

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 2, 2026

Need for fire tax increase explained

By Kim Lewicki

An increase in the fire tax from 1.91 cents per \$100 valuation to 4.41 cents was the subject of a public information meeting held Tuesday evening at the Community Building.

Only seven "civilians" turned out to hear the presentation. They were joined by Mayor Pat Taylor, Commissioners Amy Patterson, Eric Pierson and Jeff Weller and Town Manager Josh Ward, County Commissioners

John Shearl and Barry Breeden as well as County Manager Warren Cabe. HF&R Chief Ryan Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester were accompanied by both volunteer and paid fire-

• See FIRE TAX page 4

Noise or nuisance? HPD wants clarification

By Kim Lewicki

At the March 19 worksession prior to the monthly Town Board meeting, Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland asked the board to take a closer look and consider amending the noise and nuisance ordinances in the town's Code of Ordinances.

The Code of Ordinances governs everything from noise complaints to parking, animal control, and sanitation and is enforced by the town's police department. This is not the same as the Unified Development Ordinance which focuses strictly on land use, planning, and development and is enforced by the town's Planning and Development Department.

"I'm here to ask the board

• See NOISE page 4

It's Easter 2026!



The living cross at Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street.

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Highlands wants HS soccer field in county's FY '26-'27 budget

By Kim Lewicki

At the March Macon County School Board (BOE) meeting held at Highlands School, the future of the Highlands School soccer field was brought up during the public comment segment.

Jeff Weller, architect, soccer coach and parent, who has been involved with the status, repair and future of the field for several years, asked the board to move forward with a plan to fix the field.

Over the years, studies requested by the MC Board of Commissioners regarding the saturation and drainage issues plaguing the field have been completed. Now the school administration, the school board and parents want something done.

"We have supplied the county with all the information they requested, did monthly bore

studies for a year, everything. We need a path forward," said Highlands BOE representative Hilary Wilkes. "We need to renovate the current field. Let's not let another year go by."

Weller and Wilkes said now is the time to get it into the county's FY 26-'27 budget.

According to BOE Attorney John Henning, the school board has completed everything the county requested prior to them making their final decision regarding financing, specifically the engineering study and subsequent work costs.

"You just need a money figure for the engineering cost; you don't need a new RFQ. You can ask the team that previously presented the RFQ a year or so ago, if they are still interested," he said.

• See SOCCER page 10



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• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Changing Highlands ... now and then

I am not a Facebook user, but one of my colleagues told me that in the past weeks, it was buzzing with outrage about the new hotel under construction on the old Bank of America property, as well as the demolition of the Highlands Playhouse building and the Bill's Soda Shop property on the corner of Main and Fourth Streets.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

I was informed that some Facebookers were calling for me and my fellow board members to be voted out of office on the basis that we should have never allowed these community development "atrocities" to happen. These critics believe that the mayor and commissioners have absolute discretionary power to decide what is allowed to be built and operated in the town of Highlands. I like to call that view the "Boss Hog" government model. The truth is that is not how the system works. State statutes and town development ordinances regulate development within the

municipal limits of Highlands. Those development decisions are not at the sole discretion of elected officials.

Regarding the new hotel, those state statutes and town ordinances were followed, although some may contend they were inadequate to prevent the project from being approved. On the other hand, those folks requesting approval of the proposed project, especially their legal representatives, have

been assured that the approval process and statutory compliance were followed correctly.

For the record, the approval process required review by the planning and zoning boards, not the Town Board. That decision by the Town Board not to review the project was not arbitrary, but rather part of the process spelled out in the town's development and zoning ordinances.

Some Facebook critics said the new hotel will have the appearance of an ugly chain hotel; I guess like Motel 6 or Red Roof. Really? The investors for a hotel development that may cost \$40 million or more dollars will build an ugly, unattractive hotel? I suspect not. For the rates they will have to charge, I am certain their facility will be very attractive and, dare I say, luxurious. They will be operating in a very competitive marketplace. My limited understanding of business and economics leads me to believe the developer can't invest millions of dollars in construction and then charge Motel 6 rates.

A major critique of the project is that it is too big and just not the right fit for Highlands. I was on Main Street on a recent Saturday near Calder's Coffee Shop. I looked back at the Old Edwards Inn and was surprised. That facility might also be viewed as massive, probably larger than the proposed hotel. The OEI complex is on a large footprint. I'm certainly not criticizing OEI; they have invested and done a wonderful job in historically preserving the Old Edwards Inn. But in some sloped areas,

• See MAYOR page 16

• SNAPSHOTS •



NO KINGS rallies gather near and far

On Saturday, March 28 eight million people across the nation demonstrated in 3,300 NO KINGS rallies protesting President Trump and his administration.

In Franklin, 400 people turned out. In Highlands 225 people gathered at the corner of Main Street and NC 106 waving signs of protest and solidarity. There were also NO KINGS events in Sylva, Bryson City, Waynesville and Clayton.

MSN reported that a new national poll conducted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, revealed that "only 33% of Americans approve of the job President Trump is doing," and that a staggering 62% disapprove.

Photos by Jim Lewicki

• WEATHER •

Thu, 2-Apr	Fri, 3-Apr	Sat, 4-Apr	Sun, 5-Apr
67°F 51°F	65°F 53°F	64°F 54°F	61°F 36°F
An afternoon shower	A couple of showers	Mainly cloudy with a shower	Cloudy with a few showers
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Greg Harrison, BROKER | (828) 200-9307
 Greg brings a strong analytical foundation and years of business leadership to his real estate career. As a real estate investor and as a small business owner, he offers extensive experience in both commercial and residential real estate. His corporate background, investment experience, and deep appreciation for the local market allow him to guide clients with clarity, precision, and confidence. Now proudly serving clients on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, Greg is passionate about helping buyers and sellers navigate their next chapter.



Nicole S. Russell, BROKER | (828) 200-4660
 Nicole is a third-generation NC broker proudly serving Highlands, Cashiers, and the surrounding Plateau communities. Real estate is more than her profession — it is her heritage. Her grandfather and father owned and operated Frank Smith Realty in Cashiers, serving generations of families throughout the mountains. Their legacy of integrity, stewardship, and lasting relationships continues to guide Nicole's work today. She understands that mountain real estate is never just about property — it is about trust, legacy, and preserving the character of the Plateau.



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...NOISE continued from page 1

to take a look at our current noise and nuisance ordinances. As they're written and enforced right now, they can conflict with each other, and that's leading to confusion for both officers and the public," she said.

She said the noise ordinance is pretty clear. Officers respond to complaints, measure the sound, and check if it goes over the set decibel limit.

"That part makes sense — it's objective, it's measurable, and it gives everyone a clear standard," said Holland. "The issue comes in when the sound doesn't exceed that limit, but the complaints keep coming in. At that point, enforcement often shifts over to the nuisance ordinance."

The problem is that the nuisance ordinance is much more subjective.

It basically says that if a noise bothers a "reasonable person," it can be considered a disturbance. That means someone can be following the noise ordinance, staying under the legal limit, and still end up getting warned or cited because the noise is bothering someone with the two being assessed by different standards.

"One is based on actual measurements, and one is based on perception. And that puts officers in a tough posi-

tion," she said. "They're expected to rely on the meter one minute, and then personal judgment the next."

Which causes confusion for the officers and for residents, she said.

"People don't really know what the rule is — whether they need to stay under the decibel limit or just hope nobody complains," she said. "Plus, similar situations can end up being handled differently depending on the officer or the complaint. That's not good for consistency, and it can make enforcement feel unfair."

Holland suggested trying to align the two ordinances, so they line up and work together instead of against each other.

She said one option could be tightening up the definition — something like "unreasonable intrusive noise" — and tying it more clearly to things that can be measured, like decibel levels, time of day, and how long the noise is going on.

Commissioners agreed to send the ordinances to Town Attorney Nick Tosco and ask him to work on them to make them more objective and less subjective while weighing issues that arise in residential areas and those that arise in commercial zones where residents live.

...FIRE TAX continued from page 1

fighters.

Before making the mandatory fire tax request from the county, Chief Gearhart said it was important the public and the county understood the need for the increase specifically to finance a new fire truck loan, hire three more full-time firefighters, and cover any increases in salaries and insurance.

Before an increase can happen, the fire department has to first approve it, then the town and finally the county. Since the taxpayers pay the increase, the county always weighs in.

Gearhart explained that the 2.5-cent increase from the current 1.91 cents to 4.41-cents per \$100 valuation would bring in \$2,676,623 annually and would enable the department to finance a needed truck for 60-72 months at \$200,000, but also plan for future trucks on a CIP plan, hire three more full-time firemen so there are three per shift rather than two, service the remaining debt on the fire department building which is \$612,000 per year for another four years and other expenses.

Currently, the Highlands Township has the lowest fire tax in the county, with the increase it would have the second lowest. Gearhart said he didn't foresee the

need for another increase for several years.

The current rate of 1.91 cents per \$100 valuation has been in effect since the '23-'24 budget year.

Town Manager Ward said the new rate would bring in a little more than is needed; whereas the current rate isn't covering expenses.

County Commissioner Shearl stated from the onset that he wasn't for the increase and said though they didn't want to come to the meeting, he had heard from several citizens who told him they were against it, too.

He said he didn't want the increase to finance equipment, but rather personnel and didn't think three more firefighters would solve the problem of waning volunteers which is being felt by departments across the county and the nation.

Though Highlands trucks and equipment are aging out at 22 and 23 years old, Shearl said his research indicated that trucks were good for 30 years so questioned the need right now.

"We tax citizens for what is truly needed to function," he said. "Is a new fire truck really needed? We need to make

• HERE'S THE THING •

War! What Is It good for?

Absolutely nothing, says the lyrics to a 1970 hit by Edwin Starr. And yet, once again, here we are, at war. This time, it's us and Israel versus Iran.

In the years between then and now, United States volunteer service men and women have been sent into action dozens of times in southeast Asia, the Caribbean, Central America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

Except for September 11th, 2001, when 18 Saudi Arabian terrorists knocked down the World Trade Center towers in New York City, in no other circumstance were we attacked or invaded. As a veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam Era, I think it's fair for me to ask, why does it seem we are always in, or looking to get in to some kill-or-be-killed situation somewhere in the world? Haven't we heard, way more than once, that we are NOT the world's police force?

There was no inciting event perpetrated by Iran on either the U.S. or Israel, unless you consider the 1979 revolution which began with the taking of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, and the taking of American hostages for 444 days. In which case, it's fair to wonder why it's taken so long for us, or Israel, to respond.

There was no Pearl Harbor bombing. There were no planes crashing into buildings either in New York or Washington, or in Jerusalem. This time, we and the Israeli Defense Forces fired first.

Is it now OK for one person to start a war with another sovereign nation? The U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 8) gives the prerogative to declare war solely to Congress. I suppose we shouldn't concern ourselves too much about that. After all, the U.S. has sent troops into action over 100 times since WWII without congressional approval. And that includes full-scale operations in Korea and Vietnam. And you might recall, Korea was referred to as a 'conflict,' while Vietnam was called a 'police action.' I suppose because we didn't call them wars then they weren't really wars.

We're still not the world's police force, right? So, again, why is this OK?

Here's the thing. We do have the kind of relationship with Israel, still, after nearly 80 years and the only functioning democracy in the Middle East, that offers U.S.



Bud Katz

military assets in support should they be attacked. Now, we didn't commit troops in either 1967 (the Six Day war), or 1973 (the Yom Kippur war) when Israel was directly attacked by one or more neighboring states. They didn't need our help. We didn't send troops or provide other direct on the ground support when Hamas launched the October 7, 2023, attack on Israeli civilians from

Gaza.

What's different about now?

Another intriguing facet of this war at this time against this "enemy" is that Iran has a not so silent partner this battle.

Russia has been, for decades, a huge supporter of Iran.

We all know that Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022. We provided and still provide military assistance to Ukraine in their defense of ongoing Russian aggression. We've tried repeatedly to convince Russia to halt its invasion of its neighbor. Russia ignores us. While Russia remains the main military and intelligence supporter of Iran, Iran is the principal sponsor of Hamas and Hezbollah, its two terrorist proxies against Israel. As I write this, Russia still provides Iran with both military hardware and intelligence assistance. Is anyone concerned that they might get involved? I'm just asking.

I'd hoped this war of choice would have ended in days, or even weeks, as was repeatedly indicated by our Administration. I fear we haven't considered Iran's willingness to close the Straits of Hormuz and hold 20% of the world's oil hostage. Nor have we considered Iran's willingness to keep the fighting going because they have a different view of things like war and death than we do. I'm also not sure our strategic interests and those of Israel are in total alignment.

Edwin Starr was right. I fear we are in for yet another long, deadly, and ultimately good-for-nothing slog. Stay tuned.

• 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 contact Bud, regarding this column or for information about the Highlands Writers Group, at brucekatzauthor@gmail.com.



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anything, it's ChatGPT. Need groceries or practically anything, Amazon is your friend.

But if considering a home in Highlands or Cashiers, I propose that you meet in-person with a professional Real Estate Broker.

Face it, over time the "human element" of transacting almost everything is evaporating, and is being replaced by apps, clicks, bots, and AI-assisted chats all designed to create hurry and anxiety. A sampling of recent Wall Street Journal stories about the impact of AI says this;

"Those who regularly use ChatGPT end up with extra time for gaming, social media, and video streaming" ... Oh joy! And this; "I've been sleeping less lately because of AI anxiety, thinking there's no turning back and this could quickly get out of control." And perhaps the scariest from an Atlanta Mom; "It scares the s__ out of me, our schools are grossly unprepared for this."

There's a reason AI begins with "artificial." There's no "human element," only an algorithm. There's no taking the time to think for yourself, only keywords or a combination of keywords to create for you versus from you. My point is that too much hurry is not healthy. Arnold Palmer once said; "If you want to play better golf, the key is better tempo, and the start of better tempo is to drive slower to the golf course." Think about that.

Are you in a hurry, lost your tempo,

...FIRE TAX continued from page 4

sure you spend taxpayers' dollars on what is needed to provide fire service and give the fire and EMS department the tools they need. What we need is manpower."

Commissioner Patterson said Gearhart's long-term CIP plan is to have a regular schedule for equipment replacement versus waiting for something to blow up and break down.

Though according to statistics men-



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are too many clicks ruling your day? Thankfully, buying and selling real estate is best served by the "human element," and it's alive and well and frankly a real necessity in Highlands and Cashiers. There's no amount of Zillow, Trulia, realtor.com, enhanced photography, listing lingo, "realtor-speak," or advertising claims that can take the place of an in-person conversation, an in-the-car showing, a fair-minded-value-driven and respectful negotiation between buyer and

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In his book *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* John Mark Comer says it like this; "The good of being delivered from hurry is not simply pleasure; but the ability to do calmly and effectively, with strength and joy, that which really matters."

In closing, we hope you'll make this coming Friday a "Good Friday," give thanks to the Savior, and celebrate Easter Sunday with family and friends.

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tioned by Shearl, Commissioner Pierson said due to the terrain, trucks are strained more in the Highlands Township than in a typical department.

Highlands Fire & Rescue covers a 69-sq. mile area from Highlands to Goldmine, Highlands to the Georgia state line, Highlands to the Jackson County line, from Highlands to Bull Pen, Highlands

• **See FIRE TAX page 10**

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• NEWS FROM BOLIVA •

From rags to riches – a month in Bolivia

Highlands community's mission continues

By Dr. John Baumrucker

The Highlands Bolivian Mission began 28 years ago in 1998 and a lot has changed in that time.

The mission began as a medical mission and brought over one million dollars' worth of medical equipment to this poor, underdeveloped country. Oil and gas were discovered in 2005, and the proceeds of that find went to develop the infrastructure of the country, including funding hospitals and building roads.

The focus of the mission changed to building houses, evangelical projects and ultimately, building a foster home for street boys. Opened in 2005, the home has expanded to include a carpentry shop, two dor-

mitories and an eight-bed guest house where the boys learn to run a business.

A four-bedroom structure was finished last year to provide living space for the boys who choose to stay on and finish their university education. Several of our "graduates" have gone on to start businesses, get married and have children. Education and a strong upbringing have made a big difference in these boys' lives.

This month-long visit has been full of challenges. Due to the poor economy, and very long lines to get gasoline, because the government allowed badly refined petroleum products into the country. Bolivia is a net exporter of oil products, but doesn't refine any.

Due to the badly refined petroleum products, tens of thousands of vehicles were damaged, including the mission's aging van, that was used to transport the children to school and other events. It was also used to transport food, both purchased and donated to the home.

The van was in poor shape after 15 years of use and wear and tear navigating poorly maintained dirt roads and using bad gasoline that ruined the engine. A new van was purchased to replace the old one. When the old one is repaired, it will be sold to help reduce the cost of the new purchase. Due to the influence of our local board of directors in Montero, we were able to get a good deal on a new Toyota van and the favorable

exchange rate made it possible to buy the \$64,000 van for only \$44,000!

The boys continue to make wooden pens and other turned products that are sold at the Mountain-Top Rotary Craft Show and Saturday's Farmer's Market both in KH-Founders Park on Pine Street. In addition to learning a skill, they have fun exploring their creative spirit. Education is always the focus of their work here at the foster home.

We hope to have volunteer groups come in the fall this year. With the Guest House, this is not a "hard mission trip." No sleeping in tents or dealing with wild animals. All rooms have private baths and air-conditioning. For more information contact me, John Baumrucker.



The boys of the home with the new oven which replaced the one that was first used in 2005



The president of the local foundation board with Mary Adair Trumbly, the administrator of the foster home and Dr. John with the new van.

• DINING •

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for

Sunrise Service at 7:15 a.m.

Followed by Breakfast

and

Morning Worship Service.

Corner of Highway 64 East and
Buck Creek Road.

...SOCCER continued from page 1

Highlands School head coach, Brett Lamb who also attended the meeting said “the can has been kicked down the road long enough.”

“It’s time to move forward with something, so we know what we need to do,” he said.

Lamb said he has had to cancel or postpone the girls soccer games this spring season due to an unplayable field – once due to too much rain and once due to a frozen field which is common when the spring soccer season starts up.

“An opponent twisted an ankle due to field conditions and that coach stopped the game,” he said.

Weller said the issue of grass vs. turf still persists, even though schools and colleges across the country are moving to artificial turf. In Highlands’ case drainage through a flat “artificial turf” system would evacuate the drainage from the field.

Weller presented three field location scenarios – Zachary Field at Buck Creek, the school’s track field and the current field.

According to Weller, track vs. cur-

rent location are pretty even. An engineered plan by a civil engineer for drainage either at the track site or the current site, would cost between \$45,000-\$65,000.

“In both cases artificial turf costs would be about \$1 million not including the cost of drainage improvements,” he said.

However, regarding the track field location, the field house and bathrooms and concession stand would have to be removed and rebuilt in a new location perhaps near the triangular parking areas next to Wahoo Trail, but setbacks would have to be determined by a professional.

Also, fencing and retaining would need to be reworked along the street, so the track field scenario wouldn’t be a money-saving proposition.

Plus, Lamb said moving the soccer field to the track would eliminate the school’s track and therefore the program.

The county and at one point – even some BOE members – thought moving the school’s soccer field to Zachary Field at Buck Creek was a good solution, but there isn’t enough flat property to con-

• See **SOCCER** page 21



Current soccer field at Highlands School



Proposed soccer field on the track field at Highlands School.

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...FIRE TAX continued from page 6

to the top off Cold Mountain Road off Buck Creek, Highlands to Lick Log Mill off NC 106 and has mutual aid agreements with four other departments – Cashiers/Glenville, Satolah, Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain and Cullasaja Gorge FD.

“They come when we need them and we go when they need us,” he said.

Gearhart said calls have increased 68.33% from 2020 while experiencing a decrease in volunteer responses with overlapping calls straining manpower.

An overlapping call is where a second call comes in while responding to an initial call.

“Of the 946 calls in 2025, 154 were overlapping which means we need a third person per shift so the station can be covered while the other two firefighters are on call. Also, a third firefighter would

be able to deploy a second fire apparatus out of the station in the event of an overlapping call,” he said.

Currently, there are two full-time firefighters per shift with three shifts. They work 48 hours on and 96 hours off. Two firefighters respond to each call.

Though Shearl noted the decreasing volunteer force across the county and the paramount need for paid firefighters, and that firefighters needed the tools to do their jobs, he wouldn’t say how many more firefighters (more than 3) would justify, in his mind, Highlands’ request for the rate increase – only that he didn’t think funding equipment was needed.

A formal request for the increase will be made at the April MC Commission meeting.


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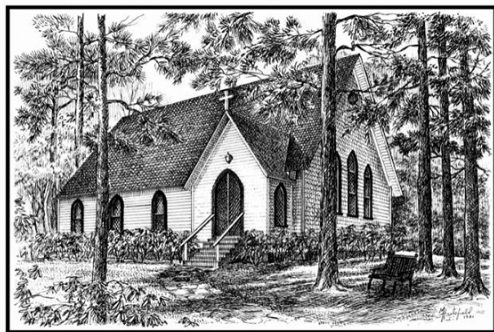
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 8:00 am | 9:15 am | 11:00am
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**Highlands
 Hurricanes
 finish 2nd at St.
 Patrick's Day
 Invitational**

By Steve Hott
 Head Coach

On Saturday, March 21, 22 members of the Highlands Hurricanes traveled to Cullowhee, NC to compete in the 5-team 2026 St. Patrick's Day Invitational Swim with teams from North Carolina and Georgia. The Hurricanes finished 2nd.

Leading the way for the Hurricanes was Jr. Olympian Luca Maseko who won 4 events, scored 28 pts., broke a team record, and qualified for the 2026 Jr. Olympics to be held in Des Moines, IA this July.

Agatha Jestin scored 25.5 pts and won 2 events. Jr. Olympian Justin Powell won 3 events on his way to 25 pts while fellow Jr. Olympian Bella Batista won 2 events and contributed 23.5 pts. Helix Sharpe-Sutton also won an event and had 23.5 pts. Melanie and brother Lucas Zabrian both won 2 events, sister scoring 22.5 and brother 21.5 pts., respectively. Stella Kerr also scored 21.5 pts and won an event.

The Edwards clan combined for 51.5 points (Nehemiah 21, Hananiah 16.5, Azariah 10, and Estelle 4). Nehemiah won an event and Hananiah won 2. Zana Maseko won an event, brought home 19.5 pts and qualified for the 2026 Jr. Olympics. Jayce Powell scored 19.5 pts. Valerie Nadzorau and Max Jestin both won an event, scoring 19 and 18 pts, respectively. Jr. Olympian Ian Batista won an event and contributed 16 pts. Addyson Cannon and Katherine Wise scored 10 and 9.5 pts. Victoria Nadzorau and Blakely Hedden brought home 8 and 4 pts, respectively, Senna Sherrill was unable to swim due to an ankle injury.

The Highlands Hurricanes is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the rec park pool) unassisted. For more info call 828.421.4121.

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Holy Thursday Service

April 2nd at 5:30pm in the sanctuary

Good Friday Service

April 3rd at 5:30pm in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th



*Sunrise Service at the Easter Cross on the front lawn
at 7am*

Easter Worship Services ~ 9:09 & 11am

Potluck Easter Brunch ~ 10am in in the F&FC

Easter Egg Hunt ~ 10:15am on the front lawn



From left: Rotarian Jim Oesterle, Parent Jonathan Austin; Rotarian Gary Bauer, Rotarian Bob Baxter, Rotarian and Bingo Caller Chris Wilkes; Jackpot Winner Charlie Wilkes; Rotary Bingo Game Coordinator Tim Dearth; Jane Jerry, Jackpot Winner; PTO Vice President Rebecca Ivey; PTO Treasurer Maxine Smith; Parents Sydney Harris and Maci Bears.

Luck O' The Irish Benefits Highlands School PTO on March 20

Members of the Highlands School PTO decorated two rooms at the Recreation Center with shamrocks, gold coins, green beads, and small leprechaun hats for its Rotary Bingo night on March 20. Sponsors Berkshire Hathaway, Bryson Grading and Paving, Highlands Kids, Calder's, Primary Restaurant and Bar, The Southern Way, and Highlands Tavern ensured the evening was paved with green. An enthusiastic crowd of parents, teachers, students, and community members helped the Parent Teacher Organization raise \$5,718 at the event. Jackpot winners Charlie Wilkes and Jane Jerry shared the \$250 grand prize, and Jerry contributed her winnings to the PTO. The Highlands School PTO works to provide financial and volunteer support to students and educators. For more information about how you can support the PTO's work, see <https://www.facebook.com/p/Highlands-School-PTO-100095127082013/>

EASTER

SUNDAY 10:45

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

3645 CASHIERS ROAD

HIGHLANDS



First Baptist Church, Highlands Easter Services

7:15am - Sunrise Service on church grounds
10:45am - Church Service in Fellowship Hall

220 Main St, Highlands, NC 28741

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• HS SPORTS •

Middle School and High School athletics weekly roundup

It was a packed week for Highlands athletics, featuring dominant performances on the golf course, a historic shutout on the soccer pitch, and a collection of top finishes in track and field.

Middle School Golf: Mason and Highlands Command the Green

The Highlands Middle School golf program showed incredible depth this week, fielding a massive roster of 16 golfers and securing top finishes in back-to-back outings.

On Monday, March 23, at The Orchard, the team competition ended in a rare three-way tie. However, Brynn Mason stood alone at the top of the leaderboard, securing the individual victory with a stellar score of 42.

The momentum carried into Wednesday, March 25, at Sky Valley, where Highlands decisively won the team competition. Their collective score of 141 easily outpaced Tallulah Falls' 157. The Highlanders nearly swept the top individual spots: Brynn Mason: 2nd Place (42), Camden Westendorf: 3rd Place (49), Ian Kittrell: 4th Place (50), Blake Kenter: 5th Place (51)

Soccer: HS Girls Dominate Rival; MS Girls Battle Hard

The High School Girls Soccer team made a loud statement this week with a commanding 8-0 victory over rivals Blue Ridge. The "Lady Highlanders" offensive powerhouse was led by Aubree Brooks, who found the back of the net four times. Anabelle Hayes and Jordyn



Brett Lamb
Highlands School
Athletic Director

Borino also contributed heavily, netting two goals apiece to complete the shutout.

On the Middle School side, the girls fought to a 1-1 draw against Murphy, with Yasmin Montalvo scoring the lone goal for Highlands. The squad later faced a tough Tallulah Falls team, dropping the match 2-0.

Track and Field: A Field Day for Highlands

Both the Middle School boys' and girls' track teams secured 4th place finishes in their respective meets. The Highlanders were particularly dominant in field events and hurdles, bringing home several blue ribbons:

Aleks Petric – 100m Hurdles, 1st Place; Corena Dearth -- Shot Put & Discus, 1st Place; Charlie Wilkes – High Jump, 1st Place; Jensen Bowers – Triple Jump, 1st Place; Valentina Gomez – 200 Meters, 2nd Place

Other notable performances included a 3rd place finish for Charlie Wilkes in the 1600m and a 3rd place finish for Corena Dearth in the Triple Jump. The relay teams also stayed competitive, with the Boys 4x200m taking 2nd and both the Boys and Girls 4x100m teams clinching 3rd.

High School Golf: Conner Breaks Top Five

The High School Golf team traveled to The Ridges this week, facing stiff competition. The team earned a solid 4th place finish overall. Individually, Sam Conner led the Highlanders, carding a strong round to finish 5th among all competitors.



The Highlands Middle School golf program showed incredible depth this week, fielding a massive roster of 16 golfers and securing top finishes in back-to-back outings.



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MAY 20
A.I.



...MAYOR continued from page 2

that building exceeds the 35-foot maximum building height. For that matter, a number of homes in Highlands meet the 35-foot requirement on one side only to have a higher side on a slope. Applying the 35-foot requirement to all sides of a building in this mountainous topography would result in some rather unusual architectural designs.

I also suspect the high cost of building in Highlands was correlated with the size of the new hotel. Certainly, the developers evaluated the con-

struction costs, size, scope, and potential return on their investment. But I don't know for sure, since I wasn't involved in any aspect of planning or permitting for the building. The only thing I told one of the developers was to develop a plan that they believed met all the zoning and code requirements, and the town's review process. I did promise that the town process would provide an approval or denial in a timely manner, which was done.

As for the demolition of the Playhouse and Soda Shop properties, I know

there are sentimental associations with their past uses, but the buildings had outlived their functionality. Especially regarding the Playhouse, there had been concerns for years about its safety in hosting large public gatherings. The town had studied the issue, brought in outside experts, and decided that the millions of dollars required to bring the Playhouse up to code outweighed its preservation and repurposing. The private owner of the soda shop property reached a similar conclusion regarding that corner prop-

erty. While I am an advocate of planned

development and zoning, I also believe in property rights and equal protection under the law. If a property owner meets all the town's development requirements, they have the right to use their property as they wish. And yes, that will inevitably bring change to the community. Frankly, that process has been ongoing in Highlands since its founding.



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Highlands Performing Arts Center Announces 2026 Concert Season

12-concert lineup brings bluegrass, Broadway, Motown, and holiday favorites to the Plateau

The Highlands Performing Arts Center (PAC) has announced its upcoming concert season, a thoughtfully curated lineup of 12 performances celebrating the rich musical traditions of the region while bringing acclaimed artists from across the country to the Plateau.

PAC Executive Director Jeanne Piazza reflected on the series saying, "I am especially thrilled about this year's Concert Series. Our 2026 lineup celebrates extraordinary musicianship, unforgettable performances, and something for every artistic taste. We welcome the dynamic bluegrass energy of Balsam Range, the powerful harmonies of The Texas Tenors, and the dazzling vocal talent of The Barricade Boys. Audiences will also enjoy the soulful nostalgia of Memories of Motown, the uplifting sound of Nu-Blu, the exciting showmanship of Chris Norton, and so much more!"

The season opens in May with Balsam Range, one of the most respected bluegrass groups to emerge from Western North Carolina. Known for blending traditional roots with a contemporary sound, the band sets the tone for a season that celebrates regional music while welcoming diverse influences. Later in May, The Texas Tenors, the most successful music group in the history of America's Got Talent, bring their powerful blend of classical training, country influences, and contemporary favorites to the PAC stage.

Summer programming continues

with Three American Troubadours, a tribute to the music of James Taylor, Carole King, and Carly Simon, celebrating an era defined by thoughtful lyrics and enduring melodies. As summer transitions into fall, Memories of Motown brings the energy and soul of classic hits from Motown Records to life with powerhouse vocals, dynamic horns, and a tight rhythm section.

Bluegrass remains a cornerstone of PAC programming. In September, Nu-Blu, a North Carolina-based group known for exceptional musicianship and modern arrangements, continues that tradition. October welcomes an international flair with The Barricade Boys, whose West End background and dynamic harmonies deliver fresh interpretations of Broadway classics and contemporary songs.

The fall lineup also features tributes to iconic American sounds. Chi-Town Transit Authority recreates the music of Chicago with remarkable precision, while Damn Tall Buildings offers a more intimate and reflective performance blending folk, bluegrass, and original songwriting.

As the holiday season approaches, the PAC stage turns festive. Chris Norton showcases his talents as both vocalist and trumpeter, followed by Hotel California, a nationally recognized tribute to Eagles. The season continues with Mark O'Connor's Appalachian Christmas, blending beloved holiday music with Ap-

palachian string traditions, and concludes with the festive program A Candlelight Celtic Christmas.

More than a series of performances, the PAC concert season offers opportunities for the community to gather, listen, and connect through music. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Highlands

Plateau, these concerts provide a cultural centerpiece that brings audiences together throughout the year.

Public ticket sales begin April 1. For tickets and full performance details, visit highlandsperformingarts.com.

About the Highlands Performing Arts Center

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY
March 29 10:30 AM

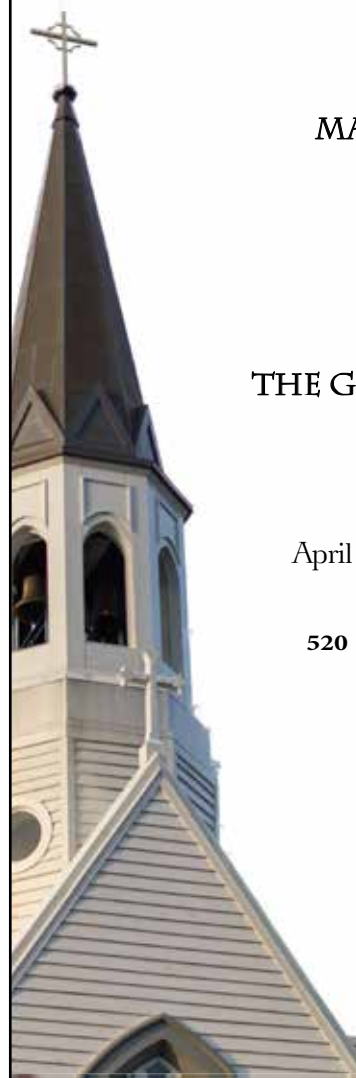
MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 2 at 6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY
April 3 at Noon

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
April 4 at 8:00 PM

EASTER DAY
April 5 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

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Balsam Range, one of the most respected bluegrass groups to emerge from Western North Carolina is up first at PAC.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Something to Consider



**Sr. Pastor
Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

Sometimes we can get tossed to and fro by waves in the sea of humanity. Sometimes it's just too stormy, too fast and too much.

Imagine, as best you can, that you were there that day at the "triumphal entry". The crowds were both heavy and boisterous. You are among the throngs, trying to peer between people or over people as one would at a parade. You just want to see what all the activity is about. Distant sounds, once muffled, are becoming louder as He approaches your section along the road. People are singing and waving their arms like a "human wave" making its way around a football stadium. People are praising Him for what He has done, and they are praising Him for what they think He will do. What you are seeing is quite unusual, people are laying their cloaks on the dirt before a "never-been-riden-before" donkey transporting the Christ ever nearer your location. Those without cloaks are securing palms from nearby trees to lay on the ground before Jesus. It's quite the spectacle. You find yourself singing the lyrics most familiar to you.

Now, really nearing your "space". The procession comes to a halt. His head turns and He looks in your direction. He is not scanning the crowd. He is not looking at you. He is looking into you. Your eyes lock. He knows you. The background noise fades, and you are momentarily engrossed in a quieted, divine appointment, a divine connection. You only really see Him and He seemingly only sees you.

In that solemn moment, your praise ends, and your worship begins. He now matters most, but you also know that you matter to Him. Its intimate. You are not only a part of a throng of people, but you are also personally linked. Who is pursuing who in this moment? Did you go after Him, or did he come to you? It matters not, it's just you and Him. The Ancient of Days, The Lord of Hosts, values you, enjoys your presence and longs to connect with you, if not die for you. Yes, your praise subsides, and your worship begins. The place where you are standing is, if only for a moment, holy ground. In an unexpected, life-changing moment you have come to discover your lovability in a manner that no other experience in your life has ever come close to doing. You are seen, you are heard, you are loved.

He soon passes by, and He will soon pass away. You are now indelibly marked by an experience from which you will draw hope and meaning for the remainder of your life. People will speak of Him and His en-

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 21

PLACES TO WORSHIP

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Sundays: School at 9:30; Worship 10:30

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas. <http://www.Graceonhighholly.com>

Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11; Prayer Service Wed 5:30p

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Fellowship 11:45a; Wed: Bible Study/Contemplative Prayer, 5p

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www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45a; Wed Study: 5:15p supper and childcare.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays—Supper at 6 p.m.

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3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

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10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper

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

Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

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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

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Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10a; Worship 11a.; Tues: Men's Group 10a;

Wed: Bell Choir 4p. Chancel Choir: 5:30p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Sat. 4pm 5/24/25-10/25/25; Sun. - 11am

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Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Richard Salmonson

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Sun. 9a (English); Mon. 9:30a (Vatican II in Latin); Tues.

7p (Spanish); Wed., 9:30a (English)

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from March 27. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

March 27

• At 7 p.m., officers responded to a call of a vehicle roll over at Naiad Terrace.

Accident 1

March 27

Vehicle 1 was traveling west on US 64. Vehicle 2 was stopped at the red light facing west.

Vehicle 1 failed to stop and rear-ended Vehicle 2. Both vehicles came to a stop in Pine Street.

Accident 2

Vehicle 1 contacted law enforcement.

Vehicle 1 was traveling east in the Wright Square parking lot. Vehicle 2 was parked facing north in the Wright Square parking lot.

Vehicle 1 made a left turn to park facing north and hit Vehicle 2.

This crash was not reported the day it happened and we could not verify it, but the owners did agree to the out-

come.

The owners of Vehicle 1 and 2 had a crash on March 27 and reported the crash on March 29.

• Officers issued 7 Citations and 9 Warning Tickets.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 24.

March 24

• At 11:33 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

• At 3:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Rock Road but it was cancelled en route.

• At 3:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 4:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road

March 25

• At 5:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

March 26

• At 3:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 4:39 p.m., the dept. responded to

a motor vehicle accident on Horsecove Road.

• At 4:52 p.m. the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Hill Road.

March 27

• At 12:03 p.m., the dept., responded to a fire alarm at a location on W. Church Street.

• At 6:55 p.m., the dept., responded to a motor vehicle accident on Naiad Terrace.

March 28

• At 8:23 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 8:44 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the Cashiers FD.

March 29

• At 12:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Rainbow Road.

• At 5:03 p.m., the dept. was first-re-

sponders to a location on N. 5th Street.

• At 6:39 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Arnold Road

March 30

• At 1:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on S. 3rd Street.

• At 3:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident where utility lines were pulled down on N. 4th Street.

• At 3:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible gas leak at a residence on Satolah Road.

• At 9:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 11:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Log Cabin Lane.

FPCH HOLY WEEK

PALM & PASSION
SUNDAY
March 29th



MAUNDY
THURSDAY
April 2nd



GOOD
FRIDAY
April 3rd



EASTER
SUNDAY
April 5th



Holy Week Schedule 2026



*Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church
Highlands*

April 2 - Holy Thursday Mass

OLM - 8 p.m.

April 3 - Good Friday Stations of the Cross

OLM - 3 p.m.; Confessions - OLM - 4 p.m.

April 4 - Holy Saturday Mass

OLM - 8 p.m.

April 5 - Easter Sunday Mass

St. Jude Sapphire Valley - 9 a.m.

OLM - 11 a.m.

www.Olmhighlands.com

Palm & Passion Sunday: Join us at 11 am in the Sanctuary for readings & music depicting Jesus's entry into Jerusalem through his arrest, trial & crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday: Supper at 5:30pm in Coleman Hall, followed by worship & the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday: An evening tenebrae worship service in the sanctuary beginning at 5:00pm in the sanctuary. Join us as we tell the story of Good Friday through scripture and music.

Easter Sunday: Celebrate Jesus' resurrection at 11am with brass & timpani & an egg hunt for young children.



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FOR RENT

MIRROR LAKE HOME FOR RENT - July

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4 BD/3BA FOR RENT HIGHLANDS - Updated farm home, located between Highlands & Cashiers off Hwy 64. \$2,800/month, includes all utilities with high speed wifi. Call Marcy 828-482-4239 (st. 7/10)

2BD/2BATH SINGLE WIDE \$1,100 per month internet included. First and last security. Mark 828-200-0765. (st. 5/29)

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staining wood floors. Division of Chatlos Construction. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (6/25)

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CREATURE COMFORTS - In-House Pet or People sitting. Call Peg Ellis. Retired RN. References available. 828-200-1028. (st. 11/20)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (7/30)



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...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

try; they will speak of His miracles, and they will speak of the throngs that pursued Him. But you connected with Him, and you will forever long for the words to truly describe His eyes locking with the essence of who you are. Maybe its best that you say nothing at all. Anything that you say that may draw attention to yourself seems so amiss. You will never really sing in the same manner again.

You now know, you have accessibility to His presence any time of any day. No matter your circumstances, you can run boldly to the throne of grace. As you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. In His presence is the fullness of joy. You now know that you can praise Him and worship Him in a sanctuary, but you now know that in Him you can take sanctuary. He is your Hiding Place.

...SOCCER continued from page 10

struct a regulation-size field which is 55 yards wide by 110 yards long.

"It just isn't big enough," said Weller.

The county owns some parcels adjacent to Zachary Park, but the terrain falls off so it can't be used either.

However, there is room for a non-regulation youth soccer field which the county appears to back. The maximum width within the cleared and flatter area suggested

Christ is personal. He longs to be personal. Each day He longs to connect with you. He wants you more as a friend than a servant. He has blessings to share with you, inspiration to impart to you, hope to stabilize you and love to lavish upon you. There isn't anything about you that He does not know, and He still loves you. He is far more interested in where you are in relationship to Him than what you have or haven't done.

This Holy Week, He desires that you see Him for who He truly is. He is pursuing you, are you pursuing Him? Should you have any area of your life that is dying, know this... It is not just that He can resurrect that area of your life, it's even better, it's even more... He is the resurrection and the life. If you have Him, you have all that matters.

allows for a roughly 35-yard wide field.

At Wilke's urging, the subject of financing the vital next step -- the engineering study -- will be brought up at the upcoming Liaison Meeting between BOE and MC Commission members Tuesday, April 7 at 10 a.m. in the Board Room of the Macon County Schools Administrative Offices in Franklin.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE:

• Highlands Pharmacy is closed on Saturdays until May.



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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

• **Spring Hours:** Friday & Saturdays. Open: 10 am - 1 pm. April 3-4, 17-18; May 1-2, 8-9, 15-16; Thurs., Fri, Sat.: May 21-23, May 28-30. Spruce Street. www.mountainfindings.org

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 each Tues at 5:30 pm and Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and

on Wednesday & Fridays @ 12:00 noon. Open in-person meetings are also held in Cashiers @ the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sunday at 5pm, 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., Tues., Wed, Fri.

• EnerChi: Connect mind, body, and breath using Tai Chi in a meditative movement practice. Call or email if interested in these classes 828-634-1404 or WellspringClasses@gmail.com. Mon. 5:30-6:30pm, Tues. 4-5pm, Wed. 6:30-7:30pm and Fri. 4-5pm and 5:30-6:30pm.

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 Vivian Brewer. 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

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

Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am.
• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – from 5-6:30 PM
• ESL classes at The Literacy & Learning Center, 6-7 p.m. 675 S 4th St.

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

Wednesdays

• The Literacy & Learning Center offers a FREE weekly Citizenship Class led by Faviola Olvera from 5:30 to 7 pm at 675 S 4th St in Highlands, this program is designed to help students navigate the complexities of the U.S. naturalization exam.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library from 1-3 PM, digital navigators will host a Tech Time drop-in time at Hudson Library with the goal to assist attendees with basic smartphone, laptop, iPad and tablet skills. For more information, call the Library at 828-526-3031. This program is free and open to the public.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15a. at the Rec Park. No martial arts background necessary Contact the Rec Dept. 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.

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. Breakfast at 9a; meeting is at 10a. Email ncp370@gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

Sat., April 4

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park at 10a.m. for ages 0-9.

Wed., April 15

• Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Canva 11:3s-1p at the Highlands Community Center.

Sat., April 18

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, annual Plateau Pickup. Volunteers will

gather at 8:30am at K-H Park (Pine Street) to check in and get clean-up assignments along key corridors including U.S. 64, N.C. 28, N.C. 106, and select areas of downtown Highlands. for more info, email events@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

April 24-26

• PAC Educational Theatre is excited to present our All-Community Production of Shrek: The Musical, taking the stage April 24-26! Our all-community cast features talented performers of all ages who have come together to create a production full of creativity, laughter, and magical moments. Don't miss your chance to see this exciting community production—tickets are on sale now!

April 30-May 2

• **3 River Fly Fishing Festival. Competitions for guided & non-guided, two-person & womens-only teams, with more than 2,200 miles of public waters available to fish! To register call. 828-743-3768. \$500 per two-person team. Entry fees benefit Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund**

Thurs., April 30

• At Highlander Mountain House, an intimate fireside show by Tyler Ramsey & Carl Broemel, guitarists. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. and tickets are \$50.

Thurs.-Sat., May 7-9

• Highlands Mother's Day Bridge Sectional at the Highlands Recreation Center, 600 North 4th Street Highlands, NC. \$30/ pair Thurs. and Fri. \$180/Team of 4, Sat. Robert Todd Lessons-Free. For more information, call 828-526-3556

Wed., April 20

• Brown Bag Lunch & Learn AI, 11:3s-1p at the Highlands Community Center.

Sat., May 16

• High Style -- A Celebration of Art, Cuisine, Fashion & Music 9:30a to 4 various locations around town

Sun., May 17

• At PAC, Balsam Range at 4 pm. boxoffice@highlandsp Performingarts.com. 828-526-9047



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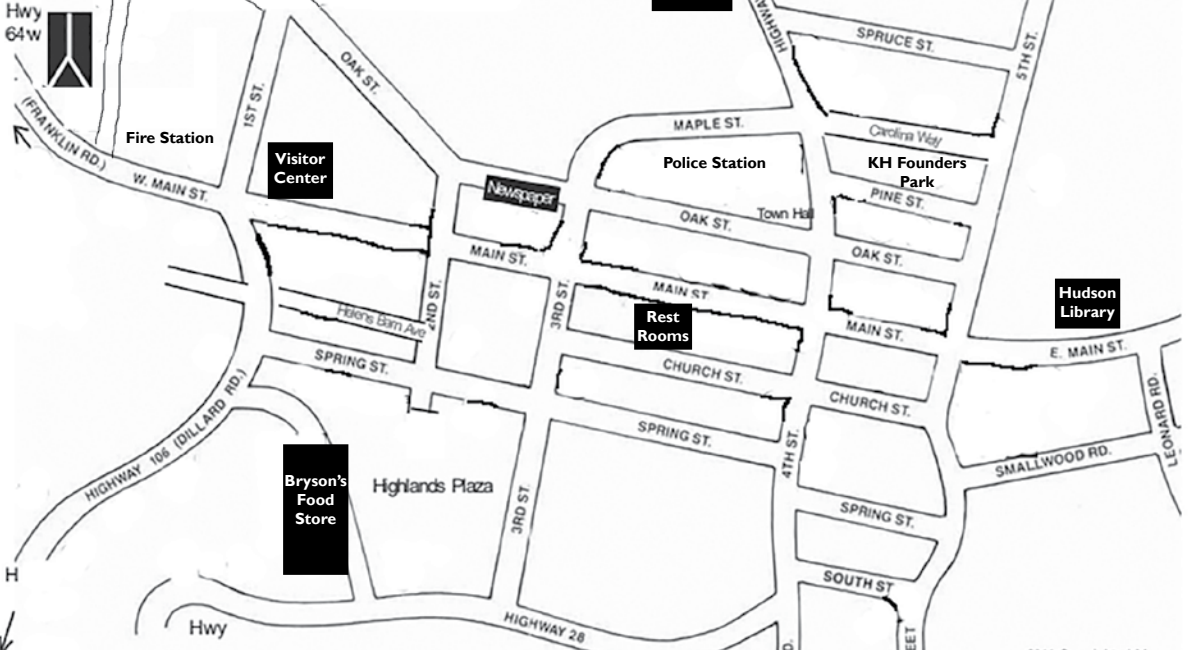
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