

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 22, Number 33

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

Thurs., Aug. 14, 2025

## Cell phone use in MC Schools is clarified

By Kristin Fox

On July 1, Governor Josh Stein signed House Bill 950 into law in North Carolina banning cell phone use during school instructional time in public

schools. The new law does not call for a complete ban on cellular devices for students, but the bill requires school districts to implement policies that restrict cell phone use in classrooms dur-

ing instructional time.

Prior to the state legislation, Highlands School already had a cell phone usage policy in place that applies to all students at

• See **CELL PHONES** page 15

## Highlands Town Board race continues to develop

By Kim Lewicki

As of press time, Wednesday, Aug. 13, only Jim Tate has signed up to run for Commissioner Brian Stiehler's vacated seat on the Town Board.

The seat vacated by Stiehler which will be on the Nov. 4 ballot is for a two-year term, which is the time left on Stiehler's unexpired term.

The election board set the 10-day filing period for Stiehler's seat from 8a, Aug. 11 until noon Aug. 22. Tate was at the Macon County Board of Election office to sign up bright and early the morning of Aug. 11.

As of press time, Mayor Pat Taylor is now running unopposed.

Contender Paul Ordner

• See **RACE** page 11



This Eastern Whitelip Snail and Red-backed Salamander represent just seom of the creatures living wild and free on the Nelson property.



Photos by Andrew Renfro

## Nelsons donate 32 in-town acres to HCLT

By Julie Schott  
HCLT

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is thrilled to announce the conservation of 31.69 acres of ecologically valuable land within the town limits of Highlands. Lo-

cated off Bowery Road, the property overlooks Horse Cove Valley and is a big conservation win for the Plateau!

Thanks to the generosity and foresight of the property owners, Kent and Alice Nelson, this re-

markable and important landscape will be protected forever. Among its most impactful conservation values, it protects water and important habitat for wildlife and plants.

• See **HCLT** page 17

## Highlands School sports begin

By Brett Lamb  
Athletic Director

The new 2025-'26 sports season is officially here! On Monday, our Highlands High School and Middle School teams began their seasons, and we're all excited to see our student-athletes compete.

We have a packed fall season ahead, with Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Cross Country, and Middle School Swimming and Dive all kicking off. Many of our teams have been putting in hard work with summer workouts and practices since the beginning of the month, and they're ready to represent Highlands.

**Volleyball**

The High School Volleyball team began its season on August 11 at Smoky Mountain High School. This year's team is under new leadership with Head Varsity Coach Reese Schmitt and Head Junior Varsity Coach Brandy Za-

• See **SPORTS** page 17



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Road work for Western NC evolves

Last week, I attended a meeting concerning future transportation projects for Macon County. The Southwestern Regional Planning Organization hosted the meeting. This regional organization handles prioritizing transportation needs for the six counties of Western Carolina. The entire process is a part of the NCDOT State Transportation Program (STIP) initiative. I will not describe how the STIP process works because it would require over 1,000 words.

Staff of the Southwestern RPO periodically meets with the leadership of the counties to get feedback about local transportation needs. The meeting I attended included officials and staff from Macon County, the Town of Franklin, and Highlands. Michael Mathis, the Highlands Zoning Director, and I represented Highlands.

At the meeting, there was discussion about making improvements to roads in



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

Macon County, such as improvements to US 441 from the state line to Franklin. Also, there was discussion about improving some truck passing lanes on US 64 from Franklin to Murphy, and improvements on US 64 from Franklin to Highlands. That prioritization along with others will continue in the coming months.

We did not talk about improvements at the gorge area of US 64 to Highlands, that stretch of the highway is locked in. Do not expect blasting away of those rock formations on the hard curves at the gorge to increase the size of the lanes, as blasting may cause the whole side of the mountain to fall away!

On a safety note, the group examined the locations of the most serious traffic accidents on US 64 that occurred between Highlands and Franklin. Many would think that most of the accidents would have occurred near Highlands or in the gorge area. They actually occurred on the flatter and straighter road areas, starting at the C. Tom Bryson bridge (Bridge number 104) near the Sugar Fork Road and going back to Franklin at Bell View Road, which is at the intersection of US 64 and highways 441/23. There may be some safety improvements made in that area in the future, such as more turn lanes.

Also, high on the list of transportation improvements that the group reviewed was extending the runway at the Macon County Airport to enhance safety for small jets that land there. That project is several years away from getting started.

In the Highlands area, there are no road improvements scheduled soon. That does not mean maintenance and resurfacing projects will not occur, but major improvements to corridor roads such as NC 106 are unlikely in the next 10 or 15 years. In the future, this schedule might prove to be problematic given the ever-increasing traffic loads. For instance, as new developments occur in the Cashiers, Highlands, and Scaly areas, traffic loads will increase, including more trucks bringing goods and supplies to the plateau. As we learned from Helene, NC 106 is a key commercial artery for this part of Macon and Jackson County. Our group also reviewed a priority list-

## • SNAPSHOT •







'What's the special tonight?'

Photo by Joann Epstein

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## • WEATHER •

Thu, 14-Aug	Fri, 15-Aug	Sat, 16-Aug	Sun, 17-Aug
			
75°F 61°F	78°F 62°F	74°F 59°F	79°F 61°F
A couple of morning showers	Humid with a t-storm or two	An afternoon t-storm; humid	An afternoon t-storm or two
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High: 82° Low: 64°	High: 91° Low: 68°	High: 88° Low: 70°	High: 90° Low: 67°

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### Highlands Newspaper

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

### Pleasantly prospering at home

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John Sheehan, Broker  
Mountain Life  
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Yet, how well does investing in your primary or secondary home compare to other types of investments, and what feelings do you experience? I am not talking about homes bought for rental investment purposes, but rather your personal homes used for personal use. Do you even know what your home has returned to you over the same period? If not, you should.

Let's explore an example: As of August 6, 2025, the S&P 500 has increased by 97.3% since January 1, 2020. If you invested \$100 in the S&P 500 at the beginning of 2020, you would have \$197.30 today.

Did you know that if you had invested in a "average home" sold in our MLS, you likely would have done better than the S&P 500? Year-to-date average home sales prices have increased 136.8% when comparing 2020 to 2025. In other words, one might argue that an average home investment in our MLS increased an additional 39.5% more than the S&P 500 returned over the same period.

Will that always occur? No. Could a particular stock investment have done better than a particular home during that same period? Absolutely yes, but I hope you understand I am simply encouraging our residents to recognize potential comparative returns from their own real estate.

A naysayer might shout that a homeowner will have unique fees that reduce that return, like HOA dues, utilities, insurance, and property tax. I would counter that the mentioned incremental 39.5% comparative increase in home values would have covered a lot of that.

Something to also consider is that your gains in the S&P 500 and other traditional financial investment avenues are less likely to provide owners the following

benefits over the same investment time period: Cherished memories, a communal gathering place, delightful dinners, cocktails on a terrace, views to sunrises and sunsets, breezes through a porch, an escape from the city, a new architectural palate to shape and form, and a landscape of flowers, trees, hydrangeas, azaleas, rhododendron and mountain laurel. A home provides more than a sense of satisfaction; it can provide its owner a beaming sense of pride.

Live a little. Consider buying an aspirational home rather than another annuity. Enjoy life! We REALTORS can help.

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## • CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marti Boone

CHHS rescued beautiful Debra last summer after she was found abandoned in Sylva. Debra is one year old and she has a bit of, as they say... "tortitude". Debra is somewhat wary of humans at first, but we feel this tortie will "come out of her shell" with love and patience in a gentle, calm environment with another feline in the home. For more information call (828)743-5752.

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# • LETTERS •

## Thank you, Pastor Forrester

Dear Editor,

Thank you for including Spiritually Speaking in the Highlands newspaper.

Pastor Sam Forrester hit the bull's eye this week in his column "What do men need to do?" Believers are indeed instructed to raise our children in the way they SHOULD go. This takes time and perseverance, patience, knowledge and most of all determination. But it also takes parents knowing and practicing life according to God's design as found in His book the Bible.

Young parents who are trying to work several jobs, attend sporting events, and keep the home harmonious instead of dissonant, need to be supported and encouraged by older folks who worked diligently at raising their own children. Young parents need cheerleaders not demeaning critics. They also need mentors who succeeded at raising their own children.

Eli the High Priest was cited in Pastor Forrester's op-ed. Sadly Eli seemed not even to notice his children's ways until God spoke through young Samuel, Eli's protégé about Eli's sons and their selfish wayward practices. Did Eli ever confess his error? Or was he too proud and too important to humble himself, beg for forgiveness and correct? Godly men must and do ask for forgiveness often!

Oh, what would the world be like if we cancelled our own pride, asked for some help and advice, and then were grateful when some sweet soul pulled alongside us to walk and guide us around the potholes?

Poor Eli did not. His sons died, and he did as well before he could correct, turn from his ways, abandon his pride, beg for forgiveness and start over. Eli died without another courageous man drawing alongside of him as his cane and guide.

But as Pastor Forrester taught in his column, there ARE men in our towns who ARE gifted and knowledgeable on how to navigate the hurdles in raising Godly men. They are as Forrester stated, often found in Bible teaching churches, and many will make time for young fathers who need help and guidance. Young fathers are humbled by the huge task at hand to raise and train young sons and daughters for a strong and successful future life. They are called to be the head of their households, not the tyrants. But they often need some understanding and patient help.

• See LETTERS page 8

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MIRROR LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**WED., AUGUST 20, 2025**  
**5PM-7PM**  
**HIGHLAND'S COMMUNITY BUILDING**  
**AGENDA**

- Dredging Update
- Fundraising
- Park Proposal
- Panel Discussion + Q&A
- Election of Officers

## Dear Highlands Community...

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

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

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

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

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

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

During the project, you'll notice changes:

- Dredging equipment along my shores
- Varying water levels as the work progresses

- Construction sounds during working hours
- Some areas' traffic will be temporarily restricted for safety

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

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

*With hope and gratitude,  
Mirror Lake*





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## ...LETTERS continued from page 7

Thank you, Pastor Forrester, for your great advice. Often the road young fathers must travel, simply needs a tour guide who has done this trip successfully before! Now is the time for Godly men to step up and humbly walk with young fathers who yearn to produce fine children who will count in Highlands, our country and beyond.

**Diann Catlin**  
**Highlands**

## Employers need to keep their employees' safety in mind

Dear Editor,

Am I the only one who cringes and says a prayer for the workers as they make their way on foot to (and from) the restaurants, shops, and businesses in the Town of Highlands? The pathways they have to walk on, to the side of the roads on the Dillard, Franklin and Walhalla roads, is obviously not wide enough and separate enough from the traffic to call it anything but a crap shoot that someone wouldn't be mistakenly hit. The worst thing? You can't really see them!!

I strongly think that their Employers should consider issuing and requiring Safety Vests be worn by these folks as they make their way to and from work. The time is now....before it's too late.

**Bob McEver**  
**Highlands, NC**

## Highlands needs and benefits from an increasing tax base

Dear Editor,

The Mayor's weekly post has twice noted the building activity that is currently underway in the Riverwalk community and I thought it would be helpful to provide some perspective from someone living in Riverwalk. As background, Leslie and I bought our house in 2012 and live here yearround. As a member of the community and the Riverwalk board, I have had the pleasure of

working with Curated Communities, and its owner Dustin Hirschfeld.

The appeal of Riverwalk, with its proximity to town and our ability to enjoy walks down Cullasaja, is now being realized by a local builder, someone who is a member of our community. Dustin and his wife Sarah have lived in Highlands since 2020 and his six-year-old son Harrison goes to school here. He is building a home for his parents in Riverwalk and plans on building a home for his family as well. Curated Communities employs over 60, making him one of the larger employers in the town. His building activities also support the broader business community. He is committed to Highlands and the broader area.

Over the next several years, the Riverwalk board, working with Dustin, will be making over \$600,000 in improvements to the Riverwalk community. Dustin is committed to responsible building practices and has partnered with the Riverwalk community and the town to achieve that objective. The town's code enforcement officer frequently drives through our community to monitor and ensure compliance.

Progress does have its cost – building homes is not a quiet endeavor and Dustin has demonstrated his willingness to work with his neighbors. It's important to note that Dustin will be adding over \$50 million in real estate values to our tax base. The town has been consistently improving our community with more sidewalks, road improvements, and a new fulltime staffed firehouse to name a few. Those improvements require upfront and ongoing maintenance costs.

Our community has been fortunate to have the Williams and Woodruff families as benefactors, but that won't continue. I wonder if at a different time, the community would have to work as hard to raise money for the new playground? Our community must plan on supporting our cost structure through our tax base; additions to our tax base are integral to supporting improvements to our way of life. I don't believe there is status quo – if you are not moving forward, you are moving backwards.

**Todd Boney**  
**Riverwalk community**  
**Highlands**

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## Highlands Hurricanes win 2025 MSL All Star Meet

**By Steve Hott  
Head Coach**

On Saturday, July 19 the Highlands Hurricanes traveled to the new Jackson County Aquatics Center to swim in the 2025 Mountain Swim League (MSL) All Star Meet against Franklin Amateur Swim Team (FAST), Jackson County Swim Team (JCST), Cherokee County Aquatics Club (CCAC), and Smoky Mountain Aquatics Club - based in Waynesville (SMAC).

Highlands won.

Leading the way were Jr. Olympians Jasmine Abranyi, and in his last appearance at a MSL All Star Meet, Finneas Garner, both who were awarded the trophy for most valuable swimmer in their age/gender classification.

Right behind them were Jr. Olympians Emma Dennisoff, Aniah McKim, Dodo Zhang, and Elizabeth Burnett all who were awarded the trophy for 2nd most valuable swimmer in their age/gender group.

Jr. Olympians Hayden Bysura and Bella Bysura won the 3rd place most valuable swimmer trophy in their age/gender group.

Emilina Hernandez and Luca Maseko were 3rd place trophy winners for their age group.

Also swimming well for the Hurricanes was Asa Garner with 14, Rocco Basil 13, and Jr. Olympians Justin Powell with 12.

Emily Mason, Lucas Zabrian, and Zana Maseko each scored 10 pts.; Morgan Mason had 9, Max Basil 6, Ellie Bysura, Nikita Denisoff and Jr. Olympian Jaycee Powell scored 5.

Ivan Shchegachov scored 4, Hananiah Edwards and Jr. Olympian Jack Sumner scored 3, Katherine Wise and an ill Ian Batista scored 2. Brother and sister Max and Agatha Jestin swam well.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices mostly in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement for a prospective swimmer to join the team is that they must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the Recreation Park Pool) unassisted. For more information, please call Steve Hott, Head Coach at 828.421.4121.



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## Social Security

Written by  
Andrew Bergman

Directed by  
Donna Cochran  
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# • HOSPITAL NEWS •

## HC Hospital's CEO provides update on current state of the hospital, Part 2

This month, in the second installment of my State of the Hospital report, I am pleased to talk about additional exciting things going on at Highlands-Community Hospital (HCH), and others we're planning and anticipating. As always, our wonderful

team drives our work, facilitates change, and nurtures our growth.

First, I would like to highlight the role that HCA Healthcare's Hope Fund played in offering critical emergency financial assistance to our HCH team members who faced hardships

and loss from the unprecedented natural disaster that our community faced last fall and is still dealing with in many ways — Hurricane Helene.

The Hope Fund exists to help HCA Healthcare colleagues who experience crises, from an extended illness, domestic violence, or the death of a loved one to, in our case, the upending effects of the storm. Since it was established in 2005 to July of last year, the Hope Fund has helped over 55,000 colleagues and their families get through the toughest of times. Funding comes from team members themselves and is matched by HCA Healthcare. In addition to colleague contributions and matches, affiliated physicians, vendors, patients, and members of the general public can make tax-deductible donations. These combined sources of aid have raised and distributed \$107 million since the Hope Fund began.

I'm grateful we have had this resource that our team members can turn to.

Another important consideration in the life and future of HCH is growth, and capital investment from HCA Healthcare is what nurtures this. Since January of this year, construction for the addition of new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) suites has been ongoing. As part of this project, we have also been building a new therapy gym that patients will get much use from, and an expansion of our lab. Our new CT suite is slated for completion in August, while the new MRI suite and therapy gym are due to be done in September.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to highlight our sister facility, the Eckerd Living Center. Our 80-bed skilled nursing facility offers top-notch care to residents, and HCH is right here to provide more care if a resident needs it. An interdisciplinary team that includes administra-



Tom Neal CEO, CNO  
Highlands-Cashiers  
Hospital

tors, physicians, nurse managers, social workers, dietitians, and therapists all collaborate to deliver excellent, personalized care to residents. This includes customized medical treatment plans, therapeutic services, and medication management. Residents' chronic conditions and overall health are well managed, and everything is done to keep residents independent and connected to each other, since emotional health is every bit as important as physical health. To achieve this, we offer a wide variety of on-site

activities and outings to residents, and our facility is also equipped with a serene, wheelchair-accessible garden.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that HCH has received HCA Healthcare's Unit of Distinction and Press Ganey's Guardian of Excellence awards for 2024. Press Ganey is a healthcare company that helps facilities measure patient experience, physician satisfaction, and other important industry metrics. The HCA Healthcare Unit of Distinction award recognizes the top ERs in HCA Healthcare for quality, patient experience, and team satisfaction. We are so proud of our ER nurses, doctors, and support staff for attaining this high mark for outstanding care.

The Guardian of Excellence award is coveted and recognizes healthcare facilities that provide unmatched care, leading to superior patient experiences. This is the third year our Emergency Department has received the Guardian of Excellence award. Our ER's patient experience scores consistently rank in the 99th percent of all ERs.

With a talented team, abundant community support, and an eye toward the future, HCH is poised to continue to soar, while we provide excellent care that you can count on.

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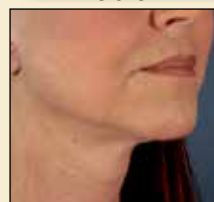
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## ...RACE continued from page 1

called the mayor and told him he was dropping out which was verified by this newspaper.

"I realized there is too much involved in being mayor," said Ordner. "It's a big task. So I'm gone and sitting on the sidelines."

According to Campaign Finance Director with the MC Board of Elections Judy Fritts, for the withdrawal to be official Ordner must go to the office and fill out withdrawal paperwork.

Ordner said he plans on going there Thursday, Aug. 14.

As in every election, write-

ins are accepted for all candidate slots.

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

ing for new DOT sidewalk projects. Highlands does have two sidewalk projects high on that list. One is the sidewalk for NC 106, and the other is for a sidewalk on US 64 or Franklin Road.

The NC 106 sidewalk project failed to receive special grant funding a while back. The sidewalk is estimated to cost 1.1 million dollars and would run from the Highlands Plaza shopping center to the Highlands Country Club area. The Franklin Road sidewalk would go from the Bascom Will Henry Steven's Cov-

ered Bridge to Mirror Lake Road and is estimated to cost \$2.4 million. As part of the cost of these projects, DOT would expect the town to cover 20% of the total costs. Do not expect these sidewalks to be funded overnight; it will take some time.

Also, NCDOT is planning to replace the C. Tom Bryson Bridge on US 64 between Franklin and Highlands. That project is two or more years away from starting. Once underway, it will take several years to complete.



**Jim Tate**

## Thank You, Brian Stiehler!

Brian is retiring from the Board of Commissioners after fourteen years of service to the residents of Highlands.

Brian has been an even-handed advocate for smart economic growth, environmental protection and the preservation of our neighborhoods. He has been a great steward of our resources and a great citizen of Highlands.

We are fortunate he is remaining in the area and will continue to champion community improvements, like the work he is doing for the new playground.

Join us in thanking Brian. You can also show your appreciation by making a donation to the new playground at [www.highlandsplay.net](http://www.highlandsplay.net).

THANKS BRIAN!



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## Open House – Sat. & Sun. Aug. 16 & 17, noon to 3p 1302 Highlands Mountain Club



3/BD, 2BA turn-key upstairs unit. Updated, beautiful and furnished with stunning year-round views of 5 mountain ranges. Highlands Mountain Club, near Highlands Country Club, is a 55+ club with all the amenities. For more information, call Laura Cook at 470-316-4420 or email [laurahcook60@gmail.com](mailto:laurahcook60@gmail.com).

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## Charitable Giving Strategies Presentation

September 17, 2025  
12:00 - 1:30 PM

Highlands Community Building  
869 N 4th St, Highlands, NC



Join us for an insightful presentation designed to empower both non-profit organizations and individual donors. Whether you're part of a non-profit seeking innovative ways to engage supporters, or an individual exploring meaningful and strategic ways to give, this event will provide valuable tools and guidance to help you create a lasting legacy. Lunch will be provided for registered attendees.

Julie Upshaw,  
Attorney at Law

Co-Hosted by:

Robin Cook, CWS®,  
CTFA® Sr. VP &  
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828-487-8009

## • CLE EVENTS •

### Religion, literature, science and history at the Center for Life Enrichment

By Martha Pearson  
CLE President

The audiences at the Center for Life Enrichment's programs this summer have come to expect engaging speakers on fascinating and often timely topics. The last two weeks of the season will continue with that tradition closing the CLE season of academic presentations with an all-star cast of speakers, many familiar to the Plateau.

Jeffrey Small, author and scholar of world religions, as well as a CLE favorite, will present two lectures. In the first, he explores how the world's religious traditions conceive of heaven and eternal life. Can religious traditions other than our own enlighten our views on the meaning of salvation? Can we find salvation during this life? These are the questions he will consider on Monday, August 18th from 2-4p at his lecture entitled, Who Goes to Heaven? Perspectives on Eternal Life from the World's Religions. He then takes up the even more complex problem of the existence of evil and suffering in the world. Eastern and Western religious traditions approach this problem in very different ways. While both recognize the imperfections in our lives, they prescribe

different paths to understanding them. This lecture, titled, The Necessity of Imperfection: Grappling with Evil and Suffering in the World's Religions, will be on Tuesday, August 19th from 10a to noon.

High Country Wine and Provisions and CLE will host one of the most highly acclaimed authors of the Southeastern United States. Ron Rash, the Parris Distinguished Professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University, will discuss the major themes of his life's work: eight novels, seven collections of short stories and four volumes of poetry. Professor Brian Railsback, Professor of English at WCU and Rash's colleague, will offer an introductory lecture to Rash's body of work and Rash will read from selections of his poetry and fiction. Rash will answer questions from the audience and Dr. Railsback. This presentation, Words from the Heart: an Evening with Ron Rash on Life, Literature, and Legacy, will be on Wednesday, August 20th from 5:30-7:30p. CLE is pleased to share that a portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Literacy and Learning Center, to support their

• See CLE page 13

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monthly specials for  
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This is a fact of life that reasonable people can agree on. The rich increase their wealth at the expense of workers who can't afford health insurance, and struggle to pay rent/the mortgage, and put food on the table.

Historically there is a tipping point, which is where we are heading today. We need better leaders and better education to have a society where everyone gets a fair shake.

We need a coordinated master plan which includes all progressive organizations! Bucking the System, available on Amazon under Books, addresses income inequality and what we can do about it.

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



## ...CLE continued from page 12

mission of providing educational and enrichment opportunities free of charge for all ages.

The work of another local author, Dr. James Costa, Executive Director of the Highlands Biological Station, will be featured at a cocktail reception on Thursday, August 21st from 4-6p. Dr. Costa will discuss his book, *Darwin and the Art of Botany: Observations on the Curious World of Plants*. This book spotlights 45 fascinating plants Darwin studied, and each is illustrated with beautiful, historical botanical artwork curated by Costa's co-author Bobbi Angell from the Library at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation in Upperville, Virginia.

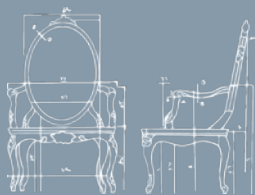
In *The Future of Nuclear Power – An Insider's Perspective*, John Kotek, Senior Vice President for Policy and Public Affairs at the Nuclear Energy Institute, will address the important topic of next-generation nuclear energy systems. He will explain the growth in demand for clean electricity driven by data centers and AI companies, and how nuclear energy fits into meeting that demand as well as the plans of US utilities to decarbonize electricity generation.

Finally, Dr. Catherine Lewis, Professor of History at Kennesaw State University and Assistant Vice President of Museums, Archives and Rare Books at KSU will present two lectures. She will examine the role

of women in World War II, which she calls a "woman's war" because of the numerous and varied roles women played in that global conflict. As the title, *Beyond Rosie: Women and World War II*, suggests, Lewis will show that women were not only wartime production workers, but also served in auxiliary military units, in resistance groups, as journalists and USO performers, among many others. Lewis then focuses on Hollywood's role in the World War II effort. She will examine how Hollywood supported the war producing newsreels, military combat footage, short films, cartoons and full-length features with which we are all still familiar, including *Casablanca*. Rosie will be presented on Monday, August 25th from 2 to 4p and Hollywood on Tuesday, August 26th from 10a to noon..

With the exception of the Rash and Costa events, these presentations will take place at CLE's Lecture Hall, located in the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 South 5th Street. The cost for each program is \$30 for CLE members and \$40 for nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information about those programs or to register for either the Rash or Costa events which are \$70 for CLE members and \$80 for nonmembers, please visit [clehighlands.com](http://clehighlands.com) or call (828) 526-8811.

## CASHIERS DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE



August 22<sup>nd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 2025

Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door.

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Visit [CashiersHistory.org](http://CashiersHistory.org) for tickets and to learn more.

## Highlands-Cashiers Center for **Life Enrichment** Program Highlights

### **Unveiling the Smokies: How Discover Life in America (DLiA) is Mapping the Hidden Biodiversity of the Great Smoky Mountains**

Presenter: Todd Witcher, Friday, August 15, 10am-noon,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### **Night Visions: Unlocking the Secrets of Photography After Dark**

Presenter: Kevin Adams, Monday, August 18,  
10am-noon, \$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### **Who Goes to Heaven? Perspectives on Eternal Life from the World's Religions**

Presenter: Jeffrey Small, Monday, August 18,  
2-4pm, \$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### **The Necessity of Imperfection: Grappling with Evil and Suffering in the World's Religions**

Presenter: Jeffrey Small, Tuesday, August 19,  
10am-noon, \$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### **Alcohol Inks (Advanced Art Workshop)**

Instructor: Mary Cavaoli, Tuesday, August 19,  
2-4pm, \$85 Members /\$95 Nonmembers

### **Words from the Heart: An Evening with Ron Rash on Life, Literature, and Legacy**

Presenters: Ron Rash and Brian Railsback, Wednesday,  
August 20, 5:30-7:30pm, \$70 Members /\$80  
Nonmembers, Location: High Country Wine & Provisions

### **Author Reception: Darwin and the Art of Botany**

Presenter: Dr. Jim Costa, Thursday, August 21, 4-6pm, \$70  
Members /\$80 Nonmembers

### **The Future of Nuclear Power - An Insiders Perspective**

Presenter: John Kotek, Friday, August 22, 10am-noon,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

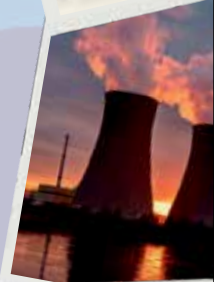
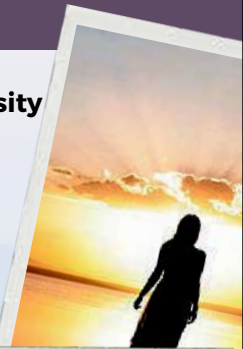
### **Beyond Rosie: Women and World War II**

Presenter: Dr. Catherine Lewis, Monday, August 25,  
2-4pm, \$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### **Hollywood Goes to War**

Presenter: Dr. Catherine Lewis, Tuesday, August 26, 10am-noon, \$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

**Call (828) 526-8811 or visit**  
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## Outdoor Concert Series

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

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

### Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main Street

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AUGUST 8  
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AUGUST 15  
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AUGUST 22  
Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

AUGUST 29  
The Foxfire Boys

### Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park  
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Featuring a variety of popular,  
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AUGUST 2  
High 5

AUGUST 9  
HC Oakes Band

AUGUST 30  
Southside Station

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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



### Pickleball Tourny a success

Mountaintop Rotary President Andy Walker presented member Sue Aery with the "Above and Beyond Award" for her hard work in orchestrating a very successful Pickleball Tournament.

### Rotary enjoys a book talk

Mountaintop Rotary President Andy Walker presents a gift to Diane Pike Heiler following her presentation at Monday evening's meeting. Diane is the author of "A Widow's Fire" which is an intimate memoir of widowhood's heartbreak, survival and moving forward.



### HFCC awards scholarship to summer employee

Highlands Falls Country Club is pleased to award \$5,000 in scholarship funds to Leland Martin. He is pursuing study in turf management at Catawba Valley Community College.

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## ...CELL PHONES continued from page 1

Highlands School. The existing policy states students are only allowed to use cellular devices including smart watches and headphones in the non-academic areas in the building during non-academic time.

Non-academic time is defined as before school (before 7:55 a.m.), after school (after 3:10 p.m.), during high school break, and during high school lunch. Elementary and Middle School students can only use electronic devices before and after school.

Highlands School cell phone usage policy includes the following parameters that apply to the use of the previously listed electronics when they are used in the building:

- Devices may only be used in non-academic areas (defined above)
  - Devices may only be used during the approved times (listed above)
  - Phone calls can only be made or received outside by the picnic table areas.
  - Ringtones must be turned off when the phone is in the building.
  - Devices may be used to listen to music, but only via headphones or earbuds, no sound should be audible to others.
  - Devices must be turned off when entering a classroom, unless the teacher has given specific, prior permission for the device to be on.
  - Devices are subject to be confiscated by teachers if a student is using them or they are turned on in the classroom without the teacher's prior permission.
  - Electronic devices may also be used in the Media Center within the above rules and with the Media Specialist's prior permission.
  - Highlands School is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
- Students who do not comply with the above expectations are subject to the following consequences:

sequences:

1st Offense: Teacher will confiscate device, communicate with parents, and hold the device until the end of the school day.

2nd Offense: Teacher will confiscate the device and turn it into administration. Administrators will communicate with parents and hold the device until the end of the school day, when students can pick up.

3rd Offense: Teacher will confiscate the device and turn it into administration. Administrators will schedule a conference with parents and students and be returned to parents/guardians. Students will be required to turn in (7:55a) and pick up (3:10p) the device daily for a specified amount of time as discussed in the administrative meeting.

"I do think cell phones interrupt school learning if not used in the way stated in the Highlands School policy," said Principal Sarah Holbrooks. "I think cell phones should be allowed in schools; however, they shouldn't be allowed in learning environments."

"I don't mind at all for students to have cell phones with them at school as long as they are following the appropriate expectations for cell phones at school," she added. "I realize our parents and families often depend on this communication for transportation and after school activities."

The state's new cell phone law allows for exceptions, such as when a teacher authorizes phone use for educational purposes or in emergencies, or when a student's individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan requires it. Another exception would be to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition such as if students use their phones to monitor their blood glucose levels.

The law also mandates that schools teach social media literacy to students including internet safety and wireless device policy. As required by the new law, a social media curriculum must be

developed and added to the standard course of study. The curriculum, which should educate students on the downsides of social media and how to navigate misinformation, must be in place by the 2026-2027 school year.

According to the North Carolina School Boards Association many school districts across the state have policies banning cell phones during instructional time; however, the policies differ from district to district. Policies range from schools banning student cell phone usage during the entire school day while others allow students to use cell phones and other devices during non-instructional time such as during breaks, lunches and class changes.

Currently the latter is the policy in effect at Franklin High School.

North Carolina joins the 31 other states and the District of Columbia who have implemented requirements for school districts to ban or restrict students' use of cell phones in schools. Growing concerns about the negative impact cell phones have on students' academics and mental health have prompted schools around the nation to take action to fight this problem.

The Macon County Board of Education will discuss the new law and how it wants to implement it throughout the district at this week's work session. In addition to Highlands School and Franklin High School, several other schools in the district already have some sort of cell phone usage policy.

At Bartram Academy, students have to turn in cell phones, wireless head phones and watches to the school office each day or must leave the devices in their car. Last fall, Macon Early College implemented a policy in which students put their cell phones in a pouch during the school day.

Local school districts will have until January 1, 2026 to implement their cell phone usage policy.



The Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival is Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 18-21 and features four days of competition film screenings, workshops and presentations by emerging filmmakers, actors, acclaimed industry presenters and award-winning professionals.

All genres will be showcased, including features, documentaries, shorts, and international films on the Main Stage at PAC and in the Martin-Lipscomb Theatre.

For the complete schedule and tickets go to [www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com](http://www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com)

## Why the Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival could be your new September tradition

By Megan Lewicki

From September 18–21, Highlands will try something it's never done before — a film festival of its own. Over four days, the Highlands Performing Arts Center will host screenings, discussions, and gatherings that bring filmmakers and audiences into the same room. It's a first for the Plateau, but it already feels like a natural fit.

Highlands has always had a way of drawing creative people here. Some come for the quiet. Others for the light in the mornings or the sense of time slowing down. You see their work in the galleries, on the concert stage, in the plays that pop up at the PAC. The festival is simply another way to share stories — this time, flickering across a screen.

The program isn't designed to overwhelm; it's designed to invite. There are films with local roots, like *The Gardener*, shot entirely in Highlands. There are international features and classics, and there are sessions where you can hear directly from the people who lit the scenes, built the sets, or brought the characters to life. You can wander in for a single event or follow the thread all weekend.

Sunday's Awards Event will close things out — not with red carpets and paparazzi, but with the kind of gathering Highlands does best: people in conversation, remembering moments from the weekend and making connections that might lead to the next project.

For a town this size, a film festival is more than entertainment. It's a reason for people to sit together in a darkened room and see the world — and sometimes their own streets — through a different lens. Whether this becomes a September tradition will depend on the people in the seats and the conversations in between.

In that way, the weekend is as much about community as it is about cinema — a reminder that stories come alive when they're shared, and that gathering to watch them can be as powerful as the stories themselves. Maybe that's the real promise of the Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival: not just the films, but the connections that spark when stories, strangers, and neighbors meet in the same room. In a town where it's easy to wave across Main Street but harder to sit down and talk, a weekend like this makes space for those moments. And if we're lucky, they'll linger long after the credits roll.

For complete schedule and tickets go to [www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com](http://www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com)



## Free! Community Shredding Event

Dispose of your sensitive documents  
and help our environment!

Friday, August 22, 2025

Highlands Plaza

(Near Bryson's Food Store)

9am - 12pm

Benefitting: The Gordon Center,  
Highlands Child Care Development Center  
and the Literacy & Learning Center

This event is made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/  
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For more information:  
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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rendering of new church now under construction at Our Lady of the Mountain site in Highlands.

## Architect leading White House ballroom construction designed Our Lady of the Mountain new church

By Mary Margaret Olohan

Construction on the new White House ballroom will soon begin led by Washington, D.C., architect James McCrery.

McCrery, who practices classical and traditional architecture, is the founder of McCrery Architects and a professor of architecture at the Catholic University of America.

Some of his past work includes the Knoxville, TN based Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands, NC, and St. Mary Help of Christians Church, based in Aiken, SC.

McCrery has long been lauded as a classical architect, particularly when it comes to his work on Catholic churches.

The D.C.-based architect has deplored modernistic church architecture of the late 19th century and 20th century, arguing that modern church architecture often fails to truly glorify God or inspire those attending mass or praying in the church.

In 2013, he pointed out to the National Catholic Register that some modern

churches lack statues and instead include “nondescript altars, stained-glass nature scenes and rounded pews that focus Catholics on one another instead of the altar and the Eucharist.”

“We don’t have as big of a problem as in Europe, especially France and Italy, because our culture has not drifted as far toward modernism, theologically or architecturally,” McCrery said in 2013. “But we do suffer substantially from this problem.”

Arguing in favor of traditional church architecture, he told the National Catholic Register: “Tradition didn’t just all of the sudden happen. It has been in the works for thousands of years. A chemist would not come to the elements with a fresh look every time, deciding the elemental chart is of no use or interest whatsoever in the modern era and that his personal creativity is something more valuable.”

“That would be absurd,” he added. “But it’s exactly where we’ve arrived after a century and a half of architectural lunacy.”

The church in Highlands is currently under construction.

### *“A believer in the holiness of nature”*

Free SIP & SIGN Book Signing with local poet **RICHARD BETZ** at  
Highlands Wine Shoppe  
**Friday, Aug. 22 from 5-7pm**  
Featuring his latest book of poetry  
**“Continental Divide”**

\*Optional \$49 includes wine + charcuterie + signed book  
269 Oak Street - Across from Reeves Hardware



## ...HCLT from page 1

At least two headwater tributary streams originate here. Conservation of this land helps protect water quality as well as clean water for trout, salamander, and other aquatic species.

Many other protected lands occur nearby, and a currently undeveloped strip connects the property with Nantahala National Forest land, providing critical natural corridors for wildlife. Natural corridors of continuous undeveloped land are necessary as places for wildlife to live, feed, breed, and travel. The connectivity of the property to larger, protected land in the general vicinity is profoundly important for local plants and animal diversity, many of which require intact habitats to survive.

Conservation wins such as the protection of this 31.69 acres help add to the ecologically significant protected landscape of the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains, while ensuring the scenic rural quality for residents and visitors for generations to come.

What happens here has far-reaching effects and our wild places are in the crosshairs and at risk of being lost forever. Thanks to the generosity of landowners like the Nelsons, the wild and scenic lands and waters that provide so much for us will be safeguarded forever.

HCLT, a nationally accredited 501c3 nonprofit has been working to save our unique and irreplaceable landscape here on the Plateau since 1909. By working with landowners to voluntarily conserve their family lands, we have been able to permanently conserve over 4,400 acres in and around Highlands and Cashiers.

To learn more email [info@hcltnc.org](mailto:info@hcltnc.org) or 828-526-1111. Together we are saving mountains.

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## ...SPORTS continued from page 1

gal-Damian. It's always great to bring former Highlander student-athletes back to coach our teams. The varsity team is led by six seniors and is looking to repeat as conference champions.

The Middle School Volleyball team will traveled to Franklin Saturday, August 9, for a preseason scrimmage at Macon Middle to prepare for their season opener on August 18 against Hayesville. We're glad to welcome back Angela Swain as the team's head coach after a few years away from coaching.

### Soccer

The Varsity Boys Soccer team will kick off their game schedule on Thursday, August 14 at Franklin High School. Please note

that this game will be played at Macon Middle School due to construction at Franklin High School. The team is led by Coach Caleb Brown and is an experienced group with seven seniors and seven juniors.

The Middle School Boys Soccer team, coached by Calab Bowers and Scott Westendorf, has a host of talented eighth-graders who will begin their season on Tuesday, August 19 at Cherokee.

### Cross Country

The High School Cross Country team will be coached by Sonya Carpenter and return regional qualifiers Claire Worley and Francisco Gooch. Their season begins on Monday, August 25 at Hayesville. We will

release the Middle School Cross Country coaches and schedule at a later date.

### Swimming and Diving

The Middle School Swim and Dive team will be coached by Steve Hott, Jackie Powell, Jordan Kenter, and Stephen Julka. Their season begins on Thursday, September 4 at the Macon County Rec Park.

Coach Kaitlin Bishop and I are excited to watch all of these teams compete and represent Highlands School. Thank you to our coaches and student-athletes for their time and dedication as we prepare for another school year. We look forward to seeing everyone out there cheering on our teams!

  
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# SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



## We have a king!

**Pastor Mark Ford**  
First Baptist Church  
Highlands

In recent weeks we have seen in our town – and throughout the nation – weekend visits from folk intent on reminding us that our nation has no king. They utilize hand-linked placards and verbose diatribes that possess little substance beyond cliché, and vitriolic attacks lacking knowledge of civics and history in general. Unless I'm mistaken, we still have a sitting congress duly elected by the people, a supreme court, and an elected President – called by a majority of our citizenry. The three bodies keep each other in check as set forth by our Founding Fathers and the Constitution. What I think I'm really hearing are the disenchanted who didn't get their king, or queen as it turns out.

But going beyond the political discourse and divisiveness of the rhetoric "We have no king!" I was hearing something else. I was hearing a portion of our populace express their unhappiness with perceived restrictions of their personal desires and wants in light of the shift occurring in our land toward conservative values and restoration of the Judeo-Christian foundation upon which our republic was established. I think I was hearing "We have no king but ourselves!" What they seem to want is an emaciated government that will give license to uninhibited lifestyles and a government groomed to supply their every want. And they want a government that will restrict all dissenting voices – except their own. They don't want any semblance of a strong presence that promotes absolutes and the rule of law that interferes with their desires.

What they fail to acknowledge is that we have always had a King! His name is the Lord Jesus Christ. As Paul pointed out, "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11). And John concurred in his Revelation (19:16), telling us that "On His robe and on his thigh, he has a name written, 'King of kings and Lord of lords!'" And as any casual reading of the Scriptures will reveal, our King Jesus has plenty to say regarding wrong and right and restricting our sinful inclinations for our own good. I say again, we do have a king! He is not in the White House, or any other branch of government. He is on His Throne, ever declaring His absolutes of truth, His laws and precepts. And they are not open to any elections or protest. Jesus is King!

But one final point. History is the story of humanity rejecting our King. One poignant illustration is from I Samuel 8. The nation of Israel had ultimately reached a point of doing only what was right in their own eyes. They had no king but themselves (Judges 21:25). With Samuel we have our last of the Lord's appointed judges to oversee the theoc-

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

## BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor

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

## CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30; Worship 10:30

## GRACE CHAPEL ON HIGH HOLLY

9615 Dillard Rd Scaly Mountain, N.C.

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas. <http://www.Graceonhighholly.com>

Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11; Prayer Service Wed 5:30p Men's

and Women's Bible Study throughout the week

## CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector

464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701

Sunday: Adult Christian Ed, 9:15a; Holy Eucharist, 10:30a; Fellowship

11:45a; Wed: Bible Study/Contemplative Prayer, 5p

## CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Jacob Tedder • [Jacob@cashiers.church](mailto:Jacob@cashiers.church) • 743-5470

[www.cashiers.church](http://www.cashiers.church)

Sun. 10:45a; Wed Study 5:15p supper and childcare.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

## CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

[www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com) • 526-4685

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

Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.

10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKYVALLEY

706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • [www.incarnationwnc.org](http://www.incarnationwnc.org)

Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30 am

in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,

Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • [www.fbchighlands.org](http://www.fbchighlands.org)

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

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Emily Wilmarth, pastor; Rev. Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor

828-526-3175 • [fpchighlands.org](http://fpchighlands.org)

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10a; Worship 11a.; Tues: Men's Group 10a;

Wed: Bell Choir 4p. Chancel Choir: 5:30p

## GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

## GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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[www.gracecashiers.com](http://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 shar-

ing 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

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[www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://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. Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

## MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • [mountainsynagoguewnc.com](http://mountainsynagoguewnc.com).

Services: 1st Fri. and 3rd Sat. and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

## MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Sat. 4pm 5/24/25-10/25/25; Sun. - 11am

## SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

## SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

## SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

## ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Sun. 9a (English); Mon. 9:30a (Vatican II in Latin); Tues. 7p

(Spanish); Wed., 9:30a (English)

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

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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • [uufranklin.org](http://uufranklin.org)

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

## WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers • 828-743-2122

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Aug. 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## Aug. 4

• At 5:43 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

## Aug. 5

• At 1:29 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident near the 200 Main Parking lot.

## Aug. 6

• At 2:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

## Aug. 7

• At 3:56 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident near the Highlands Smokehouse parking lot.

## Aug. 8

• At 9:27 a.m., officers responded to a report of a junction box and wiring belonging to Hotwire being taken from Art Highlands Galleries building on Main Street.

• At 5:14 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

• At 8:55 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting episode at Spinx where about \$25 worth of foodstuffs were taken.

## Aug. 10

• At 4:08 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on the US 64 east (Cashiers Road near Little Bear Pen Road).

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 5.**

## Aug. 5

• At 12:57 p.m., the dept. respond-

ed to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

• At 1:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Main Street.

## Aug. 6

• At 3:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 3:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 3:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 3:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on South Street.

## Aug. 7

• At 6:46 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clearview Drive.

• At 9:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Cullasaja Drive but it was cancelled en route.

• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 11:48 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 1:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 4:25 p.m., the dept. investigated a possible gas leak at Village Walk.

• At 4:43 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke at a location on South Street.

• At 5:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a residence on Dog Mountain Road.

## Aug. 8

• At 1:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

## Aug. 9

• At 9:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Wyanoak Road.

## Aug. 10

• At 9:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders at a residence on Cardwell Eaton Road.

• At 10:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders at a residence on Princess Pine Circle.

• At 7:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a residence on Hudson Road.

## Aug. 11

• At 10:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a person stuck in an elevator at a location on Main Street.

• At 7:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road. It was cancelled en route.

• At 9:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

## Aug. 12

• At 5:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lake Villa Court.

• At 6:36 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Church Street.

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## Travel the Gorge Road carefully

Twice in less than a week, the Gorge Road was closed due to accidents in the Cullasaja Fire District jurisdiction of the road.

On Thursday, Aug. 7 and again on Monday, Aug. 12, law enforcement asked the Cullasaja Gorge Volunteer Fire Dept. to divert traffic traveling east toward Highlands to Buck Creek Road. In Highlands the police diverted traffic headed west on the Gorge to Buck Creek due accidents in the Gorge that had both lanes of travel blocked.

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

racy – rule of God. Finally, the people cry out for a human king, thinking they could be like the other surrounding nations in pursuit of power and prosperity minus the restrictions of God's Law. God's reply to Samuel is filled with pathos when he says to the prophet, "Obey the desires of the

people in what they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being King over them" (1 Sam. 8:7). You may say, "We have no king!" but you do. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, and His rule is holy, good and right. It is clearly laid out in His Word! Will you submit?

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**WE ARE LOOKING** for professional, responsible, positive people with a team-player attitude to fill, waitstaff, bartender, Busser & host positions. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet 343-D Main Street. (st. 8/14)

## NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

**THE HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS LAND TRUST SEEKS A DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR.** This administrative professional will report to the Development Director and support a growing fundraising program. This is a part-time position with seasonal requirements and flexibility. For the complete job description please see "Job Postings" under "About Us" at hcltnc.org. Resumes (and any inquiries) should be submitted via email to personnel@hcltnc.org. (st. 6/26)

## AVAILABLE

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

3/6)

## FOR SALE

**11.62 ACRES, 7 MILES SOUTH OF HIGHLANDS.** \$287,301. Owner financing. 200 mature blueberry plants. 3 springs. Email rickhavron@gmail.com. (st. 8/14)

**COACH CLUB** - Class A motorcoach lot and auxiliary building. One Half mile from Main Street! 850-572-8308. (st. 8/14)

**MEADERS POTTERY** items and other pottery -- 40 years old. Call 478-737-9664. (st. 7/31)



**DIVORCE FORCES SALE:** 10-acre mountain top tract. 360 views of App Trail & Bartram Trail. Road in place, easy building site, drive right to the top of Buck Knob in Scaly Mtn. \$550k. exitmountain@gmail.com: 828-276-3569 (st. 7/17)



**1968 JAGUAR XKE S 1.5 ROADSTER CONVERTIBLE** - Restored in very good condition. I family owned. All original paperwork available \$80,000. 252-216-9197 (st. 7/3)

**LAND** - 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000. 828-974-1137. (8/1)

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

**TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE.** \$55k-\$85k ea. Each lot comes with GREAT MOUNTAIN VIEWS, water, power,

and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (10/30/25)

## FOR RENT

**2BD/2BA CABIN** - 4.5 miles from downtown Highlands. Furnished or unfurnished. Annual lease. \$1,500/mth. Call Tom. 404-213-2431. (st. 7/24)

**HIGHLANDS 1-2 SPACES** - 1 large or 2 smaller spaces for rent in popular Mill Creek Shopping Center next door to Blue Bike Cafe. Each space is 800 sq/ft at \$2,333/mo OR both spaces at 1,600 sq/ft for \$4400/mo. Inquires to Debi: bock7@me.com or 404-323-9444. (st. 7/10)

**4 BDM/3 BATH HIGHLANDS** - Updated farm home, located between Highlands & Cashiers off Hwy 64. \$4,500/month, includes all utilities with high speed wifi. Call Marcy 828-482-4239 (st. 7/10)

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

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

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Hudson Librarian Carlyn Morenus announces retirement

Hudson Librarian Carlyn Morenus is retiring after eight years serving the Highlands community. An open house retirement party will be held on Friday August 22 from 4 to 6 PM at the library. The party is open to all, so please drop in to wish Carlyn a *bon voyage*.

Morenus started as Hudson Librarian in August 2017. She was previously Professor of Piano at Illinois State University and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree as well as a Master of Library and Information Science.

She and her husband Keith Barnett will continue living on the Plateau.

Please also welcome new Hudson Librarian Scott McKendree, who has relocated to the Highlands area from Charlotte, NC.

For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031. Hudson Library, 554 Main Street in Highlands, is open 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM Tuesday through Friday and 10 AM - 4 PM on Saturday.



Rebecca Horowitz

## There's a new face at the Chamber

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome Rebecca Horowitz as the new Business and Member Services Manager.

"Rebecca brings strong professional expertise and a genuine enthusiasm for our work, making her a wonderful fit for both our team and our mission. I'm confident she will contribute greatly to our efforts to support local businesses, serve our members, and strengthen our community," said Johanna Fein chamber executive director.



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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## POOL SCHEDULE

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

## PICKLE BALL

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

## MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm. Spruce Street. [www.mountainfindings.org](http://www.mountainfindings.org)

## SATURDAY MARKET

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

## ALL WEEK

Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays @ noon. Open in person

meetings are held in Cashiers @ the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sunday at 5 pm, on Tuesday @ 7 pm, on Friday at 5 pm and on Saturday at 9 am. For more information, please visit our website [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. 24/7 call our HELP Line 828 349-4357.

## Mon. Thurs.

• At First Presbyterian Church, ArtSpace is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The next exhibit will start in mid-August. For information contact [fpchkelley@gmail.com](mailto:fpchkelley@gmail.com)

## Mon-Wed-Fri

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

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

## Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

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

## Mondays

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

## Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m. For more info call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

## 2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings. For more info contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at [budalynn@me.com](mailto:budalynn@me.com)

## Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am.

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

## Wednesdays thru Sept.

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

## 2nd Wednesdays

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

## 2nd & 4th Wed.

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

## Thursdays

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

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

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

## Fridays

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

## 3rd Saturdays

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

## Sundays through August

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

## Sundays

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10a Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

## Thru Aug. 30

• At PAC, Mountain Theatre Company presents The Burnt Part Boys. For tickets go to [boxoffice@mountaintheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@mountaintheatre.com). 828.526.2695

## Thurs., Aug. 14

• At The Bascom, the annual Bascom Barn Dance from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This year's event features the high-energy bluegrass sounds of Jackson Grimm and the Hidden Valley Ranchers, accompanied by old-time country caller, Harrison Keeley, who will guide dancers of all experience levels. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are free. Reserve your tickets today by visiting [thebascom.org](http://thebascom.org) or calling 828.526.4949

## Sun., Aug. 17

• An afternoon musical – classical, jazz, gospel and spirituals with world renown soprano Indra Thomas and Atlanta Boy Choir Alumni Daryl Dixon, tenor; Christian Harrington, baritone; Ricky Victrum, baritone accompanied by Mark Thomas, director of music and artist in residence at the Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Admission is free.

## Mon. Aug. 18

• Welcome Center Sessions, 2-4 p.m. An afternoon of live music featuring local talent, refreshments and light bites at the Welcome Center at 1st and Main streets.

## Wed., Aug. 20

• At First Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Charles Wood & Friends at 2pm.

• Highlands School will host an open house/meet the teacher on

Wednesday, from 3-6p.

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association Annual Meeting. 5-7 p.m. at the Community Building next to the ballpark.

## Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 21-24

• HCP presents "Social Security" at the MLT at PAC. Thurs. and Fri at 7p Sat. at 5p and Sun. at 1p. Tickets are available at [Highlands-CashiersPlayers.com](http://Highlands-CashiersPlayers.com) or by calling 828-526-2147.

## Aug. 22-30

• Cashiers Designer Showhouse featuring Showhouse tours, community events, Showhouse Shops and an Art Auction. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Visit [CashiersHistory.org](http://CashiersHistory.org) for tickets or to learn more.

## Fri. & Sat., Aug. 22-23

• At Peak Experience, Suzy Landa Trunk Show. 2820 Dillard Road. 828-526-0229

## Fri., Aug. 22

• Free Community Shredding Event in Highlands Plaza 9a to 12p. Donations to benefit The Gordon Center and the Literacy & Learning Center.

• Laurel Garden Club's Elevated Living Home and Garden Tour is from 10 am until 4 pm. and begins at the Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main Street in Highlands. Tickets can be purchased on the LGC's website: [laurelgardenclub.com/home&gardentour](http://laurelgardenclub.com/home&gardentour). Select your tour times

• Free SIP & SIGN BOOK SIGNING with local poet RICHARD BETZ at Highlands Wine Shoppe from 5-7pm Featuring his latest book of poetry "Continental Divide." \*Optional \$49 includes wine + charcuterie + signed book. 269 Oak Street - Across from Reeves Hardware

## Sat. & Sun., Aug. 23-24

• MountainTop Art and Craft Show. Sat. 10a to 6p. Sun., 10a to 4p. in KH Founders Park on Pine Street. Sip and Stroll. Fine Wine & Local Brews Saturday afternoon. Free admission.

## Sat., Aug. 23

• Women Mountain of Faith at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1448 Hwy 107 S. in Cashiers. Featuring keynote speaker Becca Stevens, founder and president of Thistle Farms and the Center for Contemplative Justice. Open to all women. Lunch is provided. RSVP by Aug. 16 at [GoodShepAdmin@frontier.com](mailto:GoodShepAdmin@frontier.com). 828-743-2359.



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