

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 4, 2026

## Macon County still hammering out budget

*Deficiencies noted in requested Board of Education budget*

By Kristin Fox

In just a few weeks, the Macon County Board of Commissioners will be taking the final steps to adopt the proposed

2026-2027 county budget. However, at last week's budget work session, Commissioner Gary Shields, liaison to the Macon County Board of Education,

expressed concerns about the budget proposed by the school board. No one representing the school system including any

• See BUDGET page 9

## 1/4-cent will make a big difference

*County striving to educate public about sales tax increase*

By Kristin Fox

"A small change makes a big difference." That's the slogan commissioners are using to market the proposed 1/4 cent sales and use tax on the November general election ballot.

Last fall, Macon County Commissioners unanimously voted to put a referendum on the ballot for the levy of a one-quarter of a cent sales and use tax and to so citizens can decide at the ballot box.

According to County Manager Warren Cabe, such a sales tax increase would generate about \$2.3 million in revenue annually, or about the equivalent of a 2-percent property tax raise.

• See CENT page 4

## It's summertime in Highlands!



Kay Kramer snapped this shot taken from the back porch of her Bowery home.

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## Highlands Beauty and Art vs. Highlands isn't over

*Town given through June 24 to answer complaint*

By Kim Lewicki

On June 1, the Highlands Beauty and Art vs. Town of Highlands et al case, set to be heard June 1 in federal court in Asheville was cancelled. but it's not over.

After the revised version of the solicitation ordinance presented by Town Attorney Nick Tosco at the special called meeting the evening of Tuesday, May 26 was approved by commissioners and sent to Plaintiff Highlands Beauty and Art, a Motion for Leave to Withdraw Motion for Preliminary Injunction was granted by U.S. District Judge Max O. Cogburn.

In its opening statements, the ordinance states that because the Town received numerous complaints and reports regarding solicitation by individuals and employees of businesses who use excessive and intimi-

dating sales tactics, misleading promises, unwanted touching, spraying of perfumes and mists, and rubbing of creams and other products in an attempt to pressure individuals to donate, contribute, or pay large sums of money to solicitors; and because the town received numerous complaints from businesses located along Main Street and in the B-1 zoning district where such solicitation has occurred regarding negative impacts to the business as a result of such solicitation of individuals located on public property;

And to ensure the safety and welfare of its citizens, ensure adequate access, manage the traffic flow and congestion of pedestrians and customers on sidewalks and streets, and protect the local economy from adverse impacts, the Town of

• See BEAUTY and ART page 14

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Important legislation is afoot



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

It will be hosting a community information meeting to discuss district alignments and the process by which county commissioners are selected by voters.

Earlier this year, the Macon County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing about districts and voting. There was a strong response from citizens who attended the hearing, with many expressing ideas about the proposal.

From that hearing, it was clear Macon County residents wanted a careful study before any changes occurred. In that spirit, I invite all county residents, of whom Highlanders are, to come review these issues at this meeting.

At the previous public hearing, several ideas were presented by Macon County residents. These discussions need to continue. I would advocate bringing in consultants, for instance, NC State Board of Elections staff and NC School of Government experts, to identify options

for county voters to consider.

The community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, at the Highlands Community Center. It will begin at 6 pm. I want to encourage all elected officials and residents to attend and take part in discussions.

Let me update you on several pieces of legislation currently in process in the North Carolina short legislative session.

First, a proposed constitutional amendment has been passed by both houses to enable legislators to control how towns and counties can levy property taxes each year. There are other constitutional amendments to this on the floor. One would limit the state income tax rate to no more than 3.5%. The current limit is 7%.

There is also a constitutional amendment that may appear on the November ballot that declares life begins at conception -- bodies pass the proposed amendments -- the governor's signature is not necessary for the amendments to appear on the November ballot for voters to approve.

There are several proposed rule changes to the 160-D General Statutes. These statutes enable towns and counties to implement development, zoning, and building codes.

One change would come from the HB 369-Parking Lot Reform/Stormwater Control bill. It would pre-empt local governments from having any off-street parking requirements. The concept behind the change is to encourage more diverse, available housing options. On the other hand, many local officials worry about increasing parking congestion if the legislation becomes law.

SB 445, the Regulation Reform Act of 2026, would be a statewide statute to permit building heights up to 60 feet in commercial areas. Highlands currently has a 35-foot height ordinance. With the recent approval of the hotel on the Bank of America site, some residents have been upset that the hotel has a 35-foot entrance side and a 45-foot back side. If

• See MAYOR page 5

## • MILESTONE •





### An annual rite of passage



On the last day of school, graduating seniors parade cars through town escorted by Highlands PD.

Photo by  
Lacy Vilardo

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 4-Jun	Fri, 5-Jun	Sat, 6-Jun	Sun, 7-Jun
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# Pat Allen

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# • HERE'S THE THING •

## When vices become habits

The Doobie Brothers released their fourth studio album, *What Were Once Vices Are Now Habits*, back in 1974. They probably borrowed that title from the stoic philosopher, Seneca, who expressed a similar sentiment in one of his *Letters to Lucilius* in 64 AD. I don't

know if either was correct all those years ago, but the words ring true in 2026.

I've lived long enough to recall when promotion of "vices" such as heavy alcohol consumption, gambling, legal and illegal drug use and abuse, and non-marital sexual activities were restricted from the

public's eyesight. In hindsight, these behaviors were typically frowned upon and often prosecuted as criminal offenses. Nowadays, we, our children and grandchildren are exposed to advertising and programming on both television and in films that often favorably highlight all these potentially damaging activities.



**Bud Katz**

This came into focus during last month's Kentucky Derby when I noticed the presenting sponsor of one of America's most celebrated annual sporting events was Woodford Reserve, a distiller of bourbon whiskey. Whiskey distillers couldn't advertise on television until 1996, following a self-imposed, nearly 50-year, ban. Now, they're everywhere.

In addition to ads promoting alcoholic beverage consumption during the extended leadup to the race we also saw many ads promoting wagering on the race, as well as on many other sporting events, simply by using online gambling apps readily available on our smartphones. Have a drink and make a bet. Easy.

I worked for over 30 years in the communications field, including radio and television, advertising, and strategic public relations. I understand the effects of a skillfully executed ad campaign, especially on television and social media, and how it impacts vulnerable consumers.

Turn on any advertising-supported TV content – scripted programming, newscasts, sporting events – and you'll see at least a handful of ads pushing prescription pharmaceuticals. In 1997, the FCC lowered the number of potential side effects needing inclusion in television ads. This allowed pharmaceutical companies to encourage viewers to "ask your physician about ..." this or that drug, many of which can quickly become a part of the user's life for as long as he or she lives.

In the past, many forms of gambling were frowned-upon. Some were illegal. Today, gambling is legal everywhere, and now includes so-named prediction markets, where people can wager on election outcomes, stock market movement, even weather events, and more. Just download an app and open your wallet.

Perhaps the most complicated of these vices are prostitution and pornogra-

phy. While both involve sexual behavior outside of marriage, pornography is mostly protected by the First Amendment unless it involves children, coercive behavior, or falls under existing obscenity laws. Prostitution, on the other hand, is illegal everywhere except a couple of Nevada counties, but seemingly remains beyond the ability of the American legal

system to police or otherwise regulate it. Neither prostitution nor pornography can legally advertise products and/or services, but both are easily accessible by everyone, including minors, thanks to today's technology platforms.

Here's the thing. I don't suggest criminalizing these activities however I also don't think they should be aggressively promoted. While over time, attitudes and behaviors do change, I'm not sure promotion of these particular activities necessarily make life better for most of us.

I'm sure many of us recall when, in 1971 the FCC banned tobacco advertising when a straight line between most tobacco consumption and both lung cancer and heart disease was established. Maybe making these vices more visible and accessible isn't such a great path forward.

I doubt Seneca, or the Doobie Brothers for that matter, considered the possibility of a world free of questionable behavior. Each of us must live according to either the law(s) of the land and/or those of our consciences, circumstances, and personal value systems.

All of that said, if nothing else comes from this, we all now understand that Seneca is, (or was) more than a lovely town in South Carolina. And, if you didn't already know what a Doobie is, let's just say it's not only the name of a rock band.

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

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## ...CENT continued from page 1

If the sales tax passes, sales tax will increase by a quarter of a cent from 6.75 to 7 cents on the dollar -- a measure that unlike raising property taxes would impact not only locals, but also visitors who shop and dine in the area.

Local residents, visitors, people who are shopping from other communities in the county will pay the tax. A key point is that visitors contribute, which helps bring in outside revenue to support the community.

The extra revenue generated from the ¼ could be used to help fund some of the county's capital projects such as public safety, police, fire, EMS, schools, infrastructure, and community services. The goal is to invest in things that benefit everyone in the county.

This will be the third attempt to pass such a tax. The local sales and use tax referendum was also on Macon County's ballot in the 2022 and 2024 and failed both times. Of the seven western counties that make up Region A, Macon

County is the only county that has not passed such a sales tax increase.

After commissioners voted to put the referendum on the ballot, under the direction of Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields, a team came together with the purpose of raising awareness of the proposed ¼ of a penny sales tax that will be on the ballot November 2026. The team hopes to clear up any confusion the public has about the proposed sales tax increase.

Shield is worried the verbiage on the ballot may give the public the wrong impression of how much tax is being levied. It reads, "Local sales and use tax at the rate of 1/4 percent (0.25%) in addition to all other state and local sales and use taxes."

"We need the public to understand this doesn't mean a quarter sales tax increase, but rather a ¼ of a penny sales tax increase," said Shields. "I think that's what hurt us before. The public hears a quarter cent tax increase but it is a 1/4 of a cent

• See CENT page 6

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

this legislation were to pass, it may preempt our ability to regulate heights, as we currently do.

And finally, GS 160-D-917 would permit accessory dwelling units in all residential areas. These units would be small cottage-type dwellings, sometimes referred to as "grand mama houses."

The rationale for this change is to expand workforce units in a given area. I am open to this legislation passing. We desperately need more housing for workers in Highlands. My caveat is that without a prohibition on these units being used as STRs, the goal of increasing workforce housing would be negated by the allure of high rental fees generated by short-term rentals.

We will continue to track the progress of these changes, as will the North Carolina League of Municipalities. It is hard to stop a train, and the North Carolina legislature.



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### Hug a real estate broker today

We lost our good friend Steve Castellaw this week, and I've found myself hugging a lot of fellow real estate brokers in Steve's honor. Steve was loved by everyone who knew him. He befriended you instantly with a smile, a story, and colorful language. His instincts were right on target, and he personified the word salesmanship in our business. We talked a lot about sales, both coming from media and marketing careers before getting into real estate. This definition of real estate sales fit Steve to a T: "a high integrity person, well trained, fair minded, practicing exemplary customer service, every day" (Truett Cathy, Founder of Chic-Fil-A).

Steve's passing causes me to raise a glass to the Real Estate Broker community along the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, 326 people strong. The odds are pretty good that you know at least 10 of them. If not, stop by Highlands Tavern pretty much any night and you'll meet a few. We Real Estate Brokers share a unique relationship. Our role is to work together to achieve a common goal; and that is to help others; period! Ours is a partnership that serves you, the Customer, not a competition against one another ... which serves no one!

A quick Steve Castellaw story. He met with a guy selling his Highlands Country Club property, and the first question the guy asked was "what do real estate brokers really do, anyway?" Steve said, "tell me what you do for a living?" The guy



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and  
**Pat Gleeson**  
**828.782.0472**  
**PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com**

was a car dealer. Steve went on to say something like this: "I'm exactly like you, we work 7 days a week, nights, and holidays; we show property in rain, snow, sleet, and hail (just like the U.S. Mail); we manage inspections, appraisals, septic tank ruptures, surveys, attorneys, lenders, and along the way we communicate constantly with all parties involved. Like you, we're terrific schmoozers! We love showing property, meeting for coffee,

giving you constant feedback after showings, communicating current market conditions, counseling you in the big decisions based on years of experience, and we let you know about great wine tastings, fishing spots, and hell, if you're nice to me I might even take you to play golf!"

I'll close with this. There was a wise man named Solomon who wrote; "There is a season for everything under heaven; a time to give birth, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to sow; a time to tear down, a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to be silent, and a time to speak." So long Steve, we'll see you again someday, and God's Speed to the Castellaw family!

Hug a Real Estate Broker today... they deserve it!

• *Pat and Bee Gleeson along with Jessica Haberkern are proud to be with a team of "Helpers" and Real Estate Brokers at Christie's*

### ...CENT continued from page 4

increase, they don't hear the word cent."

A team headed by Shields is working to educate the public about the sales tax increase by attending club and community meetings. In addition, the group is developing a Facebook page to help give the public information to help them understand the issue better.

At its May regular meeting, the Macon

County Board of Commissioners were given an update on the effort to pass the quarter-cent sales tax. Team member Eric Haggard, who joined the group recently, presented a presentation he developed to educate the public about increase.

"This is meant to be an educational presentation, and it's also meant to start

# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## Coming up at CLE: A live “podcast” and lectures on the U.S. conservative movement, social media and democracy, and regrettable political speeches

By Richard Shackelford  
CLE Curriculum Chair

The week of June 8 at CLE features Professors Jarrod Atchison and Michael Lee offering a varied line-up of thought-provoking programs. Professor Atchison, the Director of Debate and Professor of Communication at Wake Forest University, returns on Monday, June 8 with a Part Two of his last summer's well-received lecture on the challenges to democracy from social media — this time focusing on what we can do as individuals and what policy changes we can advocate to help preserve democracy in the face of the current social media landscape.

Professor Lee, Director of the Civility Initiative and Professor of Communication at the College of Charleston, takes the mike the next day to address the evolution of American conservative thought from the top-down approach of the Cold War era to the decentralized populism of the Digital Age. He will address the divergence of institutional conservative orthodoxy and Trumpism, the role of social media and the transformation of conservative political discourse.

On Wednesday, June 10, Professor Lee returns to lead a simulated (i.e. not

recorded), live version of his nationally-followed Podcast, “When We Disagree,” which tackles all manner of “hot button” political, cultural and philosophical disagreements. Come watch three CLE members be interviewed by Professor Lee, exploring the seemingly simple but in many ways complex question: “what’s a disagreement that stuck with you, that you can’t get out of your head?”

Finally, on Thursday, June 11, Professor Atchison completes this series of programs with what should be a highly entertaining discussion of lessons we can learn from political speeches that did not quite hit their mark, i.e., where the politicians likely came away wanting to “have that one back” and which in some instances were fatal to their careers. This lecture will cover speeches across the political spectrum, including some from our greatest orators like Presidents Reagan, Obama and Lincoln.

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



Professor Jarrod Atchison



Professor Michael Lee

## Citizens are encouraged to attend the redistricting meeting at Community Building

On Tues., June 9 at 6 p.m. in the Community Building, the town is hosting an informational meeting about the proposed district alignments regarding how county commissioners are selected by voters.



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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### What We Keep Keeps Us: Exploring Our Human Museums

Presenter: Jaki Shelton Green, NC Poet Laureate, Friday, June 5, 10AM-5PM, \$125 Members / \$140 Nonmembers



### When We Disagree: Live at CLE!

Presenter: Mike Lee, Wednesday, June 10, 2-4PM, \$35 Members / \$50 Nonmembers



### Read My Lips: What We Can All Learn From Failed Political Speeches

Presenter: Dr. R. Jarrod Atchison, Thursday, June 11, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members / \$50 Nonmembers



### Concrete Jungles and Changing Skies: How Cities Affect Weather

Presenter: Dr. J Marshall Shepherd, Friday, June 12, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members / \$50 Nonmembers



### Roots and Rhythms of Mountain Music

Presenter: Tracy Foor, Wednesday, June 17, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members / \$50 Nonmembers



### Nicaea Revisited: Turkey Between Rome, Moscow, and Washington

Presenter: Eren Tasar, Friday, June 19, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members / \$50 Nonmembers

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# • LETTERS •

## Fair representation requires consistent principles,

Dear Editor,

Dr. Mike Cordle's letter in the May 28 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled, "Here we go again." It rightly reminds us of the shameful history of racial discrimination in voting and the sacrifices made by those who fought for equal rights. No American should ever forget that history, and no citizen should be denied equal participation in our democracy because of race.

However, the discussion of congressional districting should not stop at race alone. If it is wrong to draw districts that favor or disadvantage citizens because of their race, it is also wrong to draw districts that favor or disadvantage citizens because of their political affiliation.

Across the country, both parties have engaged in gerrymandering to maximize political advantage. Critics

often point to Southern states and race-based districting disputes, but many Northeastern states have also drawn congressional maps that heavily favor one party. In several states where Republicans regularly receive 30% to 40% of the statewide vote, they hold few or no congressional seats. Such outcomes raise legitimate questions about whether district lines are being drawn to predetermine election results rather than fairly represent voters.

Recent controversies have also highlighted attempts to divide communities in ways that appear designed to create partisan advantages. For example, proposals involving Fairfax County in Virginia drew criticism because opponents argued they would split communities into multiple districts for political gain rather than for coherent geographic representation.

Justice Clarence Thomas has repeatedly argued that government classifications based on race are fundamentally suspect because citizens should be treated as individuals, not as members of racial groups. While his comments have focused on race, the same principle deserves

consideration when government officials draw districts based on political identity. Citizens should not be sorted, packed, or cracked because they belong to a particular political party any more than they should be because of their race.

The long-term solution is not more race-conscious about districting or more partisan mapmaking. Congressional districts should be drawn around logical geographic communities, counties, cities, and regions whenever possible, without regard to race or political affiliation. Voters should choose their representatives; representatives should not choose their voters.

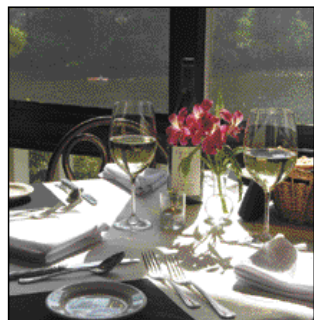
If we truly believe in equal treatment under the law, then we should oppose discrimination in districting regardless of whether it is based on race or politics. Fair representation requires consistent principles, not selective outrage.

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## ...BUDGET continued from page 1

school board members or the superintendent were present at the budget work session.

While Shields stated that he did not have a problem with the school system's local current expense proposed budget of \$14,294,138.65 or the capital outlay proposed budget of \$1,822,584.18, he did have concerns that four needs were identified as top priorities but were not included in the proposed budget – exceptional children (EC) and mental health positions.

These needs include an EC teacher at Franklin High School, a mental health professional at Macon Middle School, three self-contained EC teachers and four EC personal care assistants.

"I would like to be on record that I would request the school board to go back within their local current expense and local capital outlay monies to see if they can find monies to fund exceptional children (EC) top priorities that were not in the proposed budget," said Shields. "To not have these needs in the budget may be illegal, and I think this has to have our attention."

Shields said outside of self-contained classrooms, three EC teachers currently carry caseloads exceeding 40 students each.

"That is criminal," he said. "To effectively serve these students and improve EC testing and outcomes, caseload ratios must be reduced. That's not in their budget."

Exceptional children (EC) numbers continue to rise with projected enrollment of EC students for 2026-2027 expected to be higher than in recent years.

The school board will need to find \$546,978.98 to fund the four areas -- \$69,549.96 for FHS EC teacher; \$77,029.66 for MMS mental health professional; \$208,649.89 for three EC teachers; and \$191,749.47 for four EC personal care assistants.

Shields spoke about the federal law IDEA, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, that ensures all stu-

dents have access to a free and appropriate public education. IDEA was adopted to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

In the law, Congress states:

"Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate in or contribute to society. Improving educational results for children with disabilities is an essential element of our national policy of ensuring equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities."

The stated purpose of the IDEA is:

- to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;

- to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and parents of such children are protected;

- to assist States, localities, educational service agencies, and Federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities;

- to assist States in the implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families;

- to ensure that educators and parents have the necessary tools to improve educational results for children with disabilities by supporting system improvement ac-

• See BUDGET page 11



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# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## The annual Highlands Motoring Festival is coming next week

Enthusiasts of classic cars travel to museums all over America to see the best of the best. On June 13th, 2026, some of these museums are sending classic cars to Highlands for the Highlands Motoring Festival, a four-day festival of driving tours, a Main Street parade, two car shows, and two evening events during the second week of June.

The scenery and high elevation of WNC along with mountain roads have long attracted enthusiasts. For the past nineteen years Highlands has hosted the Highlands Motoring Festival as it has grown into an important community asset, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to local human needs charities. The all-volunteer team of enthusiasts who stage the event recognize that a town as unique as Highlands deserves a car show of equal uniqueness. Over the past nine years an emphasis has been placed on recruiting the highest quality and most interesting cars and owners resulting in significant national attention. In 2019, the festival was awarded

the "Best Concours Event" in the land by Classic Motorsports Magazine. That same year Dennis Gage was on the HMF show field recording an episode of his TV show "My Classic Car", seen weekly by millions of viewers worldwide.

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 everyone will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Carini at the PAC 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, 2026, classic cars will start gathering in Kelsey Hutchinson Park in preparation for the much anticipated "Main Street Parade" which departs precisely at 6:05pm 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 specta-

tors and participants. All interesting cars are eligible but must be in the park by 5:15pm.

The centerpiece event is Saturday's "Classics in the Park", 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, HMF organizers decided that a reenactment of America verses England would be an appropriate theme. The battlefield will be the HMF show field and the contestants will be Corvettes verses Jaguars. More than fifty other classics will also be on display. To give a sense of the quality level of these invited classics, almost half of the show cars will arrive in Highlands on transporters. This event is free to the public, but donations will be accepted at the gates which open at 9:30am. 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 1pm and the show ends at 3:30pm.

On Saturday night the excitement continues with the "Dinner Party" at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, with adult beverages, dinner, and a special presentation. Past speakers have included Miles Collier, Bill Warner, Corky Coker, and Brian Redman. This year, Mr. Wayne Carini will take the stage to share his experiences with the vintage and classic cars. This paid event starts at 5:30pm 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.

### Thursday June 11

"Happy Hour with Wayne Carini- 5:30pm – 7:30pm PAC

### Friday June 12

Main Street Parade of Classic Cars 5:30pm to 6:30pm.  
(6:05pm parade procession begins to leave K-H Park).

Parade participants gather in park by 5pm.

### Saturday June 13

"Classics in the Park" Invitational Judged Car Show in the K-H Park 9:30am to 4pm  
"Dinner with Wayne Carini" at WCCC 6pm to 9pm

### Sunday June 14

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

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## ...BUDGET continued from page 9

tivities; coordinated research and personnel preparation; coordinated technical assistance, dissemination, and support; and technology development and media services;

- to assess, and ensure the effectiveness of, efforts to educate children with disabilities.

“They need to go back and review this to make sure that we’re not doing something outside the law,” said Shields. “We all know the new high school was built on the backs of the exceptional children. They were one of our forefront runners on the new high school. We are responsible.”

Commissioner Barry Breeden agreed with Shields.

“I agree with you, and I wish they (school board) were here,” said Breeden. “Those numbers are alarming. The way we get there, if that’s what we want to do, is what Jackson County does. Jackson County dictates how their school board spends its money within the school system. They dictate what programs they’re

## ...CENT continued from page 6

conversations so that folks are getting the correct information about how this is going to come into effect and where the money can be spent,” said Haggard.

The proposed local sales tax would apply only to items that are already taxed under North Carolina law. Tax laws contain exceptions. Whether something is taxed can depend on what is purchased, who buys it, how it is used and current North Carolina law.

Some of the things that the sales and use tax do not apply to are grocery items, many of the staples of foods that you buy at the grocery store. Staples such as bread, milk, eggs, fresh produce, meat and canned goods are generally not taxed.

Other things that will not be taxed include prescription medications, certain medical items, some equipment and supplies, farming and manufacturing exemptions, and resale purchases.

Items that are subject to this quarter of a penny are tangible personal property, goods you can see, feel, or touch like electronics, furniture, clothing, and household items. Also prepared food and beverages, meals from restaurants, fast food, soft drinks and candies, some warranties and maintenance contracts,

supporting.”

Currently, Macon County gives the school board money and lets them spend it on what they see fit.

Title One requires the state and local governments give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all of the programs, services, and activities. Public education being one of these activities. Others include employment, transportation, recreation, health care, social service, courts, and voting.

“This is a mandate and we have obligation to make sure that for our exceptional children and their families we adhere to the laws,” said Shields.

Over the next few weeks, commissioners will continue to review the proposed budget. The proposed budget is posted on the county website at [maconnc.org](http://maconnc.org) for the public to review.

A public hearing on the county budget will be held on June 9 at 6 p.m. Following the public hearing, the board will vote to adopt the proposed budget.

digital property, leases and rentals, laundry and dry cleaning and admissions for shows at the theater, concerts, and sporting events would be subject to the sales tax increase.

If spending \$4, the increased amount is only 1 penny more. So, if the bill is \$4.28 now, it’ll be \$4.29 if the ¼ cent tax goes through.

In the 2007 legislative session, the North Carolina General Assembly granted county board of commissioners the authority to levy, subject to voter approval, an additional ¼-cent county sales and use tax.

In November, if the referendum is passed by the voting public a 10-day public notice of the county’s intent to adopt a resolution to levy the tax is posted. Once the resolution to levy the tax is adopted, it is sent to the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

“We can make Macon County safer, we can make it healthier, and we can use the money within our schools,” said Haggard. “With a small contribution we can generate a lot of money for the county. The ¼-cent sales tax keeps local dollars in Macon County to invest in the things that matter most. Your small change today builds a better Macon County tomorrow.”



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# HS Class of 2026 graduation, May 30



The processional and recessional was performed by Bagpiper Glen Morris. The invocation was delivered by Caleb Bowers. Salutatorian Hunter Conner gave welcoming remarks. Principal Sarah Holbrooks commended the graduates. Gina Billingsley gave the commencement address. Valedictorian Jaylin Raby gave the farewell address.

# HS Class of 2026 graduation, May 30



Macon County Superintendent Josh Lynch and the five Macon County School Board members – Jim Breedlove, Diedre Breeden, Melissa Evans, Stephanie Laseter and Hilary Wilkes – attended the ceremony.  
Photos by Kim Lewicki



# ...BEAUTY AND ART continued from page 1

Highlands Board of Commissioners amended Chapter 6, Article III, of the Town of Highlands Code of Ordinances to further define solicitation and prohibit solicitation in the B-1 zoning district.

The amended solicitation ordinance specifically addresses and prohibits aggressive manners of employees whereby passers-by fear bodily harm, or a criminal act upon their person or property as a result of aggressive behavior.

Aggressive behavior includes touch-

ing someone without their consent, using obscene or abusive language while attempting to solicit; forcing oneself upon another by engaging in close proximity to a person after a negative response either verbally, by physical sign, or by attempting to leave is given; blocking the passage of a person solicited, or engaging in conduct that could reasonably be construed as intending to compel or force a person to accede to a solicitation; acting with the intent to intimidate someone into giving

money, purchasing goods or services or other conduct that a reasonable person being solicited would regard as threatening or intimidating in order to solicit.

Mainly, the ordinance now says it is unlawful for any person to solicit on public property in the B-1 zoning district or upon private property without the expressed permission of the owner, proprietor or person in control of the private property for commercial purposes. Removed from the previous ordinance are all references to

charitable and nonprofits being allowed to solicit. This levels the playing field because now the ordinance offers equal protection under the law – no one is allowed to solicit on public property in the B-1 district.

Though the board hoped the amendment would satisfy the Plaintiff's claim of the ordinance not providing equal protection under the law – on June 1, it was necessary for the Defendants (the town) to file a Motion for Extension of Time to give it through June 24, 2026, to answer or otherwise respond to the Plaintiff's complaint.

The Plaintiffs contend the ordinance still bars its employees from offering free samples to passersby which is a customary means of promoting its goods, attracting customers, and generating revenue necessary to sustain its livelihood; alleges violations of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, including claims of violation of freedom of speech, denial of due process, as well as related claims under the North Carolina Constitution – including fruits of labor.

Subsequently, the filed a claim with its property and liability insurance carrier pertaining to the Highlands Beauty and Art, LLC v. Town of Highlands et al suit.

"The town's insurance carrier has accepted the claim and has assigned legal representation of Patrick Flanagan with Cranfill and Sumner, LLP as the town's legal representative for the case," said Town Manger Josh Ward.



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# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •



From left: Dan Rupp, President; Aniah McKim, Hunter Conner, Jaylin Raby, Claire Worley, John Warner, V-Pres; Lillian Rutter, Soraya Lopez, Cayden Pierson, Isaiah Vilardo, Cheyann Carver, Olivia Corbin, Heidi Doerter, and Claire (Birdie) Sherwood, and Steve Parnell, Scholarship Committee

## Every scholarship begins with a donation: Mountain Findings awards \$64,000 in scholarships

Mountain Findings, a nonprofit run entirely by volunteers, has awarded \$64,000 in new scholarships to 12 graduating seniors at Highlands High School. The organization is also distributing \$40,000 in continuing endowed scholarships to past recipients as they complete their education, bringing its current in-

vestment in local students to more than \$100,000.

Every scholarship begins with a simple donation. Through donated goods and volunteer support, Mountain Findings helps students pursue trades, certification programs, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees. This year's funding milestone un-

derscores how everyday household donations can create life-changing opportunities for local students.

"Housewares or furniture donation can make an immediate difference," said Dan Rupp, president of Mountain Findings. "A sofa, set of end tables, pair of lamps, an area rug, and accessories can

generate enough to provide a scholarship for a local student entering a trade program. And when someone donates the contents of an entire house, the impact can be even greater still. They are helping create opportunity and invest in a brighter future for students."

## 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:

**Highlands United Methodist Church**  
**315 Main Street**  
**Saturday, June 6 | 4:30 - 5pm**

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



# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Highlands Cashiers Film Festival Soiree at Highlands Country Club

By Kim Lewicki

Sunday evening, May 31, The Highlands Performing Arts Center's major fundraiser, the Highlands Cashiers Film Festival, kicked off with a soiree at High-

lands Country Club.

Patrons were introduced to key players in this year's 2nd film festival set for September 17-20 with events planned at the PAC and at the Village Green in Ca-

shiers.

Actor, producer, Joy Jorgenson, the festival's Artistic Director was introduced by her Aunt Amy Conlee with whom she has spent summers in Highlands since the age of four.

Jorgenson said her intimate relationship with Highlands and the fact that Western North Carolina was the stage for 400 silent films back in the day, has inspired her for this year's festival.

PAC Development Director Charlotte Muir encouraged everyone to support the PAC which in turn supports live theatre all year long in Highlands for all ages.

Leading up to September's festival, movies that made the grade at the first film festival last year, will be shown through the summer.

"Trail Mix" is first up on Sat., June 20 at the Village

• See HCFF page 17



From left: Artistic Director Joy Jorgensen, and HCFF co-chairs Debi Bock and Kate Hendrikson.



From left: PAC Development Director Charlotte Muir, Co-Chair Kate Hendrikson, Artistic director Joy Jorgensen, PAC President Darren Whatley and PAC Executive Director Jeanne Piazza.



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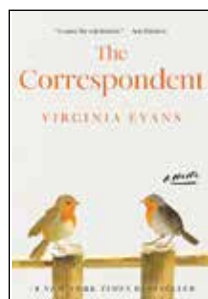
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## At the Bascom

On Fri. & Sat., June 12-13 come to The Bascom to meet the Artist trunk show with automotive photographer Christian Palazzolo on Friday and Saturday. 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.



Christian Palazzolo

# ...HCFF continued from page 16



From left: Husband and wife Cecil and Amy Conlee, Joy's uncle and aunt, Joy and her husband Gui Cavalncanti



Photos by Jim Lewicki

Green in Cashiers at noon and then at 4p at the PAC in Highlands.

It was the Audience Choice Award Winner last year. *This documentary* follows a 2,000-mile journey from Georgia to Maine along the Appalachian Trail and the transformative power of nature.

Director and filmmaker Glenn Sweitzer will be at both of these FREE events to discuss the film and answer questions.

Other screenings coming up are: The Return of Lake Toxaway, July 30 at 5p at The Village Green (free); Walk in the Garden Soiree, Aug. 15, 4p at PAC (ticketed); and Never Not Yours, Aug. 16, 2p at The Village Green (free).

At Sunday's kickoff, patrons enjoyed cocktails, appetizers, a dinner and dessert buffet to the tunes of a string ensemble in the newly renovated Hudson House .



## 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

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JUNE 12  
Young Mountain Magic

JUNE 19  
Shortoff Mountain Boys

JUNE 26  
Doug Ramsey

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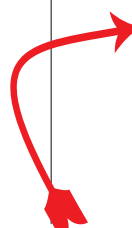
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JUNE 13 - **6:30 p.m.**  
U-Neek Flav'ur

JUNE 20  
Groove Machine

JUNE 27 - NO CONCERT



Time change for  
Highlands Motoring Festival



visithighlandsc.com



## A prelude to the Highlands Cashiers Film Festival September 17-20: A viewing of "Trail Mix"



Come see this 2025 "Audience Choice Award winner" A 50-minute documentary which follows a 2,000-mile journey from Georgia to Maine along the Appalachian Trail and the transformative power of nature. Director and filmmaker Glenn Sweitzer will be at both of these FREE events to discuss the film and answer questions.

**SAT., JUNE 20**  
**12pm at**

The Village Green of Cashiers  
**4pm at the**

Highlands Performing Arts Center  
on Chestnut Street in Highlands



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# SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

## An Exhortation

Philippians 3:20-21



**Pastor Sam Forrester**

Whiteside Presbyterian Church,  
Cashiers

The one who truly believes and accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior is a citizen of another land. Philippians 3: 20-21, "For our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the workings by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." It's made clear, the believer's citizenship is in heaven. Do you think America is your native land? The land to which you belong, on whose rolls you are listed, whose language you speak, whose clothing you wear. By whose laws you are governed, and whose protection you enjoy? Well, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, if you serve and worship him, then it's not America but Heaven that is your homeland. It's not America's laws that should be dearest to your heart. It's not America's protection that you should trust in. Instead, you will have a greater trust in the law of God and you will find security only in his protection. It was Heaven that gave you birth, for as a believer, you were born from above. Your name is ascribed on Heaven's register. Your life is being governed from Heaven and in accordance with heavenly standards. Your rights are secured by the God of heaven and it is in the courts of heaven that your interest are promoted. Where do you send your prayers, Washington D.C. or Heaven? Where does your help come from? If it doesn't come down from heaven, it's worthless. Now, let's be clear. America was founded on Christian principles. We should glorify God for this nation and we should work to keep those Christian principles. This is our only hope.

With the idea of hope in hand, Paul explains, "For our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." The great hope of all believers is in Christ's return. This hope comes with a sanctifying power. I John 3:3 says, "Every one who has this hope set in Him purifies himself, just as He (Jesus) is pure." If a person makes a god of the lusts of his flesh, and has his mind set on earthly things, how can he ever expect to be welcomed into the presence of the spotlessly holy and infinitely glorious Christ, at His coming? Parents and grandparents, are you teaching your children and grand children how to control their fleshly appetites? Are you setting them a good example in what you do, watch and say? Do they see in your actions a person that is eagerly awaiting Christ's return? You have to examine the testimony of your own life? Is it one that reflects the glory of Jesus Christ? Believers are to be eagerly awaiting their Lord. They must not have attitudes that are lukewarm to His return or nervous about it. They must have an attitude of faith-

# PLACES TO WORSHIP

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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

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

## CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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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](http://www.cashiers.church)

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

## CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays—Supper at 6 p.m.

## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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

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

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

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

## GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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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

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Rev. Ken Langsdorf

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## MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

## MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

Kippur.

## MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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## 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)

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

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

## WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from 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.**

## May 29

• At 3 p.m., officers received a report of a check forgery in the amount of \$9,900 at Highlands manor Court.

## Accidents:

### May 26

• Vehicle I ran off US 64 to the right into a ditch. Side curtain air bags deployed, but no visible damage to exterior of vehicle. Driver had an abrasion on his arm and redness in his face but declined medical attention.

### May 27

• Vehicle I was traveling into the parking lot at Don Leon's. It hit a large rock on the edge of a garden area and came to rest.

• One citation was issued last week and 10 warning tickets.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 26.**

### May 26

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

fulness. No matter what the world throws at you, no matter how tempting things might become, or how much persecution may be heaped on you, you must remain faithful to Christ and His message of hope. The citizen of heaven is called to look away from all sinful pleasures and eagerly yearn to welcome their Lord and Savior. They await his manifestation in glory. It is a waiting of faith, with patient endurance unto salvation.

What causes you, as a believer, to be so eager for Christ's return? Is it the fact He is your Savior? He is coming to save you from this life of sin and misery. To take you to a place where you will be happy and content forever. Listen, there is no pagan deity that can rescue you from this old sinful world. There is no human, including yourself, that can deliver you from the pains of this life. There is no president that can give you a pardon from sin and deliver you into eternal life. The only one who can give all of these things is the God-man, Je-

• At 2:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Oak Street.

• At 5:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 8:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 11:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at Hicks and Flat Mountain roads.

### May 27

• At 8:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Holt Road.

### May 28

• At 12:42 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Oak Street.

• At 6 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Owl Gap Road.

• At 9:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

### May 29

• At 10:05 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 2:47 p.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a fire alarm at a location on Clubhouse Trail. It was cancelled en route.

• At 3:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Clubhouse Trail. It was cancelled en route.

### May 30

• At 4:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hutchinson Court.

• At 7:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence at Fairway Condos.

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 9:04 p.m., the dept. provided lift assistance at a location on Clubhouse Trail.

### June 1

• At 10:05 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of an odor at a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 3:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Potter Lane.

• At 11:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bowery Road.



## HF&R and area depts. respond to fire

At approximately 3:52pm June 1, Highlands Fire and Rescue was paged to Potter Lane in reference to a structure fire. Units arrived on scene within a couple of minutes, knocking the fire down and transitioning into overhaul by 4pm. HF&R thanks its volunteers for a great response and its mutual aid departments – Cashiers-Glenville Volunteer Fire Department, Sky Valley-Scaly Mtn. Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Macon County EMS, and Macon County North Carolina 911 for all of the assistance.

sus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who died on Calvary's cross.

Paul tells you more about Jesus in verse 20 with these words, "who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the workings by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." The Greeks saw the body as a prison and death as the agent that freed the soul from its prison. They saw all flesh as evil and all spirit as good. But as a Christian, you know the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The body, because of the curse of sin, has become the source of your spiritual humiliation. It is exposed to sin's curse in the form of weakness, suffering, sickness, ugliness, futility, and death but at the coming of your Lord and Savior, who is a complete Savior, your old sinful flesh will be refashioned. He will make of it a new body, with a new appearance like that of his glorious resurrected body. Your transformation into the image of the Son will be

completed. You shall, as I Corinthians 15:49 says, "bear the image of the heavenly Man." When He is revealed, you shall see Him as He is and be made like Him. I can't stop thinking about this marvelous power, that can take this old sinful man and recreate him into a new creation.

I have by grace already experienced the remaking of my heart from one of stone to one of flesh. What a change that was. I'm promised that this marvelous energy of Christ's power does not come through my efforts. That at the return of my Savior, I will be made just as He is. I will be given the same type of glorious body. What makes me so excited about this is that I will be transformed in the twinkling of an eye, from a creature who is so susceptible to sin, to one who can never again be tempted by sin in any way. To me that is the most wonderful promise of all.

I would ask those of you who claim to be believers, how can you allow the sinfulness of

• See SPIRITUALLY page 21

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## SERVICES

**CREATURE COMFORTS** – In-House Pet or People sitting. Call Peg Ellis. Retired RN. References

available. 828-200-1028. (st. 11/20)

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**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)

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## ...SPIRITUALLY from page 19

this world to contaminate the temple of your God? Peter says, you are called to be holy as your God is holy. You are a citizen of the kingdom of heaven and so you should live your life as becomes a member of the family of God. You may want to ask, how do I do that?

Paul answers that for you in Philippians 4:8-9. “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.” Dear ones, if you are not striving to practice these things, and be assured none here have arrived in perfection, let me tell you how you can begin this striving. In Jeremiah 34, God promised to make a new covenant with His people. In Hebrews 8 that new covenant is explained. Because of the priestly work of Jesus Christ, a way has been made, whereby, the law of God can be written on your heart and mind. God promised, to all who receive this new heart, He will be their God and they shall be His people. He said, He will come and dwell with them forever. If you want God to dwell with you and you with Him for eternity, then you must die unto self and live for Christ. You must acknowledge your sins and God's holiness, repent of those sins and believe on Christ as the only hope of salvation. I am here to tell all who will listen, that Christ has come down from heaven to pay for you, the price you could not pay. If you will look to Him, and Him alone, He will come to you and will save you and make you His own.

# • 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](http://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 Found-

ers 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](http://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](mailto: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 [будandlynn@me.com](mailto:будandlynn@me.com)

## Tuesdays

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

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

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

## Tuesdays & Thurs.

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

## Wednesdays

• The Literacy & Learning Center offers a FREE weekly Citizenship Class led by Faviola Olvera from 5:30 to 7 pm at 675 S 4th St in Highlands, this program is designed to help students navigate the complexities of the U.S. naturalization exam.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library from 1-3 PM, digital navigators will host a Tech Time drop-in time at Hudson Li-

brary 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 [npost370@gmail.com](mailto:npost370@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 Brasstown. Admission is free.

## Fri., June 5

• At CLE, What We Keep Keeps Us: Exploring Our Human Museums Presenter: Jaki Shelton Green, NC Poet Laureate, 10AM-5PM, \$125 Members/\$140 Nonmembers

• At Highlands Sotheby's Main Street location, Artist Reception Meet & Greet featuring Christie Taylor 4:30-6:30p.

## Sat., June 6

• Pop-Up Pipers outside the Highlands United Methodist Church 4:30-5p.

## Wed., June 10

• At CLE, When We Disagree: Live. Presenter: Mike Lee, 2-4PM, \$35 Members / \$50 Nonmembers

## Thurs.-Sat., June 11-13

• Highlands Motoring Festival.

## Fri. & Sat., June 12-13

• At The Bascom: Meet the Artist trunk show with automotive photographer Christian Palazzolo on Friday and Saturday. 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.



## Thurs., June 11

• At CLE, Read My Lips: What We Can All Learn From Failed Political Speeches Presenter: Dr. R. Jarrod Atchison, 10AM-12PM, \$35 Members/\$50 Nonmembers

## 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

## 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

## Sat., June 20

• Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival Summer Screening. Trail Mix, noon at the Village Green in Cashiers and at 3p at PAC in Highlands. FREE. It follows a 2,000 mile journey from Georgia to Maine along the Appalachian Trail.



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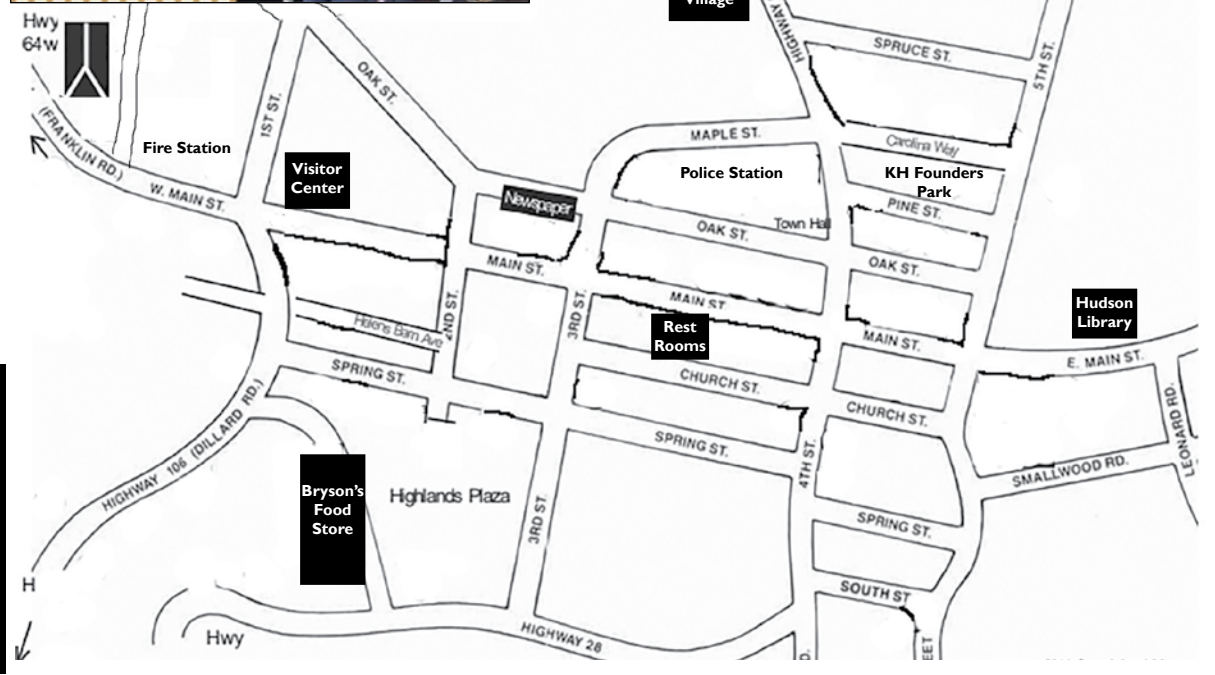
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