

Highlands Newspaper

Happy Labor Day!

Volume 20, Number 35

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

Thurs., Aug. 31, 2023

Families grieve after fatal car wrecks

By Kim Lewicki & Brittney Lofthouse

Less than 24 hours apart, two women who were returning home from work in Highlands were

killed in single-vehicle accidents at nearly the same location on the Dillard Road.

Bambi Ludwig, 39, was heading home after work at The High-

lands Smokehouse Sat., Aug. 26 when she was involved in a car crash on the Dillard Road just past Peak Experience around 10 p.m.

• See **GRIEVE** page 21

Subdivision gets final OK from PB

With a 2-1 vote, the Planning Board OK'd the final plat, for the Sanctuary on 1st subdivision on 1st and Oak streets, with recommendations.

Two Planning Board members, Chris Wilkes and KC Cunningham were absent and member Jeff Weller recused himself since he is the architect on the project. This left Helene Siegel, Wendell Willard and Nick McCall.

According to Zoning Director Michael Mathis, the overall acreage of the subdivided area is 5.55 acres and none of the 11 lots have changed in size since the preliminary plat and first stage approval.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix signed off on the subdivision saying the roadway, wastewater system and electric distribution system have been installed and meet Highlands subdivision re-

• See **SUBDIVISION** page 20

School days begin!



The first day of school was Mon., Aug. 28. New principal Sarah Holbrooks and new Asst. Principal Alyssa DuBois welcomed 335 students in grades K-12 and nine new staff members. Asa Garner is heading for the 5th grade classroom. See photos are on page 30. - Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Missing Franklin woman found by Highlands PD

Arrested for faking own murder and making false reports to police

By Brittney Lofthouse & Kim Lewicki

Last week, a 37-year-old Franklin, NC, woman, Margaret Frances "Maggie" Elizabeth Sweeney, was arrested by law enforcement authorities after purportedly orchestrating her own murder and disseminating anonymous notifications to both police and friends, according to the Franklin Police Department, through an official statement posted on its Facebook page.

Sweeney's arrest stems from charges relating to making a false report to a police station, fabricating a report of death or serious injury through telephonic communication, and obstructing the duties of law enforcement officers.

The Police Department has underlined that Sweeney's actions had the consequential effect of

diverting a substantial amount of law enforcement resources and man-hours that could have otherwise been allocated to different tasks.

The sequence of events began when Sweeney was initially reported missing on Friday, August 18. This triggered an immediate response from law enforcement officers, as the provided information insinuated that her wellbeing might be in jeopardy, or worse, that she was no longer alive.

Authorities promptly initiated a missing person investigation.

The report of her disappearance and demise with her picture was posted on various national news feeds including the New York Post, CBS News, USA Today, NBC News, ABC11, People.com and more which caused

• See **MISSING** page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

Considering what the future will bring

At the Community Coffee this past Friday, I presented several ideas about future challenges facing our mountain community, and my presentation was followed by good discussions. I also let folks know that while I was an exhibitor at the Mountain Top Rotary Art and Craft Show this weekend, folks could come by my tent and talk about town issues. Several people did. We had very productive discussions. The show was a great success also.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

I began my coffee presentation by acknowledging the recent article in Travel and Leisure about Highlands being the best small mountain town. Yes, and as a result, more will come, and many will decide to live here. The big challenge for Highlands will be to make wise decisions for measured growth, a sustained economy, and controlled development.

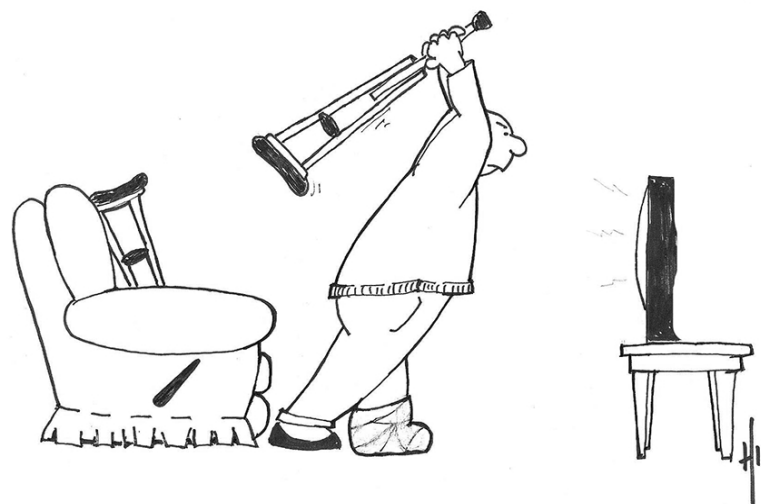
While I have always acknowledged Highlands has a thriving tourist economy, I have also emphasized that we are much more. We have been a retreat community with a core of dedicated residents and thriving neighborhoods. I do not want us to lose that community dynamic by alluring

economic prospects and by simply attracting more transient tourists.

Highlands, at its founding, was a retreat community, a refugee from the excessive summer heat, malaria, and other maladies found in lower elevations. In the early 190's we had a tuberculosis retreat and treatment center. It was thought this climate and high altitude could provide healing and relief. At my coffee, I emphasized the article in Travel and Leisure will probably inspire folks to permanently relocate to Highlands as a "climate retreat." This sweltering summer across the nation underscores my prediction for the Highlands Plateau becoming a refuge from continuing crippling temperatures. The prospect for Highlands is to thrive in the coming years, not regress.





I also brainstormed with those in attendance about possible changes. For instance, several years ago, there was a strong blowback about adding more trees to the downtown area. With impending higher temperatures, it may be time to reconsider creating a tree canopy in the business district as towns such as Greenville have done. I also threw out the idea of even eliminating center aisle parking on Main Street to make wider sidewalks for cafe dining, as well as enhancing the shopping experience. Those 70 center parking spaces might be relocated to adjacent parking platforms or extending parking down from 3rd Street to 1st Street. For my friends who cherish center parking free of trees, don't get excited, I suggested revisiting an idea; I did not reveal a completed plan by the "Highlands Illuminati."

At the coffee, I covered other issues, such as the need for childcare and workforce housing. I was candid in that I do not see the town going it alone when it comes to developing workforce housing. It must be addressed in partnership with the county, state, and private sector. Amazingly, since the coffee, I have been made aware of several folks with resources who are willing and very serious about the community moving forward in addressing this issue. While I have been skeptical of finding solutions for childcare and workforce housing, maybe people and organizations will bring a fresh, innovative approach to these critical needs that truly challenge the future of our economy and the cohesiveness of our society. I hope the conversion and brainstorming will continue.



"And now an update from the hearings on the American Medical Industrial Complex."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 31-Aug	Fri, 1-Sep	Sat, 2-Sep	Sun, 3-Sep
			
76°F 54°F	75°F 54°F	77°F 56°F	81°F 55°F
Windy in the morning	Partly sunny and nice	Mostly sunny and nice	Plenty of sunshine
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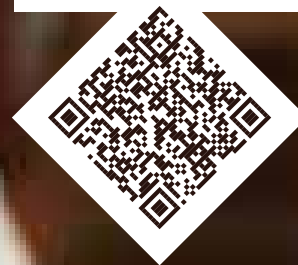


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From left: Suzanne Young, Scott Daniel, Mary Adair Trumbly and Betty Fisher at the gala.

Mountain Theatre Company awards 2023 'Community Spotlight' awards at gala

Mountain Theatre Company hosted its annual fundraising gala event, Spotlight, on August 13, Held at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, this glam rock themed celebration of Mountain Theatre Company's mission and programming was a huge success. The evening began with cocktails and a seated dinner where patrons raised a glass and raised support for Mountain Theatre Company's 85th anniversary and bright future on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. As the sun set over the mountains, guests took to the dance floor to dance the night away. When the live band hit "Don't Stop Believin'" in their set list, the full cast of Mountain Theatre Company's production of Rock of Ages was ready to stop the show as they burst into full choreography!

"Spotlight serves as our most important annual fundraising event. All proceeds provide crucial support to every aspect of our work including programming, operations, and our community outreach programs," said MTC's Executive Artistic Director, Scott Daniel.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of MTC's annual Community Spotlight Awards. Three awards were presented to recognize and give focus to companies, organizations, and individuals who have

been significant supporters of MTC and of the performing arts in the Highlands-Cashiers community.

The Spotlight Business Award was given to The Kitchen Carryaway & Catering.

"A smart business leader knows the importance of the arts and how it can help diversify and grow a community," said Daniel. "The Kitchen has provided complimentary catering to our cast welcome lunches during the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Suzanne Young and her dedicated staff are constant supporters and ensure that our artists feel like family and members of this community on their very first day in Highlands. The Kitchen team loves to support our creative teams the best way they know how, by feeding us whenever they can!"

The Spotlight Nonprofit Organization Award was given to the Highlands Performing Arts Center to recognize the significant contributions it has made to the local arts community.

"The HPAC has done so much to create a wonderful new facility to bring all of the performing arts organizations in Highlands under one roof. Our community is fortunate to have a facility of this caliber

• See AWARDS page 7

Garden Trunk Show

Saturday, September 2
12-5p

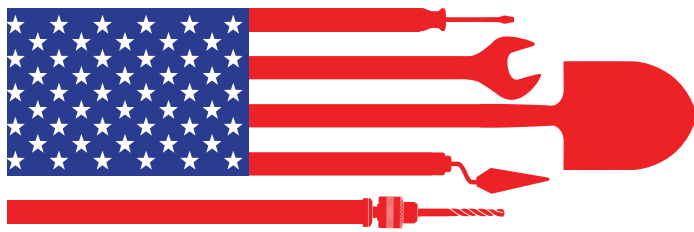
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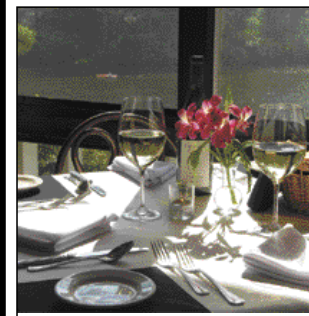
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...AWARDS from page 4

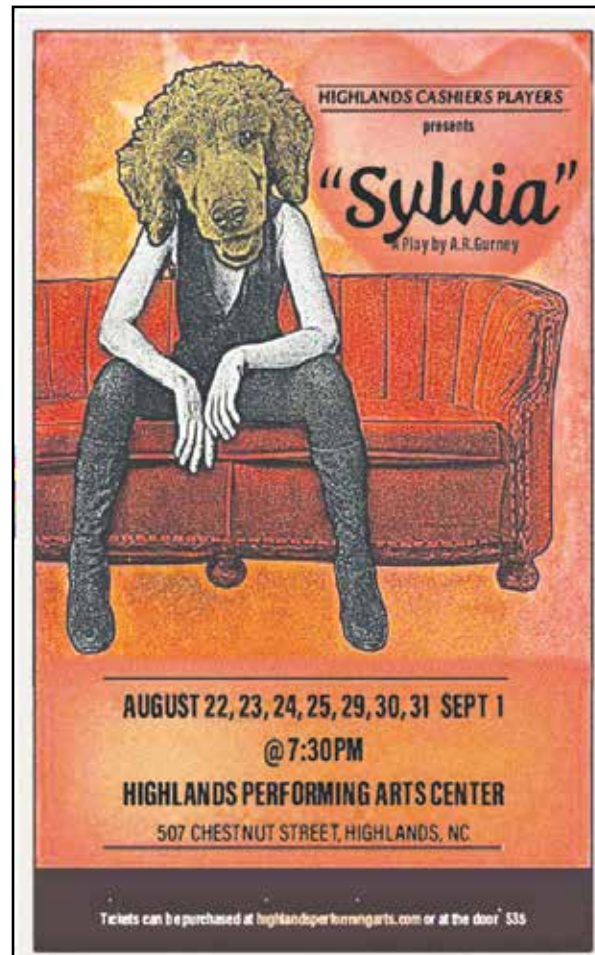
to host world-class performances, thanks to the HPAC's Board of Directors and the visionary leadership of Executive Director, Mary Adair Trumbly. This new space is allowing MTC to create the level of theatre Highlands deserves," said Daniel.

The Spotlight Community Supporter Award was given to Betty Fisher, one of MTC's most committed volunteers. Fisher's love of theatre began while she was a student at the Highlands School where she attended school shows in the building that later became The Highlands Playhouse, the founding location of Mountain Theatre Company.

"Betty is one of our most steadfast ushers, making our patrons feel welcome and bringing a sense of care and love to our theatre. Her history with the Highlands School auditorium, the Highlands Playhouse, and now Mountain Theatre Company is a work in continuity and dedication we are honored to recognize," Daniel said.

Josh Helms, Mountain Theatre Company's new Development Director said the annual Spotlight Awards shift the focus for a moment to individuals and organizations who have gone out of their way to be champions not only of Mountain Theatre Company, but to all performing arts on The Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

Mountain Theatre Company's Spotlight gala delivered a fun-filled evening, celebrating the nonprofit theatre company's exciting future ahead.



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...MISSING continued from page 1

much alarm.

However, on the following day, Saturday, Aug. 19, Sweeney was located by the Highlands Police Department, unharmed and safe in a home on Memorial Park Drive in Highlands.

According to Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland, when she and Lt. Leah McCall came on duty Saturday morning, they were briefed by Sgt. Parker and Master Officer Cherry who had been looking for a woman who was reported missing by the Franklin Police Department. Sweeney's phone had been pinging in various places within the Highlands town limits.

At 9:12 a.m., a ping came in from Sweeney's phone from a location on Memorial Park Drive in Highlands - a house at the rear of the Memorial Park Drive loop.

Holland and McCall went to the location. As they pulled up to the house, they were joined by Sheriff Deputy Sutton who also responded.

"Due to the text messages her friend received and had sent to Franklin Police Officer Dula, we were concerned about her well-being," said Chief Holland. "We were afraid she may have been hurt or killed."

Within a few minutes a woman answered the front door concerned that the police were at her residence. Holland explained that they were looking for a woman who had been reported missing. According to Holland the woman left the entrance and returned to say that her son Jamie Shuler was there but didn't think there was anyone else.

McCall had moved to the side of the house where she could see the lower deck door. Deputy Sutton joined her and, on the way down to the deck, Jamie Shuler came out of the lower door. He invited all of them to come in so they could speak to Sweeney.

Shuler said he had been at a friend's house in Franklin with three other people, one of which was Sweeney. He said one of the girls in the house didn't like Sweeney so Shuler brought her to Highlands so she



Margaret Frances Sweeney

could take a shower at his mother's house.

Holland asked Shuler to ask Sweeney to come out of the bathroom so they could talk, but he said she was in the shower.

"He allowed me to follow him to the bathroom. He then opened the door and asked Sweeney to speak to us," she said. "But Sweeney was in the shower and

though she invited me into the bathroom, I declined. I did open the door slightly to see if Sweeney was OK. From what I could see, she didn't appear injured. No apparent bruising, cuts, scrapes or signs of trauma."

Holland told her someone had reported her missing. She said she had just heard that herself and planned on contacting Officer Dula at the Franklin PD when she got out of the shower to let him know she was OK.

She said she didn't know why anyone would report her missing.

After further investigation, Franklin Police determined that Sweeney had allegedly made false third-party reports to a friend and the Department of Social Services, falsely claiming that she had been murdered.

The Police Department's official statement emphasizes that Sweeney's actions had considerable ramifications not only for their department but also for other involved agencies. In addition to the law enforcement burden, her friends, family, and the broader community had expressed profound concern over her safety and well-being during the duration of her alleged disappearance.

Sweeney was charged with the offenses of filing a false report to a police station, fabricating a false report of her death or serious injury through telephonic communication, and impeding the activities of law enforcement officers.

The warrant for her arrest was issued Sunday, Aug. 20 and she was arrested by Franklin PD on Monday.

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Perhaps you live in a city where there's too much concrete, and therefore rising temperatures, smog, traffic, and uncivilized behavior. Come to Highlands, North Carolina. On behalf of the 318 Real Estate Brokers here on the Highlands and Cashiers Plateau, we invite you and encourage you to head for the mountains...and the forests. There's a saying I've quoted a hundred times which is this "Highlands, NC. Come for the weekend and stay for a lifetime." If you're reading the Highlands Newspaper for the first time. Investing at 4118 Ft. is a weekly Real Estate Column publishing sage advice about buying, selling, renovating, building, investing in, and enjoying real property here on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

This week, we offer a simple and straightforward idea, Investing in Real Estate = Investing in Trees!

I'm not a "tree hugger" in the literal sense, but I readily admit ... I love trees! I learned about forest preservation growing up fishing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Northern Minnesota where the Norway Pines, White Birch, and Aspen's became good friends. I learned about losing trees living in Atlanta for 25 years. The 1996 Olympics Games came and went and so did the trees as residential and commercial development claimed acres of forestland creating miles of pavement and rising temperatures. I've been thinking about this a lot lately, especially when I hear the buzz of chainsaws clear cutting old growth trees and land. Yes, I'm a Real Estate Broker and I make a living selling acreage, cottages, mountain homes, condos, and building sites. But I simply caution all of us to not lose our trees, and value the fact that ferns and the forest floor are more valuable than gravel or concrete. Back to Real Estate.

As you consider investing in property here, you are investing in trees; investing in a rain forest; investing in streams with clean



The Gleeson Family
Pat, Bee and the late
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water where trout live; and investing in cool weather. The tree narrative is different here because it centers around the preservation of forests and ways to protect them. The U.S. Forest Service is driving around town in those beautiful green trucks, doing their best to fend off those who strive to harvest acres of timber in the name of "conserving and regenerating" the forests.

If you buy land in our town, there are "impervious surface ratios" to be followed in order to secure a building permit. This protects the land and restricts the footprint of a house and surrounding impenetrable surfaces so that water can flow and maintain its table. When you go to sell

your property here, it's worth more because you preserved the trees. Thank you to all of you who chose to treat your Hemlocks instead of chopping them down.

In the most non-real estate way possible, I want to extend a personal invitation for you to witness this investment opportunity in person. Simply drive to Highlands between now and Thanksgiving. Park anywhere downtown and take a hike along the Highlands Plateau Greenway Trail system. You will witness first-hand what a healthy and well-balanced relationship between a town, trees, land, residents, commerce, nature, streams, wildlife (including black bears), lakes, flora, rainfall, and sunshine truly looks like. After all, isn't that what you're investing in.

If you're still reading, here's another great quote:

"Learn character from trees, values from roots, and change from leaves"
(Tasneem Hameed).

Highlands, NC...c'mon up!

• Pat and Bee Gleeson are proud to be a team of "Helpers" and Real Estate Brokers at Christie's International Real Estate Highlands-Cashiers. You can reach us at 828.782.0472. Please stop by for coffee and conversation at 210 N. 5th Street.

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401 N. 5th Street Highlands
828-526-3717

• THEN & NOW •

District Governor visits MtnTop Rotary

President, Mountaintop Rotary, thanking Sean Gibson, District 7670 Governor, for his visit and presentation



• THEN & NOW •

A Good-Enough Life

I've forever been looking for a Forever Stamp that I could put on my life at some point and say that, yes, this is as good as it gets, and, yes, this is a good enough life no matter how measured. Then I would misleadingly tell myself "Now I can die happy." Not really. Like many, I'd still want and have more to do. I don't think an eighty-something person is any more eager to die than a newly-married twenty-something no matter how good, bad, or ordinary their life.

Like most folks, I've realized for years that I would never be the greatest at anything, sports, business, science, politics, and the arts. But especially in music. In truth, I firmly believe that those often signaled out for being "the greatest" in their fields were almost never the most talented but the ones most recognized. As in much of life, inequality, privilege, opportunity and not talent or merit often rule the roost no matter if we passionately believe the opposite. Yet life has been genuinely good enough for me as I suspect it has for most of us. Regrets and sadness are not part of my resume.

In a long life I've come across countless others far more talented who, because of wealth, circumstances, opportunities, or choices never got the chance to develop them and become "the greatest." They have names like Ramona, Todd, Steve, Maggie,



Milton Ready

Chuck, John, Barbara, Reinaldo, Yvonne, and so many unnamed others. All had qualities more widely distributed if too infrequently recognized, namely those of kindness, empathy, compassion, cooperation, determination, character, adventure, curiosity, and a genuine regard for others. Yet the embrace of these virtues should never be thought a moral victory because they somehow didn't become the greatest or the richest. I suspect their lives have been not only good enough but terrific as well.

Last year one of my old Army buddies died, not uncommon as you age. I read his obituary and also listened to his eulogy. A career Army officer, Kent had several tours in Vietnam, was a combat helicopter pilot, commanded an armor battalion in the Gulf War, had more decorations than Mark Milley, quarterbacked his college football team, married the girl of his dreams, raised four wonderful children. and thought Dinah Shore a great singer. Kent was the happiest of warriors. What a life!

His eulogy took six minutes, his obituary less than the length of this writing. My first thought was, "That's all?" Yet I am convinced I heard the boisterous, smiling, confident, cheerful, determined, and devout Kent laughingly reply, "That's good enough!"



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Located off Bartram Ridge Road, in the Scaly Mountain community, this 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath features a vaulted Great Room plan that opens onto a covered porch and open deck. There is a main floor bedroom with ensuite bath, upper level has a loft and guest bedroom and bath. There is a lower unfinished level that could add value and has a single car garage. Usable yard and in excellent condition. A great respite and could be income producing. Offered at \$495,000. mls# 102545



Stunning 4 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath sits on over 3.3 acres and features a ridgeline view and water feature. This is not a cookie cutter. Top of the line finishes with antique, one-of-a-kind touches make this a unique sought after home. Huge cathedral living room, Real fireplace with gas starter, screened porch with an open porch with fireplace and big screen projection TV and fireplace. Cooks kitchen with gas stove, marble island, banquette window seating breakfast nook with leaded glass windows. 2 main floor bedrooms with baths. Primary has a tub and dual entry shower. Lower level has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with a full living room and fireplace which opens to an additional porch. Loads of storage. 2 car garage with a covered breezeway rounds out this lovely home. Currently a vacation rental so there are limited showing windows that require advance planning for showings. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #102601



A coveted walk-to-town location currently operating as a STR with an established rental history and repeat clientele. Master on main with ensuite bathroom, the laundry room and an additional full bath. Open concept. Great room with vaulted ceiling. Beautiful kitchen with polished granite countertops. S'tone gas log fireplace flanked by french doors to the large covered deck. The lower level has 2BD, and bath and a large bonus room. Offered at \$1,450,000 mls #102711



An established STR in town on Little Bear Pen Mountain. Panoramic mountain views from the expansive deck and open living room. The living room has floor-to-ceiling windows with views of Whiteside and Short-off Mountains. The home has 3 BD, 3 BA, and 2 bonus rooms. There are two bedrooms on the main level, each with its own bathroom. Offered at \$2,100,000. mls# 102307



Incredible view from this 3BD, 2BA, walk-in level condo. Open kitchen to living area with nice wood burning fireplace, covered back deck with view. Separate laundry, plus outdoor storage room. Offered at \$599,000. mls #101546



Newly updated home has a view from the primary bedroom with a covered deck. Bath has a new shower and sauna. Living area has a stone gas fireplace, full kitchen with all new appliances, and large front deck with wood burning fireplace. Downstairs consist of 2 suites, one has a kitchen with full fridge, 2 burner cooktop and microwave. Covered parking under the front deck. Offered at \$999,000. mls#102769



On Upper Lake Road in-town. Great sized entrance hall, large living room, dining room and gourmet kitchen. The screened porch and spacious deck open to the living room and dining room. Primary suite with office and laundry room, and large walk in closet and large bath. Upstairs has 3BDs each with its own bath. Porch with gardens and a fountain in front of the house. Offered at \$2,600.00 mls #102744



3 BD 2 1/2 BA. 4 miles, 8 minutes to downtown Highlands. All new systems and appliances. Completely remodeled home sits on .89 acre with open long range mountain view. Primary bedroom with ensuite with heated floor and bubble tub on the main level with 2 additional BD and BA on the lower level. Open kitchen, dining room and living room. Fireplace on each level with gas logs. Covered deck on each level. Offered at \$1,265,327 mls #102515



Step back in time to Old Highlands with this authentic summer cabin on Flat Mountain Road. The rhododendron lined driveway approaches The charming 3BD, 1.5 BA cabin that has large side and rear screened porches, and a patio. The main floor has a living room with soaring ceiling, fireplace, wood floors, and chestnut paneling, framed by a golden birch railing that wraps the staircase and hallway to the upstairs. The living room opens onto the screened porch. There is a bedroom, 1/2 bath, dining area, and kitchen that leads to the spacious rear porch and patio. Upstairs are 3 additional rooms, and a full bath with clawfoot tub. The garden level has covered parking for one car, a fireplace. The cabin is offered in "as is" with price reflecting the potential for upgrading. Offered at \$379,000. mls #102782



Own your own kingdom with a 13-acre flower farm with a pond and branch. Privacy and mostly usable with a rolling ridge of woodlands, in an excellent location and good elevation, with no HOA. Paved state road access to the driveway. 1920s home is in excellent condition and has clear and wormy chestnut paneling and wood floors. Primary bedroom on the main level with a large bath, 2 guest bedrooms on the upper level. Newer ducted furnace system and 2 rocking chair porches. A wonderful sanctuary from the city but only 2.5 mile to Main Street. Offered at \$1,490,900. mls #102449



Eastside Duck Mountain This 3 bedroom 2 bath is located in Four States Subdivision and has a spectacular view of Winfield Farm, Blue Valley and vistas to the south. Main floor living plan has Living room with fireplace, kitchen, dining room/ Sunroom with loads of windows to experience the 180 degree view. 2 guest bedrooms with a hall bath, upstairs has a huge master suite with fireplace and ensuite bath. Great bones and ready for your own taste. Offered at \$650,000. mls #101529



This is a wonderful family home in a great neighborhood! 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, office and loads of storage, great open plan has been updated with a new kitchen. Vaulted living room with fireplace. Separate guest bedrooms with the upper bedroom featuring a mountain view. 2 car garage. Flat usable lot. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #101906



This 3BR/2BA house sits on 1.15+/- acre of gentle laying land in the midst of mature hardwoods with an understory of ferns. Private, serene at the end of the road. New metal roof in 2016. Attached double garage. Vaulted ceiling in living room. Bring your updating or renovating ideas. MLS#102291 Offered for \$495,000.



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

Highlands Historical Society's Dazzling Dahlia Festival is Sept. 7 & 9



Mayor Taylor signed this year's decree, declaring the week of September 9th Dahlia Week in Highlands. From left: Trish Foor, Annette Waldon, Lisa Dailey, Susan Schrapkohl, and Kim Daugherty. They are dressed to represent this year's theme which is "Seasons of Highlands."

Highlands Historical Society's Dazzling Dahlia Festival will be held Thursday, Sept. 7 and Saturday Sept. 9 ... and you should prepare to be dazzled!

Festivities begin with a poster party on Thursday, at The Bascom. Come meet this year's poster artist, Megan Gaillour, sample a

dahlia cocktail, and learn about next year's dahlia theme.

On Saturday, there will be more than 50 incredible floral vignettes placed all over town including storytelling, bluegrass music, food, vignettes and art at the Historical Village on N. 4th Street from 10a-5p.

The concert in the park that night is going to be a dahlia dance party, with the fabulous 10-piece Steel Toe Stiletto lighting up the evening with music that will get you out of your chair, from 6-9p.

For a more in depth look at the incredible dazzling dahlias in their endless sizes, colors and cat-

egories, The Bascom will host the Single Bloom, or Cut Dahlia Show.

Amateur gardeners and professional growers are invited to bring their dahlia specimen blooms to The Bascom patio between 8 -10am to enter your blooms in the judging.

There is a \$20 charge to enter up to eight blooms. Garden Club of America judges will then judge and award ribbons in both professional and amateur divisions. There are many categories of dahlias, even a child's category as well as a dahlia arrangement. If you are not sure where to go, there will be classifiers who will put your flowers in the appropriate category. You do not have to know the classification to enter your blooms, our dedicated volunteers will take care of that for you.

Categories Include:

Decorative Formal

Decorative Informal

Anemone and Collarette-pompom and Ball

Cactus and Semi-Cactus

Lacinated

Youth to age 17

Dinner Plate

Arranged

Miscellaneous: Single

Peony

Mignon

Orchid

Stellar

and Waterlily

The public is then invited to view the singular beauty of the dahlia from 1-5p that afternoon, on the Bascom patio. This is a beautiful way to appreciate the incredible range of dahlias as they will be arranged in categories. The judges are generous with the comments and critiques, which the growers love. It is a rare show that allows amateurs the privilege of GCA judges feedback.

There will be dahlias, non-profits, and music everywhere in Highlands on Sept. 9. You will be overwhelmed by singular beauties and exploding masses of color. There is a panel of secret judges who will award a \$500 prize to the Best of Show vignette, but the public can also vote for People's Choice winners. All vignette winners will be announced during intermission at the concert in the park.

We also have a big ask! We need all the flowers you are willing to share on Friday, Sept. 8th. Highlands Historical Village will be the Dahlia Depot, please bring your dahlias, AND any other flowers, as well as greenery to the village Friday morning; it is going to take ALL the flowers we can find to drape Highlands in florals. Many of our vignette creators need dahlias, so first our vignette designers take the dahlias and flowers they need. Then with what is left we make mason jar arrangements to sell in the park and Historical Village.

Come enjoy dahlia and our bounty of summer florals, catch Charles Nation Band, Nitrograss & Steel Toe Stiletto, and learn a little bit about the special place that is Highlands. For more information, go to highlandshistory.com

Dazzling vignettes of dahlia arrangements will be set up all over town - each with their own theme. People will be asked to vote on each vignette. Winners will be announced at 7:30p in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street



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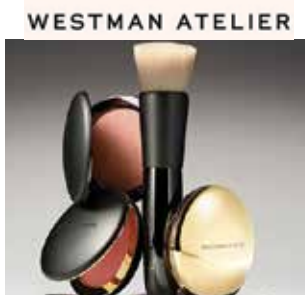
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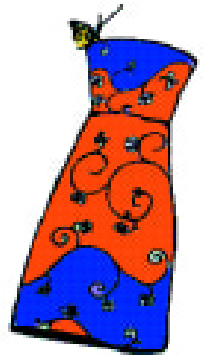
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The invisible side of Highlands

By Cristina Vines

On the invisible side of Highlands, there are individuals facing poverty, struggling to afford childcare, and even experiencing homelessness. Many within our Highlands community remain unaware of the depth of this issue and the severity of our impoverished population.

The Highlands Emergency Council and Food Bank, often overlooked, stand as pillars of aid, extending unwavering assistance without question. This lifeline often goes unnoticed, quietly extending help to those in dire need year-round. Weekly, it supplies groceries for nearly 50 families, and it goes further, by outfitting entire homes for those unable to purchase furniture. It steps in during winter months, filling gas tanks in homes to ensure children don't freeze in their beds—all achieved through community donations fueled by compassion. And the Council doesn't discriminate by zip code; its support extends to Cashiers, Franklin, and the surrounding areas.

However, The Emergency



Cristina Vines

Council needs us. It requires helping hands for lifting, even if only for an hour a day or a day a month. It needs more awareness—a realization of what truly happens on the invisible side of Highlands.

There's an incongruity that exists here—a town flowing with wealth yet struggling with homelessness and poverty. The Highlands Emergency Council intervenes, ensuring that the homeless have sleeping bags, shoes, winter coats, tents, and warm meals. It distributes without question, without judgment.

Consider not just giving your time, but also donating unneeded furniture, home goods, toiletries,

kitchen appliances, school supplies, clothes, shoes, camping gear, and even cars. These contributions fuel the Council's ability to offer these items freely to families who are genuinely in need. With your assistance, all of us can reshape the lives of others.

Yes, there might be instances where the system is exploited, but for every one person who tries to take advantage, there are 10 more who genuinely require assistance. A small act of kindness holds the potential to create a vast ripple of positive change.

All donations, whether monetary or tangible, hold tax-deductible status, and a form will be provided for your convenience. Let us join hands to bring about transformative impact and illuminate the invisible side of Highlands, for the betterment of our entire community.

For more information, please contact Marie or Andy at 828.526.4357 or visit them in person six days a week at 71 Poplar Street. Their hours are Monday-Friday 8a-2p and Saturday 8a-1p.

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Development Center.

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

This event is made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/
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...SUBDIVISION continued from page 1

quirements.

Staff recommended the subdivision be approved. The Planning Board did so with some stipulations.

On member Wendell Willard's motion, members agreed to recommend a substan-

tial green buffer be planted along the back of the lots on the Oak Street side.

Weller said that is being done on the boundaries of the subdivision.

Willard also recommended that the sidewalk running halfway down Oak and around to the Oak Street entrance of the subdivision be extended to meet the sidewalk on 1st Street.

After the first phase of the subdivision was OK'd, the town's Master Sidewalk Plan was amended which meant the developer was required to put in a sidewalk bounding properties in the second phase.

According to Weller, though the town would pay for that portion of the sidewalk, there are mitigating circumstances about an extension.

The lay of the land is different than along the area where the sidewalk now runs in that an 8-foot embankment runs most of the way and, the road right-of-way is actually on the property of some of the lots.

Not only would property easements be necessary but a cut into the embankment would be necessary as would a retaining wall, which would require the removal of 12 mature trees.

Member Helene Siegel said she wouldn't want to see the trees go, but she voted with Willard and his recommendations. Nick McCall voted against OKing the final plat on the grounds that he was against Willard's recommendations.

Mathis will take the board's recommendations to the Town Board for the final OK on the subdivision at its September meeting.

-Kim Lewicki

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...GRIEVE continued from page 1

The accident tragically took her life.

Her employer Bryan Lewis, said she was a wonderful person and will be missed by all who knew her.

"I want to thank the first-responders and community for being so supportive during this difficult time," he said.

NC Highway Patrol said a call came in at 9:57 p.m., that a Nissan Pathfinder travelling on NC 106, 1 ½ miles past the town limit, was off the side of the road. According to the report, it was flipped on the right side and collided with a tree.

"The speed for the condition of the terrain was too fast in the curve," reads the report.

Ludwig was the mother of three. A memorial is being planned in Long Creek, SC to honor her life.

Caitlyn Alexandria Faye, 17, of Sky Valley, GA, a senior at Rabun County High School, died in a car accident Sunday, Aug. 27 around 6:30 p.m. She was heading home from work at Spinx in Highlands when the accident occurred nearly in the same location on the Dillard Road as Saturday's fatal accident.

"If it had happened at the same time, they would have been able to see each other," said one responder.

According to NC Highway Patrol's report, at 6:36 p.m., there was a single-vehicle collision 1.1 miles outside the town limit where a white, Jeep Commander crossed the center line, exited the wet road on the left in the curve, went over the embank-

ment and collided with a tree.

"It was a half-mile from the wreck on Saturday," reads the report.

Her mother, Jennifer Smith said she was smart, brave, fearless and artistic and doesn't know how her family will ever be

able to go on without her.

The family will receive friends at the Beck Funeral Home in Clayton, GA, Sept. 3 at 3 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 5 p.m., in the Beck Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jim Carver officiating.

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This Month's Performance:
Highlands United Methodist Church
315 Main Street
Saturday, September 2
4:30 – 5 p.m.

Performances are made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NEW POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6-9:45a, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18 years old+, Mon.-Thurs 11a-1:30p; Public Swim Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ONGOING

• The "Kids Hike Highlands" trail passport program has been refreshed for the 2023 season. pick up a copy of the Kids Hike Highlands passport map at one of the

four prize locations or you can download a copy at www.highlandsbiological.org.

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on

Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817 2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

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. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

1st Tuesdays

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

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

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

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 w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tuesdays

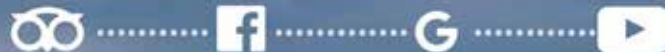
• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings, For more info

• See EVENTS page 24

GET UP! GET OUT! PARTNERS IN RECREATION

We have something for everyone!

Go to web pages for information & registration



"All best in class, licensed & insured"



highlandsaerialpark.com

Experience the best views in the state while enjoying some of the best ziplining in the country. We also offer challenge courses, Giant Mountain Swing, scenic guided UTV tours and more on our 96 acre property.

828-759-5146



mtnotours.com

Come on an adventure in Highlands & Cashiers NC!!! Our sightseeing, open-air vehicle and hiking tours are great fun for all ages. Visit spectacular waterfalls and mountain vistas. Featured in the Wall Street Journal.

864-373-4022



highlandsoutpost.com

A family fun destination. Ride the Scaly Mountain Screamer, extreme tubing slide, gem mine, trout fishing & more!

828-526-3737



JACKSON HOLE GEM MINE

jacksonholegemmine.com

A family-owned gem mine good for all ages. Our store offers thousands of dazzling gems & minerals and a covered flume to search for your treasures rain or shine!

828-524-5850



skyvalleycountryclub.com

A championship course layout with beautiful views & challenging holes for a great day of golf.

706-746-5302



WorldClassWaterfalls.com

Take a scenic waterfall cruise on Lake Glenville aboard our luxury pontoon yacht with an officially licensed Master Sea Captain!

828-526-6300



highlandhiker.com

Fly fishing guide service. Outfitter for hikers, fishermen, camping, adventure travel, and more.

828-526-5298



dillardhousestables.com

Guided Horseback Riding in Dillard Georgia

Experienced guides take you, your family, or group along scenic trails, offering you breathtaking views, lush forests and the most amazing opportunity to splash down a cool mountain stream aboard your very own well trained equine partner.

706-746-2038

2023 Outdoor Concert Series

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

Join us for our September concerts!

All shows take place from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

SEPTEMBER 1
Byrds & Crows

SEPTEMBER 8
The Well Drinkers

SEPTEMBER 15
Curtis Blackwell Band

SEPTEMBER 22
Crisp Brown Aulisio

SEPTEMBER 29
Johnny Web Band

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

SEPTEMBER 2
Continental Divide

SEPTEMBER 9
Steel Toe Stiletto

SEPTEMBER 16
McIntosh & the LionHearts

SEPTEMBER 23
The Holiday Band

SEPTEMBER 30
Clay Page

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

visithighlandsnc.com



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031

- At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

- ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconn-cliteracy.org

Tues. & Thurs.

- Zumba class with Gay Chaplin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thurs. through Aug. 10

- Highlands Biological Foundation's free Zahner lectures at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) at 6 p.m. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org.

Thurs-Sat.

- Highlands Historical Society Museum at 320 N. 4th Street is open 10a to 4p through October.

Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open 10a-1p through October.

Thursdays

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

- At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, na-

ture, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

- At Wayfarers Chapel, Chair Yoga – from 4-5 PM. If you are interested in greater strength and flexibility but have difficulty getting up and down from a sitting or reclining posture.

- At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga – from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience,

3rd Fridays

- At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

2nd Saturdays

- The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

- The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main

St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

- Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8 p.m. through Sept. 3. 828-506-0125.

- 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).

- Soiree for Pre-K at the Vineyard at High Holly, 5:30 p.m. until. \$250 per person. Eight per table. Includes Dinner, drinks and dancing. Featuring Steel Toe Stilletto from Greenville, SC. For tickets call 828-526-0863. Or email, info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org.

Thru Sat., Sept. 2

- The annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse theme this year is "Historically Cashiers" and features a classic mountain retreat in The Club at High Hampton. For more call 828-743-7710.

Thurs. & Fri., Aug. 31-Sept. 1

- The Highlands-Cashiers Players presents "Sylvia" at 7:30p at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased at highlandsp Performingarts.com or at the door. Tickets are \$35.

Thurs., Aug. 31

- The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC will host a free community shred event 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Highlands Plaza, near Bryson's Food Store on NC 106. To ensure a smooth process, we kindly request participants to transport their items in plastic bags or bins. Allowed: paper products with staples or paper clips, spiral notebooks. Not Allowed: 3-ring binders and cardboard. Donations on-site to support two local organizations, The Gordon Center and HCCDC.

- At The Vineyard in Scaly Mountain, A Cause for the Paws Summer Fling 4-7 p.m. Food, artwork, live and silent auction, prizes and live music. Tickets are \$50. All proceeds to benefit the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Tickets available at Rosewood Market in Highlands and at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Silver Threads, Creekside

• See **EVENTS** page 25



Photo by Alice Nelson

A Hike on the Historic Kelsey Trail

The Kelsey Trail Biennial Hike, sponsored by the Highlands Plateau Greenway, returns this year! This 4½ mile trail was carved through the primeval forest from Highlands to Whiteside Mountain 140 years ago. Built by Samuel Kelsey and others, it opened to the public in 1883 and was a favorite walk for every Highlands resident and visitor for the next 60 years. It was originally ridiculed as Kelsey's trail to nowhere because it ended at Whiteside Mountain, but it passed through Bear Pen Gap, above the thundering cascades of

Highlands Falls, past Garnet Rock laden with inexhaustible rose-red crystals, past the legendary Soldier's Cave, onto astonishing overlooks from Wildcat Ridge, and ended at the Cherokee campground near the summit.

The public is invited to join one of three groups of hikers, 25 in each, on the morning of Saturday, October 14, 2023. Shuttles to Whiteside will leave from Founders Park at 8:30, 9:00, and 9:30. The walk is mostly downhill from Whiteside, taking 4 hours, at a casual pace. Water and

snack bars will be provided along the trail. As a fundraiser for the Highlands Plateau Greenway, a \$75 donation is requested from each hiker in support of the Greenway trail system of the town of Highlands. Registration is online at www.highlands-greenway.com. The hike, which has proven very popular since 2009, takes place only every two years, so reservations fill quickly. It is an enjoyable way to relive history like early Highlanders, who came to appreciate the extraordinary beauty of Kelsey's Trail to nowhere.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Gazebo, AARC Thrift Store all in Franklin and Christie's Home Decor in Otto.

Fri. Sept. 1

• Friends and customers of Shakespeare & Co. are invited to attend a gathering from 4-6p in honor of our dearly missed, late founder, Katherine Willoughby. We'll have libations and hors d'oeuvres from Fresser's and the Secret Garden. Come share your stories of Katherine and Rugby!

Sat., Sept. 2

• A Garden Trunk Show in the New Garden House at M&Co. 782 Dillard Road. A delightful fusion of fashion and nature featuring Sundara's exclusive clothing collection. 770-815-2696.

Thurs. Sept. 7 & Sat., Sept. 9

• The Highlands Historical Society presents The Dahlia Festival at The Bascom and around town. For more information, go to highlandshistory.com

Wed., Sept. 13

• Would you like to be a mentor? Mission's Parent Mentor Orientation Training is for parents who understand the unique experience of raising a child with a disability, mental health challenge, or special healthcare need. Since 1985, Mission Children's Hospital Family Support Network (FSN) has connected parents to volunteer parents who are uniquely qualified to help because of shared experiences. At our upcoming Parent Mentor Orientation Training, parents are trained to offer support in meaningful ways for families undergoing a new diagnosis, transition, or crisis. This training offers volunteer parents the tools they need to support others and become an official FSN Parent Mentor. Training is being offered from 10am-12:30pm; sessions will be at Mission Children's at 11 Vanderbilt Park Dr., Asheville. To register, call 828-213-0047 or email mhav.family-supportnetwork@hcahealthcare.com

Thurs., Sept. 14

• Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Gordon Center for Children in the Faith and Fellowship Center at Highlands United Methodist Church. Tickets are only \$10 per person and include pasta, bread, meat, salad and a drink. Bake sale items will be available for purchase. There will also be silent auction items to bid on that have been generously donated by local businesses. Contact the Center for tickets or more information at (828) 526-3376..

• At OEI's The Farm from 6 - 8 pm, Olivia DaPonte, an emerging songwriter in the country music scene.. Tickets are

\$40. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/olivia-daponte-orchard-sessions-at-the-far-tickets-127463>

Sept. 16

• At Acorns, Southern Botanics Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Southern Botanics specializes in collecting, pressing, mounting, and framing flowers, leaves, and other plant materials in the style of botanical engravings, all items are original hand-crafted artworks. The Latin and common names, dates, and locations are recorded in the style of herbariums on archival quality, 100% cotton rag paper.

Mon., Sept. 18

• Would you like to be a mentor? Mission's Parent Mentor Orientation Training is for parents who understand the unique experience of raising a child with a disability, mental health challenge, or special healthcare need. Since 1985, Mission Children's Hospital Family Support Network (FSN) has connected parents to volunteer parents who are uniquely qualified to help because of shared experiences. At our upcoming Parent Mentor Orientation Training, parents are trained to offer support in meaningful ways for families undergoing a new diagnosis, transition, or crisis. This training offers volunteer parents the tools they need to support others and become an official FSN Parent Mentor. Training is being offered from noon-2:30pm; sessions will be at Mission Children's at 11 Vanderbilt Park Dr., Asheville. To register, call 828-213-0047 or email mhav.family-supportnetwork@hcahealthcare.com

Sun., Sept. 24

• The 12th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser - a collaboration between the International Friendship Center and the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands to raise money for the Highlands Food Pantry. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.internationalfriendshipcenter.org/empty-bowls-2023> or at the Highlands Food Pantry, located on the bottom floor of the Highlands United Methodist Church, accessible via Spring street, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays between 10 am and 5 pm.

Thurs., Sept. 28

• The annual Alpha Delta Pi "Alumni on the Mountain" luncheon at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club at 11:30 a.m. Gate Code is #3030. Mail your check for \$42 which is your reservation to Vesta Jones, 1420 Whiteside Mountain Road, Highlands, NC 28741. Please RSVP by sending check by Sept. 23. For more information, contact Emily Buskirk at 828-787-1015 or ebbuskirk@gmail.com.

Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment Enrich your life this season with these upcoming CLE programs!

Upcoming Program Highlights



Calendar Reminders on Your iPhone/iPad

Presenter: Loraine Smith, Wednesday, September 6, 10:00-12:00, \$40/\$50

Learn how to keep appointments current, sync calendars across devices, set alerts and reminders, share your calendar with others, invite others to events, map directions to appointments, and more!



Cashless and Digital Payment Systems on Your iPhone/iPad

Presenter: Loraine Smith, Wednesday, September 6, 1:00-2:00, \$40/\$50

Learn how mobile payment apps work, what the safety levels of these apps are, and what the future of digital payment systems looks like.



Just Say No...To Pinot Grigio!

Presenter: Stephanie Miskew, Wednesday, September 7, 3:00-5:00, \$80/\$90

Explore the fascinating world of Italian white wines besides Pinot Grigio with award-winning Sommelier, Stephanie Miskew.



Art Workshop: Mixed Media

Presenter: Mary Cavaoli, Friday, September 8, 1:00-4:00, \$70/\$80
Learn the basics of creating a mixed media piece by studying the process and then creating a piece based on your own personal expression and style! All materials are provided.



Botanical EcoTour: Late Summer Wildflower Meadow

Presenter: Adam Bigelow, Monday, September 11, 9:00-12:00, \$50/\$60

Join Horticulturist Adam Bigelow for a slow, gentle, interpretive walk through a meadow of late summer wildflowers.



Art Workshop: Drawing For All

Presenter: Mary Cavaoli, Wednesday, September 20 OR Thursday, September 21, 1:00-3:30, \$70/\$80

Back by popular demand! Learn skills using a variety of drawing materials such as graphite pencils, ebony pencils, Sharpies, etc. Please bring a sketchbook or journal.

To register for these and other CLE programs, please visit clehighlands.com

(828) 526-8811

office@clehighlands.com

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Remember those who labor for us

Emily Wilmarth, Pastor,
First Presbyterian Church

One of my favorite hymns, For All the Saints, is a song often sung at Christian funerals. "For all the saints, who from their labors rest," it begins. I love that thought. As we grieve the ones we have loved and lost, we also celebrate on their behalf. Their work here is done. They rest from their labor on earth in the everlasting love of God in heaven.

On this Labor Day weekend, I am thinking of so many who still labor. Particularly, I am thinking of those who labor in love for the sake of our beloved Highlands community. There are too many to name, and I know I'd leave some out without intending to. I give thanks for every person who works to make life here possible.

Country Living magazine offers some suggestions for how to celebrate Labor Day in 2023. For example, you can host a tailgate party, or take your family glamping, or decorate your front porch for fall. Ironically, there will be plenty of folks who spend it laboring on my behalf. Police. First responders. Healthcare providers. Retail and grocery workers. I know I will rely on a number of these folks, even as I attempt to honor the day.

Let me offer one more suggestion for how to spend this Labor Day. It won't take up much of your time. But here's a prayer you can pray on behalf of those who labor - maybe even yourself.

"God of all creation,

At the beginning of time, you labored to make heaven and earth. You formed us with your holy hands, working to put your divine plan into place. We give you thanks.

You continued your work through your son, Jesus Christ, who came to labor among us. We offer you our praise.

And even in our work, you still labor. As we enjoy the fruits of creation, tending and nurturing your world through our work, we find holy direction and purpose, making our families and communities secure. For the blessings we receive in our work, we are grateful.

Guard and protect all who labor throughout the world, we pray.

Grant safety to those whose work comes with great risk to body, mind, or spirit.

Look with favor on those who cannot work, who cannot find employment, and who are not adequately paid for their labor.

Restore justice to workplaces that exploit or oppress. And keep us from laboring only for greed.

Help us remember how much we depend on each other.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30
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

Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector
464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717
CAC@christanglicancashiers.org & 828-743-1701
Sundays: 9:30 am Adult Christian Formation;

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Worship
Wednesdays: 6 pm Bible Study, Prayer, Potluck
Thursdays: 10 am Healing Eucharist

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am, Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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 • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins
Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am
Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays
4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &
Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morn-
ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Rev. Ken Langsdorf
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.
Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.
Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.
4224 Big Ridge 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
Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri., noon;
Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood
Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a
Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for
schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar Barn supports outreach in the community.
Open Thurs., Fri. Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.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 Aug. 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Aug. 21

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Peggy Crosby Center parking lot on 5th Street.

• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a report of cruelty to animals at a location on Main Street where a dog was left unattended in a hot car without water.

• At 3:30 p.m., Lawrence C. Tant, 78, of Chattanooga, TN, was issued a summons citation for cruelty to animals.

Aug. 23

• At 9:50 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east between Riverwalk Drive and Memorial Park Drive.

Aug. 24

• At 10:04 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle

accident on Moorewood Road between Hudson road and Moorewood Circle.

Aug. 26

• At 2:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on the Dillard Road.

Aug. 27

• At 1:40 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 22

Aug. 22

• At 9:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 9:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

Aug. 23

• At 12:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Dillard Road.

• At 2:40 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department.

• At 7:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Cove.

Aug. 24

• At 10:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

• At 9:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Morewood Road.

Aug. 25

• At 4:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

• At 3:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Blue Valley Falls Drive.

• At 3:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a call for an investigation at Shelby Court West.

• At 6:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of the smell of a gas leak at a residence on Horse Cover Road.

Aug. 26

• At 8:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke at a residence on Cobb Road.

• At 9:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident with a fatality on the Dillard Road.

Aug. 27

• At 5:07 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department.

• At 8:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on S. 3rd Street.

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

• At 1:55 p.m., the dept. provided assistance at a location on the Walhalla Road.

• At 6:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident with a fatality on the Dillard Road.

Aug. 28

• At 6:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Shortoff Road and the smell of an electric fire upon arrival.

• At 10:02 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Clear Creek Road.

• At 4:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane.

• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane.

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

er so that we may honor and give dignity to every kind of labor.

We pray in the name of the one who offers us this comfort:

*Come to me all you who labor
and are heavily burdened
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you,
for my yoke is easy and my burden
light.*

(Matthew 11:28)

Amen.



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First day of school in Highlands!



Photos by Kim Lewicki



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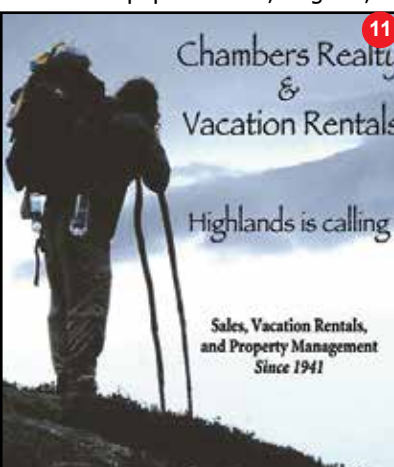
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