

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 21, 2025

'Speak now or forever hold your peace'

Come to the Thurs., Aug. 21 Worksession at 6 p.m. and tell commissioners what to do with and how to finance the saving of the Highlands Playhouse

By Kim Lewicki

The Town Board put out the call for input from the community regarding the future of Highlands

Playhouse last month and tonight is the night to air ideas.

Mayor Pat Taylor said ideas that come forth will be consid-

ered during a subsequent Town Board meeting and at that point the board will decide whether to

• See **PLAYHOUSE** page 19

A Review

The 'Burnt Part Boys' - and girl - story is one to see

By Kim Lewicki

The Burnt Part Boys, Mountain Theatre Company's production now on stage at the Performing Arts Center, isn't a rip-roaring musical. Instead, it's a subtle, musical story that paints a poignant picture of a slice of Appalachia life that exists under the radar in America.

Minimal but cleverly engineered scenery engages the audience as they experience the journey of four high school aged boys and one girl as they head to the burnt part of the mountain and the mine that changed their lives forever.

The Burnt Part Boys illustrates the generational occupation

• See **BURNT PART** page 9



Highlands' own Timothy McDowell won the K5 race for the second year in a row crossing the finish line in the pouring rain at 17:14.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Running in the rain for a cause

By Kim Lewicki

Saturday evening, at the starting pistol shot at 6 p.m., the

heavens opened up and proceeded to soak runners and spectators long after the race ended around

7 p.m.

KH Founders Park was the

• See **RUNNING** page 16

Funding shortfall stymies BofEd plans for '25-'26

No free lunch for HS or FHS, no extras of any kind for '25-'26

By Kim Lewicki

Back in the spring, the Macon County Board of Education began working on the budget for the 2025-2026 school year with three budget scenarios in mind - maintain, top priority, and expansion.

The budget presented to maintain services for '25-'26 was \$12,377,245.68; the budget to maintain, and fund top priorities came in at \$13,274,232.96; and the budget to maintain, fund top priorities, and to fund expansion

• See **SHORTFALL** page 5



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The gist of upcoming meetings

This week will have been replete with meetings. The pace of community meetings and gatherings will pick up even more as we head toward fall.

On Wednesday, the Mirror Lake Improvement Association had a meeting concerning the Mirror Lake Dredging Project. It was held at the Highlands Community Building. A panel discussion of stakeholders took place, followed by a Q&A session. Representatives for the association, River Sand, the town, and McGill Engineering were a part of the discussion.

On Thursday night, the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners will meet, starting with a workshop session at 6 pm, followed by the monthly business meeting. Both meetings will be at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field.

First on the agenda for the workshop will be the Playhouse building. Folks who have any ideas about saving the building, or how it could be used, or how the property could be repurposed, can share their thoughts with



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

the board members. The format will be a discussion and listening session. No final decision will be made at the workshop session, and the playhouse will not be on the agenda at 7 pm business meeting.

If there is time left during the workshop, I will present my concerns about communication lines that fall in storms and other events and remain down on public rights-of-way for extended periods after the storms.

Some communication lines have remained down in the right-of-way on Hicks Road just outside of Highlands for the 11 months after Hurricane Helene. I believe these lines should have been reattached to the utility poles from whence they fell in a timely manner. I do not want such a situation to happen within the town limits.

At the business meeting, the board will review several items. First, I will lead a discussion and review of how the board should respond to a resignation of a board member. This discussion will have no impact on the current vacancy, where there was a period exceeding 90 days that allowed the remaining term to be decided by voters on the November ballot. But, if there is a vacancy in the future where there is a year or a year and a half before the next municipal election, how does the board fill that empty seat? Several options and items may need to be considered.

The alcohol policy for the 4th of July fireworks event will also be on the agenda. At the last meeting, the board had a spirited discussion on whether to change the policy and allow alcohol in the park on the fourth. After reflection and further discussion with staff and the police, I believe we should allow alcohol on the fourth just like we do during concerts in the park on summer Saturday nights.

In a related matter, Mountain Top Rotary will be asking the board to extend the period during which they can sell wine and beer during the art show that they sponsor in the park. The club wants to add one hour to the period on Saturday afternoon.

The board will also review the audit of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visit Highlands at this meeting. There have been questions among board members and residents about how TDA funds are allocated and spent, especially in recent years. The audit should shed new light and provide additional





• MILESTONE •

Wedding Bells



In the evening of Friday, Aug. 15, Lamar Nix and Pat Barnes tied the knot at the Clayton Baptist Church in Clayton, GA. Daughter Caprita Barnes made the cake. The couple honeymooned in Panama City Beach, FL

• WEATHER •

Thu, 21-Aug	Fri, 22-Aug	Sat, 23-Aug	Sun, 24-Aug
			
73 F 62°F	71°F 62°F	73°F 58°F	75°F 57°F
Humid; a p.m. t-storm o two	Cloudy, a couple of t- storms	Couple of thunderstorms	Cloudy with a thunderstorm
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Why college football and real estate go together!

*"Life is a lot like College
Football, you have to tackle
your problems, block your
fears, and score points when
you get the opportunity."*

—Lewis Grizzard

Oh yes, there's a relationship between owning real estate in Highlands, the Fall, and the sport of College Football. It's everywhere, it's sensory, and it's important to both Buyers and Sellers. And to be perfectly candid, it breaks through the monotony of talking about who's a King and who's not. We're talking about who's going to end up as the King of College Football come January 19th (can you believe I just mentioned January...brrr!)

Take a look at the melting pot of license plates the next time you're downtown.

Yesterday I saw a Florida license plate with an Auburn logo on it and the front vanity plate said "Mixed Marriage" along with "Roll Tide and War Eagle." Hopefully they're still married!

Why in the world does Auburn have three different mascot names; War Eagle, the Plainsmen, and Tigers? Not to be confused with the Clemson Tigers, LSU Tigers, or Missouri Tigers. As you walk around Highlands in the Fall, you hear the battle cries and it's downright scary: "How 'bout them Dogs;" "Woo Pig Sooi;" "Hotty Toddy;" and even "The Beavers are back, baby!" I guess there's a few Oregon State fans here as well, and I did see a beaver on Mirror Lake last week.

Here's my question. If you can't attend the game in-person, is there a better place to watch College Football than in the mountains of the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau? I doubt it!

In the purchase or sale of real estate here it's important to be mindful of the Fall and College football. Do you have a deck or patio that holds at least a dozen football fans? Is there a big screen TV on that deck? Do you have at least one wood-burning fireplace either on the deck, near the kitchen, or both? Can you easily fire up the Weber or Big Green Egg? Is the bar stocked with good bourbon, cold Original Coors (my favorite), Topo Chico (Bee's favorite), and Bloody Mary mix?

You see, being here is a lifestyle decision more so than it is a housing decision. If you buy into this lifestyle, we can help



GOLDY

buy into a property. Come and witness the beauty, the four seasons, but especially Fall which is my favorite time of the year. Fall and College Football complement the hiking, golf, fly fishing, tennis, pickleball, croquet, canoeing, kayaking, birding, eating, drinking, shopping, or simply sitting on the deck on a cool morning with a Golden Retriever

and a hot cup of coffee.

So next weekend, I'll suggest you head for Highlands or Cashiers wearing your finest sweater with your college logo on the breast, go for a hike, play a round of golf, kick off your Fall, and watch a little college football. That's the way we roll in Highlands! I'll leave you with one more battle cry ... GO GOPHERS! Nothing strikes fear into the opposing team like a smiling Golden Gopher (and now you know who my team is!)

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• CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marti Boone

George was found wandering as a stray on the trail to the Yellow Mountain fire tower. George is four years old and he is full of affection and energy and he absolutely loves going on car rides. If you're looking for a lifetime adventure buddy, then by George, we have just the canine companion for you. For more information, visit chhumanesociety.org or call (828)743-5752.

...SHORTFALL continued from page 1

came in at \$15,703,163.80.

Unfortunately, best laid plans fell short.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Macon County Commission, that holds the purse strings, only allocated \$10,595,792 which is only slightly more than the 2024-2025 maintain budget, which was \$10,177,265.51.

That means funds allocated for the '25-'26 school year fall short of the \$12,377,245.68 '25-'26 "maintain" request by \$1,781,453.68.

Superintendent Josh Lynch said the school board had hoped to do more than just maintain current operations, but it is grateful for whatever support it gets from the county, and the system is committed to protecting the essentials for students and families even as costs rise and resources are stretched.

"Our goal was to provide additional support for students and classrooms, serve and support instructional staff, and work toward offering two free meals each day for every child in our schools," he said. "Unfortunately, because the county funding did not fully meet the request we presented, we are limited to covering only our core needs such as keeping class sizes and student/teacher ratio within the state's K-3 requirements, maintaining reasonable student to teacher ratios, and sustaining existing classroom supports."

Lynch said what parents should not expect this year are major expansions of services beyond what is already in place.

"We are covering the shortfall of \$1,781,453.68 with our fund balance to keep current operational services going. Because of this, universal free lunch for students at Franklin High School and

Highlands School, additional instructional or student support staff beyond current levels, and new program growth are not feasible with the monies received," he said.

Students at all schools in the system will continue to get free breakfast through the state and federally supported program. All but Highlands and Franklin High School will continue to get free lunch.

"The other schools in the system qualified for free lunch based on the economic data of their student population," said board member Hilary Wilkes. "Funding for meals is not county money."

For months there has been talk of the county allocating and "extra" \$200,000 or so with the idea that the school board would use it to give free lunch to all, but in the end that "extra" money had to be used to fill in gaps left from the county's underfunding.

"The \$250,000 allocation from the commissioners was included in the county's overall appropriation to help us with our operational budget. That money went directly toward offsetting the gap between what it costs to maintain our current level of services and what we were allocated," said Lynch. "Unfortunately, it was not earmarked specifically for school meals."

Lynch said families can trust that the basics will be preserved, but they should not anticipate added benefits or expanded services without additional funding support.

However, in Highlands the Pre-K classrooms and Highlands School Project are still a go.

"The two new Pre-K classrooms are part of the Highlands School project, and because they are already included in the project's scope, they will not be affected by

the county appropriation. Families can expect those classrooms to move forward as planned with sometime in 2026 the goal.

However, the school's soccer field is another story.

"While studies have been conducted, a design proposal is still necessary before the project can begin. Developing that proposal and moving forward with construction will require additional funding. At this time, those funds have not yet been identified,

so the soccer field project cannot move forward until resources are secured," said Lynch.

Lynch said the school system is committed to protecting the essentials – keeping schools staffed, classrooms functioning, student learning supported at the level families have come to expect, and ensuring a safe, orderly, and secure learning environment.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Fighting the Trump Takeover

Highlands Indivisible and citizens rallied at the corner of Main and NC 106 Saturday to protest and protect Americans' right to healthcare especially now and in rural North Carolina where hospitals are in danger of closing due to President Trump's curtailing of Medicaid and other health-related programs. They joined others nationwide at rallies across the country also on Saturday "Fighting the Trump Takeover" regarding all things.

• LETTERS •

Here's to hoping you come to understand what the 'No Kings' rallies are really about and why they are important

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my disagreement with some of the comments made by Pastor Mark Ford in his "We Have a King" column August 14, and to explain to him and his followers what the "No Kings" movement is truly about. It is simply a movement to oppose many of Trump's actions that exceed the powers granted to him by our Constitution. Examples include blocking the use of expenditures already approved by Congress, imposing tariffs (essentially new taxes), and illegally rounding up people off the streets without due process. I could go on. Whether one agrees or does not agree with these actions, the point is that they are not within his power.

Those of us who support the "No Kings" point of view recognize that he was "duly elected," as the Pastor says. We accept the result of the 2024 election, something that Trump himself never did with regard to the 2020 election. We also recognize that we have a "sitting Congress duly elected by the people," another assertion by the Pastor. Never mind the extreme gerrymandering that allowed for the election of this so-called "duly elected" Congress, and never mind that Trump is working furiously to make gerrymandering ever more extreme. His actions to encourage Texas (and other states, including perhaps North Carolina) to redistrict in an off year, simply to ensure his party holds on to the House, are at best antidemocratic, and at worst illegal.

Pastor, you also say that you are "really hearing ... the disenchanted who didn't get their king or queen." That is not at all the case. You are hearing the disenchanted who are upset their President is ignoring the Constitution. Of

course, our government has no monarch. Nor is it the case that we are "unhappy with (so-called) perceived restrictions of (our) personal desires and wants." And this has absolutely nothing to do with Jesus Christ. We simply want a president who obeys the law and the Constitution and upholds the democratic ideals that has made our country great for nearly 250 years.

I don't expect to convince Pastor Ford of anything. However, there is room for us to disagree without misunderstanding or disrespecting those who feel differently. We simply want this President (and all Presidents) to follow and uphold the Constitution, as their oath requires.

Richard Ellin
Highlands

Fight truth decay

Dear Editor

There was a time in America when parents and teachers (homes and schools) worked together to raise our children. In fact, the fourth of five "objects" of the long-forgotten National Congress of Parents and Teachers (NCPT) stated: "To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child."

In that era, entire villages played an essential part in child-rearing. As expressed in the first object of the NCPT: "To promote the welfare of children and youth in homes, schools, churches, and communities."

We were universally anchored by the shared conviction

• See LETTERS page 17



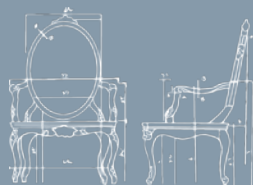
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

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In 2018, Allen Tate and Pittsburgh, Pa.-based Howard Hanna announced a partnership between the companies, both family-owned market leaders established in 1957.

"When we joined forces six years ago, we were confident that we were aligning the same long-standing values and culture: family ownership, local expertise, commitment to local communities, and a relentless focus on the customer. We will now proudly move forward as one unified brand," said Pat Riley, chairman, Howard Hanna Allen Tate Real Estate.

"This milestone reflects the shared vision and combined strength of Allen Tate and Howard Hanna, two of the nation's most respected, family-owned real estate companies. We're honoring the 68-year legacy of Allen Tate, while bringing Hanna's national resources, inclusive programs and innovative tools to deliver an even stronger advantage to buyers and sellers in the Carolinas," said Gary Scott, president, Howard Hanna Allen Tate Real Estate.

"It's more than a refreshed look—it's a bold step into the future," Scott said. "Our agents and clients are at the heart of this transaction. Our strong local roots, leadership team and commitment to local communities remain unchanged, but we will now be supported by the scale and strength of Howard Hanna."

Howard Hanna is known for its innovative programs including Buy Before You Sell, Find It First, and 100% Money Back Guarantee that help clients at every stage of their homeownership journey.

Allen Tate's long standing tradition of giving back to local communities will grow stronger with Howard Hanna. As Howard Hanna Allen Tate, the company will continue to support public education in the Carolinas through its annual FUNday events in the fall.

Additionally, Howard Hanna will extend its commitment to children's health to the region, with the establishment of the Howard Hanna Children's Free Care Fund in the Carolinas, ensuring no family is turned away due to the inability to pay. In recognition of the company's rebranding in the Carolinas, Howard Hanna has donated \$10,000 to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte and \$10,000 to Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center in Raleigh/Durham. To date, Howard Hanna contributed more than \$22 million through this charitable organization.

• See **REBRANDING** page 21

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...BURNT PART continued from page 1

of digging for coal – one fraught with danger and poverty – while also highlighting the heartwarming, iron-clad camaraderie that is forged while living that life.

The death of miners 10 years ago and the re-opening of the mine where their family members died is the reason for an escapade to the burnt part of the mountain and its mine.

Each person who embarks on the journey over hill and dale, rocks and rivers, does so for their own reason. One to make sure no one ever dies in the mine again, others to stop what they consider a foolhardy quest and still others along for the ride due to their everlasting friendships.

Punctuated by tenuous Appalachia tunes and heartfelt songs, the audience quickly feels the heartwarming connection between the characters and the way they



each are dealing with a painful past.

The inclusion of the dead miners that haunt the lives of their living children literally adds another engaging dimension to the story, which will bring a tear to your eye but also a smile to your face more than once.

As usual, no matter the produc-

tion, Artistic Director for Mountain Theatre Company Scott Daniel has delivered a polished, professional production that exemplifies the talent of the cast and crew.

The second act, which brings on stage the “girl” in the story, expands the story and its dimension and really ties the production up into a complete package.

Drama, music, song and scenery. It’s all there. Go to www.mountaintheatre.com for tickets. The show runs Wednesday-Sunday through Aug. 30.



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and 28 - 31

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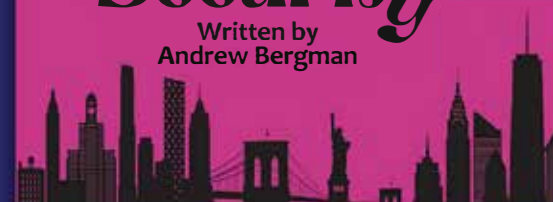


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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Rotarians Dave O'Harra and Bob Baxter; Grand Prize winner Suzanne Shaw and her daughters of Athens GA; Rotarian and Scaly Mountain Women's Club member Rachel Wavra; Randy Foster, President Rotary Club of Highlands; Michelle Gillet, President of Scaly Mountain Women's Club, and Rotarian Gary Baugher.

Bingo winners are all smiles

There was a full house – so full that 50 extra chairs were needed at Rotary's July 24 Bingo Game to benefit Scaly Mountain's Women's Club.

The mission of the Scaly Mountain Women's Club is to provide scholarships

and to support locals in and around Scaly Mountain. They currently have 18 scholars, who are provided with financial assistance each semester. For more information or to make a contribution, please contact scalymountainwomen@gmail.com

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rotary hears about therapeutic practices

Highlands Mountaintop Rotary President Andy Walker, presents a handcrafted pen from the Highlands Bolivian Mission to Monday night's speaker, Tracy Franklin. Tracy spoke to us about the therapeutic approaches she uses to help her clients, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and EMDR Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR). Her goal is to help people identify ways to alter their own thinking in order to improve communication and decrease feelings of fear, anxiety, sadness, and loneliness.

Charitable Giving Strategies Presentation

September 17, 2025 at 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.

Co-Hosted by:

Julie Upshaw,
Attorney at Law



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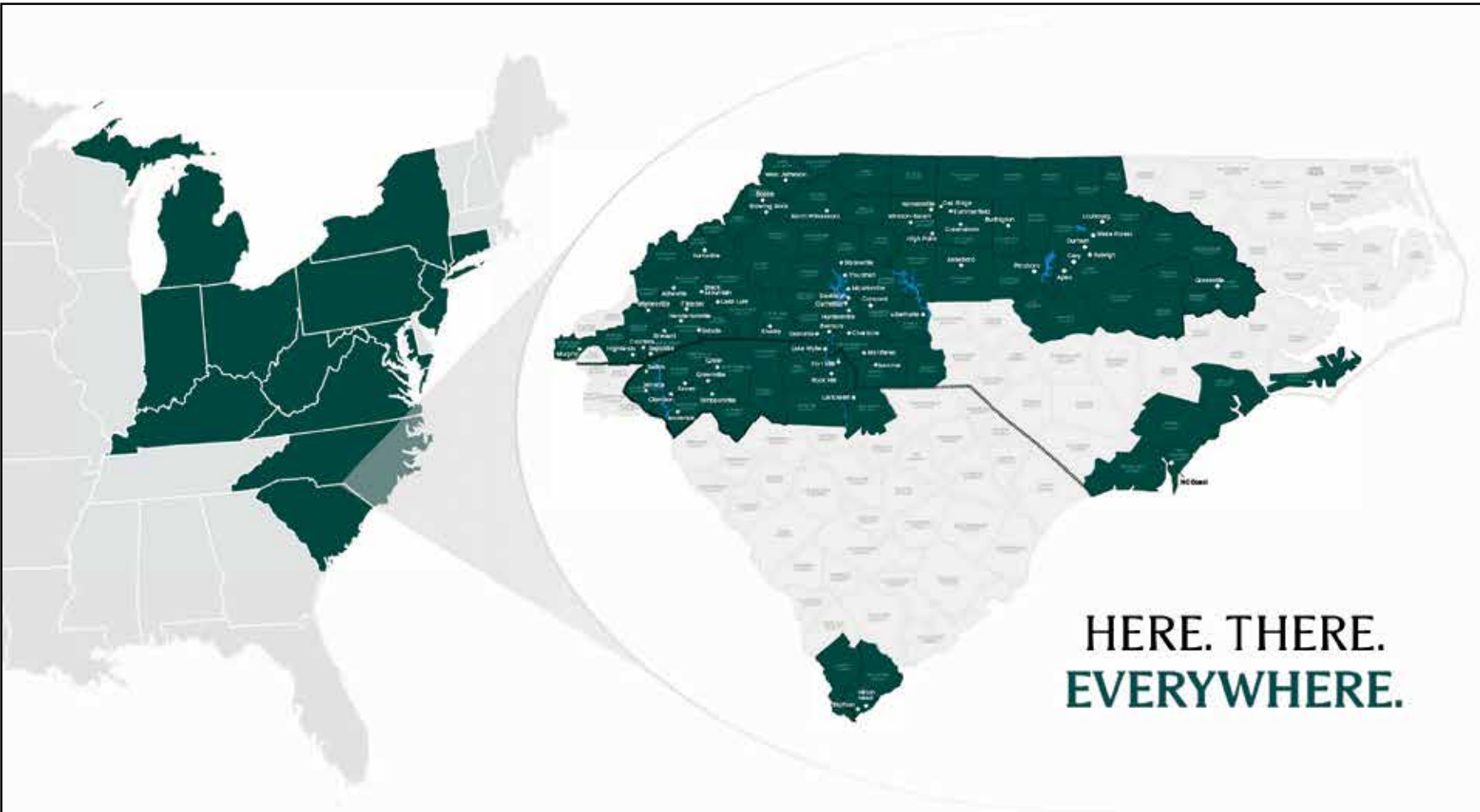
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Each Friday and Saturday night from May through September, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC hosts live music downtown.

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

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AUGUST 8
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AUGUST 15
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AUGUST 22
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AUGUST 29
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Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
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AUGUST 2
High 5

AUGUST 9
HC Oakes Band

AUGUST 30
Southside Station

visithighlandsn.com



• UPCOMING EVENT •



From left: cast members April Getz, Emily Wright, Ricky Siegel and Matthew Eberz rehearse a scene from *Social Security*.

HCP presents 'Social Security'

Social Security, a heartwarming comedy by Andrew Bergman returns for an eight-show run August 21 - 24 and 28 - 31 at the Martin Lipscomb Theater in the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

"*Social Security* is the story of sophisticated Manhattan art gallery owners, Barbara and David Kahn, whose orderly world is disrupted when Barbara's sister decides she needs a break from caring for their elderly mother. As Barbara's mother, Sophie, settles into the Kahns' up-scale life, she undergoes a surprising transformation after meeting an elderly artist. The play highlights themes of aging, family dynamics, and unexpected late-life romance. *Social Security* blends wit and warmth as it explores how even the most structured lives can be upended—and enriched—by family and love. For tickets go to

The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Poorer



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.

• OBITUARY •

Lydia Sargent Macauley

Lydia Sargent Macauley of Highlands, NC died after a long, well lived life. Born to Ralph and Louise Sargent in Red Wing, MN, her early childhood was marked by a multitude of moves — a product of her father's occupation as a professor of Shakespearean studies.

Every summer, though, was spent in Highlands, NC.

Lydia graduated from Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, PA and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Knox College in Galesburg, IL. It was there that she met Hal G. Meyer whom she married shortly thereafter in Highlands in the 1950s.

The couple adopted two children, Steven S. Meyer and Stacey (Meyer) Clark while residing in Connecticut. Shortly after, the family moved to Rockford, IL which they called home for 18+ years.

During this era, Lydia found her life's calling. Nurtured in youth by summer visits to Highlands NC, land conservation became one of Lydia's greatest passions.

Lydia was married in 1988 to Ward Macauley of La Jolla, CA. The two spent nearly 20 happy years together in California. Upon Macauley's death, she returned to her beloved Highlands where she immersed herself in the community.

Lydia would take on many conservation roles over her lifetime, primarily in Illinois and western North Carolina. Some of these undertakings included working for the Natural Land Institute in Rockford, IL; and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, where she conducted landowner outreach in the northern region of Illinois. Lydia helped to secure the core parcel of what is today the Nachusa Prairie Preserve, home to a herd of bison and one of the highest-quality tallgrass prairie restorations in North America. Lydia held proud memories of carrying a drip torch to ignite prairie restoration fires.

Lydia also served many years — notably, some as a treasurer — on the Natural Areas Association national board. She was a key part



of this organization which serves practitioners and scientists in the management of ecologically significant landscapes, for purposes of protecting biodiversity in perpetuity.

After moving back to Highlands, Lydia served on the board of trustees of the Highlands Biological Foundation and was very active in the Botanical Garden Committee. Lydia undoubtedly followed in the footsteps of her father and mother, Ralph and Louise Sargent, who were leaders in establishing the Highlands Botanical Garden. She blazed her own trail, though; both locally and nationally, in a way that served her communities and fostered a tremendous sense of pride for herself and her loved ones. To buffer the Botanical Gardens from inappropriate development, Lydia led the effort with her brother, Hugh, to convey a conservation easement on their family property adjacent to the Highlands Biological Station. The capstone of her professional career came in the form of her service as the driving force and copy editor for the book *Highlands Botanical Garden: A Naturalists Guide*, published in 2012, employing slides taken by her father: an expert botanist and photographer.

Crucially, Lydia served on the Board of the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, now Mainspring Conservation Trust, for a dozen years and continued as an Emeritus Board member until her death. During her tenure, she served as Board Secretary for three years, as well as on the Lands Committee. Lydia's philanthropy was instrumental for many conservation

organizations and initiatives, but her extraordinary generosity was particularly transformative for Mainspring Conservation Trust. Therein, her efforts helped to transform the organization into the premier conservation nonprofit in southwestern North Carolina. As a result of her generosity and foresight, Lydia's legacy of ecological conservation will continue indefinitely.

Personally, Lydia was a friend to many students at the biological station, offering guidance and housing if necessary. She was an avid reader, a naturalist, widely interested in a vast number of subjects and her many adopted cats. Throughout her life she was a loving daughter, and a wonderful, creative, supportive mother and grandmother.

A special heartfelt thank you to our three caregivers, Jan Haughey, Ruffin Williams and Rhonda Saunders for four years of loving care.

Preceded in death; Ward Macauley of La Jolla, CA, and Hal G. Meyer of Pensacola, FL.

Survivors include brother Hugh A.A. Sargent (Cheryl) of Philadelphia, PA and Highlands, NC, children Steven S. Meyer of Pensacola, FL, Stacey Meyer Clark of Highlands, NC, grandchildren Chelsie Guesswein of Rockford, IL, Lydia S. Clark, W. Alex Clark and India J. Clark of Highlands, NC, step-children Ward (Tami) Macauley of Rancho Mirage, CA, Wesley (Karen) Macauley of Carlsbad, Kim Macauley of Encinitas, CA, step-grandchildren Jenny (Joe) of Carlsbad, CA, Chris Macauley (Melina) of San Diego, CA, Ian Macauley (Carly) of San Luis Obispo, CA, Alec Macauley of Encinitas, CA, step-great grandchildren Nicholas Posillico of Carlsbad, CA, and Johnny Posillico of Carlsbad, CA.

Services will be held at the Highlands Biological Station Weyman Building 265 N 6th street on Saturday, September 20, at 4 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Mainspring Conservation Trust, PO Box 1148, Franklin, NC, mainspringconserves.org



The Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival is Thurs.-Sun., 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 complete schedule and tickets go to www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com

Homegrown Premiere - The Gardener and Highlands on the Silver Screen

By Megan Lewicki

On Thursday, Sept. 18 at 5 PM, the Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival opens with a hometown moment: an advance screening of *The Gardener*, a feature filmed entirely in Highlands. After the credits roll, guests will head to the "Walk in the Garden Soirée" at the private gardens of Ray and Diane McPhail — one of the film's central locations.

Unlike productions that use the Plateau as a disguised stand-in, *The Gardener* embraces Highlands as itself. Over several weeks of shooting, the crew worked side by side with local businesses for catering and lodging. Neighbors offered their time, their know-how, and in some cases, their faces — appearing as extras or lending spaces for filming. Downtown, the rhythm of daily life occasionally made room for camera setups and rehearsals, giving passersby a fleeting look at the process.

The McPhail gardens played a starring role in the story's visual language. Known for their sweeping lawns, native plantings, and winding paths, the property provided both beauty and versatility. For the filmmakers, it became more than a backdrop — it was a narrative anchor that helped shape the mood and movement of key scenes.

Two cast members will return for the premiere. Radha Mitchell, whose work spans *Finding Neverland*, *Pitch Black*, and *Silent Hill*, brings an ease moving between big-budget films and intimate indies. William Miller, known for *The 100* and *Warrior Nun*, has built a career across continents and genres. Their presence will add a personal layer to the evening, not as distant Hollywood visitors, but as collaborators revisiting the place where this story came to life.

For locals, watching *The Gardener* isn't just seeing familiar streets or landscapes — it's seeing them reframed through someone else's lens. The festival audience will share that view together, surrounded by neighbors who might recognize the corner of a shop, a garden gate, or even themselves on screen.

Opening with a project so rooted in place sets the tone for the festival's mission: pairing films of global scope with stories that matter here. Alongside international features and filmmaker-led panels, the program will make room for work born on the Plateau.

Whether you come to celebrate a film you had a hand in, or to see Highlands in a new light, this is the kind of night that blurs the line between audience and participant.

Tickets for both the screening and reception are available at www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com. Seating is limited, and in this case, "sold out" might just mean "you missed your own premiere."



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(Near Bryson's Food Store)

9am - 12pm

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and the Literacy & Learning Center

This event is made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/
Visit Highlands, N.C.

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

...RUNNING continued from page 1



The rain didn't dampen the spirit of the 292 runners who signed up to run the 5K race Saturday evening in KH Founders Park.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

site of the 14th annual 5K race whose proceeds benefit various organizations in town.

This year 292 runners from all over the southeast and beyond signed up for the 5K (3.1 mile) race through town with some crossing the finish line in just seconds over 17 minutes and others at 54 minutes.

Male and female age categories ranged from 0-4 years to 80-84 years.

Highlands' Timothy McDowell, 17, won the overall race for the second year in a row crossing the finish line at 17:14 minutes.

The female overall winner was Stephanie Pierce, 25 from Fairborn, OH at 19:07 minutes.

McDowell is a serious runner. For the 2025-'26 school year, he was awarded at \$55,000 scholarship to Christ School in Asheville to run cross country for them. After the race Saturday evening, he returned to school.

The \$35,500 the 5K raised this year will go to the Highlands Community Child Development Center which cares daily for infants to 5-year-olds.

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...LETTERS continued from page 7

that truth mattered, and children (from an early age), received the exact same message from every adult in their life. Therefore, we trusted its validity.

Children today have no such assurance that anything they hear or see is either true or real. We've developed choices, or "alternative truths."

I'll be forever grateful to have lived in a time and place where truth mattered. My generation is indebted to leaders of the '40s and '50s whose guidance, counsel, and management shepherded our country out of the "Great Depression," then saved the world from tyranny in WWII. These men and women were devoted to principles and standards and committed to leaving the world a better place for their posterity.

Today's generations are not as fortunate as mine. Present leaders possess few discernable ambitions save those personally favorable. Our president is a toxic narcissist who seeks power to service his ego and is completely void of loyalty to any belief or value beyond self-aggrandizement.

This president adopts only positions he deems personally beneficial and zealously exploits working class resentments by pandering to the fragile emotions of the masses to create a cult-like following. Through fear and intimidation, he manages to leverage the loyalty of his MAGA base to control the Republican Party. Subsequently, he has consolidated and strengthened presidential power, rewarded his billionaire cronies, while acting out his buffoonish juvenile fantasies on the world stage.

Martin Luther King Jr. always believed: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Half a century later, our institutions have failed us, our president eagerly and willfully tramples the rules of law, defies judges, has abandoned the Constitution, breached his oath of office and shamelessly disregarded traditions, values, and principles nearly all Americans once held inviolate.

American tolerance of governmental dishonesty, consummate lying and unethical behavior is exceeded only by our willingness to plunge ever deeper into

the abyss of stomach-churning abhorrent corruption, the continual deception of our citizens and the humiliating disregard and abandonment of our loyal allies around the globe.

Despite Trump's best efforts to avert accountability, history will record how Americans responded to this president's attempted takeover of the Republic. Veterans (especially) should take note and remember: "The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." Plato (427-347 BC).

We owe our forebears far more.

David L. Snell
Franklin

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Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
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Someone is looking for Jesus today,
longing for Jesus
and looking your way.

Someone is needing a friend
who will pray.
Someone is looking for Jesus today.

Someone is broken
and can't find her way.
Somebody needs to see Jesus today.

In a world of great suffering,
great heartache and pain,
someone you meet is drenched by hard rain.

Someone is lonely,
in need of a friend.
I wonder, don't you, who Jesus might send.

Someone is looking for Jesus today,
longing for Jesus
and looking your way.

"Tell me sir, are you Jesus?"
The little child said,
as the gentleman gave him a morsel of bread.

"Cause I hear at his table,
all the children are fed."
"Tell me sir, are you Jesus?"
The little child said.

Someone is looking for Jesus today,
longing for Jesus
and looking your way.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

insight into this issue.

The board also received a request from the Chamber concerning a Heritage Day Event in the park. This event is in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of Highlands.

Finally, I will be holding my monthly Community Coffee with the Mayor on Friday at 11 am at the Hudson Library. I will continue the conversation about the Playhouse and address the issues the board discussed at their meeting. Also, this coffee will be a good-bye event for Carlyn Morenus, the director of the library. Carlyn will be retiring on Friday. I will ask her to reflect on her service for over seven years as the director. Her leadership will be missed. We all wish her the best in retirement.

• 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 • 743-5470
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 • 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
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Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30 am
in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,
Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Emily Wilmarth, pastor; Rev. Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10a; Worship 11a.; Tues: Men's Group 10a;
Wed: Bell Choir 4p. Chancel Choir: 5:30p

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

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

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
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
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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers • 828-743-2122
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Aug. 14

• At 11:52 a.m., officers performed a warrant service for another jurisdiction at a residence on Cobb Road.

• At 12:10 p.m., Gregory Hoffman, 78, of Highlands, was arrested on an outstanding warrant from another jurisdiction. He was issued a \$3,000 secured bond.

• At 5:20 p.m., officers attended to a driver at the Highlands Post Office who was driving under the influence.

• At 5:40 p.m., Jose Chavez Hernandez, 39, of Sapphire, was arrested for DUI. He wasn't issued a bond. His trial date is Sept. 17.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 12.

Aug. 12

• At 11:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 2:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Potter Lane.

• At 9:49 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Blue Valley Road.

Aug. 14

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 5:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 5th Street.

• At 5:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Donald Ross Road.

• At 8:06 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of an odor at a residence on Rainbow Road.

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

Aug. 16

• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

Aug. 17

• At 11:04 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bee Tree Lane.

• At 6:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible vehicle fire at a location on N. 4th Street.

Aug. 18

• At 11:57 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

• At 6:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Cove.

Aug. 19

• At 1:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Estates.

...PLAYHOUSE continued from page 1

proceed or to demolish the building.

At the July Town Board, meeting Town Manager Josh Ward presented the bid of \$75,523.50 from Bryson Grading and Paving to demolish the building.

Mayor Pat Taylor said he realized there is a sentimental connection to the building but according to the report, it would have to be completely taken down to the studs and rebuilt for it to have any functional use and be safe for habitation.

Commissioner Jeff Weller said he was sure it would take close to \$3.5 million to "fix" the structure – something he would not be comfortable agreeing to – and further questioned what it would be used for.

Before a vote was taken last month on the demolition bid, Commissioner John Dotson asked for a reprieve.

"As a last hurrah, so to speak, let's put the word out to see if someone would be

willing to put up the money to keep the building standing and make it into something we all wish it had been 70 years ago," he said.

The board agreed to table Bryson's bid to give the public a chance to come forward and participate in an in-depth discussion during the 6 o'clock August 21 Worksession prior to the August Town Board meeting at 7 o'clock.

Commissioners said they want to hear how it will be used and how it will be funded.

As part of the town campus, the use has to be for a nonprofit that allows general public use and access – the arts, events, historical – something along those lines, said commissioners.

A Playhouse discussion might not take place during August's subsequent board meeting, however, because it isn't on the agenda.

2025 MULLEN LECTURE ALL ARE WELCOME!



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REV. SHELVIS SMITH-MATHER



Rev. Nancy and Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather are Presbyterian ministers who have served in East Africa for nearly 20 years. Their peacebuilding work—including Shelvis's research as a University of Oxford graduate—has led to collaborations with Nobel laureates, a United Nations Peace Prize recipient, African presidents, and top universities, all while raising a family and supporting communities affected by war and displacement.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH

10 AM - ADULT CLASS - COLEMAN HALL

REV. SMITH-MATHER WILL BE JOINING OUR ADULT CLASS, WHERE HE WILL SHARE VALUABLE INSIGHTS ON THE THEME: "CARING FOR THE CARING." THIS SESSION AIMS TO CREATE A SPACE FOR CHURCH LEADERS TO REFLECT ON THEIR OWN HEALING AND SELF-CARE AS THEY SUPPORT OTHERS.

11 AM - SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP - SANCTUARY

REV. SHELVIS SMITH-MATHER WILL DELIVER A SERMON ENTITLED: "CALLED TO BE DIFFERENT," IN WHICH HE WILL DELVE INTO HOW GOD INVITES US TO THINK, LIVE, AND BE DISTINCT FROM THE PATTERNS OF THE WORLD—ROOTED IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

12 PM - CHURCH LUNCHEON - COLEMAN HALL

FOLLOWING WORSHIP & LUNCHEON, REV. SMITH-MATHER WILL PRESENT ON "PEACE IN THE BROKEN PLACES", SHARING THE CHURCH'S UNIQUE ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING IN SOUTH SUDAN AMID CIVIL WAR AND AFRICA'S LARGEST REFUGEE CRISIS, AND HOW FAITH COMMUNITIES CAN BE AGENTS OF HEALING.

Mountain Women of Faith



Becca Stevens
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Join Good Shepherd for a transformative afternoon featuring keynote speaker Becca Stevens, founder and president of Thistle Farms and The Center for Contemplative Justice.

Open to all women from the surrounding area.

Lunch provided.

RSVP by August 16 to GoodShepAdmin@Frontier.com

August 23rd at 11:30 AM

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WE ARE LOOKING for professional, responsible, positive people with a team-player attitude to fill, wait-staff, bartender, Busser & host positions. Apply in person at Wild Thyme Gourmet 343-D Main Street. No phone calls please. (st. 8/14)

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)



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 Scalp Mtn. \$550k. exitmountain@gmail.com: 828-276-3569 (st. 7/17)



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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.TinyMountainEs-

tates.com for more info. (10/30/25)

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1 BR/1 BA APT - LEAF & HOLIDAY SEASON RENTAL - located 6 miles from downtown Highlands off of Hwy 106. Fully furnished \$175 per night/ 3 night minimum - Starlink internet. Call Pam 828.482.2554 (st. 8/21)

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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...REBRANDING continued from page 8

Yard signs will reflect the new visual identity, with an emerald green and harvest gold color palate and the Howard Hanna Allen Tate Real Estate logo, beginning in late August. Building signage across the Carolinas will be updated in October and November. Company ownership and local leadership will remain unchanged.

As part of the brand evolution, Allen Tate/Beverly-Hanks will become Howard Hanna Beverly-Hanks Real Estate in western North Carolina. Allen Tate acquired Beverly-Hanks Realtors in 2022.

Additionally, Allen Tate Insurance will transition to Howard Hanna Insurance Services, unifying with its longtime partner under a single brand to deliver expanded offerings, greater operational alignment, and more profound service continuity across markets.

"The Carolinas have always been a cornerstone of our

long-term vision. For six years, we've been building something extraordinary together," said Howard "Hoby" Hanna IV, CEO, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services. "With this brand evolution, we're uniting two iconic brands under one name and one mission: to provide the best real estate experience while continuing to grow with intention and invest in our communities."

Howard Hanna Allen Tate Real Estate is the #1 real estate company in the Carolinas, with more than 75 offices and 1,800 agents serving communities across North and South Carolina. As part of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, the largest family-owned and operated real estate company in the United States, Howard Hanna Allen Tate offers a full suite of real estate services, including mortgage, insurance, title and relocation. For more information, visit www.howardhannatate.com.



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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

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 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

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 budandlynn@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 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. 828.526.2695

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 HighlandsCashiersPlayers.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 for tickets or to learn more.

Fri. & Sat., Aug. 22-23

• At Peak Experience, Suzy Land 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. 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. 828-743-2359.

• At Winding Stair Nursery, "Playing with Pollinators" *FREE* Family Fun Day from 11a-3p. Our fifth annual family festival is dedicated to all things pollinators! For more information call 828-369-9778 or go www.windingstairfarm.com

Sun., Aug. 24

• At First Presbyterian Church, 2025 Mullen Lecture with Rev. Smith-Mather. Adult Class 10a, Coleman Hall; 11a Sunday worship, Sanctuary; noon Luncheon, Coleman Hall. Free.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 28-31

• 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 HighlandsCashiersPlayers.com or by calling 828-526-2147.

Sat., Aug. 30

• At Winding Stair Nursery, The Power of Native Plants – with Spriggly's Beescaping at 9a. Discover how native plants can transform your yard into a beautiful, low-maintenance haven for pollinators, soil health, and local wildlife. For more information call 828-369-9778 or go www.windingstairfarm.com

Thurs.-Sun. Sept 4-6

• At The Bascom, the Dazzling Dahlia Festival..

Sat., Sept. 6

• At Winding Stair Nursery, Landscape Design: Tips from a Pro at 10a. For more information call 828-369-9778 or go www.windingstairfarm.com

• The Pop-Up Pipers will appear in at an unexpected location in downtown Highlands 4:30-5p

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