

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 22, Number 18

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

Thurs., May 1, 2025

## Town Board sends resolution opposing Omnibus Bill 765 to legislature

By Kim Lewicki

At a special meeting Wed., April 23, commissioners met to finalize a resolution to be sent

to the NC legislature opposing changes to local planning and zoning statutes proposed in Bill 765 – Local Gov't Development

Regulation Omnibus – which will be voted on by May 8.

Municipalities across the

• See **RESOLUTION** page 8

## 'Pickup' rids plateau of 1.5 tons of garbage

Johanna Fein  
Chamber Marketing & Communications Director

Nearly 100 dedicated volunteers came together for the annual Plateau Pickup on Saturday, April 26, collecting more than 1.5 tons of roadside debris and beautifying the Highlands community.

Starting at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, volunteers received assignments to clean designated areas throughout downtown Highlands and along Highways 64, 28, and 106.

After a morning of hard work, participants returned to the park to enjoy a well-earned lunch catered by The Secret Garden and to celebrate their accomplishments.

"This event is a highlight of the year for me," said Kaye McHan, executive director of

• See **GARBAGE** page 11



NC Governor Josh Stein made a special appearance at Highlands' 150th year celebration last Thursday.  
Photo by Kim Lewicki

## HCC hosts Highlands 150-year milestone celebration

By Kim Lewicki

The Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands kicked off Highlands' 150th year anniversary celebration first with banners commemorating the milestone on light posts in the downtown business district and then with a cocktail

party at Highlands Country Club last Thursday evening.

About 80 people turned out for music, cocktails and nibbles to talk, socialize and commiserate on the state of Highlands – its past and its future.

• See **MILESTONE** page 7

### •INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty .....	2	Police and Fire.....	11
Weather .....	2	Service Directory.....	12
Investing at 4, 118 Ft.....	4	Classifieds .....	13
Spiritually Speaking .....	10	Events.....	14

## Hotwire connections are moving steadily along

Seeking contact info for seasonal residents

By Kim Lewicki

At the April Town Board meeting, commissioners heard from Hotwire Communications regarding its progress since the lease agreement between them and the town was signed in September 2021.

Mike Hall, senior director of sales, explained updates, completed communities, work in progress and challenges the company has experienced.

"This summer, it will be three years since we launched supplying 100% fiber drop lines to every home," he said. "But since this is a seasonal town, we have experienced difficulty getting in touch with every homeowner in every neighborhood."

Following cementing the lease agreement, in April of 2022, Hotwire's website and local number was established with new resident orders placed and installments following almost immediately.

As of Spring of 2025, Ho-

twire has 900+ subscribers and nine local employees who work out of the company's office on N. 4th Street and who embody technology leadership, are community focused, and offer concierge level service.

Hall said Hotwire's goal is to connect as many of the 1,100 full-time residents and 3,000 part-time residents as possible.

Since becoming an integral part of Highlands, Hotwire has become a Top Tier Chamber partner, installed wi-fi in the park, has reached out to citizens via newspaper, magazine and social media ads, has completed a Haywood EMC pole agreement, has initiated legacy network migrations, special sales promos for residents, a customer referral program, and Realtor events.

Connections to Highlands' communities include, Brushy Face Preserve, Clear Creek (Rainbow Road, Owl Pine Lane

• See **HOTWIRE** page 5



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### The importance of helping our neighbors



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

I try to keep track of the Helene recovery efforts in other communities in Western North Carolina. It becomes a rather daunting task when one realizes that there are so many wide-ranging problems yet to be fully resolved in the aftermath of this terrible disaster.

Many infrastructure challenges still remain. Roads and bridges need to be rebuilt, and massive amounts of debris remain to be removed. Some of these problems directly impact the tourist economy, which so many communities depend on for jobs and economic vitality. For instance, there is a major effort to remove fallen trees and trash from many pristine rivers and streams before visitors return to fish, canoe, tube, and kayak in these waters. Trails, camp sites, and parks need clearing, also. Beyond the infrastructure challenges, there is the personal toll as folks are still searching for functional housing after losing their homes to the hurricane.

Two prime examples of Helene's impact we've all heard about are Lake Lure and Chimney Rock. The two towns were featured in a recent Asheville Citizen-Times article about how businesses and residents struggle to recover. I have a soft spot in my heart for these two communities because we spent a big family vacation week at Lake Lure last summer before the hurricane hit. Our grandchildren loved the vacation and liked visiting Chimney Rock, the state park there, and, of course, Lake Lure. One of my fondest memories was fishing in the lake and then doing a family fry, like I remember from my childhood in South Georgia. You can't beat Hush Puppies, cheese grits with fried bream, catfish, and bass, all of which we had from the lake.

After reading the article in the Citizens-Times, I realized much of what we enjoyed is now gone. Boats, houses, and docks were damaged and destroyed by the storm. Lake Lure was overwhelmed with debris from the Rocky Board River, so much so that the lake is closed for this season. Chimney Rock was partly destroyed, but due to the people's determination, they are now rebuilding.

That is the bad stuff these two communities are dealing with, but there is hope, as there is a resurgence coming forth. The people and businesses in these two communities, as well as the other impacted communities in WNC, are proud and independent just as we are. They appreciated the outpouring of support they received immediately after the hurricane, but that period is now coming to a close.

Many businesses are now open for business in places like Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, Bat Cave, Canton, Burnsville, Asheville, and Spruce Pine, and more will be ready by Memorial Day. In order to reopen, almost all of their businesses are saddled with debt and major loans. What they need now are customers to get the cash flow going again to pay operating expenses and meet payrolls.

That is where we all can come in to help. Sallie and I, and I hope you, too, will go and visit these impacted communities this season. A visit to a community to have

• See MAYOR page 5

## • SNAPSHOT •





### A rainbow over Harris Lake!



Photo by Pat Gleeson

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

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 1-May	Fri, 2-May	Sat, 3-May	Sun, 4-May
 66°F 54°F	 68°F 52°F	 64°F 47°F	 66°F 41°F
A stray afternoon t-storm	A shower and thunderstorm	Cloudy with a few showers	Mostly sunny
RealFeel® High: 69° Low: 60°	RealFeel® High: 73° Low: 55°	RealFeel® High: 63° Low: 52°	RealFeel® High: 76° Low: 57°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

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

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Highlands, N.C 28741

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT •

### 'This Land is my Land'... 'No, It's My Land!'

Skipping the survey can be like setting off on a road trip without a map — you think you know where you're going until you end up lost, frustrated, and paying a lot more than you planned. And there is no GPS for this! Here's why getting a professional land survey before purchasing real estate is absolutely essential:

#### 1. You Need to Know Exactly What You're Buying

Property lines aren't always as clear as a fence, a row of bushes, or a neighbor's best guess. A survey precisely defines the boundaries of the property — and it might reveal that the beautiful garden you admired actually sits halfway on the neighbor's lot. A survey ensures you know exactly where your land begins and ends, preventing future boundary disputes and costly legal battles. I have seen this happen many times...even fights over tree roots!

#### 2. It Protects You from Unpleasant Surprises

Encroachments, easements, rights of way — these legal terms might sound dry, but they can cause real headaches if you don't know about them beforehand. A survey will show if a neighbor's driveway crosses your property, if a utility company has access rights through your backyard, or if that shed you thought was included in the sale actually isn't. Without a survey, you're flying blind — and once you close, YOU inherit every hidden issue. I've seen it happen!

#### 3. It's Often Required (and Always a Good Idea) for Financing

Many lenders require a current property survey before finalizing a mortgage, especially if there are any questions about property lines or improvements like fences, pools, or new structures. Even if your lender doesn't require it, getting a survey is one of the smartest insurance policies you can have against future problems. It's a modest upfront investment compared to the cost of fixing a major boundary issue later or winding up in a dispute and losing a friendly neighbor friendship. Also, you need a survey for title insurance to protect you. I've seen it happen!

#### 4. It Adds Value to Your Ownership and Future Sale

Having a current, professional survey can make your property more attractive to



Pat Allen BIC  
Allen Tate Realtors  
Pat Allen Realty Group.

future buyers — and it can speed up the closing process when you eventually decide to sell. It shows that you've been a responsible owner who can provide clarity and documentation, and it eliminates potential deal-breakers before they start. I've seen it happen!

#### 5. It Gives You Peace of Mind

Buying real estate should feel exciting — not stressful or risky. A survey gives you the peace of mind that what you see is really what you're getting. It confirms that you're making a secure investment based on facts, not assumptions. A survey isn't just paperwork, it's protection.

Before you sign those closing papers, make sure you know your boundaries — literally and legally. That way, you can enjoy your new property without any unwelcome surprises down the road. I've seen it happen!

Have a wonderful summer here in Highlands with great weather and so many events coming up!

Free, weekly concerts in Town Square and in KH Founders Park on Pine Street begin May 9 and 10, respectively; the farmer's market is open on Saturday mornings in the park; the PAC Center is planning great entertainment along with the Mountain Theater Company; the Bascom exhibits are open to stimulate your artistic side; Bag Pipers will be strolling the town monthly starting May 3 ... and their talent does amaze me.

New and old restaurants are here to feed us and wine shops plan to keep us hydrated and smiling!

Bird Walks and events at the Biological Station are popular, fashion shows are upcoming, and our lovely boutiques are overflowing with the latest and greatest!

There is so much to do and so little time. Welcome to our smalltown slice of Paradise!

• Pat Allen is Broker-in-Charge of Allen-Tate/Pat Allen 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*, a professional speaker, and transformational therapist. She may be reached at 828-200-9179 or [pat.allen@allentate.com](mailto:pat.allen@allentate.com)

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## ...HOTWIRE continued from page 1

and Valentine), RiverWalk, Sanctuary on 1st, Trillium Place, Tudor Hall, Sequoyah Woods, Stonebridge Lane, Helens Barn, Old Highlands Park, Williamsburg Court and Thistle Drive.

Upcoming neighborhoods and projects include: upper and lower Brushy Face, Chestnut Run, Hummingbird Circle, Hammond Road, Hardscrabble Ridge, and an upgrade to Founders Park wi-fi and Main Street wi-fi.

Hall said challenges to completing build-out plans for all of Highlands depends on getting homeowner contact information for seasonal residents which is where the customer referral program comes in.

"We are offering credits to people who can refer neighbors and who can help us get contact information," he said.

Other challenges involve Duke pole

agreements, which is taking longer than expected, getting easements, the terrain and rock as well as weather – rain, wind, snow, ice, lightning and of course the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Hall said Hotwire is experiencing easement challenges on Worley Road, Fairway Villas, Village Walk, Chestnut Run, Brooks Road, and Donald Ross.

He said in several cases presidents of HOA's won't allow Hotwire access despite residents requesting Hotwire. He cited issues in Highgate, Stoney Creek-Dog Mountain and Hummingbird.

Nevertheless, Hotwire is moving forward with its continued commitment to Highlands by boosting the wi-fi in Founders Park, getting wi-fi on Main Street up and running and of course continuing to connect homeowners.

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

lunch and shop on Main Street, even for a day, will help in their recovery; it will be a wonderful visit for everyone.

Now, don't get me wrong, I want folks to visit our town too, but any way we can promote visits to our neighboring communities will be appreciated. After all,

that terrible Hurricane Helene taught us we are all dependent on one another, that is the essence of community.

So, let's help our neighbor and have an enjoyable experience doing so, enjoying this wonderful Western North Carolina we call home.



## Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

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

This Month's Performance:

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



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## SALONS



### "Dynamic Duo"

Monday, June 16 – 5 PM

\$80/person – 20 places

Performing Musicians:

William Ransom and Yinzi Kong  
Hosts: Andrea and Carlton Cole



### "Winds in the Mountains"

Saturday, June 28 – 5 PM

\$80/person – 15 places

Performing Musicians:

James Zellers and Alexandra Prior  
Host: Barbara Guillaume



### "The Monet of Classical Guitar"

Wednesday, July 16 – 5 PM

\$80/person – 25 places

Performing Musician: Sharon Isbin

Hosts: Laura and Steve Harris  
Phyllis and Tom Davis



### "Chee-Yun Dazzles @ The Enchantment!"

Friday, July 18 – 5 PM

\$80/person – 20 places

Performing musicians:

Chee-Yun and William Ransom  
Hosts: Robert Meade  
and Pamela Gore Meade



### Pianist called "electrifying and unforgettable!"

Wednesday, July 30 – 5 PM

\$80/person – 20 places

Performing Musician: Vijay Venkatesh  
Hosts: Gay Graves, Gayle and Earl Dorsey



### "Award Winning Violinist"

Friday, August 1 – 5 PM

\$80/person – 18 places

Performing Musician:

Njioma Grevious  
Hosts: Andrea Saia



### "Festival Favorites!"

Saturday, September 20 – 5 PM

\$80/person – 25 places

Performing Musicians:

Helen Kim and Charae Krueger  
Hosts: Krista and Jim Webb



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## ...MILESTONE continued from page 1



Citizens gathered at HCC to celebrate the Chamber of Commerce and Highlands' 150 years.

Representing the town past and present, were Mayor Pat Taylor and Commissioner Jeff Weller as well as Donnie Calloway and Marc Hehn. Representing the county board of commissioners was John Shearl.

Though invited, Commissioners John Dotson, Amy Patterson, Brian Stiehler and Eric Pierson did not attend.

Though Highlands was officially founded by Samuel Kelsey and Clinton Hutchinson at the convergence of two lines drawn from New York to New Orleans and from Chicago to Savannah in 1875, the plateau was inhabited long before, first by the Cherokee as a hunting ground and later starting in 1844 when Joseph Dobson bought a land grant (today's Highlands) to graze his livestock through the mild winters.

Joining Hobson's caretakers, Hugh and Mary Ann Gibson, were other families with names like Webb, Johnston, Cobb, Russell and others whose families are still around today.

Representing the Chamber/Visit Highlands was President of the Chamber board Blye Hunsinger and Chamber Director Kaye McHan.

Hunsinger categorized the chamber, which started in 1931, as a small voice, but a dynamic organization in support of Highlands' businesses, residents and visitors.

"As we look back 150 years, we want to honor the generations who came before us – the people who carved out the trails, the people who built the homes, the people who open stores and dream about what Highlands could be," he said. "I think all of us here are realizing the greatness that has come today, and I am encouraged about the future."

Director Kaye McHan said celebrating Highlands' 150 years is a celebration of community and progress and standing together through challenges and triumphs. She said celebrating at Highlands Country Club was fitting because for almost a century it has been a cornerstone of Highlands.

Bobby Jones played the course in 1928, she said, "but more than just a golf course, the formation of Highlands Country Club was a turning point of a promise of what Highlands could become and did become – a haven in the mountains, a gathering place, a community rooted in nature, history and hospitality."

"And that's why we chose this location tonight. There is truly no better place to reflect where we've been and to raise a glass to where we are going as we carry the spirit of Highlands forward together," she said.

In a video message, Governor Josh Stein congratulated Highlands for celebrating the 150-year milestone, Kelsey and Hutchinson, who envisioned Highlands as a crossroad for commerce, and the work the chamber does every day.

"Highlands is a jewel in our state and drives tourism with people coming from all over the nation, and the chamber supports your community, strengthens the businesses, and welcomes visitors to a treasured mountain town," he said.

He also said Highlands embodies the best of North Carolina.

"Whether its breathtaking landscapes, its vibrant local businesses or its strong sense of community, I admire your commitment to preserve the past while shaping an even brighter future. Congratulations on 150 years, and here's to the next 150," he said.

## Upcoming Rec Park Gym closures

The Recreation Department Gym will be closed Tuesday, May 6th-11th For Athletic Banquets and Mothers Day Sectional

Bridge Tournament. It will also be closed Friday, May 16-Wednesday, May 21st for the floors to be screened and refinished.

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# ...RESOLUTION continued from page 1

state are being urged by the NC League of Municipalities to oppose the bill because its passage could dismantle local land-use planning and zoning regulations.

An omnibus bill is a single document that is accepted in a single vote by a legislature but packages together several measures into one or combines diverse

subjects. Since it usually takes extensive deliberation, debate and time prior to the adoption of laws, sometimes legislatures consolidate bills into a single omnibus bill for consideration.

Many of the proposed bills in Bill 765 have to do with housing – allowing STRs in all zoning districts with regulations; elimi-

nating down-zoning and non-conforming uses; expanding permitted home businesses; allowing accessory dwelling units to be habitated without parking requirements; expanding middle housing (duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes and townhomes) in residential areas; limiting local government environmental requirements and much more.

At the April Town Board meeting, Commissioner John Dotson requested a resolution be drafted opposing the omnibus bill. At Wednesday's special meeting he presented a resolution similar to the Village of Clemmons' resolution.

In the interim, Commissioner Jeff Weller said he talked to state representatives who said if the bill doesn't pass the House by May 8, it's done and doesn't get another shot. It can be filed again, but generally something has to substantially change for it to be refiled.

"There are several sticking points, apparently, especially when you are trying to push that many bills through when every one of them takes rights away from municipalities," he said.

However, if Bill 765 fails, each of the 14 bills in the omnibus bill would still be considered active and can be voted on separately.

Weller said according to a representative he spoke to, the thought behind Bill 765 is that municipalities statewide are chipping away at property rights.

"He didn't mention Highlands, and though I think this omnibus bill is a grand overreaction to that claim, this is where a lot of this is stemming from," he said. "I

was also told that any text changes could be sent to senators Jarvis and Moffitt."

Mayor Pat Taylor said he has heard it said that some municipalities are "bad actors."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she didn't want to dissect the bill, but it sounds like it's being pushed because people are saying "If it's not way, it's wrong and I'm going to stand up for me and only me."

"The state is saying, 'we're not even going to listen to the citizens, we're just going to tell you what to do,'" she said. "They don't go through the process we go through in listening to our citizens."

Mayor Taylor said it comes down to property rights.

"If we have to allow five buildings per acre, then we will have the citizens in that neighborhood coming in and saying, 'I bought because it's one acre and now with this proliferation of houses, what about my property rights?'"

Commissioner Eric Pierson said it's the board's job to balance that act.

"I see what they're [the legislature] is saying, but we are also trying to protect citizens and their rights," he said.

Commissioner Patterson said mandating density on parcels is problematic, especially for Highlands.

"Our roads can't be widened, our parking can't be extended, our water system and sewer system can't be expanded. So, mandating that we can put five houses on one acre, isn't reasonable because we have to provide water for that," she said. "We have a limited water supply. We are at the top of the mountain so whatever falls out of the sky is all we get on our specific watershed. The fact that we can't put in sewer lines and water lines because of rock – it's not reasonable for us to be mandated with that many infrastructure concerns."

She said local governments understand those kinds of limitations not the legislature.

"What can be done on the coastal plain or the piedmont isn't necessarily what can be done in the mountains. And what's right here isn't necessarily right for the coastal plains," she said.

Commissioner Weller said he agreed with that but some of the pieces of some of the bills are worth considering.

"I completely disagree with 95% of these proposed bills but there are little pieces and parts I like. For instance, SB 291 regarding STRs is actually stricter than our ordinance. In ours, in a three-

• See RESOLUTION page 9



## Spring Wine Tasting

Wednesday, May 7 from 5-7 p.m. at The Secret Garden  
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**...RESOLUTION continued from page 8**

bedroom house, we allow two people per bedroom plus two. SB 291 says two per bedroom, period, and one off-street parking place per bedroom. It's actually stricter. The only difference – a huge difference – is grandfathering, which is irrelevant and anyone can have an STR.”

The resolution begins, “WHEREAS, 14 bills introduced in the 2025 session of the North Carolina General Assembly change many aspects of local planning and zoning and dramatically reduce the ability of local governments, including the Town of Highlands, to reflect the will of their citizenry. These bills include HB 9 Firearm Discharge/Preempt Local Ordinance, H 372 Home-Based Business Fairness Act, HB 369 Parking Lot Reform and Modernization, HB 627 Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units, HB 661 Building Industry Efficiency Act, HB 765 Local Government Development Regulations/Omnibus, SB 291 Regulation of Short-Term Rentals, SB 493 Land Use Clarification and Changes, SB 495 Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units, SB 497 Expand Mid-

dle Housing, SB 499 Allow Housing Near Jobs, SB 587 Clarify Nonconforming Uses, SB 713 Limit Local Government Environmental Requirements, and SB 736 Foundation Act Building NC’s Housing Future.”

It continues, and “WHEREAS, local governments with input of their citizens can best recognize and enforce the need for planning and zoning ordinances; and WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands is best suited to represent its citizens on local matters; and WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands should decide planning and zoning issues with the help of its wise and informed citizens.”

The resolution ends, “Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands strongly urge the North Carolina General Assembly to leave planning and zoning decisions to the locally elected councils and their citizens and that the North Carolina General Assembly seek input from all elected bodies in the state about each of these 15 bills that reduce or eliminate citizen input and local government authority.”

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## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



### Spiritual Awakening of Faith to Obtain Life

**Michael D. Matlock**  
Rector

Christ Anglican Church

Postmodern thought, the spirit of our age, has a new conception of humanity and our ethical condition. To avoid any conflict between ethical absolutism and relativism, postmodern theory offers a complex construction of plural ethical options. There is no single most important or ultimate value (except that there is not one!), nor can values be ranked in a stable or universal hierarchy, nor is there a single principle or source of truth. In post-modern thought, everything is fragmented, and exhibit A would be human sexuality and more broadly the ethics of human relationships.

Modernity extolled the great lonely individual, the all-powerful "I," in the proud assertion, "I am the master of my fate. . . the captain of my soul." But postmodernity has deconstructed the "I" as the self becomes a floating signifier, an organism of conflicting forces and impulses. Deconstructing arrogant "enlightened" modern artistic, cultural, philosophical, and even religious thought was a necessary corrective to the all-powerful "I." However, one unclean spirit has been replaced with a myriad of unclean spirits (Matthew 12:43-45)!

Yet, one tendency of postmodernity that might assist in cultivating healthy, genuine biblical spirituality is searching for the authentic divine Presence. One of the great Christian contemplatives of last century once said that with God a little sincerity goes a long, long way. When we speak with the heart, God is listening. Our heartfelt sincerity echoes the sense of God's infinite sincerity towards us that we see embodied in the teachings and the life of Jesus. In the teachings of Jesus, in all that he said, there was no posing or posturing. There is nothing contrived or manipulative about the true Messiah. Everything comes directly from Jesus' heart and his dependency upon the Father. This kind of devotional sincerity and devotional oneness with God resonates in his words. It also awakens our sense of being in the presence of God.

When we soak ourselves in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), the rest of the Holy Scriptures, and the Great Tradition of the Church, we can begin to experience God who is a loving infinite Presence and has poured God's self out for us. Our greatest dignity as human beings is not the gift of reason that distinguishes us from the animals. Rather, our greatest God-given capacity is to be awakened to a spiritual experience which is found in the gift of faith in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Find your authentic self, your true vocation and purpose in this life: slow down, be still, and listen to God (Psalm 46:10). Turn to Jesus the Messiah for your spiritual awakenings of delightful freedom in his life. God's love is always offered, never imposed (the unessential constantly imposes itself on us). He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Through his grace and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus will lead us back to our loving and redeeming Creator God. Be raised to life, now and eternally, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you desire to talk about your spiritual journey, I invite you to reach out to me at [fathermichael@christanglicancashiers.org](mailto:fathermichael@christanglicancashiers.org).

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
828-269-3546 • Rev. 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](mailto:CAC@christanglicancashiers.org) • 828-743-1701  
Sunday: 9a Fellowship; Adult Christian Ed; 9:15a; 9:30a  
Holy Eucharist; Wed. Bible Study & Compline Prayer 5p

**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS**  
Pastor Jacob Tedder • [Jacob@cashiers.church](mailto:Jacob@cashiers.church) • 743-5470  
[www.cashiers.church](http://www.cashiers.church)  
Sun. 10:45a; Wed Study 5:15p 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: 11 a.m.  
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
[www.cbchighlands.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.fbchighlands.org)  
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Emily Wilmarth, pastor, Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor  
828-526-3175 • [fpchighlands.org](http://fpchighlands.org)  
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.  
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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**HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p  
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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

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

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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Rev. Ken Langsdorf

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Pastor Zane Talley  
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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**  
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**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**  
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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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

## April 17

• A little past midnight, Hunter S. Poginy, 27, of Highlands was arrested for DUI and exceeding the speed limit when he was stopped on Picklesimer Road. He was issued a \$500 unsecured bond. His trial date is May 28.

• At 1:30 p.m., damage to property was reported at the Highlands Emergency Council on Poplar Street where a personal object valued at \$800 was run over by a vehicle.

• At 9:55 p.m., Uriel Nicodemos Rivera Villa, 29 of Franklin, was arrested for DUI, Driving without a license and exceeding the speed limit when he was pulled over on US 64 west (Franklin Road). He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond. His trial date is May 28.

## April 23

• At 8 a.m., a non-force breaking and entering and damage to property valued at \$500 was reported at a residence on Leonard Road.

• At 1:16 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 south where the driver drove off the road.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 22.**

## April 22

**...GARBAGE continued from page 1**

• At 12:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a "good intentions" call at a residence on Hilltop Drive.

## April 23

• At 1:15 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Thistle Drive.

• At 2:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 10:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 10:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafrass Court.

## April 25

• At 2:40 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 7:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Leonard Road.

• At 11:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

• At 10 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

## April 26

• At 10:06 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ Top.

• At 10:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Robin Hood Lane.



## Outdoor Concert Series

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

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



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MAY 17

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MAY 24

Mo Money

MAY 31

The Holiday Band



The 'pickup' started and ended in KH-Founders Park on Pine Street.

the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC. "It truly showcases the pride and dedication our community has in protecting and preserving the natural beauty of Highlands."

The Plateau Pickup is organized annually by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands NC, with vital partnership and logistical support from the Macon County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Forest Service, North Carolina Department of

Transportation, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Town of Highlands, and Town of Highlands Police Department.

The Chamber also extends its gratitude to local businesses and organizations whose volunteers made the event possible, including Highlands Cashiers Hospital, Highlands Plateau Greenway, Mountain Garden Club, Mountaintop Rotary and Old Edwards Hospitality Group.

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## Hurricanes host and win Spring Invitational at home

Steve Hott, Head Coach  
Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team

On Saturday, April 26, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team concluded its winter season and hosted its annual Spring Invitational. In attendance were the North Georgia Rapids, and the Jackson County Dolphins. The Hurricanes won 434 to 375, to 211, respectively.

Two Hurricanes broke team records at the meet. Dodo Zhang broke both 1,000 freestyle record set in 2018 by Elias McKim and 200 backstroke record set by Chase Kenter in 2023.

Emma Denisoff broke the girls 200 backstroke record previously set by Alyse Remery in 2023.

The 31 Hurricanes were led by Jr. Olympians Dodo Zhang and Bella Batista who each won four events and scored 28 pts. Fellow Jr. Olympians Justin Powell, Elizabeth Burnett and Emilina Hernandez each won three events scoring 26, 26 and 25 points, respectively. Annabelle (AB) Searles and Ben Shchelgachov scored 24 pts. Searles won three events Shchelgachov two.

Emma Denisoff won two events and scored 19 points. Ian Batista, Anna Shchelgachov, and Katherine Wise scored 17 points with 1, 2 and 3, 2nd place finishes, respectively. Senna Sherrill, and Agatha Justin each won a race and scored 15 pts. Ivan Shchelgachov, Lucas Zabrian,

Emily Mason and Jr. Olympian/Swimmer/Coach Layla Babac scored 14 pts. Babac finished 2nd twice, Shchelgachov and Mason once. Jayce Powell, Andre Jimenez, and Jr. Olympian Alex Lopez all scored 13 pts. Powell had two seconds, and Lopez and Jimenez one. Kate Vanderweile sang the National Anthem to start the meet, scored 11 pts and had a 2nd place finish. Max Jestinsored 9 pts, Hannahiah Edwards 7. Harper Bresnahan contributed 6 pts and a 3rd place finish to the cause, while Benji Vines, Nikita Denisoff and Jr. Olympian Aleks Petric-Saconjic scored 5 pts. Vines and Denisoff each had a 3rd place finish. Azariah Edwards had 4 pts. and a 3rd place finish; Stella Kerr had 2 pts; Tenzin Lama (in her first ever swim meet) and Nehemiah Edwards each scored a point.

This concludes the winter season for the Highlands Hurricanes. Though the elite swimmers will continue to train, most of the Hurricanes will take a May off and start back the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a Highlands Recreation Park team that practices in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to participate is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the pool) unassisted. For further information please call 828.421.4121.

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**• 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 Thurs. 3:30-7pm, 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),

**MOVIES**

- No Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street thru May.

**MOUNTAIN FINDINGS**

- Open: 10 am - 1 pm, May 2-3, 9-10, 16-17. And May 22-24 and May 29-31. 452 Spruce Street. [www.mountainfindings.org](http://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](http://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. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Call the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

**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 Meet-

ing 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 information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at [budandlynn@me.com](mailto: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@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

**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 call 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 apps 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 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 Method-

ist 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](mailto:ncpost370@gmail.com) for more information or just join us at 9am .

**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).

**May-Sept.**

- Beginning Wed. May 7, Farmers Market every Wednesday May-Sept. at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage building in Franklin at 51 Cowee School Dr.

- Outdoor Concert Series. Every Friday and Saturday evening 6-8:30 p.m. in Town Square and KH Founders Park.

**Thurs.-Sat., May 1-3**

- The 14th annual 3 River Fly Fishing Festival tournament with proceeds going to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. The weekend includes lunches, opening night reception and closing night banquet with dinner and prizes. To register go to [3riverflyfish.com](http://3riverflyfish.com)

**Fri., - Sun. May 2-4**

- At PAC, Educational Theatre performance, Matilda. Box office@ [highlandsp Performingarts.com](http://highlandsp Performingarts.com). 828-526-9047.

**Sat., May 3**

- The Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau will be hosting its free May Fest event at the Club's headquarters on Frank Allen Road in Cashiers on Saturday from 12 to 3p.m.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival presents their FREE Spring Residency Concert with the Katarina Quartet Saturday at 5p at the First Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

**Wed., May 7**

- At The Secret Garden in Village Square, Spring Wine Tasting 5-7 p.m. \$40 per person. Small bites included. Call for reservations: Call (828) 305-7509 or 828-332-0224.

**Thurs., May 8**

- Live on Screen at the Martin Lipscomb Theatre at PAC at 5 p.m., GAOS's Munch: Love, Ghosts and Lady Vampires. Box office@ [highlandsp Performingarts.com](http://highlandsp Performingarts.com). 828-526-9047.

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