

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 30, 2026

Highlands School Pre-K is ready for Fall

Spots still available for '26-'27 school year; teachers hired

By Kristin Fox

In preparation for opening its first NC Pre-K classroom this fall, the school recently hosted Pre-K assessments.

Eight children attended the assessments for the classroom which represents the first steps in reaching the school's goal of a total of 18 Pre-K students. In

addition, since the assessment event, several families have come by the school to pick up Pre-K applications.

• See PRE-K page 5

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End of an era for 2026 HS seniors



At home games, Thurs., April 23, seniors were recognized. Come fall, they will be "playing" for someone else! From left: Isabel Ramos (soccer), Heidi Doerter (soccer), Cayden Pierson (soccer), Claire Worley (track), Bryan Juarquin (golf), Isaiah Vilardo (golf) and Aniah McKim (golf). Not pictured Olivia Corbin (soccer) and Aiden Crook-Jenkins (golf).
- Photo by Rachel Lewicki

Planning Board suggests changes to building codes

By Kim Lewicki

About two years ago, the Highlands Planning Board began talking about making changes to two Unified Development Ordinances regarding commercial building materials and colors. At Monday night's meeting the issues were finalized, as well as adding stipulations to height requirements for Government/Institutional Buildings.

Exterior Materials

With the recent uptick in Commercial development, a list of nine exterior materials were picked for commercial and public and civic buildings as well as a list of 52 exterior colors – 29 base colors and 23 accent colors.

A per the Planning Board's recommendations, a maximum of three materials can be used on any façade of a commercial/public/civic building.

Eight materials were suggested: stucco, wood clapboard, wood shingles, wood board or

batten, wood shiplap siding, unpolished natural regional stone, clay brick (antique or unglazed), uncoated sheet copper, or a ninth option – simulated materials of the noted materials as long as they are reviewed and approved by the Planning and Development Director.

The color chart for commercial/public/institutional buildings is an updated version of what the town has been using but pared down a bit with not as many blues and red-based colors.

Colors are separated into base colors and accent colors with the following combinations allowed – one base color or one accent color or one base color and one accent color or two base colors.

Two accent colors can't be used in combination except for on primary entry doors which can be stained or painted a third

• See CHANGES page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Noise ordinance is a moving target

At the past Town Board meeting, changes to the town noise ordinance were reviewed. The public weighed in on the issue with various points of view. One speaker asked me to provide a complete review of the ordinance and explain its details. I will not go to that extreme, but I will share my overall views about our current ordinance.



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

First, some would like for Highlands to be a noise-free community. If one were living on the side of an isolated mountain or in a country club community, one might experience this noise-free environment. However, Highlands is an incorporated community with a population density and business activities that will generate some level of noise from time to time. And, in general, the closer one lives to the business district, the more noise one can expect.

Living in a neighborhood will generate sounds from everyday life, such as children playing, lawnmowers, building projects, and

neighbors doing routine tasks, which is to be expected. The town has ordinances that address such activities and when they can occur. For instance, no commercial activities by builders and professional landscapers are allowed on Sunday, and on Saturday they are limited to between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm. If someone suspects such activity is taking place in violation of these times, they can report it by calling 828-524-2020, the non-emergency

dispatch number. These rules apply only to activities within the town limits; outside of Highlands, there are no such restrictions.

If a person lives in incidental residences in business districts, noise frequencies and levels are expected to be higher than in a residential area. Living downtown is not a primary function for a business zone. These areas are more densely populated, with trucks and heavy traffic moving through these areas, plus the normal operation of business activities.

Throughout the town, there are periods when music can be heard, which is not necessarily a violation of the noise ordinance. Our police will investigate instances of music being played at specific times and at specific decibels.

The Town Board and the police will continue to review the noise ordinance and make adjustments where necessary. But I am certain the town will not reach a point where everyone is happy with the noise ordinance and its enforcement. And yes, our police have looked at other ordinances in many other cities. There is no magic bullet for this issue.

On Thursday, April 30, the final town budget workshop will be held. It will take place at 3 pm at the Highlands Community Building. The staff will share another iteration of the new town budget with the Town Board. After receiving feedback from the board at this session, the Town Manager and financial director will present a proposed budget to the board at the May Town Board meeting. At that time, the board will vote to hold a public session budget meeting at the June Town Board meeting. As always, this budget workshop is open to the public. Hope to see you there.





• SNAPSHOT •



Highlands' earth lovers celebrate Earth Day in Highlands

Earth Day 2026 was on Wed., April 22, with the global theme "Our Power, Our Planet." This year focused on mobilizing communities, strengthening environmental protections, transitioning to renewable energy, and encouraging individual actions like reducing plastic waste, planting trees, adopting greener lifestyles and spending the day outside celebrating Mother Earth's bounty. This group of Highlanders spent the afternoon in KH Founders Park on Pine Street picknicking and tossing inflatable earth balls about.

• WEATHER •

| Thu, 30-Apr | Fri, 1-May | Sat, 2-May | Sun, 3-May |
|---|--|--|--|
|  63°F 42°F |  60°F 45°F |  55°F 29°F |  58°F 33°F |
| Times of clouds and sun | Episodes of sunshine | Cloudy, a little rain, cool | Mostly sunny |
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...PRE-K continued from page 1

The kids who attended the assessments will receive confirmation from the school once all paperwork is completed, and the county office has everything they need.

The school hopes to fill as many spots as possible before the fall. Spots for the Pre-K classroom are still available; any interested families can visit the Highlands School front office at 545 Pierson Drive to get an application.

Screenings are required so to schedule an appointment for screenings parents should call Valerie Norton at (828) 524-4414, extension 1041.

To be eligible for NC Pre-K, a child must be four years old by August 31, 2026. Parents need to bring a copy of the birth certificate to the screening.

In addition, parents must provide proof of income which can be the 2025 completed 1040 tax form or one month's worth of paystubs from all adults living in the home. Qualification forms for Medicaid or WIC are also accepted as proof of income verified by appropriate agency.

Although a child may meet one or more eligibility factors, placement is not guaranteed in the Pre-K classroom. Families will be notified of acceptance into the program by June 12, 2026.

The NC Pre-K Program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-old children.

The NC Pre-K Program Requirements are built on the National Education Goals Panel's premise that to be successful academically in school, children need to be prepared in all five of the developmental domains that are critical to children's overall well-being and success in reading and math as they enter school: Approaches to play and learning; Emotional and social development; Health and Physical Development; Language development and communication; and Cognitive development.

The Pre-K classroom will be taught by one full-time teacher and one full-time teaching assistant. At this time, the teachers have not been named.

According to Highlands School principal Sarah Holbrooks, at Monday night's meeting, the Macon County School Board approved the hiring of Kassie Bradley as the Pre-K TA and Merissa DeHart as the Pre-K teacher.

The Pre-K program will follow the same schedule as the entire school for the 2026 – 2027 school year, with a start date

of Monday, August 24th.

An open house for all classes, including the new Pre-K classroom, will be held the evening before school begins.

According to Holbrooks the school wants the Pre-K classroom to be fully integrated into the K-12 experience. Holbrooks said the school is currently still working on licensure for the Pre-K classroom, a process that includes a comprehensive application, CPR and First Aid certifications for at least one staff member during all operating hours, and multiple approved inspection reports.

In addition to a classroom meeting all state requirements, the Pre-K will also have its own playground, which was part of the Highlands School Project and connects directly to the Pre-K classroom.

Although next fall Highlands School will only open one Pre-K classroom, future plans include the opening of a second Pre-K classroom. The school will need to fill the first Pre-K classroom with up to 18 students before justifying licensing a second classroom.

"We are very excited to have Pre-K students here and integrated into our school community," said Holbrooks. "This is a special opportunity that can be life-changing for young children, providing early intervention to help them build a strong foundation for elementary school. Our teachers will implement research-based strategies to support these students, equipping them with skills that will help them succeed in the future."

Holbrooks said she is looking forward to welcoming the littlest learners to Highlands School.

"They will learn procedures, gain confidence, and be exposed to curriculum that will support their transition to kindergarten," she said.

Faced with childcare shortages for many years, Highlands' families have long awaited the addition of Pre-K classrooms to help provide better access to early childhood education for local children.

"I can't express how proud I am of everyone who advocated for the Highlands School Project. Highlands is one of the best schools in western North Carolina, with excellent educators dedicated to our students. I sincerely thank the county commissioners, our board of education, and the incredible community that consistently supports us," she said.

The addition of the preschool classrooms was part of the renovation project at Highlands School completed last year.



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Any time is a good time to invest in Highlands

Spring is here according to the calendar, but we all know we could still have some cold weather! I went to Franklin last week and the trees are out in full with tender green leaves. It was 76 degrees and felt like summer!

This time of year, is when you can see the difference that elevation makes in our climate.

It makes the mid-summer days enjoyable in the sweltering heat around us, "air conditioned by nature" as the saying goes. As the summers continue to get warmer, even here, it is important to realize the unique place in which we live.

The forests in this area, along with the high elevation, make for cool temperatures that enhance outdoor living. Golf, hiking, tennis, pickleball, paddling, fishing, swimming are all relished here. You can breathe the clean air and enjoy the cool water. The rare attributes of this area, along with the limited amount of available land, make in-



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vesting here a solid decision.

As the limited amount of resources are utilized, we need to carefully plan and use what we have without making the density beyond what the area can support. The investment will always follow.

The first homes built here had large lots and many have stayed the test of time, but some have been split up into mini-subdivisions and been great investments for the owners who move on and leave denser neighborhoods. Either way, the investment was a good one.

The new commercial property that will change the

look of our town is viewed by some as progress, it will generate higher tax revenue and bring more people into Highlands, which will make more people who want to have property here a better investment. I just hope the lifestyle and environment keep the quality of what we love and live here for! Happy Spring!

Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team hosts spring invitational swim meet

By Coach Steve Hott

On Saturday, April 25, 27 Highlands Hurricane Swim Team had their last meet of the winter season by hosting their spring invitational. The Hurricanes finished 2nd to the Jackson County Dolphins while beating the North Georgia Rapids, and the Foothills Aquatics Club.

Out of 101 swims the Hurricanes had 70 personal records and three swimmers qualified for the 2026 Jr. Olympics in Des Moines, IA this coming July/Aug. All 27 Hurricanes scored in the meet.

High scorers for the Hurricanes were Jr. Olympian brother and sister dynamic duo Bella and Ian Batista, who both qualified for the 2026 Jr. Olympic Games in the meet. Bella won 4 events, scored 28 pts., Ian won 2 events and scored 21 pts. Not far behind were Max Justin and Zana Maseko, both with 1 win and 20 pts. Melanie Zabrian, Ivan Shchelgachov and Stella Kerr all brought home 19 pts. Zabrian won 2 events, Shchelgachov 1. Nehemiah Edwards had 18 pts, Jr. Olympian Luca Maseko won an event,

16 pts and qualified for the 2026 Jr. Olympic Games. Anna Nicole Shchelgachova and Jr. Olympian Justin Powell won an event and garnered 15 and 13 pts respectively. Powell was not feeling well, but still persevered and performed well. Hananiah Edwards, Helix Sharpe-Sutton and Victoria Nadzorau all had 12 pts. Edwards won an event.

Benjamin Shchelgachov, Lucas Zabrian, Henry Thompson (in his 1st swim meet ever), Jr. Olympian Aleks Petric-Sakonjic all had 11 pts. Agatha Justin and Estelle Edwards both had 10 pts. Jayce Powell, Tallulah Thompson (in her 1st meet for the Hurricanes and Val Nadzorau won 7, 6 and 5 pts respectively. Katherine Wise, and Azariah Edwards garnered 4; while Senna Sherrill and Addyson Cannon won 3 pts.

The next Highlands Hurricanes meet will be in June when the Mountain Swim League starts its summer season.

For more information about the Highlands Hurricane Swim Team, call 828.421.4121.

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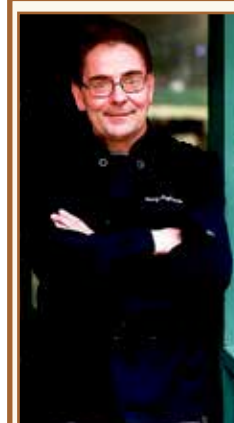
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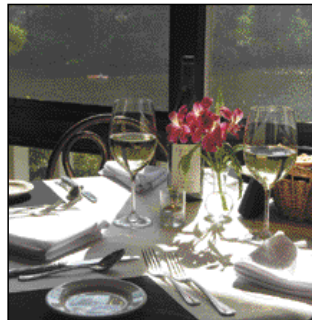
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• OBITUARIES •

Mervin Corbet 'Corb' Hankey

Mervin Corbet "Corb" Hankey, age 83, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2026, in Dorchester, England. He was born on June 17, 1942, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Mervin Hamilton Hankey and Genevieve Evans Hankey.



Corb's journey eventually took him to Atlanta, Georgia, where he attended Emory University and began building a life defined by generosity, faith, hard work, and deep devotion to family. He proudly served his country in the United States Coast Guard and then became a successful real estate developer, leaving his mark on office buildings across Atlanta, North Carolina, and South Florida. But his greatest legacy was not found in structures, but in people. Through his generosity—often given anonymously—he opened doors for many to pursue education or address health challenges, never seeking recognition for the lives he changed.

On December 2, 1979, he married the love of his life, Elizabeth "Betti" Kennedy, and became a proud father to Laurel Elizabeth Epps and Rachel Charlotte Epps. Together, they built a family grounded in love, faith, and unwavering support.

Corb's faith was the cornerstone of his life. He loved the Lord deeply and read his Bible every day. He was devoted to Betti and to his family, and he found great joy in time spent together. He also loved golf, a pastime that brought him relaxation, friendship, and a captive audience for his storytelling.

He is survived by his wife, Betti; his sister, Carole Haberkern; his daughters, Laurel Jones and Rachel Epps Spears; his sons-in-law, Robert Jones and Duncan Spears; his grandchildren, Skye Barger, Charlotte Spears, Elizabeth "Ellie" Spears, William Jones and Ena Jones; his niece, Heather Haberkern; his nephew, Christian Haberkern, and his wife, Jessica Haberkern; and his grand-nephew and grand-nieces.

A celebration of life will take place in Highlands, North Carolina, in June. In honor of Corb's generosity, donations may be made to the charity of your choice. Corb's legacy endures in the countless lives he touched, the family he cherished, and the example he set for all who knew him.

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• LETTERS •

Regarding the 'legality' of war

Dear Editor,
I often wonder whether our leaders learn from the lessons of past wars.

While the guidelines established by Caspar Weinberger during the Reagan administration were effectively utilized by President George H.W. Bush to remove Iraq from Kuwait, they have been largely ignored in subsequent conflicts.

To the 30% of Americans who support the current conflict in Iran, I ask whether the following "Weinberger" questions were answered before we were pressured into military action:

1. Is it a vital national security interest?
2. Are there clear, attainable objectives?
3. Have the risks versus the costs been fully outlined?
4. Have all diplomatic efforts been exhausted?
5. Is there a plausible exit strategy?
6. Have the consequences of our actions been considered?
7. Do Americans support the war?
8. Do we have broad international support?

I would argue that these questions were not addressed, and Americans and the rest of the world are now suffering the consequences.

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Interact Club members and their advisors from left: (Back Row) Nicole Lui, Highlands School Counselor; Anabelle Hays, Trinity Fernandez Faust, Francisco Gooch, Blaine Dendy, Chase Kenter; Isaiah Vilardo (April Student of the Month); Tracy Franklin, Rotarian and Interact Advisor. (Front Row) Anne-Elizabeth Woods, Lillian Rutter, Claire Worley, Miley Zagal Damian, Cayden Pierson, Aubree Brooks, Keeley Bosedell, and Aiden Dendy.

Interact Club members demonstrate leadership while conducting Rotary Club Of Highlands meeting

At a recent rotary meeting, Tracy Franklin, Interact Club Advisor, described the Club's work and then turned the gavel to Claire Worley, Interact President, to conduct the April 21 meeting.

Rotary Interact clubs are service-oriented organizations for youth aged 12–18, designed to foster leadership, personal integrity, and international understanding through local and global projects.

Key goals include developing leadership skills, promoting community service, and advancing global goodwill.

Clubs are required to complete at least two projects annually — one for the community and one for international understanding.

In Highlands, our Interact members conducted 14 service projects, including volunteering

for Highlands School's Scholastic Book Fair and annual Fall Festival, the Community Thanksgiving, Shop with a Cop, the Easter Egg Hunt, Highlands' Annual Clean Up Day, and Girls on the Run.

They also distributed Halloween candy to Highlands merchants and prepared Care Packages for '25 Highlands Grads. They coordinated arts and crafts activities at the Bascom's Community Day and the Macon County Sheriff's Christmas Party. Their fundraising experience included raising \$1,704 at Rotary's Bingo game for Interact. Care International benefited from Interact's \$1,000 contribution.

Trinity Fernandez Faust, a participant in the 2026 RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy), described her four-day experience with "strangers who turned into friends" as an

opportunity to learn new things, including how to lead with confidence and kindness. "I definitely hope to go back next year," she said.

In closing, President Worley thanked Rotary's Interact Advisors Tracy Franklin and Marci Sherwood, and Nicole Lui, Highlands School Counsellor, for their encouragement and mentorship

• Rotary Interact clubs are service-oriented organizations for youth aged 12–18, designed to foster leadership, personal integrity, and international understanding through local and global projects. Key goals include developing leadership skills, promoting community service, and advancing global goodwill. Clubs are required to complete at least two projects annually—one for the community and one for international understanding.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

From providing lunch to picking up trash, community turns out for Plateau Pick-up Day!

It was a great day in Highlands as we continued the annual tradition of Plateau Pickup on Saturday, April 18, bringing volunteers together to help keep our town beautiful. With nearly 100 volunteers collecting more than 120 bags of debris, it was an impressive effort and a strong reflection of community pride.

“We are so grateful for the volunteers who show up year after year to care for this special place,” said Johanna Fein, Executive Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. “Plateau Pickup is a wonderful reminder of what we can accomplish together.”



Yes, picking up trash on a Saturday can be fun!



Above: duo dodges traffic for the cause; upper right: staff at The Secret Garden gathered early to pack lunch for about 100 volunteers; lower right, 120 bags of trash filled dumpsters to overflowing.



Prelude to the HC Film Festival

Sept 17-20, 2026

Introducing Joy Jorgensen, Artistic Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival

The Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival is thrilled to welcome Joy Jorgensen as its new Artistic Director—a filmmaker, producer, festival leader, and longtime friend of the Highlands community. Joy's connection to Highlands began in childhood, during formative years spent visiting the Plateau. Even then, she felt what so many of us feel here: that rare meeting of natural beauty, creative spirit, and community care. As Joy puts it, “Highlands has such a cool combination of nature, passion projects, and a supportive arts community.” That sense of place will guide her vision



for the 2026 festival. Joy's path to film has always been rooted in curiosity and storytelling. She began acting at a young age, later studied American history in college, and took her first job fact-checking for an archival National Geographic series. While she was tucked away in a dusty library, the producers were out scouting locations from helicopters—and Joy quickly realized she wanted to be closer to the making. That spark led her to film as a producer, creative leader, and champion of bold independent voices. At HCCFF, Joy is focused on making the festival feel alive, intimate, and deeply rooted in place. The 2026 program will build on the relationship between nature and the arts in Western North Carolina, with nature-themed films, fireside chats, filmmaker conversations, special screenings, community gatherings, and new experiences audiences simply cannot stream at home. The festival will continue to champion documentary, narrative, and short filmmakers—especially emerging artists—while inviting audiences to discover new work, meet the makers, and join the conversation. Joy is especially excited to launch a new pilot program spotlighting student filmmakers from across the Southeast. Just as important, Joy is inspired by what the festival makes possible for the community. Revenue from the Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival supports our beloved Performing Arts Center and its year-round programming, helping sustain the performances, education, and shared cultural experiences that bring people together long after the festival ends. Summer programming set for June 20, Aug. 15 and Aug. 16 feature screenings of three of last year's award-winning films: Trail Mix, The Gardener and Never Not Yours.

-- Megan Lewicki

Scan the QR code above for more info on the festival and events.

www.HighlandsCashiersFilmFestival.com

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Spring Home Improvement - 2026

How to Get Perfect Paint Lines Every Time: 5 Pro Tips for Clean Edges

(StatePoint) Spring is prime time for home painting projects – from refreshing walls to tackling trim, doors and cabinets. While a new coat of paint can transform a room, the difference between professional-looking results and a frustrating DIY experience can come down to one detail: clean, crisp edges.

Paint bleed, uneven lines and messy corners are some of the most common challenges homeowners face – but they're also avoidable. Here are five science-backed tips to make your spring painting projects look like a pro's.

1. Understand Why Paint Bleeds

If you've ever removed painter's tape and found uneven lines underneath, you're not alone. Paint bleed happens when liquid paint slips into tiny gaps between the tape and the surface – a common issue on textured walls, wood and

trim. Even if the tape looks firmly in place, small imperfections can allow paint to creep underneath.

The good news? Once you understand what causes paint to bleed, it's much easier to prevent it.

2. Block Paint Bleed Before It Starts

The secret to sharp paint edges isn't just technique – it's using the proper tool for the task. Premium performance painter's tapes, like FrogTape, do more than just stick to the surface. Its PaintBlock Technology is a super-absorbent polymer that reacts with the water in latex paint to form a micro-barrier along the tape's edge. This creates a gel-like seal that helps block paint from seeping underneath – preventing paint bleed before it even starts.

3. Match the Tape to Your Surface

Don't use the same tape for every project. One of the most effective ways to get sharp paint lines is to pick the perfect tape for the unique surface you're working on to ensure a strong seal. Here are two options:

- Multi-surface painter's tape: Perfect for wood trim, glass, metal and walls, a stronger hold means crisp lines
- Delicate surface painter's tape: Designed for use on freshly painted surfaces, wallpaper or decorative projects uses lower adhesion to prevent surface damage

4. Use Tape That Bends Without Breaking

For challenging contours or curves, like arched doorways or mantels, high-quality material matters. An ultra-premium painter's tape, like FrogTape Advanced Painter's Tape, offers elevated performance when it comes to super sharp paint lines. The tape's thin, yet strong wash paper backing is two times stronger than traditional crepe paper painter's tape, allowing the tape to lay flat and bend around curves, so it peels off in one clean piece rather than shredding and leaving residue behind.

5. Remove Tape at the Right Time and Angle

Even the best taping technique can fall short if removal isn't done correctly. Tip: remove tape slowly at a 45-degree angle while the paint is still slightly wet.

If the paint fully dries, it can form a bond between the tape and the surface. When the tape is pulled away, that bond may cause chipping or uneven edges – undoing the crisp lines you've worked to achieve.

By combining the right approach and tape, with proper application and careful removal, you can consistently achieve sharp-looking paint lines on every project.



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Spring Home Improvement

A Clean Car Is a Happy Car

By Jeff Miller

There's a quiet kind of chaos that lives in most cars – crumbs staging a coup in the cupholders, dust plotting along the dashboard, and that mysterious sticky spot no one wants to claim. Juggling work, errands, and the occasional “I’ll just eat this in the car,” your mobile space becomes less of a sanctuary and more of a rolling junk drawer. But keeping your car clean isn’t just about appearances – it’s about protection, performance, and even your precious sanity.

Regular cleaning, whether weekly or biweekly, plays a surprisingly big role in preserving a vehicle’s value. Dirt, road salt, and grime aren’t just unsightly – they’re chemically active. Over time, they can break down paint and accelerate corrosion. According to automotive maintenance studies, consistent washing and waxing can significantly extend the lifespan of a vehicle’s exterior and help maintain resale value by thousands of dollars. Translation: that quick clean today could mean a bigger check tomorrow.

Inside the car, things get even more interesting. Studies have found that the average steering wheel can harbor more bacteria than a public toilet seat (yes, really). Add in spilled coffee, food residue, and dust, and your car quickly becomes a mobile science experiment. Routine detailing doesn’t just restore that “new car” feel – it actively improves air quality and reduces allergens, which is especially helpful during allergy season in Western North Carolina.

But perhaps the most underrated benefit is psychological. Research shows that cluttered spaces can increase cortisol levels – the hormone associated with stress. In

other words, that messy backseat might actually be making your commute more exhausting than it needs to be. On the flip side, a clean, organized environment has been linked to improved mood, sharper focus, and even better decision-making. So yes, a clean car might not fix traffic – but it might make you care a whole lot less about it.

And let’s be honest: there’s a certain satisfaction in stepping into a spotless car. It’s the small luxury you didn’t know you needed – the kind that makes you less likely to scream at a tailgater.

Now, for those who’d rather spend their weekends doing literally anything else, there are pros that will come to you and treat you and your car like royalty, and you’ll actually be blown away by how affordable it actually is. Of course, there will always be the gold trimmed detailer, but if you make some calls, you’ll find there are Guys that provide that treatment at a fraction of the cost you would expect. They understand that a clean car isn’t just about shine – it’s about preservation, comfort, and sanity. Everyone deserves that! Make the call today, get a quick quote, reserve your one-time, weekly, or biweekly time slot and before you know it, your detailer will show up to your home or office, equipped and ready to go!

At the end of the day, a clean car isn’t just a happy car – it’s a happy you! You deserve it!

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Photo by Martha Boone

Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

Listen for the call of the Highlands Bagpipers as they perform from a different location one Saturday of each month through October.

This Month's Performance:

The First Bank Balcony
overlooking Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park
Saturday, May 2 | 4:30 - 5pm

Performances are made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.



...CHANGES continued from page 1

accent or base color.

This was a point raised by member KC Cunningham when first discussed a couple years ago.

She thought some aspects of a building should be allowed to “pop” like an entrance door.

Dimensional Requirements

Throughout the years, there has been talk about making government/institutional buildings adhere to the same “rules” as other commercial structures built in Highlands.

Until now, that hasn't been the case.

At the urging of Highlands Commissioner Jeff Weller, the Planning Board amended the UDO Section 8.3.1 – Dimensional Requirements – so government/institutional structures must adhere to the same height restrictions as other commercial buildings.

The Planning Board is recommending that all commercial/government/institutional buildings in the commercial districts B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 and G/I adhere to the maximum height of 35 feet.

“This will apply except for additional applicable requirements regarding the watershed overlay district, planned cluster developments and unless a site-specific plan is approved regarding conditional zoning districts,” reads the ordinance.

The Town Board will consider the Planning Board's recommendations at the May 21 Town Board meeting. If it accepts them, the UDO will be amended to reflect the recommendations.

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• HS SPORTS •

Highlanders Weekly: Record-Breakers and Shutout Streaks

It was a banner week for Highlands Athletics as school records fell, personal bests were shattered, and the Lady Highlanders dominated the pitch across both Middle and High School levels.

High School Track:

Hernandez leaps into history

The Highlands Track and Field team traveled to Cherokee for their final regu-

lar season meet, and the Highlanders certainly saved their best for last. While the team saw a wave of personal best times and jumps, the afternoon belonged to Elmer Hernandez.

Hernandez delivered a performance for the ages, setting a new school record in the triple jump. His historic leap capped off a successful regular season as the team now looks toward the post-season with

significant momentum.

HS Girls Soccer: A Perfect 3-0 Week

The Varsity Lady Highlanders were unstoppable this week, outscoring their opponents 14-0 over three matches.

The Road Trip

The week began at Macon Early College, where Highlands secured a clean sheet victory. Anabelle Hays found the net twice, supported by a goal from Aubree

Brooks.

The momentum carried into Hayesville the following day. The Highlanders wasted no time, stunning the crowd with a goal just 2 minutes and 20 seconds into the match. They were equally electric after the break, scoring just 25 seconds into the second half. The 5-0 rout featured goals from: Taylor Hays: 2 goals (her first of her career); Anabelle Hays: 1 goal (plus 2 assists); Aubree Brooks: 1 goal (plus 1 assist); Leti Campos: 1 goal

Senior Night Celebration

The week concluded at home on Thursday as the Yellow Jackets of Hayesville traveled to Highlands for a Senior Night rematch. The Lady Highlanders stayed perfect with a 6-0 victory.

Cayden Pierson and Leti Campos each netted two goals, while Anabelle Hays added another to her weekly tally. However, the loudest cheers of the night were reserved for senior Heidi Doerter, who capped off the scoring with her first goal of the season. Jordyn Borino and Nataly Aguilar provided the assists to seal the win.

HS Boys Golf: Staying in the Hunt

The Highlanders took to the greens at Old Edwards Club for the opening round of the SMC Championships. In what proved to be a grueling round for the entire field, Highlands battled for a respectable 4th place out of 9 teams.

Individually, two Highlanders are currently inside the top 15: Sam Conner: 8th Place; Bryan Jarquin: 13th Place

The team looks to climb the leaderboard as they head to Mountain Harbor for the second and final round on Monday, April 27.

MS Soccer: Victory at Summit

The future of Highlands soccer looks bright as the MS Girls traveled to Summit and returned with a hard-fought 2-0 win. The shutout victory was fueled by clinical finishing from Tina Gomez and Penelope McRae.



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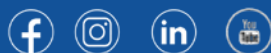
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...HS SPORTS continued from page 18



Highlands School High School track team. From left: Taylor Hays, Anabelle Hays, Claire Worley, Elmer Hernandez, Stephen Pierson, Blaine Dendy and Michael Munoz. Not Pictured Head Coach Sonya Carpenter.



Highlands School Middle School soccer team. Front from left: Nataly Aguilar, Nani Campos, Keeley Bosdell, Jordyn Borino, Miley Zagal-Damian. Back row Aubree Brooks, Anabelle Hays, Isabel Ramos, Taylor Hays, Heidi Doerter, Cayden Pierson, Lti Campos. Not Pictured Olivia Corbin.

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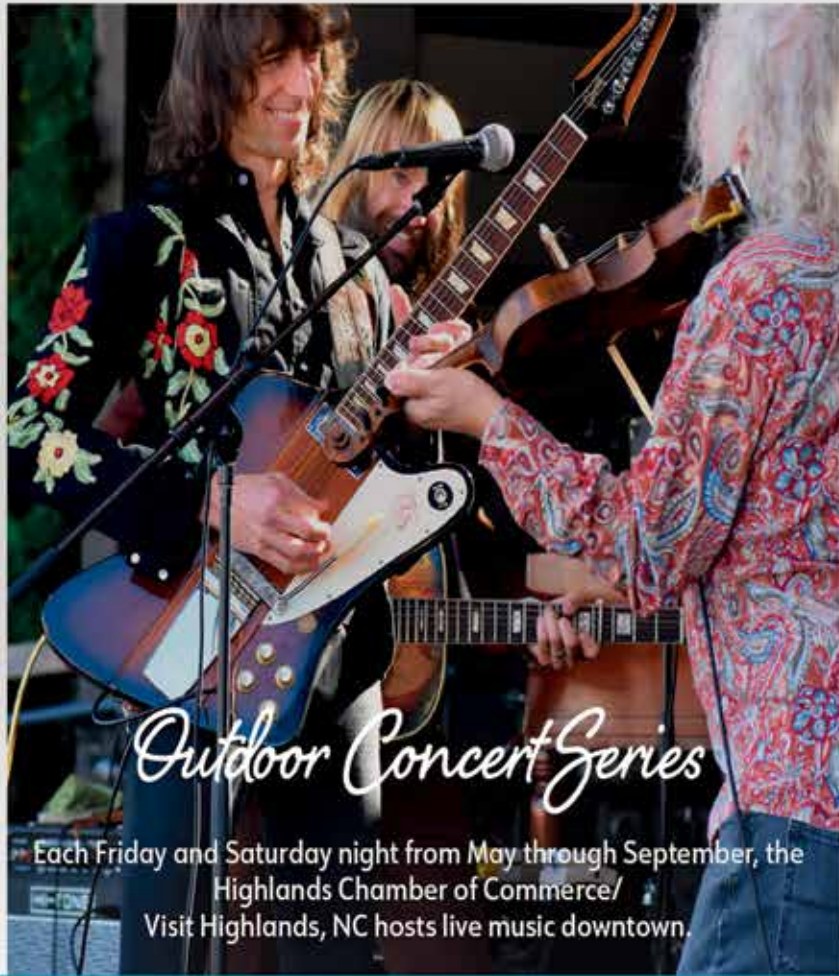
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Each Friday and Saturday night from May through September, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC hosts live music downtown.

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Bill Kirkman is pictured with Laura Herndon.

MountainTop Rotary hears about the Community Foundation of WNC and the Highlands Community Fund



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Laura Herndon, Vice President of Development for The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina facilitated \$69 million in grants and scholarships to support hundreds of nonprofits.

As a permanent regional resource serving 18 counties and the Qualla Boundary, the Foundation provides leadership by mobilizing resources and managing over 1,300 philanthropic funds.

Its strategic grantmaking focuses on critical community needs, specifically targeting education, human services and natural and cultural resources. The Foundation recently acted as a "philanthropic first responder" following Hurricane Helene, distributing nearly \$40 million to assist with regional relief and recovery.



Howland with Josh Bryson

Dr. Slocum Howland was honored to have a scholarship in his name awarded by Rotary annually for qualifying students who wish to attend the University of North Carolina. Rotary of Highlands has awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships to students in the Highlands community and surrounding area.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

With rising food costs, International Friendship Center's Food Pantry needs financial help



Bonnie Dayton spoke at a recent MountainTop Rotart meeting about how the food pantry is facing mounting challenges as rising food costs erode its purchasing power while demand from families and individuals experiencing economic hardship continues to grow.

During the month of February, the Food Pantry had 1,847 visits. The Food Pantry has been forced to stretch resources, prioritize urgent needs, and seek additional support from donors and partners.



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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



Covenantal Code: 'Do Whatever He Tells You'

Fr. Jason Barone
Our Lady of the Mountains
Catholic Church

Throughout salvation history, God entered into a series of covenants with man in which a pattern emerges, namely the establishment of rules in service to the new relationship.

Firstly, what is a covenant? Unlike a contract, which is an exchange of goods or services, a covenant is an exchange of persons. A man no longer belongs to himself, but as a husband he belongs to his wife and vice versa. In other words, a covenant is a lasting, other-oriented bond. Rules about adultery honor and protect the marriage.

The first covenant (with Adam) was accompanied by a commandment regarding the fruit of the tree. When God offers a new covenant to Moses, the Ten Commandments and other laws appear as well. Covenant and commandment belong together as the Ten Commandments belong in the Ark of the Covenant. Keep in mind some details from Exodus 19-24: God manifests Himself "on the third day;" Moses sprinkles all with blood to seal the covenant; and the people respond: "All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do." The Lord redeems His people; the Lord offers a covenant; the Lord sets the rules; the people pledge obedience.

Fast forward to Christ, who came to fulfil the law and establish a new and eternal covenant in His blood. John's Gospel depicts the Lord's covenantal mission fulfilling the Sinai events beginning at the wedding feast of Cana, wherein Jesus begins to manifest His glory "on the third day." The wine representing the previous covenant has run dry. The old covenant has run its course. Christ hesitates for His "hour had not yet come," but heeds Mary's request with miraculous wine of His new covenant formally established later in the wine-turned-Blood at the Last Supper and ultimately, during His hour (of suffering), having taken the wine from the sponges, consummated on the Cross, declares "consummatum est" or "it is finished." Cana and the Cross are the only two places John mentions the Mother of Jesus. Echoing Exodus, Mary, representing the People of God receiving the covenant, tells the servants: "Do whatever He tells you."

Throughout His public ministry, Christ gives countless and demanding moral precepts directing our every thought, word, and deed and roots our obedience in our love: "If you love me," says the Lord, "do as I command you."

Obedience is not popular. Yet how important a virtue it is! Christ's obedience to death merited our redemption. Christians were ransomed by His Precious Blood and thus they are no longer their own.

The Tempter, with all of his serpentine subtlety, employs brilliant euphemisms seeking to lull us into spiritual complacency such that we no longer strive to act as we believe, but begin to believe as we act. The temptation today is to separate covenant and obedience and to find a church or change denominations based not on truth, but on what will require members to change the least or to sacrifice only that which will cost nothing.

Deep down, though, we all know love means sacrifice. Christ loved us to the end. He drank His chalice of suffering to the dregs. His death offers us life. All salvation history thus commands: "do whatever He tells you."

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

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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

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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

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Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

Kippur.

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

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from April 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Accidents

April 20

• Vehicle 1 was traveling north on NC-106; Vehicle 2 was traveling south toward NC-106. Vehicle 1 turned left into the pathway of Vehicle 2, resulting in a collision. Both vehicles came to rest in the roadway.

April 23

• Vehicle 1 was traveling east on Hummingbird Lane. Vehicle 2 was parked facing east in a space. Vehicle 1 struck the rear right corner of Vehicle 2 and then left the scene.

April 24

• Vehicle 1 pulled off road to right on US 64. Vehicle 2 was heading east on US 64. Vehicle 1 attempted to pull out to travel east on US 64 and struck Vehicle 2 as it passed. Vehicle 1 and 2 pulled to a parking lot and contacted law enforcement.

April 24

• Vehicle 1 was backing in the parking lot of Mountain Fresh Grocery and backed into the corner of the building, resulting in damage to the building and left the scene of the collision prior to law enforcement's arrival.

April 16

• At 1:25 p.m., officers responded to a call of damage to personal property (a tire valued at \$100) at 270 Main Street.

• At 5:43 p.m., officers responded to a report of an assault on a female at 140 Main Street where a man slapped a woman in the cheek with his hand.

• During the week the dept. issued seven citations and two warning tickets.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 20.

April 20

At 6:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road) but it was cancelled en route.

April 21

At 9:36 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

At 10:53 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

At 1:41 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly FD on a brush fire.

April 23

At 11:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Cotswood Way.

At 3:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

April 24

At 2:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Shelby Drive.

At 7:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sassafras Court.

April 25

At 10:26 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Flat Mountain Road.

At 11:39 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sassafras Court.

At 3:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

April 26

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

April 27

At 9:13 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on lake Sequoyah Drive.

April 28

At 6:14 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.



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HPD and Canine Tilly help locate missing woman

By Lt Tim Broughton
HPD

On Tuesday, April 28, the Highlands Police Department assisted the Macon County Sheriff's Office in the search for a missing woman who had left a residence near Mack Wilson Road overnight and could not be

reached by phone.

Master Officer Kelly Jo Foster and her Search and Rescue K9, Tilly, were called in to help search the area. Tragically, when K9 Tilly located the woman, she was found to be deceased. The Macon County Sheriff's Office is continuing to investigate, and the official cause

of death has not yet been determined.

This is a heartbreaking outcome, and thoughts are with all those affected during this difficult time. HPD would like to express our sympathies to the family and friends of the deceased.

NC's burning ban is 'partially' lifted

According to the Macon County Fire Marshal, due to recent rainfall, the burn ban implemented on March 28, pursuant to NC Fire Code Section 307.1.1 prohibiting open burning within

100 feet of a dwelling, including the burning of leaves, branches, or other plant material, is hereby lifted effective immediately.

Residents are still advised to use caution when burning.

The North Carolina Forest Service still has a ban on all open burning **beyond** 100 feet from a dwelling. A press release will be issued by that agency when their burn ban is lifted.

• REC PARK NEWS •

The Recreation Gym will be closed from Wednesday, May 6 starting at 2:30pm through Wednesday, May 13

for Mother's Day Bridge Tournament and Middle and High School Athletic Banquets. It will reopen on Thurs., May 14 for

the day and will be closed again Friday, May 15-19 for the gym floor to be refinished.



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

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Nantahala Health Foundation to invest in youth, young adults

Continuing their focus on removing barriers for at-risk youth and young adults struggling to reach their full potential, Nantahala Health Foundation will begin accepting grant pre-proposals on April 7 for funding to be awarded by the end of October.

After hearing from youth development experts and researching solutions, Nantahala Health Foundation's Board of Directors committed in 2024 to focusing their investments on programs that address support for youth and young adults, specifically those aged 5 - 24.

Their board recognized the challenges many young people still face, said Executive Director Lori Bailly. Growing up in environments with limited opportunities and high poverty rates, their families and caregivers struggle to meet basic needs, hindering their ability to reach their full potential.

“When quality healthcare, particularly mental health services, is inaccessible to many due to costs, transportation barriers, and a shortage of providers, individuals fail to thrive, and their health suffers,” Bailey said. “When schools lack the resources to offer the comprehensive education required to compete in today's world, futures can look bleak. Economic instability forces many young people to delay or even abandon their dreams in order to help support their families. A lack of community engagement and mentorship leaves these vulnerable youth to navigate hardships alone.”

Children growing up in struggling households face challenges that affect their future health and well-being. Without adequate support, they may encounter educational, employment, and societal barriers that hinder their ability to reach their full potential and contribute to their communities, said Plemens. Without intervention, these young people risk higher rates of dropping out of school, substance abuse, and mental health issues, diminishing their potential

contributions to the regional economy, he said.

“Investing in youth support programs is far more cost-effective than dealing with long-term consequences,” said Plemens. “Neglecting these children and young adults isn't just a moral failure—it's an economic and social challenge with profound and lasting repercussions.”

Thankfully, change is achievable, he said. Organizations with aligning interests are invited to apply for up to \$50,000 to fund successful existing or innovative solutions to issues facing at-risk youth. Organizations with projects that are particularly innovative or embrace a regional approach are encouraged to consider higher requests, up to \$100,000, Plemens said.

“When youth receive the appropriate support, their outcomes are transformative. Access to nutritious food, healthcare, and mental health services results in healthier, more resilient young people,” he said.

The Foundation is looking to partner with faith-based, nonprofit and governmental agencies with a proven track record of providing these types of services, as well as those working to bolster educational opportunities -- including early childhood programs, after-school support, and initiatives for college or career readiness -- and economic stability, including job training, financial literacy education, and employment opportunities. Community engagement programs, mentorship, and leadership initiatives to help young people feel connected, valued, and empowered to give back will also be considered, said Bailey.

NHF has planned three information sessions across its service area for staff to share details with agency grant writers about NHF's Youth and Young Adult priority, as well as specifics about the grant cycle and timeline. Those planning to attend are asked to make reservations on their website at NantahalaHealthFoundation.org/grantmaking



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE:

• Highlands Pharmacy is closed on Saturdays until May. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 9a to 5:30p.

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. May 1-2, 8-9, 15-16; Thurs., Fri, Sat.: May 21-23, May 28-30. Spruce Street. www.mountainfindings.org

• Fibber Magee's Store on Laurel Street Hours. Wed. & Fri. - 10a to 4p. Sat. - 10a to 2p.

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 Wellspring-Classes@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 Favola 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 ncpost370@gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

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.

Fri., May 1

• At YOGA Highlands, a FREE class 10 a.m. with Diane Levine. 828-526-8880

• Pop-Up Pipers on the First Bank Balcony overlooking KH Founders Park. 4:30-5p. At Highlands Sotheby's, Meet the Artist: Louise Pond, 4:30-6 pm, Free.

Sat., May 2

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing at Hambridge Wet Meadow with Jack Johnston and Melanie Vickers, Hambridge Center, Rabun Gap, GA. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirdalliance.org/events.

• HC Chamber Music Festival present a FREE concert featuring the Terra Quartet at the Episcopal Church at 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

May 6-13

• The Highlands Rec Park gym will be CLOSED for Mother's Day Bridge Tournament and HS Athletic Banquets.

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

Fri., May 8

• Headwaters Bird Alliance outing - Wetlands Birding with Jason Love. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirdalliance.org/events.

Sun., May 10

• Headwaters Bird Alliance outing at Jones Gap with Brent Martin, Highlands, NC. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirdalliance.org/events.

May 14-24

• Highlands Cashiers Players present Blithe Spirit.

May 15-19

• The Highlands Rec Park gm will be CLOSED to refinish the gym floor.

Fri., May 15

• Friday Night Live in Town Square 6-8:30p featuring The Foxfire Boys.

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing at Alarka Laurel with Brent Martin, Franklin, NC. For more information or to reserve a spot for

any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirdalliance.org/events.

May 16-July 25

• At The Bascom, "Connecting to Place: Blue Ridge Craft Trails Invitational 2026" in the Thompson Gallery. Curated by M. Anna Fariello, a former Smithsonian Renwick Fellow and Fulbright Scholar, the exhibition brings together 20 craft artists from communities across WNC, including Franklin, Waynesville, Dillsboro, Bryson City, Cullowhee, Canton, Cherokee, Maggie Valley, and Brasstown. It's presented in partnership with the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, which operates the Blue Ridge Craft Trails program. Admission is free.

Sat. & Sun., May 16 & 17

• A weekend of live music, food & fun in the Secret Garden Sandwich Shop courtyard. (208 N. 5th Street in Village Square) On Saturday, Marc Hudson is performing progressive blue grass 12-3p. Food and drinks available for purchase. On Sunday, a Wine Tasting to the tunes of Highlands' own Katie & Ezra from 2-4p. \$40 per person. Food available for purchase.

Sat., May 16

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

• Saturdays on Pine in KH Founders Park 6-8:30p featuring Lazlruvr.

Sun., May 17

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

Fri., May 22

• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at 11a in the Meeting Room Subject: "Highlights for the Proposed Town Budget."

• Friday Night Live in Town Square from 6-8:30p, Silly Ridge.

Sat., May 23

• Highlands Historical Society Season Opening Celebration on Saturday from 11 a.m. to p.m. at the Historical Village in Highlands. Music, free food and a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence to celebrate the United States Semi-quintennial, and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

• Saturday on Pine at KH Founders Park 6-8:30p, The Parks Brothers.

• Headwaters Bird Alliance outing at Tesentee Bottomland Preserve with Melanie and Keith Vickers, Otto, NC. To reserve a spot, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org

Fri., May 29

• Friday Night Live in Town Square from 6-8:30p, Andrew Wakefield & Friends.

Sat., May 30

• Saturday on Pine at KH Founders Park 6-8:30p, Snap.

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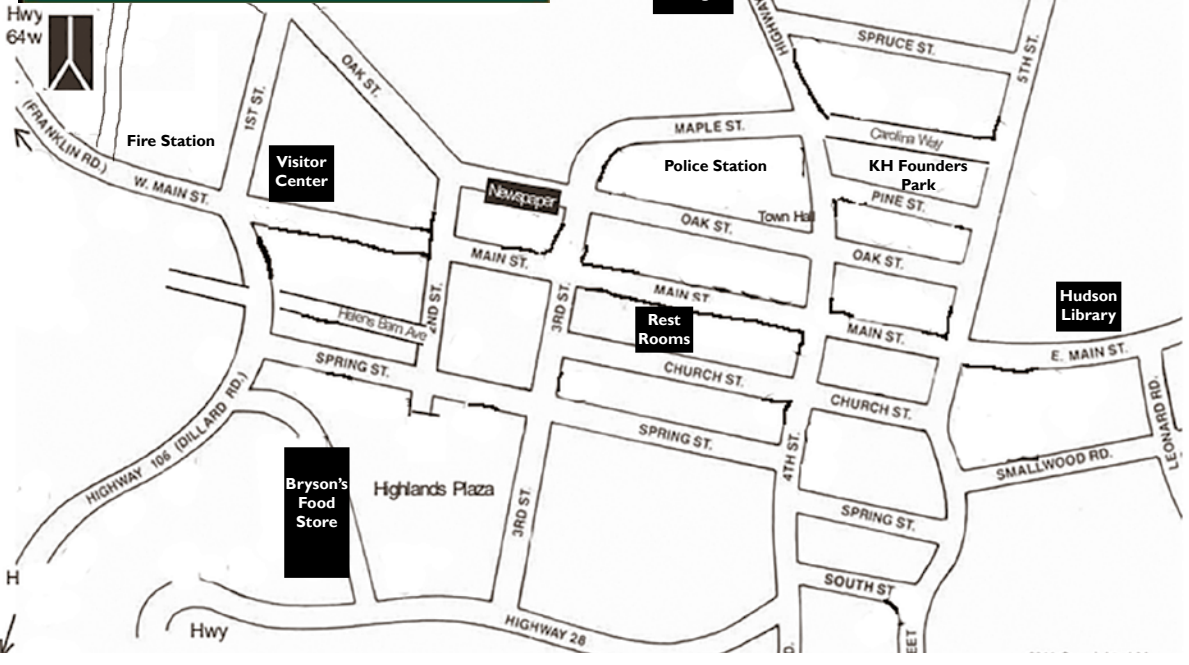
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