

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., July 17, 2025

## BOC gives \$50K more toward playground

By Kristin Fox

Since 2022, Highlands Commissioners Brian Stiehler and Jeff Weller have worked tirelessly to get a new playground for the children of Highlands and beyond. Despite a few setbacks, the two,

with tremendous support from the community, have continued to work to make this dream a reality.

The Highlands Community Playground Project under the leadership of Stiehler and Weller is about creating an open and

safe space carefully designed to promote play among children of differing abilities, ages, and communities.

Fundraising efforts have been extremely successful raising

• See **PLAYGROUND** page 8

## BOC to take over MC Health Department

By Kristin Fox

Last week as a part of its July meeting, the Macon County Board of Commissioners held a joint meeting with the Macon County Board of Health to discuss issues and complaints that have been expressed by the general public as well as from employees within the health department.

For several months, commissioners have fielded many complaints about the health department including internal grievances from health department employees as well as low morale among employees. Concerns about the Health Director Kathy McGaha have also been expressed to commissioners. Other issues that the public has complained about include problems with animal control and environmental health, specifically the backlog of

• See **HEALTH** page 12



## Year 44 of the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is in full swing

*Concerts alternating between Highlands and Cashiers run through Aug. 10*

By Kim Lewicki

HCCMF's 44th season through Aug. 10, promises to continue its tradition of bringing together artists whose standards

of excellence and commitment to chamber music have enriched the creative traditions of Highlands, Cashiers and the Western Carolina mountains.

This season is another exciting mix of old friends and new faces, the fun series "Bach at Buck's" featuring solo and duo

• See **HCCMF** page 19

## 'An amazingly short story'

*Local stroke survivor credits H-C Hospital for life-saving care*

By Nancy Lindell

Director Public & Media Relations  
HCA/Mission Health

Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke.

On October 26, 2024, that person was Rose Hill. Standing at her kitchen sink, Rose felt her legs weaken and while she tried to stabilize herself, she eventually sunk down to the floor.

"I had no feeling in my legs or my left arm," said Rose.

Her husband, Tom, was getting ready to go somewhere, but was thankfully still home and called 911. The Hills live in Yellow Mountain, about 25 minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH), and Glenville-Cashiers EMS answered the call and brought Rose to the hospital.

• See **STROKE** page 16



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Striving to live a life well-lived

Sallie and I read an article by David Brooks this past week that prompted us to reflect on current events and the world's situation. The essence of the piece asked the question, why are so many people good?

The writer went into detail to review religious, ethical, and philosophical concepts about why some people are viewed as being good. One point was that some people can, at times, put the good of a group or cause over their own immediate personal ambitions. They are willing to sacrifice personal gain for the benefit of other people. To borrow the Rotary motto, they put service above self.

After all the religious and philosophical considerations, the author of the piece put forth the simple thesis that people who pursue excellence in their personal lives contribute to the overall good of a community or even a country. In most simple ways, these good people contribute to human flourishing and the enhancement of life. I thought what a simple idea, but true. In this media-driven, attention-crazed society, it is what



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

individuals do in conducting their own lives that overall impacts everyone.

Later that day, I was listening to the NPR coverage of the terrible flooding in Kerr County, Texas, where so many people perished, especially the children at the Mystic Summer Camp. The piece featured Jane Ragsdale, who was the owner of another summer camp nearby. Her first camp session had just ended before the flooding hit the Guadalupe River, where her camp was also located. She was the only person left at her camp before the holiday, but tragically, she lost her life in the flood. People in the community are devastated by her loss. On the radio, they played a recording of Jane leading campers in songs, a task she loved doing, as well as all the camp activities. Residents talked about how Ms. Ragsdale had mentored and influenced so many young people for over four decades. They also pointed out that if she had survived, Jane would be on the front lines of relief and recovery; that was just who she was. Jane Ragsdale modeled the idea of the pursuit of personal excellence and service that enriches us all.

Later in the week, Sallie and I hosted a performing artist for the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, Zitong Wang. She arrived at our house on Wednesday night at about 8 pm. After settling in her room, Zitong came up to our grand piano in our living room and at once began practicing. What a treat for us! If that were not enough, later in the evening, she gave a Zoom lesson to a younger musician. This routine of continual practice and teaching went on all week. What struck me was Zitong's commitment to personal excellence in the musical arts. That commitment translates into advancing the musical arts that inspire and move so many people. It is a testament to what individuals can do to promote human flourishing.

At the local level, I had the honor of attending Wayne Crowe's graveside service on Saturday. Members of our fire department, dressed in their formal uniforms, fully represented us. The hook and ladder fire truck was parked by the tent where the service was conducted. One of the most moving parts of a firefighter's funeral is the last-call ceremony. At the very end of the service, the radio from the fire truck came on, and 911 dispatch is

## • SNAPSHOTS •





### Remembering the glory of Mirror Lake



Photo by Larry Brannan

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## • WEATHER •

Thu, 17-Jul	Fri, 18-Jul	Sat, 19-Jul	Sun, 20-Jul
			
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Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm	A couple of t-storms; humid	Humid; an afternoon t-storm	Humid with a t-storm in spots
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### Highlands Newspaper

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

'Dorothy, we're not in COVID anymore.'

As we move into the heart of the 2025 summer season, the Highlands real estate market is facing a mix of signals — some encouraging, some cautionary. For years, the COVID-era market conditioned both sellers and buyers to expect frenzied activity, record-breaking prices, and homes selling before they officially hit the market. But that chapter has officially closed.

A Return to the "Old Normal"

For those who've been in Highlands real estate long enough, this year feels like a return to the pre-pandemic rhythm. The season truly began on July 4th, echoing the traditional pace from years past. The days of winter contracts and off-season bidding wars seem distant now.

What's Behind the Caution?

Several factors have converged to reshape the landscape:

- Buyer Hesitation: Today's buyers are more discerning and cautious. Uncertainty in the broader economy, fluctuating interest rates, and the natural ebb and flow of real estate cycles have many taking a pause, asking more questions, and weighing decisions carefully.

- Hurricane Helene's Lingering Impact: The tail end of 2024 saw an abrupt halt in activity as Hurricane Helene's aftermath effectively shut down the last quarter — a



Jody Lovell  
Highlands and Cashiers  
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period when many homes would typically have gone under contract. That slow-down spilled into the first half of 2025, leaving a backlog of inventory that's just now being absorbed.

- A Harsh Winter: A particularly cold and icy winter deterred early-year visits, further delaying buyer engagement. But with summer now in full swing, buyers are returning — albeit at a more measured pace.

Sellers: Adjusting Expectations

It's important for sellers to understand that the COVID boom prices are no longer the benchmark. The Highlands market is still healthy, but it's no longer in overdrive. Properties need to be priced realistically, presented wisely, and marketed with precision to attract today's buyer.

Buyers: Opportunity with Patience

For buyers, this return to a more balanced market presents an opportunity. There's less pressure to make snap decisions, and in many cases, more time to conduct due diligence. However, well-priced, high-quality properties with long-range views, interesting architecture, or walk-to-town locations are still moving quickly.

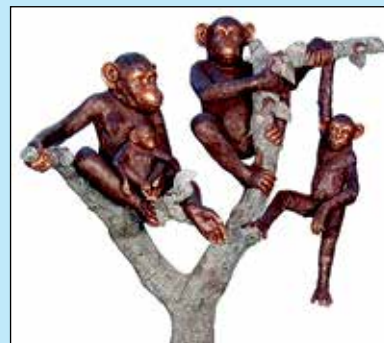
In Summary, the Highlands real estate market of 2025 is stabilizing after years of extremes. We've traded pandemic urgency for a season that feels more familiar, more thoughtful, and — frankly — more sustainable. For both buyers and sellers, success in this market will require realistic expectations, patience, and trusted local guidance.

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# • OBITUARY •

## Wayne E Crowe

Wayne E Crowe, age 91, was called to his heavenly home on July 9, 2025.

Wayne was born September 7, 1933, in Highlands, North Carolina, to Alvin and Pearl (Reed) Crowe. He was baptized at Short-off Baptist Church and longtime member of Highlands United Methodist Church.

Wayne married Geraldine (James) on October 11, 1955. They were married 69 years.

Wayne was a man of faith; he didn't have to tell you what he believed, he lived it. Wayne served as a Marine during the Korean War, a volunteer fireman for 20 years, an EMT, and the American Legion. Even though he was legally blind for the last 20 plus years, he never failed to see the person in front of him with love and respect. Everyone loved "Uncle Wayne."

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Pearl (Reed) Crowe, his siblings: Joe, Alvin Jr., Doris (Picklesimer), Morris, and Merlin Crowe. Wayne is survived by his wife Geri (James) and two sons Michael (Kelly) and Bill (Beth) Crowe. Wayne is also survived by his four grandchildren: Adam (Liyah), Allison, Evelyn, and Scott Crowe.

Memorials in lieu of flowers may be sent to Highlands United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 1959, Highlands, North Carolina, [www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org)

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory served the Crowe family.

• See OBITUARIES page 10

### A final sendoff by Highlands Fire & Rescue.

Retired FD officers escorted Geri and her sons Bill and Michael Crowe to their vehicles which followed the fire truck to the cemetery.



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## ...PLAYGROUND continued from page 1

\$1,347,711 to date for the project. However, funding is short of the \$1.6 million needed to complete the project, fundraising efforts continue.

At the July regular meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, Stiehler requested an additional \$50,000 to help close the funding gap.

The board voted unanimously without any hesitation to allocate the additional money for the project.

"You guys have done a tremendous job with the community raising money, and I think it is a project that is very worthy for the community and the county as a whole because we have many residents who live outside the city limits," said Commissioner John Shearl.

Shearl made the motion to allocate the additional funding from the county's fund balance with Commissioner Gary Shields seconding the motion.

Last year, commissioners gave \$350,000 to the town for the project. Since the funding was not used in 2025 as originally planned, a budget amendment rolled over the funds for the project to this fiscal year's budget.

Stiehler had hoped to augment fundraising with grants, but Highlands was turned down twice which has pushed the project to 2026 instead of 2025.

At tonight's Town Board meeting, Stiehler will ask the Town of Highlands for an additional \$50,000 to help with the final fundraising efforts.

"Back in 2022 we had an anonymous donor in the town come forward with \$50,000 and wanted to start a campaign for a new playground," said Stiehler. "Our playground now, I don't know if that is what you even call that thing that we have at the rec park, is just one small piece of equipment for kids to play on."

Stiehler thanked the commission for its \$350,000 contribution.

"As a board you have been generous to contribute \$350,000 to the project," he said. "The Town of Highlands has contributed \$250,000 to that project, and I personally have raised \$747,711 from the local community. When we get the funds, we will start grading the site and ordering the equipment."

He is hopeful – with funds in hand – the grading process can begin and the playground can be completed the spring of 2026.

Two of the required three bids have come in.

To donate, send a check to PO Box 460, Highlands, NC, 28741 or call the town with credit card at 828-526-2118.

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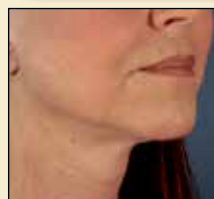
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## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 7

### Cynthia Chambers Berg

Cynthia Chambers Berg, beloved mother, grandmother, friend, and artist, passed away peacefully on July 4, 2025, in Highlands, NC, at the age of 86. Born on New Year's Eve in Jefferson City, MO, Cynthia was a spark of light from the very beginning — a woman whose joyful spirit, boundless generosity, and unmistakable laugh touched all who knew her.



Cynthia was a member of the St. Louis Woman's Club and a generous supporter of Operation Food Search. In Highlands, she was a long-time member of Highlands Country Club, served on the board of the Highlands Art League, and was a proud member of Highlands United Methodist Church to which she looked forward to the weekly community dinner.

Cynthia also contributed her support and heart to causes dear to her, including St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the ASPCA. The daughter of Maurice "Dude" and Mildred "Babe" Chambers, Cynthia grew up in St. Louis, MO, and graduated from Webster High School. Her adventurous heart led her to Colorado Women's College and later to San Francisco, where she worked for WCBS and encountered many of the icons of her time. Ultimately, love brought her home — a whirlwind romance with William "Bill" A. Berg led to an engagement within weeks and a lifelong devotion that spanned decades. Together, they raised two children, Bruce and Karen, and built a life filled with love, laughter, and purpose.

Cynthia loved to travel and treasured adventures taken with her mother, daughter Karen, and her beloved husband. From the rocky coasts of Maine to the sun-drenched days in Scottsdale and Sarasota, she found joy in every journey. Yet no place meant more to her than Highlands, her cherished mountain town where she moved full time in 2013, and the place she found peace, friendship, and inspiration.

She is survived by her daughter Karen Dubrulle, son-in-law Brian, and her four adored grandchildren: Katherine, Joseph, Benjamin, and Elizabeth Dubrulle. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion, creativity, and unconditional love.

A memorial service celebrating Cynthia's life will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 2 PM at Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC. Parking is available behind the church on Spring Street. A reception will follow at the church.

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## ...HEALTH continued from page 1

permitting.

Health Board Chair Jerry Hermanson introduced the members of the health board to the commissioners.

North Carolina Law (NC General Statute Article 2, Section 130A-34) requires Boards of Health to consist of 11 members; eight designated professionals and three members of the general public. The Board of Health is appointed by the commissioners.

The Macon County Board of Health is currently made up as follows:

Professionals: Dr. Matt Corbin, Dentist, Vice Chair; Angie Stone, Nurse Representative; Garrett Higdon, Engineer; John Shearl and Josh Young, County Commissioners; Carlos Vargas, Physician; Roy Lenzo, Veterinarian; Pharmacist, Courtney Patrick; Optometrist, Vacant

Members of the General Public: Jerry Hermanson, Chair; Steve Grissom, General Public; Nathan Feibelman III, MD, General Public

BOC Chairman Josh Young opened the discussions between the two boards.

"I think by design there are some flaws in the system," said Young. "I think what's happening is that we are receiving a lot of complaints, and we are reaching out to your board asking for help. I think tonight is an opportunity to meet face to face and have

some healthy discussion on what we can do to help each other."

After members of both boards were given the opportunity to speak, it became very clear that communication is a major problem between the two boards. Many members of the health board expressed their concern that they were unaware of any problems with the health department and were hearing about these complaints for the first time at the joint meeting.

"I am a little concerned that you have received complaints about the operations of the health department yet no one has come to us with those concerns," said Hermanson. "We are all dedicated to making sure all things run well; if we don't know there are problems, and we're not communicated with we can't do our job. We would like to know when problems are going on."

A major concern of some commissioners is the lack of authority they have over the health department. The continual stream of complaints received by the commissioners convinced Commissioner Barry Breeden that something has to be done. His solution was to make a motion to take over the authority of the health department; the motion was seconded by Commissioner John Shearl. The motion also includes that the board of health become an advisory

• See HEALTH page 13



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## ...HEALTH continued from page 12

committee to the commissioners.

Commissioners went on to unanimously vote to move forward with assuming the authority over the health board. A law enacted by North Carolina in 2012 allows the commission to have authority over a health department. About half of the board of commissioners across the state have authority over their health departments.

Before commissioners can move forward with adopting such a change, they are required to hold a public hearing to get further input from the public. Commissioners will hold the public hearing at the September meeting of the board.

"My concern is that as an elected body of the people, by the people and for the people, in my opinion it is wrong to have an appointed board by this elected board to be in complete control of the health department," said Shearl. "The appointed board of health should be an advisory board to this elected body of commissioners. The board of health was not elected by the people and should not have sole authority over this agency. The board of commissioners and the county manager should be in control of overseeing this agency."

Commissioner Breeden said he was concerned about the morale within the health department.

"The morale within the health department is very low," he said. "We would become the board of health, but we are not the board of health. I really fear that if we don't do something we are going to lose some employees because morale is so low," he said. "I have been told by several employees that it is a very toxic work environment."

because he was concerned about his fellow Highlanders' safety and their property. His commitment helped Highlands and its citizens to flourish. He also set an example for all of us to pursue the good, to seek personal excellence, and to serve others. He was a good man that his family and this town will miss. A life well-lived is what we all should strive for

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

sued the firefighter's last call. Wayne's name was called three times, with a moment of silence in between each call. In the end, the dispatcher thanked Wayne for over 20 years of service to the Highlands Fire Department and to the Highlands community. Here again, Wayne was an example of a person striving to live a life of personal excellence. I know that as a younger man, Wayne would always answer those fire calls

ment," said Shearl. "The appointed board of health should be an advisory board to this elected body of commissioners. The board of health was not elected by the people and should not have sole authority over this agency. The board of commissioners and the county manager should be in control of overseeing this agency."



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## Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment Program Highlights

### Shifting Alliances: Navigating the Future of U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World

Presenter: Matthew Auer, Friday, July 18, 10am-noon,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### The Canonic Phenomenon of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring: Primitivism, Myth, and Modernity

Presenter: Ben Arnold, Saturday, July 19, 10am-noon,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### Henry Ossawa Tanner: America's First Internationally Recognized African-American Artist

Presenter: Dr. Eleanor Jones Harvey, Tuesday, July 22,  
2-4pm, \$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

Join us after Dr. Harvey's presentation from 4:30-6:30 at Highlands Country Wine & Provisions for a wine reception!

### Unearthing the Past: Geological Foundations and the Quest for Lithium in the Carolinas

Presenter: Drew Coleman, Wednesday, July 23, 2-4pm,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### Understanding Generative AI: Demystifying the Technology Shaping Our Future

Presenter: Jennifer Claggett, Thursday, July 24, 10am-noon,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### Weathering the Storm: Understanding Climate's Impact on Our Future

Presenter: Dr. J Marshall Shepherd, Friday, July 25, 10am-noon,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### Triumph and Tragedy: Zionism, the Palestinians, and the Creation of Israel, 1917-1948

Presenter: Kevin Jones, Monday, July 28, 2-4pm, \$30 Members/  
\$40 Nonmembers

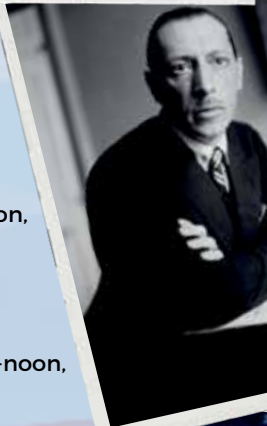
### The Gun and the Olive Branch: Palestinian Armed Struggle and the Peace Process, 1967-2025

Presenter: Kevin Jones, Tuesday, July 29, 10am-noon,  
\$30 Members /\$40 Nonmembers

### Introduction to Alcohol Inks

Instructor: Mary Cavaoli, Wednesday, July 30, 10am-noon, \$85 Members/ \$95 Nonmembers

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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Highlands School's Lamb to serve on NCHSAA board of directors

Highlands High School is proud to announce that Athletic Director Brett Lamb has been selected to serve on the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Board of Directors for a four-year term, from 2025 to 2029. Lamb will represent Region 8, which encompasses all of Western North Carolina.

The NCHSAA Board of Directors collaborates with NCHSAA staff, the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association (NCADA), and the North Carolina Coaches Association. These organizations work in concert to provide governance and guidance to all member schools within the NCHSAA.



Lamb previously served on the NCADA from 2021 to 2025.

"It is a great honor to be chosen to serve on the Board of Directors and represent Region 8," said Lamb. "The association is moving into a new era with eight classifications for our schools. This, along with many ever-changing components, will be a definite challenge, but one I look forward to helping lean into those changes."

Lamb brings a wealth of experience to his new role, entering his 28th year as a teacher and coach, with 15 years as an athletic director.



## THE MODERN GENTLEMEN

Sunday, July 20 | 4 pm





# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Muir appointed Development Director at Highlands Performing Arts Center

Highlands Performing Arts Center (PAC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Charlotte Muir as Development Director, effective immediately. Muir brings more than 15 years of nonprofit leadership experience, along with a strong track record in fundraising, board relations, and strategic growth.

As Development Director, Muir will lead PAC's fundraising initiatives to support program expansion and enhancement plans. Her appointment comes at a pivotal time for PAC as it continues to thrive as Highlands' home for the performing arts.

Muir has worked with local nonprofits in Highlands for the past nine years. Prior to moving to Highlands, she served as the Theatre Director for the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek, CO.

"Charlotte's combination of fundraising



experience, community-oriented vision, and passion for the arts makes her ideal for this role," said PAC Executive Director Jeanne Piazza.

"I'm honored to join the PAC at this exciting time," said Muir. "I look forward to growing local and regional support as we continue to provide world class performing arts right here on the Plateau. Performing arts is my passion

and I couldn't be happier than to be working here at PAC."

Muir will oversee fundraising operations, including annual campaigns, major gifts, memberships, and grant writing. She will collaborate closely with HPAC's leadership team to align development goals with the PAC's mission and long-term vision.

### Week Three Concerts July 19-22



Saturday, July 19th, Highlands, 5 PM | Sunday, July 20th, Cashiers, 5 PM

### "The Rites of Spring"

Julie Coucheron & Elizabeth Pridgen, piano; Chee-Yun, violin

Monday, July 21st, Highlands, 5 PM | Tuesday, July 22nd, Cashiers, 5 PM

### "Musical Stories"

Chee-Yun, violin; Jesse McCandless, clarinet; Eleni Katz, bassoon; Omar Lateef, trumpet; Gabriel Colby, trombone; Jonathan Colbert, bass; Scott Pollard, percussion; Richard Prior, narrator; Julie Coucheron, piano

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Access to  
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and Adolescents

**The Pre-Application period for the LIFT Grant cycle will end on July 30 at 5:00 p.m.**

For more information about the full grant process and schedule, or if your organization is interested in submitting a pre-application to start the grant process, please visit the Health Foundation's website or scan the the QR code below.



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Johnny Webb Band

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ABC Combo

### Saturdays on Pine

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JULY 5  
Silly Ridge

**\*\*Special holiday Saturday concert in Town Square\*\***

JULY 12  
Shane Meade & The Sound

JULY 19  
The Breakfast Club

JULY 26  
The Boomers



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## ...STROKE continued from page 1

The amazing part? From the time Rose came through the doors at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital until she received the clot-busting drug use for stroke patients was only an astonishing 13 minutes. The national average “door-to-needle” time for stroke patients in the US is around 50-60 minutes. The goal, as set by the American Heart Association, is to administer the clot-busting medication within 60 minutes of a stroke patient’s arrival at the hospital. HCA Healthcare’s goal for its hospitals is 40 minutes or less. To do it all in only 13 minutes was amazing.

With stroke, time is brain. Meaning, the faster the clot-busting drug is administered, the less damage to the brain. Because of the quick actions of the HCH team, Rose has no deficits or mobility issues from her stroke.

“We constantly practice and make improvements to our processes to assure our patients get the best care possible,” said Tom Neal, CEO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. “Every minute we can shave off could mean a fuller recovery from the stroke. Rose’s experience is why we do what we do.”

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States and the fourth in North Carolina. Swift access to care, like Rose received, dramatically increases survival and recovery chances.

“Administering the clot-busting drug quickly gives our patients the best shot of not having long-term disabilities,” said Hollis Whitehead, Director of Clinical Operations at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. “We work hard to ensure our patients can continue to live their life beyond their stroke. Rose is a perfect example of how efficient, compassionate care can lead to no impact from a stroke,” said Whitehead.



HCA's Hollis Whitehead and Tom Neal with Tom and Rose Hill.

The team at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital was able to safely and efficiently care for Rose the moment she arrived to the ER via EMS, building her confidence that she could be helped so close to home.

After receiving the clot busting drug, Rose started to regain feeling and her speech even before being transferred to HCA Healthcare’s Mission Hospital in Asheville for further treatment and follow up care. Rose was in the Mission Hospital ICU for several days, before being discharged.

“Everyone at Mission Hospital was great – spot on and just wonderful,” said Rose. “From the nurses and doctors and everyone else, I got all kinds of attention – it seemed like someone was in my room every 15 minutes. They were fantastic.”

Now fully recovered, Rose is back home and grateful. “If you have any issues, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is wonderful and they can take care of you right here in Highlands,” she said. “I think they are angels. I’ve been very blessed to have the care I had. I’m very thankful.”

As for her experience, Rose calls it “an amazingly short story”—but one that speaks volumes about the power of fast, coordinated care close to home.

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# • LETTERS •

## 'True patriots' attended the 'No Kings' rally

Dear Editor,

The July 3 issue of the Highlands Newspaper included two letters to the editor that accused left-wing people of being anti-American.

Ed McCloskey accused people "on the left" of "root[ing] against America," and Bodie Catlin asserted that the recent No Kings rallies were staged by "left wingers and America haters."

Since I am politically left of center, and since I attended the No Kings rally in Highlands, I stand accused by these writers of hating my country.

I take exception to that.

My father was a World War II fighter pilot and an officer in the US Army. I grew up on Army bases, surrounded by people who were prepared to die for their country, and maybe that's where my love of country began. Or maybe I fell in love with the United States during the cross-country trips my family took as we moved from one duty

station to another across this huge, beautiful, fascinating land. The sheer size, grandeur, and cultural variety of my country was truly awe-inspiring to me. And finally, my patriotism was reinforced by everything I learned in school about the enlightened principles our Founding Fathers laid out for this country back in the 1700s. For each and all of these reasons, I am 100 percent committed to the United States of America. I am as patriotic as they come.

So Mr. McCloskey and Mt. Catlin are wrong about me, and they're wrong about the left wing in general. People attended No Kings rallies not because they hate their

country but because they love it, and because they cherish the democratic principles on which it is based. Neither Donald Trump nor the right-wing zealots who support him have any real understanding of those principles. They love to wave Old Glory and sing the "Star-Spangled Banner," but they don't understand the concepts behind those symbols. Specifically, they don't know what "democracy" and "fascism" mean or how to tell the difference between the two. Understanding all that might require reading a book, and it's much easier just to tune in to right-wing propaganda and mindlessly parrot every hateful, destructive thing it says. To me, that

doesn't qualify as patriotism. There's nothing patriotic about being brainwashed.

The "patriotic" rhetoric coming out of the right wing doesn't fool me. You can call yourself a Patriot with a capital P until you're blue in the face, and until or unless you show some understanding of democratic principles, I will consider you anti-American. Meanwhile, I'll stand with the true patriots — the people who attended the No Kings rallies because they're terrified that right-wing ignorance will destroy our beloved country.

**Emily Wright  
Satolah**

## Thanks to HF&R

Dear Editor,

It is only fitting that moments after gathering to celebrate the life of fellow volunteer fireman Wayne Crowe, that a 911 call to Highlands Fire and Rescue was made by a volunteer at Mountain Findings. Within minutes two fire trucks and a rescue truck arrived with several of the gentlemen still in full dress. A small fire erupted after attempting to test a donated propane patio heater. Prepared with our fire extinguisher in hand, the fireman were there before we had to pull the pin.

Mountain Findings is so grateful to all the first-responders that serve this community, but want to extend a word of thanks for the Highlands firemen who serve others and kept our small incident just that. Small. Thank you.

Footnote and lesson learned: we won't be accepting any more pressurized containers! With gratitude,

**Jill Helmer**  
President, Mountain Findings

## Now is the time to stand up by standing down

Dear Editor:

Many American servicemen feel duty-bound to oppose combat Marines being deployed in American cities. I'm one of them.

First of all, this president is in clear

• See LETTERS page 21

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# SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

## Jesus is our Good Samaritan



**Michael D. Matlock**  
Rector  
Christ Anglican Church

Jesus relates the famous parabolic story of “The Good Samaritan” in Luke 10:25-37. Like all the parables of Jesus, a spiritual truth is expressed in an “every day story.” The story of the good Samaritan has hidden depths, and one clue to them is the lawyer’s original question. He had asked not about a way of life, but about a way to life: “*What shall I do to inherit eternal life?*” (10:25)

Jesus’ questioner is a specialist in Jewish religious law, a man who exercises his argumentative prowess with Jesus. Jesus replies to the man on the man’s own terms, by posing a thought-provoking question right back to him: “*What is written in the law? How do you read it?*” (10:26) The expert in the law then answers Jesus that what is written in the law (which I highly summarize here) is to love God and love neighbor. (10:27) Like most good attorneys, this legal expert also wanted clarification on the exact definition of the word neighbor, and so he asks Jesus “who is my neighbor?” And Jesus, knowing what was at the heart of the legal expert’s question intrigued him with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus begins his story with, “*A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.*” (10:30) Jerusalem, which is a city on a hill, is symbolic in the Scriptures of heavenly Mount Zion. Heavenly Jerusalem stands for the way we ought to be. But not Jericho! It is the city of sin and dysfunction, and it is the lowest city on earth in terms of elevation. In Jesus’ story, a man gets beaten within an inch of his life on this road connecting the two cities. This beaten man represents you and me, people who are spiritually helpless and sinful without Jesus.

As Jesus continues with the story, we learn that both a priest and a Levite come down this same road. (10:31-32) Although they each see the beaten man, they, sadly, cannot help. They symbolize all official religions of that time. Thirdly, the Samaritan, a despised outsider, comes passing through. (10:33) For the Jews of Jesus’ time, Samaritans were hated beyond imagination because they were not pure Jews. Who does the Samaritan symbolize? Friends, it is Jesus the Messiah. He is the despised outsider, the carpenter from lowly Nazareth, “son” of the very poor Mary and Joseph, who stooped down for all of us on the cross of Calvary. Jesus willingly dares to approach us in our present state, pours oil and wine into our wounded “sin sick” souls through the power of the Holy Spirit, generously “pays” our way as we simply receive his loving care, unable to offer anything except gratitude in return. (10:34-35)

Do not be fooled into thinking this is a simple, undeveloped story. To understand Jesus fully, we must first back up to “see” the story about how God treated us in our fallen, addicted, and sinful state. Then after receiving his love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and healing in the oil and wine, allow his love to flow through us to love our “neighbors” like he has loved us. My friends, do this and you will live. Just like the Samaritan woman who encountered Jesus, you will have a “*spring of water welling up to eternal life*” in you. (John 4:14) If you desire to talk about your spiritual journey, I invite you to reach out to me or one of our staff members at [cac@christanglicancashiers.org](mailto:cac@christanglicancashiers.org).

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.  
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Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am  
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Rev. Emily Wilmarth, pastor; Rev. Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor  
828-526-3175 • [fpchighlands.org](http://fpchighlands.org)  
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Wed: Bell Choir 4p. Chancel Choir: 5:30p  
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Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376  
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[www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Rev. Ken Langsdorf

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### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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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  
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### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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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 July 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## July 7

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Poplar Street.

## July 8

• At 2:23 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Satulah Road.

• At 5:10 p.m., officers responded to a report of intimidation of a woman who was walking on Main Street who says she was being followed.

## July 12

• At 5:15 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on 5th Street.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 8.**

## July 8

• At 4:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a

fire alarm at a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 4:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

## July 9

• At 4:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ken Drive.

• At 9:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 11:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

## July 10

• At 11:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 12:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 4:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 5:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Whiteside Moun-

tain Road.

• At 6:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Mirrormont Drive.

## July 11

• At 1:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Fairway Cottage Lane.

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 6:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hemlock Circle.

• At 8:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

• At 11:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Satulah Falls Lane.

## July 12

• At 12:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire Mountain Findings.

• At 8:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

## July 13

• At 11:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 5:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Russell Ridge Road.

## July 14

• At 2:25 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid on a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 6:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible motor vehicle accident on Whiteside Mountain Road.

## ...HCCMF continued from page 1

string music in the informal setting of a coffee house in both the Highlands and Cashiers locations and lectures in conjunction with the Center For Life Enrichment. The popular Feasts of the Festival, a series of dinners given as fundraisers to support the Festival, continues to thrive.

Exceptional programs this season include the North Carolina Premiere of Paul Coletti's Viola Quintet with Paul Coletti and The Viano Quartet; The first Whitehead Family Young Pianist Concert with Zitong Wang; Sharon Isbin, guitar with the Pacifica String Quartet; our Final Gala Concert "Cellobration" eight cellos led by Grammy winner cellist Zuill Bailey. Many other programs round out an outstanding Festival.

Saturday, July 19, in Highlands, at 5pm and Sunday, July 20, in Cashiers at

5pm is "The Rites of Spring" with Julie Coucheron and Elizabeth Pridgen, piano; Chee-Yun, violin

On Monday, July 21 in Highlands at 5pm and on Tuesday, July 22 in Cashiers at 5pm it's "Musical Stories" with Chee-Yun, violin; Jesse McCandless, clarinet; Eleni Katz, bassoon;

Omar Lateef, trumpet; Gabriel Colby, trombone; Jonathan Colbert, bass; Scott Pollard, percussion; Richard Prior, narrator; and Julie Coucheron, piano.

They will be performing pieces by composers Vivaldi, Grieg, Beethoven and "The Rite of Spring" by Stravinsky.

To continue HCCMF's tradition of bringing the very best world-class musicians and repertoire to the Highlands-Cashiers plateau go to [www.hcmusicfestival.org](http://www.hcmusicfestival.org).

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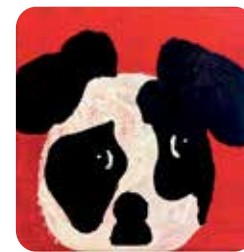
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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

## HELP WANTED

**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](http://hcltnc.org). Resumes (and any inquiries) should be submitted via email to [personnel@hcltnc.org](mailto:personnel@hcltnc.org). (st. 6/26)



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**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](mailto:exitmountain@gmail.com): 828-276-3569 (st. 7/17)



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**RV SITE** - Class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. \$179,999. Also available, waterfront site, \$399,999. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email [bobnnancync@gmail.com](mailto:bobnnancync@gmail.com). (st. 1/25)

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## ...LETTERS continued from page 17

violation of the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, a federal U.S. law that restricts the use of the military for law enforcement within the country. It prohibits the use of federal troops to execute civilian laws unless explicitly authorized by the Constitution or an Act of Congress.

I served in the Naval Security Group, 20 years, under six presidents, all former Army or Naval Officers (Dwight Eisenhower to Jimmy Carter). None were perfect men nor did any claim to be. Neither did any one of them entertain a fleeting thought of igniting an armed mob to attack our Capitol, killing or maiming its defenders (his own vice president if necessary), to overturn an election he knew he'd lost.

Like many servicemen of my era I am deeply distraught that an amoral criminal, corrupt conman and grifter, a president proven to care nothing for the rules of law or justice, has so easily dismantled a constitutional democracy and replaced it with the despot-ruled equivalent of a banana republic surrounded by masked thugs and parasitic bootlickers. Knowing he couldn't have accomplished this feat without the complicity of the Supreme Court and huge numbers of our fellow citizens thinking this is all okay (or even good), does nothing to assuage my anguish.

The question has already been asked by a University of Texas professor; "How can the Commandant of the Marine Corps act upon an illegal order by the POTUS and have United States Marines violate U.S. federal laws?" Is it possibly

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

## FOR RENT

**3BD/2BA HOUSE IN FRANKLIN** – 74 Gibson Ridge Road. Short-or long-term. \$1,500/mth. Call 828-526-2239 (st. 7/17)

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**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)

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because our radically unethical Supreme Court, having ruled that this convicted Felon-in-Chief cannot be held criminally responsible for anything he does as president, will simply get away with ordering them to do so?

Some former Marines are hopeful that active duty Marine generals will tell the troops to "stand down." However, Marine Lieutenant General Walter Gaskin (Ret.), when asked what Marines would do if ordered to fight American citizens on the streets of America, responded: "Same thing we always do, what we're trained to do, they have to follow orders."

I think we can assume many Marines are as angry and are struggling every bit as hard as most of the rest of us right now.

I envision that by the time America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday (about a year from now), absent a Herculean miracle, Donald Trump will have rendered what's left of our Constitution and representative form of government substantially irrelevant and in its place his very own little fiefdom, a well-established oligarchy with groveling lackeys in Congress to cheer him on, leaving the rest of our representatives milling around bleating like the helpless sheep they are.

One universal question remains. How much more damage will Trump be allowed to inflict on the world order before some brave soul stands up and says: ENOUGH?

**David Snell  
Franklin**



# • 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),

## THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

• No movies until September

## 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

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

471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. Women's Group 5:30, Tuesdays. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more info, visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

## Mon. 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 exer-

cise. 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](mailto: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.

• At the Highlands Nature Center, free Zahner Conservation Lectures at 6 p.m. Small reception follows.

## 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).

## Through July 20

• Online Macon County youth soccer registration ends July 20th and practice will begin the week of August 11th. Games will start Saturday, August 30th.

## Wed., July 23, 30

• At the Literacy Council, Tinker Time for Tots and Caregivers. 11 am - Noon. FREE. No registration required

## Thurs., July 17

• At First Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Family/Children's Concert featuring the Gary Motley Trio co-sponsored by Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival with Ice Cream Social following in Coleman Hall at 3pm.

## Fri., July 18

• At PAC, Rodney Marsalis' Philadelphia Big Brass at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, go to [highlandsp Performingarts.com/concerts](http://highlandsp Performingarts.com/concerts).

• At Hudson Library, Atlanta/Highlands author Maggie Bailey will introduce her recent cozy mystery, Quilty as Charged, on Friday July 18 at 2PM. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

## Sun., July 20

• At PAC, The Modern Gentlemen - long time members of "Frankie Valli & The four Seasons - at 4 p.m. For tickets, go to [highlandsp Performingarts.com/concerts](http://highlandsp Performingarts.com/concerts).

## July 21 - 25

• At the Literacy Council, FREE summer camps. College Essay Boot Camp. 2 - 4 pm. High School Seniors and Recent Grads

## Wed., July 23

• The Sky Valley Garden Club is hosting an Arts and Crafts Show on Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm at the Sky Valley Country Club located at 568 Sky Valley Way.

• At First Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Trey Clegg Chamber Singers at 2pm.

## Sun., July 27

• For the Literacy Council, Swingin' Soiree at The Farm at Old Edwards. To purchase tickets and for information visit <https://www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/swingin>

## Sun., July 27

• The Barak Norton Heritage Association cordially invites all descendants and friends of Barak Norton to the annual family reunion on Sunday, at 11:30a. This year marks the 153rd anniversary of the family reunion started in 1872 that is at the Historic Whiteside Cove School House located at 4601 Whiteside Cove Road, Highlands, NC. Bring your favorite dish to share and join us for a day of music, stories, food, and fellowship as we celebrate our mountain heritage.

## July 28 - Aug. 1

• At the Literacy Council, FREE summer camps. Craft Camp. 1 - 4 pm. K - 2nd grade

## Sat. Aug. 2

• The Pop-Up Pipers will appear in unexpected locations throughout downtown Highlands 4:30-5p.

## Tues. Aug. 5

• National Night Out, where communities come together with law enforcement, first responders, and local organizations to build relationships, have fun, and strengthen the neighborhoods we call home is from 5-8p at the MC Recreation Park.

## Aug. 6 - 30

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

## Wed., Aug. 6, 13

• At the Literacy Council, Tinker Time for Tots and Caregivers, 11 am - Noon. FREE. No registration required

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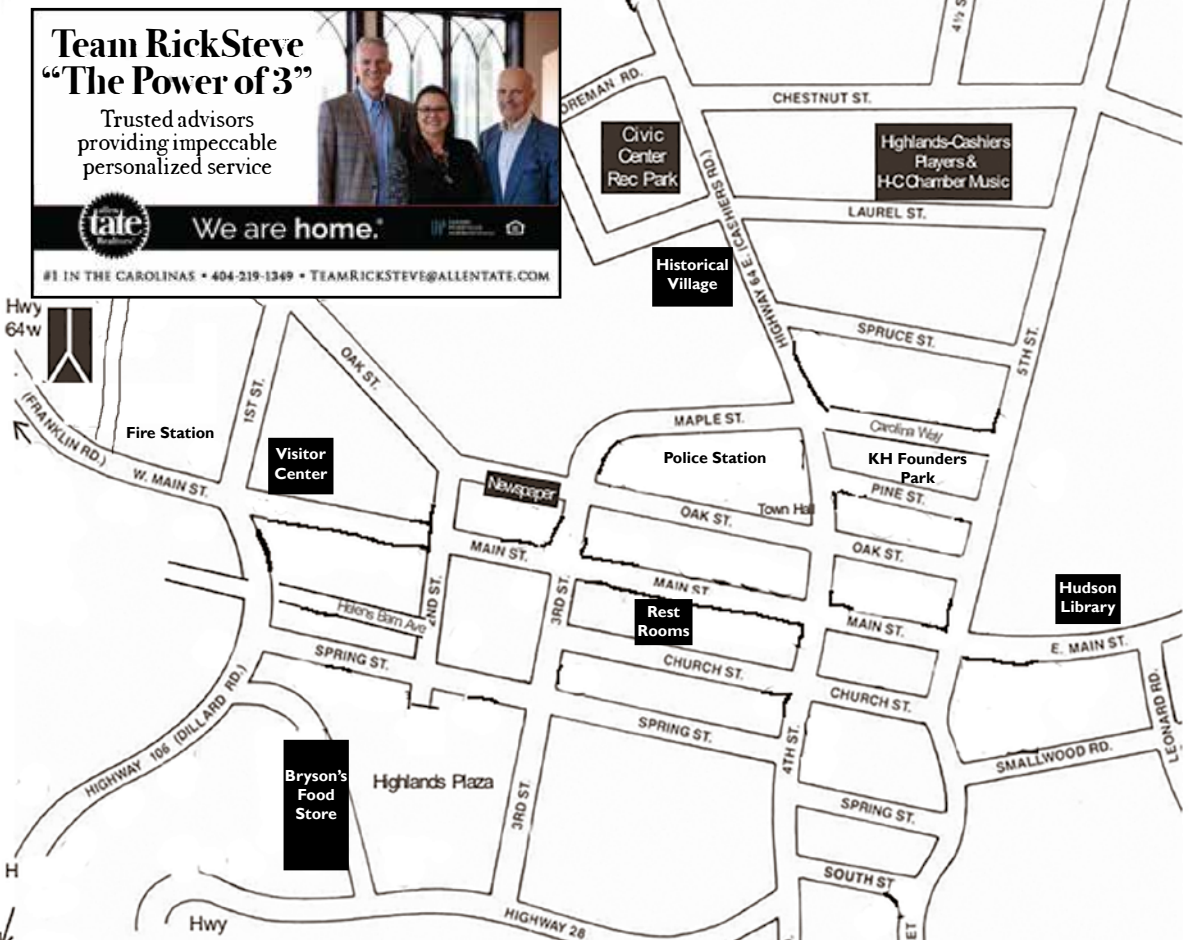


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