

# Highlands Newspaper

Happy Mother's Day!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 19, Number 18 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., May 5 2022

## Bear signage to go up on area trails

Since nuts and berries are yet to ripen, hungry bears are prowling at all times of the day and night. Chicken coops have been demolished and chickens and eggs eaten; the required bear-resistant trash cans at resi-

dents' homes in town have been knocked over and hikers and their dogs are meeting bears on trails. Consequently, the B.E.A.R. Taskforce is striving to educate and re-educate residents and visitors about bear-human protocol.

At the April Town Board meeting, Cynthia Strain of the B.E.A.R. Taskforce got permission to affix new "Bear Rules" decals on the bear-proof trash cans in town as well as permission to erect Bear

• See BEAR SIGNS page 27

## Highlands PD catch vandals in the act

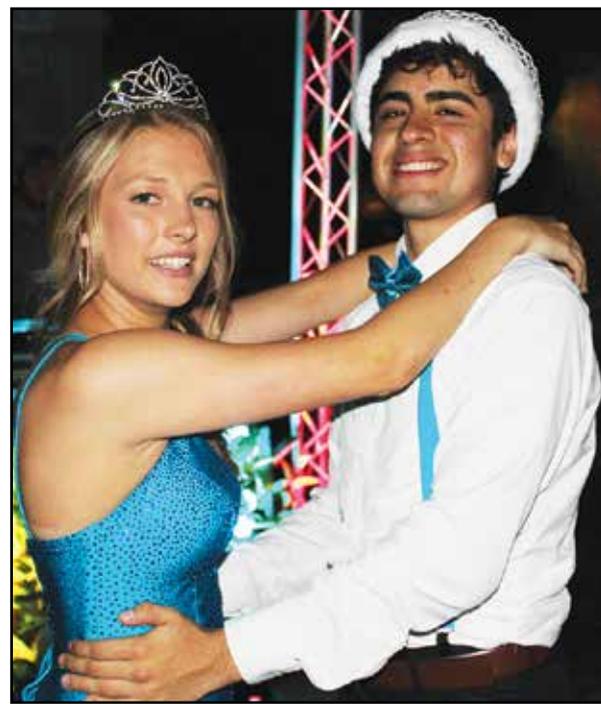
Officers were able to catch two juvenile suspects the evening of Friday, April 29, believed to be involved in several vandalism incidents which have occurred throughout town.

According to police reports, Sergeant Parker and Master Officer Cherry located the two juveniles entering the public restroom on Pine Street. When they approached, the juveniles began to leave the area and were stopped by officers. Graffiti was found in the restroom and one of the juveniles admitted to drawing it and having done other graffiti in the past.

The juveniles were released to parents and the Department of Juvenile Justice will be contacted regarding legal action for

• See VANDALS page 10

## Seniors named HS Val & Sal AND King & Queen for the night



Seniors Hayley Borino and Jeffrey Olvera were crowned Queen and King at the prom held at Highlands Country Club's Hudson House Sat., April 23. (See photos on page 13) and on Monday, May 2 Olvera was named Valedictorian and Borino was named Salutatorian.

– Photos by Sunset Staff

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## Primary Candidate Forum – Part 4 Get to know your Clerk of Superior Court candidates

This is the 4th and final part of our Primary Candidate Forum.

Part 1 featured the two Republican candidates running for District 1 in the County Commission race. ([www.highlandinfo.com/PDFs/22april14.pdf](http://www.highlandinfo.com/PDFs/22april14.pdf))

Part 2 featured five Republican candidates running for 2 seats in District 2. (See [www.highlandinfo.com/PDFs/22april21.pdf](http://www.highlandinfo.com/PDFs/22april21.pdf))

Part 3 featured four of the five candidates running for Sheriff's Office. Candidate Chris Browning didn't reply to questions in time for publication. (22april28.pdf ([highlandinfo.com](http://highlandinfo.com)))

As of Tuesday morning, 1,143 voters in Macon County have cast their ballot during early voting ahead of the May 17 Primary election. Of those who have voted, 1,015 Republicans have voted and 128 Democrats have voted.

Early voting continues daily from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during the week until May 13th with Saturday voting being available from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. until May 14th.

Running for Clerk of Court is Shawna Thun Lamb, Justin Stamey and Michael Trammel.

### Shawna Thun Lamb

Shawna Thun Lamb and her husband Jimmy have two children, Kilee and Kehler. After graduating from Franklin High School, Lamb attended Southwestern Community College, obtaining two Associates Degrees in Criminal Justice and Computer Information Systems with various certificates of achievement and completion including Cyber Security. While in college, Lamb completed internships with the Clerk of Court office, community ser-

• See CLERK page 12

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### AG Stein has his sights on HCA

Last Thursday I went to Asheville to participate in a round table moderated by North Carolina Attorney General, Josh Stein. The Attorney General came to Asheville to assess the state of healthcare, especially to see how the 2018 sale of Mission Healthcare to HCA was progressing.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

There were about forty participants at the round table. State elected officials like Senator Julie Mayfield and Representative John Ager were present. Senator Mayfield played a key role in organizing the meeting. There were other mayors present including Ester Mannheim from Asheville, Maureen Copelof from Bevard. Former doctors from the Mission system participated as well the president of the Mission Nurses Union. A representative of Blue Cross attended, and a number of representatives of nonprofits in the health and social welfare fields participated. There were representatives from HCA also.

I did not go to the meeting to complain about our hospital or bash HCA. Frankly, I believe our hospital has good leadership

and is making improvements in serving our community. While I acknowledge there are issues throughout the Mission system, I have also received feedback from some friends who have had good outcomes at Mission. Nevertheless, feedback from the doctors, nurses and stakeholders about HCA/Mission was problematic and sobering.

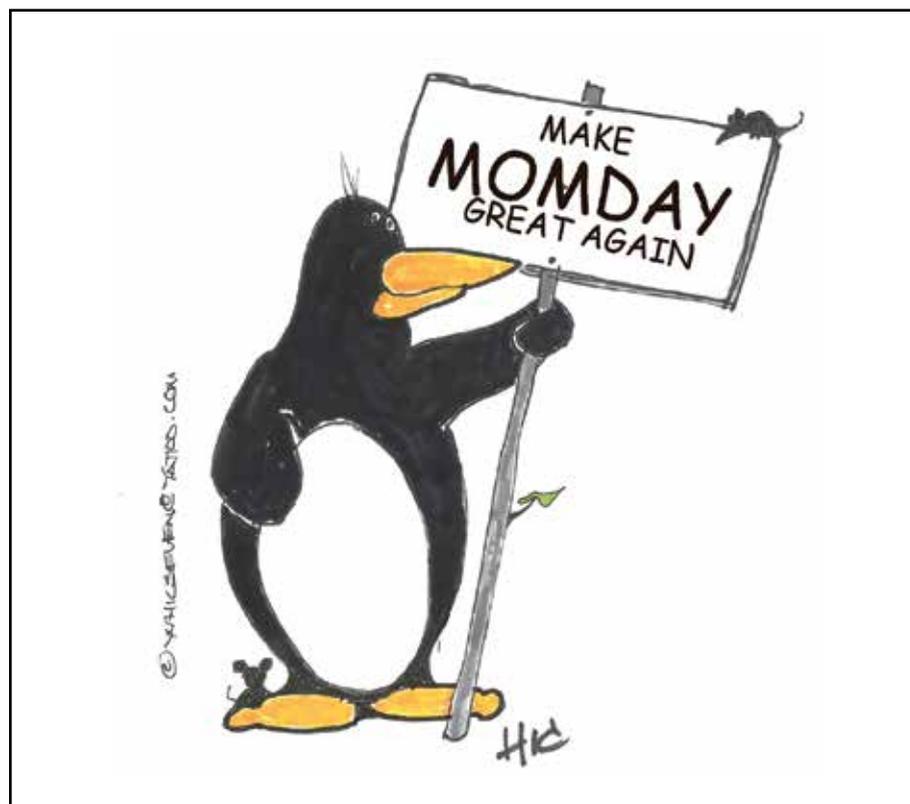
Attorney General Stein opened the meeting with a review of his approval of the sale of Mission to HCA. During the approval process Stein negotiated some important concessions and commitments from HCA. Nevertheless, he pointed out that under North Carolina statues his approval authority was limited. The attorney general stated that more of these large healthcare mergers will continue throughout the country, as well as in North Carolina. He is asking everyone to support legislative changes to the statues where he and future attorney generals will have more authority in approving these mega mergers.

He also emphasized that when these mergers take place, costs to patients increase at least 12.5% while services tend to diminish. He stated the Mission HCA merger was done very fast, and not enough time was given for public and stakeholder input. Many people at the round table agreed with the attorney general's observations.

The other item Attorney General Stein addressed was the expansion of Medicaid to cover more uninsured North Carolinians. He believes the legislature should expand Medicaid so the state will receive federal funds to cover the uninsured. The representative from Blue Cross agreed. He pointed out that folks coming to a hospital without insurance simply drive up premiums for those people who do have insurance.

I made two points at the round table. First, while there is a monitoring system in place that analyzes spread sheets and metrics, a system needs to be developed where experts actually communicate with healthcare stakeholders, i.e. patients, doctors and staff, to assess the actual situation on the ground so to speak. Second, I thanked the attorney general for his insistence in the ap-

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 5-May	Fri, 6-May	Sat, 7-May	Sun, 8-May
			
74°F 56°F	68°F 51°F	65°F 48°F	68°F 45°F
Clouds and sun	A heavy t-storm in the p.m.	An afternoon thundershower	Partly sunny
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 81° Low: 59°	High: 70° Low: 58°	High: 69° Low: 54°	High: 76° Low: 58°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

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

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

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

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

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## • LETTERS •

### We love 'life on the sunny side!'

Dear Editor,

I wanted to let you know how much we enjoy Kenny Youmans column "On the Sunnyside." He is a wealth of information on so many topics and his articles are a wonderful way of sharing it Keep 'em Coming!

Patricia Ramsey  
Highlands

### Inflation hurts consumers and small businesses

Is inflation eating into your budget? Is your small business struggling to stay open? High prices at the grocery checkout or the gas pump are likely the result of huge corporations passing along costs to you because they can.

Sure, there are other factors affecting the economy such as supply chain issues and restrictions due to the war in Ukraine. But more and more data show that big corporations are passing along any new costs to consumers and then some.

Consider the price of meat. Did you know that the majority of meat processing (beef, chicken, and pork) is controlled by four giant corporations (Cargill, Tyson, JBS, National Beef Packing Co)? When these corporations control that much of the market, they also control prices. Instead of absorbing new costs, they hike up prices and in return make more and more money for their shareholders. These four corporations reported a 120% collective jump in their gross profits since the pandemic.

What about toilet paper? Three corporations (Proctor & Gamble, Kimberly Clark and Georgia-Pacific) produce 80% of U.S. toilet paper. These corporations reap record profits, all the while passing along costs to consumers, because they can.

If you have an Amazon Prime membership, then prepare to pay 16% more this year. Amazon says it is because of increased costs and inflation. This rationale seems pretty flimsy for a company that reported gross profits of \$197.48 BILLION in 2021. That is \$197,480,000,000 in profits in just one year. And it's a 29.3% increase over profits reported for 2020.

When is enough profit enough? Consumers are hurting. The same applies for small businesses, too.

Huge corporations are raising prices BECAUSE THEY CAN, because they have no competition. They are hurting consumers, small businesses and the US economy all the while reaping higher and higher profits than ever before. Think about that the next time you pay for groceries.

Jean Wright  
Franklin

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## Should you or shouldn't you buy a fixer-upper?

With such a shortage of inventory these days a fixer-upper may be a good bet for those wanting to buy. The key is to know exactly what you are buying. A good home inspector, an

engineer to check the foundation, and two contractors to give estimates are critical and worth the investment spent on them. Ask for references, call and interview them, before making your selection.

In regards to your potential home, you will need to know the age of the electrical wiring, the age of the roof, the age of the HVAC, and make sure the septic permit on record with the county allows for the number of bedrooms you expect to have. Previous work permits can also be verified.

I have seen two transactions fall apart because permits weren't applied for and therefore there was no inspection by the county to approve the work. One house I had under contract with a buyer ended up having no permits -- the floors were sagging and the stone fireplace was not supported. Many other items needed major repairs and corrections. We later found out the builder who did the work was not licensed, and it ended up costing the sellers \$160,000 to correct the issues before the house could be sold!

This is where a good and honest broker can advise you and make recommendations. We know builders and their sub-contractors, handymen, and landscapers. If you live out of town, we can check on your home to make sure the work is being done. As we have all been made aware, contractors, subs, and builders are booked up for months. So, factor that in and always prepare for additional costs because until you delve into it you don't really know what is hidden behind



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

the walls and underneath the floors. And in reality, it's not as easy as Chip and Joanna Gaines make it look.

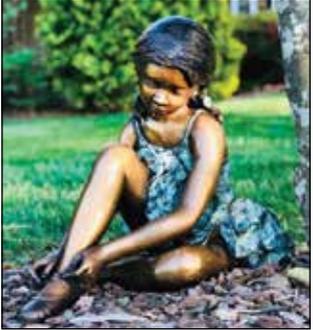
The location of the home is also very important. Make sure the chosen neighborhood supports the costs involved so you can sell and make a profit when you decide to move. If you are buying with the idea of renting, make sure the restrictive covenants in the HOA allow it and know the number of days allowed. We are all aware of the con-

troversy for in-town short-term-rentals in Highlands proper. That issue has still not been resolved. Ask your broker to keep you informed.

Do I think it's worth buying a fixer-upper and redoing it? Yes, I do, because most of our buyers want to walk in and not have to update kitchens and baths etc. So, take the diamond in the rough and create a little jewel!

• *Pat Allen is Broker-in-Charge of Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group. She is consistently a top producer on the plateau and is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist. She has been the #1 team in sales with Julie Osborn. She may be contacted at pat.allen@allentate.com or her cell: 828-200-9179. Her main office is located at 295 Dillard Road and the second office is located at 5121 Cashiers Road at the entrance to Wildcat Cliffs County Club.*

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### Julie Osborn

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## ...VANDALS continued from page 1

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## • MILESTONES •

### Jenkins is inducted into Honor Society

On Friday, April 22, 2022, Casey Jenkins was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honor Society for being in the top 20% of graduate business school students at Penn State Behrend, Black School of Business. Casey was a 2009 graduate of Highlands School, is currently the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Port X Logistics and continues with her second Master's Degree at Penn State.



### Harry Bears turns 60!



This past weekend, Harry and Michelle Bears went to Cocoa Beach, FL where they set sail for the Bahamas to celebrate Harry's 60th birthday with 18 friends and family members. Harry and Michelle own Southern Way, The Toy Store and Bags on Main in Highlands.



## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

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**DIRECTIONS:** Hwy 28 South to right on Sassafras Gap Rd. Go almost to bottom of the hill and turn right on Hidden Springs. Go to end of road where it is paved, then go up hill to house.

**HOSTED BY: JOHN BYNUM & FAYE WURM**

John: 828.200.0144 | Faye: 828.200.1345

OFFICE: 2334 Cashiers Road, Highlands, NC



## ...MAYOR continued from page 1

proval process that there be an operation guarantee of 10 years for the smaller outlying hospitals, rather than the initial proposal of only 5 years. Put in perspective, HCA took over Mission in February of 2019. If the first five year proposal had gone through, Highlands and the other smaller communities would be facing hospital closures at early as 2 years from now. The at-

torney general's 10 year requirement gives these communities 7 more years from now which hopefully is time to improve operations and services.

The big challenge will be for Mission to continue to provide services and residents to support and use their local hospital and healthcare system.

# • ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

## The history of Mother's Day

Mother's Day was started by Anna Jarvis in 1908 to honor her mother. She actually started Mother's Day in the 1800s to teach young mothers how to take care of their children. She was a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War.

Anna Jarvis wanted to keep the tradition going in honor of her mother. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day held on the 2nd Sunday in May as a national holiday to honor mothers.

Yes, we all go home to mother  
When the day is near it's close  
For 'tis there we get our comfort  
And a balm for all our woes.  
How we need her to be with us!  
For her counsel we would fly,  
For we feel the need of mother  
Every day that passes by.

There's none else can so determine  
What all our needs is best.  
None so truly sympathizes  
When we are facing some great test.  
In our days of early childhood  
We felt no need of other,  
But brought our troubles and our joys  
And emptied them on mother.



**Kenny Youmans**

She it was who kissed our bruises,  
Binding up each cut and sprain;  
Gladly she'd have borne our suffering,  
Freeing us from ache and pain.  
Her smiles would chase away our tears,  
With her the sun was shining;  
It mattered not if clouds were black,  
She saw the silver lining.

And always so very gentle,  
With her hand upon our brow;  
She would speak the words of wisdom  
Just like the benedictions now  
Oh, how she loved us everyone,  
We can never quite forget  
Such love as hers can know no end  
But, lingers with us yet

The years have come, the years have gone  
And mother is now sleeping,  
Her place is vacant in our home  
Sad vigil we are keeping  
The bit of comfort we do find,  
We'd swap it for no other,  
We'll pledge ourselves to live like her  
And then – go home to mother

– Written by Jane's grandmother 1942

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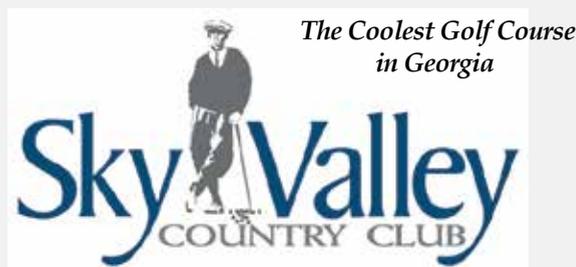


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## ...CLERK continued from page 1



Shawna Thun Lamb

vice program and probation office.

Lamb has worked in the Macon County Clerk of Court office for over 21 years with experience in criminal, bonds, jury, civil, juvenile and DSS matters/cases, but mainly in District and Superior Criminal court. Lamb has a strong work ethics and uphold the laws of the State of North Carolina.

“I see this as an opportunity to better myself and provide qual-



Justin Stamey

ity service to the people of Macon County,” said Lamb. “My background in the judicial system and the working relationships that I’ve established give me knowledge and perspective that will aid my ability to perform as Clerk. With my training, certifications from the State, and years of hands-on experience, I’m confident that I know the job and can make positive improvements for our community and office.”

### Justin Stamey

Justin Stamey is a proud Maconian who graduated from Franklin High School in 2008. He attended Southwestern Community College before transferring to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Stamey graduated in 2013 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Criminal Justice, making me the first member in his family to graduate from a four-year school. That same year, Stamey was nominated by Macon County’s current Clerk of Superior Court Vic Perry, and was appointed by the Chief Superior Court Judge, to become North Carolina’s youngest Magistrate Judge at the age of 23. For over eight years, Stamey has had the honor and responsibility to serve the citizens of Macon County as both a Criminal and Civil Magistrate. In that time Stamey has acquired over 30 judiciary certifications, seven of which are job specific to be the next Clerk of Superior Court. Those certifications are Estates, Incom-



Michael (Mike) Trammel

petency, Guardianship, Adoptions, Chapter 49 Foreclosures, Name Changes and Legitimations. Stamey also has direct experience from the judge’s bench hearing and adjudicating over 400 civil cases.

Stamey is married to his wife Erika Stamey and together, they have one son Aaron Stamey, born last December. Stamey and his family attend Discover Church and enjoy being involved in multiple community outreach opportunities which include helping local foster families and children, the Pregnancy Care Center, CareNet and REACH. Stamey is also a proud Rotarian with the Franklin Rotary Club and has volunteered in years past as a Little League Baseball coach.

“This community has always been home and I am dedicated and committed to the citizens of Macon County,” said Stamey. “I am running for this position because I want to provide the citizens of Macon County with a more efficient and effective Judiciary for which they deserve. I have the knowledge and experience to your next Ex Officio Judge of Probate and I am day one ready to move the docket of cases the Elected Clerk hears and adjudicates forward. These cases include Estates, Incompetency and Guardianships, Adoptions, Foreclosures and Legitimations just to name a few. I will also have

• See CLERK page 18

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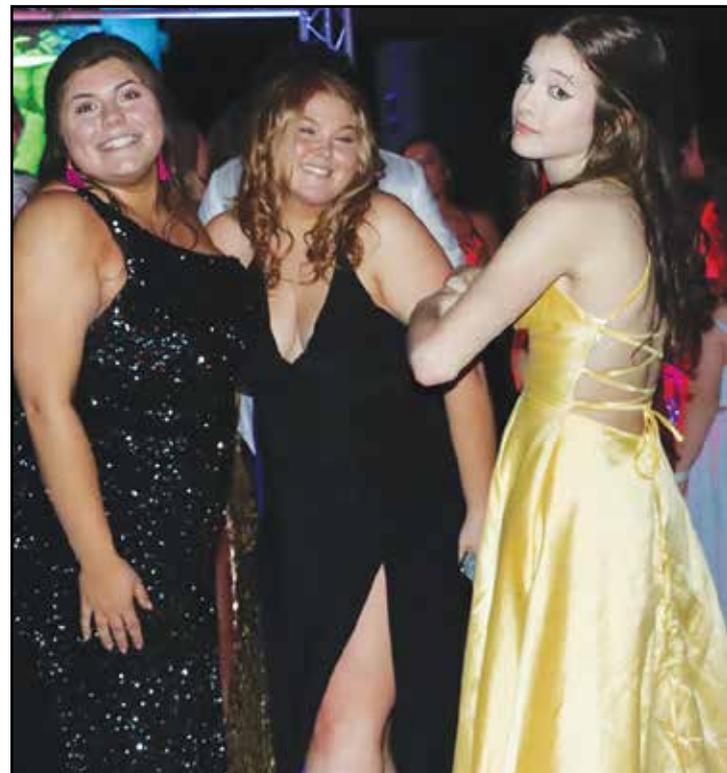


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Each Class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.

# Highlands School Prom - Saturday, April 23



# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## Experience MATTERS

### Shawna Thun Lamb for Clerk of Court

#### EXPERIENCE:

- 21 years in the Clerk of Courts office.
- Knowledge of office's strengths & weaknesses.
- Established relationships in the Judicial System.
- Valued relationships with the public.

#### GOALS:

- Improve efficiency.
- Focus on the public.



## VOTE Shawna Thun Lamb Clerk of Court on May 17th.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Shawna Thun Lamb for Clerk.

Read Highlands Newspaper in its entirety from wherever you are at [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com).

Click on Local News.

Each week's issue is uploaded in PDF format every Thursday AM. It's the exact same issue that is available on the streets.

## Chestnut Hill,

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For further information call Linda Tiffany at 828-526-5251 or 904-514-4896 [www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com](http://www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com)

#### **Rec Pool Schedule:**

- Lap Swim Monday-Friday 6am-10am, Monday and Thursday 11:15am-7pm and Tuesday and Wednesday 11:15am-3:30pm 6 lanes AND 3:30-7 (shared Pool) and Saturday 10-11am 6 lanes. Adult Swim Monday-Thursday 11:15am-7pm. Call ahead for Public Swim Weekend schedule due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

#### **Pickle Ball**

- There are three indoor Pickle Ball courts and six outdoor Court open once again. Pickle Ball will be played in the gym every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1:pm (days and times have changed).

#### **Nature Center Spring Hours**

- Friday & Saturday: 10 AM to 4 PM. Closed: Sunday - Thursday

#### **Mondays**

- ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit [www.maconncliteracy.org](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call 828-526-0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

#### **Second Mondays**

- The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

#### **Tuesdays**

- Covid-19 Testing at Village Green in Cashiers every Tuesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at [lhi.care/covidtesting](http://lhi.care/covidtesting).

#### **Wednesdays**

- Covid-19 Testing at Highlands Community Building every Wednesday from 9-5. Walk-ins accepted, but you can schedule an appointment by calling (877) 562-4850 or going on line at [lhi.care/covidtesting](http://lhi.care/covidtesting).

#### **Mon-Fri**

- Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11am.

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

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

#### **Mon. & Wed.**

- Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body.

- New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

mation, call Anna 267-825-0716.

#### **Mon. & Thurs,**

- Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 pm \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call 828.349.2081.

#### **Mon, Wed, Thurs**

- Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 am-1 pm.

#### **Mon, Wed, Fri**

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 am.

#### **1st Tuesdays**

- Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

#### **Tuesdays**

- Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

#### **Tues. & Thurs.**

- Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas

- New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.

- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different types of exercise.

#### **Thursdays**

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

- Free Covid vaccination clinics – 9 am to 5pm at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Location subject to change. please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptumserve.com/covid19> or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

#### **Every Fri., Sat. & Sun.**

- 1st run movies at the Playhouse on Oak Street. 1 and 4 p.m. [www.mountaintheatre.com](http://www.mountaintheatre.com)

#### **1st Saturdays**

- Visit Highlands hosts the Highlands Bagpipers for a Town Square performance 4:30-5p the first Saturday of each month through October.

#### **2nd Saturdays**

- The Western North Carolina

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

WoodturnersClub meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March and November.

## 3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/ 909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10AM We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

## Thurs., May 7

• Family Bird Walk at the Village Green in Cashiers with Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and Highlands Plateau Audubon Society from 9:30-11:30am. Free, family-friendly program. To sign-up or more info contact: Sarah Pursel, hclt\_ed@earthlink.net, 828-526-1111, www.hicasht.org.

## Fri., Sat., Sun., May 6-8

The first-run movie, Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore at The Playhouse 1 & 4 p.m. ww.mountaintheatre.com

## Thurs., May 12

• Winter stories will be held at the High Dive from 2-4, a casual gathering of story swapping. Come, Tell, Listen.

## Sat., May 14

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meeting is at 10 a.m. at the Bascom, 323 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC. Drive across the covered bridge into the parking lot, and come into the main entrance near the covered patio. There

will be directions on how to get to the wood turning studio. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Highlands the second Saturday of every month between March and November. This meeting will focus on jigs, fixtures, and other items to make your woodturning experience more beneficial.

## Tues., May 17

• Brushy Face to Satulah Hike – Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) Member EcoTour from 10am-3pm. \$50 per person PLUS HCLT membership (any level). Contact Sarah Pursel, hclt\_ed@earthlink.net, 828-526-1111, www.hicasht.org.

• Free state-mandated sports physical for rising 6th-12th graders at 2 p.m. at Highlands School. All students who will participate in NCHSAA sanctioned sports, must undergo a state-mandated sports physical prior to trying out for any sport. Parents/Guardians should plan to attend the sports physical, to answer questions the medical team may have during the exam. For more information please contact Will Mathiowdis at William.Mathiowdis@HCAHealthcare.com

## Fri., May 20

• First-ever Justice Matters Tours at our Highlands/Cashiers office to find out how you can join Pisgah Legal Services in standing for justice. This interactive in-person tour is 1:30 - 3p.m. and delves into how Pisgah Legal addresses domestic violence, housing, immigration, access to healthcare, and community economic development and explains how community members can get involved. Tours take place at Pis-

gah Legal Services, 209 Hospital Dr., Suite 203, Highlands, NC. Limited space available. RSVP to Megan Quattlebaum at 828-575-1353 or email Megan@pisgahlegal.org.

• Chef Dinner at OEI's The Farm, May Day Celebration with Celebrity Chef, author and lifestyle expert Chadwick Boyd. Book at OldEdwardsHospitality.com/cheffdinners.

## Sat. May 21

• The American Legion will celebrate Armed Forces Day at their meeting at the Methodist Church on Main Street, Highlands. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. and the meet-

ing is at 10 a.m. Armed Forces Day was signed into law July 26, 1947 by President Harry S. Truman. It was passed to unify all four branches of the military under a single executive authority, the Secretary of Defense.

## Tues., May 30

• Village Nature Series at The Village Green in Cashiers from 5-6pm: Mountain Wildlife, live animal presentation by Balsam Mountain Trust, hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. Free, family-friendly program. No registration needed. www.hicasht.org

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## Pipers to perform in Town Square every Saturday beginning this Saturday

Starting this Saturday, Visit Highlands is hosting the Highlands Bagpipers for a Town Square performance 4:30 to 5 p.m. This will take place every first Saturday of each month through October.

– Photo by Colleen Kerrigan.

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## ...CLERK continued from page 12

my staff day one ready for the new Odyssey Case Management System when it goes live in 2024. My staff and I will work hard each and every day to provide a high quality experience to the citizens of Macon County. You should vote for Justin Stamey because I have the necessary education and experience to bring the Clerk of Court office into the 21st century."

### Michael (Mike) Trammel

Michael (Mike) Trammel has been married to his high school sweetheart Dawn for 35 years this June. Together they have three children: Kellie who is the Children's Ministry Director at Cowee Baptist Church, Eric who is a C-17 Air Force crew chief, and Jennifer who works at Macon Program for Progress. Dawn and Mike also have two grandkids. Trammel is retired from full-time service with the Macon County Sheriff's Office in 2016 where he served as the lieutenant over the courthouse and civil process. Trammel was the second deputy in Macon County to reach a full 30 years of service and after a month of separation, he returned in a part-time capacity in the court system. Trammel currently has over 35 years of service to the citizens of Macon County, 25 of them in a management/supervisor setting. Trammel is a graduate of Franklin High School and Southwestern Community College Basic Law Enforcement with certificates of advanced law enforcement certification (highest level of recognition through sheriff's standards. Based on education, training, and years of service), Advanced Civil Process, First Line Supervision for Criminal Justice Personal, North Carolina Department of Justice Interaction Management, Federal Bureau of Investigation Police Supervision, and numerous other law enforcement criminal and civil process courses of instruction and legal updates.

"I am running for office because I saw a need and as a result of my supervisory experience and being a public servant for over half my life, I knew I was the best suited to meet that need," said

Trammel. "As the lieutenant over the courthouse and civil process, I saw firsthand how much work still needed to be done to meet the minimum of care. For instance, building bridges of communication between our law enforcement agencies and citizens. As well as being able to carry on difficult conversations, advocating to County Commissioners about safety concerns (our courtrooms are filled beyond capacity, and the hallways are lined with defendants, their victims, and witnesses.), and everything in between. I pledge to provide a fresh perspective and a great love for people. My combined knowledge of how the courts work, my ability to interpret both civil and criminal laws, and my life experiences serve as indispensable qualities that make me the best candidate for this position."

*What do you see as being the primary function of the Clerk of Court and how are you best suited to fulfill that function?*

**Lamb:** "The primary function of the Clerk of Superior Court is to maintain all clerical and record-keeping functions," said Lamb. "In addition, to provide public access to court records and provide copies. I am best suited for this position because I am the only candidate that has direct experience within the clerks office. I know the changes that need to happen, and I intend to improve customer service and the public's access to judicial records."

**Stamey:** "The Elected Clerk of Superior Court has many roles that they must do and oversee in both the courtroom and in the Clerk's office. As far as overseeing the office, there are six divisions the Clerk of Superior Court is responsible for.

Those divisions are Book-keeping, Estates, Civil, Criminal, Juvenile and Special Proceedings," said Stamey. "The Elected Clerk is the Ex Officio Judge of Probate. This means they hear matters involving the estate of a loved one after they pass away.

• See CLERK page 23

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- ★ Spoken to many communities about the importance of community/law enforcement involvement
- ★ Community-oriented from day-one
- ★ Served as liaison for patrol and investigations to educate communities on Crime Prevention Techniques and Strategies
- ★ Will work together with communities to improve Macon county for generations to come
- ★ Will set up meetings between deputies and each community, in which community concerns will be heard and addressed

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND YOUTH CAMPS

- ★ Building rapport with youth will be of utmost importance
- ★ Extensive experience working with the school system and students at every grade level
- ★ Will create after-school and summer programs for youth of Macon County
- ★ Age-appropriate youth programs will focus on laws, firearms safety training, hunter safety training, sports, and the effects of peer pressure

### FIREARMS AND SAFETY TRAINING

- ★ Public demand is high for a broader spectrum of firearm and firearm safety training
- ★ Extensive experience educating the public in concealed carry classes
- ★ Will work to create no-cost firearms and safety training, open to the public, and taught by state-certified instructors

### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- ★ As Captain and Jail Administrator in Macon County, has worked to create intentional mental health and substance abuse reforms in the Macon County Detention Center
- ★ Has worked to add programs and on-site, around-the-clock caregivers at little-to-no cost to taxpayers
- ★ Passionate about mental health and substance-abuse issues, and will work tirelessly to improve such programs within the detention center and beyond
- ★ Serves on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Forces Vice President of No Wrong Door
- ★ Has access to resources needed to provide assistance

*Paid for by the committee to elect Dereck E. Jones Macon County Sheriff*





## LIGHTNER FOR MACON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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- Enhanced Senior Services
- Law Enforcement & EMS Services
- Strong County and Town Relations
- Transparent Government with Citizens' input.
- Office for Grants and Economic Development

“I appreciate your support and vote in the upcoming election.”

– Richard Lightner

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Richard Lightner



From left: Jessica Brooks, RN and Jeffrey Hawkins, Environmental Services.

## H-C Hospital names 'Colleagues of the Year'

Congratulations to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center's Colleague of the Year Award recipients Jessica Brooks, RN, and Jeffrey Hawkins, Environmental Services. The winners were selected after receiving numerous submissions from their fellow colleagues about their consistent hard work and dedication. The awards were revealed during a recent celebration and reception at the hospital.

“I continue to owe a debt of gratitude to our extraordinary team of healthcare workers of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center.” said Tom Neal, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nursing Officer for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. “We're so proud of Jessica and Jeffrey for the compassion and dedication they bring to their roles at our hospital each and every day!”



# HIGHLANDS

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## First Ever!

## Highlands Volunteer Event

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

### Thursday, May 19th

### 11am - 2pm

### Highlands Civic Center 600 N. 4th St.

Light refreshments will be served.

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

For more information: [highlandschamber.org](http://highlandschamber.org) or 828-526-5841

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

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

## ...CLERK continued from page 18

They also hear incompetency cases, guardianship cases, adoptions, Chapter 49 Foreclosures, legitimation cases just to name a few. In total there are 46 different types of cases the Elected Clerk of Superior Court has jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate.

The Elected Clerk is a Comptroller. They are responsible for receiving, investing and distributing millions of dollars from court fees, fines and traffic citations. In Macon County approximately 2.9 million dollars has come through the office this fiscal year.

As a magistrate I have handled hundreds of thousands of dollars from bonds, marriage fees and wildlife citations. I take pride in knowing that after every audit that has been conducted, my books have balanced every year for the past eight years and they will continue to do so when I am elected.

The Elected Clerk is a custodian of records. They are responsible for the integrity of each and every case that is filed. I ensure that the integrity will be continuously met both in paper filings and in digital filings with the new odyssey case management system.

Elected Clerks are administrators. From streamlining the issuing summons to court to docketing every criminal and civil case to compelling witnesses to court, this is another important function of the office.

The Elected Clerk of Superior Court should be knowledgeable in all of these areas because above all they are a leader. I choose to lead from the front. I will be out front with my staff working either in the courtroom, the office, or as the Ex Officio Judge of Probate to provide the citizens with the most Efficient and Effective Judiciary for which they deserve."

**Trammel:** "The Clerk of Superior Court has five main responsibilities: Judge of probate, Records keeper, Administrator, Comptroller and Leader," said Trammel. "It's important that the voters understand and realize that the Judicial Branch in North Carolina established these and from there it is broken down into subtopics. Why this is important to understand is because, this allows and requires that everyone in the state of North Carolina has the access to information and receives the same level of care across the state.

Therefore, the only difference that separates the candidates is who they are and their leadership experiences. I have over 25 years of service to the people of Macon County in a leadership role. A role that required me to tend to a variety of

people, one that was in the political arena, and a role that required me to get the job done and done with excellence."

*What is your 5-year vision for the clerk's office?*

**Lamb:** "My five-year vision in the office would be to obtain more public service computer terminals so that the public has better access to come in and look up court records. Continually improve service to the public. I want to accomplish my plan by creating better transparency, accountability, simplicity and consistency within the office."

**Stamey:** "My 5-year vision is simple. Bring the Clerk of Court office into the 21st century," said Stamey. "I will do this

by providing cross-training opportunities to both deputy and assistant clerks and utilize that knowledge for the benefit of the public. Also, implement the new Odyssey case management system and educate the public on the workings of the judiciary and how to file and receive judgments digitally."

**Trammel:** "My initial priority is going to focus on improving customer services and ensure that we provide ALL services available through the clerk's office to the citizens of Macon County. There's been a lot of discussion about the new Odyssey program that's supposed to be coming out in the next few years and I am definitely a

fan of the services that it would bring," said Trammel. "It would be especially beneficial for the Highlands and Nantahala area residents. The benefits of sitting at your home or office and answering a few questions online, preparing court documents (such as absolute divorce, name change, small claims or summary ejection—to name a few) or pay a ticket, ask for a reduction, compliance or dismissal. We are already way behind schedule with this program and even at a more basic level, the care we offer our community. There are many other issues such as safety and more that need to be addressed

• See CLERK page 30

Effective leaders live by strong values that shape and guide their decisions and behaviors. As a 9th generation Macon County resident and 3rd generation law enforcement officer, I have always remained connected to Macon County roots through direct involvement with church, the school system, volunteer services and involvement with youth activities. As Sheriff, my passion for direct, hands-on, community-based policies would be a constant throughout the department. My wife and I take pride in our public servant household who values community involvement and the youth of Macon County.

### 1. Increased DIRECT Involvement with our Community

- Community contact/face-to-face interactions
- MCSO Sponsored Events     - Community Patrols
- Local Business Checks

### 2. Youth & Young Adult Support

- SROs continue to serve teachers & students through the county
- Presence in the schools across the county
- Continued Shop With A Cop
- Encouragement of local law enforcement to volunteer with community youth organizations; making a positive impact with younger generations
- Creating a partnership with various outreach programs throughout the county (i.e. Literacy Council, Rotary Clubs, youth sports, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.)

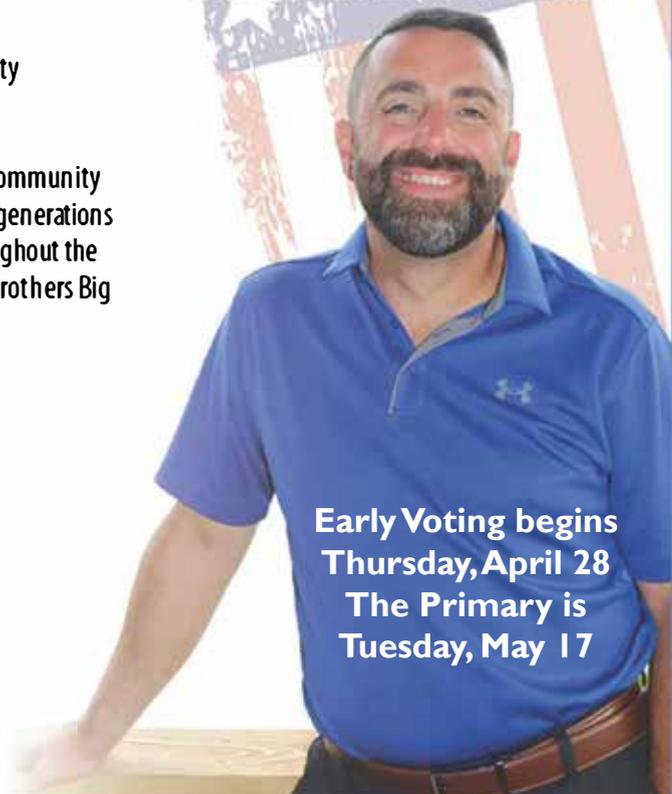
### 3. Officer Retention, Sustainability + Support

- Positive Work Culture     - Build Rapport
- Support LEO families     - Exit Surveys
- Continue to fight for equitable pay for local law enforcement

### 4. War on Drugs

5. Macon County is not a safe haven for criminals!
6. Protect our citizens and youth
7. Multi-Agency Narcotics Unit
8. Increased community presence
9. Increased involvement with the youth of Macon County
10. Availability of Rehabilitation programs and resources

**Elect  
BRENT  
HOLBROOKS  
FOR SHERIFF 2022**



**Early Voting begins  
Thursday, April 28  
The Primary is  
Tuesday, May 17**

**PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT BRENT HOLBROOKS**

# Bear Shadow at Winfield Farm April 29-May 1



Music, food & family  
- Photos by Kim Lewicki



*Paid for by Citizens to Elect Clay Bryson*

# ATTACKING OUR COUNTY'S DRUG PROBLEM IN 3 STEPS

## Step 1: Educating our youth

- Revamp DARE programs in ALL schools
- Bring back MCSO's cadet program to build relationships, trust, and respect

## Step 2: Reorganizing the Narcotics Unit

- Increase patrol coverage in Nantahala, Highlands, Otto, and Burningtown
- Move K9 Unit under Narcotics Unit for additoinal manpower and expertise

## Step 3: Focus on recovery and rehabilitation

- Increase rehabilitation programs within the jail
- Build additional partnerships with new organizations for resources post release



**Clay**

# BRYSON

**for Macon County Sheriff**

Leadership driven by experience & integrity

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## American Malaise: Vacuous Faith

Rev'd Jim Murphy,  
Christ Anglican Church,  
Highlands-Cashiers, NC



In an effort to aid our common understanding, the English word “malaise” principally means: experiencing weakness, being unfocused, lethargic, uneasy and without spirit. Synonyms would include: anxious, distress, doldrums, and melancholy. This is an important idea to keep in mind when we consider the spiritual estate of our nation and world.

The intrepid individuals who fled religious and political tyranny and settled in North America, were inspired by and largely founded our country upon a vibrant, full-orbed faith in Jesus Christ. The religious passion of our American for-bearers was decidedly lively and substantive. It was anything but lethargic or unfocused. If anyone cares to read early American history, they would come to the conclusion that our “Christian faith” should never have been thought to be vacuous. However, during the course of time, in our era and in our country, faith has in large measure become religiously and spiritually melancholic, trending toward a certain degree of emptiness. Why do you think that is?

Prosperity, along with the human ideas of progressivism and pluralism are mostly to blame for our religious malaise. We should have seen it coming. Moses rallied the Chosen People of Israel on the far side of the Jordan River before they would cross into the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy chapter 8, God through Moses repeatedly encourages his people to “remember.” Our almighty Father and Creator, the Giver of all good things, knew of the human propensity toward forgetting and pride. Throughout history we have seemed to develop faith-amnesia, especially when times are good, that all of our blessings have their origin in God alone. So the Lord’s encouragement to “remember” was as much to say, “please don’t fool yourselves, give credit where credit is due, and act (live) accordingly. Thereby and therefrom things will steadily improve. Like nations before us, we didn’t take the Lord’s message to heart. American prosperity has helped to cause a spiritual forgetfulness which has contributed to our religious vacuousness.

Progressivism, the political philosophy that values individual rights ahead of the group and all of it ahead of God, contributed to the malaise. Freedom from tradition and the Judeo-Christian values that undergirded our country’s moral fabric were derided. Mankind has mistakenly understood to be “morally good” and full of potential to conquer and overcome anything. God has steadily become obsolete in progressivism while anxiety and emptiness have grown, even in many of the Christian churches of America.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 28717

www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am Sunday

School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner: 6pm. call for details.

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am. S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

### 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 • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children’s Program. Youth-12:15 – 2:30pm Tues:

Women’s Bible Study 10am-noon

Thurs: Men’s Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

### 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 Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men’s Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N. 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

909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

### 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

Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April

mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. noon; Sun. 11a

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### ST. JUDE’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.: noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I. 8a. Rite II. 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • ufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from April 26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## April 26

• At 7:50 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 and Talley Road.

## April 40

• At 8:30 p.m., Laura Alexis Encarnacao, 38, of Montgomery, OH, was arrested for DUI when she was pulled over on US 64. She was issued a \$2,500 unsecured bond. Her trial date is June 15.

## May 1

• A minute after midnight, Robert Lane Phillips, 32, of Demopolis, AL, was arrested for DUI and a safe movement violation when he was pulled over on Arnold Road. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is June 1.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 26.**

## April 26

• At 1:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Tudor Hall Lane.

• At 11:01 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Dr.

## April 28

• At 12:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Dr.

## April 29

• At 6:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Drive.

• At 2:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence in Village Walk.

• At 3:03 p.m., the dept., stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the town ballfield.

• At 8:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Azalea Lane.

• At 8:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Azalea Lane.

## April 30

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Azalea Lane.

## May 1

• At 1:18 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Rock Road.

• At 8:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Cove Road.

• At 9:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ Top.

...**BEAR SIGNS** continued from page 1



Trail signs in the area.

The signs explain it all: "This is Bear Country; It is rare to see a bear, but caution is needed; Black bears are seldom aggressive unless provoked; NEVER feed or approach a bear; Pack out ALL food and waste; Dogs MUST be leashed; NEVER run from a bear ... back away; Don't leave food in cars."

Strain said both the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Greenway Committee have agreed to erect the signs (provided by the taskforce) on their trails in and around Highlands. It's expected the Highlands Nature Center will follow suit.

"There have been several bear interactions reported on the Nature Center trails," said Strain. "It has not been a big problem on the trails in town except for Sunset Rock where bears often approach picnickers but thankfully there have been no injuries that I've heard about."

There have been plenty of stories in the last decade of interactions with bears and dogs, some deadly.

• See **BEAR SIGNS** page 30

...**SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** from page 26

Pluralism, the step-child of progressivism, where all truths are welcome and all truths are relative, followed quickly. Of course, the whole idea of multiple "truths" is oxymoronic and we're morons if we accept it. Nevertheless, pluralism has served to heighten our current state of spiritual malaise. When everyone's truth is seen as having equal validity, we all lose, especially God, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Be that as it may, all is not lost. God's word is replete with encouragements for us to "repent and return" to him so that he might forgive and heal. Take a moment to read

biblical book of 2nd Chronicles, chapter 7. That passage teaches that people and nations who offer a unified and concerted petition of prayer, including recognition of and repentance for our sinfulness and malaise, that God will hear and heal a land and people. If we believe that nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37), that nothing is too hard (Genesis 18:14) for God, then we ought to take him at his word and pray. Pray therefore that religious vacuity will come to end, that our land would be healed, and that real hope with honest truth would be restored—and all to his glory.

## 2022 Upcoming Events



at the  
**Center for Life Enrichment**

### May Schedule

- **Beginner Drawing Workshop**  
6 sessions: May 31 and June 2,6,11. Time: 1-4pm.  
Cost: \$35/\$45  
Instructor Freddie Flynt
- **Restoration & Renovation of "Playmore" (Home Tour)**  
Tuesday, May 17th. Time: 10a-noon.  
Cost \$40/\$50  
Presenters: John Mitchener and Heath Massey, Owners
- **Interpretive Hike: Spring Wildflowers at Panthertown**  
Wednesday, May 18th. Time: 9a-noon.  
Cost: \$50/\$60  
Guide: Adam Bigelow
- **Tracing Your Ancestry**  
Thursday, May 19th. Time: 2-4p.  
Cost: \$25/\$35  
Presenter: Theron Rogers
- **Intro to iPhone/iPad**  
Monday, May 23rd. Time: 10a-noon.  
Cost: \$40/\$50  
Instructor: Loraine Smith
- **Setting on iPhone/iPad**  
Monday, May 23rd. Time: 1-2p.  
Cost: \$40/\$50  
Instructor: Loraine Smith
- **Birding 101: In the Field**  
Tuesday, May 24th. Time: 9a-noon.  
Cost: \$25/\$35  
Guide: Brock Hutchins
- **The Placemakers Academy of Garden Design: a 3-Part Series in Home Landscape Design**  
Part 1: Set Yourself Up for Garden Success!  
Wednesday, May 25. Time: 10a-noon.  
Cost: \$60/\$70  
Presenters: Mary Palmer Dargan & Arielle McIntyre.

Register online at <http://www.clehighlands.com>  
or call 828-526-8811

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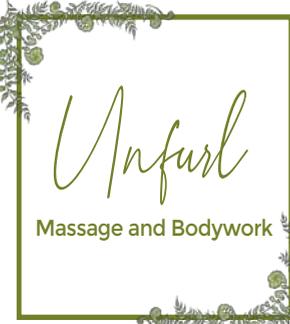


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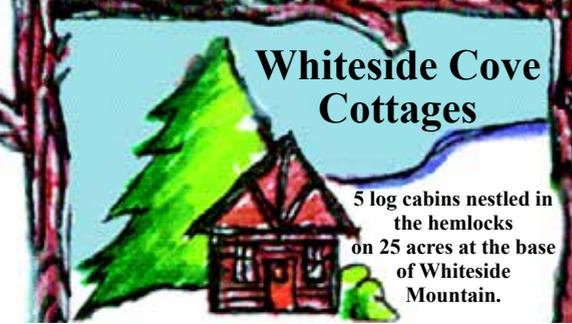
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**Ryan M, Bears**

Broker

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Office: 828-526-8784

Ryan@patallenrealtygroup.com

*Pat Allen*  
REALTY GROUP

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## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 30

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**Mission:**

The Counseling Center strives to strengthen families and individuals by providing access to quality mental health services regardless of financial ability.

## ...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 29

**SHIERS, NC.** A church is interested in hiring a capable pianist as worship leader, immediately. High hourly pay. Respond to Molly @ 828-507-5153 or chriscashiers@yahoo.com

**CASHIERS COLOR CENTER** is looking to hire a full-time individual to assist in the paint department. Duties will include mixing paint, assisting customers with color selections and sundry items, stocking shelves and daily cleaning. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. This individual must be dependable, self-motivated, have great customer service skills and be willing to learn. We will offer on-the-job training, so experience is not necessary. For more information, call Derek Taylor @ 828-200-9226, or stop by Cashiers Color Center to fill out an application. (6/9)

**HIGHLANDS EXCURSION** is hiring guides/drivers. Email us at adventure4118@gmail.com. (st. 3/10)

**WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT** Looking for full-time line cook and waitstaff. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/17)

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

## ...BEAR SIGNS continued from page 27

Although the town has a leash law, residents say a lot of people are hiking up on Satulah Mountain with dogs not on leashes.

"That could wind up being a dangerous situation," said Strain. "While using a leash doesn't guarantee no problems with bears, it certainly minimizes the potential for a dangerous situation. Dogs are apt to bark and approach a bear, putting the bear on the defensive. They aren't aggressive except in rare instances, but they will defend themselves against a perceived threat."

Strain said so far, aside from a few sightings in town things have been calm bear-wise. "We aim to keep it that way!" she said.

The Bear signs are available to clubs,

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communities and individuals for about \$25, though the exact price hasn't been finalized. For more information, email bearwnc@gmail.com.

Strain said the taskforce is also working on providing kits to retrofit regular trash cans to make them bear-resistant, like the ones required for residents in town.

To learn everything you need to know about living with bears, go to www.Bear-Wise.org where there are many bear-related products are available.

If you do see a bear, go to the town's website at www.highlandscnc.org and click the link on the home page to report the sighting or report any bear problems.

– Kim Lewicki

## ...CLERK continued from page 23

and handled properly."

*Highlands and Nantabala residents have a significant distance to travel to visit the Clerk's office, what, if anything, can be done to better serve these residents?*

**Lamb:** "One of the first plans of actions I plan to undertake as Clerk of Court is to have a magistrate in Highlands at least once a week so the residents there have closer access for assistance," said Lamb. "Also, we have a website that can help with all forms, civil packets, how to get a citation dismissed, court dates, and calendars."

**Stamey:** "Macon County only has one courthouse. However, that doesn't mean that we cannot be proactive in providing those citizens in rural areas with the capability to access the courts," said Stamey. "As long as they have internet connectivity, the citizens will have access to the courts through eCourts. This includes a guide and file system to a number of filings. By 2024, all filings and judgments will be conducted digitally. If you would like more information about the eCourts system and how to start a filing, please visit [www.nccourts.gov/services](http://www.nccourts.gov/services)."

**Trammel:** "These are the areas where the Odyssey system would be beneficial but this is definitely an area that I've been thinking about for years," said Trammel. "It's so frustrating to me to see these residents traveling this distance for jury duty, only to find out when they arrive that they are not needed. Better communication needs to be established. The current process would be for the person to phone in to the clerk's office, to find out if they are needed the next day.

It is my intention to fix this and also establish and utilize social media to help keep everyone updated with current issues and court matters. At the present time, documents are required to be recorded at the clerk's office with a time stamp. Which means, until we have a solution to that, travel to Franklin will be required for documents.

My slogan is "it's about people, not politics." If elected, you are entrusting me to serve you the best ways possible and that's my comment to all of Macon County— to serve you to the best of my abilities."

*Any additional details or information you would like to say?*

**Lamb:** "My roots are here in Macon County and that's a large part of what motivates me to serve our community. From my

grandparents, the late Chief Ernie Wright and Gladys Wright, to my parents, Charles and Gloria Thun, I was raised to appreciate hard work and the rewards that come from service," said Lamb. "For the last 21 years I have worked with the public and within the court system and currently hold the position of Assistant Clerk of Superior Court. My goal is to listen to the people of Macon County and provide a positive and effective Clerk's office. It would be an honor to further that goal as the elected Clerk of Court."

**Stamey:** "The next Elected Clerk of Superior Court should have the necessary education and experience to serve the citizens of Macon County," said Stamey. "I am the only candidate in this race with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Minor in Criminal Justice and over 30 Judiciary Certifications. Also, I am the only candidate with over eight years of firsthand experience from the judge's bench to be your next Ex Officio Judge of Probate. It is not oblivious to me that each judgment that is rendered has real world impact to our community and extends beyond than the courthouse step. A vote for Justin Stamey is a vote for Experience, Fairness and Dedication to serving you, the citizens of Macon County."

**Trammel:** "As a Christian and Republican, I hold to conservative values. I have been a Republican for over 35 years and have changed nothing about myself to try and win the voter's favor. I see myself as a public servant, not a politician," said Trammel. "I am motivated by a strong desire to serve the citizens of Macon County in the role of Clerk of Superior Court and I pledge to attend to the needs of the people over the demands of politics, retain an approachable stance, and treat all interactions with the public with total confidentiality. I've heard the phrase "experience matters," and I believe that, but it has to be the right kind of experience.

"This is a leadership position that requires invaluable leadership experience to serve all of Macon County. I am not seeking this position for political gain or any kind of "power", I simply want to help you and am committed to serve you to the best of my abilities. I would implore you to consider me, Mike Trammel, to be your next Clerk of Superior Court."

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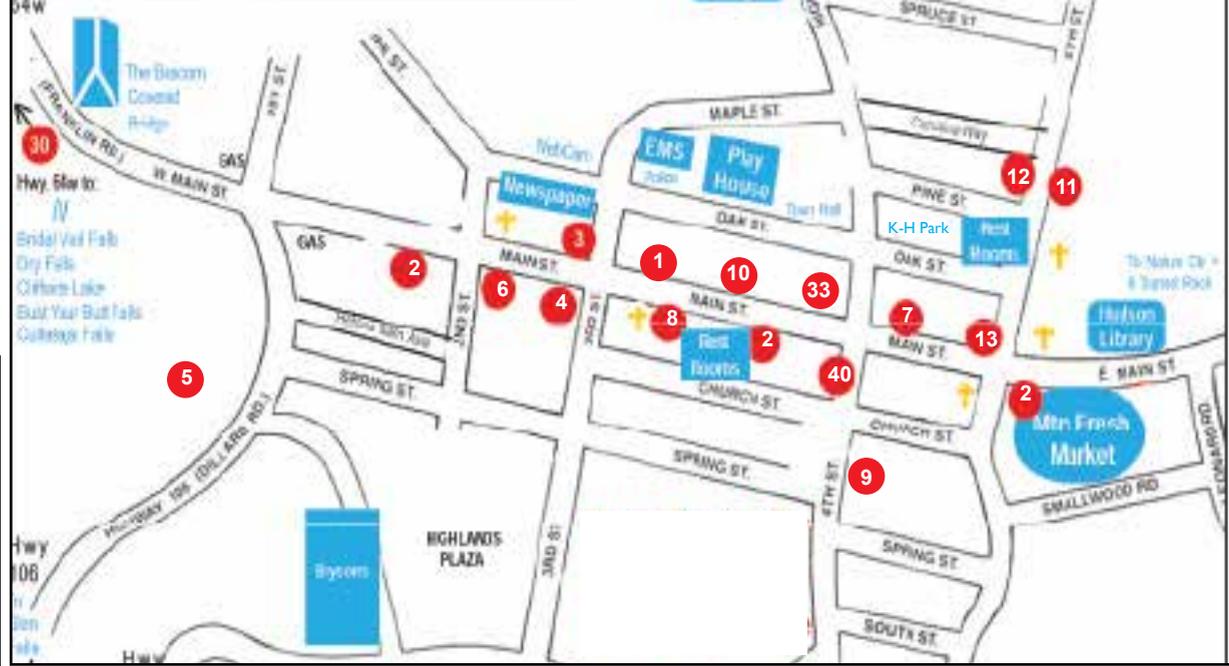
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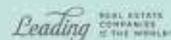


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