

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thurs., Oct. 16, 2025

Highlands and Franklin early voting sites are open Oct. 16-Nov. 1

By Kim Lewicki

Early voting for the municipal elections in Highlands and Franklin begins Thursday, Oct. 16.

The polls in Highlands at the Civic Center/Rec Park at 600 N. 4th Street, open at 8a and close at 6p, Monday through Friday. Early

voting will continue until Nov. 1 with Saturday polls open from 8a to 3p.

• See VOTING page 10

Animal control changes in the works

By Kristin Fox

Since the beginning of the year, the Macon County Board of Commissioners has struggled with the issue of how to fix problems with the Macon County Animal Services. For the last few years, the department has faced many challenges including understaffing, undersized and inadequate facilities and the need for additional funding.

The public has shown up for several board meetings expressing concerns ranging from animals not being taken care of properly at the shelter to problems with animals in the county not being addressed, often due to lack of staff.

At the request of the board, County Manager Warren Cabe was tasked to work on a feasibility study exploring options for

• See ANIMAL page 4



Every late afternoon, early evening in October, at the Jackson County overlook on the Cashiers Road, the bear goes over the mountain to see what's on the other side!
Photo by Lori Mathis

Bear Shadow music festival has new home at Ferngrove

Bear Shadow music festival is coming out of hibernation and is set to return to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau from May 29 – May 31, 2026, with a refreshed setting that complements the event's themes: music, mountains, mindfulness and community. The

festival will be held at Ferngrove in Highlands, North Carolina. The new venue offers an immersive atmosphere and natural beauty for a weekend of renewal.

"After taking time to find the right fit, we're thrilled to announce

• See BEAR SHADOW page 8

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The race begins for Highlands' election

Mayor seat and three commissioner seats are open; write-ins could decide the election

By Kim Lewicki

The ballot for the Highlands municipal election is sparse this time around – the incumbents Mayor Pat Taylor, and Commissioners Amy Patterson and Eric Pierson are the only candidates who signed up to run.

However, with two years left on Brian Stiehler's unexpired term, Jim Tate, who served as Highlands' representative on the MC Board of Commission for 11 years, who retired from the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. after 20 years and who has served on both Highlands Planning and Zoning boards as well as the HC Land Trust board, is running for that seat.

Having served for 12 years, incumbent Mayor Pat Taylor is running for a fourth term.

Commissioner Patterson was elected November 1989 for her first four-year term, which began 1990. She took two years off and has been on the board consistently

since then and has so far served a total 33 years. She is running for another four-year term.

Pierson was on the board for two consecutive terms; came off for two years; was elected again and is now running for a fourth term.

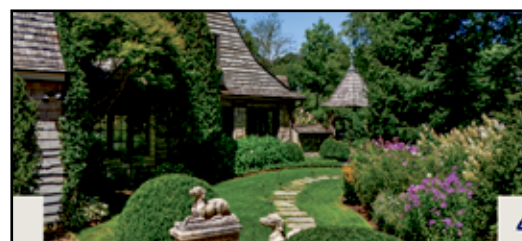
Based on the number of Town of Highlands registered voters – 986 – and the number who turn out to vote, apathy has clearly set in concerning Highlands' elections.

The number who voted in the 2021 municipal election was 496; the number who voted in the 2023 municipal election was 423.

However, there is "talk" of a grassroots write-in campaign taking place to get some new faces on the board.

In NC, people don't have to register or file a petition to be a write-in candidate in a non-partisan municipal election. As long as

• See RACE page 16



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Tonight's worksession and Town Board meeting

Thursday, October 16, is the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners workshop and then board meeting. Both sessions are at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field. The workshop meeting starts at 6 p.m., followed by the board meeting at 7 p.m. Both meetings can be viewed remotely via the town's YouTube portal on the town website.

The workshop agenda will have two parts. The first will be a presentation by the town staff and the police department on installing more security cameras on Main Street, followed by a discussion. These cameras would not have public access like the current one on Main Street. They would increase security against criminal actions, such as the recent smash-and-grab at a Main Street store and enforce ordinances about merchandising on town streets.

The second workshop item will be a closed session with the attorney representing the town in the Huff vs Highlands law-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

suit. The board receives updates concerning the status of the suit and provides direction for our attorney.

The board meeting has a full agenda, starting with a presentation of a memorandum of understanding between the town and the Plateau Boys and Girls Club. The MOU will outline the procedures to move forward with the construction and operation of a new Boys and Girls Club on the campus of the Highlands Recreation Department. A committee of town and Boys and Girls Club representatives has been meeting for several weeks to develop the MOU. This agreement is the critical first step in moving the project forward.

A second agenda item will be to review a proposed new ordinance concerning solicitation and merchandising on town streets and property. The town attorney drafted this ordinance. An initial draft was reviewed at last month's town workshop. Now that this draft is on the board's agenda tonight, a final action at this meeting is very much possible. How the new ordinance will be enforced will be a part of the discussion leading up to final approval.

The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition has been conducting a citizen survey in the past several weeks. Representatives from the coalition will be presenting the survey and findings to the Town Board at tonight's meeting.

Matt Shuler from our GIS and IT department will present an update on the development of an electric system outage map. Matt and the electric department have been developing this map for several months. With board approval, they will be ready to put the outage map on the town website. The website can be accessed directly or through the town app.

The map design will show in red any area that has lost power protection during an extreme weather event or at any time. Hopefully, such a system will cut down on the surge in calls reporting power outages during storms. Also, our electric crews will use the map to pinpoint the exact locations in town where power is out.

Finally, Fire Chief Gearhart will appear before the board to request approval

• See MAYOR page 7

• SNAPSHOT •

A bird on a mission



Photo by Cris Sleightholm

Last spring, two Red-bellied woodpeckers spent a month diligently pecking out a large cavity in this tree. I thought there would be babies. Nope. Using wood bits from their pecking mixed with their saliva to create a paste, they completely sealed it. A week ago, this Pileated woodpecker systematically tore it apart. Will be interesting to see what comes next.

• WEATHER •

Thu, 16-Oct	Fri, 17-Oct	Sat, 18-Oct	Sun, 19-Oct
			
69°F 45°F	68°F 48°F	68°F 52°F	62°F 39°F
Nice with plenty of sun	Sun through high clouds	Sunshine and nice	A shower and t-storm; cooler
RealFeel® High 74° Low: 47°	RealFeel® High: 72° Low: 48°	RealFeel® High 72° Low: 50°	RealFeel® High: 63° Low: 47°

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Invest in what makes Highlands special

Fall is here and the clear, cool air is a reminder we live in a place that has four distinct seasons. How blessed we are to be insulated from the hustle bustle of city life and enjoy the slower pace of Highlands' life. A great thing about living here is it is possible to stay as busy, or as slow paced as you like.

Our small town is a great investment in your personal lifestyle. It only takes attending a meeting or two with the state or national level, and hear state leaders in our industry to see that our investment and lifestyle goals as Highlanders are not the same as the state or country as a whole. We understand Highlands' investment is not just interest rates and development opportunities!

Our standard of small-town mountain living is to be cherished and protected, the



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state leaders' views of development and ours are worlds apart. A good investment property here is the location and environment, views, waterfalls, and convenience -- all important. To the state leaders it is how many homes with ADU's or condos you can shoehorn into an acre.

Different tastes are to be expected, and the town has become more urbanized over the last 15 years, but we do need to recognize the limits to what our resources will support.

Fall is a busy time of the year, then Winter will give us a time to recharge and enjoy

the snow, skiing, and ice skating. Then on to a new year of enjoying four more seasons!

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...ANIMAL continued from page 1

animal services. One possible suggestion is to find an outside agency to manage the animal shelter.

Several months ago, the county issued a RFP (request for proposal) seeking outside agencies who may be interested in assuming control of animal services. Cabe said the county received one proposal from a non-profit agency who currently works with the shelter and is interested in taking over animal services.

At this week's BOC meeting, Meg Kremer, an active volunteer and president of Pawitive Shelter Volunteers (PSV) doing business as Humane Society of WNC, presented a proposal to commissioners for PSV to assume control over animal services. PSV is proposing a streamlined, outcome-oriented model for animal shelter services in Macon County. Their proposal addressed three core areas -- animal intake,

• See **ANIMAL** page 8

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Move-in condition, spectacular house off Buck Creek Road. 3BD, plus additional flex spaces. Multiple fireplaces. Open great room concept with custom kitchen, plank wood floors, stone fireplace, covered porch with hot tub spa. Masters on main and upper floors, plus guestrooms with baths. Out-building. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #100481



On Flat Mountain Road on over 3 acres is this 4BD/2BA 1969 farmhouse. It needs some renovation but has great bones and has a multitude of possibilities. Charming Knotty pine and wood floors. An additional home site or two is a possibility, with a septic already in place for a guesthouse or rental. Offered at \$1,200,000 mls #106379



White Oak Village is tucked away off Hicks Road just outside the town limits, this small enclave of 6 duplex townhouses, with 4 more planned. Each townhome has 3BD/3BA with a large deck that overlooks a gurgling stream. Walk in on the main level, to a lovely sitting room and high quality kitchen, with stainless steel appliances and natural light stone countertops. Living room features a gas fireplace and 4-panel glass sliders. Upstairs is a primary suite and guest suite with bath and laundry in the hallway. Terrace level overlooks backyard and stream with both interior and exterior access. Great room with kitchen and dining bar and a full bedroom and bath. Family overflow or income purposes. mls #1001871 \$1,099,000, mls #1001872 \$1,099,000, mls #1001874 \$1,099,000, mls #1001877 \$999,000, mls #1001879 \$999,000



Need an unzoned property for covered storage? Off Dillard Road, this 1-acre property has a 3,200 sq. ft. almost new storage building. Has electricity to the property but will need a well drilled for water and septic checked if desired. Offered at \$495,000 mls #1000396



A blank canvas, ready for you to make your own tastes, this 2 bedroom, 2 bath needs refurbishing but is in a great location only 2 blocks from Main Street. northeast side for morning sun. great covered glass porch. Currently rented and shown by appointment. Offered at \$575,000. mls #1001811



White Oak Village

White Oak Village is tucked away off Hicks Road just outside the town limits, this small enclave of 6 duplex townhouses, with 4 more planned. Each townhome has 3BD/3BA with a large deck that overlooks a gurgling stream. Walk in on the main level, to a lovely sitting room and high quality kitchen, with stainless steel appliances and natural light stone countertops. Living room features a gas fireplace and 4-panel glass sliders. Upstairs is a primary suite and guest suite with bath and laundry in the hallway. Terrace level overlooks backyard and stream with both interior and exterior access. Great room with kitchen and dining bar and a full bedroom and bath. Family overflow or income purposes. mls #1001871 \$1,099,000, mls #1001872 \$1,099,000, mls #1001874 \$1,099,000, mls #1001877 \$999,000, mls #1001879 \$999,000



Off Buck Knob Road, this one-of-a-kind log cabin on top of the knoll with a lovely yard and view. 2BD/2BA on the upper level, main level has living room, dining room, kitchen, bath and two large porches. Lower level has a garage, family room and bath. Offered at \$1,475,000. mls #1001705



On the Highlands-Cashiers corridor, this 2BD/1BA is on 1.38 acres. Stone fireplace, kitchen and bath needs updating but a new roof and some upgrades are done. Great high visibility location. Offered at \$599,000. mls #1001857



White Oak Village is tucked away off Hicks Road just outside the town limits, this small enclave of 6 duplex townhouses, with 4 more planned. Each townhome has 3BD/3BA with a large deck that overlooks a gurgling stream. Walk in on the main level, to a lovely sitting room and high quality kitchen, with stainless steel appliances and natural light stone countertops. Living room features a gas fireplace and 4-panel glass sliders. Upstairs is a primary suite and guest suite with bath and laundry in the hallway. Terrace level overlooks backyard and stream with both interior and exterior access. Great room with kitchen and dining bar and a full bedroom and bath. Family overflow or income purposes. mls #1001871 \$1,099,000, mls #1001872 \$1,099,000, mls #1001874 \$1,099,000, mls #1001877 \$999,000, mls #1001879 \$999,000



This .99-acre lot in Highlands Falls CC is in the new section of the club on Falcon Ridge with view of Whiteside Mountain all the way to South Carolina. Gentle building lot, water, sewer, and a full set of plans ready. This is a one-of-a-kind lot. Offered at \$1,495,000 mls #1001337



First time on the market in over 25 years, this lovely 3BD/3BA has living room, kitchen, a bedroom and a bath on main floor. Living room has a masonry fireplace and opens onto a covered porch. Lower level has a bedroom, bath. Upper level has a loft bedroom and bath. 2-car carport. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$725,000 mls #1001238



Condo at Highlands Mountain Club. 2BD/2BA, screened in porch. Primary bath with a dream shower and tile floors. View overlooks a pristine lake. Open pass-through kitchen/dining living. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$525,000. mls #1001347



Less than 2 miles from town, this one-of-a-kind generational 10-acres estate with 3BD/4.5BA home has over 5,000 sf with roughed in rooms for additional living area below. Beautiful grounds feature gardens, trails, potting shed, greenhouse, and lovely water features. Country French living room with Dalle de Bourgogne French limestone floors, a fireplace, and stunning wrought iron doors to access the patio. Open dining with adjacent chef's kitchen. Primary suite has double bath and full office/library. Elevator and stairwell leads to 2 guest bedroom suites, and a bonus room. A rear porch with pet fence and a 2-car garage. Offered at \$6,200,000 mls #1001680



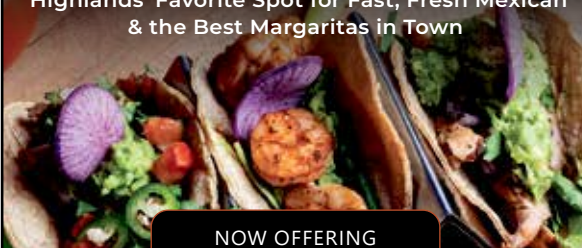
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...MAYOR continued from page 2

to accept a donation of a swift water rescue trailer. Emergency rescue is a major responsibility for the Highlands Fire Department, and this much-needed piece of equipment is essential.

Friday the 17th, I will be holding my final community coffee of the year. It will be at the Hudson Library and begins at 11 am. The topic is current and future construction projects in Highlands. I will review town projects, residential projects, and some very major commercial projects. I hope to see you at the coffee, which will be sponsored by the Peggy Crosby Center.

Finally, the demolition of the Highlands Playhouse building will begin sometime in November. There are about 125 naming bricks in the entryway to the Playhouse. If anyone wants their brick, now is the time to bring a screwdriver and remove the brick. I will be happy to provide more information. I can be reached at AskMayorPat.com/

• LETTERS •

Come, join a No Kings rally Saturday, Oct 18 in Sylva (11a) or Highlands (12:30p)

Dear Editor,

Good reason to rally for democracy: Congressional Republicans insist that the government shutdown lies with the Democrats. Briefly, the Dems are only trying to retain health care subsidies and access to Medicaid due to expire in December. Republicans are clear that health care cuts are non-negotiable (AI overview; search on “Medicaid cuts non-negotiable”). NC has already announced plans to cut Medicaid payments ((KFF Health News; kffhealthnews.org) as a result of the Republicans Big Beautiful Bill. But, according to numerous polls, most Americans want to retain the subsidies, and are supporting the shutdown in hopes the Republicans will come to their senses. If affordable health care is not on your radar, here is another reason to rally.

In September, under orders from the President and without warning, the military in the Caribbean began lethally destroying boats supposedly smuggling drugs from Venezuela. Not once has the government suggested any credible evidence exists that these boats are smuggling drugs, or even Venezuelan. Because destroying boats in international waters with no warning can be considered an act of war, the Department of Justice retroactively provided a classified legal basis for these attacks – that the boats’ occupants were terrorists associated with drug cartels set on destroying America. Smugglers are considered criminals, subject to due process. Terrorists have no rights to due process.

Then, on September 22, Trump issued an Executive Order designating Antifa as a domestic terrorist

organization. Antifa – which stands for Anti-Fascism -- is not an organization; it was originally an identifier of far-left protestors and has morphed to a very broad catch-all phrase for people protesting US Government actions. Again, terrorists have no rights to due process.

Horribly, Trump told military leadership on Sept 30 (YouTube) “We’re under invasion from within. No different that a foreign enemy but more difficult ... because they don’t wear uniforms.” He also suggested the military train in “dangerous” American cities. He has identified Chicago and Portland, at least, as dangerous cities.

Finally, on October 5, Attorney General Bondi said “We’re going to take the same approach [as towards drug cartels] with Antifa: destroy the entire organization from top to bottom. We’re going to take them apart. Thanks to ... the designation of Antifa as a terrorist organization – which is exactly what they are – Americans will no longer tolerate their unhinged violence.” Attorneys and others say that taken together, the Executive Order and Trump and Bondi’s comments can be interpreted to mean that the US military has permission to kill civilians. (Google Bondi’s quote; reporting from various news organizations).

Last week Stephen Miller called the No Kings rallies “stupid old hippies.” On Friday Mike Johnson recharacterized us as “antifa terrorists who hate America.” We really are citizens who believe in the rule of law and think America is worth saving. See you next Saturday.

**Karen Patterson
Highlands**

Democrats are taking a stand on healthcare for all Americans

Dear Editor,

Western North Carolina is facing a critical situation in health care, and Congress is making it worse. Republicans claim their budget is “clean,” but a closer look reveals it is filled with cuts to essential health protections that many of us rely on. Promises to address these issues later do little to help, especially with open enrollment about to begin for state employees (October 13–31) and ACA marketplace plans (November 1–January 15). That is why Democrats are standing their ground.

Here are the facts: As of October 2025, Medicaid covers 3.1 million North Carolinians, including about 440,000 in rural areas and nearly half the children in some counties. Communities like Haywood, Macon, Jackson, Buncombe, and Henderson depend on Medicaid to keep children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities healthy. This month, the North Carolina legislature made matters worse by failing to fully fund Medicaid, triggering immediate and significant provider cuts across the state as of October 1, 2025 – leaving individuals without necessary doctor visits, prescriptions, or vital support.

The impact extends beyond Medicaid recipients. If Congress allows enhanced ACA tax credits to expire, many North Carolinians could see their insurance premiums more than double, according to Kaiser and state data. This situation does not just affect families; small business owners,

farmers, and self-employed individuals—who make up a significant portion of our area—could lose coverage or face exorbitant premium increases. Small businesses and gig workers might see their monthly costs rise by hundreds of dollars, forcing some to forgo insurance entirely.

Teachers, state workers, and retirees will also be affected. Approximately 750,000 people, including many public school employees, are facing increased health plan costs, higher copays, and potential gaps in care due to state budget challenges. Retirees living on fixed incomes may experience soaring premiums, jeopardizing their coverage and depleting their savings.

Open enrollment is the only opportunity for most people to ensure they have coverage – there is no “fix it later” for these families or groups. If Congress does not act swiftly, many will be left with higher bills, reduced care, or no insurance at all until next year.

This is why Democrats are taking a stand. Health care for working families, business owners, teachers, retirees, and everyone in our rural communities is far more important than providing new tax breaks for billionaires. Our region cannot afford business as usual. Congress must protect Medicaid and ACA coverage now, before anyone gets left behind.

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...BEAR SHADOW continued from page 1

nounce Ferngrove as the new home for Bear Shadow,” said Jack Austin, Board President of Highlands Festivals, Inc. “This venue captures the natural beauty and sense of community that have always been at the heart of the festival. We can’t wait to welcome fans back to Base Camp in 2026.”

The festival will share headlining acts and ticket on-sale details before the end of 2025. Organizers are also exploring expanded programming for ticketholders, with several exciting announcements forthcoming. Past Bear Shadow performances have included notable acts such as Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real, Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit, St. Paul & The Broken Bones, Trampled by Turtles, Spoon, The Head & The Heart, JJ Grey & Mofro, Black Pumas and The War & Treaty.

A portion of festival proceeds will benefit Stage4Hope, a public charity connecting advanced-stage cancer patients to lifesaving treatment, travel support, emotional-wellness retreats, and lung cancer research.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Bear Shadow

to Ferngrove and to share this experience with the Highlands community. It’s a beautiful way to bring people together through music and to highlight Stage4Hope,” said Stacy Carter, founder of Ferngrove and Stage4Hope. “Our new cancer wellness center at Ferngrove will extend that mission here in Highlands — a place where patients and families can breathe, find hope, and rediscover purpose again.”

Bear Shadow, produced by Highlands Festivals, Inc., is a music festival named in honor of the bear-like shadow that appears behind the region’s White-side Mountain in the fall and spring.

For more information, visit <https://bearshadownc.com/>, subscribe to our newsletter and sign up to receive texts for the latest festival news by texting BEARSHADOW to (828) 202-8911. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

...ANIMAL continued from page 4

animal husbandry and animal service programs.

PSV’s mission for animal services would be to maintain a safe, sanitary and humane environment for every animal while optimizing flow and accelerating live outcomes. One future goal of the organization if they assume control would be to eventually become a “no kill” shelter.

“I think this could be a winning formula for Macon County — the animals, the volunteers, employees and owners,” said Kremer. “We want to do the right thing by the animals that come into our care.”

She said one of the key components that they bring is their experience.

“Pawsitive volunteers have been side by side, boots on the ground, with the employees at the shelter on a daily basis caring for the animals,” she said. “All our volunteers bring special gifts to the table in terms of their contributions whether its socializing, walking, caring for the dogs, helping to clean and feed the animals, especially when the shelter is always short staffed.”

She said knowing how the shelter currently runs, enables them to bring to the table some very good ideas on how to improve the function and efficiency of the shelter for future use,

“I look at it as a collaborative effort between the county and PSV,” said Kremer.

Kremer, believes, moving forward the first thing that would have to happen in terms of management would be to have animal control put back under the jurisdiction of

the sheriff’s office. Historically, animal control has been under the sheriff’s office, but in 2015 the county changed its animal control operations to shift control from the sheriff’s office to public health. Due to concerns over the rabies vaccination process, this was considered the best solution at that time.

Kremer said the animal control officers need the legal backing of the sheriff’s office.

“I would like to sit down with my liaisons to discuss this,” said MC Sheriff Brent Holbrooks. “First and foremost, there is not a general statute in place that would compel me to take over animal control.”

If animal control was to be put under the control of the sheriff’s office, Kremer is proposing it be separate from animal services. The proposal would call for the construction of a separate wing with a coded lock for only animal control officers and employees after they are briefed on the animal. The sheriff’s office would only handle animal control issues with PSV taking care of all the other services of the shelter such as housing, care of the animals and adoption.

Before the organization takes over animal services, commissioners have to work out the details including developing a contract. Cabe said it could take up to 90 days to take care of business before PSV could assume control if this is what commissioners decide is the best option.

Your Legacy Home Awaits



225 Bowery Road, Highlands

\$7,250,000 | MLS# 1000431

This exceptional 1922 estate has been masterfully restored for modern living. Original oak and antique chestnut floors, massive stone fireplaces, handcrafted millwork, and more than 60 windows showcase timeless craftsmanship. In-floor hydronic heating on the first and second floors offers year-round comfort. Spa-inspired baths, generous gathering spaces, and timeless finishes complete the interior. The third floor is a flexible haven for a bunkroom, media space, or a studio. A beautifully updated guest cottage boasts wide-plank floors, exposed beams, and a stately stone fireplace. Additional accommodations above the detached garage make it perfect for guests or a caretaker. The grounds are an enchanting sanctuary, with a sparkling heated pool, an in-ground spa, and an activity barn. Trails and century-old stone walls wind through gardens with direct access to Ravenel Lake and more. Gated entrance. 4.0 acres.



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...VOTING continued from page 1

The early voting site in Franklin is in the Macon County Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin across from Ingles.

Like in Highlands, the polls open at 8a and close at 6p, Monday through Friday. Early voting will continue until Nov. 1 with Saturday polls open from 8a to 3p.

Absentee ballots are still available by request from the Macon County Board of Elections at (828) 349-2034 or at voteby-mail.ncsbe.gov through Oct. 21. Eligible voters who aren't registered can register during early voting with proof of residency and can cast their ballot on the same day.

This year registered voters will need to

show a photo ID to cast their vote. Those who don't have a photo ID can get one for free from the Macon County Board of Elections at the courthouse in Franklin.

Also new this year will be the presence of "observers" inside the polling place.

On Oct. 1, 2025, the NC State Board of Elections revised its "observation rules" to allow parties to appoint observers for a

nonpartisan race, such as a municipal or judicial contest, if a candidate in that race is registered with their party.

The NCSBE decision was driven by the increasing number of municipal elections, many of which are officially nonpartisan, and the interpretation that the 2023 law did not bar observers in these cases.

• See VOTING page 14

• OBITUARY •

Virginia Allyne Johnson Worley

Virginia Allyne Johnson Worley died on October 10, 2025. She was born August 22, 1929, in Nashville, TN. Her parents were Oscar Theodore Johnson and Ruth Mebane Johnson. She grew up in Miami, FL; and graduated summa cum laude in 1950 with a major in music from Barry University in Miami. That year, she married Richard Lee Worley of Miami, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

In 1964, the family moved to Highlands, NC. Mrs. Worley opened a kindergarten in the Episcopal Church. Two years later, Macon County was awarded a federal grant to establish Head Start pre-schools throughout the county. Mrs. Worley was hired as the teacher at the Highlands center located at that time in the log cabin now occupied by the Highlands Hiker.

A few years later, the state of North Carolina established kindergarten classes in all public schools. Mrs. Worley obtained her teacher's certificate from Western Carolina University and was employed at Highlands School. She retired in 1991. The Highlander Newspaper printed her picture on the front page with the caption, "Beloved Kindergarten Teacher Retires."



Mrs. Worley loved to travel and continue learning. She attended summer school in Bregenz, Austria, Florence, Italy and Madrid, Spain. She also traveled to Hawaii, Fiji, Tahiti, Australia and New Zealand.

She visited many other countries including France, Germany, the Low Countries, Scandinavia, Great Britain, 47 states in the

USA, and seven provinces in Canada.

At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, she was a member of the choir, served on the vestry and flower guild, and organized and directed the student bell choir. Mrs. Worley was also a board member for the Hudson Library and a life-long member of the Mountain Garden Club.

She is survived by four children: Elizabeth, Ruth, Mary Lou, and George, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Additionally, she is survived by nieces, nephews and their children. She was preceded in death by her son, Richard "Dickie."

Details regarding a memorial service will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Mountain Garden Club and the Hudson Library.

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**YOUR VOICE
YOUR VOTE**

Don't think your vote will not matter in this election, a write-in candidate can win if we all don't go to the polls.

Although all the candidates on the November ballot are unopposed, I urge all town voters to cast a ballot for the candidates appearing on the ballot during the early voting period or on Election Day. Your vote will be an affirmation for community engagement and support for the municipal election process.

Finally, to group planning a write in campaign, I call on potential write in candidates to publicly declare their intention, just as the candidates appearing on the ballot have done. All voters have the right to know the names of every candidate so questions about the issues can be asked of everyone.

**Please visit ReelectMayorPat.org
Paid for by the Committe to Reelect Mayor Pat**

**Early Voting
October 16 -
November 1**

**Election Day
November 4th**

**YOUR VOICE
YOUR VOTE**

• UPCOMING EVENT •

World Polio Day is October 24

By Robin King Austin

In October, Highlands Mountaintop Rotary always celebrates the amazing accomplishments of the Polio Eradication Campaign that Rotary has been part of since 1988.

Since then, 3 billion children in 200 countries have been vaccinated against this dreaded disease that can cause paralysis in children and permanent disability though adulthood. The effort has reduced worldwide cases by 99.9%!

Most of us readily accepted our Polio vaccinations in childhood. Some of us are old enough to remember children in our neighborhood being stricken...playing kick-

ball one day and paralyzed the next. We also remember the scary heart lung machines keeping people alive who could no longer breathe on their own. Later in life we remember those who developed post-polio syndrome and ended up disabled and in wheelchairs.

The USA has been free of polio for decades, but in 2021, a child presented in NY with paralysis, and tested positive for polio. A wastewater surveillance test in her area picked up multiple cases and the indications that the virus had been spreading for a while. An emergency effort to get unvaccinated children the polio vaccine was undertaken and the spread subsided.

Many children in America are unvacci-

nated, as in most countries, so although most of the world is technically Polio free, that could change at any time.

Without the Polio Eradication program worldwide, Polio would rage through the world again. In 1982, over 200,000 became paralyzed. We don't want that to EVER happen again.

So, we must support the effort, and each year at this time we ask those in the community and business world who are able and interested, to join our Mountaintop Rotary members in donating to this important program.

All donations are matched two times by Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation.

Last year the money Mountaintop Rotary raised enabled 24,000 children to be vaccinated.

If you would like to help, please call 828-446-6789 or email robin.austinhom@gmail.com or mail your check to us at PO Box 372, Highlands, NC 28741.

Your donation is tax deductible as Highlands Mountaintop Rotary is a not-for-profit organization. EIN number 20-4058998.



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• UPCOMING EVENT •

Annual Art League Fall Colors Show is this weekend

The Art League of Highlands Cashiers announces their Fall Colors Show. Each year, locals and visitors flock to the beautiful Art of many area artists. This juried show offers a range of Fine Art works for sale. A great way to begin holiday shopping with personalized bespoke gifts. This weekend the weather promises to be beau-

tiful, but no matter the weather, the Show is indoors at the Civic Center (at the Rec Park 600 N. Fourth St., Highlands) with plenty of parking for all. Admission: no charge/Donations go to area Youth Art programs

The Show is open 10a-5p Saturday and Sunday, October 18 & 19.



"Sunrise at Whiteside" by Terry Warren

A Blockbuster Beginning for the Highlands Cashiers Film Festival!

The inaugural **Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival** was a huge success, bringing over 1,500 film lovers together. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, filmmakers, donors, volunteers, and attendees, we **raised over \$150,000** to benefit the **Highlands Performing Arts Center**. Your support made this exciting new tradition possible.

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Highlands Newspaper



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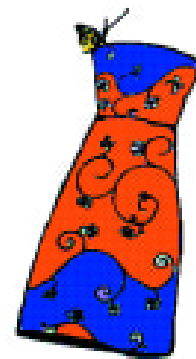


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...VOTING continued from page 10

Following the override of Senate Bill 747 in 2023, the NCSBE issued guidance that political parties could only appoint observers in races where they had a candidate explicitly on the ballot. Highlands has registered candidates from both parties.

According to the NCSBE, observers play an important role in making the voting process transparent to political parties and candidates. The observers witness the conduct of voting and can report any perceived issues to election officials or the party that appointed them.

In North Carolina three observers per political party are allowed on site for 4-hour stints.

Observers must be appointed in advance by a county or state political party chair or by an unaffiliated candidate and they must wear a badge to identify their role.

Observers are allowed to take notes on electronic devices and witness procedures but must not interfere with voters or election officials. They can't question voters inside the polling place, make or receive phone calls, or get close enough to see how a voter marks a ballot. If an observer believes there is a problem, they must report it to the chief judge, the county board of elections, or the party that appointed them. They are not to interfere or challenge a voter directly. A chief judge can remove a disruptive observer after a verbal or written warning.

Observers are allowed to listen to conversations between a voter and election official that take place in the voting place, provided the conversation is related to election administration; move about the voting place, including the designated area for curbside voting; leave and reenter the voting enclosure; communicate via phone outside of the voting enclosure and witness any opening and closing procedures at the voting place.

Observers may not look at or photograph, videotape, or otherwise record the image of any voter's marked ballot; impede the ingress or egress of any voter into the voting place; inhibit or interfere with any election official in the performance of his or her duties, including interfering with the transport of sealed ballot boxes, election equipment, or election results to the county board of elections; engage in electioneering; or make or receive phone calls while in the voting place.

In North Carolina, designated poll ob-

servers can obtain lists of voters at least three times each day, with a minimum of one hour between each request. These lists contain the names of individuals who have already voted at that specific polling place.

These lists allow political parties to track which of their registered supporters have not yet voted. The parties can then contact those individuals to encourage them to go to the polls.

NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS	
Town of Highlands Mayor (You may vote for ONE)	
☐	Patrick Taylor
☐	Write-in
Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners (You may vote for TWO)	
☐	Amy Patterson
☐	Eric Pierson
☐	Write-in
☐	Write-in
Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners Unexpired term ending 2027 (You may vote for ONE)	
☐	Jim Tate
☐	Write-in
End of Ballot	

The same Write-in Candidate can be entered in all or any of the write-in spaces on the ballot.

All Mission Health Hospitals to host "Crush the Crisis" prescription drug 'Take Back Day'

Hospitals to partner with local law enforcement to encourage the safe disposal of unused or expired medication

All Mission Health hospitals will be hosting their annual "Crush the Crisis" prescription drug take back day to raise awareness about the dangers of prescription drug misuse and the importance of safe and proper disposal of unused or expired medications, on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The event, which coincides with the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, offers the community an opportunity to safely and anonymously dispose of medications that are no longer needed.

National drug overdose deaths decreased by nearly 27% in 2024, however, prescription drug misuse remains a public health crisis in the United States. Research shows a significant number of drug addictions and overdose deaths come from individuals accessing unused medications from family and friends.

Law enforcement officers will be on-site collecting: tablets, capsules and patches of Hydrocodone (Norco, Lortab, Vicodin), Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet), Tramadol (Ultram), Codeine, Fentanyl

(Duragesic), Morphine, Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) and Oxymorphone (Opana). Ointments, lotions, drops, liquid medication (in leak-proof containers) and vape cartridges (without batteries) and pet medications will also be accepted.

Any medications are accepted; however, needles, syringes, lancets or liquids will

not be accepted.

Participating Hospitals, times and locations:

- Angel Medical Center, 124 One Center Court, Franklin, from 10am to noon
- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, from 10am to noon

• CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marti Boone

Lulu was found wandering as a stray in Sylva and we estimate that she is about 5 years old. Lulu loves other cats which makes her the perfect candidate for our "BOGO" cat adoption special. Adopt one furry feline, and we will waive the adoption fee for a second kitten or adult cat. To give Lulu a forever home, please complete the adoption application at chhumanesociety.org.

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Highlands Voters 2025 Elections

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. Early voting starts Thursday, October 16.

In 2021, in a record turnout, voters overwhelmingly elected three candidates who supported residents: Mayor Pat Taylor and Commissioners Amy Patterson and Eric Pierson.

In 2025, voters are encouraged to re-elect these three incumbents to continue protecting and preserving the historic Town of Highlands.

It is important to show up and CHECK THE BOX!



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PAT TAYLOR**



**Commissioner
AMY PATTERSON**



**Commissioner
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– Not authorized by a candidate–

• HS SPORTS WEEKLY RECAP •

A great week for Highlands School sports

Highlands athletics had a thrilling week across multiple sports, highlighted by key conference victories and strong championship performances!

Volleyball

The week started on Tuesday, October 7th, with the Varsity Volleyball team traveling to Hiwassee Dam and securing a dominant 3-0 victory. This win was particularly sweet as it redeemed their only conference loss from earlier in the season against Hiwassee Dam. While the Junior Varsity team dropped their match 2-0, the Varsity effort was a major highlight.

The week culminated with Highlands hosting the Little Smoky Mountain Conference Volleyball Tournament on Monday, October 13th. The first match of the day saw an upset, with Summit defeating Highlands in a close contest, 2-1. However, the Varsity squad rebounded later that evening, topping Blue Ridge 3-0 in a decisive match. The tournament's varsity semifinal saw Hiwassee Dam, the #2 seed, beat #3 Summit 3-1.

Soccer

Wednesday, October 8th, was a major day for soccer with a doubleheader against Hayesville.

The Middle School Soccer team started off their 8th Grade Recognition Night with an emphatic 9-0 win! Goals were scored by:



Brett Lamb
Athletic Director

Camden Westendorf (2), Todd Vilardo, Blake Kenter, Colson Blowdown, Matthew Morales, Alex Lopez, and Harper Ramey.

The High School Soccer game was a nail-biter, with Highlands pulling out a huge 3-2 overtime victory. The game-winning goal came late in the overtime period from Aniah McKim, proving to be the difference maker in the thrilling contest.

Middle School Swimming

The Middle School Swim team delivered outstanding results at the 2025 Far West Middle School Swimming Championships at the Brevard Aquatic Center on Thursday, October 9th.

The girls team finished 4th overall, with top performances from:

- Emilina Hernandez: 1st in the 50 butterfly and 3rd in the 100 freestyle.

- Bella Batista: 3rd in both the 50 freestyle and 50 breaststroke.

The boys team finished 2nd overall, thanks to these top finishers:

- Alex Petric: 1st in both the 50 freestyle and 50 breaststroke.

- Justin Powell: 1st in both the 100 freestyle and 50 butterfly.

Congratulations to all our student-athletes on an action-packed and successful week! Be sure to come out and support the Highlanders in their upcoming competitions.

...RACE continued from page 1

they are registered voters in Highlands they are eligible to hold the office and any vote cast for them will be counted.

According to the MC Board of Election, write-in candidates should make sure they meet the eligibility requirements to hold office; run an active campaign even without formal ballot access. They say to actively campaign to encourage voters to write your name on the ballot – correctly – by creating yard signs, flyers, and other promotional materials, using social media and your own website to promote your campaign, and by canvassing and speaking with voters directly.

Other suggestions: provide clear instructions to voters. Since your name won't be printed, you must instruct your supporters on how to properly write your name on the ballot. It must be spelled correctly, consider campaign finance requirements. If you raise or spend more than \$1,000 for your campaign, you are legally required to organize a candidate political committee and

file disclosure reports, contact the Macon County Board of Elections at (828) 349-2034 for specific information, guidelines, and confirmation that your votes will be counted.

On the Nov. 4 ballot there is a write-in space for mayor, two write-in spaces for Commissioners Patterson and Pierson and a write-in space for Jim Tate.

The same write-in name can be entered for all or any of the four write-in spaces or a different write-in can be specified per category – mayor (1), Patterson/Pierson (2) or Tate (1).

According to Judy Fritts with the MC Board of Elections, and the NCSBE the person with the most votes – whether the candidate on the ballot or the write-in – will be elected.

Since there are two write-in spaces under Patterson and Pierson, if a write-in beats both of them, he or she can pick the seat they want to occupy.

• UPCOMING EVENT •

Community Watch Party for Halloween baking contestant Oksana Shchegachova — Mon. Oct. 20 —

When the clock strikes 9 pm something stirs in the mist over the Highlands Plateau. Not the wind... not the owls... but the pulse of Halloween Baking Championship — the bewitching hour on Food Network.

Since September 15, when our own Oksana Shchegachova, the heart and hands behind Edelweiss Bakery Boutique, first stepped into that eerie kitchen, Highlands has held its breath.

Her journey hasn't been a straight path — it's been a roller coaster of fire and frost, of chocolate and chaos.

But Oksana never folds. She fights. She creates. She represents us — our mountains, our community, our spirit.

One for all, and all for Oksana.



Every week she's faced storms that would melt lesser souls... and yet, she rises — stronger, sweeter, sharper.

The grand finale won't come until October 27, but every episode leading there is a story in itself: suspense, artistry, and a heart that won't quit.

Now it's our turn to rise with her. Join the Highlands family for a Community Watch Party on Mon., Oct. 20, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC.

Doors open at 8:15 PM, and admission is free — but come early, before the seats vanish like magic...and beware... those who arrive late may find themselves under a chocolate spell.



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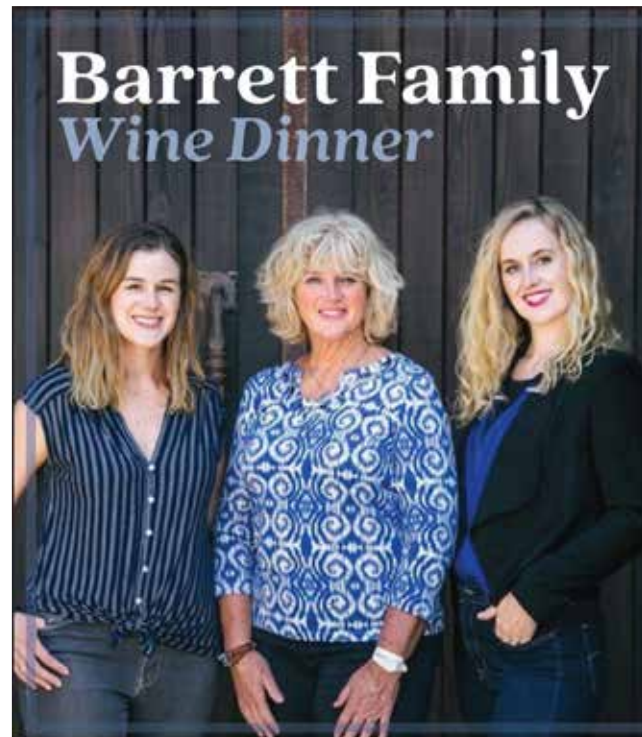
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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



Is there a balm in Gilead?

Rev. Kelley Connelly
Associate Pastor
First Presbyterian Church

To say that the weight of the world feels heavy this season would be a profound understatement. It seems like whenever you turn on the news, or search social media, or even check in with a friend we are met with more sadness, more devastation, and more grief. And so, in recognizing this reality, like most pastors do, I turned to scripture. Jeremiah 8:22 to be exact. This is the same passage that inspired the beloved hymn “there is a balm in Gilead.” However, in scripture, the prophet poses it as a question “is there no balm in Gilead?” Well, there’s good reason for this creative rewrite.

The song is one of the most well-known spirituals rooted in the African American experience of slavery in the 18th and 19th century. And though it was primarily born of oppression, its fundamental design was to serve as a means of comfort among enslaved African Americans. Taking the question mark out and reconfiguring the sentence as a declarative fosters a sense of comfort, hope, and restoration. This is what African American theologian Howard Thurman refers to as “a creative triumph.”

The church is called to be bearers of a new creative triumph as we carry on during these challenging times we are living in. And we can do this by not only weeping for our nation but committing ourselves to being the balm for one another. Many places will welcome your achievements, your appearances, your happiness, or your transactions. But the church is called to be different. The church is called to be a community of faith that is committed not to judging, but to growing. These are particularly challenging times we are living in. But yet, our calling remains the same. To love God. To love one another. To grow together in that love. To pay attention to what surrounds us – while staying focused on who we are called to be in the world. So that we can grow in compassion, in hope, in our faith, and find our belonging to God and to one another.

So, I ask you, readers, what will your creative triumph be?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we trust that there is a balm in Gilead! It is made of love, God’s love in Jesus Christ that does not abandon us but experiences the loss and grief of the world with us. Love that will never let us go, love that lives and heals and restores in simple, miraculous acts of human kindness. Love that comforts us in ways that are unexpected. Love that is unconditional and transformational. Love that is Good News. And that good news comes to us in the form of a healing balm. And we trust that it can and will heal the sin-sick soul.

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor 796-782-3865
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. Marc Robertson & Rev. Nick McGee
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

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

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

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

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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville. NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. & 6p. Wednesday Worship is 6p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

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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

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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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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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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. Richard Salmonson

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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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 Oct. 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Oct. 12

• At 2:30 a.m., Cittolin Alvarez Marcelo, 55, of Boynton, FL, was arrested for DUI at the Spinx Gas Station. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond. His trial date is Nov. 19.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 7.

Oct. 7

• At 8:19 p.m., the dept. was called about a possible motor vehicle accident on Hilltop Drive but nothing was found.

Oct. 8

• At 7:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Hill Drive.

• At 11:08 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 12:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 1:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 1:39 p.m., the dept. was first-re-

sponders to a residence on Stable Lane.

• At 3:30 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at the hospital.

• At 6:59 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Glenville Rescue on Whiteside Mountain.

• At 8:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive, but it was cancelled en route.

Oct. 9

• At 8:27 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Glenville Rescue on Whiteside Mountain.

• At 1:33 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD on a structure fire.

• At 3:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crescent Trail.

• At 11:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buckberry Road.

Oct. 10

• At 1:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on VZ Top Road.

• At 7:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Ridge Lake Circle.

• At 2:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hardscrabble Ridge.

• At 8:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain

Road.

Oct. 11

• At 2:12 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD on a structure fire.

• At 8:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 10:59 a.m., the dept. responded to

a fire alarm at a residence on Brooks Road.

• At 1:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on VZ Top Road but it was cancelled en route.

• At 8:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road.

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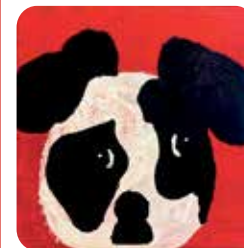
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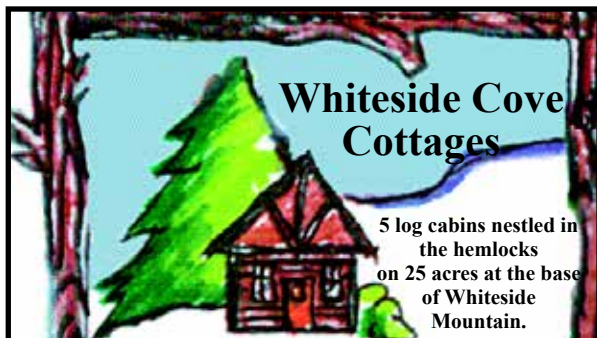


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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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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

PAC WEEKEND MOVIE

• At PAC, Downtown Abbey: The Grand Finale. Thurs., Nov. 13, 2p; Fri., Nov. 14, 2p; Sat., Nov. 15, 530p; Sun., Nov. 16, 2p & 5:30p with captions. Mon., Nov. 17, 2p & 5:30p. Tickets are \$12.

SATURDAY MARKET

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

ALL WEEK

• Scaly Mountain/ 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 at Scaly Mountain @ Grace Chapel, 9915 Dillard Rd., Scaly Mountain and Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays @ 12 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 @ 7pm, on Friday at 5:00 pm and on Saturday at 9:00 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 Zoom. For 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 or just join us at 9am.

Sundays

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

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 17-18

• In Brevard, Pumpkin Fest at Silvermont Park. Family friendly Halloween 6-9p. Lighted pumpkin trail, games, storytelling, scavenger hunt, face painting, food trucks.. Mansion open with guided tours. Proceeds benefit Silvermont Mansion and Park. Ages 13+ \$7; Ages 3-12, \$5; under 3, free. Onsite parking \$5. Free parking a block away.

Fri., Oct 17

• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with the Mayor at 11 a.m. Meeting Room for Community Coffee with the Mayor in the meeting room. Mayor Taylor will be discussing "Major Construction Projects in Highlands"

• At Highlands Mercantile on Main, Exclusive OBAGI Medical Event 10a to 3p. Call to reserve your appt. 828-482-0818.

• At Mountain Findings, an exclusive after-hours shopping and social event from 5-7 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and an exclusive 20% discount on the entire inventory. (Doesn't include sterling silver; items on sale or those priced at \$1.

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 18-19

• Art Leagues Annual Fall Colors Fine Art Show at the Civic Center at the Highlands Rec Park. 10a to 5p. Free admission.

Sat., Oct. 18

• Public Open House noon to 3p at 85 Fallen Leaf Lane, Highlands. Enter a drawing for a \$100 gift card to Madison's Restaurant.

• Oyster Roast at Highlander Mountain House 3-5p. Oysters from Pelican Oyster Company. \$50 ticket includes all you can shuck oysters, your first beer from Munkle Brewing, and live bluegrass on the porch from Flat Bridge String Band.

Mon., Oct. 20

• Community Watch Party for Oksana Shchelgachova's Food Network Halloween baking contest at PAC on Chestnut Street. Doors open at 8:15. Admission is free.

Fri., Oct. 24

• In Brevard, Pumpkin Fest at Silvermont Park. Family friendly Halloween 6-9p. Lighted pumpkin trail, games, storytelling, scavenger hunt, face painting, food trucks. Mansion open with guided tours. Proceeds benefit Silvermont Mansion and Park. Ages 13+ \$7; Ages 3-12, \$5; under 3, free. Onsite parking \$5. Free parking a block away.

Sat., Oct. 25

• Drug Take Back Day at HC Hospital. 10a to noon. All unused or expired medications accepted. No needles, syringes, lancets or liquids.

• Highlands School Fall Festival, 5-8 p.m. at the school, 545 Pierson Drive.. Carnival games, bounce house, raffles, silent auction, haunted house, hay ride, cake walk, face painting, food & more.

• In Brevard, Pumpkin Fest at Silvermont Park. Family friendly Halloween 5-9p. Lighted pumpkin trail, games, storytelling, scavenger hunt, face painting. Mansion open with guided tours. Proceeds benefit Silvermont Mansion and Park. Ages 13+ \$7; Ages 3-12, \$5; under 3, free. Onsite parking \$5. Free parking a block away.

Fri., Oct. 31

• Halloween on Main. Main Street transforms into a spooktacular Halloween destination where trick-or-treaters can enjoy a night of safe and festive fun. For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

Fri., Nov. 14

• Barrett Family Wine Dinner at ...on the Verandah at 6 p.m. \$250 per person. Reservations required. Call 828-526-2338 or book online at www.ontheverandah.com.

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