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Federal judge overturns the plan for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest

Says it violates the Endangered Species Act

By Katie Myers
Blue Ridge Public Radio News

This coverage is made possible through a partnership between BPR and Grist, a nonprofit environmental media organization.

A federal judge has rejected the Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest Plan, saying the plan violates the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Forest Service allowed for a level of logging

that conservationists said could make the forest and its species vulnerable to climate change and extinction.

The court ruled that the agency's plan, which included

• See **OVERTURNS** page 4

Statewide burn ban is still in effect

By Kim Lewicki

Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart says despite the recent rain, the statewide burn ban is still in effect for all 100 North Carolina counties.

The NC Forest service issued the ban on March 28, due to hazardous fire conditions and severe drought. It has cancelled all burning permits, and prohibited all open burning until further notice.

Burn bans are implemented to combat increased fire risk and once enacted, remain in place until conditions improve and the N.C. Forest Service officially lifts

• See **BURN** page 19

Highlands Athletics: Short Week, Big Highlights



Blaine Dendy conquers the hurdle at Hayesville where the Highlands School track team put on a clinic recording some of their best marks of the season. See more on page 14.

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Mission Hospital gets approval to add 95 more beds in Asheville

Despite multiple safety sanctions beats out AdventHealth and UNC Health

By Peter H. Lewis
Asheville Watchdog

Mission Hospital has received conditional state approval to add 95 more acute-care beds to its main facility in Buncombe County despite being under investigation by state and federal healthcare agencies for repeated safety violations linked to multiple patient deaths in recent years.

In making the Certificate of Need award on March 27, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Service Regulation rejected competing proposals by AdventHealth Asheville and UNC Health West Medical Center each to add 129 beds to facilities they plan to build in Buncombe County.

Novant Health Asheville Medical Center and Novant Health, meanwhile, received approval to develop a new, 34-bed hospital in Arden.

The Division of Health Service Regulation that approved Mission's application last week is the same agency that notified Mission late last year and early this year that it was not in compliance with federal and state safety requirements.

"I was shocked, and then puzzled, why the state would award [Mission] 95 more beds when they can't seem to safely manage the beds that they have," state Sen. Julie Mayfield, D-Buncombe, told Asheville Watchdog. "It simply makes no sense."

• See **MISSION** page 5



The Birches

New Luxury Townhomes at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

More on the upcoming fire tax increase



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

At the town retreat and even before, town staff and fire department personnel discussed the need for increasing the fire tax this coming year. Funding for the Highlands fire district is a joint effort between the county and the town since most of the district is in unincorporated areas here on the plateau.

The fire chief and town staff approached Commissioner John Shearl, the county commissioner representing the Highlands District, about increasing the fire tax. Commissioner Shearl said he was open to the increase but wanted to hold a public meeting about it. The public information meeting, which was held last week, was a very good and productive event for several reasons.

First, it brought county and town officials together to answer residents' questions and communicate the need for the increase. Second, residents had the opportunity to ask questions about the tax increase, staffing, and other fire

department services provided to all residents. Third, town and county officials had the opportunity to discuss the future of fire protection in Macon County.

Commissioner Shearl emphasized that the declining numbers in volunteer fire departments mean that the entire county will eventually have full-time firefighters at each station to provide all county residents with a 24-7 quick response time. He emphasized how to fund

these growing needs will be a big issue in the next few years. Nevertheless, volunteer firefighters will continue to play a significant role too.

The next step in the process will be for the Town Board to approve the fire tax increase at the budget workshop session on April 9th. The workshop begins at 3 pm at the Highlands Community Building. As always, it is open to the public but will not be accessible remotely. The fire tax increase will then have to be approved by the county board of commissioners.

This tax increase will allow the Highlands fire department to maintain full-time coverage. In fact, it will allow the department to have 3 firefighters instead of the 2 currently on each shift. The fire chief, Ryan Gearhart, emphasized that it takes two firefighters plus volunteers to respond to a structure fire. About 16% of the time, when the two firefighters are responding to a call, another call comes in. A third firefighter would help them manage these simultaneous call events.

The department also needs to replace several aging fire trucks, some of which are already 20 years old, or nearing that age. These trucks are expensive but necessary to maintain a high fire rating for insurance purposes. The higher the rating, the lower the fire insurance costs for residents. In a roundabout way, paying more in fire tax is an investment that yields lower insurance rates.

Several residents asked whether the district fire tax rate was the same for residents in and outside the town limits. The answer is that it is the same across the board throughout the fire district. The

• SNAPSHOTS •







Town's Easter Egg Hunt goes off without a hitch

Rain sent the Town's annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park indoors but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm. To the delight of children ages 2-9, hundreds of eggs filled with candy and prizes were scattered about the gym and activity room.

Photo by
Charlotte Muir

• WEATHER •

Thu, 9-Apr	Fri, 10-Apr	Sat, 11-Apr	Sun, 12-Apr
 61°F 33°F	 68°F 42°F	 70°F 46°F	 70°F 48°F
Mostly sunny	Sunny and comfortable	Sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and pleasant
RealFeel® High 68° Low: 37°	RealFeel® High 76° Low: 41°	RealFeel® High 79° Low: 43°	RealFeel® High 76° Low: 53°

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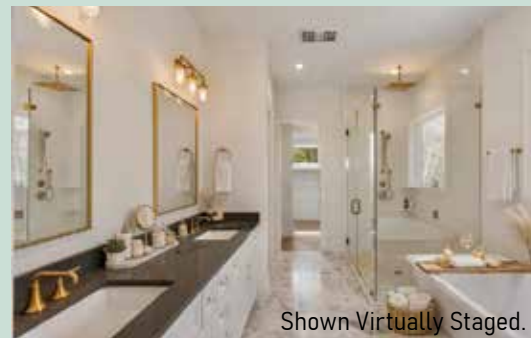
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...OVERTURNS continued from page 1



The Nantahala National Forest is the largest of the four national forests in North Carolina, lying in the mountains and valleys of western North Carolina.

a large increase in logging, failed to account for habitat destruction that could drive four endangered species of bats to extinction.

MountainTrue, along with Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, and the Center for Biological Diversity sued the Forest Service over its plan in 2024, alleging that not only did it fail to account for endangered species, but also that the plan deserved revision after Helene leveled 187,000 acres of trees on public land.

“That fell short of protecting the important qualities of the forest, like clean water and important wildlife habitat,” said Josh Kelly, the Resilient Forests Director for MountainTrue.

The plan has been a source of conflict ever since the Forest Service began the revision process in 2013. Conservationists have worried that the plan allows for too much logging. Stakeholders from across the region gave the Forest Service feedback on the plan. It released the final document in 2023.

The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize endangered flora and fauna. This consultation informs the environmental impact statement required for any federal project.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina ruled that while the agency stated in 2021 that its plan would not impact any species adversely, it reversed course in 2022, saying the plan would, in fact, impact habitat for four bat species. In 2023, the Forest

Service reversed course again, saying it believed conditions would improve over time. The plaintiffs disagreed.

“The Forest Plan had claimed that conditions for endangered bats were going to improve based on some very flawed assumptions that increased logging would improve bat habitat across the board,” Kelly said. “And when we looked deeply into the biological opinion, we found just lots of logical flaws.”

While logging can improve conditions for the Indiana bat, Kelly said, other species, like the gray bat, suffer from sediment in water that logging can cause. The court concurred.

Spencer Scheidt, an attorney with Southern Environmental Law Center who worked on the case, wants the Forest Service to create a new plan with these endangered species in mind.

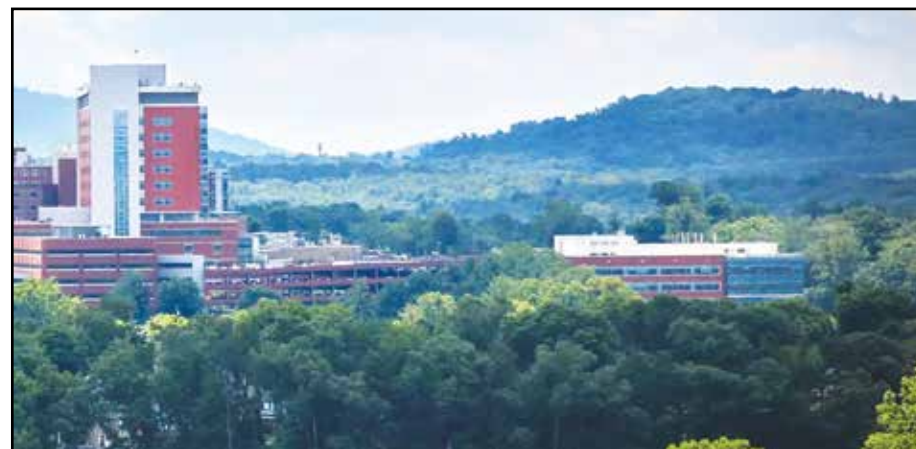
“This is kind of new territory,” Scheidt said in an interview with BPR. “I think that it’s a little bit unclear what happens now.”

The previous plan, which dates back to 1994, does comply with the Endangered Species Act, Scheidt said. He believes the Forest Service could fall back on that plan while moving forward from here.

The Forest Service could appeal the decision, or try to ignore it. In the latter case, Scheidt said, there will be more lawsuits to come.

In an email, the Forest Service told BPR they are still working to understand the implications of the decision, and are committed to complying with federal environmental law.

...MISSION continued from page 1



HCA's Mission Hospital campus in Asheville.

Hospital Plans to Expand Upward

Under North Carolina law, health-care providers are required to obtain a certificate of need from the Department of Health and Human Services before developing or offering a “new institutional health service.” The 2025 State Medical Facilities Plan identified a need for a maximum of 129 additional acute care hospital beds to serve the residents of Buncombe, Graham, Madison and Yancey counties.

Mission, which is owned by Nashville-based HCA Healthcare, had applied to develop all 129 beds. The “findings” letter from NCDHHS did not say why the state decided to award it fewer beds. In its original 129-bed application, HCA-Mission proposed adding four new floors to one of its patient towers on the current campus.

“The applicant states that the project involves constructing 142,950 square feet of new space and renovating 24,650 square feet of existing space,” the agency said.

Mission argued in its application that the additional proposed 129 acute care beds would “increase efficiency and will alleviate bed capacity constraints that have resulted in service delays and limited patient transfers from other providers.”

Documents included in Mission’s application indicated that HCA planned to add 50 inpatient registered nurses to accommodate the requested 129 added beds.

Barring an appeal, the state’s ruling means Mission Hospital will expand to 828 beds from the current 733. Its original application to state health regulators in November proposed a \$198.5 million expansion scheduled for completion in

2031.

Immediate Jeopardies cited

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has repeatedly sanctioned Mission Health for endangering patients since HCA Healthcare acquired it in 2019. The most recent Immediate Jeopardy citation, imposed in late January, was officially lifted February 9, but Mission is still out of compliance with some federal standards of care. The hospital has until July 29 to address those or it will again risk being denied reimbursement from Medicaid and Medicare.

Immediate jeopardy – the most serious warning CMS can issue for violations of health and safety regulations that endanger patients – indicates that a hospital is in noncompliance with one or more conditions for receiving payment from the federal Medicaid and Medicare programs.

Mission Hospital has been placed in Immediate Jeopardy at least four times since the Nashville-based HCA Healthcare bought the nonprofit Mission Health system in 2019.

According to the files in the Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section of DHHS, during the 18 months immediately preceding Mission’s submission of the application through March 27, the date of CON decision, incidents related to quality of care occurred in two of six HCA-owned Mission Health facilities, Mission Hospital and Transylvania Regional Hospital in Brevard, DHHS reported last week.

“Transylvania Regional Hospital was back in compliance on March 3, 2025,” DHHS reported. “Mission Hospital received a CMS facility notification on October 17, 2025. The facility

• See MISSION page 10



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



As Highlands prepares to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC has partnered with the Town of Highlands to add patriotic touches throughout the community. The Chamber donated America 250 pole banners for Main Street, along with America 250 flags and American flags to be displayed across town. Pictured here are Town Manager Josh Ward, Mayor Pay Taylor, and Chamber Executive Director Johanna Fein.



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Spring Market Report: Highlands, North Carolina

As Spring unfolds in Highlands, the local real estate market enters one of its most important seasons. This is the time of year when the mountain landscape comes to life, buyer interest begins to build, and exceptional properties have the opportunity to capture renewed attention.

Highlands continues to stand apart as a distinctive luxury market, drawing discerning buyers who value privacy, natural beauty, refined architecture, and the coveted mountain lifestyle.

In markets like this, presentation matters. Homes that are thoughtfully prepared, professionally marketed, and strategically priced are best positioned to make a lasting impression.

A Season of Opportunity

For homeowners considering a sale, Spring offers an ideal window to showcase a property at its finest. Lush surroundings, longer daylight hours, and vibrant outdoor spaces all contribute to a compelling first impression. From elevated curb appeal to curated interior presentation, small refinements can significantly enhance a home's market appeal.

For buyers, spring often brings greater selection but also heightened competition for exceptional homes.

Properties with premium features, desirable settings, and turn-key conditions tend to attract the most interest.



Jody Lovell
Highlands and Cashiers
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Being prepared and decisive can be especially important in a market where quality inventory remains highly sought after.

What We're Seeing

- Continued demand for well-positioned mountain homes.

- Strong interest in properties with views, privacy, and outdoor living space.

- Buyers placing a premium on move-in-ready condition and time-

less design.

- Sellers benefiting from a thoughtful, well-timed launch strategy.

Refined Spring Preparation Tips

- Refresh landscaping and outdoor entertaining areas.

- Highlight natural light with clean, uncluttered interiors.

- Showcase architectural details and luxury finishes.

- Review current market positioning before entering the season.

Let's Connect

Whether you are considering a future sale, exploring a purchase, or simply keeping an eye on the market, Spring is an excellent time to assess your real estate goals in Highlands. A tailored strategy can help you approach the season with clarity and confidence. One of our 50 brokers can assist you in navigating a successful real estate journey.

The Performing Art Center's Educational

Fri.-Sun., April 24-26 PAC Educational Theatre presents its All-Community Production of *Shrek: The Musical*, the all-community cast features talented performers of all ages who have come together to create a production full of creativity, laughter, and magical moments. From the swamp to the kingdom of Duloc, audiences will enjoy a colorful adventure that celebrates friendship, self-acceptance, and the joy of being uniquely yourself. Whether you're a longtime fan of the story or discovering it for the first time, this show promises fun for the entire family and a wonderful night at the theater. Don't miss your chance to see this exciting community production — tickets are on sale now!



Justus

2026 Youth of the Year at BGCP

On Thursday, March 12, the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau Abell Teen Club proudly named its 2026 Youth of the Year.

Four outstanding candidates completed the Youth of the Year selection process, each presenting their inspiring achievements in leadership, service, and academics to a panel of five local judges. In recognition of their dedication and growth, each participant received a \$500 scholarship from the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau to support their educational journeys after graduation.

One exceptional candidate, Justus, was named the 2026 Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau Youth of the Year representative. She received an additional \$1,000 scholarship, bringing her total award to \$1,500. Justus will go on to represent the Club at the state level, which will be held in Charlotte on April 17th.

When asked about her Youth of the Year experience, Justus said, "I am incredibly honored to represent the Abell Teen Club at the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau in Youth of the Year and truly grateful for this experience. This program has allowed me to recognize the importance of leadership, resilience, and contribution to my community. I hope to inspire others to do the same."

Eric Peterson, who sat as one of the judges, said, "The impressive qualities demonstrated by the four students we interviewed show the great work being done by the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau. Justus did a great job and will be a worthy representative for the club."

The Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau is proud to celebrate these remarkable teens and remains committed to developing the next generation of leaders by fostering character, confidence, and a strong sense of community.



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• LETTERS •

A tipping point: The Haves and the Have Nots

Dear Editor

On the first day of my 9th grade Civics class in 1961, Our teacher, Mr. Jules Bacot, drew a line on the blackboard: "The Haves are at this end and the Have Nots are at this end. The Haves tend to accumulate wealth until the Have Nots have nothing to lose. There is a revolt, and the wealth is redistributed and it starts all over again, the Haves are over here and the Have Nots are over there." At 14 years old this made an impression on me and I can remember it like it was yesterday.

Very few people see what is going on today as a part of a cycle in history. Most people think this all new and current. Most of us are so busy with our own lives that we don't have the time or energy to be concerned with politics controlled by some of the very wealthy. The 2025 Plan shows exactly what the goals of these folks are.

If the wealthy could see that it is in their best interests to give back a little more (health care, education, affordable housing and basic necessities), they could make all the money they wanted for as long as they wanted.

Education is particularly on their hit list (think Mao, Castro, and other autocrats who either killed or re-educated intellectuals). The USA education system has been under financed for as long as I can remember.

One of these days we will reach a tipping point, and it won't be pretty. You can't blow up a balloon forever before it bursts. This may be sooner rather than later.

David Stearns
Otto, NC



An Urgent Message from the Board of Mountain Theatre Company

Dear Highlands,

As Mountain Theatre Company prepares to launch its exciting 88th season in Highlands, we are filled with gratitude—and a renewed sense of purpose.

MTC, (previously the Highlands Playhouse Company) has been a vital part of the Plateau community for decades, proudly staging Broadway-quality productions and creating unforgettable experiences for patrons.

This summer season continues the trend with shows that will celebrate and connect. We open June 24–July 12 with the world premiere of *Dancin' in the Street*, followed by our original production *Showstoppers!* from August 12–30. Both productions highlight the unforgettable music of the '70s, '80s, and Broadway, sure to spark joy, nostalgia, and priceless memories!

While we look ahead with excitement, however, we also must be candid: this is a pivotal moment for Mountain Theatre Company. In the past two seasons we faced unexpected challenges. Hurricane Helene forced an early end to a promising 2024 season, and 2025 brought a significant economic slowdown that deeply impacted MTC's operations. In response, our Board and staff have taken a thoughtful and realistic look at how we move forward.

We are committed to building a more sustainable

• See LETTERS page 11

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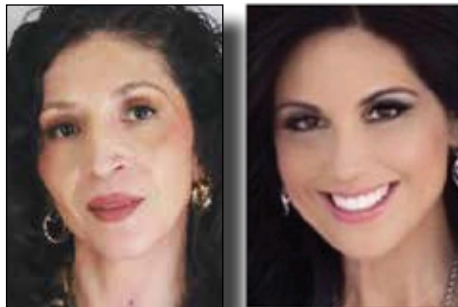
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...MISSION continued from page 5

was surveyed on September 25, 2025, November 7, 2025, January 9, 2026, and February 13, 2026. On page 155, the applicant states that the hospital has already implemented corrective action for items cited in a letter received from the Agency on October 10, 2025.”

“After reviewing and considering information provided by the applicant and by the Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section and considering the quality of care provided at all six facilities, the applicant provided sufficient evidence that quality care has been provided in the past.”

The rulings, obtained this week by Asheville Watchdog, concluded that Mission Hospital “was determined to be a more effective alternative” to AdventHealth and UNC Health for receiving the new beds because of its “scope of services.” Mission is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in western North Carolina, meaning it is equipped to handle the most complex and critical injuries 24 hours a day.

NCDHHS gave AdventHealth and UNC Health West until April 27 to appeal.

‘Currently Evaluating Appeal Options’

“Based on the recent health care access and quality concerns in our region, we do not believe the decision is in the best interest of our community and will have profound impacts,” AdventHealth spokesperson Victoria Dunkle told The Watchdog. “We are currently evaluating appeal options that honor the community’s needs and voice. Phase one of AdventHealth Weaverville is currently under construction. Additional phases of inpatient beds are vital to the vision of offering advanced trauma and tertiary care to our community closer to home.”

In its rejected application, AdventHealth Asheville argued: “By expanding AdventHealth Asheville from 93 to 222 beds, the project transforms a community hospital into a regional destination for advanced care, bringing balance to a one-hospital market and strengthening the region’s healthcare infrastructure. The result is not merely competition in number, but competition in quality, capability, and patient trust—a competitive remedy that Western North Carolina urgently needs.”

The proposal from UNC Health West Medical Center — a joint project of the state-owned UNC Health and its regional affiliate UNC Health Pardee, based in Hendersonville — was rejected, documents show, because independent analysis concluded that “the applicant does not adequately demonstrate that the financial feasibility of the proposal is based upon reasonable projections of revenues and operating expenses.”

“We are proud of our UNC Health West proposal and believe it’s the best approach to serve the future needs of Western North Carolina and its fast-growing community,” said Alan M. Wolf, director of media relations for UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine. “We are reviewing the CON decision and will determine the best next steps, including a possible appeal.”

HCA-Mission did not respond to a request for comment. In its partially approved application last fall, it argued: “Because Mission is the only tertiary care center in western North Carolina, patients who cannot be transferred to Mission must be referred to tertiary care centers outside the region. This not only increases costs but also delays critical treatment. By expanding capacity within Mission, patients can receive timely care closer to home, avoiding the additional expense and risk associated with out-of-region transfers.”

AdventHealth previously received approval to build a new 93-bed hospital in Weaverville. The proposal rejected by NCDHHS last week would have allowed AdventHealth to expand it to 222 beds.

Mayfield, who is also chair of Reclaim NC Healthcare, a nonprofit group formed in 2023 “to advocate for the restoration of quality healthcare in WNC,” said she planned to



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...LETTERS continued from page 9

business model—one that protects the artistic excellence you love while strengthening MTC's financial future. But to get there, we need your help now.

Ticket sales cover only a small portion of what it takes to produce professional theatre. The majority of our funding comes from donors, sponsors, and advertisers. As we prepare for our June opening, we must quickly close a short-term funding gap.

Long before opening night, we must hire artists, build sets, and accelerate the creative work. Right now, those essential production costs are outpacing available cash flow. Your financial support is urgently needed and will have an immediate positive impact.

We ask you—boldly and sincerely—to consider making a gift today. Whether it's \$100, \$1,000, \$10,000, or more, every dollar matters and directly supports the work you see on stage.

To ensure a vibrant future for MTC, we also are growing in new ways: Sponsorships and Partnerships – strengthening ties with local businesses and supporters; Leadership – expanding our all-volunteer Board of Directors with passionate community members; Volunteers – welcoming individuals to help create MTC's exceptional patron experience; and Special Promotions – “Community Club” tickets for local residents and intimate one-night concerts to benefit MTC.

Live theatre in a small mountain town is rare. Theatre of MTC's caliber is extraordinary! It is made possible because of you. MTC is a cultural cornerstone of our community. With your financial support and your engagement through Board service or volunteering, it will continue to thrive.

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Spring Home Improvement - 2026

3 Ways to Refresh Your Home Entryway

(StatePoint) Curb appeal is all about first impressions, and your home's entryway plays an important role in that. This spring, consider making a splash where it counts with these three entryway updates:

Add Potted Plants or Planters: Flank the entryway with colorful potted flowers, lush greenery, or

even small topiaries to create a fresh and inviting look. This will provide a wonderful transition between the outdoors and your home's interior.

Refresh Outdoor Lighting: Good lighting will not only boost visibility and safety for household members and guests, it can also enhance the beauty of your entryway. Replace outdoor light fixtures for a cozy evening ambiance. If it's not time to replace fixtures just yet, simply cleaning them can go a long way toward sprucing up the space and improving illumination.

Upgrade to a Modern Entry Door: Transform the entire look of your entryway by installing a sleek, modern entry door. Consider options with glass panels for natural light or bold designs that make a statement. The new 2026 Ensemble Entry Door Trends Collection exclusively from Renewal by Andersen was made to help you find an entry door that feels just right. The collection prioritizes aesthetics without compromising durability, enhanced security or comfort. From earthy neutrals to modern minimalism, nature-inspired details to quiet luxury, there are countless ways to refresh your space with an Ensemble entry door. In fact, the collection offers over 38 panel styles, over 20 colors and stains, a variety of glass and grille options, and multiple hardware finishes, giving you the flexibility to create a front entrance that suits your style and stands up to



real-life use. To explore the collection, visit: renewalbyandersen.com.

If you're looking for an impactful home project for the spring, start with your entryway, where simple updates can vastly improve the functionality and beauty of the space.



Debunking Common Myths About Metal Roofs

(StatePoint) Shopping for a new roof but unsure if metal is the right material for your home? Metal roofing is tougher, safer and longer-lasting than asphalt, with an expected lifespan of more than 50 years. Additionally, metal roof systems offer energy cost savings, withstand extreme weather, and boost resale value.

Despite these benefits, lingering myths sometimes prevent homeowners from opting for metal roofs. Below are answers to frequently asked questions about metal roofs to help you sort fact from fiction:

Can you walk on a metal roof? Tin roofs that bend, buckle or crumple are a thing of the past. Whether



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...METAL ROOFS continued from page 12

cleaning gutters, picking up storm debris or fetching a lost kite, you can do so on a high-quality metal roof. For example, ProVia shake, slate and barrel tile metal roofing is made with strong 26-gauge galvanized steel. Just be sure to ask your contractor or manufacturer where and how to walk on the roof and never do so when it is wet or extremely dusty.

Is metal roofing heavy? Metal panel roofing systems are heavy duty, not heavyweight, giving you the added strength of steel without added weight. The average per-square weight for an asphalt shingle roof is 240-270 pounds, and for slate is 800-1500 pounds. By contrast, a metal roof system is much lighter, coming in at a per-square-weight of only 108 pounds.

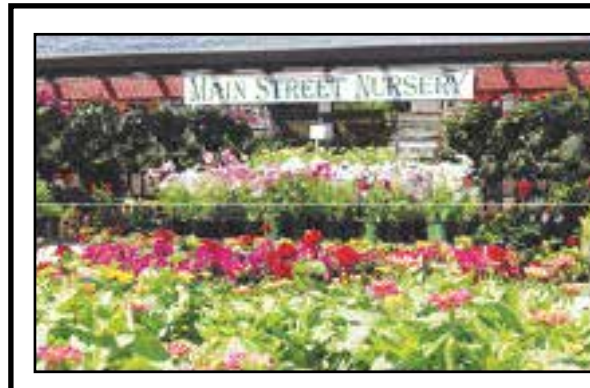
Do metal roofs attract lightning? Metal is actually one of the best materials to have if your home were struck by lightning, working to disperse energy safely through the home's structure rather than allowing it to penetrate or spontaneously ignite or shock. And metal is noncombustible, so if lightning does hit, a metal roof will not catch fire.

Are metal roofs noisy when it rains? In residential structures, roofing is part of a complete system that includes attic space, the roof deck, underlayment materials that prevent moisture, and interior insulation, all of

which absorb sound. When installed properly, a metal roofing system should be as quiet as any other roofing material.

Are metal roofs easily dented by hail? Metal roofs are well-known for being much more durable than other roofing materials, especially asphalt. In fact, in many areas where extreme weather can occur, metal roofs are the better choice for homes, so much so that many insurance companies offer price breaks for metal roof systems.

Do metal roofs attract heat? Metal roofs release
 • See METAL ROOFS page 15



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• HS SPORTS •

Highlands Athletics: Short Week, Big Highlights

It may have been a lighter schedule for the Highlanders this week, but the action remained intense across the green, the pitch, and the track. Despite having only a handful of scheduled events, Highlands athletes made their presence felt across Western North Carolina with several standout individual performances and personal milestones.



Brett Lamb
Highlands School
Athletic Director

down to the wire.

While the Lady Highlanders controlled the tempo for large stretches of the match they ultimately fell in a narrow 2-1 decision. Jordyn Borino provided the offensive spark for Highlands, netting the lone goal of the match in a gritty performance.

Track & Field: Dominance in Hayesville

The week's athletic slate concluded in Hayesville, where the High School track team put on a clinic, bringing some of their best marks of the season.

Anabelle Hays was the story of the day on the sprint side, capturing 1st place in both the 100m and 200m dashes. She also showed her versatility by snagging a 3rd place finish in the 110m hurdles.

The distance and field events were anchored by Claire Worley, who enjoyed a podium-heavy day: 1st Place: Long Jump, 3rd Place: 1600m, 4th Place: 800m

On the boys' side, the 4x100 relay team stole the spotlight by clocking a new personal best. The squad showed incredible chemistry in their handoffs, signaling they are peaking at exactly the right time in the season.

Golf:

Highlanders Hold Steady at Smoky Mountain

The High School boys golf team traveled to the challenging Smoky Mountain Country Club earlier this week. In a competitive field, the Highlanders managed to secure a fifth-place tie.

The effort was led by the duo of Sam Conner and Rowen Carnes, both of whom navigated the greens with precision to finish tied for 10th individually. Their consistent play kept Highlands in the hunt throughout the afternoon.

Soccer:

Lady Highlanders Fall in Heart-breaker

On the pitch, the High School girls soccer team faced off against Swain County in a defensive battle that went



At the meet in Hayesville, Claire Worley, enjoyed a podium-heavy day: 1st Place: Long Jump, 3rd Place: 1600m, 4th Place: 800m

...MISSION continued from page 10

introduce new legislation in the state Assembly “that conditions the award of new beds on remaining in compliance with CMS regulations. And I already have Republican colleagues who are supportive of that as well.”

U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards, R-NC11, testified last month to the House Appropriations Committee that he planned to introduce federal legislation that would allow CMS to place more penalties on hospitals that receive immediate jeopardy citations. His proposed “Healthcare Accountability Act (HCA)” would, if adopted, allow CMS to impose fines and take temporary control of management of noncompliant facilities.

• *Asheville Watchdog is a nonprofit news team producing stories that matter to Asheville and Buncombe County. Peter H. Lewis is executive editor and a former New York Times senior writer, editor and columnist. Email plewis@awatchdog.org. The Watchdog's local reporting is made possible by donations from the community. To show your support for this vital public service go to awatchdog.org/support-our-publication/.*

...METAL ROOFS continued from page 13

solar heat much more quickly than asphalt roofs, which absorb heat with their petroleum and granular composition. ProVia metal roofing reduces the heat load of your house, providing up to 30% energy savings.

Do metal roofs impact cell reception? Metal roofing allows radio signals to pass through with little disruption and is no different in this regard to other common building materials like brick or concrete.

Do metal roofs rust? Rust occurs when iron reacts with oxygen and water, causing oxidation that deteriorates the metal. That's why ProVia metal roofing panels are treated with 11 total layers of anti-corrosive coating that prevent moisture from reaching the metal, ensuring each panel is protected.

To learn more about the benefits of metal roofing, visit provia.com.

“Don't let misinformation deter you from selecting your next roof wisely. Metal roofing is durable, beautiful and safe,” says Chance Shalovsky, ProVia Metal Roofing product manager.

• UPCOMING EVENT •

The Bascom photography resident exhibition w/free 'Artist Talk'

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts will open a new exhibition by Photography Resident Dean Kessmann on Saturday, April 18, 2026, in the Joel Gallery, with a free public artist talk at 3:00 p.m. Kessmann is a Professor of Photography at The George Washington University's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design who spent his spring 2026 sabbatical in residence at The Bascom, his first formal artist residency in nearly two decades.

The exhibition, realism succumbing to abstraction or is it the other way around, draws from an ongoing project shaped by observation and attention to the everyday landscape. Working with a Hasselblad X1D II medium format digital camera during walks in and around Washington, D.C., Kessmann finds images in the overlooked details of familiar surroundings: sidewalks, various kinds of signage, concrete and brick surfaces, graffiti. The resulting photographs hover along the edge between representation

and abstraction. Some function as direct records of the world; others dissolve into ambiguity, resisting easy description. The prints are made on fine art archival papers, and a subset of the work is mounted directly onto oriented strand board, sealed and varnished, creating a layered physical object that echoes the constructed surfaces Kessmann photographs.

In his artist statement, Kessmann writes that his goal is to make photographs that occupy visual and conceptual “in-between spaces”: images capable of being both/and rather than either/or. Inspired in part by writers such as Abraham Verghese, who observed that “to see the miraculous in the ordinary is a more precious gift than prophecy,” Kessmann approaches his practice as an act of paying attention: placing a rectangle around a scene that gives him pause, in the hope that the resulting photograph will do the same for a viewer. Kessmann's work is held in the collections of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Walker Art



Center, The Phillips Collection, and the Museum of Contemporary Photography, among others, and has been reviewed in ARTFORUM, The Washington Post, Art Papers, and The Boston Globe.

“The Bascom has always believed in supporting living artists, not only by presenting their work, but also giving them the time and resources to pursue it. A residency like Dean's is one of the most direct ways we can do that, and we're glad this exhibition gives our community the chance to experience the results.”

said Billy Love, Executive Director of The Bascom.

The April 18 artist talk is free and open to the public. Kessmann will discuss his photographic practice, the making of this body of work, and his experience in residence at The Bascom. A summer reception will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.


For more information about the exhibition and upcoming programs, visit TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949


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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation announces strategic focus for 2026 grant cycle

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is now accepting pre-applications for its 2026 LIFT Grant Cycle, with a continued commitment to advancing health and well-being across the plateau and surrounding communities.

As one of the Foundation's most impactful initiatives, grantmaking serves as a primary way the organization invests

in meaningful, community-driven solutions. In 2026, the Foundation will focus its funding on three key strategic priorities: Access to Primary Care, Access to Behavioral Health, and the Well-being of Infants, Children, and Adolescents.

"These focus areas reflect both the most pressing needs we're seeing locally and the opportunities we have to create

lasting, measurable change," said Myrle Grate, Executive Director, "We are committed to supporting organizations that are addressing barriers to care and building healthier futures for individuals and families across our region."

- The Foundation is particularly interested in projects and programs that:
- Expand access to primary care ser-

vices and reduce barriers to treatment

- Improve access to behavioral health and substance use services
- Support the health, safety, and development of children and youth, including early childhood education, trauma-informed care, and prevention efforts

Grant awards typically range from \$10,000 to \$50,000, depending on the scope and impact of the proposed initiative.

The Foundation encourages both new applicants and previously funded partners to apply, with a particular interest in innovative approaches and collaborative efforts that align with shared goals for community health.

The pre-application period is open now through April 24, 2026. Selected organizations will be invited to submit a full application between June 1 and June 30, 2026.

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, government entities, and tribal organizations serving Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties, as well as the Qualla Boundary.

Applications are managed through the Foundation's Applicant and Grantee Portal, providing a streamlined and user-friendly process for both new and returning applicants.

Organizations interested in applying or learning more about the Foundation's priorities are encouraged to visit: <https://highlandscashiershealthfoundation.org/grantmaking/>

About Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of individuals. Through strategic partnerships and targeted investments, the Foundation supports programs and initiatives that create lasting, positive change in the region



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Josh Bryson, President, Rotary Club of Highlands; Charlotte Muir, PAC Development Director; Jeanne Piazza, PAC Executive Director.

This week at the Rotary Club of Highlands were Charlotte Muir, the newest member of the Highlands Performing Arts Center team as Development Director, and Highlands PAC Executive Director Jeanne Piazza. From its resident companies, The Mountain Theatre Company, The Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, and The Highlands Cashiers Players, to all the other programs presented through PAC like The Youth Theater Program, The PAC Concert Series, The National Theatre Live, Great Art on Screen, and The Metropolitan Opera, and going into its second year; The Highlands Cashiers Film Festival, PAC provides visual arts that equals the offerings of cities and towns of much larger size.

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Of Butterflies and Bunnies...



Rev. Dr. Marcus B. Robertson is Interim Priest in Charge of Christ Anglican Church, Cashiers.

Easter has come and gone and spring is now visiting the mountains. Things are greening up and the days are longer and warmer. It is the season of “butterflies and bunnies”, those sweet thoughts of new life and growth.

We often romanticize the change of seasons, projecting positive thoughts on the natural order. Such notions are natural and often helpful, but what of those of us whose lives are struggling and burdensome, even if nature speaks to us of hope and new life?

The Christian community has just journeyed through Holy Week, and such a journey was far from pleasant. It takes us through Jesus’ celebrated entrance into Jerusalem, but concludes with His betrayal, arrest and rapid loss of popularity, with the crowds calling for His crucifixion. The darkness and physical brutality of the crucifixion could not garner a PG-13 rating in today’s movies but would be more realistically R-rated for “violence.” The approaching days to the joy of Easter are far from pleasant.

But this may provide a ray of hope for us who find our lives in a difficult spot. The “normality” of life, at least as presented to us in the Judeo-Christian tradition, is not a life of ease. It is often visited with turmoil, pain and suffering. Many (though not all) of us in the United States have never been crushed by war on our native soil, famine to the point of death, or other horrific forms of violence or deprivation experienced by so many around the world. We have come to expect life to give us good things. We expect “butterflies and bunnies” ...

And yet, upon further reflection, the more important lessons of life are often learned in times of difficulty. We learn the true nature of love and sacrifice when friends and family members come to our aid when we are in trouble. We experience deep self-reflection and perhaps a “re-making” of ourselves when we are forced to ask tough questions brought upon us by the obstacles life puts in our way. The lessons that stick with us the most are rarely forged from the pleasantries of life. Instead, they are hammered upon the anvil of difficulty and shaped by the necessary disciplines of survival.

In my older years, I am trying to learn not to “look at” things, but to “see through” them, to look beyond what is happening on the surface or at the moment and perceive the hand of God at work. When I do this, I am more open to the deep and profound lessons that will make me a better person, a more faithful believer and a more compassionate and courageous individual.

Spring and its “butterflies and bunnies” is a pleasant season, but it can distract us. The real substance of life is made of sterner stuff.

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

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828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from March 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Accidents:

March 30

• VEHICLE 1 was traveling west on US 64. Vehicle 1 ran off the right side of the road and struck a guardrail. VEHICLE 1 then continued down the bank, coming to a stop in Mirror Lake.

March 30

• VEHICLE 1 was traveling west on US 64 when the vehicle's right-side trailer got snagged on some fiber optic lines bringing down more than 1,000 feet of fiber optic lines. The Drive of vehicle 1 proceeded on to his destination.

Warning & Citations

• During the week the dept. issued seven Citations and 12 Warning Tickets

April 2

• At 1:55 a.m., Jacob Steven Holt, 21, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested DUI when he was pulled over on NC 106

(Dillard Road). He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is April 29.

• At 7:40 p.m., officers responded to a call of an assault with serious injury when a person's face was cut with a knife at El Agave Restaurant in Highlands Plaza.

April 3

• At 10:24 a.m., Remigio Cruz, 32, of Highlands, was arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon. He was issued a \$3,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is April 30.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 31.

March 31

• At 2:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a call regarding an illegal burn at a location on Wilson Road.

• At 3:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lake Villa Court.

April 1

• At 2:13 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Flat Mountain Estates.

April 2

• At 10:21 a.m., the dept. responded

to a fire alarm at a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 10:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of an illegal burn at a location on High Camp Way.

• At 7:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location in Highlands Plaza.

• At 8:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

April 3

• At 1:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cheney Lane.

April 5

• At 3:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 11:36 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Glenn Falls Road.

• At 12:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

• At 7:17 p.m., the dept. responded to an electrical fire at a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 8:19 p.m., the dept. provided mu-

tual aid to the Cashiers FD.

April 6

• At 11:16 a.m., the dept. responded to an illegal burn at a residence on Dendy Orchard Road.

• At 5:30 p.m., the dept. responded to an illegal burn at a location on Log Cabin Lane.

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Assault with a Deadly Weapon incident is under investigation

On April 2, Macon County EMS was dispatched to El Agave Restaurant in Highlands in reference to an injury. Upon arrival, EMS personnel requested assistance from the Highlands Police Department after determining the injury appeared to be consistent with an assault.

Investigation found that an altercation had occurred between the victim

and Remigio Cruz while both were working. According to reports, the incident began when the victim threw cream at Cruz and started to walk away. The victim then turned back and observed Cruz approaching him with a knife. The victim reported feeling an impact to his face, followed by immediate pain.

The assault by Cruz caused a cut

to the victim's face extending from below the eye toward the nose. The victim was transported to a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for treatment.

Remigio Cruz was taken into custody on April 3 and charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon. He was issued a \$3,000 unsecured bond but remains in custody on unrelated matters.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

fire district covers a 69-square-mile area that includes the Highlands town limits, which are about 6.75 square miles. Regardless of where one lives in our fire district, fire tax rate is the same as is the county wide ad valorem tax rate. The fire tax rates do vary between the fire districts in the county. Our District 12 is at the lower end of the county rates.

The rate and the amount a home

or business owner pays are posted on the yearly Macon County tax statement we all receive. The amount one pays is based on the overall property valuation.

To further clarify, property owners living within the Highlands town limits have two assessments posted on their county tax statement. One line is for the county tax they owe, and the other is for the town tax due. The county collects all

taxes, and the town pays a fee to the county for that service. Many years ago, the town board wisely decided that creating a town tax collection department was not cost-effective and would duplicate what the county already does. The tax collection effort is one of several cooperative efforts that illustrate how the county and towns work together, especially in providing fire protection.

in court costs and liability for fire suppression expenses.

For the most up-to-date information, residents can check the N.C. Forest Service website or contact the N.C. Burn Permit Support Line at 919-578-2207.

these are not considered "open burning."

Just this past week, the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. responded to four illegal burns. Residents are asked to report violations to local law enforcement.

Violators face a \$100 fine plus \$183

...BURN continued from page 1

them.

Prohibited is all open burning, including leaves, brush, campfires, and burning trash or yard waste.

Exceptions are fires in gas stoves and grills which are fueled by propane as



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Local agents from Weichert, Realtors® - Highlands Properties honored by Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. for exceptional real estate performance

Weichert Realtors® - Highlands Properties is proud to announce that local agents were honored by the national franchise organization, Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., for outstanding real estate performance in 2025.

“We are incredibly proud of our affiliates and their agents for their remarkable achievements over the past year,” said Bill Scavone, president of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. “Their dedication, expertise, and commitment to providing outstanding service truly set them apart. They persevered and found success during what was widely considered one of the most challenging years in real estate.”



Myrna Moore



Sukhin Chawla

The following agents earned recognition for reaching specified levels of real estate production in gross commission income or units closed in 2025.

Sukhin Chawla - Sales Achievement Certificate
Myrna Moore - Sales Achievement Certificate
Weichert, Realtors® - Highlands Properties is an independently owned and operated Weichert® affiliate.

For more information about Weichert, Realtors® - Highlands Properties, please contact Kyle McKim at (828) 526 - 5522 or kyle@highlandsproperties.com.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE:

• The Rec Park pool will be closed starting Tuesday, April 13th-Saturday, April 18th for roof panel replacement.

• 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. April 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 Well-springClasses@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 ia at 9a; meeting is at 10a. Email ncpost370@gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

Mon. April 13

• The annual Teen Poetry Night, an open-mic event for high school-age poets and poetry lovers, will be held Monday at 7 p.m., in Franklin's Rathskeller Coffee Haus.

To celebrate National Poetry Month, young poets are invited to

read or recite their original works, as well as favorite works by other poets, earning RATBucks to be spent at the event

on The Rathskeller's healthy beverages, sandwiches, snacks and desserts. There's no pre registration; participants are given stage time in a round-robin format. Family members and friends are invited to come and cheer their teens on.

The Rathskeller Coffee Haus is at 58 Stewart Street, a half block south of Main

Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; there is no admission charge. For more information

contact the event sponsor, the Arts Council, 828-524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

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.

• At The Bascom, Artist Talk with Dean Kessmann, 3 pm, Free.

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.

Fri., May 1

• At Highlands Sotheby's, Meet the Artist: Louise Pond, 4:30-6 pm, Free.

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

Sat., May 30

• At PAC, The Texas Tenors, 7:30 pm. boxoffice@highlandsp Performingarts.com. 828-526-9047

• At The Bascom, From Tuber to Trophy: A Dahlia Growers' Talk, 11 am - 12 pm, Free.

Thurs.-Sat., June 11-13

• Highlands Motoring festival

Sat & Sun, June 27-28

• Mountaintop Rotary Club's Art and Craft show in KH-Founders Park.

Fri., July 17

• At PAC, Three American Troubadours at 7:30 pm. boxoffice@highlandsp Performingarts.com. 828-526-9047

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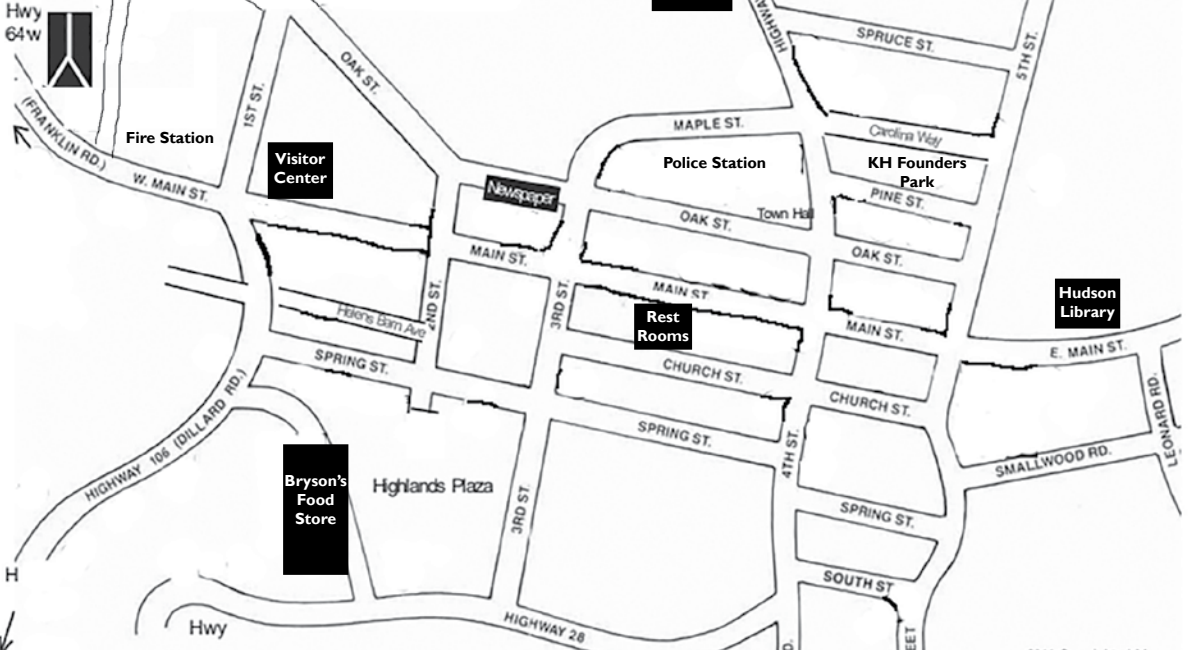
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