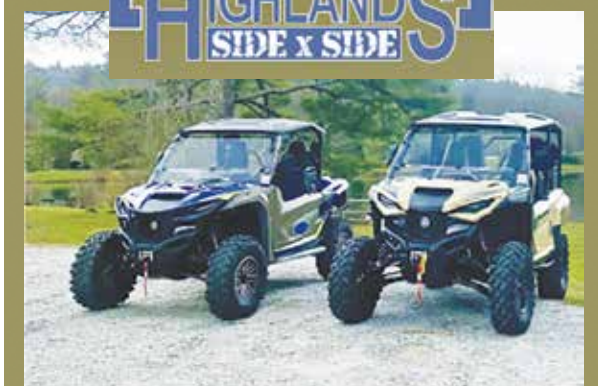
To Schedule a Rental, Call 828-482-1612
or visit
www.highlandsutvrentals.com

**FOR SALE**

**2021 MINNIE WINNIE TRAVEL TRAILER,** 29 ft, barely used. Queen bed, 2 recliners. One slideout. $25,000. Off Highlands Rd, Franklin. 941-504-9045. (st. 5/29)

**2 HIMALAYAN KITTENS** – Born Feb. 19. Fluffy, sweet. $85. Call 828-524-0261. (st. 6/5)

**1955 AUSTIN HEALEY 100-4 BN2 AND 1985 MB 280 SL.** 5-speed, soft/hard tops. European standard conforming to USA specs. Edi Walker 321-439-4709. (6/12)

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**1965 SUNBEAM TIGER** – restored, great condition. Hard top, 5-speed. 59k. Call 404-966-0283. (st. 3/6)

**LAND FOR SALE** - 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at $200,000. 828-974-1137. (5/1)

**SEASONED FIREWOOD** - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

**TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE**, $55k-$85k ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (10/30/25)

**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)

**FOR RENT**

**2BD/2BATH SINGLE WIDE** $1,200 per month internet included. First last security Mark 828-200-0765. (st. 5/29)

**2BD 2 BATH WITH ADDITIONAL STUDIO/ OFFICE.** Lake G'ville view. $2800 per month long term lease Mark 828-200-0765. (st. 5/29)

**NEW APT.** – Half mile from downtown. Furnished, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, including all utilities (wifi, & W/D, too) $1,600 per month. 2 people max. Small pets with deposit. Call (404) 234-2516. (st. 5/8).

**WORKFORCE HOUSING** - 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/2 bath with between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires. (828)482-4239, (st. Jan. 2025)

**SERVICES**

**PLATEAU PAINTERS** – Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, decks, and sanding and staining wood floors. Division of Chatlos Construction. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (6/26)

**JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE** –We take anything. Call 828-200-0492 (4/30)

**DUMP RUNS.** Competitive Pricing. Call for details. 828-421-2655. (4/30)

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN** – Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (4/30)

**CAREGIVER/SITTER** with 40 years experience available for part-time personal care, errands, transportation, meals, etc. Highlands full-time resident. Robert Doe 828.399.0262. (st. 8/29)

**NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY?** Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (5/1)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

# • Highlands Area Events •

**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**

• The Ballad of Wallis Island. Fri., June 6 – 2 & 5:30p; Sat., June 7 – 2 & 5:30p; Sun., June 8 – 2p and 5:30p with captions. 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.

**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.

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email info@maconnclitteracy.org

**Wed., June 11,18,25**

**• At the Literacy Council, Tinker Time for Tots and Caregivers 11 am – Noon. FREE. No registration required.**

**Wed., July 9,16,23,30**

• At the Literacy Council, Tinker Time for Tots and Caregivers. 11 am – Noon. FREE. No registration required

**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.

**Mon., Tues., Thurs.**

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

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

**Thursdays**

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. 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.

**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).

**Sat. June 7**

• At First Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Singing the Faith with Hymnologist, the Rev. Dr. Michael Hawn. A fun, interactive, educational hymn sing 3:30pm in Coleman Hall.

• The Pop-Up Pipers at Highlands United Methodist Church 4:30-5p

• At the Outpost Inn, meet the maker of Methodical Coffee.

**Tues., June 10**

• Hudson Library in Highlands is hosting a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on Tuesday June 10 from 10a to 3p at the library.

**Thurs.-Sun., June 12-15**

• Highlands Motoring Festival on the streets and in the park on Pine Street.

**Thurs., June 12**

• Volunteer Fair. Looking to give back? Find the perfect volunteering opportunity at our annual Volunteer Fair, where local organizations share ways to make a difference. For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

• At PAC, Mountain Theatre presents The Marvelous Wonderettes at 7:30 p.m. For tickets go to boxoffice@mountaintheatre.com. 828.526.2695

**Fri., June 13**

• At PAC, Mountain Theatre presents Forever Plaid at 7:30 p.m. For tickets go to boxoffice@mountaintheatre.com. 828.526.2695

**Sun., June 15**

• At The Ruffed Grouse, Father's Day brunch specials.

• At PAC, Mountain Theatre presents The Marvelous Wonderettes at 2 p.m. For tickets go to boxoffice@mountaintheatre.com. 828.526.2695

**Tues., June 17**

• At the Ruffed Grouse, Guest Chef Dinner Chef Adam Fehrenbacher joins Chef Adam Bresnahan at The Ruffed Grouse for a one-night-only throwback menu that's equal parts elevated and comforting: think pork belly caviar, crawfish hushpuppies, and duck & frog leg gumbo. Tickets ($90+) are now available via Resy.

**Thurs., June 19**

• At Fire Mountain Inn in Scaly Mountain, at 700 Happy Hill Road, a Books and Bluegrass event. Tickets are $75 per person and include live music, food and drink. Tickets are available at the Hudson Library in Highlands or at the Book Worm in Highlands. Music is provided by the Foxfire Boys. Proceeds go to planned improvements to Hudson Library which include an expanded outdoor space.

• Live on Screen at the Martin Lipscomb Theatre at PAC at 5 p.m., GAOS's Florence & The Uffizi Gallery. Box office@highlandsperformingarts.com. 828-526-9047.

**Fri., June 20**

• At Hudson Library, local author Martha Novak will introduce her recently-released mystery-thriller, Blood Mountain, on Friday at 2 PM. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

**Sat., June 21**

• At First Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Coro Vocati Choral Concert at 5pm.

• Low Country Shrimp Boil at KH Hutchiinson Park on Pine Street. Doors open at 5:30; Dinner at 5:45p. $85. Ticket includes Low Country Boil Dinner, Dessert, and two drinks from the Ugly Dog Pub. Rain or Shine. Live music by Spalding McIntosh & The Lionhearts. Tickets available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

**Fri., June 22**

• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with the mayor at 11 a.m. in the meeting room. The topic will be "Town Initiatives and Projects for the Coming Year."

**Wed., June 25**

• At the Ruffed Grouse, LALO Tequila Takeover.

**Fri., 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.

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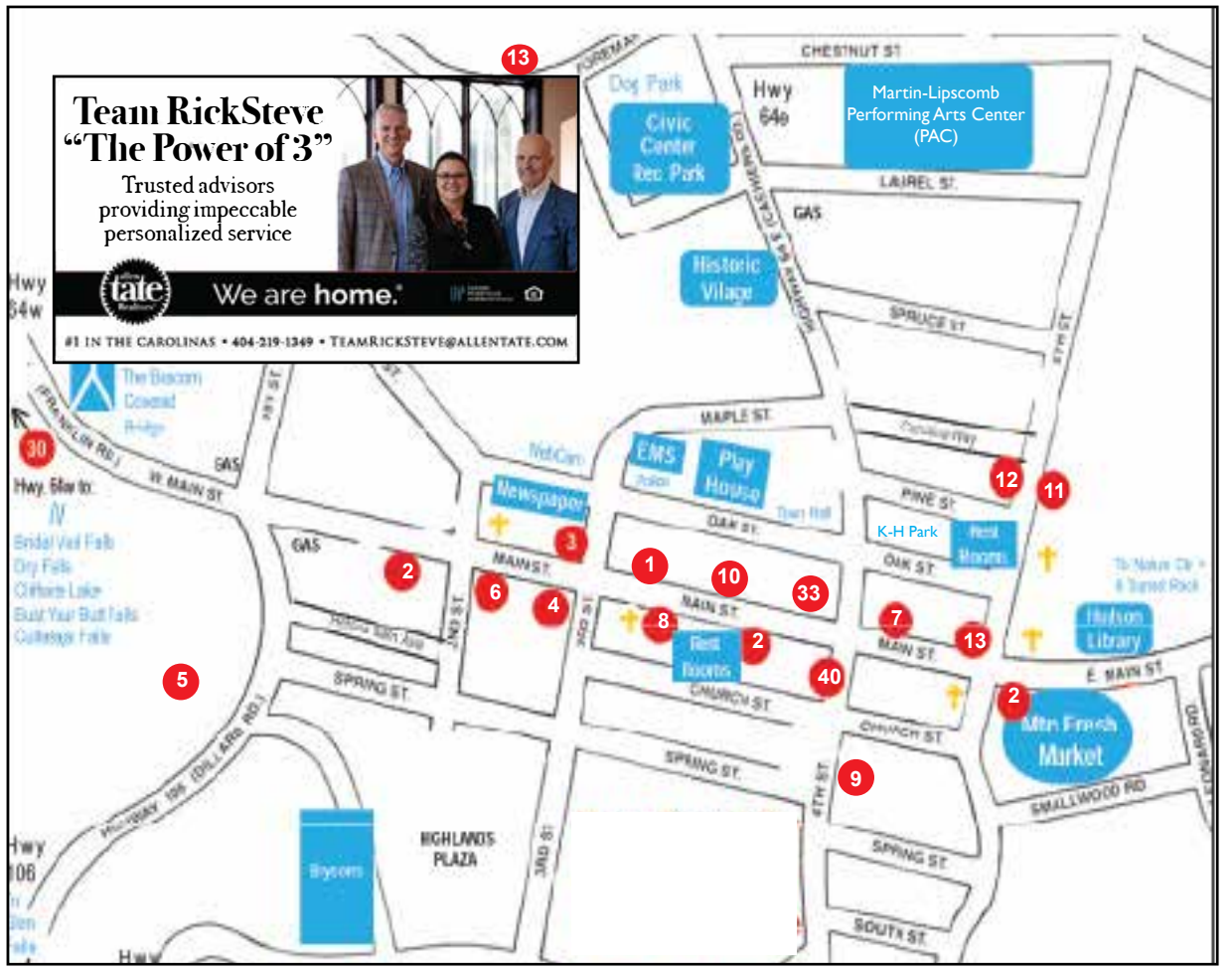


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