

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 11, 2026

Four have signed up for BoE race

Candidates have until July 6 to join the race; other ballot additions

By Kristin Fox

Filing opened on Monday, June 8 for the November 3 General Election for the Ma-

con County Board of Education District 2 and District 4 seats and two seats in Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District.

To date four candidates, two for each district, have signed up for the upcoming elections for

• See BOE RACE page 4



Timmy McDowell holds the plaque about the man whose record he broke – Navajo Indian from Albuquerque, NM, PIR Corporal Yazzi, who ran Currahee in 40:05 minutes in 1944. He was awarded \$15 and a 10-day furlough.

Local, Timmy McDowell sets new course record – ‘Currahee!’

By Kim Lewicki

Running has taken rising senior Timmy places he never

dreamed of going – a scholarship to Rabun Gap Nacoochee

• See McDOWELL page 5

Hurricanes smash the competition in first meet of the season

By Steve Hott
Hurricanes Coach

On Thursday, June 4, the Highlands Hurricanes hosted the Smoky Mountain Aquatics Club (SMAC) at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The Hurricanes won 545-249.

All members of the Hurricanes team scored in the meet.

Leading the charge for the Hurricanes were Helix Sharpe-Sutton and Jr. Olympian Luca Maseko with three wins a piece and 24 pts. Zana Maseko, Nehemiah Edwards, and Jr. Olympian Bella Batista all won two blue ribbons and had 22 pts. Ellie Bysura and Melanie Zabrian brought home 21 pts and won

• See HURRICANES page 4

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Cars of every vintage, type and color will be on display in KH Founders Park Saturday, June 13.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

Engines are revving up for annual motoring festival

Enthusiasts of classic cars travel to museums all over America to see the best of the best but this weekend those classic cars will be in Highlands for the Highlands Motoring Festival, a four-day festival of driving tours, a Main Street parade, two car

shows, and two evening events.

For the past 19 years Highlands has hosted the Highlands Motoring Festival whose proceeds are donated to local human needs charities.

Over the past nine years an

• See MOTORING page 15



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Pending laws affecting municipalities

Sometimes it is hard to keep track of legislation in Raleigh. Let me either correct or provide an update on the pending land-use legislation I cited last week. Looks like Highlands may be exempt from several parts of that legislation.

The building height allowances to 60 feet, contained in one piece, apparently applies to towns with populations over 50,000 people. The same is true with the changes regarding accessory dwelling units on any residential property. The off-street parking exemption I mentioned does appear to apply to all towns.

The property tax issues are moving toward a vote on a constitutional amendment in November. But outgoing Senate leader Phil Berger still seems to be pushing a moratorium on property tax reevaluations with SB-889, the Property Tax Reappraisal Moratorium. If passed, it may apply to selected counties or state-wide.



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

Another legislative issue in this short session is amending SB 382, the downzoning legislation passed at the end of the 2024 session. That downzoning statute limited a municipality from passing a zoning amendment that lessened the permitted use of a property without the unanimous consent of all affected property owners. SB 382 caused concern and confusion among municipalities and counties, especially those in the

process of revising their Unified Development Ordinances (UDO). It also limited municipalities' ability to even make adjustments to zoning ordinances. Two pieces of legislation, HB 24 and SB 587, were introduced in the current session to clarify the issue of downzoning. Some organizations that are tracking their progress now believe these bills have stalled or been changed and will not provide clarity or correct the original downzoning bill, SB 382.

If there is no clarification, future changes to the Highlands UDO may be problematic. The North Carolina League of Municipalities is keeping track of these developments.

I want to thank in advance the work Commissioner Amy Patterson has done on researching county districting and the election of county commissioners. It is a major topic of review at this time in Macon County. Amy has found several workable options for the voters and commissioners of Macon County to consider. I know Amy and I are willing to present these options at meetings throughout the county in the coming weeks and months. We both believe this decision will have a major impact on Macon County and should not be rushed to a final decision.

At the upcoming June 18 Town Board meeting, Mike Hansen of McGill Engineering will return to discuss engineering costs and the phases and dredging work schedule for Mirror Lake. I encourage folks in the Mirror Lake area to attend and hear Mike's presentation. The question is whether we let both dredging phases run simultaneously, thereby generating

• See MAYOR page 10

• MILESTONE •





Hurricanes show off their digs and win big!



The Mountain Swim League Summer 2026 first swim meet was hosted at the Highlands Rec Park Pool by the Highlands' Hurricanes' Hurricanes on June 4 against the Smoky Mountain Aquatics Club. The Hurricanes won with a score of 545-249.

Photo by Anna Jestin

• WEATHER •

Thu, 11-Jun	Fri, 12-Jun	Sat, 13-Jun	Sun, 14-Jun
			
80°F 61°F	82°F 62°F	82°F 60°F	78°F 62°F
Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm	A t-storm around in the p.m.	A t-storm around in the p.m.	A thunderstorm in spots
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...BOE RACE continued from page 1

the school board. Currently no one has signed up for the two soil and water seats.

For the board of education, incumbent Stephanie Hyder Laseter and newcomer Kaleena Keener Messer have signed up for the District 2 seat, and incumbent Diedre Kaye Breeden and another newcomer Robert (Bob) Franklin Perkins have signed up to run for the District 4 seat.

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. 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.

Filing dates will run through Monday, July 6th at 5 p.m. Filing fees for the school board and soil and water are \$5.

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 night, votes will need to go to their district voting poll to cast their vote.

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 “on-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.

This fall, citizens will also be voting for three Macon County Board of Commissioners seats – one for District 1 and two for the at-large District 2 seats. Republican John Allen Shearl and Democrat Calvin (Russ) Russell Lunn are vying for the District 1 seat; District 2 candidates include Republicans Dylan James Castle and Kellie McConnell Burns and Democrats Terry Lee Bell and Janet Jacobs Greene.

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

three and two events, respectively. Anna Nicole and Ben Shchelgachov, along with Thompson Thriffiley, Addison Cannon, Lucas Zabrian, and Agatha Jestin all scored 20 pts, won one event and finished 2nd in two events.

Timmy McDowell, Ian Batista and Ivan Shchelgachov had 19 pts, and a 1st, 2nd, and a 3rd place finish. Margot Thriffiley and Jr. Olympian Aniah McKim brought home 17 pts and two 1st place ribbons.

Hananiah Edwards and Cooper Thriffiley scored 15 pts. Cooper won an event. Max Jestin, Azariah Edwards, and Stella Kerr received 14 pts, while Sterling Binder had 13, and Gemma Mathoudis got 12 pts.

Sisters Valerie and Victoria Nadzorau

each brought home 11 pts, Law Binder and Katherine Wise brought home 10 pts. Valerie started the meet off by singing the national anthem. Binder won an event. Blakely Sears scored 9 pts, Atlas Harris and Ezra Cannon 8 pts, Annabelle Searles and Wyatt Harris scored 7pts.

The next meet for the Hurricanes is at SMAC in Waynesville Thursday, June 11.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Team who practice 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 please call 828.421.4121.

...McDOWELL continued from page 1

School, in Dillard, GA, a scholarship to Christ School, in Asheville, NC, recent offers from several colleges, trips across the country and most recently a return to Currahee Mountain on June 6, D-Day, to win the "3 up – 3 down" race.

The annual race is held on D-Day in honor of the 18,000 paratroopers who trained during WWII. The soldiers ran the 3 miles up and 3 miles down in preparation for jumping into Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Timmy, 17, has now run the mountain three times, but this time he conquered it, coming in first of the 250 entrants at 35:45 minutes. In fact, that time beat the previous course record set by PIR trainee Corporal Yazzi who ran the six miles in 40 minutes and 5 seconds back in 1944.

His long-time running partner Derek Taylor, who has run the mountain himself numerous times and who has accompanied Timmy each time he has run the course said he beat his previous 40+-minute record which had earned him second place twice.

"I thank Derek," said Timmy. "We

have come full circle. The other two times I ran I came in second place; this time I came in first. Once you reach the top it's the best feeling because it's straight up with a 1,000-ft elevation gain, but you can't linger. You have to head right back down. Derek has been with me all three times."

While scaling the mountain, Timmy said he focused on three things. "One, don't look back; two, don't look up and three, just keep looking right in front of you."

He said running the hills and mountains of Highlands prepared him for the run. "I'm a good hill climber because of Highlands' terrain," he said.

Though there were water stations along the way Timmy said, he didn't chance stopping. "I had to focus on moving, just moving and not stopping."

Timmy has also won the annual Highlands Scholarship 5k twice, beating out hundreds of runners and his own record each time.

The Currahee Mountain course near Toccoa, GA, near the site of Camp Toccoa, was the first Parachute Infantry

• See McDOWELL page 10



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Belonging to something bigger

On a recent trip to Ireland, I had an unexpected conversation that made me think differently about our community here on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

During our flight, a group of younger flight attendants asked a veteran Delta flight attendant how she had managed to stay with the airline for 35 years while maintaining such enthusiasm for her work. Her answer was simple but profound.

She said, “God gave me a gift — the gift of wanting to belong to something bigger than myself.”

She explained that throughout her career, she had found purpose in being part of a team, a company, and a culture that encouraged, supported, and cared for one another. It was not simply a job. It was a shared mission and a community that gave meaning to her work.

As she spoke, I couldn't help but think about Highlands and Cashiers.

What makes this place special is not just the mountains, waterfalls, cool summer temperatures, or breathtaking views. Those things may bring people here, but they are not what keep them here. What keeps people connected to this community year after year is the same gift that flight attendant described — the desire to belong to something bigger than ourselves.

Every season, thousands of residents and homeowners quietly demonstrate that gift.

They volunteer at local food pantries, support literacy programs, raise money for healthcare initiatives, serve on nonprofit boards, mentor young people, support conservation efforts, and contribute countless hours to organizations that improve the lives of others. Many of these individuals could easily spend their summers enjoying the beauty of the plateau without ever becoming involved. Instead, they choose to invest their time, talents, and resources into strengthening the community around them.

What is remarkable is that many of these volunteers and donors receive little recognition. They do not seek headlines or accolades. They simply understand that a thriving community does not happen by accident. It happens because people care enough to contribute.

The result is a culture unlike any other.



Jody Lovell
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For a community of our size, the generosity found in Highlands and Cashiers is extraordinary. Our nonprofits consistently benefit from dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and passionate advocates. Whether supporting healthcare, education, the arts, environmental stewardship, animal welfare, or emergency services, residents continually step forward when there is a need.

That spirit creates a ripple effect. Newcomers

arrive and quickly discover that giving back is woven into the fabric of life here. They see neighbors serving neighbors. They see organizations working together. They see a community united by a common belief that we all share responsibility for preserving and enhancing this remarkable place.

Perhaps that is why Highlands and Cashiers feel different from so many other resort communities.

People here do not simply own homes. They become part of a community.

The flight attendant's words have stayed with me since that trip. In many ways, they describe the heart of this plateau. We are blessed with a community filled with people who have been given the gift of wanting to belong to something bigger than themselves.

And because of that gift, Highlands and Cashiers continue to thrive — not only as beautiful places to live and visit, but as communities defined by generosity, purpose, and service.

In a world that often celebrates individual achievement, perhaps our greatest strength is the collective commitment of people who understand that the most meaningful contributions are often those made on behalf of others.

“The mountains may be what first captured our hearts, but it is the people — and their commitment to something larger than themselves — that make Highlands and Cashiers a community unlike any other.”

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• LETTER •

We need a President who is truthful and a Congress and Supreme Court that do their jobs

Dear Editor:

Quote: The strength of American government is based on three things: a President that is truthful with the people and who can be counted upon to keep his word, a Congress that ensures that the President follows the law and insists that it controls the spending of all our hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and a Supreme Court whose rulings are fair and just, assuring no man or woman is above the law or favored by the law.

All these conditions no longer exist in Trumpland. Any wonder why the entire world now views America as a weak, foolish and erratic nation no longer worthy of being trusted to lead the world to a better future? Unquote. The author is unknown to me, I quote it FYI.

To achieve functioning governments within demo-

cratic societies requires ethical participation of all its citizens. We "subjects" are entrusted with the indispensable task of choosing equally righteous leaders.

Ask yourself: Is this person able to move people to

action that is aimed at the good of the entire community or is that effort only enhancing the power and glorification of the person himself or his family? This differenti-

• See LETTER page 11

• OBITUARIES •

Steve Castellaw

Steve Castellaw died peacefully in his home on May 31st. He was born in Commerce, Georgia on July 5th, 1945, to Wilma Nix Castellaw and George Wilburn Castellaw. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Leita Castellaw Cobb.

Steve attended Commerce High School, where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. After high school, he attended the University of Georgia and graduated in 1966 from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

While at Georgia, he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, where he served as Rush Chairman and Commander.

In 1969, he met his wife, Karen Lewis, in Athens. They were married the next year and settled in Atlanta.

After serving in the Army Reserves, he went to work for McCann Erickson Advertising Agency and worked primarily on the Coca Cola Account. He then went to work for John Blair Company, a New York based television broadcast representative firm. In the late 70's, he and his family moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where he opened and managed an office for Blair. They loved their time in Charlotte and made many lifelong friends. In Charlotte, he joined the Carousel Club and Quail Hollow Club. Also, while in North Carolina, Steve was awarded the distinction of becoming a member of the Order of The Long Leaf Pine Society.

After five years Steve and his family returned to Atlanta; and he was hired as director of sales to go on board with Spartan Communications Company, which owned television and radio stations throughout the country. He had many fond memories of the people he worked with at Spartan, and the trips they made entertaining clients around the world.

He retired for several years and enjoyed traveling with Karen both in this country and abroad.

After deciding that he had too much energy to retire, he went to work with Sotheby's International Real Estate Company, and then later Christie's International Real Estate selling properties in the North Carolina mountains. He found a great deal of satisfaction in meeting with them to find their perfect homes.

Steve was passionate about the game of golf and was fortunate to play many of the best courses in the USA and around the world. He especially enjoyed his many trips to Scotland and Ireland.

He was a member of Cherokee Town and Coun-



try Club and Capital City Club in Atlanta, Highlands Country Club in Highlands, North Carolina, and Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In Atlanta, he was a member of the Roundtable Club where he served as President.

He was a member of Peachtree Church in Atlanta and First Presbyterian Church of Highlands.

Steve loved volunteering as a football coach at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church and at Northside Youth Organization. Even when his sons were too old to play, he continued to coach for many years. He took such pride in seeing grown men from one of his former teams and hearing them greet him with, "Hey Coach!"

One of his biggest pleasures was spending time at Lake Rabun, taking cocktail cruises in his wooden Chris Craft and relaxing with good friends. He also enjoyed watching his "Dawgs" play on Saturday in Athens and talking Georgia football recruiting year-round. He was a DGD!

In later years, he loved residing in the small town of Highlands and playing golf in the cool weather.

A born conversationalist, Steve genuinely loved engaging with people. He was always telephoning friends just to "check in". He never met a stranger; and he charmed everyone with his ability to connect, taking an immediate interest in the lives of others.

Steve is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Karen Lewis Castellaw; his two sons, of whom he was most proud, Christopher Lewis Castellaw (Elizabeth), and Brooks Steven Castellaw (Kate); and his grandchildren, Bryce, Kaitlyn, Caroline, Bates, and Brooks, Jr. He also leaves one sister, Virginia Castellaw Jones; two brothers-in-law, Richard Lewis (Susan) and Bill Lewis (Marye); and many nieces and nephews.

A service will be held at Peachtree Church, 3434 Roswell R, Atlanta, Georgia on Tuesday, June 9 at 2:00 PM with a reception to follow at Peachtree Golf Club, 3019 Ashford Dunwood Road.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to The Child Development Center, 89 Church Street, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com

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Mtn Top Rotary meets HCFF artistic director



John Martin, President with Joy Jorgensen, Artistic Director of the Highlands Cashiers Film Festival, who spoke about the upcoming film festival to be held September 17-20. Joy is a festival director and an independent film producer with strong ties to Highlands and the Plateau.

...McDOWELL continued from page 5

Regiment Training Center (PIR) where the 501st and the 506th of the 101st Airborne Division and the 507th of the 82nd Airborne Division trained.

This was the grueling training route for WWII paratroopers as depicted in the Spielberg movie "Band of Brothers," which followed Easy Company through their experiences in WWII, from training at Camp Toccoa through major battles in

Europe ending with V-E Day.

Running the course was a daily reality for Easy Company and others during their training. The run tested recruits' endurance and was used to eliminate anyone who couldn't meet the elite airborne standards. If they could run the six-miles in 50 minutes or under, they could stay in the regiment. If not, they were out.

Recruits who dropped out of the run for any reason were removed from the paratrooper program and sent to regular infantry units.

The grueling physical challenge spawned a famous battle cry for the 506th: Currahee!"

Currahee is the Cherokee name for the mountain which means "Stand Alone" as it rises alone abruptly at the tail-end of the Blue Ridge Mountain range.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

significant heavy construction activity but shortening the project's duration. Or do we do the phases in sequence, thus reducing construction activity for a given period of time but extending the dredging time? I know commissioners would like to hear citizens' views on this issue. That scheduling decision will be made later in the summer. The focus of this meeting will be on reviewing the remaining engineering and design costs for the project.

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...LETTER continued from page 9

ates a statesman from a demagogue and it's imperative we discern the difference.

It is also vital that citizens know the distinction between "politics" (the art of guiding people well), and "partisanship" (the art of gaining and controlling power).

Again, ask yourself: Am I concerned with serving the community and guided by its well-being, or am I concerned only with benefiting my party and indifferent to the comfort and prosperity of the community?

Take care also, not to confuse politics with "PC." Political Correctness is a doctrine fostered by a delusional and illogical minority promoting and cultivating the preposterous notion that it's possible to pick up a turd by the clean end.

Today's turbulent environment does not render politics easily recognizable (in its root meaning), concern for the community. Polis, the Greek word for "city," in other times meant the pursuit of politics was considered a "noble activity."

Understanding how good govern-

ment works and our place in it exposes our present dilemma, the burden of a leader who is the living image of an unprincipled despot for whom Congress's impeachment clause was designed. If this president's violations of affirmed rules of law, the Constitution, his oath, and defiance of Congress, are not impeachable offenses, nothing is.

The Supreme Court's carte blanche gift of immunity from prosecution for breaking any law, code, or rule this president chooses will result in the permanent alteration of the balance of power among the branches of government and the ultimate collapse of the United States.

This Administration has embarrassed and disgraced America before the world, put our military in peril unnecessarily and (wittingly or unwittingly) alienated our allies and united our adversaries. It has murdered innocent men, women and children at home and abroad as much of America watches in silence, our grand achievements dumped on the ash heap of history.

**David L. Snell
Franklin, NC**



Mountain Life
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Cruise Through Highlands' Hottest In-Town Listings

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BOOK ONLINE TODAY

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

The Middle East: Where are we now?

By Mary Beth Allen
CLE Board
Member

The Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment (CLE) invites you to join us for a deep-dive into the U.S.'s relationship with the complex, fascinating, and often turbulent region of the Middle East. CLE is proud to welcome two experts this June, Dr. Eren Tasar and Dr. Kevin Jones, to enhance our understanding of this complicated region.

On June 18th and 19th, Dr. Eren Tasar will share his perspectives on "The Crisis of Religious Authority in the Digital Age," a discussion of how the digital age has produced a profound crisis of religious authority across global Christian, Muslim, and other faith communities, and "Nicaea Revisited: Turkey Between Rome, Moscow, and Washington," which will explore how Turkey now sits at a strategic crossroads where Christian diplomacy, regional power politics, and great-power rivalry all converge.

Dr. Tasar is Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor in the History



Dr. Eren Tasar

Department at UNC Chapel Hill, where he has taught since 2013. His interests are the religious and social history of Soviet Central Asia. His first book, "Soviet and Muslim: the Institutionalism of Islam in Central Asia" examined Soviet policies toward Islamic institutions. His 24-lecture video series about the history of Central Asia since ancient times for The Great Courses was released in January 2025.

Dr. Tasar has two forthcoming books, "Muslim Atheism in Central Asia," which is under review with the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, and "Central Asia from Antiquity to the Present," which is under contract with Oxford University Press.

On June 22nd and 23rd, Dr. Kevin Jones will speak on "Fuel on the Fire: Oil and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East, 1928-2026," a history of U.S. oil interests in the modern Middle East, and "Mad Mullahs vs. The Great Satan: Admiration and Animosity in U.S.-Iranian Relations, 1951-2026," which will cover the history of U.S. and Iranian relations from the Constitutional Revolution of 1906 to

the present-day war of 2026.

Dr. Kevin Jones is Associate Professor of History and Department Head at the University of Georgia. He earned his PhD in History from the University of Michigan and was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the George Washington University Institute for Middle East Studies, before beginning his current position at UGA. His work has appeared in Social History, and his book, "The Dangers of Poetry: Culture, Politics, and Revolution in Iraq," was published by Stanford University Press in 2020.

Please join us for these timely and enlightening topics by two great CLE experts by registering online at <http://www.cle-highlands.com>, which lists specific dates, times, and locations, or by calling the CLE Office at (828) 526-8811. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Dr. Kevin Jones



Prelude to the HC Film Festival

Sept 17-20, 2026

The Story Behind the Documentary "Trail Mix: Finding Yourself on the Appalachian Trail"

Glenn Sweitzer was known to make frequent trips to his cabin in NC for uninterrupted working time and to recharge his creative batteries. Curious about the "backpackers" he saw on the way, he found out that NC has a trailhead in the Roan Mountains to the Appalachian Trail which heads North for 2,190 miles. Glenn kept thinking about a movie he'd seen and couldn't forget: Wild, the true story of Cheryl Strayed, a troubled woman with no backpacking or camping experience, who hiked over 2,000 miles on the Pacific Coast Trail, alone, and emerged transformed. What was initially curiosity became a "calling" to go into the woods and interview some of the hikers and discover the source of *their* healing and transformation. Glenn's journey began in May of 2018, when he packed a large camera bag and headed up the mountain. At this time he did not own a backpack, had never boiled water to eat dehydrated food, and was in considerable pain from the full hip replacement he had recently undergone. After the first three miles, he was about to pass out and had not even crossed paths with a hiker yet, so he filmed himself talking to the camera. Eventually, he would cross paths with a young couple who'd been on the trail for three months, who not only were happy to share their story, but stayed in contact for the next four months with updates on their journey. Devouring every book and YouTube video about thru-hikers he could get his hands on, Glenn discovered that the majority of them focused on adventure or gear. He wanted stories from hikers who were on the trail for a reason — what drove them to embark on an insane six-month-journey through the wilderness? He realized to get these stories, he'd need to hike with the people and experience the isolation, the trail and the wilderness as one of them. So he bought a backpack, tent, sleeping bag and survival essentials and embarked on his journey. Even though following thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail has been one of the most difficult things Glenn has ever done, it has been one of the most inspiring journeys of his life. It has become his mission to share these incredible stories and illustrate the transformative power of nature and the wilderness, which provides clarity, wellness and allows us to reconnect with ourselves.



Watch the film for FREE with the filmmaker, Glenn Sweitzer, on June 20th. 12pm at The Village Green and 4pm at the PAC. More details on the website!

www.HighlandsCashiersFilmFestival.com

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Automotive photographer Christian Palazzolo at the Bascom this weekend

15-year-old international award winner brings his work to The Bascom Shop

The Bascom will host a Meet the Artist trunk show with automotive photographer Christian Palazzolo on Friday, June 12, and Saturday, June 13. The event coincides with the 19th Annual Highlands Motoring Festival, which draws classic car enthusiasts to the Plateau each June. A featured Porsche from Porsche Asheville will be on display outside The

Bascom Shop during the trunk show.

Palazzolo, 15, has earned international recognition for work that treats the automobile not as a subject to be documented but as something to be felt. American-born and raised in London, he brings a cinematic sensibility to his photography, shaped by exposure to European design and global culture. His image “911 Sunset”

— a dusk portrait of a rare teal Porsche 911 GT3 Touring — took second place in the International Photography Awards in the automotive non-professional category, a competition that drew more than 14,000 entries worldwide. A second image, “London Fog,” capturing a blue Bentley on the Plateau in Cashiers, placed in the Top 100 of the Auto Photo Awards.

Palazzolo’s photographs will be on view in The Bascom Shop throughout June. The June 12–13 trunk show is a free public event and an opportunity for visitors to meet the artist, view prints, and examine the work during one of Highlands’ most vehicle-focused weekends of the year.



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...MOTORING continued from page 1

emphasis has been placed on recruiting the highest quality and most interesting cars and owners resulting in significant national attention.

For 2026 the festival returns with its seven events spanning four days. It all starts with the "One Lap of the Mountains" driving tours on the roads of WNC in carefully curated routes to explore the area's natural beauty and wonderful mountain roads creating a unique driving experience. Both of this year's driving events sold out in January, but there is another option for everyone. Ten years of driving tours from past festivals have been packaged into softbound tour books. Look for the "One Lap" and "Second Lap" books on sale year-round at Highlands Hiker on Main Street in Highlands.

The 2026 HMF Grand Marshal will be Wayne Carini, who is well known for his long running TV series and podcast "Chasing Classic Cars." Wayne grew up helping in his father's restoration shop which sparked his lifelong passion for old cars. His restoration shop has produced top tier classics which have successfully competed in all the major concours events.

On Thursday night, June 11, everyone will have the opportunity to meet Carini at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street with the "Happy Hour with Wayne Carini" event. After the meet and greet, there will be a panel discussion with Wayne Carini, Bill Warner, and Corky Coker, who will discuss classic cars and current market trends.

On Friday afternoon, June 12, classic cars will start gathering in Kelsey Hutchinson Park on Pine Street in preparation for the much anticipated "Main Street Parade" which departs precisely at 6:05 pm for a round trip tour of Main Street Highlands much to the delight of hundreds of spectators who have learned to bring chairs and find the best spot for viewing rare and priceless classics. It is free to spectators and participants. All interesting cars are eligible but must be in the park by 5:15 pm.

The centerpiece event is the Saturday, June 13 "Classics in the Park," event -- a judged showing of classic cars that have been invited by the Selection Committee. Every car on the show field has undergone a rigorous vetting process to curate a display which tells stories of a bygone era. Sometimes, more interesting

than the car itself, are the stories of the owners and their history with the car.

Since 2026 is the 250th anniversary of America's independence, organizers decided that a reenactment of America verses England would be an appropriate theme. The battlefield will be the show field and the contestants will be Corvettes verses Jaguars. More than 50 other classics will also be on display.

This event is free to the public, but donations will be accepted at the gates which open at 9:30 am. At noon all the cars on the show field will participate in the annual "Drivers- Start Your Engines" exercise. Winners of the judged classes are announced at 1 pm and the show ends at 3:30 pm.

On Saturday night the excitement continues with the "Dinner Party" at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, with adult beverages, dinner, and a special presentation. Speaker Wayne Carini will take the stage to share his experiences with the vintage and classic cars. This paid event starts at 5:30 pm and all proceeds go to the festival's three charity beneficiaries: the Literacy and Learning Center, REACH of Macon County, and the Community Care Clinic of Highlands and Cashiers.

The final event of the festival is back in the park on Sunday morning June 15, with a second, less formal, car show "High Octane" where all interesting vehicles are invited from 8:30-11am. There is no judging or entry fee, and cars are allowed to arrive and depart anytime.

Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, June 14th and can sign up to volunteer with a "Contact Us" on the group's website.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday June 11

- "Happy Hour with Wayne Carini" at the PAC 5pm-7pm

Friday June 12

- Main Street Parade of Classic Cars 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Saturday June 13

- "Classics in the Park" Invitational Judged Car Show in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park 9:30am to 4pm

- "Dinner Party" at WCCC 5:30pm to 9pm

Sunday, June 14

- "High Octane" Social and Car Gathering in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. 8:30am to 11am

Further information can be found at: www.HighlandsMotoringFestival.com

Rotary

Club of Highlands
Chartered 1945



Rotary Club Report from Josh Bryson, President, Rotary Club of Highlands



Few moments bring me more pride than announcing the Rotary Club of Highlands scholarship recipients each year. Since the program began, we have awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships to help local students pursue their educational dreams. We believe that supporting the young people of our community is an investment that shapes a brighter tomorrow. Our 2026 recipients are: Claire

"Birdie" Sherwood (USF), Cayden Pierson, Hunter Conner, Jaylin Raby, Claire Worley (UNC Chapel Hill), Coby Bloedow (NC State), and Isaiah Vilardo (North Georgia Tech).

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! We are proud to support these exceptional students and look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the years ahead.

In service,
Josh
JOSH BRYSON,
PRESIDENT



(L to R): Birdie Sherwood, Cayden Pierson, Coby Bloedow, Hunter Connor, Jaylin Raby, Claire Worley, Isaiah Vilardo

Rotary Club of Highlands- Sponsored Bingo Night

for June 2026 will take place at the Highlands Community Building at 6:30pm on June 11th to benefit the Gordon Center for Children at the Highlands United Methodist Church. For additional information on the Rotary Club of Highlands, please visit www.highlandsrotary.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Coming up in June, the Rotary Club of Highlands will feature weekly luncheon programs including:

- June 2:** Joy Jorgenson will speak to the Club about the upcoming 2026 Highlands Cashiers Film Festival
- June 9:** Dr. Kelli R. Brown, Chancellor, Western Carolina University will update club members about all that's happening at the University
- June 16:** Officer Kelly Foster will discuss canine training at our local law enforcement agencies
- June 23:** Marlee McCall Beres, Emily Coleman Wolfe and Chris Jowell will address the club regarding designing community recovery
- June 30:** Club member Leslie Manning will brief members on services provided by Pisgah Legal Services.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



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From left: Josh Bryson, President Highlands Rotary Club; Joy Jorgensen, Artistic Director, Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival; Charlotte Muir, Rotary Host.

Rotary meets HCFF artistic director

The Rotary Club of Highlands recently enjoyed an informative presentation, hosted by club member Charlotte Muir, with Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival Artistic Director Joy Jorgensen providing a preview of the upcoming Festival. Joy, who has been coming to the Highlands-Cashiers area since childhood and maintains a close connection to the community, outlined her vision for the Festival.

As a community-focused festival model rooted in “place,” she wants to emphasize in-person experiences that bring audiences and filmmakers together with screenings, conversations, and time shared—while thoughtfully building new traditions that feel welcoming, intentional, and connected to the Highlands-Cashiers community.

The 2026 Film Festival kicks off with four summer screenings—June through August at the Highlands Performing Arts Center and Cashiers Village Green—and the main Film Fest September 17-20th

Mountain HomeMinders has earned accreditation for their Home Watch services from the National Home Watch Association for the third year

The NHWA was formed in 2009 to establish and maintain the highest industry standards for Home Watch and absentee homeowner services throughout the United States and Canada (www.nationalhomewatchassociation.org). Home Watch is a visual inspection of a home or property, looking for obvious issues, which means that it is a service that “keeps an eye on things” at your vacation or primary home while you are not in residence. All principals of NHWA Accredited Member companies are background-checked, insured, and bonded.

Owner Loretta Newton and her husband, Larry, have a rich history in home management. Loretta and Larry are excited to offer Home Watch services once again with Mountain Ho-

meMinders, working together as a couple to serve their community. Loretta’s love for the mountains has always been a guiding force in her life. Growing up in South Carolina, while her friends headed to the beach, Loretta preferred the mountains of western North Carolina. Her idea of heaven includes hiking, canoeing, rafting, fishing, or simply strolling under the lush canopy of the Appalachian Mountains.

Since 2020, Mountain HomeMinders has served Franklin, Highlands, Cashiers, Lake Glenville, and Lake Nantahala.

You can reach them at (828) 421-4744 or Mountain-HomeMinders@gmail.com.

Learn more from their website, <https://mountainhomeminders.com>.

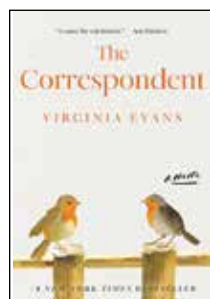
Highlands Mercantile on Main



WESTMAN ATELIER



Brazilian Cowhides



Divine Landscapes opens in Village Square

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce was pleased to celebrate the grand opening of Divine Landscapes by Michele Schwartz on Friday June 2. Michele’s gallery showcases her love for the mountains, waterfalls, and natural beauty of the Carolinas through stunning photography and drone work. Divine Landscapes is located at 456 Oak St, Highlands.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Shining Stars at The Literacy & Learning Center

Upper left, in just four months, Alejandro has completed numerous reading and math lessons on the iReady platform. Upper right, Daniel has been recognized for his remarkable growth, demonstrating increased focus, confidence, and commitment to learning. Lower left, Danae was selected for her exemplary work ethic and positive attitude. Lower right, Tricia Smith has been named Volunteer of the Year for her extraordinary commitment.

Join
THE LITERACY
&
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Sunday, July 12 | 6 - 9 pm
The Farm at Old Edwards
OPEN BAR - HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES - DANCING

Swingin' Soiree

Tickets
and details



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 June 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

JUNE 5

John Webb

JUNE 12

Young Mountain Magic

JUNE 19

Shortoff Mountain Boys

JUNE 26

Doug Ramsey

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
411-499 Pine Street

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

JUNE 6

The American Flyers

JUNE 13 - 6:30 p.m.
U-Neek Flav'ur

JUNE 20

Groove Machine

JUNE 27 - NO CONCERT

Time change for
Highlands Motoring Festival



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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

What really counts?



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

The Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James) is an ancient network of thousands of miles of pilgrimage routes across Europe, all culminating at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. Traditionally a spiritual journey to the reputed burial site of the apostle Saint James, it has evolved into a globally popular long-distance hike for travelers of all backgrounds.

My daughter made a pilgrimage of the last 500 miles of the renowned trail after graduating from college, it was a gamechanger for her. You may know of a friend or family member that successfully stepped away from the hurriedness of this life only to immerse themselves in the simplicity of walking, reflecting, praying, and making new friends while crossing the border of France into Spain.

Just the other day, I became aware of a friend of a friend that was walking the trail and having some difficulty traversing a particularly difficult 3-day trek. This pilgrim was hurting physically, and she was somewhat downcast. She needed a lift. I was asked to make a short video to send to her. Having never spoke to her before, I considered what I, a stranger, would have to say to her in her hour of need. I knew that she was counting the miles, the hours and the steps she was walking each day. Her peak daily "step count" exceeded 44,000. That's tiring just thinking about it.

Some people like to count. Many of us by nature are counters in life. Some count and recount their money. Others, count their "followers," or their "likes." We count our sales and our accomplishments. In this cultural moment we like to count. We also like to rate things, 4-stars? 5-stars? We are raters and counters. How many people go to your church? How many children in your VBS program? How many closings, commissions and sales did you have last month? How many of these? How often does this happen? How often does that happen?

I made the short video as requested and sent it to her after a grand total of maybe five to six minutes of my day, but who is counting, right? I encouraged my new hiker friend to let her pedometer count her steps while she counted her blessings. I shared this with her because I have learned that life is so much more manageable, enjoyable, and gratifying, even during difficulties, when we count our blessings.

I imagine the vigor in her step was a blessing as was the breath in her lungs. The sound of birds, and people laughing, certainly all blessings. The restful sleep the night before. The entire experience itself. Her feet at the end of her legs. Her fingers at the end of her arms? The blisters on her feet that seem to make the journey that much

PLACES TO WORSHIP

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30; 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

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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.

Wednesdays—Supper at 6 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

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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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

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

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

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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

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

Kippur.

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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.;

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Sat. 4pm May 23-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.

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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 May 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Accidents

June 3

Vehicle 2 was backing out in the parking lot of Bountyland Quick Stop at 1st and Main streets.

Vehicle 1 had turned into the parking lot behind vehicle 2. Vehicle 2 failed to see Vehicle 1. Both ve-

...SPIRITUALLY

continued from 18

more memorable. The fragrance of warm bread at a day's end. A meal with newly made friends. The sun setting on Spain's horizon, that's got to be a blessing for sure. I wonder, could she have counted 44,000 blessings while taking 44,000 steps?

Some blessings are invisible to us. Consider, the accident that never happened, the sickness that never befell you, the harm that never came your way, or the caring friend in a season of grief.

I heard a Cicero quote not long ago, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others." Be grateful my friend for those in your life and for those kept from your life. Do all things without arguing or complaining. (Phil. 2:14). Count it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds... (James 1:2).

I pray that you can say and experience the following with authenticity: I count my friendship with Christ a blessing. He has blessed me and oh how I want to bless others. He is mine and I am His. He is a "Blessor," and I am His child. He forgives me. What a blessing. He loves me. What a blessing. He restores me, encourages me, leads me, teaches me, holds me, provides for me, and He sees me, hears me, understands me... What a blessing, what a blessing. Life is less about where I am headed and more about the journey. I am so blessed. Today I will first count my blessings

hicles came to rest in the parking lot.
• No citations were issued last week. Twenty warning tickets were issued.

June 5

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a report of a man stalking and communicating threats by repeatedly contacting a woman at work.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 2.

June 2

• At 5:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

June 3

• At 11:25 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Helens Barn Ave.

• At 12:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 6:47 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD on a fire.

• At 9:14 p.m., the dept. searched for an individual on Buck Creek Road.

June 4

• At 10:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Oak Street.

• At 6:04 p.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moonlight Lane.

June 6

• At 1:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 12:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location in Highland Plaza.

June 7

• A little after midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

• At 6:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Oak Lane.

• At 2:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

June 8

• At 7:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 4:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

• At 8:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Heatherwood Lane.

June 9

• At 3:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Carriage Hill.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE:

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

POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18y+ Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3:30pm, Friday 11am-1:30pm. Public Swim: Mon. thru Thurs. 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 Wildwood, 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 Mi-

chelle 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.

• At First Presbyterian Church a free concert "Music for Prayer" at noon. These casual concerts are almost entirely improvised and last 30-45 minutes.

3rd Saturdays

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

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.-Sat., June 11-13

• Highlands Motoring Festival.

Thurs., June 11

• At CLE, Read My Lips: What We Can All Learn From Failed Political Speeches Pre-

sender: Dr. R. Jarrod Atchison, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members/\$50 Nonmembers

Fri. & Sat., June 12-13

• At The Bascom: Meet the Artist Trunk show with automotive photographer Christian Pallazzo on Friday and Saturday. The event coincides with the 19th Annual Highlands Motoring Festival. Porsche from Porsche Asheville will be on display outside The Bascom Shop during the trunk show.



Fri., June 12

• At CLE, Concrete Jungles and Changing Skies: How Cities Affect Weather. Presenter: Dr. J Marshall Shepherd, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members/\$50 Nonmembers

Sat., June 13

• At The Secret Garden sandwich shop and market in Village Square next to KH Founders Park, live Music with Matt Molesworth from noon-3p..

Wed., June 17

• At CLE, Roots and Rhythms of Mountain Music Presenter: Tracy Foor, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members/\$50 Nonmembers

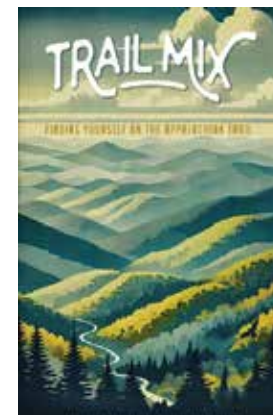
Fri., June 19

• At CLE, Nicaea Revisited: Turkey Between Rome, Moscow, and Washington Presenter: Eren Tasar, 10AM-12PM, \$35. Members/\$50 Nonmembers
• Breaking ground for the new playground at the Rec Park is a 2p. Kona Ice social included.

Sat., June 20

• Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival Summer Screening. Trail Mix, noon at the Village Green in Cashiers and at 4p at PAC in Highlands. FREE. It follows a 2,000 mile journey from Georgia to Maine along the Appalachian

Trail.



Sat & Sun, June 27-28

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

Sat., July 11

• Pop Up Pipers.

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@highlandsp Performingarts.com. 828-526-9047.

Sat., June 20

• A FREE viewing of Trail Mix, a prelude to the HC Film Festival. 12p at The Village Green of Cashiers and 4p at Highlands PAC.

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

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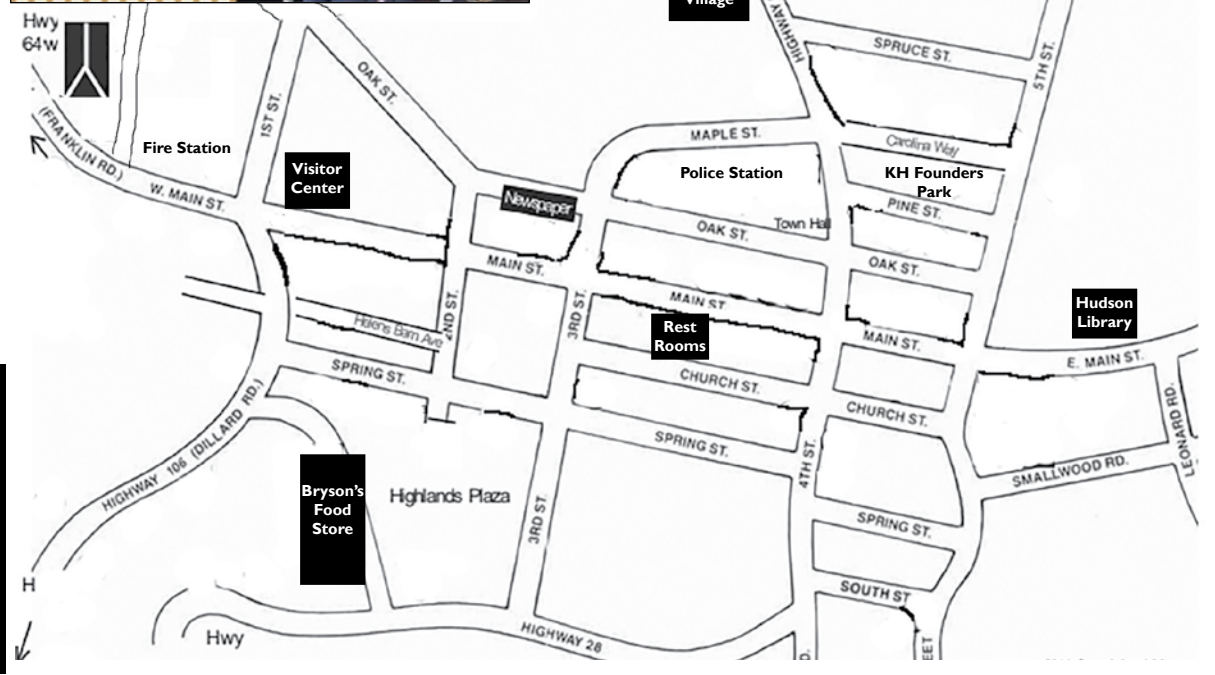
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