

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025

Future of MC Board of Health is unclear

By Kristin Fox

For a few months now, commissioners have fielded complaints about the health department ranging from low morale to concerns about the Health Director Kathy

McGaha to problems with animal control and environmental health and its backlog of permitting.

Though it was hoped that a way to deal with the department's inefficiencies would be finalized

at the September Board of Commissioners meeting Tuesday night, commissioners decided they needed more time to research options and make an informed decision.

• See HEALTH page 16

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NC is using HAVA to clean up voter records

By Kim Lewicki

You may not have received notice yet, but if you fall into the group of registered voters in North Carolina whose information about their identity is missing on their voter registration card, you will be receiving a letter as part of the state's voter Registration Repair Project with instructions as to how to become an active voter.

On June 24, the NC State Board of Elections authorized the project which is part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which is aimed to collect identification numbers – driver's license numbers or last four digits of Social Security numbers – from already registered voters whose information is missing on the state's voter rolls.

No voter will be removed from the voter rolls because of missing information, but until the required information is on the registration rolls, registration repair voters must cast provisional ballots until they fix their registrations.

As of mid-August 2025, the North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) sent letters to approximately 82,700 registered voters as part of its Registration Repair Project.

This mailing campaign followed a prior effort that corrected more than 20,000 voter records, reducing the original list of affected voters from about 103,000 in July 2025.

The overall purpose is to verify the identity of voters in the state.

Those with missing information, and those who have attempted to supply the information, will be issued a provisional ballot which will be cast but held separately until the voter's eligibility is verified. The voter is often given a tracking number to check the status of their ballot.

A provisional ballot is a temporary ballot given to a voter whose eligibility to vote is in question on election day but it is recorded as a vote which ensures

• See VOTER page 4



From left: Barbara Jamison, Craig Sellner, Jim Jamison, Juan Miliciunas, Jan Spoerl and Scott Spoerl

Croquet connects country clubs in Highlands and beyond

By Barbara Jamison

The Trillium Club croquet team won the Mountain Challenge last Thursday for the third year in

a row.

The tournament is held every year between the 12 croquet-playing clubs in Highlands and be-

yond. Matches are three doubles games.

Trillium was represented

• See CROQUET page 7

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

New techology and its power source

I had lunch with a group of elected officials last week, and after finishing lunch, I reflected on what was discussed. I concluded that rapid change is on its way, which will affect even our remote Town of Highlands, as well as all of Western North Carolina, and, for that matter, the entire world.

The discussion began with my good friend, Tim Redford, the mayor of Murphy, sharing with the group information he got from a Tennessee Valley Authority meeting. Murphy is right next to some TVA major operations.

The TVA folks are focused on the significant demand for the power supply in the immediate future. Much of that emerging demand comes from the need for huge power resources in the drive to develop the AI industry.

The 1990s saw the United States' industry and businesses lead the way in dot-com technologies throughout the world. This dominance in technology drove the growth of the American economy. The



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

next major drive is AI, and China and other countries are in a race with America to be the leader. TVA is a major provider of power for a large part of the country, and it is very aware of the power demand that AI technology will require.

TVA just announced they are moving forward with developing nuclear power plants to meet this growing power demand. The demand is on two fronts: AI production and our increasing demands

for more electricity for personal and business use. For example, electric cars may put a tremendous demand on the utility grid. Sallie and I are a case in point, too. We have just installed a heat pump at our house that will provide air conditioning in the summer and heat on mild winter days. We did not jettison our gas central heating unit. Conversions to electric power incur planning and costs.

So, how will this nuclear power be generated, by large plants like we have next to us in South Carolina? No, they take too long to construct and are unbelievably expensive to build. Case in point was the abandoned half-built nuclear plant that Santi Cooper tried several years ago, only to walk away and leave billions on the table.

TVA is developing a fast-track schedule to build small, modular nuclear reactors (SMRs). The best way to describe an SMR is to imagine several smaller reactors working together in line to produce power. This design is safer than the old, traditional large reactor systems and does not generate the same amount of nuclear waste.

Given the demand for AI, the rapid construction of new SMR plants is essential. For instance, TVA expects to get approval for building an SMR plant by early 2027. If you think the US is moving fast in constructing SMR plants, so are China and other countries.

Another benefit is that SMR plants can be powered by reprocessed nuclear fuel waste from existing larger plants. Additionally, they will not emit Co2 into the atmosphere, unlike coal and natural gas power plants. If a reactor fails, the accident can be contained to the small plant site.

These rapid changes in the energy sector will impact Highlands. We will have to enter a new wholesale power contract in

• See MAYOR page 21

• SNAPSHOT •





Indian Summer Sunset



Photo by Ed Zulch

Do you have a heartfelt, funny, interesting, or beautiful photo you would like to share in our "SnapShot" section? Email it to highlandseditor@aol.com or text it to 828-200-1371, with a brief description and a name. No anonymous photos will be accepted.

• WEATHER •

Thu, 11-Sep	Fri, 12-Sep	Sat, 13-Sep	Sun, 14-Sep
			
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Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny and nice	Mostly sunny
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• OBITUARY •

John Daniel "Danny" Crane

John Daniel "Danny" Crane, 73 of Highlands, NC passed away August 12, 2025. He was born February 4, 1952, in Rabun County, GA to the late Carlton William and Eloise Buchanan Crane.

Danny loved God, his family and friends, his feathered companion, Buddy, music and cooking – especially baking. He is survived by a brother, Baker and his wife Susan (Whitmire) and a sister, Joan Hicks, all of Highlands. Additionally, he is survived by two nephews, Henry Crane and Adam Hicks, both of Highlands and two nieces, Hannah (Jeffrey) Sykes and April Hicks (Charlie Bell), all of Jackson Coun-



ty, NC, a great-nephew, Hayes Sykes of Jackson County, NC, and an uncle, Floyd "Smokey" Buchanan of Jackson County, NC.

Danny graduated from Highlands School in 1970 and spent most of his life in Highlands, though he was well traveled, even living briefly with extended family in Brazil. He had a number of interests and he was the primary caregiver to his mother who passed away in 2020.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Crane family.

...VOTER continued from page 1

that all citizens have the opportunity to vote, even if an issue arises with their registration, address, or identification. After the election, officials investigate the voter's eligibility to determine if the provisional ballot will be counted.

If the voter is confirmed to be eligi-

ble, the ballot is counted. If not, it is not counted. Election results are not finalized until all valid provisional ballots are included.

As of August 18, the Registration Repair voters who had not provided the HAVA-required information were flagged as "Inactive" but an "Inactive" voter is still a registered voter.

If a Registration Repair voter provides the HAVA-required information before voting in person, they will be changed to an Active status and will not be flagged for a provisional ballot.

Similarly, a Registration Repair voter will be changed to an Active status if they submit a complete absentee ballot request and that request serves to update their registration record.

Even though these voters' administrative status will change, if the provided numbers are not validated (i.e., confirmed to match a government database) or if they check the box indicating they do not have an identification number, and the registration records do not show the voter previously showed an identification document known as a "HAVA ID," then they will be required to show a HAVA ID before casting a ballot.

The two types of HAVA ID are: a current and valid photo ID, such as a driver's license; a social security card or number or a physical or electronic copy of a document that is current and shows the voter's name and address, if that document is a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document.

• CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marti Boone

Three-year-old Midnight is absolutely beautiful and she loves the company of other cats and kittens. She's just a wee bit timid around humans but we have discovered her love for play, especially with lasers and wand toys, helps to overcome her shy nature. To give this sweet kitty a forever home, please visit chhumanesociety.org or call (828)743-5752 for more information.



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• LETTERS •

The Fruit of the Poisonous Tree

Dear Editor,

The Fruit of the Poisonous Tree is a legal term regarding the rules of search and seizure. In summary, if investigators obtain one piece of evidence illegally, all subsequent evidence gained in furtherance of that evidence is deemed inadmissible in a court of law. I would argue that as a nation we are currently experiencing a similar situation as it relates to many of the policies and executive actions of the Trump Administration.

Most Americans agree that we must secure our borders, protect the security of our nation, fight abuse and fraud in our government agencies, hold pharmaceutical companies accountable, ensure safety on our streets and fair and reasonable access to healthcare. The exact policies and how we go about achieving these policy goals will likely be different for the millions of Americans that make up this country and the 535 members that make up the House and Senate.

I believe we find ourselves at a crossroads in this country with what we are willing to do to accomplish the desired policy goals of some. Before moving forward, we should ask ourselves, do the means justify the ends? America has always been a country that strives to follow the rule of law, despite many instances where we came up short. It is usually agreed upon that the rule of law should prevail. The most serious example of challenging the rule of law at the highest level occurred during the Nixon administration, but Republicans and Democrats both stepped up to protect the rule of law and our established system of government has lived on for another day.

Implementing policy change through executive orders is a direct affront to the intent of our founding fathers when they wrote and adopted our constitution. The constitution envisioned how the people's money should be spent, disputed matters should be settled, laws written, the right to speak freely, the right to worship freely and many more critical elements that set a new standard for freedom never seen before. If we stray from any of these principles, we stray from all, much like accepting the fruit from a poisonous tree.

Will the people accept the courts as the check to executive orders and laws that are unconstitutional, despite a president that berates the courts when it does not rule in his favor? According to a Forbes July 9th article titled "Trump's Success Rate In the Courts So Far: 31%," the lower courts,

appellate courts and the Supreme Court have ruled against the actions of the Trump administration 60% of the time, and with the administration 31% of the time. The Supreme Court has sided with the administration most of the time. Most of these cases came about because of executive orders signed by Trump. The concerning part is that our Republic was designed with three equal branches of government, but executive orders only embolden the power of one branch. According to the Federal Register, Trump has enacted more executive orders (411) over his 4.5 years in power than any other president since Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower, Truman and Roosevelt all had more executive orders but they were in the midst of multiple wars.

The judicial branch of government cannot be the only backstop to the executive branch; the legislative branch must also hold the executive branch accountable when appropriate. The Constitution gives the legislative branch the power of the purse strings of the U.S. government treasury, because they are the direct representative of the people and the money they contribute to maintain their government. Rubber stamping the wishes of one man will not lead to anything good for a democratic republic.

A glaring example of pushing the power of presidential power is the acceptance of a gift from a foreign government in the form of a \$500 million airplane that will need even more money to become Air Force One, and that money has not been specifically appropriated by congress. Additional examples include destroying programs approved by congress, enforcement of the emoluments clause, holding independent education institutions hostage due to ideology and challenging clearly unqualified nominees. It can certainly be argued, the Republican congress has violated their prior ideological beliefs to acquiesce to the apparent all-knowing Donald John Trump.

Republicans and Democrats must unite to approve those policies that are worthy, but they must also ensure the constitution maintains the sacred stature we have given it since its adoption in 1789 by following it to the letter of the law. Let no man rise above the Constitution of the United States.

**Jerry Moore
Dillard & Highlands**

...CROQUET continued from page 1

once again by Jim and Barbara Jamison, Scott and Jan Spoerl, Juan Milciunas and Craig Sellner with Anne Killilea, Tom Brooks and Ron and Jan Baysden the team's reserve players.

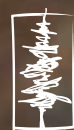
After two days of intense qualifying competition, the four best teams played semi-finals at Sky Valley Country Club on August 28. Trillium won all five of their qualifying matches and so qualified as the top team.

In the semi-final, the Trillium team defeated Burlingame by two games to one. In the other semi-final, Highlands Country Club (HCC) beat The Country Club of Sap-

phire Valley by a similar score.

The final was an intense struggle. Jim Jamison and Craig Sellner of Trillium eventually won the first game against Hammond Raders and Ellen Nielson of HCC by 7 to 5 wickets.

Trillium's Scott and Jan Spoerl were still locked in a close battle with HCC's Jack Howard and Matt Calvert when Trillium's Juan Milciunas and Barbara Jamison brought the trophy back to Trillium for the third year with Juan making the shot to win the match against HCC's Dallas Denny and Debby Jacobson by 7 to 3.



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• HERE'S THE THING •

College football is back!

Labor Day weekend brought this annual rite of Autumn into America's living rooms, where we got to experience both the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. It has always been thus. That stated, this season is already proving to be different in several off-the-field ways that, frankly, are not entirely resolved, and may not be for quite some time.

The 2025-'26 season is the first in which athletes are being directly compensated- paid actual money – by their college or university for playing football. Their status – as student athletes on scholarship or as employees of the school – has not been entirely resolved.

Players are also reaping the rewards that come with having their names, images and likenesses (NIL) employed in the marketplace. Over that first weekend, television commercials featuring Texas quarterback Arch Manning (yes, one of those Mannings) were everywhere, despite his and his team's lackluster performance on the field. It's estimated he'll earn about \$8 million as a pitchman this year. He's 21.

And, of course, fans are already quite familiar with the transfer portal, which has had the effect, desired or otherwise, of giving athletes the flexibility to leave one college football program for another without penalty.

These changes have both positive and negative implications for players, as well as for tens of millions of fans throughout the world. Thankfully, in my opinion, the actual games themselves seem for the most part to have been unaffected.

I, along with a few zillion others, have watched several games already this season. References by sportscasters to the financial aspects of these changes were, thankfully, minimal. Mentions of the transfer portal were, unfortunately, everywhere.

The transfer portal has been in effect since October of 2018. It applies to college football players, as well as basketball, baseball, ice hockey and, in some cases, track and field athletes. These athletes, in revenue generating sports, are able, while reaping both NIL and direct cash payments, to maintain their scholarship status. How much or how little actual classes and learning takes place is dependent on the individual.

Suffice it to say, the system is still new, is quite complicated, and many details are still being worked out. Again, the fan expe-



Bud Katz

rience has yet to be impacted beyond the unfortunate likelihood that players are going to come and go from season to season at a higher rate than in the past.

Here's the thing. I know in the grand scheme of things college football is mostly a welcome distraction from the chaos that often confronts us in daily life. Yes, some of the more rabid fans, as well as those moved to

wager on the games, legally, of course, are absolutely consumed by the outcomes.

Sooner or later, change comes to everything. Some of us are better capable of managing our reactions. Others, not so much.

College, and a college education, has always been a way for young people to see a future for themselves. When considering the financial implications associated with college athletics, especially football, it's probably well past time for those who actually play the games to reap some of the rewards. After all, every player is but an injury away from the end of football for them.

This has always been the thinking behind giving an education to the athletes as "payment" for their on-field efforts. But when coaches, who aren't under the same injury threat level as players, regularly receive multi-year, multi-million-dollar contracts, it's understandable that players would finally ask, what about us?

It's going to be a while before these off-the-field changes shake out, and people once again can focus attention on the games themselves. For now, though, expect players to come and go through that transfer portal, for them to show up in television commercials and public appearances, and for them to, hopefully, put away a little for life after they're finished playing this game that they, and so many of the rest of us love and wait for every fall.

• Bruce F. "Bud" Katz, and his wife, Lynn, have lived year-round in Highlands since 2011. Bud is the author of four novels and a work of non-fiction. He facilitates the Highlands Writers Group and spends much of his time in front of a computer making words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, ... etc. You can get to know Bud better by visiting his website, brucefkatz.com, and you can contact him, regarding this column or for information about the Highlands Writers Group, at brucefkatzauthor@gmail.com

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Booster Club Treasurer Josh Bryson; Super Bingo Co-Winners Emmie Wedge and Bud Katz; Highlands Rotary Bingo Chair Tim Dearth; Booster Club President and Highlands Rotary Bingo Caller Chris Wilkes

Rotary Bingo benefits Highlands School Booster Club

During the evening of September 5th, The Rotary Club of Highlands once again hosted the ever popular Highlands Rotary Bingo, partnering with the Highlands School Booster Club for 15 rousing Bingo games, culminating in Super Bingo with co-winners Emmie Wedge and Bud Katz.

The evening drew an enthusiastic crowd at the Highlands Community Center, with net proceeds from the evening benefiting the Booster Club's mission to support and empower student-athletes at Highlands School.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

CLE partners with Arts Council of Macon County for 5th-annual Highlands Porchfest

The Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment (CLE) is proud to announce its partnership with the Arts Council of Macon County for this year's Highlands Porchfest Music Festival as an ARTReach Grant Recipient for the third year in a row.

Highlands Porchfest is a free-to-attend music festival featuring over 40 talented, regional musicians who will perform across 14 venues in the heart of downtown Highlands on Sunday, September 21, from 1-6p, organized by CLE. This year, CLE has once again been selected by the Arts Council of Macon County as a recipient of its ARTReach grant.

"The Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment (CLE) is thrilled to once again partner with ArtReach through the generous support of the Arts Council of Macon County for the 2026 Porchfest," says CLE Executive Director, Meg Stevens. "We're especially excited for Porchfest this year — from the talented lineup of artists to the vibrant sense of community it brings. We look forward to coming together with our neighbors to celebrate music, connection, and the spirit of the Plateau."

The mission of the Arts Council is to serve Macon County as a presenter, promoter, and resource for artists, cultural or-

ganizations, and schools working to meet their goals. With their ARTReach Program, the Arts Council aims to jump start the arts within Macon County. The primary goal of this ARTReach grant is to support area artists, and it will directly benefit the talented musicians who will make Highlands Porchfest 2025 such an enjoyable family affair.

Highlands Porchfest is organized and presented by local nonprofit organization, Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment, which has served the community with life-enriching opportunities for over 30 years. For more information on the festival, please visit www.highlandsporchfest.com.

The Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment's mission is to provide life enriching opportunities that stimulate curiosity and creativity through educational lectures, art workshops, culinary/nature programs, and unique experiences to residents and visitors to the Highlands-Cashiers plateau. With a membership base of over 500 enthusiastic supporters and a wide range of over 100 program offerings each season, it is no exaggeration to state that no other small town in America presents the quality and quantity of programs that CLE hosts each year.

Register now for Pre-K and After-School programs at TL&L Center

Registration is now open for our free Pre-K and After-School programs for the current school year. We encourage interested families to visit www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/pre-k and www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/youth to learn more and secure a spot. For questions, contact Caroline Cox, Programs Manager, at ccox@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org or 828-526-0863.



• HS SPORTS RECAP •

It's been a busy week for Highlands School athletes

The Highlands High School and Middle School athletic programs have begun their seasons with a flurry of activity and some impressive wins.

Cross Country

The Middle School Cross Country team was the first to hit the trails, traveling to Tallulah Falls on September 2 for their first meet.

Asa Garner led the way for the Highlanders with a strong 6th place finish, followed by Riley Brooks in 12th.

The high school cross country meet at Cherokee on September 3 was unfortunately cancelled due to wet course conditions.

Soccer

On the soccer field, the Varsity Boys team is off to a promising start.

On September 3, they hosted Blue Ridge and secured a 2-0 victory, with Aniah McKim scoring both goals. Rowen Carnes contributed an assist.

They continued their winning ways on September 8 with a tough 3-1 win at Hayesville. Michael Munoz was the standout, netting two goals, while Carnes added another. Stephen Pierson provided an assist.

The Middle School soccer team is demonstrating an "amazing start to their season."

On September 4, they shut out Summit 4-0 with goals from Brian Munoz, Porter Bowers, Todd Vilardo, and Lincoln Perkins.

Their dominance continued on September 8 with a massive 9-0 victory over Hayesville. The goals were distributed among a number of players, including Todd Vilardo (2), Matthew Morales (2), Blake Kenter (2), Brian Munoz, Jensen Bowers, and Charlie Wilkes.

Volleyball

The Varsity volleyball team also saw some early season success.

On September 4, they hosted Blue Ridge and claimed their first conference win of the season with a decisive 3-0 victory. How-

ever, they faced a challenging match on September 8th, losing a "heartbreaker" in five sets. The JV team also dropped their match that day 2-0.

The Middle School volleyball team had a mixed week.

They had a "tough match" against Summit on



Brett Lamb
Athletic Director

September 4, dropping both sets 2-0. However, they bounced back on September 8, winning a triple header over Rabun Gap with a convincing 2-0 victory (25-5, 25-23).

The Highlands athletic programs will look to build on these early season results as they continue their fall schedules.



Varsity Volleyball.



Middle School Cross Country.



Middle School soccer.

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"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and that the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly; because of the television commercials, cocktail parties and assorted social posturing I thus escape; because, in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion; because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience; because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip; because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters; because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; because bourbon out of an old tin cup tastes better out there; because maybe someday I will catch a mermaid; and, finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant – and not nearly so much fun."

– John Voelker

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Fall Home Improvement

Fall in Love With Your Backyard This Fall – Here's How!

(StatePoint) Just because fall is here doesn't mean your backyard fun has to end! Fall is the perfect season to breathe in crisp air, sip something warm under the stars, watch an outdoor movie, and make the most of your outdoor setup. With the right tools and a few seasonal upgrades, your backyard can stay the place to be long after Labor Day. Here's how.

Blow Away the Mess:
"Leaf" It to the Pros
Those golden leaves

look lovely on trees, not so much on your lawn. A good leaf blower (especially a cordless or battery-powered model) like the Greenworks 80V Cordless Leaf Blower can keep your yard tidy and pathways safe. But to take it up a level, look no further than the Mammotion Yuka robotic mower with sweeper kit. It doesn't just trim your lawn, it also collects fallen leaves as it goes.

Bring the Heat: Stay Toasty on the Patio
With propane or elec-

tric patio heaters, you can keep the chill at bay and enjoy those al fresco dinners well into the season. Try the Dr. Infrared Heater Outdoor Patio Heater for electric convenience or the Hampton Bay 48,000 BTU Patio Heater for classic propane warmth.

Cover Up: Furniture that Survives the Season

Fall weather can be unpredictable, but with water-resistant covers for patio chairs, tables and lounge sets, your stylish setup won't suffer. Brands like Vaile

and Duck Covers make highly rated all-weather options in multiple sizes and styles.

Pool Days Aren't Over Yet

If you're one of the lucky ones with a pool, you might be able to stretch swimming season into September, especially with a pool heater. A reliable robotic skimmer like the Bublue BuVortex V5 will spin around your pool, clearing it of fallen leaves, bugs and branches.

Backyard Movie Magic: Outdoor Projectors

Cooler nights are made for blankets, popcorn and movie marathons under the stars. Outdoor projectors turn backyards into a private cinema. One of the best is the Valerion Vision Master Pro 2, which delivers ultra-bright, cinematic 4K laser projection even in ambient light.

Fall Clean-Ups are Easier with the Right Tools

Pressure washers, trimmers and gutter vacs are great tools to prep your home for colder months. The Sun Joe SPX3000 Pressure Washer is a fan favorite. When paired with a gutter cleaner like the WORX Universal Gutter Cleaning Kit, you're ready for seasonal upkeep.

Don't Let Mishaps and Malfunctions Ruin Your Fall Fun

Outdoor gear works hard all year — but colder weather puts added stress on everything from leaf blowers to lounge chairs. When something breaks, it can be expensive to replace. The good news? Many of

• See **BACKYARD** page 13

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Fall Home Improvement – 2025

Tips to Overcome Home Renovation 'Decision Paralysis'

(StatePoint) One of the hardest parts of home remodeling can be simply getting started. With so many styles, colors and materials to choose from, it's all too common to experience "decision paralysis." Rather than put off your exterior renovation further, consider these tips and tools for nailing down the details:

Browse

Online tools can both help you bring your vision to life – and decide what that vision is. ProVia's Design Center is an innovative tool that lets you browse and save colors, coordinating palettes and product images.

As you explore the Color Palettes page, which features color wheels representing unique palettes, along with suggested product colors and inspirational imagery, keep these factors in mind:

Architectural style.

Understanding the features that define your home's design style is essential in color selection. For instance, a colonial-style home may look best with classic, neutral colors, while a modern-style

home might benefit from bold, vibrant accents.

Landscaping and surroundings.

Look to your surroundings for inspiration, selecting colors that harmonize with your landscape to create a cohesive and visually appealing look.

Color psychology.

Colors have the power to evoke specific emotions and moods. Think about what you want guests to feel when they come to your front door, or what you want to feel each time you pull into your driveway.

For instance, warm colors like red and yellow can create a welcoming and energetic feel, while cool colors like blue and green can create a sense of calm and tranquility.

Signing up for a My Design Account at provia.com/register allows you to create and save your own vision boards, so you can compile your favorite ideas in one place.

"In addition to any color palette images you've saved, you can 'favorite' other images on the site by clicking the heart in the upper right corner. Use your saved images to create

whatever you want, whether it's a board with just entry door ideas, or a board to visualize your favorite colors together," advises Jennifer Kline, digital experience supervisor at ProVia.

Visualize

Are you more of a big-picture person, preferring to see how all the parts fit together as a whole? It can be hard to imagine how your home will look by holding up a siding color swatch or trying to visualize a new metal roof to replace your worn-out asphalt shingles. This inability to "see" the finished result in your mind's eye can be frustrating.

Fortunately, the ProVia Visualizer tool enables you to preview colors and styles on your home, so you know exactly how it will turn out. Simply upload a photo of your house and then experiment with products. Get



creative with door and window configurations, siding styles and shades, stone profiles and grout colors, and metal roofing options.

"Purchasing home exterior products is a big decision, which is why it's nice to

visually try before you buy. The ProVia Visualizer lets you preview different design and product selections so you can move forward with your project with confidence," says Kline.

While the endless pos-

sibilities of a home renovation can be exciting, they can also make it seem overwhelming. Fortunately, increasingly sophisticated digital tools can help you define your style and see your vision through.

...BACKYARD continued from 12

these items can be protected. The surprise? Most Americans don't know it.

An Allstate Protection Plans survey found:

- Only 9% know patio tables can be covered
- Just 7% know about patio chairs and umbrellas
- Only 6% realize lounge chairs qualify

And awareness is also low for leaf blowers (34%), robotic pool cleaners (28%) and patio heat-

ers (22%)

Don't wait for a breakdown. A protection plan helps keep backyard essentials working longer and saves you from surprise repair costs. Visit www.allstateprotectionplans.com for more fall outdoor living tips.

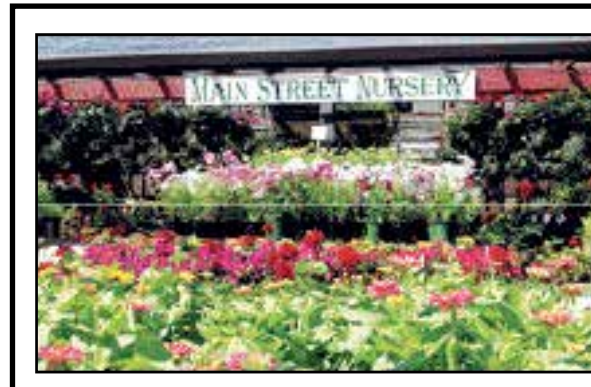
By performing a few maintenance tasks and protecting your gear, you can stretch backyard season into sweater weather.

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Grant available for youth-led community projects: Deadline to apply is Nov 30

The Democratic Women of Macon County are again funding grants to help youth make a difference in our community. The Youth Community Service and Leadership Grant is for school-aged youth through 12th grade who are residents of Macon County. Up to \$500 will be awarded to an individual or a group for a project that addresses a need in our community or helps build community in some way. Youth organizations, as well as individual youth, are eligible to apply. As our member, Rebecca Sexton explains, "The purpose of this grant is to encourage young people to get involved in community service and to give them the financial means to carry out their plans".

Last year's award winner, 5th grader Cooper Strickland addressed the need for kids to gather together for fun during the summer months. He created space and time for children to work with mini LEGO figures, which they were allowed to keep. Cooper said, "I love Lego because it helps me feel calm and focused, and I want to share that with others." Cooper's mother, Colleen Strickland told the committee, "We all had the best time with this project, and it was so interesting to watch Cooper lead."

The Democratic Women of Macon County believe a sense of community can bring us all together, helping one another, like we saw after Hurricane Helene. A sense of community helps us thrive despite differences of opinion, political beliefs, socio-economic status and life experiences.

The members of the grant committee this year are Lorraine Ross, Paige Selking, Anne Hyder, Rebecca Sexton, Meg Van Burskirk, Mary Judernatz, Mary Teslow, Janet Greene and Pam Lutgen. Paige Selking says "there are lots of grants and funding sources available to organizations and adults, but we feel it is important to empower our youth."

The application for the Youth Community and Leadership Grant provided by the Democratic Women of Macon County can be completed online at tinyurl.com/maconcountyyouthgrant. The application must be completed by November 30. For more information, contact maconcountyyouthgrant@gmail.com.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

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DON LEON'S

...HEALTH continued from page 1

An overflowing crowd gathered for the public hearing portion and the meeting making it necessary for citizens to gather in the small courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse – in addition to the regular meeting room – where the meeting was streamed for the audience.

As advertised, the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public input regarding the board of commissioners' consideration to assume the powers, responsibilities, and duties currently held by the Macon County Board of Health, as authorized under NCGS §153A77(a) and (d).

Commissioners Barry Breedan spoke to the crowd prior to the public hearing to clarify that it is not the intention of the

commissioners to take over the Macon County Board of Health.

"When we started this a couple of months ago, 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 role," said Breedan. "This has now evolved into a couple of options; however, 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 we want to do."

Instead, Breedan said some sort of human service agency consolidation was

• See HEALTH page 19


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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Randy Foster, President, Rotary Club of Highlands; Silvia Wilhelm, Board Member IFC; T.J. Smith, Executive Director, IFC; Joyce Fleming, Board Member IFC; Lou Rosebrock; Vice President, IFC

Rotary Club of Highlands welcomes International Friendship Center executive director, T.J. Smith

The Rotary Club of Highlands was honored to host T.J. Smith, Executive Director of the International Friendship Center (IFC), at its recent meeting. Smith shared updates on the organization's vital work in the community, including upcoming events and the increasing need for services at the IFC Food Pantry.

Smith noted that the Food Pantry has experienced a significant uptick in visitors compared to last year, reflecting both the ongoing economic challenges facing many families and the essential role the IFC plays in supporting neighbors in need. In fact they are averaging 43 new households a month. Over 18,000 pounds of food is distributed monthly.

In addition to food assistance, the In-

ternational Friendship Center offers a variety of programs and services designed to empower and support residents, including access to health care, housing assistance, and cultural integration initiatives. Smith also highlighted several upcoming community events that will bring people together while raising awareness of IFC's mission.

The Rotary Club of Highlands applauds the work of the International Friendship Center and its staff for their dedication to strengthening the community and ensuring that our immigrant neighbors' basic needs are met.

For more information about the International Friendship Center, its programs, upcoming events, or how to get involved, please visit <https://highlandsfriendshipcenter.org>.

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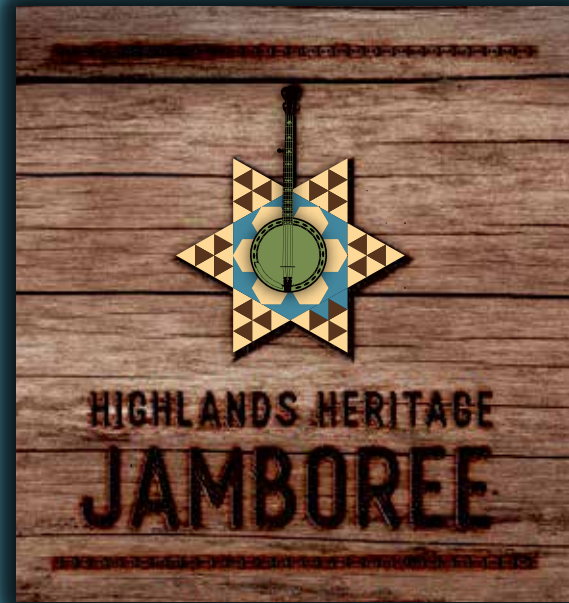
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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Are we (just) fans of god?

Rev. Kirkland "Skully" Knight
The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

One of the things I say that I love about Highlands is how fun it is during football season. I moved here from Baton Rouge, I am a graduate of LSU, and I am admittedly – an LSU fan. Geaux Tigers! But I love Highlands in the fall because you have people from every SEC school and other schools in the south, so on any weekend and at church on Sunday, there's always some good fun to be had at someone's expense (hopefully Alabama fans).

I saw a link for an article recently from Time entitled "All Americans should be football fans: In an era marked by epidemics of loneliness and political distrust, sports fandom is simple and universally accessible medicine." The article was written by Todd Rogers and Audrey Feldman, public policy professor and doctoral student at Harvard.

"Sports fandom has a special power to connect people, especially at a time when so many of our traditional civic bonds are fraying."

"Few institutions in America still draw large, diverse, and deeply engaged memberships – and professional sports teams top that list. Joining in is easy: the only barrier is deciding to become a fan."

I like where they are going. I'm a fan – Tigers, Saints, Liverpool (Premier League Soccer), but when it comes to God and the Church, I hope I'm more than (just) a fan. My colleague, The Rev. Bentley Manning, loves to say (referencing Kierkegaard) that when we come to church, we are not sitting in the pews like an audience, watching something that God is doing, it's sort of the opposite. God delights in seeing us participate – worshiping, praying, singing, and rejoicing together.

The Church is not just a group of people who are "fans" of God, at least I hope it's not. I believe (somewhat contrary to Rogers and Feldman) that the church, while it may not always be large, strives to be diverse and deeply engaged. And while joining is easy, it requires more of us than just deciding to be a fan.

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is all at once our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. That work is ongoing and requires our participation. On our best days it is simply belief on our part, a deep and abiding faith. On other days it is struggling with holy mysteries that seem impossible to reconcile. As St. Paul writes in the letter to the Philippians, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

Did you catch that? God is at work in us. That kind of commitment to open ourselves up to God working in and through us is much more than just being a fan. It almost sounds like God is a fan of ours. It's a bigger commitment

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 21

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Aug. 28

• At 12:15 p.m., officers responded to a call of a person using a stolen credit card to make purchases at Bryson's Food Store and Highlands Gem Shop. At Bryson's Food Store \$1,112 was spent on various cartons of name brand cigarettes and at Highlands Gem Shop diamond studs valued at \$1,450 were purchased.

Aug. 31

• At 7:12 p.m., officers responded to a call of an unattended death at a residence on Cook Road.

Sept. 5

• At 3:45 p.m., officers responded to a report of someone taking a credit card and using it at Spinx Gas Station to purchase items.

Sept. 7

• At 4:20 a.m., Rolando Salazar Gonzalez, 46, of Cashiers, was arrested for DWI on Main Street. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond. His trial date is Oct. 21.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Unit from Sept. 2.

Sept. 2

• At 1:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bowery Road.

Sept. 3

• At 12:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on VZ Top.

• At 12:43 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Kettle Rock Road but upon arrival there was no fire.

• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Falcon Ridge Road.

• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 9:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cole Mountain Circle.

Sept. 4

• At 7:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sanctuary Ridge Road.

• At 7:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cotswold Way.

Sept. 5

• At 12:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane.

• At 12:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a vehicle fire on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 3:06 p.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

Sept. 6

• At 8:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 1:07 p.m., the department responded as code enforcement at a location on Pierson Drive.

Sept. 7

• At 8:34 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 10:24 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut Run.

• At 10:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 11:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Dendy Orchard Road.

• At 2:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

• At 9:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

Sept. 8

• At 11:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurelwood Ridge.

• At 11:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.



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

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

For complete schedule and tickets go to www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com

Why the Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival Could Be Your New September Tradition

By Megan Lewicki

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

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

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

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

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

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

For complete schedule and tickets go to www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com

...HEALTH continued from page 16

on the table.

Tammy Keezer, Macon County Director of Human Resources, gave a presentation explaining what a consolidated human service agency is (CHSA).

In 2012, the NC General Assembly enacted legislation that provided counties with new options for organizing and governing some local human service agencies including local health departments and departments of social services. All counties are now allowed, but not required to create consolidated human services agencies that are either governed by an appointed board or by the board of county commissioners.

According to Keezer there are three options for consolidating human services agencies: Option 1 – board of commissioners assumes powers and duties of

local boards and agencies stay the same; Option 2 -- Commissioners create a consolidated human service agency (CHSA) and appoint a CHS board; and Option 3 – Board of commissioners create a CHSA and assume powers and duties of the CHS board.

Currently in Macon County, the health department and social services department operate as separate agencies. But Keezer said Macon County's recommendation is option 2 with commissioners creating a CHSA and appointing a CHS board. In that case, the county manager would hire the CHS director with advice and consent of the CHS board and the director would appoint a person with health director qualifications, to oversee the operations of the CHSA and report directly to the county manager.

According to Keezer, consolidation would be more strategic in

meeting the human services needs of Macon County citizens across all programs as well as creating a unified personnel system for all county employees.

Macon County Attorney Eric Ridenour presented commissioners with a draft resolution based on comments he had heard and feedback from both the board of commissioners and the board of health.

If adopted by commissioners, the consolidated human service board would become effective on January 1, 2026, at which time the previous board of health would automatically terminate. The county manager would develop and implement a transition plan to ensure continuity of services, proper integration of the departments and communication with affected staff and stakeholders.

The final decision will be made at a later date.

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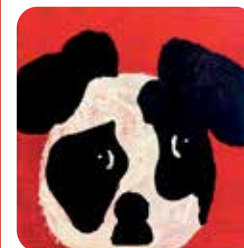
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HIGHLANDS 1-2 SPACES - 1 large or 2 smaller spaces for rent in popular Mill Creek Shopping Center next door to Blue Bike Cafe. Each space is 800 sq/ft at \$2,333/mo OR both spaces at 1,600 sq/ft for \$4400/mo. Inquires to Debi: bock7@me.com or 404-323-9444.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

4 BDM/3 BATH 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 continued from page 18

than buying a jersey of our favorite player or even shelling out the big bucks for season tickets. It is opening ourselves up to the goodness and grace of God that not only has the power to transform us but has the power to transform the world through us.

Don't get me wrong, when it comes to God, I'm a fan. But it's more than that. Much more than that. There is a blessing at the end of Morning Prayer that I think sums it up, "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen."

...MAYOR continued from page 2

the next four years. The electricity landscape of the last contract we signed 20 years ago will be totally different. I thought those wholesale power rates were high back then. Now they may look very attractive, and the town may be fortunate to negotiate a similar deal.

Spoiler alert: I have real concerns about how AI will impact humanity, but those concerns cannot be addressed by ignoring this emerging technology. The question I ask is, can we address the potential harmful outcomes and embrace the positive benefits that could transform our lives as we know them now? We are entering perilous and yet wonderful times.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18y+ 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

SATURDAY MARKET

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

ALL WEEK

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

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

Mon. Thurs.

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

Mon-Wed-Fri

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a-6p.
• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combo class with different types of exer-

cise. 828-526-3556

Mondays

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

Second Mondays

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

2nd Tuesdays

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

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 Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

Thurs. Sept. 11

• The International Friendship Center (IFC) invites the public to an Open House at the Highlands Food Pantry at HUMC on Thursday, from 5:30-7:30 pm. The event will feature guided tours, light refreshments, and the debut of IFC's new organizational video

Sept. 13

• At the Highlands Biological Station, Roots & Resonance, a celebration of native plants, Appalachian heritage, and the deep connections between people and place. Hourly guided garden tours of rare and unusual native plant sale; special presentation on George Masa by Paul Bonesteel and Janet McCue; and a reception and book signing. For more details on Roots & Resonance, please visit: <https://highlandsbiological.org/2025-native-plant-celebration/>.

Tues., Sept. 16

• Macon County Democratic Women's (and men) organization at the Highlands Rec Park at 5 pm. Will discuss the state's strategic plan to determine action steps to win upcoming elections

• "An Enchanted Evening" at Dahlias by the Lake annual fundraiser for scholarships. The event will be held on the patio at the Sky Valley Country Club from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Live music, appetizers and drinks during the evening. A silent auction of quality art items and dahlia centerpieces will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$60 per person.

Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 18-21

• The annual – Highlands Cashiers film festival. It's four days of competition film screenings, workshops, emerging filmmakers, and panels with acclaimed industry presenters and award-winning professionals. All genres will be showcased including features, documentaries, shorts, and international films. For complete schedule and tickets go to <https://www.highlandscashiers-filmfestival.com/>

Fri., Sept. 19

• At Rejuvenate Laser Center, OBAGI Day. 10a to 4p. 20% all products, free mini-facials, give aways, refreshments. 209 Hospital Road. #202.

• Community Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library. in the Meeting Room at 11 a.m. Mayor Taylor will be discussing "September Board Meeting Updates: Street Solicitations, The Playhouse Property and Sidewalk Safety Improvements."

• Free Veterans' Appreciation Dinner at the Glenville Community Building, 5012 Hwy 107N. Guest speakers, music, food and camaraderie. R.S.V.P. Liz Nichols at 828-507-7212.

Sat., Sept. 27

• The Heritage Jamboree Descendants' Reception will be held from 11a – 1p at the Highlands Community Building at 869 N. 4th Street. The event is free and a light lunch will be included. If you are interested in participating in this year's Descendants' Reception, please pre-register at highlands100plus@gmail.com. For more information go to highlandshistory.com.

• Highlands Jamboree – a celebration of Highlands' 150th Anniversary, – at 1p in KH-Founders Park. Music by the Navy Band, bluegrass music with Darren Nicholson and the Shedhouse Trio, clogging, moonshine and more! For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

Tues., Sept. 30

• To benefit The Literacy & Learning Center, Celebration of Education, Guest Speaker - David Baldacci at 2 p.m. at PAC. Tickets are \$100. VIP Dinner at Old Edwards Club, 688 Highlands Cove Dr, Cashiers is a 6 p.m. For tickets, go to <https://www.theliteracyandlearning-center.org/events/coe>



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