Volume 22, Number 41

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

Thurs., Oct. 9, 2025

Search for new MCPH director is on

Future of Macon County Public Health Dept. is still unclear

By Kristin Fox

The search for a new director of Macon County Public Health is under way replacing current Director Kathy McGaha. After 30 years of service with Macon County, five serving as the director, McGaha will retire on December 31, 2025.

Five qualified applicants are scheduled to be interviewed with the interview panel on October 20. The panel hopes to have

a candidate selected in time to present its recommendation for approval by the Macon County Board of Commissioners at their November meeting.

The goal is to have a new director in place by mid-December so he or she can work with Mc-Gaha for an easier transition.

According to a press release from the public health department announcing her upcoming retirestone of the department serving in multiple roles before becoming director in April 2020. Her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond has been marked by resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to equity and community well-being.

Throughout her tenure, Mc-Gaha championed forward-thinking initiatives that modernized public health infrastructure and

ment, McGaha has been a corner-• See DIRECTOR page 7



The Highlands School Middle School Boys soccer team capped off an undefeated conference season with a 3-1 tournament championship over Summit at home last week, Jensen Bowers, Todd Vilardo and Camden Westendorf all netted goals for the Highlanders. The boys will finish off their season with three non-conference games vs. Hayesville, Cherokee and Murphy. This is the 4th time the Highlands Middle School team won the conference championship in soccer - 2010, 2011 and 2017.



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Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust adds another 48 acres to its holdings

By Julie Schott

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) is proud to announce the permanent protection of 47.97 acres of ecologically significant land generously donated by High Hampton. This private conservation easement ensures the preservation of unique natural features such as rock outcrops, mature forests, headwaters, floodplains and mountain bogs - while surpassing annual conservation acreage recommendations made

in the 2020 Urban Land Institute's Report: Vision for Sustainable Growth in Cashiers, NC.

The newly conserved property is characterized by a very diverse terrain. Connecting existing HCLT/High Hampton conservation areas now totaling 463.04 acres, this new addition begins at the base of Rock Mountain, where steep granitic upland habitats descend into dense swamp forests and Fowler Creek forms

· See HCLT page 7

ROAD CLOSURES/DELAYS

The NCDOT will continue to replace approximately 11 culverts on US 64 east from around Cherrywood Drive to the Jackson County line. Last week the road was closed Thurs., Oct. 2, 7pm-7am; this week it was Wed., Oct. 8, 7pm-7am; and the night for the next segment will be disclosed sometime next week. The project will take multiple nights over a few weeks. Please check the electronic message boards for additional closure dates. The alternate route to Cashiers from Highlands is Horse Cove Road to Whiteside Cove Road to NC 107.

In addition, NCDOT is currently repairing the north side of US 64 west across from Bridal Veil Falls. One lane is open for traffic but traffic - Kim Lewicki is delayed.

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THE PLATEAU'S POSITION

Mayor on

Critical NC legislation for municipalities is still pending

hatever happened to the North Carolina Legislature? They entered the biennium's long session in January. What are they doing now? What bills did they pass impacting towns and cities? What about the comprehensive state budget?

Surprising things happened in the early months of this year. The predicted final adjournment, scheduled for June or July, did not occur. The legislature is

still in session, albeit on a light schedule of meetings for a few days each month. This schedule is expected to continue as it did in the last session until the end of the year.

And that big-budget passage has never happened. Instead, a mini-budget was passed that funded specific items, such as state teacher and employee pay increases, as well as funding for critical programs like disaster relief, public safety, and colleges. The rest of the state operations remain in limbo and continue to be funded at the levels of



Highlands Mayor

Patrick Taylor

how urban and suburban development is managed and controlled by municipalities. Many standard zoning and land-use practices were in the legislative crosshairs for change or outright elimination.

programs.

the earlier state budget.

The good news is that the

legislature gave billions of dollars

in Helene recovery funding. A lot

of the stalemate over the bud-

get might be attributable in part

to the remaining issues of how

much more the state can afford

to allocate to important recovery

bells sounded early in the year

over several proposed bills that

would have significantly affected

For towns and cities, alarm

The North Carolina League of Municipalities sent out a message to its members. urging towns to contact their representatives and express their concerns. Their alarm was centered on HB 765-The Save the American Dream Act. If passed, that bill would have allowed accessory dwelling units in all residential zones in the state. Additionally, the bill would have altered densities in residential zones and overridden local development rules. The bill would have exposed elected officials to personal liability in making routine zoning and land use decisions.

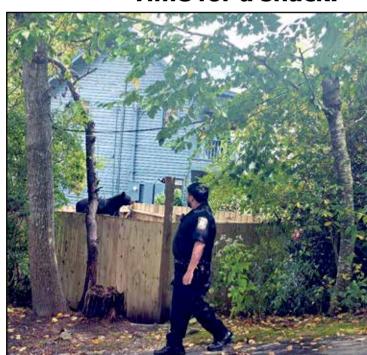
Municipalities across the state, including Highlands, passed resolutions opposing the provisions in HB 765. Consequently, the bill stalled and failed to be passed in both houses. Another bill in the Senate surfaced that had similar provisions. That bill was SB 205-The Swimming Pools/Housing Regulatory Reform. That bill, too, met stiff opposition from municipalities and did not advance.

Now, some folks would say the case is closed and the municipalities prevailed, but that is not the case. The legislature is still in session, and parts of this stalled legislation could be inserted into other bills passed in a flurry of action at the last minute before the close of the session.

Something similar happened in December 2024, just before the close of the session, when SB 382 was passed. The bill prohibits down zoning by municipalities and imposes other zoning restrictions. Lo-

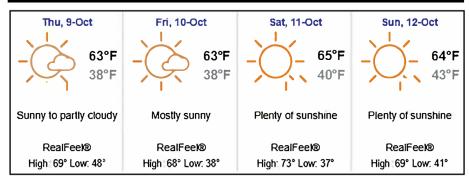
• See MAYOR page 15

Time for a snack!



On a Sunday afternoon. Highlands Police officer Diego Perez encouraged this 2-year old bear to leave the Highlander House premises ... it took a while. but he eventually jumped out of the trash enclosure and sauntered off toward Main Street.

Photo by Kim Lewicki



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Navigating the seasonal real estate market shift in Highlands-Cashiers:

Why first impressions and smart pricing matter more than ever

s the leaves turn and the crisp mountain air settles in the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market enters its traditional seasonal slowdown.

Historical sales data shows a consistent pattern: strong summer activity followed by a softening over the late fall and winter months.

The remainder of 2025 into early next year should follow suit, making every showing and online view even more valuable.

Still, fall and winter can be a surprisingly strategic time to list a home.

In the Highlands-Cashiers market, many summer renters begin looking to establish a more permanent presence, while current part-time residents may be thinking about upgrading or finding a new property that is a better fit for their family. These buyers tend to be emotionally invested, financially prepared, and ready to act quickly when the right property comes

In this environment, first impressions and smart pricing aren't just important, they're essential.

Why First Impressions Matter More in the Off-Season

Luxury buyers in Highlands-Cashiers aren't just purchasing a home, they're investing in a lifestyle not readily found in other markets: long-range mountain views, lakefront tranquility, charming towns with upscale shops and dining, access to activities such as golf and hiking, and a thriving community. These buyers are savvy, selective, and expect excellence from the start.

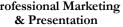
To stand out, sellers should focus on: **Pre-Listing Home Inspection**

Investing in an inspection and addressing key issues before going to market signals to buyers that the property is wellmaintained, the seller is transparent, and the home is move-in ready. For remote buyers or those with limited viewing trips, this upfront investment on the seller's part can eliminate doubts and strengthen the seller's position in negotiations.

Up-to-date Maintenance

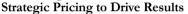
Homes on the Plateau often feature





In a second-home market, buyers are often shopping online from a distance. High-quality photography, drone footage, and expertly staged spaces can create emotional connection and drive both in-person and

virtual showings, even in slower months.



Perhaps the most critical factor in offseason success is smart pricing. This means being competitive without undervaluing your property. In a quieter market, your home must not only look great but also be seen as a smart investment.

Smart pricing includes:

- Understanding current demand and local competition;
- · Positioning your home just below key psychological price points to boost exposure;
- · Avoiding overpricing, which leads to longer days on market and weakens negotiating power;

Strategic pricing isn't desperate - it's about creating urgency for buyers and maximizing value.

Final Thoughts

Though fall and winter may seem quieter, they offer a real window of opportunity in Highlands and Cashiers. Serious buyers, many of whom fell in love with the area over summer or are already here but are now ready for a change, are looking to commit before next season.

To capture attention of these buyers and seal the deal, sellers should remember that first impressions open the door, and smart pricing closes the deal.

• Kristin Cameron is a broker at Mountain Life Properties. She can be reached at Kristin@ MountainLifeRE.com or (828) 482-2548.



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The Polo Cottage is a designer getaway. 2BD, 2-1/2BA townhouse located in VZ Top. Open lofty rooms, custom kitchen and great room with fireplace. Private corner unit, renovated, with additional decks and porches. Furnishings are available! Offered at \$549,000 mls#1000499



Unrestricted 5.05 acres, between Highlands and Franklin with end-of-road privacy and elevation of 3,500 ft. 4 BD, 3.5 BA, two spacious family rooms, fully remodeled kitchen, 3 huge garage bays, a small two-stall barn and corral and beautiful views! Beautifully remodeled kitchen open to dining room and great room. Two bedrooms with en suites on the main level and two more bedrooms and bath on the upper level. Cement pad for RV or boat storage. Small stream on the property. Offered at \$1,500,000 mls #1000783



Step into an original mid-century modern style that has old Highlands charm. Flat access has 2BD, 2BA, 2 living rooms each with fireplaces and lovely original wood paneling. glass panels in many of the upper walls to let in the natural light, u shaped kitchen and open dining room and spacious spacious porch that overlooks Mirror Lake. Storage building. Waiting for your updates or additions. Offered at \$1.050.000. mls #1000793



In Highlands Mountain Club, this beautifully maintained, 2 BD, 2BA condo is furnished with some exceptions. With hardwood floors throughout, an updated kitchen and main bathroom, this unit is move-in ready. Covered porch or open deck looking out on a pond. A friendly adult community which features a clubhouse, pool and tennis court. Offered at \$549.000. mls#1001350



Fantastic In-town Highlands townhome. End unit privacy. Charming living room with fireplace. Dining room and designer kitchen. Glassed-in porch garden space. Three Bedrooms on the upper level. Primary bedroom with an en-suite bathroom See Documents for Furniture Package and Exclusions. Versatile for full or parttime living or long term rentals. Offered at \$985,000 mls #1001318



This true in town location is only about 4 blocks from Mountain Fresh. Close to Harris Lake. 2BD 2BA on city sewer for easy expansion. Wood floors and a fireplace, Large deck overlooking woods in the back. One-car carport. Laundry in the rear of the carport. Metal roof. A great weekend getaway or starter home. HVAC and backup electric baseboard heat. Offered at \$849.000 mls #1001893



New construction, incredible Short-off mountain views, on 531 Hedden Lane. A modern cabin with 2BD,2.5 BA, a soaring great room, masonry fireplace, chef's kitchen, large deck with views, shiplap walls and wood ceilings throughout, dual system heating and cooling, ample storage in the attic and crawlspace, and covered parking. The 1.20-acre property is surrounded by forest. The private well produces 14 gallons per minute. Two adjacent lots also available for purchase. Offered at \$1,179,000 mls #1000366



Move-in ready home Iclose to downtown Highlands. Masonry fireplace. Double doors bring the outside in with a lovely outdoor covered Carolina room with wood-burning fireplace. Cook's dream kitchen and a spacious dining area. Primary suite and bath is on the main level Upstairs has 2 bedrooms, with ensuite baths. Tall ceilings throughout. Offered at \$3,800,00 mls #1001595



Unique cottage located in a gated community but has no HOA requirements, only access amenity. Sitting on over 2 acres, with usable back and side yard. Relax beside Hedden Creek or hike the pristine area. Main and upstairs primary bedrooms, each with baths plus a loft. Expansive covered wrap-around porch, with swing beds. Custom cooks' kitchen. Large carport with RV hookup, and RV is available at an additional cost. Septic is sized for 3 bedrooms. Storage shed, and generator Offered at \$1,135,000. mls #1000929



Located as a part of the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club (Membership Requirements), this custom home is move-in ready. The main house features everything on the main level with foyer entry, powder room, game table, plus dining area, a living/great room with a wall of glass, 2-story ceilings, and fireplace, additional family or TV room, Custom kitchen, Upstairs has 3BD, 2BA, The 2-car garage has a full guest area with kitchen and bedroom and bath. Grounds are fully landscaped, generator, too Offered at \$2,850,000.00 furnishings are negotiable, mls #1001237



Freshly renovated with real wood doors and shiplap, this 3BD, 2BA with good rental history Recently renovated kitchen, and baths. Custom fire pit and masonry pizza oven. Offered at \$825,000. mls #1000395



2 blocks from Main Street. This 3 BD 2 1/2 BA is on a level lot and is in move-in condition. Rocking Chair porch, living room with fireplace, Dining room and open kitchen with powder room and pantry. Upper level has 2 BD, one BA with a loft. An exceptional location and excellent for year-round or summer living. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #1001639



Own a truly unique Highlands Cabin! Located less than 3 miles from Main Street and having over 19 acres of usable land, this true log cabin was added to an existing farmhouse, barn, meadow, views off the upper tier. A blank canvas. 4 bedrooms, stone fireplaces, retro kitchen, fantastic sleeping porch. Endless possibilities! Offered at \$3.575.000. mls #106429



Waterfront home on Lake Sequoyah with spectacular views from every room. New home with 4 BD, 4.5 BA, 5 fireplaces, wood burning/gas. House on three levels with a gathering room on each level. Kitchen on main level, wet bar on lower level. Owner's suite on main level with fireplace, Shiplap siding throughout. Offered at \$3,250,000 mls #1001588

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...HCLT continued from page 1

unnamed at its headwaters before later flowing into the Chattooga River, Mature and vibrant forests surround expansive ecologically significant, globally rare Southern Appalachian Bogs; one of North America's rarest and most imperiled ecosystems. These newly conserved places are home to many globally threatened, state endangered, imperilled and significantly rare species, some of which include plants such as:

• Biltmore Sedge (Carex biltmoreana)

bra)

- Button sedge (Carex bullata var bullata)
- Granite Dome bluet (Houstonia longoifolia var. gla-
- Granite Dome goldenrod (Solidago simulans)
- Tawny cottongrass (Eriophorum virginicum)

"This easement formalizes protections for state and globally rare species and habitats - it's not every day you get to say you've helped to protect some of the rarest plants and places on the planet!", said Owen Carson, Senior Ecologist at Equinox Environmental, consulting ecologist on the project.

This conservation victory is particularly significant due to the rare ecosystems found within the easement area. The property is predominantly forested and supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Key natural communities include:

- Acidic Cove Forest (High Elevation Subtype)
- High Elevation Granitic Dome
- High Elevation Red Oak (Heath Subtype)
- Southern Appalachian Bog (Southern Subtype)
- Swamp Forest-Bog Complex (Typic Subtype)

"We are incredibly grateful to High Hampton for their commitment to conservation and their generous donation of this vital acreage protecting, land, water, and wetlands" said Lance Hardin, Executive Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. "This easement not only protects invaluable natural resources but also exemplifies the power of collaboration in preserving the unique character of our region."

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has been working

Cubs epitomize life in the wilderness.

tirelessly to conserve and protect unique and irreplaceable places in Jackson and Macon Counties. This latest achievement underscores our dedication to safeguarding the cultural and natural heritage of the Southern Appalachian Mountains for future generations.

...DIRECTOR continued from page 1

expanded access to care.

Most recently, she was instrumental in establishing School-Based Telehealth services in partnership with local schools. Under her leadership, public health launched a telehealth program that brings real-time medical consultations directly to students increasing access to timely care and helping to reduce absenteeism.

Oher work by McGaha included expanding outdoor recreational access for Macon County residents by spearheading the development of the Little Tennessee Greenway.

She also helped to establish the Molar Roller, a mobile dental unit designed for children. The Molar Roller now travels throughout the county, delivering preventive and restorative dental services to underserved youth and promoting lifelong oral health.

"Kathy's vision and leadership have transformed our department into a more agile, inclusive, and community centered organization," said Garrett Higdon, Board of Health Chairman. "Her legacy will continue to shape public health in Macon County for years to come."

Back Story

There is still a lot of uncertainty surrounding the future of the leadership of MCPH. Several months ago, in response to complaints about the health department, commissioners began the discussion of taking over the Macon County Board of Health.

Commissioners had received many complaints which ranged from low morale to concerns about the Health Director Kathy McGaha. Some of the complaints stated the work atmosphere was "toxic." Issues expressed from the general public include problems with animal control and environmental health, specifically the backlog of permit-

In July, commissioners held a joint meeting with the board of health to give the health board a chance to talk face-to-face about the issues and complaints commissioners have received.

At the joint meeting it became clear that there was a communication issue between the two boards. At that time

• See DIRECTOR page 17

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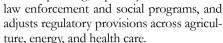
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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act

he One Big Beautiful Bill Act (the OBBBA), signed into law on July 4, 2025, is an extensive law with several major provisions affecting federal taxes, deductions, spending programs, and regulatory measures. The law's primary mechanism is tax reform: making 2017 tax cuts permanent, expanding certain deductions, boosting tax-favored business and child-related benefits, reducing taxation on specific earnings, and altering eligibility for federal benefits and tax credits. It also reshapes federal spending, especially for



Tax Provisions

Permanently extends individual tax rate reductions and the higher standard deduction first introduced in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which were previously set to expire after 2025. The personal exemption remains terminated.

Increases the child tax credit to \$2,500 per child for tax years 2025 through 2028, then indexes it for inflation. The credit remains non-refundable. The law also requires Social Security Numbers to claim this credit. Adoption credits are fully refundable up to \$5,000.

Permanently increases the qualified business income (QBI) deduction for pass-through businesses from 20% to 23%, while modifying phase-outs for higher-income taxpayers and expanding eligibility for business development companies.

Increases the estate and lifetime gift tax exemption to \$15 million per individual (or \$30 million per married couple), indexed for inflation and made permanent.

Raises the SALT (State and Local Tax) deduction cap to \$40,000 for households with income under \$500,000, effective for five years, after which it returns to \$10,000.

Restores 100% bonus depreciation for business investments in qualifying property, allowing full expensing of new equipment purchases.

While it purports to eliminate federal income tax on tipped income and overtime pay through 2028, they are subject to cer-



Michael P Henderson, CFP® CKA® Founder/Wealth Advisor Crossover Point Advisors

tain caps and phase-outs for high earners. It also reduces taxes paid on Social Security benefits for all recipients starting in 2026. However, instead of directly eliminating federal taxes on Social Security, the law awards a sizable, targeted deduction to most Social Security recipients age 65 and older.

Creates new "Trump Accounts," tax-advantaged savings vehicles for parents, similar to Coverdell or 529 plans.

Spending and Regulatory Changes

Increases funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) significantly through 2029.

Implements stricter work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents receiving nutrition assistance benefits (SNAP/food stamps) and modifies related eligibility and administrative procedures.

Repeals or phases out several clean energy tax incentives and modifies others, including limiting credits related to solar, wind, and electric vehicles.

Provides new and expanded tax incentives for U.S. semiconductor manufacturing and certain rural investments.

Modifies several small business tax provisions, such as increasing the deduction for self-employed health insurance.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) makes permanent individual tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, providing greater tax certainty. These provisions aim to reduce tax burdens for middle-income families, seniors, and working Americans, enhancing financial relief and encouraging economic growth.

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Your Legacy Home Awaits

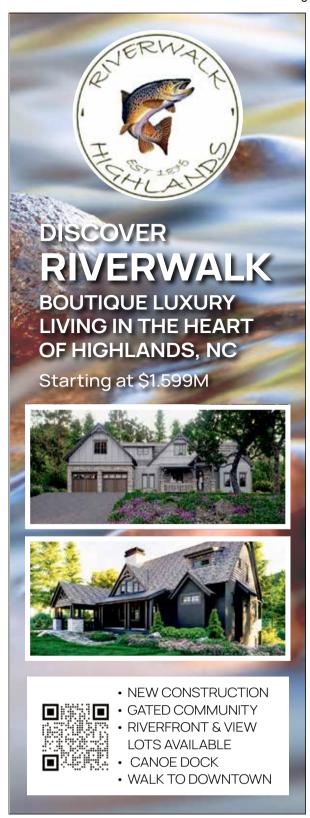






225 Bowery Road, Highlands \$7.250.000 | MLS# 1000431

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 yearcomfort. Spa-inspired round 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 quest 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.O acres.



Brand New Luxury Home







34 Bear Mor Ridge, Highlands \$3.595.000 | MLS# 1000498

This wonderful luxury home is in a new gated community perched on picturesque Big Bear Pen. Just a short walk or quick drive from downtown Highlands, this brand new home features an open floor plan with soaring 14-foot ceilings in the great room. Sliding multi-panel doors open to a covered deck with another fireplace, a built-in grill. and entertainment area. The kitchen showcases custom cabinetry, elegant countertops, a large designer lighting, and appliances. The main level includes a generous office/study and a luxurious primary suite with multiple walk-in closets and a spa-like bathroom. Upstairs, you'll find two quest suites, an area for a bunk room, and a common lounge area. A large unfinished space that can be built out as a private en-suite or additional living space. Don't miss this chance to own a sparkling new luxury home close to restaurants, shopping, and entertainment venues!

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• Biz Org News •



Randy Foster, President; Lori Smith, Regional Manager Imaging Services Mission Hospital; Joseph Dix, Director Communications and Community Engagement Mission Health; and Mark Chmar, host

Rotary learns about expansion at HC Hospital

Last week's Rotary of Highlands meeting featured speaker Lori Smith, Regional Manager of Imaging Services for Mission Health, hosted by Rotarian Mark Chmar. Sharing the latest news from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Lori announced the arrival of a new MRI and 128 slice CT Scanner to their facility. This skilled, digital imaging platform offers reduced scan times, better image quality, and metal reduction software for better visualization

of surrounding tissues and is now available to patients of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The new equipment also allows for the addition of cardiac capabilities, such as cardiac calcium scoring, coming soon to the hospital. This \$5 million investment by HCA Healthcare, which also included a new rehabilitation gym and phlebotomy laboratory, advances Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's ability to provide high quality, compassionate care for our community.





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Upcoming Event



Get Fired Up! The Bascom's Annual Fall Pottery Show Returns Oct 10-11

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts invites the community to experience the 14th Annual Fall Pottery Show on October 10–11, 2025, at the Dave Drake Barn. This highly anticipated, two-day event has become a signature highlight of The Bascom's fall programming.

The show features the work of The Bascom's Studio Members, local artists who create and fire their pieces on-site. Guests can expect to discover an exceptional range of ceramics, from functional items such as mugs, bowls, and serving pieces to striking conceptual works, each one unique and handcrafted.

More than a sales event, the Fall Pottery Show is an opportunity to meet the makers, learn about their processes, and directly support both the artists and The Bascom's Creative Community Initiative, which expands access to inclusive, year-round arts programming throughout the region.

In addition to exploring and purchasing work, visitors can watch Studio Members at the wheel and at the table as they demonstrate. These sessions will feature the making of bowls for the Empty Bowls project along with wheel throwing and handbuilding techniques, giving guests a behind-the-scenes look at process that shapes each finished piece.

Whether shopping for the holidays, adding to a collection, or exploring clay for the first time, visitors will find the Fall Pottery Show an inspiring way to connect with our creative community.



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Photo by Marti Boone

When a litter of seven Hound mix puppies arrived in early 2024, our compassionate staff could not resist the temptation of naming them after the seven dwarfs. Two of the "dwarf doggies" are still looking for their forever homes, and Sleepy is one of them. Now almost 2 years old, Sleepy is sweet and friendly with everyone. For more information, please call (828)743-5752.

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•CHHS NEWS• | • HS SPORTS WEEKLY RECAP •

Middle School Soccer Secures Championship, **Cross Country Shines**

packed week of competition saw Highlands Ath-Letics log several key victories and impressive individual performances, with the Middle School Boys Soccer team bringing home a major title.

The week kicked off with a slightly anticlimactic win for the MS Boys Soccer team on Tuesday. September 30th, as their Tri-State conference tournament match against Blue Ridge was ruled a forfeit victory for Highlands due to a lack of players for the opposing team. This set the stage for an exciting week ahead.

Champions Crowned and Runners Race

Wednesday, October 1st, saw the Middle School Cross Country teams compete in the conference championship at Rabun Gap.

The Highlanders had strong showings in both races, with Asa Garner finishing an impressive 4th on the boys' side and Riley Brooks taking 5th for the girls. Meanwhile, High School runner Claire Worley represented the high school team at Robbinsville, where she placed 6th with a time of 22:46.

The highlight of the week came on Thursday, October 2nd, when the MS Boys Soccer team hosted the Tri-State conference tournament championship.



Brett Lamb Athletic Director

In a thrilling match, the Highlanders clinched the title with a decisive 3-1 win, securing the program's first championship since 2017. Goals were scored by Jensen Bowers, Todd Vilardo, and Camden Westendorf.

Also on Thursday, the High School Soccer team hosted Andrews, posting a dominant 6-1 conference win.

Volleyball Battles and Swim Team Dominance

Thursday was also a road trip for the High School Volleyball teams, who traveled to Murphy for their final non-conference match. The IV team fell 0-2, and the Varsity team lost 1-3 in a tough battle.

Friday, October 3rd, the Middle School Swim Team hosted a successful meet, showcasing several top finishers. Justin Powell claimed 1st place in both the 100 freestyle and 50 butterfly. Aleks Petric finished 1st in the 50 freestyle and 50 breaststroke, while Bella Batista took 1st in the 50 freestyle and 2nd in the 50 breaststroke. Both the 200 medley and freestyle relays also finished in 1st place.

Season Closes and Conference Victories

Monday, October 6th, the MS Volleyball team hosted Andrews for their last match of the season, dropping two close sets for a 0-2 loss. In high school action, the Boys Soccer team traveled to Blue Ridge and secured a key 3-1 conference win with goals from Rowen Cranes, Isaiah Vilardo, and Aniah McKim.

Upcoming Events

Don't miss the action this

- Tuesday: HS Volleyball @ Hiwassee Dam.
- · Wednesday: MS and HS Boys Soccer are home vs. Havesville, and Varsity Volleyball @ Blue Ridge.
- Thursday: The MS Swim Championship will take place at
- Monday (Oct 13): Highlands will host the Little Smoky Mountain Conference Volleyball Tournament.

Please follow the Highlands Booster Club on Facebook or Instagram for game times and updates to scheduling.



Highlands School MC Swim team at home meet.



• Biz Org News •



From left: Rotary President Randy Foster, Carmen Waite.

Rotary learns about B&GC plans to expand

The Rotary Club of Highlands wrapped up September with Carmen Waite, the CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau as our guest speaker. A graduate of NC State, Carmen began her association with the Boys and Girls Club as a volunteer but quickly got noticed as she displayed outstanding organizational and leadership skills to the extent that when a search for a new CEO came up in 2021, she was a clear choice. Under Carmen's leadership, membership of the Boys and Girls Club has grown from 150 in 2021 to over 600 currently. The Highlands facility is located on the High-

lands-Cashiers Hospital campus in the Jane Woodruff building and can serve up to 45 children. The Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau is currently serving approximately 63% of the children of the plateau and offers a safe and supervised place for children after school as well as in the summer. There is a waiting list for 4th to 6th graders, plans for a bigger space are in the works for a new facility on the Highlands Recreation Park grounds in partnership with the Town of Highlands. For more information or to see how you might help, e-mail info@bgc-plateau.org.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

cal officials were totally caught by surprise and pointed out that SB 382 made municipalities uncertain about key zoning issues, especially in adopting new unified zoning ordinances. At the beginning of this new session, SB 587 was introduced as a means to clarify some of the ambiguities and nonconformity uses in the earlier 382. While SB 587 passed the Senate, it has stalled in the House of Representatives.

The long story short is that the legislature may adjourn, and SB 382 would remain in place, having huge implications for towns across North Carolina.

So, as December approaches, there could be several surprise pieces of legislation passed in Raleigh. I know all my colleagues in towns and cities across North Carolina share similar concerns about what may come forth at the last minute of this legislative session.

the 14th Annual

Fall Pottery Show

Featuring work by Bascom Studio Members

Ост 10-11

Friday & Saturday 10 am - 4 pm Discover one-of-a-kind pottery handcrafted by Bascom Studio Members. From functional wares to sculptural pieces, works were created and fired on-site. Proceeds support the artists and The Bascom's Creative Community Initiative, bringing accessible arts experiences to our region.



THE BASCOM A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

323 Franklin Road | Highlands, NC TheBascom.org | 828.526.4949



Funding is due in part to a Tourism Grant with Visit Highlands



Upcoming Event

Empty Bowls Soup Lunch - A Favorite Highlands Tradition – is Sunday

Sunday, October 12, marks the 14th annual Empty Bowls community lunch. Held at the Highlands First Presbyterian Church from 11am to 2 pm. the event raises critical funds for the



tain its food purchases which average around \$7,000 monthly. This

soups and desserts will once again be donated by a lineup of local favorites including Moun-

tain Fresh, 4118, the Highlands Tayern, the Highlands Supper Club, Chef Roberto delong, Lakeside, the Baked Bunny and Kilwin's.

Tickets are \$35 per person and include a delicious soup and a handmade pottery bowl. Tickets can be purchased online at https://highlandsfriendshipcenter.org/empty-bowls-2025 or at the Highlands Food Pantry, located on the bottom floor of the Highlands United Methodist Church, accessible via Spring Street, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays between 10 am and 5 pm.

Highlands Food Pantry. Tickets are \$35 per person and include a delicious soup and a handmade pottery bowl. Tickets can be purchased online at https://highlandsfriendshipcenter.org/empty-bowls-2025 or at the Highlands Food Pantry, located on the bottom floor of the Highlands United Methodist Church, accessible via Spring Street, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays between 10 am and 5 pm.

According to TJ Smith, Executive Director of the International Friendship Center, which operates the Food Pantry, the event is essential for the pantry to sus-







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...DIRECTOR continued from page 7

there were several new members on the board of health and the entire board was unaware of complaints about the MCPH.

Following the joint meeting, the board of health called a special meeting to further discuss the possibility of the commissioners taking over the board. During the closed session of the health board, the Health Board Chairman Jerry Hermanson and Health Board Member Charlie Vargas left the meeting ultimately resigning from their positions on the health board.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners opened their September regular meeting with a scheduled and advertised public hearing held in consideration of assuming the powers and duties of the board of health. A large crowd gathered for the meeting making it necessary for an overflow room in the small courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse where the meeting was streamed for the audience.

Prior to the public hearing, Commissioner Barry Breedan spoke to the crowd and clarified that it is not the intention of the commissioners to take over the board of health.

Breedan said when commissioners began the discussion of the problems with

the MCPH, the talk was that the board of commissioners would take over the board of health and the board of health would continue to serve in some sort of advisory

However, after several meetings this has now evolved into consideration of other options. Breedan assured the crowd that the option of the commissioners taking over the board of health, and it serving as an advisory council is not an option; it is not on the table and that is not what commissioners want to do.

Breedan pointed out the county has the option to leave the board of health as it is and continue operating as it has been doing. Another option would be to form a consolidation that would allow commissioners to appoint the current board of health adding a few additional members as a consolidated health board and giving them the authority over that board.

Under a consolidation, commissioners could also consider taking over the responsibilities of the human resources of the MCPH while allowing the health board to do deal with the health issues and other work of the health department.



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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



Finishing Well

Brent Metcalf Mission and Direction Pastor Christ Church of the Valley, Cashiers

couple of years ago, our oldest daughter began her senior year of high school. As parents, this was new territory for us – a season filled with "lasts." Her final first day of school, her last homecoming, her last crosscountry season. It was a beautiful, emotional, and busy time filled with gratitude and the growing awareness that change was coming.

Toward the end of that cross-country season, she injured her leg during a race. The pain made it difficult for her to even walk, let alone run, so we took her to the doctor. He confirmed she had likely pulled a quadriceps muscle and said recovery could take several months. He advised her to rest for a week and then reassess whether she could compete in the upcoming conference championship.

For months, her goal had been to finish in the top seven and make the all-conference team. Now, that goal seemed out of reach. Still, after a week of rest and prayer, she decided to give it a try.

From the starting line, we could tell she wasn't at full strength. By the halfway point, she had fallen to the middle of the pack - far from her goal. We felt a little discouraged but continued to cheer her on. Then, with about half a mile to go, we spotted her again – she had climbed into tenth place. With determination written across her face, she began to push harder. In the final stretch, she passed five more runners and crossed the finish line in fifth place.

The look on her face said it all – pain, relief, and joy. She had given everything she had. Despite the pain, she finished strong. We were so proud, not just of the result, but of her perseverance and her willingness to keep going when it would have been easier to give up.

That race reminded me of Philippians 2:5-7: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant."

The phrase "he made himself nothing" can also be translated "he emptied himself." One of the clearest examples of this is found in: Matthew 26:39-42, when Jesus prayed in the garden:

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Jesus knew what awaited him - pain, rejection, and death. Yet as he neared the "finish line" of his time on earth, he surrendered completely to the Father's will. His focus wasn't on himself but on the redemption of humanity.

That is what real love looks like. Love isn't just a feeling or a passing emotion – it's a commitment expressed through action. It's the choice to keep showing up, to give, to forgive, and to serve, even when it costs us something.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 21

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. lamie 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 Study5: 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 Iim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 1 la.m. 1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7.p.m. Wednesdays -Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues. 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper **Bistro**

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

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship IIa & 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: 1 I

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

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Rev. Ken Langsdrof

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOĞUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com. Services: 1st Fri. and 3rd Sat. and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge

(4.5 miles from NC 107) Weds: Youth Group 6 p.m.; Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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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

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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 Sept. 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/ citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Sept. 29

• At 6:55 a.m., officers responded to a report of stalking by a man following a woman at a residence on Paul Walden Road.

Sept. 30

• At 3:30 p.m., Paul William Ordner, 73, of Highlands, was arrested for stalking at a residence on Paul Walden Road. He wasn't issued a bond, and a trial date hasn't been set.

Oct. I

• At 2 p.m. officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Highlands Rec Park parking lot

Oct. 5

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Oak Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 30.

Sept. 30

- At 4:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.
- At 11:54 p.m., the dept. was firstresponders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

- At 3:45 a.m., the dept, was firstresponders to residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).
- At 2:55 p.m., the dept, was firstresponders to a residence on Billy Cabin Road.
- At 5:52 p.m., the dept, was first-responders to a residence on Mountain Laurel Road.
- At 7:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hammond

Oct. 2

- At 9:19 a.m., the dept, responded to a call of a possible motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.
- At 10:36 a.m., the dept, responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).
- At 11:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on S. 3rd Street.

- At 8:50 a.m., the dept, was firstresponders to a residence on Happoldt Drive.
- At 8:57 a.m., the dept. was firstresponders to a residence on Clubhouse
- At 11:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

• At 2:41 a.m., the dept, was first-responders to a residence on Azalea Woods

• At 10:27 a.m., the dept, responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Apple Mountain Lane.

Oct. 5

• At 11:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th

- At 5:59 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Blue Valley Road.
- At 7:12 p.m., the dept, investigated an alarm at a residence on Rockledge Lane.

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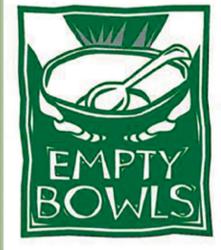
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HIGHLANDS 1-2 SPACES - I large or 2 smaller spaces for rent in popular Mill Creek Shopping Center next door to Blue Bike Cafe. Each space is 800 sq/ft at \$2,333/mo OR both spaces at 1,600 sq/ft for \$4400/mo. Inquires to Debi: bock7@



or visit www.highlandsutvrentals.com me.com or 404-323-9444. (st. 7/10)

4 BDM/3 BATH FOR RENT HIGHLANDS - Updated farm home, located between Highlands & Cashiers off Hwy 64.\$3200/month, includes all utilities with high speed wifi. Call Marcy 828-482-4239 (st. 7/10)

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...SPIRITUALLY from page 18

Our world often defines love by how it makes us feel - how happy or fulfilled we are. But God's love turns that perspective upside down. His love is steadfast, not swayed by circumstances or emotions. It gives when nothing is given in return. It endures through pain, sacrifice, and disappointment.

Have you ever experienced that kind of love - the kind that doesn't walk away when things get hard, the kind that shows up when you least deserve it? That's the love of God. It's patient, faithful, and unwavering. On the cross, Jesus displayed love in its purest form – a love that endured suffering so we could be reconciled to God, a love that surrendered everything so we might receive everything.

My prayer is that you not only know about this love, but that you experience it personally—the perfect, enduring love of God that strengthens us to keep running our race, to persevere through the pain, and, like my daughter did that day, to finish well.

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 Thurs.. 3:30-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

PICKLE BALL

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

MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm. Spruce Street. www.mountainfindings.org

PAC WEEKEND MOVIE

• At PAC, The Corpse Bride. Fri., Oct. 10: 2 & 5:30p; Sat., Oct. 11: 2 & 5:30p, Sun. Oct. 12: 2p (with captions). Tickets are \$8.

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 828 349-4357Mon.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 cll 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays IPM - 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).

Thurs., Oct. 9

• Rotary bingo at the Community Building for Highlands Wreaths Across America, helping to insure we honor our interred local veterans with a wreath this holiday season. Join us for a night of fun! If you have any questions, please contact Phil Potts 828-200-9753 or ppotts63@frontier.com.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 10-11

- At The Bascom, 14th annual Fall Pottery Show with pieces hand-crafted by Bascom Studio members. All items will be for sale. 10a yo 4p.
- 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. 10

• Join La Poste and the Cashiers Historical Society on Friday, from 11a to 3p for their first-ever Cooking Through History class. This hands-on workshop brings the past to life through food and conversation. Register at lapostenc.com.

Sat., Oct. II

• The Cashiers Quilt Show, featuring a quilt display, bake sale and boutique sale of handmade crafts and gifts, will take place Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Cashiers Library. The quilt pictured, which is

currently on display at the library, will be raffled at the end of the show. Tickets are available for purchase from members and will also be available at the show for \$1 each or six for \$5.

00. Winner does not need to be present to win.

Sun., Oct. 12

•The 14th annual Empty Bowls community lunch is at the Highlands First Presbyterian Church from 11am to 2 pm. Proceeds go to the Highlands Food Pantry. Tickets are \$35 per person and include a handmade bowl and soup. Tickets online at https://highlandsfriendshipcenter. org/empty-bowls-2025 or at the Highlands Food Pantry, on the bottom floor of the HUMC, accessible via Spring Street, on Mon., Tues., and Thurs., between 10 am and 5 pm.

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 II 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 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 already on sale or those priced at \$1.

Sat., Oct. 18

• 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.

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.

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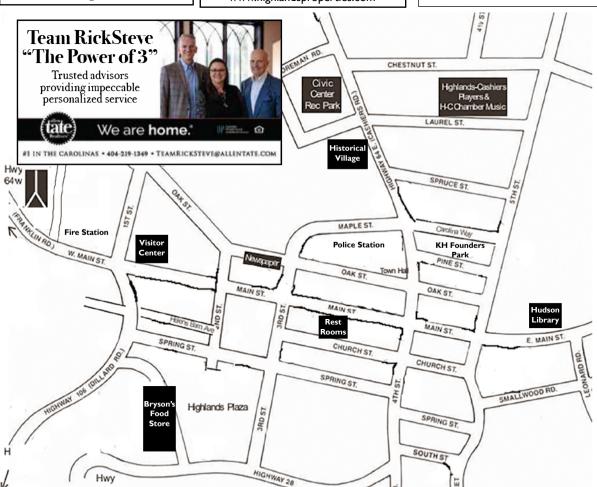


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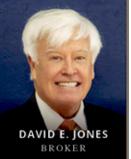




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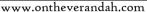
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