

# Highlands Newspaper

Happy July 4th!

Volume 23, Number 27

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Thurs., July 2, 2026

## Rescue crews retrieve hiker and dog after fall from trail outcrop

By Jacob Pressler  
HF&R

Hikers have kept the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. busy.

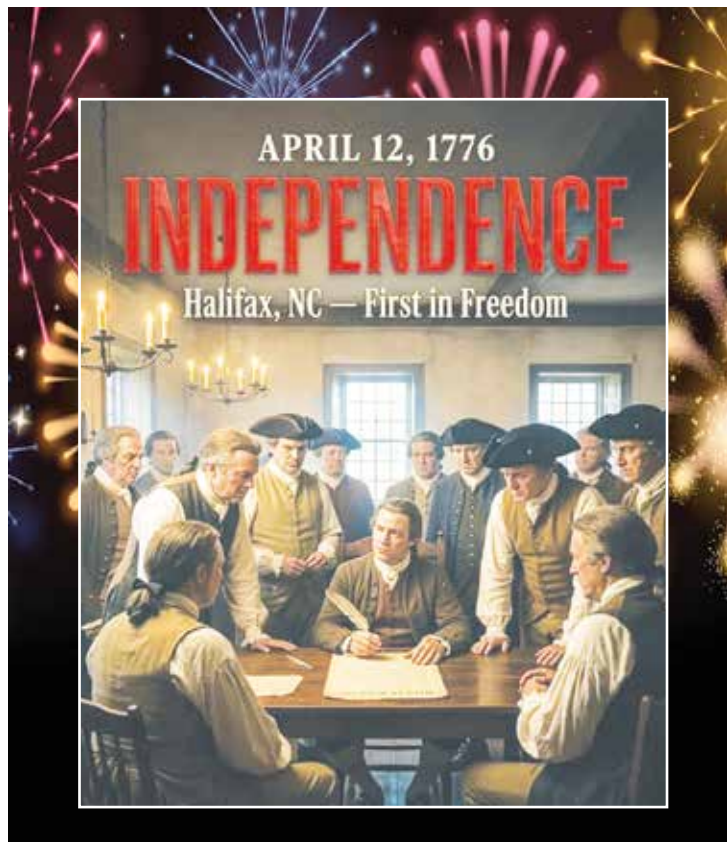
On Friday, June 19, area rescue crews were sent to the Gorge Road to rescue a hiker who had been hurt on the Cullasaja Falls trail.

Sunday, June 28, at approximately 4:30 p.m., Highlands Fire and Rescue was dispatched to Whiteside Mountain following reports of a hiker and his dog who had fallen approximately 30 feet over the edge of a cliff along the trail.

HF&R crews responded immediately, and mutual aid was requested from the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad and their High Angle Rescue Team.

Upon arrival, personnel hiked to the scene, assessed the situation, and developed the safest and most effective rescue plan. Once the rescue system was established, members of the

• See **RESCUE** page 31



## The reason the state's motto is 'First in Freedom'

*Highlands to celebrate the 250th anniversary all day and into the night, July 4*

On April 12, 1776, North Carolina became the first of the 13 colonies to formally authorize its delegates to vote for independence from Britain.

The Halifax Resolves, passed unanimously at a pro-

vincial congress in the town of Halifax, NC, didn't declare independence outright, but they did something equally significant: they specifically instructed NC's representatives to the Conti-

• See **FREEDOM** page 4

### •INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty .....	2	Here's the Thing.....	24
Weather .....	2	Hospital News .....	26
Snapshot.....	2	Police and Fire.....	31
Investing at 4,118 Ft.....	6	Classifieds .....	33
Shopping Pullout.....	17-18	Events.....	34

## Carolina Brotherhood cycles through NC & SC: stops in Highlands and Franklin

By Kristin Fox

A special group of cyclists, Carolina Brotherhood, rode through Highlands last week in honor of Macon County Sheriff's Office Courthouse Security Deputy Jim Lau who lost his life during Hurricane Helene.

Lau was one of 26 first-responders honored in the 2026 Carolina Brotherhood Ride, a multi-day cycling event honoring the families of first-responders who have died in the line of duty in North and South Carolina.

Lau had 40+ years of law enforcement experience in Florida, North Carolina and Wyoming. He was also a member of the United States Air Force.

This year, the Carolina Brotherhood Ride honored first-responders who died in the line of duty in 2024, and for western North Carolina, the three honorees including Lau who lost their

lives during Hurricane Helene.

In addition to Lau, Battalion Chief Tony Garrison of the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department and Major Michelle Lynn Quintero of the Madison County Sheriff's Office were recognized in this year's event.

The 2026 ride took place June 23–27, with five daily legs:

- Day 1 (June 23) – Saluda, SC to Glendale, SC: 80.9 miles
- Day 2 (June 24) – Glendale, SC to Brevard, NC: 80 miles
- Day 3 (June 25) – Brevard, NC to Franklin, NC: 65.6 miles
- Day 4 (June 26) – Franklin, NC to Fairview, NC: 92.8 miles
- Day 5 (June 27) – Fairview, NC to Charlotte, NC: 123 miles

On the final day, 25 first-responders from fire depart-

• See **BROTHERHOOD** page 9



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Words to live by



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

Retired Federal Judge Michael Luttig has written the list of behaviors that I've posted below. Hopefully we all embrace and strive to achieve them regardless of our politics or religious beliefs.

The founders of our country strove to personally embrace these values, although history reveals they were flawed by the human condition and they never realized self-actualization in fully achieving them. That goes for all of us. Happy Fourth of July.

- Virtuous as distinguished from unvirtuous
- Righteous as distinguished from unrighteous
- Godly as distinguished from godless
- Moral as distinguished from immoral
- Good as distinguished from evil
- Right as distinguished from wrong
- Wise as distinguished from ignorant
- Temperate as distinguished from excessive
- Honorable as distinguished from dishonorable

- Principled as distinguished from unprincipled
- Noble as distinguished from ignoble
- Brave as distinguished from fearful
- Courageous as distinguished from cowardly
- Heroic as distinguished from unheroic
- Truthful as distinguished from untruthful
- Honest as distinguished from dishonest
- Trustworthy as distinguished from untrustworthy
- Dutiful as distinguished from undutiful
- Faithful as distinguished from faithless
- Hopeful as distinguished from hopeless
- Loving as distinguished from hateful
- Joyful as distinguished from despairing
- Grateful as distinguished from ungrateful
- Thankful as distinguished from thankless
- Graceful as distinguished from graceless
- Humble as distinguished from conceited
- Selfless as distinguished from selfish
- Patient as distinguished from impatient
- Thoughtful as distinguished from thoughtless
- Kind as distinguished from cruel
- Decent as distinguished from indecent
- Compassionate as distinguished from indifferent
- Benevolent as distinguished from malevolent
- Generous as distinguished from envious
- Forgiving as distinguished from vindictive
- Just as distinguished from unjust
- Merciful as distinguished from unmerciful
- Charitable as distinguished from greedy
- Civil as distinguished from uncivil
- Respectful as distinguished from disrespectful
- . . . Volitional as distinguished from involuntal.

## • SNAPSHOT •







### Star for the night!

Artistic Director of Mountain Theatre Company, Scott Daniel believes the most memorable nights in theater aren't just watched, they're felt, so he has made the show currently on stage at PAC "Dancin' in the Street" an immersive, intimate and personal experience. This bride and friends, as well as many other members of the audience, accepted his invitation to "party" on stage during the intermission.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 2-Jul	Fri, 3-Jul	Sat, 4-Jul	Sun, 5-Jul
 84°F 62°F	 86°F 61°F	 81°F 62°F	 82°F 61°F
Partly sunny and humid	A stray afternoon t-storm	A t-storm around in the p.m.	Humid; an afternoon t-storm
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...FREEDOM continued from page 1



Fireworks from KH-Founders Park on Pine Street

tal Congress to vote in favor of independence if such a vote came, and to form foreign alliances and work toward a national government. It was a green light, voted months before Jefferson finished drafting the document most people associate with independence.

The Resolves came out of a colonial North Carolina that had been building toward rebellion for years. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge had just been won

in February, crushing Loyalist resistance in the colony and demonstrating that the patriots had effective military control of the province. North Carolina was ready. The Halifax delegates debated and voted, and when it was done, the colony had positioned itself formally and publicly on the side of independence at a moment when several other colonies were still debating, hedging, or openly hoping for reconciliation.

North Carolina's state motto, "First in Freedom," derives directly from the Halifax Resolves. There is still significant historical debate about what exactly "first" means in this context, as other colonies had issued various declarations and resolves, but the Halifax Resolves are notable for the specificity with which they directed delegates to vote for independence. The building where it happened is now a state historic site in Halifax, a small and quiet town along the Roanoke River that doesn't get nearly the visitors it deserves.

## July 4th in Highlands!

- 9-11a: water rockets at the Town Ball Field;
- 11a: free hotdog lunch at the ballfield;
- 11a to noon, field games at the ballfield;
- noon: Mtn. Area Medical Airlift helicopter to land at the ballfield;
- 1p: HF&R Ladder Truck Spraydown at the ballfield;
- 2p: Duck Derby at the bridge at Mill Creek;
- 6-8:30p: Concert in KH Founders Park Southside Station;
- 9:20p: fireworks, downtown.

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Zukerman Trio



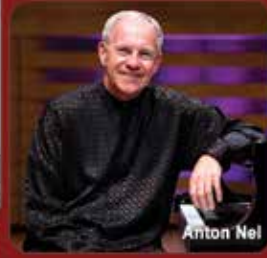
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# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## Coming up at CLE

The anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate the nation's birth and examine the debates about liberty, democracy, sovereignty, and human rights that remain as relevant today as they were in 1776.

The series features a conversation on July 13 from 10 AM - 12 PM between distinguished constitutional scholar Jeffrey Rosen, Professor of Law at the George Washington University, and political philosopher Robert P. George, Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University. Their program, "Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: What Was the Founders' Vision?", examines the philosophical foundations of the Declaration of Independence and the



Jeff Rosen



Robbie George

Constitution. Together, Rosen and George will explore how America's founders understood liberty, civic virtue, and the pursuit of happiness and what those concepts mean for citizens and democracy today. The debate between Jefferson and Hamilton over the proper balance to strike between individual liberty and government power will be a central focus of their discussion.

These presentations will take place at CLE's Lecture Hall, located in the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 South 5th Street. The cost for each program is \$35 for CLE members and \$50 for nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, please visit [clehighlands.com](http://clehighlands.com) or call (828) 526-8811.



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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. • Investing in Highlands: more than just luxury

Happy Independence Day everybody! Another investing column again!

Have you noticed that the real estate Buzz word almost everywhere is “Luxury?” it is now used all over the region as it must have been in the class 101 of the national chain seminars. Almost all of the signage and descriptions are centrally themed, Luxury!

Everyone wants a great house that is comfortable and most people want a unique house in this area. Amenities like view, waterfalls, lakes, streams, and as of late close to town have been popular. amenities.

Lately, brand new kitchens and baths push desirability high on the list. We use



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the term “Quality Time Remaining” as many of our buyers want to find the perfect house without anything needing to be done except picking furnishings, and in some cases, just bringing your toothbrush and moving in!

We have some older homes that are on excellent lots that are needing some updates, that are good investments if you are willing to do the planning and renovating to make it your dream mountain home.

Whether your taste is brand new or renovated, Highlands has a proven track record to be a good investment for you and the place to have great Independence Day memories for years to come!

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Patrons at HCCMF opening gala at PAC Sunday night enjoyed, music, food and comraderie.

### Six weeks of world-class music begins

The Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival kicked off its 45th year with a Opening Gala at PAC featuring the Pinchas Zukerman Trio -- minus one due to an arm injury -- Sunday, June 28.

The hall in the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center adjacent PAC was full with classical music enthusiasts.

June 28 through August 9. This year's six-week summer event features world-class musicians performing at various ven-

ues across the Highlands-Cashiers plateau, including the Highlands Performing Arts Center and The Village Green in Cashiers.

Next up is American Salute featuring the American String Quartet, the Whitehead Young Pianist Concert debut of David Lai, and Nina Bernat.

For more information call 828-526-9060, or go to [www.h-cmusicfestival.org](http://www.h-cmusicfestival.org).

Photo by Jim Lewicki



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Immaculate 2BD/3BA home on 1.2 acres in Osage Estates, a gated community. Main level has open kitchen/dining, living room with vaulted ceiling, electric fireplace, bedroom and full bath. Upper level has a large bedroom, full bath and office space. Downstairs is a woodworking shop, full bath and single-car garage. Paved parking, covered and open decks, and separate storage shed. Furnishings negotiable \$475,000. mls #1003472



This move-in condition 3BD, 2BA is a stone's throw to Harris Lake and 2 blocks to Main street. It features an open kitchen living area with stone fireplace with gas logs. The wing plan is easy living on one level and bedrooms open onto a huge wrap around deck. There is a one-car garage and a full slab floored basement for expansion possibilities. It is grandfathered as a short-term rental.. Offered at \$1,625,000 and shown by appointment. mls #1002455



This Sagee Mountain home is less than two miles from town. Stunning 50-mile vista of layered hills with a natural creek and waterfall. There is a terraced backyard and rustic cabin. The house has a semi-open floor plan with everything on the main level. Stone fireplace in the Great Room. Carolina Room with stone fireplace. Offered at \$5,900,000. mls #1002591



Elevated mountain living with panoramic views in a gated community perched at an elevation of over 4,200 feet, this exquisite 3BD, 2BA condo features hardwood floors, warm oak millwork, and a newly installed wood-burning fireplace with a sleek marble facade. A fully renovated chef's kitchen Primary suite has a walk-in closet and motorized blackout shade. Additional upgrades include motorized living room shade, fully renovated bathrooms with ceiling heaters, and a laundry room with extra storage and expansive balcony. Furnishings negotiable \$686,000. mls #1003567



This charming 1-acre property has 3 improved structures and a stream with a small waterfall. The main cabin has 2 bedrooms, one bath plus a loft, a stone fireplace, custom kitchen/dining area propane range. A path leads to the Joe Webb cabin guesthouse with a covered porch, stone floor, and sleeping loft. There is a commercial/residential structure for a roadside business, also an old mill. Offered at \$1,145,000 mls #1002716



Cute cottage at the end of Pine Circle near the Skyline Lodge complex. Great bones ready to make it your own. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths on the main floor plus a loft that the kids will love. Nice deck. Electric appliances, dishwasher in the open galley kitchen. A great getaway or rental. Offered at \$525,000. mls #1002891



Beautiful 3BD, 4BA home offered fully furnished, situated on 2.23 acres with +/-300 feet of creek frontage and year-round flowing water. Conveniently located just 2.3 miles from Main Street. Offered at \$2,625,000. mls #1003438



Located off Sassafras Gap Road, this custom-built home sits overlooking a lush glen with a trickling spring and an acre of land. It has a pleasant great room, with lots of light. It opens onto a deck, nestled in the trees. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths above, another utility room below. Great custom stonework, a garden shed and treehouse and a small travel trailer to rent or put up guests. A double carport rounds out this great package. Offered at \$699,000 mls #1003405



With frontage connecting to the Cullasaja River creek feeding Mirror Lake, this log cabin is tucked into the woods. It has an artsy vibe with rocking-chair porch, and cook's kitchen. Main floor primary bedroom with bath, upper level has 3 bedrooms with a hall bath, there is a full efficiency apartment for guests or long-term rental income. Offered at \$1,300,000. mls #1003414



Perched atop prestigious King Mountain, this luxury home delivers jaw-dropping views that stretch for miles, with unforgettable sunsets. In gated King Mountain Club it's being offered fully furnished and tastefully appointed with high-end decor, including Ralph Lauren accessories. The dramatic octagonal great room is a showstopper, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and a stunning stone fireplace, seamlessly connecting to the gourmet kitchen, dining area, laundry room and outdoor grilling space. There are two expansive primary suites on the main level. Downstairs there are two more guest rooms, a second fireplace in the family room, a game/gym area, an office, and garage and wraparound deck. Community amenities include a clubhouse, pool, and tennis courts. Offered at \$2,900,000 mls #1003430



In Trillium Place this 3BD/2BA with primary on the main. Wood burning fireplace, updated kitchen and baths. Screened in porch and backyard. Offered at \$945,000. mls #1002278



Charming starter home minutes from town. This 3BD/2.5BA home features a comfortable floor plan ideal for full-time living or a weekend getaway, with natural light throughout and ample room for guests. Offered at \$850,000 mls #1003153



Located about 3 miles from town, this 4BD/3BA plus 2 half bath home sits on over 5 acres with a mountain view. Spacious floor plan with 2 main floor bedrooms, living and bonus room, kitchen and dining on the main level. Upstairs are 2 bedrooms with a Jack and Jill bath. Ample deck for outdoor living. Offered at \$955,000. mls #1002336



This lovely cottage as 4 fireplaces, covered porch with spectacular sunsets with layered mountain views and move-in condition. Updated kitchen, dining, living room, and primary with ensuite bath with shower, lower level has a sitting room, 3 guest rooms with 3 baths. Located in the city limits and has city water, garbage pickup, septic, and high-speed internet. Offered at \$1,395,000 mls #1003085



Less than three miles from Main Street in city limits, this 9.22-acre property offers a rare blend of privacy, natural beauty, and convenience. It is being offered "as is." The three-level home features decks, balconies, and patios, 2 bedrooms plus 3 bonus rooms, a wood-burning fireplace, an updated kitchen, and a glass sunroom overlooking the rushing stream. The lower level has a garage, laundry area, and a separate apartment space. Offered at \$779,000 mls #1003311

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## ...BROTHERHOOD continued from page 1

ments across the Carolinas cycled the 123-mile stretch to honor fallen heroes.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office escorted the riders from the Jackson County line through downtown Highlands to Highlands Fire and Rescue, where the cyclists rested and refueled before heading down the mountain to the Cullasaja community.

Several Highlands Fire & Rescue fire fighters including Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart, as well as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Town of Highlands staff members gathered at the fire department to greet the cyclists during their stop in Highlands.

"Seeing the dedication that these folks have to do this ride is remarkable," said Gearhart. "They are riding in remembrance of someone they more than likely never even met. It was very impressive to see the organi-

zation this group has as well. A well-oiled machine."

The Carolina Brotherhood is a 501c3 charitable organization composed solely of emergency responders, and their families, from across North and South Carolina. The Carolina Brotherhood was founded in 2010 by two Charlotte (NC) firefighters, and has grown to include over 100 emergency responders who have participated over the last decade.

The brotherhood's mission is to provide financial and emotional support to the families of emergency responders who become sick, injured, or killed in the line of duty through fundraising, community participation and public awareness.

The group accomplishes their mission by cycling across North and South Carolina, annually varying their route in order to meet the families and friends of the states' fallen heroes. The time with families and friends allows cyclists to learn about the heroes' loved ones, hear their stories, and get to know the fallen heroes on a personal level. These personal stories ensure that the fallen heroes are always remembered and their service never forgotten.

Each year, the Carolina Brotherhood cycles over 600-620 miles in a multi-day route, often covering 100+ miles per day. Riders choose to bike in summer to emphasize the physical effort and personal connection, as opposed to motorized travel.

The ride is not just a memorial — it's a community-building event. Riders meet with families, departments, and public safety staff, sharing stories and ensuring the fallen are remembered. Stops often include visits to local fire departments, police stations, and community centers.

Anyone who works or has worked in fire, police, EMS, or other emergency services can apply to join the Carolina Brotherhood Ride. Participation includes riding the route, fundraising, and supporting the cause.

### How to Get Involved

- Join as a rider by applying through the official site [carolinabrotherhoodride.org](http://carolinabrotherhoodride.org).
- Donate to support the cause via the official donation page [secure.givelively.org](http://secure.givelively.org).
- Shop Carolina Brotherhood apparel — proceeds go directly to the organization [carolinabrotherhoodride.org](http://carolinabrotherhoodride.org).
- Follow updates on the official ride website for route details, participant stories, and event news [carolinabrotherhoodride.org](http://carolinabrotherhoodride.org).

For more information, visit the Carolina Brotherhood Ride website --[carolinabrotherhoodride.org](http://carolinabrotherhoodride.org).



MCSheriff Deputy Jim Lau

The Carolina Brotherhood Ride is not measured by miles alone. It is measured in names remembered, families embraced and stories carried forward.

This year, riders traveled 530 miles across North and South Carolina, climbing more than 44,000 feet before making their final arrival in Charlotte under a downpour of rain.

Through every mile, the mission remained the same: honor fallen emergency responders, support the families they left behind and make sure they are never forgotten.

As stated on the brotherhood website it was "a fantastic week, full of accomplishments, support, love, memories and hard work."

"We will continue to honor our fallen heroes and stand beside their families left behind - we will NEVER FORGET their selfless service and sacrifice to their communities. We're already planning for 2027. Please consider helping support us."



Photos by Ryan Gearhart

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## • FINANCIAL MATTERS •

### America at 250

Lately, I've been watching several documentaries about our nation's founding and what it took to lay the foundation of the freest country that has ever existed on the planet. One of my biggest takeaways is how much risk the Founders took to declare independence from England.

At the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Benjamin Franklin reportedly quipped "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately". The signers were keenly aware of the risk and knew they quite literally had "skin in the game". And yet, they signed their names to a document that ended with this statement:

"And for the support of this Declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor".

This risk was amplified by the fact that England was a richer opponent. We all know it takes money to fight a war, and the financing of the American Revolution was a constant struggle because the Continental Congress had little formal power to tax and no reliable national revenue stream. To keep the war going, Americans relied on paper money, state contributions, loans, confiscations, and private support, but these methods created instability and inflation.

At the start of the war, Congress issued large amounts of Continental paper currency, known as Continentals, because it could not simply levy taxes the way a modern government can. This paper money helped pay soldiers and buy supplies, and for a time it kept the Revolution alive. But Congress printed far more currency than the economy could support, so the money quickly lost value and became a symbol of wartime inflation. By the later years of the war, the financial



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

system was near collapse. Soldiers were often paid late or with depreciated paper, prices soared, and confidence in the currency fell sharply.

The states also helped finance the war by sending money, food, clothing, weapons, and troops. These contributions were uneven, though, because each state faced its own shortages and political pressures. Congress depended on voluntary cooperation, which meant it often had to beg for resources

instead of collecting them through a strong central system.

Loans were another major source of funding. Congress borrowed from wealthy patriots at home and from foreign allies abroad, especially France and Spain, whose assistance was vital to sustaining the war effort. Robert Morris became the best-known American financial organizer of the war, using his personal credit and influence to stabilize supply and payment problems during the later stages of the conflict.

Private individuals also played an important role. Merchants, landowners, and ordinary citizens sometimes supplied the army directly, advanced goods on credit, or accepted delayed payment in hopes that independence would eventually bring compensation. In many cases, patriotism filled the gap left by weak public finance.

The Revolution survived because Americans kept finding ways to borrow, print, requisition, and improvise until victory made a new national financial order possible. Now, 2½ centuries into this "American Experiment", the borrowing, printing, requisition, and improvisation continue at an accelerated rate. Perhaps with continued "divine providence", we the people of this great nation will see another 250 years. Happy Independence Day!



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## 'Dancin' in the Street' at PAC is a block party like no other

By Kim Lewicki

The Mountain Theatre Company's first production of the 2026 season "Dancin' in the Street" is on stage at the Highlands Performing Arts Center through July 12.

The "Dancin' in the Street" story was written by MTC Artistic Director Scott Daniel who also directed the show and the high-stepping, non-stop choreography was orchestrated by MTC Marketing Director Erin Leigh Knowles.

The new cast – new faces, new voices, new moves – is supremely talented. They are athletic and acrobatic dancers who move as one while maintaining their individuality with facial expressions and special moves. And besides that, their voices are strong and their range is expansive.

Though it may be an act, there is a camaraderie among the cast that carries the show and really makes the audience feel like all the neighbors on the block really care about each other and what happens on their street.

This show is all about "the street" -- it's where they live, where they hang out as they work through their relationships and where they emerge dressed in colorful, wild outfits reminiscent of the '70s to dance and party.

Daniels did a great job weaving the music that defined generations into the

story.

The music follows neighbors, friends, and couples as they find love, rediscover family, and celebrate life, all set to a soundtrack of folk, funk, disco, soul, and Motown favorites. Like "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," "Both Sides Now," "This Will Be," "Sounds of Silence," and "Last Dance."

As is the case with most performances, the second act ties the show together – answering lingering questions and defining relationships.

But before the second act begins, the audience is invited to hang out on "the street" on the stage to enjoy signature cocktails available at the cash bar on "the street" and to dance the 15 minutes away.

Patrons even get a chance to enter the rooms behind the doors of the apartments that define the set which is the only thing on the stage that doesn't move for two hours.

Daniel believes the most memorable nights in theater aren't just watched, they're felt, so he has made "Dancin' in the Street" an immersive, intimate and personal experience.

It's a fun night out and worth every penny.

For tickets, go to [www.mountaintheatre.com](http://www.mountaintheatre.com) or call (828) 526-2695.



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### • EVENT •

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## Hurricanes place 1st in 30 races

By Steve Hott  
Coach

On Thursday, June 18, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to FAST (Franklin Area Swim Team) for a swim meet.

The Hurricanes finished 1st in 30 of the 44 events they entered, and 2nd in 12 more.

The Hurricanes now have six swimmers qualified for Nationals (AAU Jr Olympics). They are Ian and Bella Batista, Emma Denisoff, Justin Powell, and Luca and Zana Maseko.

Sharing the high scoring honors for the meet were: Justin and Jayce Powell, Zana and Luca Maseko, Lucas and Melanie Zabrian, Max Jestin, Anna Nicole Shchelgachova all who won 2 individual events and were part of 2 winning relays scoring 21 pts.

Nikita Dennisoff, Ben Shchelgachov, and Nehemiah Edwards all scored 19 pts, Ivan Shchelgachov had 17. Ian Batista, and Hananiah Edwards got 16, Stella Kerr and Cooper Thriffley got 12; Ellie Bysura and Vic Nadzorau got 11; Blakely Sears got 10; Senna Sherrill scored got 8. Kathryn Wise, Azariah and Estelle Edwards each earned 7 pts, while AnnaBelle (AB) Searles brought home 6. Also swimming well for the Hurricanes was Atlas Kenna-Vinson.

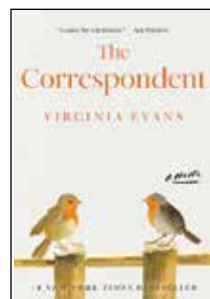
The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practice mostly in the evenings at the Highlands Rec Park Pool. The only requirement for to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the rec park pool) unassisted. For more information please call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

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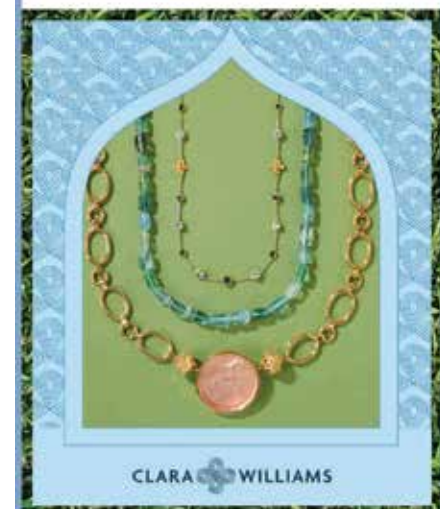
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## Rabun Gap Nacoochee School Honor Roll for Semester 2 2026

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School is proud to announce its honor roll for the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Congratulations to the following students from Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire & Scaly Mountain:

### Head of School's High Honors

- Grade 12 — Wesley Cox of Cashiers
- Grade 11 — Jasmine Abranyi of Highlands, Samuel Dyer of Cashiers
- Grade 10 — Margot Caffery-Draa of Highlands, Emma Denisoff of Cashiers, Lincoln Kenfield of Sapphire
- Grade 9 — Savanna Bubenick of Highlands
- Grade 7 — Eva Tretiakov of Cashiers, Natalie Wood of Highlands
- Grade 6 — Nikita Denisoff of Cashiers

### Head of School's Honor Roll

- Grade 12 — Coby Bloedow of Highlands, Margaret Cole of Highlands, Izzy Edelheit of Scaly Mountain, Owen Madden of Cashiers, Monica Tretiakov of Cashiers
- Grade 11 — Mary Travis Boswell of Cashiers, Savannah Byrd of Cashiers,

Christopher Cox of Cashiers, Sloan Mattis of Highlands, Charlotte Miller of Cashiers

- Grade 10 — America Correa Cervantes of Sapphire, Cassie McDowell of Highlands, Barrett Neil of Highlands
- Grade 9 — Felix Reyes Reyes of Highlands, Hudson Tilley of Highlands
- Grade 8 — Luke Highsmith of Highlands, Alexander Moody of Cashiers
- Grade 6 — Reed Haberkern of Highlands, Delin Lama of Highlands

Head of School's High Honors recognizes students who earned an average no lower than 4.0 with no grade below B+, and no effort rating below satisfactory in Grades 9-12, and recognizes students who have all A's with no grade below an A- in Grades 4-8.

Head of School's Honors recognizes students who have all A's & B's with no grade below a B-, and no effort rating below satisfactory in Grades 4-8, and recognizes students who have an average not lower than 3.0, with no grade below C+, and no effort rating below satisfactory in Grades 9-12.



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# • HERE'S THE THING •

## The Texas test

Good day. I'd like to begin July's column with 45 of the most important words in the American version of the English language:

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

That single sentence is the entire First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I trust the 181 members of the Texas legislature are familiar with these words since they all swore an oath to support, defend, and protect, the U.S. Constitution. They also are subject to Article XVI, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution, calling for them to "preserve,

protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of Texas."

Why then would the Texas Legislature mandate the state's Board of Education to include study of Bible passages in the state's public schools? Isn't the First Amendment clear enough?

Approximately two-thirds of Texas's adult population consider themselves



**Bud Katz**

Christian, and are aligned with one of several Catholic, Protestant or smaller, unaffiliated denominations. The remaining third includes those who identify as Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, or Native. It also includes agnostics and atheists.

According to The Texas Almanac there currently are over 34,000 houses of worship in the state. That means all 32,000,000-plus residents are within reasonable proximity of at least one of their preferred locations. They don't need to expand that ease of access to religious education into the roughly 9,100 public schools so as to reach Texas's 5.5 million students.

These numbers indicate that this law has another purpose. Pandering to a small subset of voters, perhaps? Otherwise, why would Texas risk potentially expensive lawsuits, the diversion of resources away from important academic subjects, and the consequences of things like bullying or ostracism of students who express different beliefs?

Texas has, in the past, succeeded in bringing religion into public-school classrooms. It's popular with some voters who, I suppose, are fine with ignoring the First Amendment as long as the religion brought in is theirs. For example, posting the Ten Commandments in every Texas classroom has been introduced, challenged, and upheld by a federal appeals court. Texas also passed a law that brought ordained Chaplains into public schools for counseling and other support services.

• See KATZ page 25



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## ...KATZ continued from page 24

Here's the thing. If legislators want religion in the state's public-school classrooms, it would be more palatable with a comparative curriculum and not a single system of belief. Also, as is currently the case in Texas, content of this nature should be offered as an elective – not a requirement – and should be made available in later grades.

The current initiative contains a mandatory requirement for schools to incorporate specific Bible passages, to be presented to children as young as kindergarten age. While Christianity is certainly the dominant religion in Texas

– the USA and the world as well – the First Amendment was drafted in great part to keep a single religion from being imposed on the American population.

The earliest settlers came here in the 17th and early 18th centuries to pursue economic opportunity, experience political liberty, and primarily, to not have a particular state religion forced upon them. The current law, which is calendared to go into effect in 2030, reads very much like something being forced upon Texas school children, whether parents are OK with it or not.

As our nation marks the 250th anni-

versary of our Declaration of Independence, we should note that the 56 signers, were mostly Christian, but otherwise were a religiously diverse group of men. John Adams was a Calvinist, Thomas Jefferson, a Deist, Benjamin Franklin, a Freemason. Others were Presbyterian, Quaker, Anglican, and Unitarian. There was a single Catholic, Charles Carroll of Maryland. All were opposed to anything resembling a “state religion” in America.

So, what happens if/when federal law conflicts with a state law? That's why those same founders gave us a federal appeals court system, and a U.S. Supreme

Court.

• Bruce F. “Bud” Katz and his wife, Lynn, have lived year-round in Highlands since 2011. Bud is the author of four novels and a work of non-fiction. He facilitates the Highlands Writers Group and spends much of his time in front of a computer making words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, ... etc. You can contact Bud, regarding this column or for information about the Highlands Writers Group, at [brucefkatzauthor@gmail.com](mailto:brucefkatzauthor@gmail.com).

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## Outdoor Concert Series

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All shows take place from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

### Friday Night Live

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Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

JULY 3

Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

JULY 10

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Byrds & Crows

JULY 31

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### Saturdays on Pine

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JULY 11

Blaze the City

JULY 18

Moon Dance

JULY 25

Bourbon Sons



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# • HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Highlands-Cashiers Hospital 'State of the Hospital Report,' Part I

Twice each year, I like to share an update on what's happening at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and Eckerd Living Center (ELC). It's hard to believe we're already halfway through 2026, and this feels like the perfect time to talk about where we see healthcare on the Plateau heading in the years ahead.

While our focus every day is providing excellent care, we're also thinking about what our community will need in the future. Healthcare is constantly evolving, and we want to ensure HCH and ELC continue to grow alongside the communities we serve.

One of the ways we do that is through our annual Board retreat, which we held in April. This year's discussions were future-focused — what we're doing well today, where we see growth opportunities, and how we can continue meeting the healthcare needs of our community for years to come.

A few priorities rose to the top. One is continuing to recruit outstanding physicians and specialists who can bring additional services closer to home. Another is expanding surgical services so more patients can receive care locally. We also discussed something that often doesn't get enough attention: investing in our people.

Our team members are the heart of HCH and ELC. Whether they're caring for patients at the bedside, working behind the scenes, or supporting our clinics, they're the reason we're able to provide the level of care our community expects. That's why we're committed to supporting continuing education, professional growth, and leadership development opportunities for our staff.

Our commitment to our people was on full display recently during our first Celebration of Service event, where we recognized team members with 10 or more years of service to HCH and ELC. Collectively, those honorees represented more than 1,000 years of service to our patients, residents, and community. As I shared that evening, healthcare is more than a profession — it is a calling. Many of these individuals cared for generations of local families and served during some of the most



**Tom Neal CEO, CNO  
HC Hospital**

challenging moments in our community's history, from the Blizzard of 1993 to the COVID-19 pandemic and, most recently, Hurricane Helene.

We're also helping to create pathways into healthcare careers through programs like our Nursing Aid Training Program, where students are paid while they learn. Upon completion, graduates earn their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification and are prepared to begin meaningful careers in healthcare.

Expanding access to care remains one of our most important goals. Like many rural communities, western North Carolina faces challenges including transportation barriers, insurance concerns, and provider shortages. That's why we're continually looking for ways to bring more services closer to home.

While we'll always be the trusted community hospital our residents know and rely on, we also have the potential to become an even stronger regional healthcare destination. By expanding services, attracting talented physicians, and continuing to invest in our team, we're building on our strong foundation.

We recently welcomed orthopedic surgeon Dr. John Franklin Sloboda to HCH and ELC. Dr. Sloboda brings decades of experience in orthopedic surgery and specializes in hip and knee replacement procedures. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, he served our country as an Army orthopedic surgeon before building an impressive career helping patients regain mobility and return to the activities they enjoy most.

Beginning later this summer, Dr. Sloboda will see patients at Cashiers Medical Clinic and perform total hip and total knee replacement surgeries at HCH.

As our community continues to grow and remain active, the need for orthopedic services continues to increase. Bringing Dr. Sloboda to HCH reflects our commitment to expanding specialty care and investing in services that matter most to our patients and their families.

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# Botox Clinic

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Clayton Family Medicine & Wellness is honored to welcome **Dr. John Vu** on July 11 for an exclusive Botox Clinic. Recently named Family Physician of the Year by his peers, Dr. Vu is a nationally recognized leader in Botox aesthetics and travels the country training physicians in advanced injection techniques.

**Appointments are limited,**  
so call today to reserve yours.



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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### How the Declaration of Independence Shaped America's Revolution and Inspired a Revolution in France

Presenter: Lloyd Kramer, Monday, July 6, 2-4 PM  
Sponsored by Jill and Chris Elliott

### The Global Legacy of the Declaration of Independence

Presenter: Lloyd Kramer, Tuesday, July 7, 10 AM-12 PM  
Sponsored by Jill and Chris Elliott

### Enduring Questions of Sovereignty: Kings or People?

Presenter: Ethan Hollander, Thursday, July 9, 2-4 PM  
Sponsored by the Fred A. Moss Charitable Fund

### Popular Sovereignty Under Challenge

Presenter: Ethan Hollander, Friday, July 10, 10 AM-12 PM  
Sponsored by the Fred A. Moss Charitable Fund

### Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: What was the Founders' Visions?

Presenters: Jeffrey Rosen and Robert George, Monday, July 13, 10 AM-12 PM, Sponsored by Bobbie and Jon Golden & JoEllen and Tom Ross

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE \$35 FOR MEMBERS AND \$50 FOR NON-MEMBERS. TO REGISTER FOR THESE AND OTHER CLE PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.CLEHIGHLANDS.COM](http://WWW.CLEHIGHLANDS.COM), EMAIL [OFFICE@CLEHIGHLANDS.COM](mailto:OFFICE@CLEHIGHLANDS.COM), OR CALL (828) 526-8811

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Stacy Wright, Ellen Strauss, JR Youell, Rick Johnson, Marsha Moxley and Jim Dyal. Not pictured, Chip Snyder and Julie Brooks.

### Chamber celebrates its volunteers

We enjoyed celebrating our wonderful Welcome Center volunteers at our Annual Volunteer Luncheon on Monday, June 16. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC appreciates all they do throughout the year to welcome visitors, answer questions, provide directions, and thoughtfully share information about our community. Be sure to stop by the Welcome Center for brochures, maps, event details, and Highlands merchandise. Our volunteers are always happy to help!



Bill Kirkman, President with Janet Cummings and Marjorie Deal.

### How the Laurel Magazine got started

Laurel Magazine began as an idea between friends Marjorie Deal and Janet Cummings, who dreamt of a publication that celebrated the Highlands-Cashiers communities.

What started as a small magazine grew through relentless curiosity, savvy collaborations, and the creators' eye for

exquisite photography. Over the years, their shared insistence on quality, curated local storytelling, and great visuals attracted artisans, advertisers, and discerning readers—transforming The Laurel Magazine from a passionate friendship project into the glossy, luxurious lifestyle magazine it is today.

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Rotary Club President Josh Bryson; presenter Chris Joyell, Healthy Homes Coordinator at MountainTrue and Director of Appalachian Design Center; presenter Marlee McCall Beres, Red Fox Design Shop Owner and Volunteer with Appalachian Design Center; and Bert McCall, Rotarian and Program Host.

## Recovery by Design – Appalachian Design Center maneuvering the long road home after a natural disaster

The road to recovery after a natural disaster is always long. Generosity and the desire to help is immediate but months later communities affected by hurricanes, floods and wildfires are still in need. No organization understands the long way home better than the Appalachian Design Center (ADC). A program of the environmental non-profit MountainTrue, ADC pairs volunteer design professionals with underserved or disaster-impacted communities in Western North Carolina. Recently Chris Joyell, Healthy Communities Director and Marlee McCall Beres, owner of Red Fox Design Shop, described ADC's role in creating sustainable and resilient communities in a presentation to The Rotary Club of Highlands.

ADC was formed twenty years ago with the goal of designing a new Asheville Gateway to the west by getting highway traffic off the Bowen Bridge. When the project was finished, there were many volunteer architects, landscape architects, engineers and designers eager to donate their combined services to create more livable communities. Often these firms pledge their volunteer time for a future date,

when residents are ready for community-wide design services. The value of these firms' time is in turn used to help leverage financial grants.

Fast forward to September of 2024 when Hurricane Helene devastated communities in and around Asheville. ADC's successful model of collaborative design based on community input was critical to long term recovery. Immediate relief in the difficult mountain terrain led to the creation of "Resilience Hubs" where isolated victims could find internet access, emergency water, food and daily living supplies, in some cases a mobile laundromat, and community support.

Now, almost two years after Hurricane Helene nearly decimated the mountain community of Swannanoa, it is ready for the collaborative community design services ADC offers. Marlee Beres described Red Fox Design Shop's volunteer work with the Swannanoa Riverfront Site, the Marion Rail Car Project and the Bee Log Community Center.

For information about how you or your firm can help pave the long way home after a natural disaster in Western North Carolina, contact Chris Joyell: [chris@mountaintrue.org](mailto:chris@mountaintrue.org)

## Independence Day Celebration

**SATURDAY, JULY 4**

9 – 11am

**Water Rockets**  
Town Ball Field

11am

**Free Hotdog Lunch**  
Town Ball Field

11am – 12pm

**Field Games**  
Town Ball Field

12pm

**Visit MAMA**  
**(Mtn. Area Medical Airlift)**  
Town Ball Field

1pm

**Ladder Truck Spraydown**  
Town Ball Field

2pm

**Duck Derby**  
Bridge at Mill Creek

6 – 8:30pm

**Outdoor Concert Series**  
**Southside Station**  
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

9:20pm

**Fireworks!**  
Downtown Highlands

*All events and times subject to change*



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# Shields to run for MC School Board in November

By Kristin Fox

This week, Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields has added his name to the November General Election ballot signing up to run for the Macon County Board of Education. Shields will not be seeking another term as a county commissioner. As commissioner he served as the liaison to the school board.

Shields joins incumbent Stephanie Hyder Laster and newcomer Kaleena Keener Messer to run for the District 2 seat. Shields has served on the board of commissioners since 2014. Prior to serving as commissioner, Shields served on the school board after he was elected to the seat in November 2010.

District 4, one of the county's two at-large seats, have two candidates who have signed up to run -- incumbent Diedre Kaye Breeden and another newcomer Robert (Bob) Franklin Perkins.

Filing opened on Monday, June 8 for the November 3 General Election for the Macon County Board of Education District 2 and District 4 seats and two seats in Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Candidates must live in the district they are running for to fill the two school board seats. District 2 represents the Franklin area district and District 4 is an at large seat (meaning a candidate can live anywhere in the county). While the candidates must live in their districts, all citizens in Macon County can vote for the school board seats no matter where they reside.

Since the '70s, Macon County has had three districts for the school board -- Highlands, Franklin and Nantahala and two at-large positions. Every election one of the two at-large seats are open for potential candidates.

The voting districts are different from the school (bus) districts. Macon County has six school districts which determine which elementary school a student attends based on where they live in the county. These school districts have no bearing on the voting districts.

The last day, candidates can sign up to run for the school board is Monday, July 6 at 5 p.m. The deadline was extended to Monday due to the July 4 holiday. Filing fees for the school board are \$5.

The Board of Election is looking for people who would be interested in working at the voting polls in Highlands. A special event to recruit individuals who may be interested in working during the upcoming election will be held in August/September. Details for the event when finalized will be provided in an upcoming edition of the Highlands Newspaper.

Interested individuals may also contact the Macon County Board of Elections at (828) 349-2034 for more information or to obtain a poll worker application.

More information about the upcoming election go to <https://gis.maconnc.org/www.maconnc.org/board-of-elections>.

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor 706-782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

5th Sunday Singing featuring Georgia Mountain Trio;

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor: Rev. Amy Spivey

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Wonyeong Lee 828-743-5298

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

### GRACE CHAPEL ON HIGH HOLLY

9615 Dillard Rd Scaly Mountain, N.C.

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

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

Men's and Women's Bible Study throughout the week

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Marc Robertson & Rev. Nick McGee

464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701

Sunday: Adult Christian Ed, 9:15a; Holy Eucharist, 10:30a;

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

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

743-5470 • [www.cashiers.church](http://www.cashiers.church)

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

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays -- Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

[www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com) • 526-4685

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

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

Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.

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

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968

5th and Main streets • [www.incarnationwnc.org](http://www.incarnationwnc.org)

Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30

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

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

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • [www.fbchighlands.org](http://www.fbchighlands.org)

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

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

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Emily Wilmarth, pastor, Rev. Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor

828-526-3175 • [fpchighlands.org](http://fpchighlands.org)

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

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

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

[www.gracecashiers.com](http://www.gracecashiers.com) • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

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

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

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909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

[www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • [mountainsynagoguewnc.com](http://mountainsynagoguewnc.com).

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

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone -- 526-2418

Sat. 4pm thru Oct 24.; Sun. - 11am

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Rev. Richard Salmonson

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

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • [uufranklin.org](http://uufranklin.org)

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers • 828-743-2122

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from June 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## Accidents responded to: June 22

• Vehicle 1 was leaving a parked position to turn right into the parking lot of the Rec Park. Vehicle 2 was parked in the parking lot of the Rec Park. Vehicle 1 failed to see vehicle 2 crashing into the right rear of vehicle 2..

## June 24

• Vehicle 2 was travelling east on US 64 toward Highlands. Vehicle 1 was pulling out onto US 64 (Franklin Road) from Holt Knob Road and hit Vehicle 2.

• Vehicle 1 was parked on US 64 facing southwest. Vehicle 2 was parked on US 64 facing northeast. Vehicle 1 began to back up and hit vehicle 2. Vehicle 1 pulled forward and came to rest in parking place.

## June 26

• Vehicle 1 was traveling east on US 64 with a towed trailer attached with an excavator on the trailer. Vehicle 1 caught some overhead line with the excavator bringing down the pole and wire where they landed on the road.

• During the week, officer issued 9 citation and 14 warning tickets.

## June 23

• At 2 p.m., officers received a report of someone performing an unauthorized ACH transactions of \$19,787 from Highlands Festivals bank account.

## June 26

• At 6:52 p.m., officers received a report of someone throwing an egg and striking a parked vehicle at an area convenience store resulting in vandalism to property.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 23.**

## June 23

• At 11:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bear Mor Ridge.

## June 24

• At 5:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a vehicle fire on the HC Hospital campus.

• At 11:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road.

• At 12:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 5:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Martha's Lane.

## June 25

• At 7:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

## June 26

• At 11:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Divide Road.

• At 9:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

• At 7:39 p.m., the dept. was first responded to a residence on Franklin Road.

## June 27

• At 7:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wingina Place.

• At 7:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a location on Half Mile Drive.

• At 5:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 5:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Oak Street.

## June 28

• At 6:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rhododendron Drive.

• At 12:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moorewood Road.

• At 4:34 p.m., the dept. aided in the rescue of a hiker and his dog on Whiteside Mountain Trail.

• At 6 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

## June 29

• At 1:34 p.m., the dept. rescued a hiker and was first-responders to the Secret Falls (Big Shoals) trail.

• At 4:06 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence in Highlands Mountain Club.

...RESCUE continued from page 1



Rescue crews pull dog and hiker to safety.

Glenville-Cashiers High Angle Rescue Team rappelled down to the hiker and his dog. The dog was safely secured in a rescue harness and brought back to the top of the cliff, followed by the successful rescue of the hiker using the same technique.

The operation was completed safely and successfully. Fortunately, the hiker sustained only minor injuries.

Sources said the hiker and his dog were on an outcrop overlook used by many people, but he just got too close to the edge and the

ground gave out from under him.

Highlands Fire and Rescue would like to thank Macon County EMS, and Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad for their assistance and continued partnership. Incidents like these highlight the importance of strong mutual aid relationships and the dedication of all responders involved and the importance of being careful on area trails.

Then, on Tues., June 29, the dept. rescued and tended to a hiker on the Secret Falls Trail (Big Shoals) off Walkingstick Road.

Walk-ins  
Welcome!



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# HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

## NOTICE

• The Rec Dept and Pool will be closed Sat., July 4th.

## 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. 11a-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

## PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. there are three indoor Pickle Ball courts and six outdoor courts. Pickle Ball can be played every Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs. and Friday 10am-pm outdoors for the summer

## MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

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

## FIBBER MAGEES

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

## FARMERS MARKET

• The "market" is open every Saturday 8a to 12:30p in KH Founders Park on Pine Street.

## ALL WEEK

• Scaly Mountain/Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Scaly Mountain at Grace Chapel, 9915 Dillard Rd., Scaly Mountain each Tues at 5:30 pm and Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Mon. at 5:30 p.m. and on Wed. & Fri. at 12 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

## Sun. thru Labor Day

• At the Church in the Wild-

wood, traditional Hymn-Sing 7-8 p.m. Non-denominal. All are welcome. 10 minutes from downtown Highlands in Horse Cove. A family-friendly summer tradition for more than 30 years. Call or text 919-523-7067 for directions or questions.

## Mon. & Thurs.

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

## Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.  
• Balance, Stretch & Strengthen Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$30 a month and is led by 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.

## 2nd Mondays

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

## 2nd Tuesdays

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

## Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers - from 5-6:30 PM

• ESL classes at The Literacy & Learning Center, 6-7 p.m. 675 S 4th St.

## Tuesdays & Thurs.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at the Rec Park at 5:30. A combo class with different types of exercise. 828-526-3556

## 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.

## 3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. Breakfast is at 9a; meeting is at 10a. Email ncpost370@gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

## Through July 12

• Mountain Theatre Company brings the music that defined generations to life like never before. Dancin' in the Street is a heartwarming new musical that follows neighbors, friends, and couples as they find love, rediscover family, and celebrate life, all set to an unforgettable soundtrack of folk, funk, disco, soul, and Motown favorites. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com/dancin-in-the-street



## Through July 25

• At The Bascom, "Connecting to Place: Blue Ridge

Craft Trails Invitational 2026" in the Thompson Gallery. The exhibition brings together 20 craft artists from communities across WNC, including Franklin, Waynesville, Dillsboro, Bryson City, Cullowhee, Canton, Cherokee, Maggie Valley, and Brass-town. Admission is free.

## Thurs., July 2

• Fourth of July Flag Ceremony at Highlands Cemetery. Highlands American Legion Post 370 needs help placing flags on the graves of more than 200 veterans. Please join them at the cemetery flag pole at 5:30 p.m.

## Fri., July 3

• At The Bascom, it's Community Day, their annual way of saying thank you to Highlands creative community from 11a to 2p. Admission is free. Across the campus terrace and galleries, you'll find hands on art activities, live demonstrations from glassblowing to woodturning, face painting, an interactive storyteller and the HC Hospital Teddy Bear Clinic for the youngest visitors. The Bascom Shop will be open and Annie Jacobsen joins us with a trunk show of her kiln-formed glass. Free popcorn, too.



## Sat., July 4

• Independence Day Celebration: 9-11a, water rockets at the Town Ball Field; 11a, free hotdog lunch at the ballfield; 11a to noon, Field Games at the ballfield; noon, Mtn. Area Medical Airlift helicopter to land at the ballfield; 1p, HF&R Ladder Truck Spraydown at the ballfield; 2p, Duck Derby at the bridge at

Mill Creek; 6-8:30 p.m. Concert in KH Founders Park Southside Station; 9:20 p.m., fireworks, downtown.

## Wed.-Sat., July 8-11

• At CK Swan, Jewelry Trunk Show.

## Fri., July 10

• A Spotlight 26 Fundraiser - Dine, Disco, Donate -- at the PAC for the Mountain Theater Company starting at 6pm. Tickets are available www.mountaintheatre.com.

## Sat., July 11

• Pop Up Pipers.

## Sun., July 12

• Swingin' Soiree for The Literacy & Learning Center at OEI's The Farm. Open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert, dancing. 6-9 p.m. Free shuttle service from 200 Main with loops beginning at 5:30p. VIP package - \$500/pp. General Admission, \$174/pp. Tickets available at www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org

## July 13-16

• Little Highlander Basketball camp from 1-4p for Rising 1st-5th grade. The cost of the camp is \$75. For any other information call Lester Norris or Janice Mathis at 828-526-3556

## Tues., July 14

• Chef Dinners at OEI's The Farm. Annual Champagne Dinner featuring Pol Roger. Tickets start at \$234. Includes dinner drinks, shuttle and gratuity. Book online.

## Fri., July 17

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

## Thurs., July 23

• At Old Edwards Farm Pavilion, Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's Martinis, Mozart & More. \$125/person. Refreshments with cash bar. Call for required reservations. 828-526-9060 or order online at www.h-cmusic festival.org. 828-526-9060

## Fri., July 24

• The Asheville Mountain Boys Outdoor Concert at 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin. 5p.

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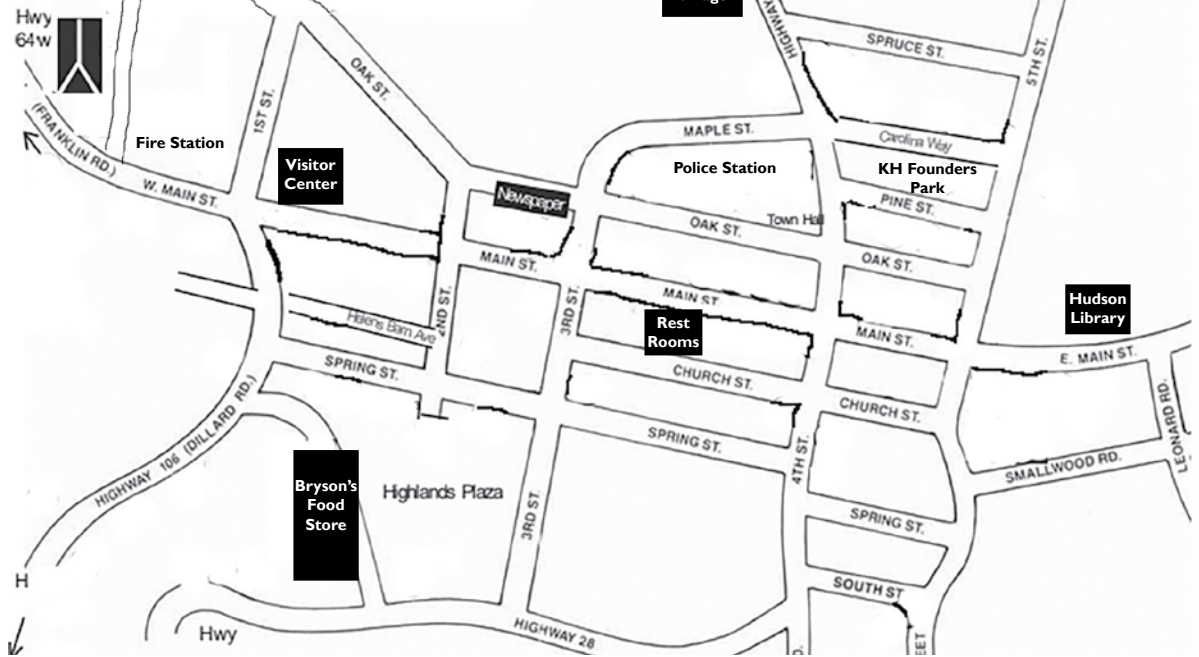
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