

Highlands Newspaper

Volume 23, Number 28

Digital Version at HighlandsNewspaper.com

Thurs., July 9, 2026



Highlands Pre-K was ready to go with a private playground, classroom and teachers, but lack of funding from the county for the Macon County Schools '26-'27 school year got the program axed. Photo by Kim Lewicki

School system is axing programs for '26-'27 due to lack of funds from county

\$117,000 for Highlands School Pre-K was first to go; June 30, 2025 audit shows county has \$48 million in undesignated fund balance

By Kim Lewicki
At last week's meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, Highlands School received some devastating news. To offset the county's funding shortfall, the Highlands School Pre-K program has been cut for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year. The recently completed classrooms and play-

ground will sit empty next year as the school board tries to find the money to fund the shortfall of \$2,479,667.65 in its budget. During the budget discussions, the school board requested a maintenance budget of \$14,294,138.65 from the county; however, the county commissioners approved a budget of \$11,814,471 creating the over \$2

million shortfall. The county approved its budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year at its June 9, 2026, meeting. Now, midway through the summer, the school board is looking at numerous potential local funding reduction areas that can be used to mitigate the funding shortfall.

• See **AXING** page 10

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	July 4th photos.....	12-13
Weather	2	Hospital News	14
Snapshot.....	2	Police and Fire.....	19
Obituaries.....	4	Spiritually Speaking	18
Investing at 4,118 Ft.....	6	Classifieds	21
Letters	9	Events.....	22

Candidates line up for Nov. 3 general election

By Kim Lewicki

The ballot for the November 2026 General Election is now official

- Locally, Incumbent Rep. Kevin Corbin is running against Dem. Thomas Downing for NC State Senate District 50.
- Incumbent Rep. Karl Gillespie is running against Dem. Caleb Brown for NC House of Representative District 120.
- Incumbent Rep. John Shearl is running against Dem. Calvin Lunn for MC Board of

Commissioners District 1.

- Reps. Dylan Castle and Kellie Burns are running against Dems. Terry Bell and Janet Greene for MC Board of Commissioners District 2. Two candidates can be selected for District 2.
- Three candidates are running for one MC Board of Education District 2 seat – Incumbent Stephanie Laseter and Kaleena Messer and Gary Shields.

• See **CANDIDATES** page 7

Macon C. gets grant for recycling upgrades

By Kristin Fox

Macon County was one of 16 counties to be awarded a grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). The grant is part of the \$25 million in grants given to local governments to improve their recycling infra-

structure after Hurricane Helene.

The funding, known as the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure (HRRI) grant program, will support 16 projects across western North Carolina. Local governments with a Hur-

• See **RECYCLING** page 11

Join Us

Artist Reception Meet & Greet - Featuring Mary Ann Ziegler
Friday, July 10 | 4:30pm - 6:00pm
114 N. 4th Street, Highlands

THE BASCOM
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

In partnership with The Bascom

Highlands
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

MCCULLEY'S

The largest selection of Scottish cashmere in the U.S.A.

In Highlands ...on the hill
242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407
Open 7 days a week
www.mcculleys.com

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

One country, one nation, one people, and one land of the free

As part of our Fourth of July celebrations, Sallie and I traveled to Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. We were there to support our son, who had installed an exhibition at the newly restored First Bank of the United States.



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

The exhibition, supported by the US State Department, was titled "Marks of Friendship." The exhibition consisted of gifts from other countries to the United States. It opened in conjunction with the bank's opening after several years of restoration.

On the morning of July 2nd, many dignitaries gathered in front of the bank for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The mayor of Philadelphia was there and gave an inspiring speech. Her name is Cherelle Parker, and she has the honor of being Philadelphia's 100th mayor.

Mayor Parker ended her speech by asking the audience to raise their hand and point one finger to the sky. She asked us to repeat these words. One Philadelphia, one Pennsylvania, one country, one nation, one people, and one land of the free. The mayor urged us to remember these words as we went forward in celebrating our nation's 250th birthday.

We returned to Highlands on the evening of the third so we could celebrate Independence Day with our Highlander friends and family. As I witnessed all the events and celebrations in town, I continued to remember my fellow mayor's words. We are one nation at our core, and this 250th Celebration should remind us that - we are one nation at our core.

A national park ranger at the opening reminded me that, while we may think our country has problems now, Washington and his Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, were also facing huge problems as they created the First United States Bank. The young nation faced a huge Revolutionary War debt and 13 newly united states that were having to transition to a single national currency and unified financial system. Nothing was guaranteed or certain about the country's future as it is now. But we were, and we are, the home of the brave as we move forward.

I was so gratified to see all those individuals and organizations in Highlands united and working together to make this a special holiday celebration. First, I thought the flags and banners adorning our downtown were beautiful. A salute to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce is in order for purchasing new American Flags, the 250th flags, and the pole banners. Also, once again, the Chamber put on a great fireworks show that drew huge crowds.

Second, I want to thank the Highlands Rotary Club for all the work they did in providing a wonderful noon-time free hot dog lunch at the ball field. The

• See MAYOR page 11

• SNAPSHOT •





The significance of 1776



Photo by Kim Lewicki

The year 1776 marks the birth of the United States. On July 4th, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, severing political ties with Great Britain. This year, on July 4th in Highlands, 1776 was the number of ducks sold for the annual duck derby held at Mill Creek. Money raised with a \$10 duck purchase is used to fund Rotary's philanthropic efforts.

• WEATHER •

Thu, 9-Jul	Fri, 10-Jul	Sat, 11-Jul	Sun, 12-Jul
 80°F 61°F	 81°F 63°F	 76°F 63°F	 74°F 59°F
A stray afternoon t-storm	A stray afternoon t-storm	A shower and thunderstorm	A shower and thunderstorm
RealFeel® High: 86° Low: 68°	RealFeel® High: 88° Low: 69°	RealFeel® High: 80° Low: 64°	RealFeel® High: 78° Low: 65°

Highlands NC 4-Day Forecast By AccuWeather.com

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to www.highlandinfo.com and click on Weather

HIGHLANDER
ROOFING SERVICES INC.

*New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials*

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773
info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com

Highlands Newspaper

www.HighlandsNewspaper.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Kristin Fox

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N,C 28741

Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved.

5,000 copies printed weekly.

Independently verified by:

Gannett Printing Knoxville TN

Letter Policy:

There is a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries are \$8 per column inch.

\$10 per photo.

Payable prior to publication.



PAT ALLEN



JULIE OSBORN

Pat Allen

REALTY GROUP

Not The Biggest... Just The Best!



Wildeat Cliff's Country Club

- 4BR/4.5BAs
- Wildcat Cliff's Country Club
- Extra Lot for Added Privacy
- Covered Porch and Open Decks That Overlook Brook
- Upstairs Guest Sanctuary with 2BR/2BA, Kitchenette, and Den
- MLS# 1003466 | \$3,400,000



1875

- 4BR/4.5BAs
- In 1875, Highlands' Newest In Town Gated Community
- Near Highlands Country Club
- and Downtown
- Floor-to-Ceiling Windows and Huge Granite Fireplace
- MLS# 1002714 | \$3,100,000



Satulah Ridge

- 3BR/3.5BAs
- Incredible Views
- Near Downtown Highlands
- Beautifully Updated
- Dramatic Open Floor Plan with Chef's Kitchen
- Water Feature
- MLS# 1003651 | \$2,500,000



King Mountain Club

- 4BR/3.5BAs
- Exceptional Mountain Views
- Gated Community with Heated Pool, Tennis Court, and Clubhouse
- Beautifully Updated Interiors
- MLS# 1003473 | \$1,500,000

PAT ALLEN

828.200.9179 | pat@patallenrealtygroup.com

JULIE OSBORN

828.200.6165 | julie@patallenrealtygroup.com



www.patallenrealtygroup.com

828.526.8784 | 295 DILLARD RD, HIGHLANDS

Voted America's Best by RealTrends Since 2021



4th of July Sale

35 to 55 percent Off

30% off
Cleaning &
Repairs

Open for the last 41 years, Shiraz has been offering wholesale prices to the public on its entire inventory of genuinely hand-woven oriental rugs.

Thousands of antique and contemporary pieces from around the world.

HAND CLEANING • RESTORATION • APPRAISALS

Mon.-Sat: 9:30a-6p • Sun: noon-5p

We Purchase Antique Rugs

(828) 526-5759

Main Street • Oak Square
Highlands, NC 28741

www.shirazruggalleries.com

Cash or Checks Accepted
OTHER SHOWROOMS:
TAMPA • NAPLES • SARASOTA
ORLANDO

**Read Highlands Newspaper, Highlands' only locally
owned newspaper, free from
everywhere – on the street or on the web.**

**Digital version at www.highlandsnewspaper.com - Click
on Local News. Delivered and uploaded every Thurs. AM
Sapphire, Lake Glenville, Cashiers, Highlands, Scaly
Mountain, Otto and Franklin**



540 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC 28741

5 Bedrooms • 3.5 Baths • \$3,895,000

Enjoy the charm of mountain living paired with a vibrant cultural lifestyle, with world-class performances, fine dining, boutique shopping, and all that Highlands has to offer just a short stroll from your front door. Set on beautifully landscaped grounds, this elegant home offers exceptional privacy, surrounded by mature evergreens that create the feeling of a secluded estate in the heart of town. A welcoming sense of arrival begins with the lush front gardens and continues to the enchanting rear courtyard, where a waterfall and fountain provide a tranquil backdrop for outdoor living. The inviting screened porch, complete with a wood-burning fireplace, serves as an additional living space overlooking the picturesque gardens. Thoughtfully maintained and move-in ready, the home also features a two-car carport with floored attic storage, additional guest parking, a generator, central vacuum system, gas starters in all four fireplaces, custom closet shelving, and a fully encapsulated crawlspace. Combining privacy, luxury, and convenience, this exceptional Highlands property offers the opportunity to enjoy the very best of mountain living in one of the area's most desirable in-town locations.



PAM NELLIS

Realtor®

M: 828.787.1895 O: 828.482.5022

Pam@HighlandsCashiersCire.com

All information provided is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed and should be independently verified.

IVESTER JACKSON

BLACKSTREAM

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



• OBITUARIES •

Jack 'Alan' Wilson

Jack "Alan" Wilson, Jr. age 63, of Lowndesville, SC, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, June 26, 2026. Following a period of declining health, Alan was called to his eternal home to rest in the perfect peace of Christ.

Alan was born in Highlands, NC, to Elizabeth Anne Wilson and Jack Wilson, Sr. At a young age, his family relocated to Six Mile, South

Carolina, where he grew up and made lifelong memories. Alan graduated from D.W. Daniel High School before pursuing higher education at Clemson University, ultimately earning his master's degree and remaining a passionate Clemson Tiger fan throughout his life.

Alan channeled his entomology expertise into a fulfilling career with the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service in Columbia, SC, where he worked faithfully for many years, impacting agriculture and communities across the state. After nearly two decades he left Clemson Ext and worked in the private sector with Clark's Pest Control for several years.

Outside of his career, Alan had many passions, including history, the Civil War, antiques, collecting arrowheads, hunting, and fishing. Above all, he loved spending time with his family. Known for his kind heart and devotion to his loved ones, His



family takes great comfort in knowing he is now rejoicing in heaven.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara J. Wilson; his mother, Elizabeth Anne Wilson; his father, Jack Wilson, Sr. (Julie); his sons, Jason and Zach; and his daughter, Brianna Masters (Brandon). He is also survived by his brothers, Jeff Wilson (Michelle) and Cody Wilson (Lindsay); his cherished grandsons, Hunter and Parker Wilson; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces/nephews and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert and Myrtle Reese, and Warren and Lela Wilson.

A service to celebrate Alan's life will be held at 3pm on Friday, July 10, 2026, at The Standard Cremation & Funeral Center, 1621 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson, SC 29625. His brother-in-law, John Matthews, will officiate and the family will speak with guests following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Alan's memory to Miracle Hill Ministries – miraclehill.org by selecting DONATE, then chose "I would like to dedicate this gift." or by mail to 490-A S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29607.

and wife, Debi; siblings: Ben Rogers (Majestic), Jimmy Petrone (Jessica), Vince Petrone (Jackie), and Jeremiah Rogers (Sarah) along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ami Diana Rogers Helton

Ami Diana Rogers Helton age 51 of Lenoir City passed away suddenly July 2, 2026 at her home. Ami was baptized at Clear Creek Baptist Church in Highlands, NC in 1988. She was a registered nurse with Covenant Health for many years. Ami loved being a mom and grandma.

She is survived by her husband, Tim Helton; children: Grahm (Raelyn), Scarlett, Cooper; Josie (Michael) and Bonnie (Alex) and their father, Doug Keener; grandchildren, Bentley and Ivey; mother, Donna Rogers; father, Tommy Rogers



and wife, Debi; siblings: Ben Rogers (Majestic), Jimmy Petrone (Jessica), Vince Petrone (Jackie), and Jeremiah Rogers (Sarah) along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Family and friends may come by the Brickyard in downtown Lenoir City between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 25th for a Celebration

of her Life.

Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

• UPCOMING EVENT •



Pianist David Lai will be on the keys during HCCMF's week two of concerts.

Week Two of concerts begins for HCCMF

Pianist David Lai, blind at birth, will perform at the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival July 11th in Highlands and July 12th in Cashiers. He will present awesome programs of Sonatas by Mozart, Schubert and Chopin. David has a BA, Masters and Doctorate in Piano Performance.

Lai replaces pianist Chelsea Guo who injured her hand.

The Highlands program is at the Performing Arts Center at 5 PM, and the Cashiers program is at Lewis Hall, Village Green at 5 PM.

Call 828-526-9060 or visit www.hcmusicfestival.org for tickets



HIGHLANDS EXPERTISE ELEVATED EXPERIENCE

- Highlands resident for 18 years
- Representing buyers and sellers across the Plateau
- Seamless service from Atlanta to the mountains
- Backed by 79+ years of Dorsey Alston trust

LET'S TALK

Brian Seifried, REALTOR®
770.309.1143

DORSEY ALSTON
REALTORS®

404.352.2010

Stone Cottage 142 Lucerne Drive, Highlands



**3
bedrooms
3.5 Baths
Close to
downtown
\$3,195,000
MLS#
1002568**



Andrea Gabbard

c: 828.200.6742

AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Recognized as one of the top
100 Agents in NC

*RealTrends'

Highlands

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Bryson's Food Store

Proudly Serving Highlands, North Carolina since 1977

The best meals start here!

Wine Tasting every
Thursday, 2-5p



Open daily
7:30a to 7:30p

103 Highlands Plaza, Highlands, NC • (828) 526-3775

Read Highlands Newspaper, Highlands' only locally owned newspaper, free from everywhere – on the street or on the web. Digital version is at www.highlandsNewspaper.com, Click on Local News.

Delivered and Uploaded every Thurs. AM

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT •

Realtors are temporary caretakers of memories

Every week I have the privilege of walking through beautiful homes. Some are grand mountain estates; others are cozy cottages tucked among the trees. While buyers often notice the soaring ceilings, gourmet kitchens, or breathtaking views, I find myself wondering something entirely different.

Who laughed here? Who celebrated birthdays around this dining room table? Who watched grandchildren race through the yard? Who sat on that porch with a cup of coffee watching the sunrise over the mountains? Who enjoyed entertaining on the deck watching the artist's canvas of colors as the sun took a break from the day?

A house is made of wood, stone, and glass. A home is built from memories.

As Realtors, we're often asked, "What is my home worth?" The market can answer that question with comparable sales, square footage, and recent improvements. But there is another kind of value that can't be measured on an appraisal. It's the value of a life well lived.

I think of the couple who spent 40 years creating traditions in their mountain home. To them, every room tells a story. The fireplace isn't simply stonework — it was the gathering place every Christmas morning. The marks on the pantry door aren't imperfections — they're the heights of children and grandchildren carefully recorded year after year. Once I had a buyer actually allow the seller to take a door that had recorded her children's heights over the years. That was a touching moment.

When it's time to sell, letting go isn't just a financial decision. It's an emotional one.

As Realtors, we don't simply market houses. We become temporary caretakers of someone else's memories while helping another family imagine creating memories of their own.

Homeownership is still one of life's greatest privileges. It represents stability, responsibility, dreams realized, and often the largest investment a family will ever make. But beyond financial value, it offers



Pat Allen, BIC
Pat Allen Realty Group
pat@patallenrealtygroup.com

something even more meaningful — a place where life's most important moments unfold.

Long after the paint colors change and the furniture is replaced, the stories remain. Even in our own little house in Macon, GA, where I grew up, which was built with asbestos shingles, featuring three tiny bedrooms and one tiny bath where your knees

touched the tub while sitting on the "john," the memories made that house a castle in this little girl's eyes. The dirt road, surrounded by trees that I loved to climb as a "tom-boy," and playing softball in a field across the street, still warm my heart because, until our minds totally fade out, the memories stay put. I remember my dad building a fire pit where we could have relatives for hamburgers and the sweetest lemonade I've ever tasted, made fresh by my mom. The rose garden that gave her such joy resonates with the aromatic smell of fresh-cut roses in vases. And the many dogs that graced our fenced yard, teaching us unconditional love, will never be forgotten.

The next owners will create their own traditions, celebrate their own milestones, and one day look back with the same affection.

Perhaps that's the real beauty of homeownership. We don't truly own a home forever. We simply become one chapter in its story.

So many of my clients share their memories of coming here as a child with parents or grandparents and desire to create those memories for their children or rekindle fond mountain memories. Perhaps it's time to begin your journey.

• Pat Allen is owner and Broker-in-Charge of Pat Allen Realty Group, a boutique and privately owned firm with 22 years experience as an award-winning and top producer on the plateau. She and her daughter, Julie Osborn, remain in the top 1.5% of all agents and teams nationwide. She may be reached at pat@patallenrealtygroup.com or 828-200-9179. Located at 295 Dillard Road.



JULY SPECIALS

ALL Toxins \$10 per unit

INJECTABLES Sale

20% Microneedling Treatments

ALL Filler \$100 off per syringe

To book an appointment call
828-482-4430 or 828-349-1280



...CANDIDATES continued from page 1

• Incumbent Diedre Breeden and Robert Perkins are running for MC Board of Education District 4.

• Running for Supervisor of the MC Soil and Water Conservation District 1 are Pamela Bell, Matthew Reynolds and Gregory Zickgraf.

• Running for Thom Tillis's US Senate seat are the Green Party's Michael Dublin, the Libertarian Party's Shannon Bray, Rep. Michael Whatley and Dem. Roy Cooper.

• Running for the US House of Representative District 11 are Incumbent Rep. Chuck Edwards, Dem. Jamie Ager and Libertarian Travis Groo.

• Candidates for the NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 1 are Incumbent Dem. Anita Earls and Rep. Sarah Stevens.

• Candidates for the NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 1 are Incumbent Dem. John Arrowood and Rep. Michael Byrne.

• Candidates for the NC Court

of Appeals Judge Seat 2 are Incumbent Dem. Tobias Hampson and Rep. George Bell.

• Candidates for the currently vacant NC Court of Appeal Judge Seat 3 are Rep. Craig Collins and Dem Christine Walczk.

• Running unopposed are MC Sheriff Brent Holbrooks, MC Register of Deeds, Todd Raby, MC Clerk of Superior Court, Shawna Lamb, District Attorney District 43 Ashley Welch, and the three NC District Court Judges for District 43, Justin Greene, William Joseph Jones, and Donna Forga.

On the November 3 ballot, voters will also be voting on five referendums – two for Macon County and three for the state. The Macon County referendums are for or against permitting the “one-premises” and “off-premises” sale of malt beverages and unfortified wine. In addition, Macon County voters will vote on the local sales and use tax referendum for or against “local sales and use tax at

the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other state and local sales and use taxes.” This would be the equivalent a 1/4 of a penny increase.

The three state referendums that will be on the November ballot include constitutional amendments for or against requiring photo id for voting; for or against keeping the state income tax rate from being raised higher than three and one-half percent (3.5%); and for or against requiring limits on property tax increases by local governments.

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 Elec-

tions at (828) 349-2034 for more information or to obtain a poll worker application.

Early voting for the general election will start on Thursday, October 15 at 8 a.m. and will end at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. Hours to vote during early voting will be from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Early voting will also be held on the Saturdays between the early voting dates from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. During early voting, voters can vote during the designated hours in Highlands at the Highlands Civic Center 600 N. 4th Street and in Franklin at the Macon Recreation Center - Robert C. Carpenter Building on Georgia Road (across from Ingles).

The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. On election day, voters will need to go to their district voting poll to cast their vote.

Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

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

This Month's Performance:

The First Presbyterian Church of Highlands

471 Main Street

Saturday, July 11 | 4:30 - 5pm

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



HIGHLANDS DINING

HIGHLANDS BURRITO

Tuck into Tasty Mexican Favorites & the Best Margaritas in Highlands



Host your next party at Highlands Burrito for birthdays, game days & more!

CALL 828-526-9313 TO BOOK

DINE IN OR TAKE IT TO GO
226 South 4th Street, Highlands, NC



Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p
Closed Tuesdays
828.526.3554
595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC

The Secret Garden



Sandwich shop and gourmet food market

Open Year-Round

Mon.-Fri. 11:30a to 4p

Sat., noon-4

Call (828) 305-7509 to place a pick-up order.

Catering and Custom Charcuterie

Courtyard and Indoor seating!



208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • Next to Pine St. Park

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern at Highlander Mountain House



Open for
LUNCH

Wednesday-Saturday
11:30-3p

Open for
DINNER

Wednesday-Saturday
5:30-9p

Open for
SUNDAY BRUNCH
with Blue Grass music
10a-3p

290 Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-2590
highlandermountainhouse.com

A HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOTEL

OUTPOST Cafe



Now serving wine,
beer & coffee!
Open to the public!



Coffee Bar 8a to 4p daily
Wine/Beer Bar:
Thurs-Sat 5-10p

790 North 4th Street, Highlands | info@outpostinnhighlands.com | 828-482-7736

DON LEON'S

Empanadas • Tequenos • Roasted Chicken
Gyro • Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese
Steak • Susan's Rueben • Italian Sausage
Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings
Shrimp Gumbo • Soups, and more!



Open

Breakfast: 7-10a

Lunch: 11a-3p

Dinner:

Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 5-8p

828-482-1513

462 Dillard Road, Highlands
(across from Dusty's)



828-526-4035

WILD THYME GOURMET RESTAURANT

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round
Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands

Open 7 Days

Lunch: 11a-3:30p
Dinner:
5:30p - closed



DUSTY'S
YOUR GO TO PLACE FOR
STEAK* BURGER* CHICKEN* PORK
HOT DOGS* RIBS* SAUSAGE
TAKE AND BAKE SIDES AND DINNERS
FRESH SIDES, SANDWICHES & SALADS
BAKED GOODS* WINE* CHEESE
GOURMET FOOD & MORE!!

TUES-FRI 9:30-5:30 SAT 9:30-5
493 DILLARD RD 828-526-2762

Open for our 37th Season

EST.  1990

LAKESIDE RESTAURANT

Open Tuesday - Saturday

Dinner Starts @ 5:30 PM

Serving Easter Brunch 11 AM - 2 PM

Outdoor Dining / Dine-In Art Gallery / lakesiderestaurant.info



531 Smallwood Ave. | 828-526-9419 | Highlands

• LETTERS •

Are the donkeys showing their gluteus maximus?

Dear Editor,

Why are Democrats so fond of radical political candidates? And do Dems hate America?

Graham Platner, Maine 2026 Dem Senate candidate, has a Nazi SS nipple tattoo, claims of extra marital sexting and says that he pleasures himself in porta poties. He refers to himself as a Communist and a self-labeled "antifa super soldier." His income comes from his military disability payments and being a dockmaster over 17 boats in Sullivan, ME.

Adam Hamawy, won the 2026 NJ Dem primary. His qualifications are he is a Muslim, an Islamist and has ties to Al Qaeda. He hates Israel.

James Talarico, Texas 2026 Democrat Senate candidate, says he doesn't believe Jesus is Lord or King. This Presbyterian says that God is non-binary and that there are six genders. He also said that women are neighbors with a uterus. He claims the Bible does not address homosexuality or abortion. Makes you wonder who is teaching in his church.

NY Democrats want to replace the terms mother and father with a gestating or non-gestating person. Why? Birth certificates are happy with the clarity of mother and father.

NY 2026 Democrat House candidate Avila Chevalier deleted her Anti-American tweets. She is a proud member of the New York Democrat Socialists of America. Avila is anti-Israel and is proudly supported by NY Socialist Mayor Mamdani.

Abdul El-Sayed is a Michigan Democrat Senate candidate. He wore a mask as late as the spring of 2022. He wants to abolish capitalism and the police. Progressive streamer Hasan Piker supports him.

The antisemites, once a fringe element of the Donkey party, now control Democrat national policy. Gallup poll showed 65% of Democrats sympathized with the Palestinians and 17% with the Israeli's.

The Dem party has enthusiastically supported podcaster Hasan Piker whose favorite flag is Hezbollah's. His

statements include "America deserved 9/11". So pay attention, it seems Democrats believe they must massage those radical, terrorist-loving candidates, while rejecting the mores of the American base.

A House Resolution to honor the life of Charlie Kirk got little Democrat support. 58 voted no, 22 didn't bother to show up and 38 cowardly Democrats voted present.

Please tell me: Are there any moderate Democrats left like the wonderful Georgia Senator Sam Nunn? For those of you who have "Proud to be a Democrat" bumper stickers, do your research: the old Democrat Party has left you. This is not the party of JFK or Bill Clinton. This is not your parents' or your grandparents' party. This party is ANTI America.

Let me suggest a call to your primary doctor. Enumerate your symptoms: fussy angry outbursts which may include kicking the dog or ripping Fox news off the wall. Include foaming at the mouth with hands clenched at the sight of a Maga hat. Ask for strong drugs to combat TDS-Trump Derangement Syndrome! Expect a prescription for bed rest, and absolutely no trips to the post office!

William "Bodie" Catlin III
Highlands Precinct Chair- Macon County
GOP

• DINING •



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah

43 Years of Fine Dining



**NOW
OPEN**

7
Nights a week

5:30-9p

828-526-2338

US 64w • Highlands

www.ontheverandah.com



415 4th Street • 828-500-1827
(next to the Blue Bike Cafe)



HOT MESS
WAFFLE IT YOUR WAY



Open Mon-Thurs. 8:30a to 5p & Fri-Sat 8:30a to 8p

Looks like redistricting vote was 'fixed' from the start

Dear Editor:

In recent months the issue of the current district configuration has been under discussion by the Macon County Board of Commissioners. Currently we have a three district, five commissioner plan that has been in effect since 1978. District 1, in which Highlands resides, and District 3, each have 20% of the county population and one representative each to the board, while District 2, which includes Franklin has 60% of the county population and has three representatives.

The county board proposal is to change the county to a three-district system, each with roughly 33% of the population and one representative. The fourth and fifth members would run at large. The issue was remanded to the planning board where several alternatives have been proposed, including having a voter referendum to gain input from the public. Making a change after almost fifty years with minimal voter input seems short-sighted.

I have several questions for the planning board. Why was at-large voting decided before any new configuration of the board was discussed? At large voting doesn't allow voters to pick their representatives as much as it allows candidates to pick their voters. For instance, someone currently running for Districts 1 or 3 need only to campaign in Franklin to win a seat.

And what is the benefit of having at-large board

members? One commissioner suggested that he has a friend who would make a great commissioner but would not run against him. With at-large members, more than one person could run from any district. How exactly does that help residents who do not then have two seats at the table?

At last week's meeting of the planning committee many people spoke about the advantages of having five districts with a pure voting option. Each district would have a commissioner living in their district, campaigning in their district and answering to the voters they represent. It is a fair system where each person has one vote for one representative, instead of voting for five candidates without knowing the issues and needs of each district. Five individual districts would hold each commissioner more accountable to the people he/she represents.

The public comments and subsequent discussion ended with a motion and a vote to recommend the 3/2 system that has been on the table from the beginning. It felt like the vote was pre-determined and that regard for public comments was minimal.

The proposed change is complex and multi-faceted. After almost fifty years why the need to push it through without public education and input? How is the

• See LETTERS page 16

HIGHLANDS COVE | \$4,850,000

SILVER CREEK
— REAL ESTATE GROUP —

Debby Hall

BROKER

828-200-4057
DEBBY@NCLIVING.COM
DEBBYHALL.NCLIVING.COM

Read Highlands Newspaper, Highlands' only locally owned newspaper, free from everywhere – on the street or on the web. Digital version is at www.highlandsNewspaper.com, Click on Local News. Delivered and Uploaded every Thurs.AM

Mountain Life
PROPERTIES

A luxury boutique brand, local market knowledge and impeccable service.

Kinzey Parker Holm
BROKER®

404-858-1363
RealEstateBroker.Kinzey@gmail.com

...AXING continued from page 1

Eliminating the Highlands School Pre-K program was the first to go and it will save the school board \$117,487 in projected funding for the Pre-K teacher and Pre-K teacher's assistant who had already been hired for the positions.

According to Highlands School Principal Sarah Holbrooks, the teacher has been moved to a different teaching position, and the teacher's assistant has been let go.

"Due to insufficient funding and a stalled licensing process, the Pre-K program at Highlands School has been canceled for this school year," said Principal Sarah Holbrooks. "Unfortunately, we had to notify 10 families about the insufficient funding, which has resulted in the cancellation of the program for the upcoming school year."

There was talk about seeking funding locally, but Holbrooks said that still won't work.

"I wish it were as simple as 'finding funding for the program,' and that we could proceed with Pre-K if funding were allocated for the teachers' salaries," she said. "However, there is a licensing process that must be completed before a Pre-K program can allow students through the doors, and that process has now been put on hold."

She said the licensure process for Pre-K is quite detailed and time-consuming.

"We have now been removed from the list for the state pre-licensure visit. There is a process and time has to be allotted to achieve compliance with any licensing requirements prior to the issuance of the temporary license. I have been very upset about this situation. We have to keep advocating for our kids," she said.

At the school board meeting, Highlands School Board representative Hilary Wilkes, expressed her disappointment in the cancellation of the Pre-K program and the funding shortfall.

"I just hope people pay attention that every dollar really counts in our budget," she said. "When it comes to getting underfunded, the losers in this situation are the students. Which is very sad."

In addition, she said "there are very real humans who are involved that have been hired to work in the Pre-K classroom and now they can't."

"There are also families who have given up their fall spots in other programs for their children, and they can't

get them back. I hope people out there realize it's not funny; it's not fair and it makes me very angry."

MC Schools Superintendent Josh Lynch said he understands why families have questions and recognizes how disappointing this decision is for those who were planning to enroll their children in the preschool program.

"Unfortunately, the classroom was only partially filled. It was designed to serve 18 students, but only nine students had enrolled. At the current enrollment level, the program was not in a position to cover its operating costs," he said.

Lynch said the district also faced a much larger structural funding shortfall that required it to make decisions based on what could be sustained for the entire school year, not just what could be opened.

"Our funding request to the county was approximately \$2.5 million short of what was needed simply to maintain the district's current level of services. As a result, we have been forced to make extremely difficult decisions across the district to adopt a balanced budget and continue operating," he said.

Lynch said while \$117,000 may seem like a relatively small amount in the context of the overall budget, but every expenditure had to be evaluated in light of the district's broader financial obligations.

"Without a sustainable source of funding, opening the program would have required the Board to continue making difficult budget decisions and identifying additional reductions elsewhere in the district to support its ongoing operation," he said.

The school system uses several curriculums that will be reduced or eliminated to help close the funding gap including the Amplify program, which provides K-12 curricula and assessments programs focusing heavily on literacy, math and science and widely used in schools to build foundational skills and develop critical thinking.

Eliminating or limiting the Imagine Learning program, which is a PreK-12 digital program providing adaptive programs with personalized instruction in reading math and Spanish acting as a virtual tutor to accelerate learning for students including English learners and those with special needs, is also being considered.

With these local fund reductions,
• See AXING page 11

...RECYCLING continued from page 1

ricane Helen FEMA disaster declaration were eligible to apply for the grant.

Macon County received \$2.75 million to rebuild its damaged Recycling Processing Center and make other improvements through new equipment investments.

The grant will help fund the following projects:

- Rebuild the back portion of the Recycling Processing Center and purchase and install a new recycling baler.
- Repair the Waste Treatment and Processing Building, which was damaged by a fire.
- Construct a new recycling center to replace the current Carson Convenience Center.
- Purchase several pieces of equipment that are vital to our recycling operations.

According to Macon County Solid Waste Interim Director Jaimie Picou, the recycling baler is greatly needed at the Macon County Solid Waste Management Environmental Research Center.

Picou stated that currently, because the center's previous recycling baler was removed due to its age and condition, the county has had to transport loose recyclables to Asheville for processing until the replacement baler is installed. The grant money will help to resolve this problem.

Recyclable materials are not disposed of in the landfill and are an important function of the county's solid waste center.

"Macon County currently has a dedicated staff of four full-time employees who transport and process recyclable materials," said Picou. "In addition, the

county generates approximately \$300,000 annually from the sale of recyclable commodities."

"Several of the materials we collect for recycling are prohibited from being disposed of in the landfill under NCDEQ regulations," she added. "As a result, we make every effort to ensure these materials are diverted from the landfill whenever possible. Even after waste is collected, certain recyclable materials can still be recovered through our processing operations before final disposal, helping to reduce the amount of material that ultimately enters the landfill."

"There are some recycling streams that require the county to pay for proper disposal or processing, including electronics, glass, scrap tires, and fluorescent tubes," said Picou. "Most of these materials are also banned from landfill disposal, so responsible management is essential."

"This year, one of the most important discussions for Solid Waste Management has been preserving the remaining landfill airspace," she added. "Because landfill capacity is a limited and valuable resource, we work diligently to divert recyclable materials whenever viable markets exist rather than allowing those materials to occupy landfill space."

Helene scattered debris and destroyed waste management facilities all across Western North Carolina making current equipment incapable of efficiently handling the surge in debris.

Neighboring Jackson County was awarded \$3,000,000 which will be used to construct an additional transfer station in the Cashiers area.

play in. I am sure these events triggered fond memories for parents and grandparents alike.

Finally, let me thank the Highlands Police Department for all their work in crowd and traffic control. They had all officers on duty to ensure we had a safe and fun Fourth of July. I had a post-conference with Chief Holland, and she told me they had hardly any issues to deal with during the day and during the fireworks.

Like you, the holiday celebrations made me proud to be an American and a Highlander. I hope we carry this feeling of unity and mutual support into the coming months and years.

...AXING from page 10

the school board has identified a total of \$599,827 of potential savings; however, this still leaves an additional funding gap of \$599,827.

The school board is considering other options to help reduce the funding gap including restructuring the virtual academy, eliminating the 29.5-hour floating teacher's assistant position and more.

"Unfortunately, we are in a position where we have to make up the shortfall and so, outside of sending individuals and personnel home, we are looking at cutting programs, supplies and materials," said Lynch. "While it will have an impact on the teachers and classrooms, it will have a drastic impact on our students. But these are areas that we're going to have to consider because we have to close that gap."

In addition, Lynch said the school system will have to appropriate more from its fund balance moving forward.

"Although the district may ultimately need to use a portion of its fund balance to help close the overall budget gap, the fund balance is a one-time resource intended to address unforeseen circumstances and maintain financial stability. It

cannot sustainably fund recurring operating expenses year after year," he said.



RYAN HENDERSON

828-482-7062

**Custom • Decks • Bathroom
Remodel • Paint
Tiling • Carpentry
BeSpoke Shutters
Interior & Exterior Needs**



Week Two Concerts: July 11-14



Saturday, July 11 - 5 PM, Highlands | Sunday, July 12 - 5 PM, Cashiers

"The Whitehead Family Young Pianist Concert"

David Lai, piano

Monday, July 13 - 5 PM, Highlands | Tuesday, July 14 - 5 PM, Cashiers

"Neave Trio - Debut"

Neave Trio



**Highlands-Cashiers
Chamber Music Festival**

www.h-cmusicfestival.org | hccmfc@gmail.com | (828) 526-9060

...MAYOR continued from page 2

Duck Derby that they put on was also a momentous event. The club worked with other groups to make the daytime events a celebration to remember. As always, the landing of the MAMA helicopter, coordinated by Highlands Cashiers Hospital, was a special event enjoyed by both the young and the old.

I want to thank the Highlands Recreation Department for all the work they did for the events of the day. Everyone loved the games played by enthusiastic kids. Also, the Highlands Fire Department brought the hook-and-ladder truck to the ball field again and shot a cool stream of water for a lot of hot kids to

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA



JULY 4 HIGHLANDS, NC STYLE!



Photos by Kim Lewicki





Outdoor Concert Series

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

Join us for our July concerts!
All shows take place from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main Street

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

JULY 3

Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

JULY 10

Blackwell Tradition II

JULY 17

Foxtire Boys

JULY 24

Byrds & Crows

JULY 31

Nitrograss

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park

411-499 Pine Street

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

JULY 4

Southside Station

JULY 11

Blaze the City

JULY 18

Moon Dance

JULY 25

Bourbon Sons



visithighlandsnsc.com



HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS | ELEV. 4118

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital works to set goals to ensure a strong, Community-Focused Future 'State of the Hospital Report,' Part 2

For July's column, I'm continuing with my State of the Hospital message, with Part I being published last month. It's important to periodically update our community on developments and plans at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH).

In May, my fellow Mission Health hospital CEOs and I attended the HCA Healthcare CEO Summit in Frisco, TX. It was encouraging to hear many of the same priorities we've identified at HCH being discussed across healthcare organizations nationwide: clinical excellence, workforce development, innovation, collaboration among care teams, and improving access to care.

I've written before about the advantages of being part of HCA Healthcare, and the support we received during and after Hurricane Helene remains one of the best examples. The Summit reinforced the value of being connected to a network that provides access to advanced technology, clinical expertise, and best practices from across the country. It also highlighted the importance of listening closely to our patients and using their feedback to continually improve the care experience. Those lessons align closely with the priorities we've already established locally, and they strengthen my confidence that Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center (ELC) are well-positioned for the future.

After spending time with our Board, our leadership team, and colleagues from across HCA Healthcare this spring, I came away even more optimistic about where HCH and ELC are headed. We have a talented team, strong support from our community, and exciting opportunities ahead. Most importantly, we're committed to growing in ways that make a real difference for the people who live here.



**Tom Neal CEO, CNO
HC Hospital**

Speaking of our growth, I want to share some exciting news about orthopedic care on the Plateau.

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 in late August, Dr. Sloboda will see patients at Mission Community Primary Care – Cashiers and perform total hip and total knee replacement surgeries at HCH. This is an important step forward for our community because it means more residents will have access to advanced orthopedic care close to home, reducing the need to travel long distances for consultations, surgery, and follow-up appointments.

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.

At the end of the day, our goal is simple: to make sure you and your family can receive outstanding care close to home. Whether through new physicians, expanded services, or investments in our team, we're building for the future while staying true to what has always made HCH and ELC special — caring for our neighbors. I couldn't be more excited about what lies ahead.

• UPCOMING EVENT •

The Bascom's 15th Annual Summer Pottery Show returns July 17-18

Studio members demonstrate throughout the weekend; soda kiln unloading open to visitors Friday afternoon

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts presents its 15th Annual Summer Pottery Show on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Studio Barn on the Bascom campus. The two-day event features hand-made functional and sculptural ceramics by Bascom Studio Members, artists who work on-site in the Dave Drake Studio — available for purchase directly from the makers.

New this year, studio members will give live demonstrations throughout both days, offering visitors a look at the making process alongside the finished work. On Friday, July 17, the Bascom soda kiln is scheduled to be unloaded beginning around 1 p.m., an informal, open event that gives visitors a chance to see work emerge from the kiln and witness the distinctive surface effects the soda firing process produces.

The Bascom's soda kiln, completed in June 2024 and designed by Will Baker of the Penland area, holds 22 cubic feet of work and is gas-powered, capable of reaching varying temperatures depending on the clay body. At around 2,300 degrees, portals are opened and a sodium solution is introduced into the chamber; the sodium bonds with silica in the clay, producing surfaces that range from matte and subtly textured to richly colored and variegated. Each firing yields results that cannot be predicted with precision, which is part of what draws artists and visitors to the unloading.

Work in the Summer Pottery Show spans functional ware: mugs, bowls, vases, serving pieces — and sculptural forms, all made and fired on campus. Pieces are available for purchase, with proceeds supporting both the individual artists and The Bascom's Creative Community Initiative, which brings accessible arts programming to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau and surrounding region.

Frank Vickery, Director of Ceramics at The Bascom says, "I am excited about the 15th Annual Pottery Show because it represents the very heart of what we do here at The Bascom. By bringing our community together, we are doing more

than just hosting a gathering; we are giving our studio members a dedicated stage to showcase their passion and works of art. When people come out to attend, they aren't just shopping, they are directly investing in the livelihood of regional artists and fueling our core mission to champion local creativity."

The Summer Pottery Show is free and open to the public. The Bascom campus and galleries are open Tuesday through Saturday; the Studio Barn is open daily. More information is available at TheBascom.org or by calling 828.526.4949.

About The Bascom

- The Bascom creates visual art experiences that inspire and empower individuals and communities through seeing, thinking, and doing. Since 1985, The Bascom has served the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau as a place where people come together through the visual arts — offering free exhibitions, hands-on education, and year-round programs that welcome more than 20,000 visitors annually.



COREY JAMES GALLERY

& Estate Consignments

Bronze sculpture • Paintings
Vintage & Antique Collectables &
Furniture • Costume Jewelry



On the corner of 3rd & Spring

(828) 526-4818

For advertising rates and information, email highlandseditor@aol.com or text or call 818-200-1371.

Clayton
Family Medicine
& Wellness
Brian Pratt, M.D.


Botox Clinic

July 11th, 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.

 www.ClaytonFamilyMedicine.com

 706-970-9550

773 N. Main Street,
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Be Healthy Feel Healthy Look Healthy

...LETTERS continued from page 9

system broken and why is implementation the main reason a five-district system isn't acceptable? After all, if we keep a system for almost fifty years shouldn't we take a little longer to get it right?

Good government might be better served by an open forum where ques-

tions could be asked and answered, as well as various options presented and openly discussed. Good government benefits from citizen awareness and input.

**Margaret Pickett
Highlands**

For advertising rates and
information, email

highlandseditor@aol.com or text or call 818-200-1371.

Thanks to community, Afghan families have been saved

Dear Editor,

After almost five years we have basically completed the rescue efforts for several Afghan families.

We have successfully resettled families into the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Oman, and Australia. Girls who were denied an education by the Taliban are now

attending schools around the world. Men and women who were persecuted for working for human rights are now thriving in countries that value their contributions.

The one unknown is the family we were able to get accepted into the U.S. resettlement camp in Qatar, and then the U.S. government stopped resettlement efforts. The family is in limbo not knowing whether the U.S. will eventually allow them into the country or send them back to Afghanistan.

But there are many wonderful success stories of the people you helped to rescue from Afghanistan. As with most immigrants who have been successful professionals at home, their degrees are often not recognized in their new home countries, and they have to start over again. I just recently heard from Sula and Ikram Sadat, a couple who were both being hunted by the Taliban and who were under our care for several years before we found them a home in the States.

Ikram has just graduated first in his class of native English speakers from a large community college in Washington state. Sula made him a graduation sash composed of both the Afghan and American flags.

Sula heads efforts working with a variety of immigrant groups assisting them to adjust to their new country. Their son who stopped speaking during the time they were in hiding from the Taliban is now thriving, as is their daughter who was born while we supported them in Pakistan. They are so happy to be able to live and work in America, and grateful for the financial support from the many generous people that allowed this to happen.

Our efforts have saved more than two hundred Afghan men, women and children.

**Clark Plexico
Highlands**

Note:

Since 2021 Mr. Plexico has been based in Tulum, Mexico, and has been heavily involved in rescue and resettlement efforts for former colleagues in Afghanistan and their families. Rotarian with the Mountaintop Club.



162 Legacy Point Clayton, GA 30525

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)

Audiology Care

All in One Location!



Dr. Keith Jackson, MD,
ENT Emory University
and Medical College of
Georgia



Dr. Erica McVey,
Audiologist University
of Texas

Contact: (706) 782-0478

CONNECT



www.mountainlakesmedicalcenter.com / www.mlmcpphysiciansgroup.com

Highlands Hurricanes Boys team wins

8 swimmers qualified for nationals

By Steve Hott
Head Coach

On Thursday, June 25, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to Canton, NC to swim against SMAC (Smoky Mtn. Aquatics Club) and CCAC (Cherokee County Aquatics Club). The boys won and the girls swam well.

The Hurricanes won 17 events and finished 2nd in 18 events out of the 44 events they entered. There were as many as 10 swimmers in each event. Twenty-three Hurricanes scored in the meet.

The Hurricanes now have eight swimmers qualified for Nationals (AAU Jr. Olympics). They are Aniah McKim, Emma Denisoff, Rocco Basil, Justin Powell, and brother and sister pairs Ian and Bella Batista, Luca and Zana Batista.

In the points total, Jr. Olympians Emma Dennisoff and Jaycee Powell led the Hurricanes with 16. Brother and fellow Jr. Olympian Justin Powell 14, while

Bella Batista scored 12. Ivan Shchelgachov had 9 while Max Jestin, Nikita Denisoff, Ben Shchelgachov, Addyson Cannon and Jr. Olympian Ian Batista all had 8 pts.

Helix Sharp-Sutton won 7 pts, Stella Kerr, Ezra Cannon, Agatha Jestin, and Nehemiah Edwards 6. Lucas Maseko, Nicole Shchelgachova, Katherine Wise all brought home 5 pts. Brothers and sister Azariah, Hananiah Edwards, and Estelle Edwards scored 3. Daisy Herman had 2 pts. Also swimming well for the Hurricanes were Jay Herman and Cannon Ezra.

• *The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices mostly in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the Recreation Park Pool) unassisted. For further information call Steve Hott, Head Coach at 828.421.4121.*



WHOLE LIFE MARKET

Natural Products Store

Hours: 9am-5pm
Mon-Sat
828-526-5999

Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS

NECTAR JuiceBar Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market



HIGHLANDS HOSTESS

HAPPIEST IN

Highlands

YOUR LOCAL INSIDER

LOCAL CELEBRATION PLANNING -
CURATED WEEKENDS - CONCIERGE
SERVICES - INSIDER VIP EXPERIENCES

HAPPIESTINHIGHLANDS.COM

828.200.2659

Read Highlands Newspaper, Highlands' only locally owned newspaper, free from everywhere – on the street or on the web. Digital version is at www.highlandsNewspaper.com, Click on Local News. Delivered and Uploaded every Thurs. AM

Board Certified Dermatology. Serving Highlands since 2004.

**HIGHLANDS
DERMATOLOGY**

**Your skin's best care
starts here.**

Your trusted partner for skin health.

Medical, Surgical, and Cosmetic Dermatology
Skin Cancer Screening and Treatment
Anti Aging Procedures, Botox and Dermal Fillers

Paul S. Cabiran, MD, FAAD
Jane K. Pressler, NP
Sharon Meyer, MD



SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



The story behind our new church

Fr. Jason Barone
Our Lady of the Mountains
Catholic Church

Undoubtedly, you've noticed the incredible progress on our new church overlooking Founders Park. This is a good opportunity to explain the status of our construction, the background of our project, and our vision for the Our Lady of the Mountains community in the broader context of Church history.

In 2022, we identified the need for a larger church to accommodate our growing congregation. After nearly two years under construction, our new church is finally taking shape. The stuccoed exterior is complete; the curved front facade awaits its limestone cover. Inside, the drywall, interior dome, and upper millwork are near completion. Work has begun on our antique marble high altar that will stand nearly the full height of the church, soon to be followed by the Mary and Joseph altars. Other features: the baptistry, an antique confessional, marble flooring, and pews. We also plan a lawn for gatherings and a walled garden inspired by monastic cloisters.

The church building, however, will not be completed in this initial phase. As the beautiful churches we love to visit in Europe took many years to complete in all their ornamentation, such will be the case for OLM. Four minor shrines with their altars and artwork, millwork beneath the entablature, and extensive marbleization will be added as funds allow.

One of the most common questions I get is about the unique architectural style of the building in contrast to the alpine setting of Highlands.

Of the many Catholic architectural styles, the baroque period kept coming back to me in prayer. The baroque style was born in the 16th century and is most closely associated with the Catholic Counter-Reformation. The Church, riddled with scandal and corruption, had been in decline for many decades since the Renaissance. Sound familiar? Nevertheless, a phoenix rose from the ashes: renewal, fueled by the Council of Trent and a new class of incredible saints and religious orders.

For the last half-century, and especially following ongoing scandals, the Church seemed once again in inevitable decline. And yet, despite all this, signs of hope and renewal are budding forth with conversions rising and seminarians skyrocketing. The new OLM church seeks to tell this story and radiate hope. Over the front doors, carved in limestone, will be inscribed the dying words of our Savior: "behold thy mother." Addressed to "the disciple whom He loved," namely the Apostle John but in truth all of us, OLM — with its curved

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

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
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.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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
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
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
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

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
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
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
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.
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)

Wed: 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
Sunday Service (summer): 9am & 11am
Visit our website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com
Our Bazaar Barn supports outreach in the community.
Open Fri & Sat. 11am-3pm

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • 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 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

June 7

• At noon, officers responded to a call from a resident on Hummingbird Circle who said furniture and other items valued at \$19,000 had been removed from the property. Items included a Vyve cable box, Vyve Internet modem, at DVD player, two club chairs, a set of nesting tables, at bar unit, two bar stools, an antique 3 ft. dough bowl, a bear sculpture, three Remington statues, four hand-knotted, wool Heriz Serapi rugs, an HCC commemorative golf chest and a framed HCC monogram award.

Accidents responded to: June 22

• Vehicle 1 was sitting at the stop sign at the intersection of Post Office PVA, and NC 106..Vehicle 2 was backing out east in Post Office PVA and backed into Vehicle 1.

June 26

• Vehicle 1 was parked facing south in parking space on Main Street. Vehicle 2 was traveling west on Main Street and crashed into the rear of vehicle 1 which continued traveling without stopping.

July 3

• Vehicle 1 was turning left on to NC 106 from Spring Street. Vehicle 2 was traveling north on NC 106. Vehicle 1 pulled out into the pathway of vehicle 2 and hit vehicle 2 in the passenger side door. Both vehicles came to rest on Spring Street parking area.

• During the week, four Citations and 16 Warning Tickets were issued.

...SPIRITUALLY from page 18

front like extended arms—will seek to embrace all and invite all to embrace Christ and His Church.

An early consecration by Bishop Michael Martin will take place September 6th at 11am. Construction will not be completed until December. Tours are open each Saturday at 4:45 pm and Sunday at noon. If you're interested in making a gift or memorializing a feature, please contact us at olmhighlands.com.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 30.

June 30

• At 5:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Way.

• At 10:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm from a residence on Calloway Road.

July 1

• At 9:12 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Claire Lane.

• At 10:45 a.m., the dept. performed a welfare check at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 6:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Buck Creek Church Road.

• At 5:38 p.m., the dept. was called to investigate an issue at a residence on Bobby Jones Road.

July 2

• At 11:03 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Walhalla Road.

• At 2:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 3:29 p.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a motor vehicle accident on Walkingstick Road.

• At 5:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain road.

July 3

• At 7:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherrywood Drive.

• At 2:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 8:41 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County.

July 4

• At 3:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 2:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an animal in distress at a residence on Overlook Villas.

• At 8:55 p.m., the dept. performed a special investigation at a location on N. 4th Street.

July 5

• At 9:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Split Rail Row.

Walk-ins Welcome!



Hair Cuts, Color & Styles for Men & Women



Monica



- Beard Sculpting & Trims
- Luxury Shaves
- Men's Cuts

**Balayage • Eyebrow Tints & Facial Waxing
Premium Hair Extensions
Bridal Services**

**322 Main Street • Highlands, NC
828-482-1112**

HIGHLANDS FIRE & RESCUE OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 8TH, 2026 | 11AM - 3PM

149 FRANKLIN ROAD, HIGHLANDS

- FREE HOT DOGS!
- FIRE TRUCK RIDES
- RESCUE DEMONSTRATIONS!
- KIDS FUN AGILITY DRILL!
- CAR SEAT CHECK STATIONS BY CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

THE FIREWOOD COMPANY

Highlands • Cashiers • Atlanta

828.200.3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com • www.firewoodcompany.net



HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Come join us
each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

- Small group environment
- Casual
- Breakfast included
- LIVE stream ANDY STANLEY (NPCC)

For more information and location
Call Bee at 404-307-1415



- Grading
- Excavating
- Driveways
- Build sites
- Hauling
- Septic Systems

Edwin Wilson
Cell (828) 421-3643
Office/fax (828) 526-4758
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

- Commercial
- Residential
- Interior
- Exterior
- Free Estimates
- Veteran Owned

Call: Cody Hervey • 828-200-6926

ALLAN DEARTH GENERATORS AND SONS

▶ 828-526-9325 ◀

Generators aren't just a "thing" we do, generators are all we do!

GENERAC
Cummins
KOHLER

Kiln dried FIREWOOD
Delivery or pickup

2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395
highlandslawnandgarden.com

CHESTNUT STORAGE

Storage Units Available
Secure 24-Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms

Call today to find out why we're "Highlands Premier Facility"

828-482-1045 Look for our sign!

Buck Creek Rd - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Road near the hos-

CSC south granite DESIGN LLC

Granite Counter Tops
Kitchen and Bath
Custom Fabrication
Natural Stones

94-5 US-64 Cashiers NC 28717

Phone: 828-331-7730
Phone: 864-244-0504
southgranitelandscape@gmail.com
www.southgranitedesign.com

356B MAIN STREET ESTATE JEWELERS OF HIGHLANDS

WE BUY AND CONSIGN OLD JEWELRY

Appointment Only!
Call: 828-526-1960
Text: 770-855-0825
Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com

Elevated Home Maintenance & Repairs, LLC
A Step Above the Rest

Carpentry • Tile Work • Drywall • Remodels
Painting • Flooring • General Labor • Realtor Punchlists

(828) 371-9071
ElevatedHomeMaintenance.com

PIANO TUNING

Professional Service Since 1985

Bob McCollum
828-507-5760
Bobboh1@yahoo.com

COUNSELING CENTER OF HIGHLANDS

Offices in Cashiers and Highlands
828-482-7417
info@counseling-center.org | counseling-center.org

EST. 1957 **HOWARD HANNA**
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE

#1 Family-Owned in the U.S.
Al Stoneham
Realtor-Broker

Luxury Home Specialist
Licensed in NC & GA

Cell: 828.332.9767
al.stoneham@howardhannatate.com

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

LISA THOMPSON DOG SITTING

- daily drop-in visits
- overnight & extended stays
- dog walking

828.424.4637

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

BECAUSE THE VARIANCE WAS DE-

NIED, I am selling a quantity of high-quality prime Douglas Fir lumber. Please let me know if you would like to make an offer. Peggy Phillips 727-422-9300. (st. 6/11)



MIRROR LAKE COTTAGE, 2/2, fully renovated. \$525k. Text only 828.421.2042.



A VARIETY OF LOCALLY GROWN PERENNIALS. Call 828-507-8895. (st. 7/2)

17FT ALUMINUM LAKE CANOE, excellent condition with paddles \$600. 828-421-0124 (st. 7/9)

1.06 AC LOT ON 8900 Buck Creek Rd. \$79,900. 828-421-0124 (st. 7/9)

HELP WANTED

CAREGIVERS NEEDED FOR PT DAY AND NIGHT SHIFTS. – Competitive wages. Background check required. text 828-200-9000 for details or apply online www.MyChoiceHome.Care (7/2)

FOR RENT

HIGHLANDS EXECUTIVE APARTMENT – Large furnished 1 bedroom/1bath, fireplace, many amenities, beautifully landscaped and centrally located.

\$2200 longterm with all utilities. Call 352-422-7200. (st. July 2)

NEW 2BD, 2BA, FURNISHED APARTMENT within a half mile of downtown. \$1,900 a month. Call 404-234-2516. (st. July 2)

HIGHLANDS MOUNTAIN CLUB. 2bd/2ba furnished. Full Kitchen w/d central air. Large deck lake view. Clubhouse w/ pool. Available soon. 561-310-5085. (July 2)

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

FOR SALE

1 BEDROOM AND 1 BATH PARK MODEL with attached sunroom in the High Cotton Community at Buckcreek Rd and Shortoff Rd in Highlands. \$199,000. If interested, email blueridge143@yahoo.com for more information. (st. 5/21).

SERVICES

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

CAREGIVER/PET SITTER – Veteran, 20 years experience. References in Palm Beach area and Highlands. Call 561-685-0700. (6/4)

PLATEAU PAINTERS – Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, decks, and sanding and staining wood floors. Division of Chatlos Construction. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (6/25)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (6/25)

JUNK REMOVAL – We take anything. Call 828-200-0492

CUSTOM WELDING – gates, railings, trailer repairs, fencing, hand rails and more. I come to you! Call Gavin at 828-200-4219 or email smallgavin26@gmail.com

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/ decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828- 421-8600. (5/21)

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

Biz Card Ads Classifieds

\$23 BW - \$28 color

\$10 first 10 words - 30 cents each
additional word
color highlight - \$2
graphic - \$5



828-787-2360

2851 Cashiers Road, Highlands

We're proud to be a family-owned company with 43 years in the business, and even prouder to now serve the Highlands community.
~ Bob Saladna, Owner

Here's what Highlands Automotive is all about!

- Same-day service for most maintenance and routine repairs.
- Top-tier diagnostic & programming tools – just like the dealer.
 - New tire, alignment & balancing equipment for precision and speed.
 - Same experienced technicians.

We service **ALL** domestic and foreign vehicles.

Also serving customers in:

Atlanta, GA | Dallas, TX | Houston, TX

Come see the difference.



HIGHLANDS

DRIVING SERVICE

No Ubers. No Problem.

SAFE RIDES. LOCAL SERVICE. PEACE OF MIND.

PRICING

\$30 PER CAR FOR A RIDE

IF THERE ARE OVER FOUR PEOPLE MAKING MORE THAN ONE TRIP NECESSARY, THE COST FOR THE ADDITIONAL CAR WILL BE

\$50 ADDITIONAL CAR

OUTSIDE OF HIGHLANDS

Prices may differ.

WE GET YOU THERE SAFELY.

- DRIVING SERVICE**
Sit back and enjoy the ride.
- DESIGNATED DRIVER (DD)**
We'll get you and your car home safe.
- GROUPS WELCOME**
Great for nights out, events, and special occasions.
- SAFE. RELIABLE. PROFESSIONAL.**
Local driver. Local care.

You enjoy the night. We'll handle the drive.

CALL OR TEXT TO BOOK YOUR RIDE!
LOCAL. TRUSTED. HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED TEXT RIDE TO 828-342-3608

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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 too 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 Citi-

zenship 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 ncpst370@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.

Wed.-Sat., July 8-11

• At CK Swan, Jewelry Trunk Show.

Thurs., July 9

• As part of the campaign, "50 Techs in 50 days" campaign, Mission Health will host a virtual hiring event on Thursday beginning at 11 a.m., giving candidates the opportunity to connect directly with recruiters and learn more about available positions. Those interested in these roles at Mission Health can register for the virtual hiring event by visiting careevents.hcahealthcare.com/ClinicalHiringEvent

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.

• At Highlands Sotheby's office at 114 N. 4th Street, in partnership with The Bascom, Artist Reception Meet & Greet featuring Mary Ann Ziegler.

Sat., July 11

• Pop Up Pipers. 4:30-5p Outside the Presbyterian Church.

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.-Sat., July 17-18

• At The Bascom, the 15th annual Summer Pottery Show 10a to 4p. Admission is Free. Info: TheBascom.org | 828.526.4949



Fri., July 17

• At PAC, Three American Troubadours at 7:30 pm. boxoffice@highlandperformingarts.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.

Thurs., July 30

• A FREE viewing of The Return of Lake Toxaway as a prelude to HC Film Festival. 5-7p, viewing, reception, and Q&A at The Village Green of Cashiers.



Sat., Aug 1

• Pop Up Pipers

Sat., Aug. 15

• As a prelude to the HC Film Festival, the viewing of "The Gardener + Walk in the Garden Soiree. Viewing is a 4p at PAC. Soiree to follow.

SILVER EAGLE
Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery

349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES
Real Estate

Country Club Properties
Your local hometown
Real Estate professionals.
3 Offices 828-526-2520
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com

Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern

highlandermountainhouse.com

Weichert
REALTORS
Highlands Properties
450 N. 4th St. Highlands, NC
828-526-5522
www.highlandsproperties.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY
HOMESERVICES

CHARMAN'S CIRCLE
BHHS GOLD
TOP 2%
BHHS OF THE NETWORK

LUXURY COLLECTION™
Of the 55,000+ BHHS agents across the globe, Faye ranks in the TOP 2% and is a Luxury Collection Specialist.

FAYE WURM
828.200.1345
faye@bhhsmmr.com
2334 Cashiers Rd, Highlands
https://fayewurm.meadowsmtnreality.com/

LOCK & LEAVE MOUNTAIN LIVING

**11 Wood Lilly Way
Highlands, NC**

Offered at \$749,000

- 3 Bed, 2 Bath
- Screened Front Porch and Covered Rear Deck
- Completely and Luxuriously Remodeled

HOWARD HANNA
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE

Darlene Conley
Mountain Luxury
Your Dream. Your Journey. YOU'RE HOME.
Dedicated to finding the home you've always wanted.
Cell: 404.427.2448
darleneconley@howardhannatate.com

#1 IN THE CAROLINAS

• Steve - 404-219-1349
• Rick - 404-906-5113
• Wes - 828-482-2742
teamrickstave@howardhannatate.com
www.teamrickstave.allentate.com

HOWARD HANNA
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE

TEAM RICKSTAVE
Team RickStave Group

Clif Gottwals
303.887.7479
Clif.Gottwals@Gmail.com

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
— HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

HighlandsCashiersCIRe.com
210 North Fifth Street
Highlands, NC 28741

Ace is the Place,

Reebs
Hardware

At Main & 3rd streets
Highlands 526-2157

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC

Local Expertise, Global Connections.

Licensed in NC and GA
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

Live Love Highlands

Mountain Life
PROPERTIES
Denise Boothby
828-482-2434
www.LiveLoveHighlands.com

CHRISTIE'S | HIGHLANDS CASHIERS
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Highlands Office | 210 N. 5th Street

Cell: 828-787-1895
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com



Pat Allen

REALTY GROUP

Not The Biggest...Just The Best!

www.patallenrealtygroup.com
828.526.8784 | 295 DILLARD RD, HIGHLANDS

PAT ALLEN
828.200.9179
JULIE OSBORN
828.200.6165

More than
33 years of exemplary
service in the luxury
housing market!



VOTED AMERICA'S BEST by RealTrends since 2021

STAY A
lifetime



For real estate, visit
LANDMARKRG.COM
or call 828-743-0510.

*your mountain story begins here—
embracing both the life you lead
and the getaway you crave*



Jody Lovell

(828) 226.6303

#1 Broker
IN THE CAROLINAS

\$1 Billion +
TOTAL CAREER SALES VOLUME

#8 Agent Worldwide
AMONG 26,100+
SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY AGENTS

PER REAL TRENDS, HCMLS AND COUNTY RECORDINGS

Highlands | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

If you want an
award-winning real
estate experience,
choose an
award-winning
agent.



MITZI RAUERS
Broker / Luxury Collection
Specialist
(404) 218-9123
mitzi@bhhsmmr.com

*Based on 2023 sales data. Out of a global network of 55,000+ BHHS agents.



DAVID BOCK BUILDERS

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
— HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

YOUR HIGHLANDS
HAVEN AWAITS

One conversation could change everything.



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah

828-526-2338

43 Years of Fine Dining

NOW OPEN

7 Nights a week
5:30-9p



www.ontheverandah.com

M'CULLEY'S CASHMERE

Scotland's Best Knitwear

Open 7 days a week

526-4407
242 S. 4th St.



BEE GLEESON
Broker | Realtor®
404.307.1415

BeeGlee4@Gmail.com

PAT GLEESON
Broker | Realtor®
828.782.0472

PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com

JESSICA HABERKERN
Broker | Realtor®
254.718.7494

JessHaberKern@Gmail.com

HighlandsCashiersCIRES.com | 210 North Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741