Thursday, June 6, 2024

The Highlander

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No. 23

SERVING HIGHLANDS, CASHIERS & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Another zoning change approved

By Larry Griffin
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The Town of Highlands Planning Board approved a zoning change for a prospective development coming to the area at their meeting Tuesday afternoon, May 28.

The board heard from officials involved with the Pine Holdings project who said they wanted to change the zoning of the proposed location at 424 Pine Street from B-2 conditional zoning to B-2 general zoning. They said they'd continually hit "one hurdle after another" under the conditional zoning classification.

Pine Holdings was initially zoned B-3 until a meeting on April 21, 2022, when it was changed to a B-2 conditional zoning.

The plan is to demolish the current building, which used to be a Bank of America location, and put up a mix of both retail and residential units along with a two-story parking space.

Now, in a bid for less restrictions when the project moves forward, property owner Dotan Zuckerman wants to have it changed to a general zoning that will allow them to do more with the property.

"We are trying to be released from the specific plan, to create more flexibility for us," he said, adding later that the only current possibility for it was a "shopping center with a bunch of parking around it."

Attorney Craig Justus with the Pine Holdings project said the conditional zoning had "backfired" for them, making it harder to get funding because of the "volatile" state of the market now. "Lending in particular, it's tough to get financed. You need flexibility. Having a specific plan worked against us."

Zuckerman and Justus said they wanted "nothing to be locked in stone" at this stage.

In response, Planning Board Chairman Darren Whatley asked why they didn't just leave it zoned as B-2 con-

See **ZONING**, Page 2A

Photo by Larry Griffin/Staff

The building at 424 Pine Street in town got approved for another zoning change that owners hope will make it easier to move forward with future projects.

Recodification back in full swing

Photo by Nick Childs/Staff

CodeWright founder Chad Meadows continued his effort to lead stakeholders through proposed development requirements during a recodification meeting in Cashiers on May 30. Meadows said he is hopeful the changes may be adopted by August.

Process could be finished as early as August if all continues to go well

By Nick Childs
reporter@highlandsnews.com

Changes to the Cashiers area development and community character codes are still underway, although CodeWright founder Chad Meadows hopes they will be adopted by August.

The changes are intended to streamline developments by laying out criteria the Cashiers Area Community Planning Council wants developments to include. Ideally, the changes should help provide clarity about conditional zoning, the intent of the planning council and developers, and streamline the development process. As Cashiers is recodified, the area will also be rezoned.

In Recodify Cashiers meetings last week, Meadows laid out changes to the codes so far and heard community questions and feedback. Meadows presented a more interactive and easier to read template for Cashiers' unified development ordinance.

A key new aspect is the conditional map amendment. Developments with buildings larger than 20,000 square feet in size or developments expected to generate over 3,000 traffic trips per day must go through conditional rezoning, which brings its own host of requirements including a community meeting.

Meadows said the new ordinances should integrate Cashiers Planning Council review into the largest projects. The county staff will still review smaller scale site plans and subdivisions, while the CACPC will have more say in larger scale developments.

"You'll have much, much more latitude in negotiations, discussion, openness with the community, and you'll be able to talk amongst yourselves," Meadows said.

Meadows hopes the changes will help the Cashiers Planning Council be more involved in the process with more ability to communicate, while giving developers more clear regulations. They also intend to preserve, and codify, the character of Cashiers, as defined by a growing selection of photos of properties that meet or do not meet the Cashiers character.

"We want to move the CPC into less of a reactive and more of a proactive stance with more focus on the regulations, the rules, and how to interpret them," he said.

As far as keeping the Cashiers aspect, the recodification process aims to preserve land, guarantee regulated land use, and enforce development requirements.

Developments that are unable, or perhaps unwilling, to promote conservation, pedestrian spaces, and roadway requirements may substitute that infra-

See **CODE**, Page 2A

Health trust to host public meeting at Highlands Cashiers Hospital

Plateau event set for 5:30 p.m. on June 18

From staff reports

Dogwood Health Trust recently selected Affiliated Monitors, Inc. to provide independent monitor services and oversee HCA Healthcare's compliance with its commitments outlined in the purchase agreement for Mission Health System. As part of their expanded scope of increased community engagement and education, Affiliated Monitors will host six community meetings throughout the region beginning June 10.

The format for each meeting will educate community members on the monitoring process while gathering input about each HCA facility within their community. Attendees will have an opportunity for structured time to share information and ask questions about the process. As room capacities will be limited, attendees are encouraged to pre-register for their selected location. Information will be available on the updated IM website by June 3. All meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. with doors opening at 5 p.m.

Public Meeting Locations, Dates and Times:

- Buncombe County Meeting (Mission Hospital), Wednesday, June 12 (5:30 – 7 p.m.), Ferguson Auditorium at A-B Tech, Fernihurst Dr, Asheville, NC

See **HOSPITAL**, Page 7A

Local wine and cheese lover opens up shop

By Larry Griffin
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One Wicker Cheese Co. owner Sophie Delaney wants to introduce customers to cheese from all over the country and the world. The inspiration to open the new shop at 539 Main Street came from several of the things she herself enjoys.

"I knew I loved bread, cheese and wine," she said. "I wanted to do something with that. I knew those were three things in life I loved the most. So I surrounded myself with them. It's 'cheese and all its best friends,' is what I've been saying."

After spending years working at the Old Edwards Inn in town, Delaney said she wanted to branch out and try her own venture. The store has been open since March and will have a grand opening Friday, June 7 going from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 1p.m.

She said the business's name is symbolic.

"It's named after a wicker basket, which is a vessel to hold things," she said. "Putting things in one basket, stocking a basket full of love and hope and friendship. Has anyone ever been sad around cheese?"

Part of the idea is to keep expanding the number of things to do in Highlands, she said.

"I want to give people variety, an option of where they want to shop," she said. "Not to just go to the same place every time. That's important in keeping Highlands a place to bring their families and grow those families."

A glass case inside the store is full of cheeses for sale, along with beer and wine to purchase in the back and another wall full of cheeseboards and other accessories for those looking to take their newfound cheese-related

See **CHEESE**, Page 2A

Photo by Larry Griffin/Staff

Sophie Delaney, owner of One Wicker Cheese Co., will host a grand opening for the shop on Friday, June 7.

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Highlands location now open for area youths

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Is that a hawk or a falcon?

Nature Notes helps identify birds of prey

Page 1B

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Photo by Nick Childs/Staff

Midgard Self-Storage now open

Midgard Self-Storage held a ribbon cutting for their new location in Sapphire at 17883 Rosman Highway. This location is a sister facility of their Lake Toxaway and Glenville locations. Together, the Lake Toxaway and Sapphire locations have 560 self-store units of various sizes and climate controls. The Glenville location is also expected to be virtually staffed. Upon renting, clients will be sent a code to get into their facility.

Driggers starts up Cashiers Fine Jewelry

By Nick Childs
reporter@highlandsnews.com

A new jewelry store has opened its doors in Cashiers. Led and owned by Buddy Driggers, Cashiers Fine Jewelry and Boutique is ready to shine and work with clients to create custom, remarkable and memorable pieces.

Driggers is a third generation jeweler with a lifetime in the field. He officially started his career when he was 19. He interned at his dad's shop and then worked at Jared. Since then, he has about two decades of jewelry experience in Highlands, including through T.A. Anderson, Estate Jewelers, and Gold-n-Clipper.

A lot of the inventory at Cashiers Fine Jewelry is hand-made while they also sell other retail options, including men's watches and pocket watches, knives, and etched crystal glasses. Driggers said his goal is to offer something for everybody.

Price is another area of jewelry Driggers wants to be accommodating with. Granted, he is still in a business, but he wants to help clients find, or craft, their dream bling without breaking the bank.

"I'm a normal guy that grew up in the Cherokee/Whittier area," he said. "If I can't make something for myself, why are we doing it?"

A lot of work goes into crafting custom pieces. It typically starts with a discussion to figure out what clients are looking for, and then he shows them a selection of loose gems. Once clients choose from a rainbow of gems, Driggers is likely to melt down gold or another base and mold it through a range of fashions, making it into wires, brackets, bands, belt buckles, or more.

Rings, for instance, require a wire to hold them, but it has to resemble eagle talons in the sense that prongs won't cross over each other. Driggers has tools to engrave equipment, and he also contracts with another company to do digital laser engraving in any font or size. If pieces need a bit of extra sparkle, Driggers can attach gems with a laser welder that burns a few hundred degrees Fahrenheit in short micro bursts.

If clients are requesting a custom piece, Driggers said he usually can't provide a precise price tag because it is based on material and weight, but he provides a price range and tries to aim lower in that when possible.

Cashiers Fine Jewelry and Boutique is located at 113 US 64 E, Cashiers. They are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Zoning

From page 1A

ditional until they decide on a more specific plan.

Zuckerman said they wanted to change the zoning to a more general mode because of the "considerable amount of time" it takes to go through the rezoning process with local government rules.

After the meeting, Zuckerman said Pine Holdings was aiming to work with the town's comprehensive plan to add more things to do outside of just Main Street.

"They want to create a more pedestrian-friendly downtown," he said. "They want to spread it around. We could be a good conduit for that."

Butch Ross, a realtor with Ross Hotel Partners who might partner on the project, attended the meeting as well. His view was that Pine Holdings could become a viable hospitality project.

He pointed out the "seasonality" of Highlands, particularly the way "people are coming here for weddings," and said they could possibly make a boutique hotel, though they wouldn't cater to those traveling for work.

"We could potentially execute a pretty special hospitality project here," he said. "A few things are starting to wake up. Hotels are coming back in favor. We would have about 50 to 70 rooms. I don't know about having meeting or banquet areas. That's not who we're after."

The board approved the request from Pine Holdings to change the zoning, and it will go before the Board of Commissioners at another meeting eventually.

Board member Rachel Wilson said she hoped the zoning change would expedite the project, calling the building an "eyesore" as it is now.

The only other item on the agenda was a motion to make the terms for the Planning Board three years instead of one year, which was also approved.

The next Planning Board meeting will take place Monday, June 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Code

From page 1A

structure with a fee in lieu. The fee in lieu allows challenging sites that may not meet conservation, space, pedestrian connections, or roadway requirements to put aside money to the county. The county must in turn use these fees to substitute the missing infrastructure by generating similar infrastructure in the Cashiers area. There is no set amount developers may pay or be charged for a fee in lieu, nor is there a timeframe for the county to apply the fee to infrastructure.

Cashiers will also be rezoned during the recodification process. Cashiers currently has two areas, the general commercial area and the village commercial area. With these recodifications, it will currently have three zones with a fourth ready for larger, conditional projects. These zones will include the Cashiers residential, Cashiers non-residential, and Cashiers mixed use, as well as any still forthcoming conditional zones. As Cashiers is rezoned, residents will be sent letters about what that means for them and their property. The letters will provide residents an opportunity to discuss how this impacts them and voice concerns through open meetings or phone calls if meetings are unavailable.

Meadows said the plans are to have the Jackson County attorney review these codes by the second week of June. Once reviewed, the unified development ordinance will be posted to allow ample time for the CPC and community to make any additional requirements. Codes may be adopted by late July or early August pending no further changes or reviews.

Cheese

From page 1A

passions home with them after Delaney shows them the ropes.

They also have a featured sandwich they rotate out every few weeks. At the time of the interview, Delaney said the featured sandwich had Genoa and Soppressata salami, mortadella sausage, pecorino cheese, olives and peppadews and Tuscany spice blend, the last of which comes from Spice & Tea in town.

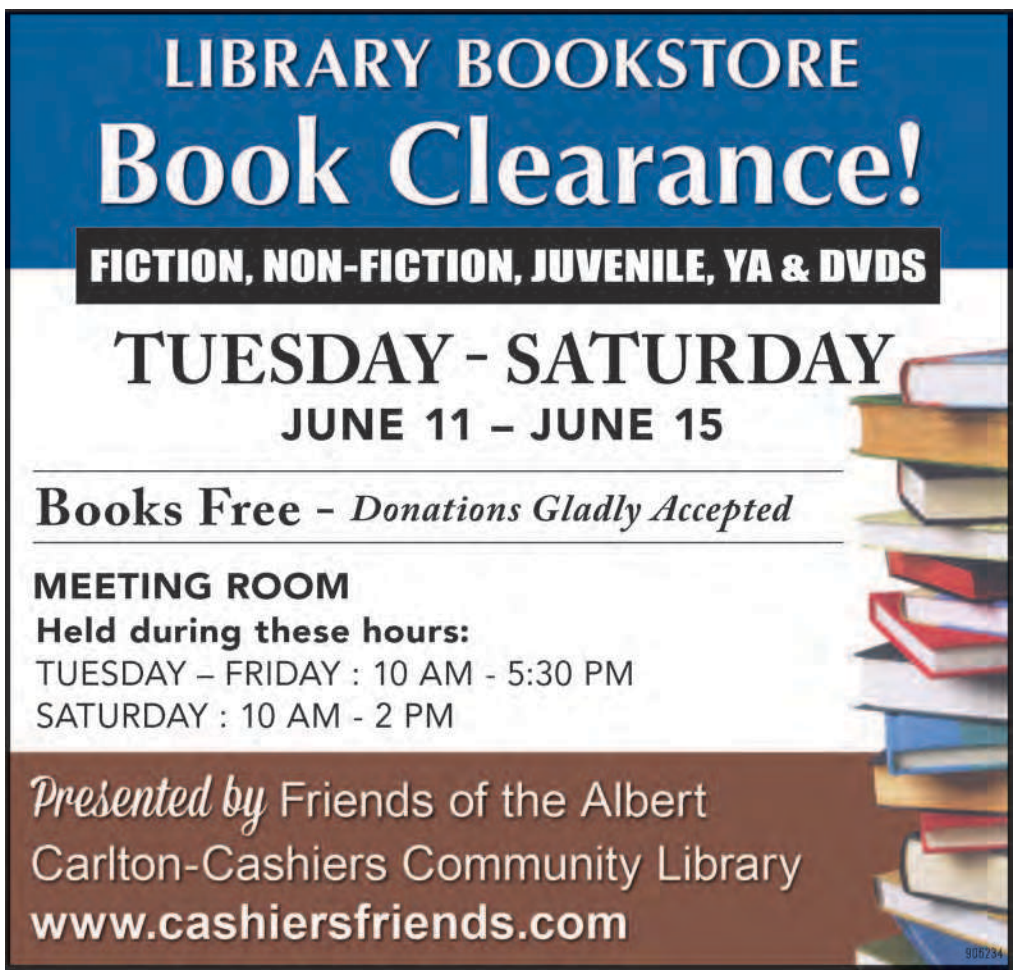
With all of it, Delaney said the idea was to expand peoples' palettes.

"I like giving people an opportunity to get out of their comfort zone and try things," she said. "The world of cheese can be intimidating. They get to have an adventure – a cheese adventure. I like being able to recommend something based on what they like. Some people know exactly what they want. But it's fun when people say 'oh, I know I like this.' Brie is the most popular. Some of the cheeses are regional, like St. Stephen from New York or Green Hill from Georgia. If they don't like it, we give them something else."

It was ahead of Memorial Day weekend and the day was nice enough that customers filtered in throughout the late morning and Delaney made casual conversation, saying she figured the holiday weekend would be better.

In the end, though, Delaney said it's about more than just the cheese.

"I'm really hoping to make a place to promote togetherness and community," she said. "Enjoy an afternoon with your friends, have a glass of wine, chat about cheese, chat about the world."



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The Highlander maintains copies of back issues for sale for up to one year or as long as the supply lasts. When requesting by mail, back copies are $2 each, to cover postage and handling. To research or review articles published more than one year ago, bound copies of the newspaper are available for review at *The Highlander* office.

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Police and Fire Reports

Highlands Police Department

May 16
Highlands Police officers responded to a report of motor vehicle theft on Pine Street. According to HPD reports, someone removed a driver from a commercial truck and then drove off with the truck and trailer.

May 31
Highlands Police officers responded to a motor vehicle accident on Satulah Ridge Road. According to HPD reports, vehicle one was traveling south on Satulah Ridge and vehicle two was traveling north when the vehicles made contact in a curve. No citations were issued.

Highlands Fire & Rescue

May 28
Firefighters responded to a call for public assistance at 5:42 p.m. on Church Street.
Firefighters responded to a call for public assistance at 6:34 p.m. on Hospital Drive.

May 29
Firefighters responded to a first responders call at 12:05 p.m. on Spring Street.

May 30
Firefighters responded to a first responders call at 9:18 a.m. on Maple Way.

May 31
Firefighters responded to a first responders call at 3:09 p.m. on South Street.
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 4:18 p.m. on N. Cobb Road.
Firefighters responded to a first responders call at 10:42 p.m. on Blue Valley Road.

June 1
Firefighters responded to a suspicious odor at 9:17 a.m. on N. 4th Street.
Firefighters responded to a first responders call at 8:18 p.m. on Maple Way.

June 2
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 3:12 p.m. on Hudson Road.
Firefighters responded to a call for public assistance at 9:32 p.m. on Cashiers Road.

Jackson County Law Enforcement

May 31
Alyxzandra Kaylinn Bell, 29, of Cullowhee, was arrested and charged with one count of driving while license revoked. Bell was booked into the Jackson County Detention Center and issued a written promise bond.

June 1
Lauryn Holly Vigeland, 22, of Tuckasegee, was arrested for one count of driving while impaired. She was booked into the Jackson County Detention Center and issued a written promise bond.

Marsha Renee McNeely, 50, of Cullowhee, was arrested and charged with one count of possession of methamphetamine and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia. McNeely was booked into the Jackson County Detention center and issued a $3,000 bond.

Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad

May 28
EMS responded to a nose bleed in Cashiers at 7:57 a.m. and transported one patient to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.
EMS responded to a call for public assistance in Cashiers at 7:13 p.m.

May 29
EMS responded to a standby call at the Macon County line at 12:55 p.m.
EMS responded to a traumatic injury in North Norton at 5:51 p.m. and transported one person to the Mountain Area Medical Airlift landing zone.

May 30
EMS responded to a sick person at the EMS base at 3:18 p.m. and transported one patient to Harris Regional Hospital.
EMS responded to a snake bite in Glenville at 5:48 p.m.

May 31
EMS responded to a traumatic injury in Cashiers at 10:18 a.m.
EMS responded to a standby call at the Macon County line at 5:20 p.m.
EMS responded to a person having breathing problems in Glenville at 10:12 p.m. and transported one patient to Harris Regional Hospital.
EMS responded to a sick person in Glenville at 10:34 p.m. and transported one patient to Highlands Cashiers Hospital.

June 1
EMS responded to a sick person in Glenville at 2:04 p.m.

June 2
EMS responded to a person having heart problems in North Norton at 5:19 a.m.
EMS responded to a motor vehicle accident in Pine Creek at 12:22 p.m.
EMS responded to a standby call in Cullowhee at 6:24 p.m.

June 3
EMS responded to a sick person in Cashiers at 1:06 a.m.
EMS responded to a sick person in Cullowhee at 9:42 a.m.
EMS responded to a person having chest pain in Cullowhee at 2:42 p.m. and transported one patient to Highlands Cashiers Hospital.
EMS responded to a motor vehicle collision in Cashiers at 3:50 p.m.

Cashiers-Glenville Fire Department

May 28
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 8:16 p.m. on Versant Lane.

May 29
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 9:13 a.m. on Tower Road.
Firefighters responded to a landing zone at 6:10 p.m. at Blue Ridge School.

May 30
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 11:41 a.m. on Lake Trail.
Firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at 9:17 p.m. on Andrews Park Road.
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 10:10 p.m. on NC107.

June 2
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 10:36 a.m. on Rushing Brook Lane.
Firefighters responded to a motor vehicle accident at 12:22 p.m. on Pine Creek Road.
Firefighters responded to a tree in the road at 7:30 p.m. on Lakeside Circle.
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 10:51 p.m. on Versant Lane.

June 3
Firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 8:15 a.m. on Princeton Lane.

Special local presale for Food and Wine Festival tickets set for Monday

The Highlands Food and Wine Festival has announced a first-ever ticket presale for full and part-time residents of the Town of Highlands and Scaly Mountain. Residents with a 28741 or 28775 zip code will have access to the local presale prior to the public sale.

The presale event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, June 10 at David Bock Builders, 417 N. 4th Street in Highlands.

Residents must show proof of residency to purchase tickets during the presale event. Accepted forms of proof of residency include either 1) a valid driver's license with a Highlands (28741) or Scaly Mountain (28775) address or 2) a valid driver's license outside the above zip codes and a current (2024) utility bill with a Highlands (28741) or Scaly Mountain (28775) address.

Purchases will be limited to two tickets per event per customer. A total of 50 tickets for each event will be available during the presale. Visit https://highlandsfoodandwine.com for event details.

Tickets go on sale to the general public on Thursday, June 13 at noon and will be available at https://highlandsfoodandwine.com/.

WHLC FM 104.5 Highlands Weather Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High: 74	High: 75	High: 73	High: 72	High: 70
Low: 54	Low: 52	Low: 54	Low: 52	Low: 50
50% chance of showers	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	50% chance of showers	50% chance of showers
Sunrise: 6:18 a.m. Sunset: 8:44 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:18 a.m. Sunset: 8:45 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:18 a.m. Sunset: 8:45 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:18 a.m. Sunset: 8:46 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:17 a.m. Sunset: 8:46 p.m.

Last week's statistics

Date	High	Low	Rain
May 29	66°	50°	0.00″
May 30	64°	52°	0.00″
May 31	61°	50°	0.00″
June 1	60°	49°	0.00″
June 2	61°	51°	1.00″
June 3	64°	57°	1.00″
June 4	67°	58°	0.30″

Weather statistics provided by WHLC FM 104.5

Rainfall totals/extremes

June rainfall: 2.3 inches
2024 snowfall to date: 1.40 inches
Normal June rainfall: 6.74 inches
Normal rainfall through June: 41.24 inches
2024 rainfall total: 42.38 inches
Average June high: 75°
Average May low: 57°

Courtesy of Highlands Biological Station, WHLC and www.weather.com

Moon phases

New June 7 — First June 14 — Full June 21 — Last June 28

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The Highlander
Mountain Views
Thursday, June 6, 2024

Our View

Rev your engines for motoring festival

You can almost smell the exhaust.

Hear the sound of a perfectly tuned engine as it revs up first thing in the morning.

Feel the grip of the tires as they hug a sun-soaked mountain road.

It's that time of year once again as the Highlands Motoring Festival gets set to kick off its 2024 festivities. The four-day tour de force of automotive excellence begins today and runs through Sunday at locations all around Highlands.

What started as an idea between a few automotive enthusiasts has grown into one of, if not the premiere, car-focused event in the region.

The festival will begin with "One lap of the Mountains" driving tours today. Friday will feature more planned route driving tours in the morning, followed by the annual "Main Street Parade" of classic cars at 6 p.m. Grab a chair and pick out a spot on Main between 1st and 5th Streets to get a great view of some one-of-a-kind collector cars. The theme for the 2024 festival is "Pre-WWII Classics" and there is certain to be several vehicles making a once in a lifetime stop in Highlands.

The coup de gras of the event is Saturday when the public will get a chance to see all of the cars and meet many of their owners during the "Cars in the Park" showcase from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

The Car in the Park showcase is free to the public, but donations to the charities the Motoring Festival supports are encouraged. All proceeds of the various festival events go to the festival's charity partners, the Literacy and Learning Center, REACH of Macon County, and the Community Care Clinic of Highlands and Cashiers.

The Motoring Festival wraps up on Sunday with the "High Octane" gathering at Founders Park. High Octane is a more casual car show with no judging or prizes.

Since its inception, the Highlands Motoring Festival has become one of the summer's premiere events in town. Let's get out and show our support for some worthy nonprofits while taking in the sights and sounds of some of the finest vehicles in the world.

Editorial

The opinions expressed in "Our View" are those of The Highlander Editorial Board, consisting of Publisher Ryan Hanchett and Reporters Nick Childs and Larry Griffin.

Letters to the Editor

The Highlander welcomes your opinions. Letters to the editor may be mailed, faxed or emailed. Letters must include a daytime phone number and address so we can verify your letter. Phone number and address will not be published. Letters must be signed and be no longer than 500 words. Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days. We will not publish letters making personal attacks or letters endorsing political candidates. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandsnews.com.

The Highlander

"The only newspaper, since 1958, devoted exclusively to the issues and events of Highlands and its people . . ."

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Our Mission

The Highlander is published with pride for the people of Highlands, Macon and adjoining counties by Community Newspapers, Inc., Athens, Ga. We believe that strong newspapers build strong communities – "Newspapers get things done!" Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work.

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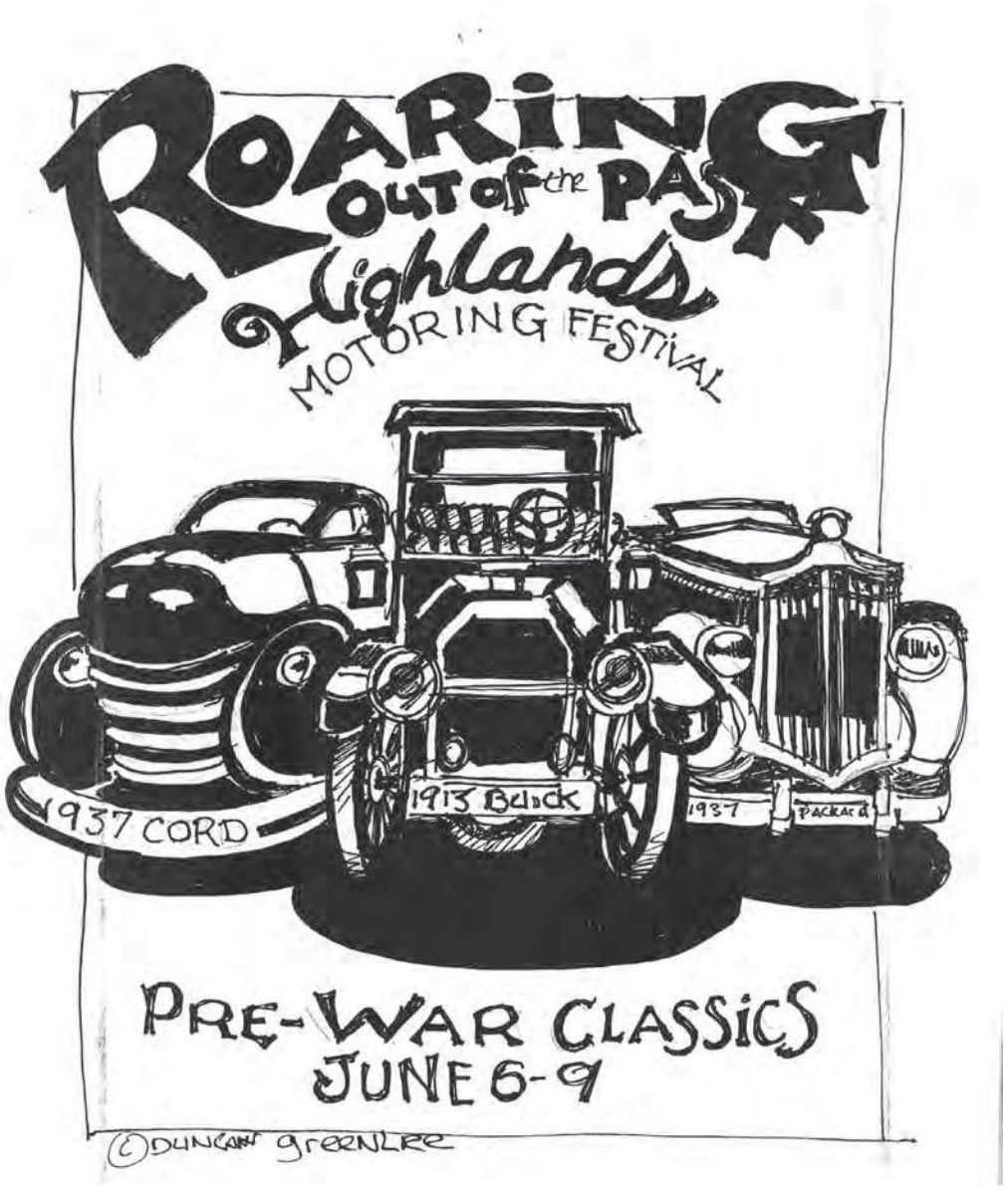

Letters to the Editor

Highlands Playhouse

The beautiful old brown shingled building on the hill on Oak Street is threatened with extinction. It is filled with cushioned theater seats and a concession stand which sports a popcorn machine. Next to the popcorn machine there is a butter dispenser for the said popcorn. In addition, under the glass case there was always an array of candy bars. There were cokes and there was water and there was even wine one could buy. The movies shown there were often first run and cost about $9 a seat.

It would be awfully hard to replace that building with anything that meant as much to the town as it always has. It truly is a monument to the past when it served as a school auditorium and a movie theater until the Galax took its place and now the Galaxy is gone.

It was built in 1934 according to Ran Shaffner in Heart of the Blue Ridge. Movies were shown even then. Ran commented that" the acoustics are nearly perfect". In the future it could serve as our local movie theater with good movies coming in weekly. It sits up on that hill looking so much better than its surroundings.

What repairs need to be made to make it useable? Surely we do not need it to be brand new.. just fixed up. We as a town need to think long and hard about replacing one of the few historic building left in town. It is special, beautiful in its own way, and it offers a welcoming place for all to gather.

It is a beacon of the good old days. And when it's gone it's gone.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

Wild driving is dangerous

This letter is to the four stupid motorcyclists that were headed down NC 107 North toward Sylva between 9:10 and 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, May 30.

What in tarnation were you thinking? Do you not realize how many lives you were putting on the line by crossing over the double yellow to pass people? If someone was coming in the other direction and swerved to avoid hitting you, do you not realize they could have hit someone you were passing?

I don't know what your deal was or what the hurry was but you need to stop this kind of behavior. I pray to God that law enforcement catches all of you doing these stupid and reckless actions before you kill yourself or someone else.

These people passed me and at least five other vehicles between the start of the three lane before they disappeared at Pine Creek Road.

Judi Moore
Cashiers

Stories about southern speech keep on comin'

One of the most overused words in any language is "expert." News people write that word a lot to avoid a long, boring title.

Phil Hudgins
Columnist

I don't claim to be an expert on anything, but I'm within striking distance on Southern accents. I've written about them several times, usually to defend them or just in fun.

Several years ago, for example, an author named Jennifer Adams wrote a book titled "Say Goodbye to Your Southern Accent." She claimed that your drawl, if you have one, may be holding you back. My response to her: It's too late for me, Miss Jennifer, but I'm usually okay with the way I talk. The exception would be when the telephone robot at the cable company can't understand me.

I'll have to admit, though, that some people do judge a person's intelligence by his or her regional accent. And that's a shame.

More recently came results of a study on which state has the slowest-talking people. It's Louisiana, in case you're interested. South Carolina is second.

My position: Slowing down is good on the highway and in oral communication.

Of course, Southern Living magazine glories in stories about all things Southern, including speech patterns and lifestyles.

One of the latest stories was headlined: "50 Southern Sayings You Won't Hear Anywhere Else." First one was "bless your heart." A Southerner can say anything about anybody, even if it's mean, and be absolved of meanness by adding "bless his heart" at the end. "He's a greedy son of a gun, bless his heart."

Other sayings include, "if I had my druthers," "full as a tick," "tore up," as in "she's really tore up about not getting invited," "worn slap out" (actually, Southern Living, it's "wore slap out") and "over yonder," which pinpoints most any distance and direction in the South.

"Getting too big for your britches" is a good one. My daddy said that of me, which was true because I was bigger than my older brother and I got his hand-me-downs.

Another Southern Living piece carried the headline, "34 Unspoken Rules of Etiquette That Every Southerner Follows." I think it's a bit much to say "every Southerner," because rudeness has infiltrated the South.

Still, these are good rules: "Never chew with your mouth open" and "Always say please and thank you." After thank you, I would prefer "you're welcome" to "no problem, man."

Okay, we can write about accents and sayings till the cows come home, but some people still love the Southern speech cadence.

Years ago, my wife was ordering a cone at an ice cream shop in Cambridge, Mass., when the young man behind the counter started practically jumping with excitement.

"Where are you from?" he asked, eyes wide.

"North Georgia," she said.

"Well, I'm from Canton (Georgia)," the guy gushed.

He was so happy to hear a Southern accent, and I think he gave her a little extra vanilla in her cone.

Talking about taxes, the right way

John Hood
Columnist

State and local governments annually collect tens of billions of dollars in taxes from North Carolinians. The total bill comes to an average of $5,300 per person per year.

Most Americans pay more than we do. According to the latest Facts & Figures report from the Tax Foundation, state and local taxes across the country consume an average of 11.2% of income. North Carolina's combined tax burden is 9.9%. That is lower than Virginia's 12.5% and Maryland's 11.3%. But it's higher than in (8.6%), South Carolina (8.9%), Georgia (8.9%), and Florida (9.1%).

Taxes divided by income isn't the only relevant measure, however. At any given level of taxation, there can better and worse ways to collect the money. Some systems are fairer than others, more efficient than others, or more favorable to investment and job creation than others.

Indeed, the Tax Foundation rates North Carolina's tax code the 9th friendliest to economic growth, given our relatively low taxes on property, payrolls, and corporate incomes and our relatively flat taxes on personal income and retail sales. When our corporate tax is fully phased out by the end of the decade, North Carolina's ranking will improve. If lawmakers follow that up by reducing franchise or capital-gains taxes, it will improve even more.

There's plenty of room for reasonable debate about tax policy. Still, the debate will be more constructive if everyone keeps these three facts in mind:

• When making nationwide comparisons, citing state taxes alone can be misleading. Systems of public finance vary widely. Here in North Carolina, for example, we primarily fund public schools with state dollars, not local dollars, and have done so for many decades. In other states, local property taxes play a predominate role.

Other states also have county road systems financed by county taxes. We don't. That's the main reason our motor-fuels tax (62 cents in most cases) is one of the highest in the country. North Carolina motorists don't pay more for transportation. We pay differently. What we finance with gas taxes, other places finance with property or sales taxes. When I ran a full accounting of the numbers some years ago, our transportation tax burden was below average, not above average.

If you run across stories comparing the tax burden where you live to tax burdens elsewhere, look at the fine print. If it references only state taxes, only local taxes, or only one kind of tax, you're probably consuming clickbait, not truly useful information.

• In part because of such structural differences, North Carolina's mix of taxes deviates from the mean. We rely more on personal income tax (31% of tax collections in 2021) and sales tax (26%) than does the average state (26% and 23%,

See **HOOD**, Page 6A

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CGVFD now car seat certified

By Nick Childs
reporter@highlandsnews.com

The Cashiers-Glenville Volunteer Fire Department has already had a busy year. With the calendar at the halfway point, CGVFD has already had around 300 calls this year, including many wrecks, fire alarms, and road closures.

Despite the likelihood of a busy season in Cashiers, not all of the fire department's work has been responding to calls. Chief Randy Dillard said after five years, CGVFD was able to enroll six crew members in car seat training. This certifies the six as Child Passenger Safety Technicians and it certifies CGVFD as a station families can visit to ensure property working and installed equipment.

"We got six more people certified as car seat techs," Dillard said. "That pretty much guarantees there will always be someone at this station to check and install car seats."

Dillard said two out of the three firefighters on each shift are now trained and certified car seat technicians.

The car seat training ran from May 21-24 and included three full days from Tuesday to Thursday and a half day on Friday. The training included written exams and practice installing a wide variety of car seats. The sessions were full, featuring six of Cashiers' firefighters and emergency responders from around Jackson County and Highlands. The attendees were guided by five state instructors.

Attendees trained on all the proper installation techniques, including seat belt systems, airbags, lower anchors and tethers, rear-facing car seats, forward-facing car seats, booster seats, and even special vehicles like school buses and airplanes, said Kaitlyn Britton with Jackson County Emergency Management, who also attended the course. Attendees learned how to effectively communicate this information to caregivers.

"Our training ensures that car seats are securely installed correctly, taking into account the child's age, weight, height, and development level," Britton said.

Additional training will take place in December to ensure certified technicians are involved in continual training.

Dillard said the Cashiers-Glenville Volunteer Fire Department is trained to install car seats safely, although those trained will also show parents how to install the car seats themselves rather than just saying the installation is fine or it needs adjustment.

Britton called the national certification a "crucial tool that can help save lives and prevent injuries."

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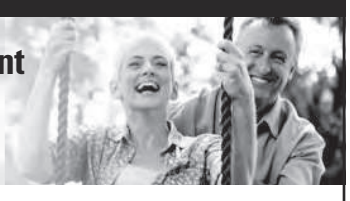
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2 Blue Cross NC Brand Tracking Study; Ipsos; July 2021.
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Photo by Ryan Hanchett/Staff

Main Street sidewalk work continues

Crews were at work on Tuesday morning outside the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation where a "bulb out" is being relocated closer to the church's front door to improve safety when parishioners enter and exit the church from Main Street. Parking spots will be added closer to Hudson Library.

Mayor on Duty

Lessons from a trip to Rockaway Beach

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor

A few weeks ago, Sallie had several paintings accepted into an art show in New York, so we decided to attend the opening and make it sort of weekend vacation. The show was not in Manhattan but rather on Long Island in Queens.

We stayed at a hotel in Rockaway Beach. We had never spent much time in an outlying New York borough, but viewing the entire Manhattan skyline from our hotel window reminded us that we were not far from the Big Apple.

I always find visiting resort/retreat communities informative in that I like comparing them to Highlands. Rockaway Beach is a retreat community of sorts since it is a short distance from the big city. The hotel provided Sallie and me with bicycles, and we rode them for about 10 miles on the concrete boardwalk that followed the beach. The boardwalk was full of folks walking, running, riding bicycles, especially electric-powered ones, and, of course, skateboards.

Traditionally New Yorkers have gone to Rockaway to enjoy the beach and to surf while many commute. It was a bit cool, but plenty of folks were surfing. I suspect most surfers were permanent residents since they carried racks on their bicycles for surfboards.

What impressed me was that the boardwalk was a gateway to multiple park facilities that were also filled with athletic activities. As we rode down the boardwalk, we saw full pickleball, handball, tennis courts, skateboard parks, and numerous playgrounds.

Although huge apartment complexes filled the skyline, small bungalow homes were neatly tucked into the area's fabric, and the two seemed to live together in harmony, big and small, tourist and resident. Rockaway Beach has a lot higher population density than Highlands, but there was still a sense of environmental awareness at the shoreline. All the parks were landscaped, and the New York Park Service has done extensive beach restoration, including replanting large areas of sea oats and other indigenous plants.

But there is another story about Rockaway Beach. On October 29, 2012, Rockaway Beach was a victim of Hurricane Sandy. The old historic wooden boardwalk was destroyed as well as many historic structures. The boardwalk that Sallie and I enjoyed is a new concrete replacement structure. It serves as a wonderful access point to the restored beaches and parks and a barrier for the homes and businesses on the other side. Those parks are all new, too. I looked at photos of the damage Hurricane Sandy inflicted, and almost everything on the shoreline was either damaged or totally destroyed.

My lasting impression from our visit is that from disaster and loss often comes the opportunity for restoration and renewal. While we haven't had such disastrous losses as those incurred by Hurricane Sandy, Highlands, like all communities, has had periods of loss followed by renewal and change. We have to balance and juggle the ongoing process of change and loss with progress and restoration.

Here are a few examples of rather small Highland changes in recent years. A decade ago, we built a much more expensive all-year swimming pool. It has been more expensive to operate. But much like the changes at Rockaway Beach, which were costly, the benefits for everyone outweigh the costs.

Community change can come from natural disasters and from just changes in personal activity preferences. A few years ago, the town had several underutilized tennis courts that we had to maintain. Recognizing a change in user activity preferences, the town board decided to eliminate two tennis courts and created six (6) outdoor pickleball courts. The pickleball courts are jammed now and for most of the year with avid players. Out of disuse and with investment comes positive results.

As I remember all those children playing in the parks on Rockaway Beach, I get excited and hopeful about the proposed new, inclusive playground for the Highlands Recreation Center. The playground will be expensive for sure, but the cost will be balanced by the benefits and joy of children for years to come. I hope the town, county, private citizens, and other government sources will come forth to make this children's park a reality. Fundraising is underway.

I have a link for information about the new children's park at AskMayorPat.com.

Historical View

File photo

In this photo from March of 1983, area first responders get some hands on training as local Boy Scouts play the roles of accident victims.

Historical View highlights photos from throughout Highlands and Cashier's colorful history. Submit your own photo by emailing editor@highlandsnews.com, or bringing them to our office on 5th Street in Highlands.

BPP Betsy Paul PROPERTIES

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828.743.0880 • 828.506.4093
818156

Hood

From page 5A

respectively). On the flip side, property taxes make up 23% of collections here vs. 30% in the average state.

This will change a bit as the General Assembly continues to pursue tax reform. Just don't expect those changes to be dramatic.

• When it comes to taxes, who's the fairest one of all? As it happens, we do need to consult a mirror to answer this question, because we don't all share the same definition of tax "fairness."

I've written many columns — and even the better part of two books — on this issue, so I won't try to summarize all the arguments and evidence here. But I will make this point: those who pay state and local taxes also pay federal taxes. I'm not just talking about federal income taxes. I mean federal payroll taxes, excise taxes, and the portion of tariffs and business tax burdens shouldered by consumers and workers.

No serious study of federal, state, and local taxes combined shows anything other than a progressive system in which wealthy households pay a higher share of their income in taxes than middle-income households do. The latter, in turn, pay more than poor households.

Fair? Not fair? Let's discuss — so long as the discussion remains tethered to reality.

Whiteside Summer Chapel
Opening for the Season: May 26, 2024
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Toby Summerour
Summer Chapel is the original toe tapping, knee slapping service with blue grass gospel music provided by The Summer Chapel Band.

Service Starts At 11am - Public Is Invited!
Whiteside Community Building, 4601 Whiteside Cove Rd.
Highlands, NC 28741 • www.thesummerchapel.org
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File photo

Cashiers Library clearance sale next week

The Cashiers library will host its annual book clearance June 11 - 15 in the library's community meeting room. The room will be lined wall to wall with a variety of media, including children and young adult selections, fiction, non-fiction, audiobooks, and DVDs. Librarian Serenity Richards encouraged members to "come in, grab what you want, pay what you want, and help us clear out our donations." There is no set price for the media but members are encouraged to donate what they think their haul is worth. All proceeds directly benefit the library.

Obituaries

Karen Kupfer Martell

Karen Kupfer Martell, age 73, of Sapphire, North Carolina, passed away on December 17, 2023. She was born on April 4, 1950, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Karen is survived by her loving husband of 35 years, Steve Martell.

Martell

Karen was a cherished member of the Sapphire, North Carolina community for the past 25 years. Her most recent employment was at Sapphire Valley Resort, where she excelled in guest services. Before her tenure at Sapphire Valley Resort, she graced the restaurant industry with her engaging presence, serving at Chattooga Club, High Hampton Resort, The Orchard, and Sapphire Mountain Golf Club (now Sapphire National Golf Club). Prior to residing in Sapphire, Karen lived in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, where she worked many years as a respected realtor and event planner.

Please join us to celebrate Karen's life: Funeral services will be held on Friday, June 14th, 11:00 am at Cashiers United Methodist Church (894 Highway 107 South, Cashiers, NC).

Margie Shambaugh

Margie Shambaugh has passed away on her 97th birthday.

Ninety-seven years of amazing strength, love, and accomplishment. From her successful run for high school class president in the mid-1940s to her passing, she was a focused individual.

She got her pilots license and flew around the country with her husband, Bob. Along with Bob, she started and ran several successful businesses in Miami, FL, then Highlands, NC. In her 60s she attended the University of Florida and graduated with a degree in art history. But, well before that she was an accomplished artist, both on canvas and ceramics.

Fortunately, much of her art work remains in the hands of those who loved her. Margie is survived by her son, Lindy, his wife, Cheryl, grandchildren, Scott and Jessie, her husband, Gene, and great grandchildren, Hayley and Jordyn.

She will be missed.

Edwin J. Lowrey

A memorial service for Edwin J. Lowrey will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main St., Highlands, NC. A reception will follow the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salvation Army, The Carter Center in Atlanta, and the Hospitality House of Northwestern N.C.

Cashiers Volunteer Expo to connect nonprofits with helpers

By Nick Childs
reporter@highlandsnews.com

The third Cashiers Volunteer Expo is just around the corner, scheduled for Wednesday, June 12 from 4 to 6 at The Village Green's Lewis Hall.

A seminar session for participating nonprofits is at 1 p.m. that day with a catered lunch from Elevated Kitchen following. The seminar will include various aspects of nonprofit work, including grant writing, donor retention, and financial management.

The volunteer expo is led by Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC, with partnering organizations including Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library, The Village Green, and Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce. The event is sponsored by First Citizens Bank and Wealth Management.

Staffing nonprofits can be problematic in seasonal areas like Cashiers. The volunteer expo aims to connect nonprofits with potential year-round volunteers and recruits while promoting the goals of the nonprofits.

"The idea is for nonprofits to come out and connect people with the resources they offer while also connecting people who have time on their hands, good on their hearts, and want to help out the community," said Cashiers librarian Serenity Richards.

In short, it is a win-win for nonprofits and those wishing to help.

As of May 31, there were around 25 nonprofits registered to attend. The nonprofits span a variety of services and needs in Cashiers and Highlands, from food security to health to animals to arts and education.

Those interested in volunteering are welcome to tour the expo and find groups that match their interests and skills, or if volunteer desires are more general, they can get in contact with nonprofits to help.

Similarly, if volunteers have nonprofits in mind they want to work with, they're welcome to visit those booths.

Danielle Hernandez, program director and equity specialist with BBBS WNC, encouraged interested volunteers to have forms like identification, although she said there may also be a more intensive onboarding process when the volunteer work actually begins.

Hospital

From page 1A

• Transylvania County Meeting, Monday, June 17 (5:30 – 7 p.m.), Transylvania County Library, 212 Gaston St. Brevard, NC

• Highlands/Cashiers Meeting (Highlands-Cashiers Hospital), Tuesday, June 18 (5:30 – 7 p.m.), Location TBD

• Macon County Meeting (Angel Medical Center), Thursday, June 20 (5:30 – 7 p.m.), Robert C. Carpenter Room at the Macon County Community Facilities Building, 1288 Georgia Rd, Franklin, NC

Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment

PRESENTER SPOTLIGHTS!

Alan Dorsey

Alan Dorsey serves as a Professor of Physics and as Associate CIO for Research at the University of Georgia. He received his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he had the privilege of studying physics under the supervision of Professor Anthony Leggett, 2003 Nobel Laureate in Physics. He has received numerous recognitions for his research .

A Quantum Century
Monday, June 10, 2:00-4:00
$30 for members / $40 for non-members

Mark Krancer

Mark Krancer is an award-winning photographer and owner of Kram Kran Photo, LLC. Capturing beauty in the world since 2014, Mark's photography adorns many public and private exhibits as far away as Beijing, London, Madrid, and Milan. Mark was the winner of Scenic America's "America the Beautiful" 2023 contest in two categories. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2017, and has been published in National Geographic.

Understanding the Principles of Photography
Tuesday, June 11, 2:00-5:00
$50 for members / $60 for non-members

Photographing Waterfalls
Thursday, June 13, 9:00-noon
$50 for members / $60 for non-members

Alan Shuptrine

Alan Shuptrine, nationally awarded artist and master craftsman, is renowned for his intricate watercolors, oils, gilded panels & handcrafted gold leaf frames. Alan continues the legacy of Realism painting established by his father, Hubert Shuptrine (1936-2006). Shuptrine has exhibited in several museums, including his solo 4-museum exhibition with his published award-winning book, "I Come From A Place."

Gold Leaf and the Lost Art of Water Gilding
Wednesday, June 12, 10:00-12:00
$30 for members / $40 for non-members

Author Book Reception: "I Come From a Place"
Thursday, June 13, 4:00-6:00
$70 for members / $80 for non-members

906247

To register for these and other CLE programs, please visit clehighlands.com
(828) 526-8811
office@clehighlands.com

ASK AN ECONOMIST!

According to ongoing national polls, when voters are asked what is most important, they identify the economy as high on the list.

Do you want the facts about what is happening in the U.S. Economy and what it means for North Carolina?

Indivisible Highlands has invited **Dr. Sean Mulholland,** Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise at Western Carolina University to provide pertinent information and answer questions.

JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT
Wednesday, June 12th @ 6:30 pm
Hudson Library • 554 Main St, Highlands, NC 28741
Please come at 6:00 pm to enjoy refreshments and conversation.

906180

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Highlands Volunteer Fair

Are you looking to get involved? Join us to learn more about volunteer opportunities in Highlands!

THURSDAY, JUNE 6
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Highlands Recreation Center
600 North Fourth Street

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information: highlandschamber.org
828-526-5841
visithighlandsnc.com

This event is hosted by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

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BREVARD, NC
(828) 552-5416
102 College Station Drive, Ste I-9
(In the Food Lion Shopping Center)

ASHEVILLE, NC
(828) 552-5418
1829 Hendersonville Rd, Ste 130
(Meridian Plaza, across from Publix)

WEAVERVILLE, NC
(828) 552-5419
145 Weaver Blvd.
(In the Publix Shopping Center)

HENDERSONVILLE, NC
(828) 552-5420
206 3rd Ave West
(Corner of N Church St & 3rd Ave W)

GREENVILLE, SC
(864) 535-6465
1746 Woodruff Road
(In Publix Shopping Center behind Wells Fargo)

SPARTANBURG, SC
(864) 558-9793
2500 Winchester Pl, Ste 103
(Next to Kanpai of Tokyo)

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GEORGIA LICENSE NUMBERS: HADS000995, HADS000996, HADS001001, HADS001003

The Highlander
Weekender
1B
Thursday, June 6, 2024

Grease opens Mountain Theatre Company's 2024 season

By Larry Griffin
lgriffin@highlandsnews.com

Those who feel like they haven't seen "Grease" lately will have a chance to fix that for the next few weeks at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

The classic stage musical will be performed live by the Mountain Theatre Company from Wednesday, June 5 all the way through Saturday, June 22.

The show has been a theater staple for decades and features a number of hit songs like "Summer Nights," "Greased Lightnin,'" "You're the One That I Want," and "Hopelessly Devoted To You."

Choreographer Raymond Lamar Bennett, a New York native, has been spending time in the area helping the cast get ready for the show.

"We wanted to focus on a more athletic choreography, as opposed to a simple step technique. I think it went well, I think the audience is going to love what we came up with," he said.

It's Bennett's first time working with the Mountain Theatre Company. He said "Grease" was a good choice because it's "a piece that people know very well."

"They know these characters very well, and it's a story they'll be able to relate to," he said.

He was approached by the Mountain Theater Company after they saw social media posts of his, in which he spoke about his wish to one day be the head choreographer on a Broadway show. His path to the job came through being involved in various theater roles in his school years – even if he didn't originally know he wanted to do choreography yet.

"In school, I had the opportunity to do a composition class, and do some compositions," he said. "I didn't even know I was doing it. I had the opportunity to grow and cultivate that skill set. After putting in a number of years, I decided to become a choreographer."

Asked what he enjoyed about the job, Bennett said he liked being able to convey a story in unique ways beyond what's on the pages of the script.

"I like bringing the story the director wants to tell to life," he said. "With the script, showcasing with movement, there's singing, there's acting. It's about finding where the dancing can continue to tell the story."

He's worked on cruise ships, productions at theme parks and in various New York shows in the years since then. In addition to his work on "Grease" here, he's also recently worked as the assistant choreographer on "Moulin Rouge" on Broadway. That show is one step closer to his dream, but he said he hasn't given up on going even higher than that in the future.

"It's still my goal to choreograph a Broadway show one day," he said.

Tickets can be bought at highlandsperformingarts.com or at the door at the PAC, located at 507 Chestnut Street.

Submitted photo

The hit musical "Grease" is the first production of the Mountain Theatre Company for its summer season.

US Forest Service looking at possible fee increases

Proposal would impact Dry Falls, Whiteside Mountain

The U.S. Forest Service is proposing to change fees at several recreation areas on the Nantahala and Uwharrie National Forests and the public is invited to provide input to proposed fee changes for 60 days, through July 2, 2024. The goal of these changes is to improve visitor experiences through site and trail upgrades paid for by the collected fees.

These fee changes are only proposed. After public comments are received, the Forest Service will assess the comments and concerns and then present the fee proposals to the Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at a future date. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable new fees and fee changes.

"We recognize how important these sites are to our local communities and those who travel great distances to use them. We encourage the public to provide input into fee proposals like these in order to help shape the future of public land access and management," said Troy Waskey, District Ranger of the Nantahala Ranger District.

The proposed fee changes the Forest Service seeks comment on include:

Cheoah River Paddle Pass – new $10 annual pass option (existing $2 daily pass remains unchanged)

Dry Falls, Whitewater Falls, and Whiteside Mountain – increase from $3 to $5/vehicle per day, increase from $15 to $30 for annual pass*

Uwharrie Hunt Camp – increase from $5 to $15 per night

*Passes purchased are honored across all three sites

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which allows the Forest Service to

See **FEES**, Page 4B

Boys and Girls Club expands

Photo by Larry Griffin/Staff

A ribbon cutting ceremony held May 21 officially marked the opening of a new Boys and Girls Club campus in Highlands.

New facility will help bring more Highlands youths into the program

By Larry Griffin
lgriffin@highlandsnews.com

In previous summers, working parents have taken their children down the road to the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau's campus in Cashiers for childcare during the day. This year, they won't have to do it anymore, as the Boys and Girls Club has a new location in Highlands.

The building, located at 171 Hospital Drive, is on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital campus. The building, once used for doctors' offices, has been renovated to offer space for children to do activities and learn.

According to Boys and Girls Club chairman Joy Clark, the plan is to bring the Cashiers and Highlands children together by grade – so, all students of one grade will be at either one campus or the other depending on the day.

The kids will take field trips to places like the Highlands Biological Station and the library, and otherwise will be occupied by the usual Boys and Girls Club activities, including doing homework during the school year, doing exercises and games, and learning about art or STEM. Clark said everything they do is tailored to be both educational and fun.

"We want them to have fun," Clark said. "As far as they're concerned, they might not know if they're learning anything, but they are."

There's also a new fenced-off area in the parking lot of the hospital campus where members of the club will play outside games and exercises.

While registration for summer camp is already full, those looking to get their kids in the fall after-school program can visit the Boys and Girls Club website at bgcplateau.org to apply.

Also, according to Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau CEO Carmen Waite, transportation will be provided for the kids from Highlands School to the Highlands Boys and Girls Club campus when school is in session.

A ribbon cutting was held Tuesday afternoon, May 21, with several officials from the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau and the Town of Highlands in attendance along with several children enrolled in the club.

Boys and Girls Club board member Mike Kistner spoke at the ribbon cutting and recalled being "literally blown away" when he first visited the Cashiers location a few years ago, which prompted him to start getting involved.

Kistner thanked Mayor Patrick Taylor and hospital officials for their "tremendous support" in helping the new building along.

Taylor also briefly spoke, saying it was a "very important day" for the town, and called the hospital "a great community partner" for offering the space.

"Childcare is a critical need," he said. "We don't have enough. We need after school care, and a daycare summer program. This is a great step forward for Highlands and for the plateau."

After the ribbon cutting, the Boys and Girls Club served appetizers and cake at a reception inside and several children played in and outside of the

See **CLUB**, Page 4B

Submitted photo

It can be hard to tell hawks from falcons, but their wings give them away if you get a close enough look.

Nature Notes

Question: How can you tell hawks and falcons apart?

– Francine Delany
New School for Children

Answer: Falcons and hawks are both raptors, also known as "birds of prey."

They have sharp pointed bills for tearing meat and large, grasping clawed talons for catching and killing prey such as small birds, rodents, and snakes. Both falcons and hawks are active by day.

There are two groups of hawks: the Buteos and the Accipiters. Buteos include such large species as red-tailed hawks, broad-winged hawks, and red-shouldered hawks. They have broad, rounded wings, a robust body, and a fan-shaped tail. They may soar in circles for long periods of time without flapping, riding on warm air currents.

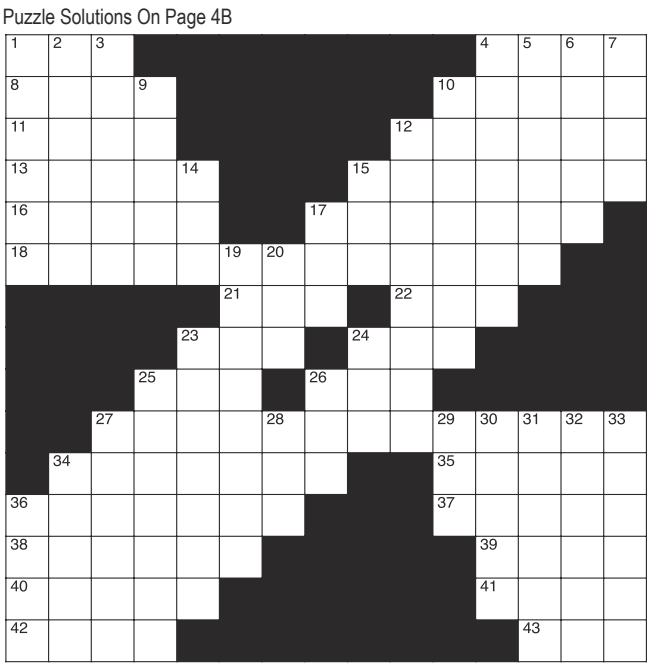
Accipiters are smaller forest hawks such as the Cooper's hawk and sharp-shinned hawk. They have short, rounded wings and a long tail. In flight, these hawks often make rapid wing beats and then glide.

Falcons include such species as peregrines and kestrels. They are small to medium in size and have long, narrow pointed wings. The name "falcon" derives from the Latin "falx," meaning "sickle," in reference to their wing shape in flight as they perform powerful high-speed dives at prey items such as other birds. Their tails are relatively long and tapered, although they may be fanned when gliding. In addition, the heads of falcons are large and possess dark markings that resemble mustaches or sideburns.

– Patrick Brannon,
Highlands Biological Station

Submit your question about nature by calling 828-526-4123 or by visiting highlandsbiological.org.

Puzzle Solutions On Page 4B



CLUES ACROSS

1. Baby's dining accessory
4. Something free
8. Ancient Egyptian deity
10. Set-like mathematical categories
11. Top-quality
12. Expansive
13. Seizure
15. People with congenital absence of pigment
16. Gains
17. Mocked online
18. Clint's son
21. Body part
22. Humor
23. Code number
24. Your physique
25. Family of regulator genes
26. LA football player (abbr.)
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Charity
35. Bluish greens
36. Examined closely
37. A type of equation
38. Stretched uncomfortably
39. Indian religious god
40. Clocks
41. Slowly leak through
42. Witnesses
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Nestlings
2. Induces vomiting
3. A place to eat
4. Partner in the air
5. Offered one's take
6. Nobel-winning French biologist
7. Farm animals
9. Prevent from growing
10. Sensationalist periodical
12. Soft-bodied beetle
14. Very fast airplane
15. Imaginative creation
17. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
19. Evoked a response
20. French river
23. Shiny yellow minerals
24. Make illegal
25. U.S. military branch
26. River in France and Belgium
27. A woman of refinement
28. Male child
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Mediterranean dietary staple
33. Sneak out
34. Radioactivity unit
36. Performs on stage

HOROSCOPES

ARIES: Mar 21-Apr 20
Family obligations are swimming through your mind, Aries. It is time to sit down and hammer out a resolution that will appeal to everyone and lighten your load.

TAURUS: Apr 21-May 21
A special person in your life is getting closer and closer to you every day, Taurus. This may be the companion that you have been hoping for. Continue to take things slowly.

GEMINI: May 22-Jun 21
Gemini, sometimes you have a tendency to make things more difficult than they need to be. Stop obsessing over every little detail this week. Things have a way of working out.

CANCER: Jun 22-Jul 22
Cancer, if someone accuses you of being too emotional this week, do not take it personally. This person may be projecting his or her experiences on you. Continue what you're doing.

LEO: Jul 23-Aug 23
Leo, could you be holding yourself to unreasonably high standards? If you're getting frustrated by not meeting your goals, ease up on yourself for the time being.

VIRGO: AUG 24-SEPT 22
Virgo, it is your mission to change the minds of some people at work this week, as it will bode well for you down the road. Just don't make too many extravagant requests.

LIBRA: Sept 23-Oct 23
Recently people have been directing accolades in your direction, Libra. This is the boost you have needed to propel yourself to do more of the things that have been your goals.

SCORPIO: Oct 24-Nov 22
Scorpio, someone simply isn't bringing his or her A-game to a work project, and it shows. It's frustrating and you want to take over, but this is supposed to be a team effort.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23-Dec 21
Simple things used to bring you pleasure and now it seems a bit of a gray cloud has descended. Don't start to fret you're getting jaded, Sagittarius. This is just a little rough patch.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22-Jan 20
Capricorn, as a finish line approaches, it can be tempting to get very excited. Hold off on that elation until everything is done. You never know what can crop up in between.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21-Feb 18
It doesn't need to be New Year's to make a resolution, Aquarius. You can aspire to change an aspect of your life anytime you want. Perhaps this is the week to embrace change?

PISCES: Feb 19-Mar 20
Have you been putting all of your focus on only one part of your life, Pisces? Take a more balanced approach; otherwise, burnout may soon set in.

SUDOKU

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1	8	5	9	4				

Level: Intermediate

Puzzle Solutions On Page 4B

Mountain Flavors

Marilyn Underhill
Columnist

Maria Shriver writes a "Sunday Paper" that is filled with writings on important topics. We are about to enter a period of frenzy and fury and many of us feel totally helpless and hopeless. Marie stated, " It is more important than ever now to reflect, reset, and look for the good around us. After all life is a series of choices: how we live, how we die, how we love, how we forgive, and how we carry on."

Stressful times call for comfort food.

Some of my childhood food memories would include "milk toast", rice pudding, stuffed peppers, chocolate cake with peppermint icing, and the list could go on. Now, a cup of tea and a freshly baked cookie brings a calmness to my day.

I rarely make rice pudding but rice remains a favorite of mine. Rice is a complex carbohydrate and a good source of energy and nutrients. In Chinese culture rice is a symbol of life and fertility.

Rice can easily be cultivated, is versatile, and adaptable to diverse climates thus making rice a staple in Asian cuisine. Brown rice is a better choice over white rice.

The cookbook "The Cocktail Party" by Mary Giuliani has a recipe for Arancini (Rice Balls) that is a perfect hors d'oeuvre, side dish, or a light lunch. Once you have made the rice balls a few times you will realize that they are not difficult to make.

Read the following list of ingredients and the directions before beginning to make the arancini. Bon appetit.

Arancini (Rice balls)

Ingredients:
Rice Balls:
2 cups cooked white rice, prepared with a pinch of salt
6-ounces pancetta, diced fine
24-ounces fresh ricotta cheese
3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 cup finely grated Romano cheese, plus additional for serving
2 eggs
2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat leaf parsley
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper

Coating:
1 cup all-purpose flour
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 eggs
2 cups seasoned Italian bread crumbs

Frying:
1 cup vegetable oil

Directions:
1. For the rice balls. Cook the pancetta in a saute pan on medium-low heat, slowly rendering it until crispy, about 8 minutes. Drain on a plate lined with paper towels.

2. In a medium bowl, combine the rice, pancetta, and remaining ingredients and mix well. Refrigerate the mixture for at least 1 hour so that it has a firm consistency.

3.Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Using a mini ice cream scoop or a rounded teaspoon, place individual scoops of the rice mixture on the prepared baking sheet. Roll each scoop into an even, light ball, using your hands.

4. For the coating: In a shallow bowl, add the flour and season with salt and pepper. In a second bowl, whisk the eggs. In a third bowl, add the breadcrumbs.

5. Roll the rice balls first in the seasoned flour, then gently shake them to remove any excess flour. Next, dunk the rice balls into the egg mixture to coat them. Finally, roll the rice balls in the bread crumbs, making sure each ball is thoroughly covered. The prepared rice balls can be refrigerated for up to 1 day.

6. For frying: In a large frying pan, heat the oil for 5 minutes on medium heat. Now fry one arancini first to get the timing down. Do not throw all your balls in all at once, as they will be crowded and cause the oil temperature to drop.

7. Carefully cook the balls in the oil until all sides are golden brown, about 3 minutes. Drain on a paper towel.

8.Sprinkle with fresh grated Romano cheese and serve on a platter or pass as a small bite.

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Life and Religion

Volunteering spreads God's love to all

Christine Maddux
Deacon

Whoever predicted that we would become a paperless society didn't factor in the health care system's relentless attachment to paper forms. Even with advance registration duly completed online, a doctor visit still starts with a clipboard and a form to fill out. And invariably, the form I'm asked to fill out does not seem to align with the facts of my life.

It has blanks for three names, I have four. It has three occupational categories: student, employed, or retired. None of those really seems to fit, either. And the same is true for many older people in this community and elsewhere, for whom the label "retired" just does not seem accurate. They may no longer be gainfully employed, but their days are active and purposeful. Making time to volunteer in the community is a joyful priority for them. And as new research has shown, volunteering is good for us.

In the Mayo Clinic's Hometown Health Blog, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker Angela Thoreson wrote that "Research has shown that volunteering offers significant benefits, especially for older adults." The first benefit cited is improved health. As people use their minds and bodies to serve others, both their physical and mental health improve. The risk of heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety, and general illness all decline with volunteering.

Thoreson reported that a second benefit to volunteering is a heightened sense of purpose, yielding greater life satisfaction and self-esteem. Having purpose is quite different from just being busy. And a third benefit of volunteering is the social bonus of building relationships, often among those with diverse backgrounds. This is increasingly therapeutic in our time of epidemic loneliness, isolation, and guardedness.

But while the latest clinical research emphasizes the benefits of volunteering to the one who volunteers, the time-honored Bible takes a broader look at the good that accrues in serving the needs of others.

In the Old Testament, we see that the ancient writer of Proverbs understood the health benefit of serving others: "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones" (Proverbs 15:30). He also understood that serving others creates a loop of grace, in which both giver and receiver are blessed, e.g., "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25).

And in the New Testament, we see dramatic proof that the instinct to serve others is part of what it means to be made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). The four gospel accounts all testify to this, as they recount the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the human revelation of Almighty God (John 14:9-11; Colossians 1:15, 19).

Jesus said that He came "not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Day in and day out He pursued this purpose, by voluntarily teaching, listening, sharing meals, and healing, among Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, male and female, young and old, hale and infirm, haughty and humble. Many responded by embracing his way, others did not; regardless, He loved them all. And ultimately, He served all people of all times by volunteering to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world (John 10:17-18; John 3:16).

We follow Jesus' example when we volunteer to serve others, by freely extending God's impartial love to others in the here and now. And that loop of grace circles back, through us, to Jesus Christ himself. As He said, "…as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:34-40). Let's ponder that.

For information about a wide variety of local volunteer opportunities, visit the Third Annual Highlands Volunteer Fair on Thursday, June 6, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Highlands Recreation Park and Civic Center, 600 North 4th St., Highlands; and the Volunteer & Resources Expo on Wednesday, June 12, 4-6 p.m. in Lewis Hall at the Village Green Commons, 160 Frank Allen Road, Cashiers.

The Rev. Christine Maddux serves as a deacon at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers and lives in Sapphire.

HBF to start Zahner Lectures on June 13

The Highlands Biological Foundation will celebrate the kickoff of its annual Zahner Conservation Lecture series, a tradition that began in the 1930s, on June 13.

Named in honor of Dr. Robert Zahner and his wife Glenda for their significant contributions to land conservation on the Highlands Plateau, the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series aims to educate and inspire the public. Each summer, HBF features a diverse lineup of talks from renowned regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers. These lectures are made possible by generous donations from numerous individuals and local organizations.

Submitted photo

Dr. Caleb Hickman will be the first Zahner Lecture presenter on June 13.

The 2024 series will begin on June 13 with Dr. Caleb Hickman's presentation titled "Ecological Sovereignty: Managing Natural Resources from a Cherokee Biologist." Dr. Hickman, a Supervisory Biologist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will share his insights into how tribes manage natural resources using a blend of traditional knowledge and contemporary science.

Tribes are often looked at as a historical artifact of American history. However, with 574 federally recognized tribes, they persist still today as one of the largest land-holding management groups on the continent. These tribes have the same branches of government as the United States and independently manage natural resources under their own laws and regulations.

As small sovereign nations that have a special relationship with the United States, Dr. Hickman argues that tribes are better equipped to lead conservation. They leverage their unique governance along with traditional knowledge to create a better future in the face of many challenges, such as climate change, invasive species, and endangered environments.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Dr. Hickman is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. After leaving Oklahoma, he received his bachelor's degree in biology from Missouri Valley College, a master's at Missouri State University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin Madison.

Dr. Hickman has worked with a variety of species across various ecosystems before finding his dream job as a Supervisory Biologist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians where, for over a decade, he has worked to study and conserve a variety of game and non-game fish and wildlife species and their ecosystems. His research and management priorities are for Endangered and culturally important species, which often overlap.

This program is sponsored by Ruthie & Berry Edwards and Lindy & Robbie Harrison.

HBF welcomes all to join the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series, a perfect opportunity to learn, engage, and be inspired by the natural world. The lectures will be held every Thursday evening at 6 p.m. from June 13 to Aug. 15 at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Rd). To see HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, visit highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Nature Center is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

Submitted photo

Apperson wins "Mercy Award" at Harris

The 2024 Harris Regional & Swain Community Hospital Mercy Award winner is Jeanette Apperson, CMA. The Mercy Award is given annually to a hospital staff member who touches the lives of others and best represents the spirit and values on which the company was founded. Established in 2001, the Mercy Award honors the life and contributions of Scott Mercy, Lifepoint's founding chairman and CEO. It is the highest honor a Lifepoint employee can receive.

You're invited to God's House

HIGHLANDS & CASHIERS

Church Directory

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39

HIGHLANDS

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
Join the Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector, and the Rev. Skully Knight, Associate Rector, for Sunday services beginning with Rite I at 8 a.m. in th Chapel. Rite II follows, featuring the full choir, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Morning prayer is Monday through Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Healing Eucharist is held every Wednesday at noon in the Chapel. For more information, call 828-526-2968.

First Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church hosts Sunday services each week at 10 a.m. beginning with adult and children's classes followed by worship service at 11 a.m. Join Senior Pastor Rev. Emily Wilmarth and Associate Pastor Rev. Kelly Connelly for worship. For more information, call 828-526-3175 or visit the church at 471 Main Street in Highlands.

Highlands Assembly of God
Highlands Assembly of God hosts Sunday worship services with Pastor Randy Reed each week at 11 a.m. The church is located at 165 South Sixth Street in Highlands. For more information, call 828-421-9172.

Highlands Central Baptist
Highlands Central Baptist church Pastor Dan Robinson welcomes you to worship at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. each Sunday. There is a Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6 p.m. each week. The church is currently meeting in a temporary location in the fellowship hall of Shortoff Baptist Church. For more information, call 828-526-0774 or visit highlandscentralbaptist.org.

Highlands United Methodist
Highlands UMC invites everyone to worship with Rev. Randy Lucas and Rev. Christine Murphy on Sundays at 9 a.m. for bluegrass worship, or 11 a.m. for traditional worship service. If you can't make it in person, services are streamed on the church's Facebook page. For more information, call 828-526-3376.

Holy Family Lutheran Church
Located at 2152 Dillard Road in Highlands, Holy Family Lutheran Church offers Sunday services with the Rev. Ken Langsdorf each week at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 828-526-9741.

CASHIERS

Cashiers Baptist Church
Come worship with us at Cashiers Baptist Church and experience the life changing power of Jesus Christ. Sunday services- Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Worship 6 p.m., Wednesday prayer meeting 7 p.m. For more information go to www.cashiersbaptistchurch. com. 828-743-3040.

Cashiers United Methodist Church
Cashiers UMC invites you to be part of a community motivated by the love of God and others to grow in faith and be generous in service. Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 in person or on the Cashiers UMC You Tube Channel. Find us online at Cashiersumc.org for upcoming events and small group opportunities. Located on Hwy 107, 1 mile south of the crossroads.

Christ Anglican Church
Christ Anglican Church and the Rev. Dr. Michael Matlock warmly invite you to join us for opportunities in Christian worship, spiritual formation, and missional service offered throughout the week. Sundays: Adult Christian Formation at 9:30 am and Eucharistic Worship at 10:30 a.m. (with Children's Chapel time). Wednesdays: Potluck dinner, fellowship, singing, prayer, and Bible study 6-8 p.m. Thursdays: Healing Eucharistic Service at 11:30 a.m. Visit our website www.christanglicancashiers.org or contact us at 828-743-1701 or CAC@christanglicancashiers.org for more information.

Christ Church Of The Valley
Join us 10:45 a.m. Sundays for fellowship, coffee, Spirit-filled worship and Biblical teaching. Men's Bible Study Tues., 9 a.m. in person and online at www.cashiers.church. Women's 11:30 a.m. Monday. Located Hwy 64W towards Highlands past crossroads on right. 828-743-5470 Lead Pastor Brent Metcalf.

Community Bible Church
www.cbchighlands.com – 828-526-4685 – Pastor Gary Hewins, 3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC. Sundays: Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship Service 10:45 a.m., Children's Program 10:45 a.m., Youth 12:15 – 2:30 p.m. (lunch provided). Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study 10 a.m. – Noon. Thursdays: Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Good Shepherd welcomes you to join us for worship, learning, and service. Our mission is to "reflect God's love through our faith in action." Sunday services are at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. and Coffee Hour after the 11 a.m. service. Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for schedules of activities both virtual and in-person. Our Bazaar Barn is open Thursday through Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., which supports outreach in the community. The Rev. Rob Wood, Rector. Call at 743-2359 or come by Monday-Thursday at 1448 Highway 107 South.

Glenville Wesleyan Church
Join us for Meet and Greet from 10:45 - 11 a.m. then Energetic Worship and Children's ministry with a message you can use in your daily life. Wednesday prayer meeting at 6 p.m. We are located 5.4 miles north of Cashiers on Hwy 107. Where everyone is welcome, yes that means you! Pastor Ralph Campbell, 828-506-1163, connect on Facebook.

Grace Community Church
A Non-Denominational, Full Gospel body of believers located on Hwy 107N, ½ mile from the crossroads in Cashiers. We are a Bible centered, Christian Conservative voice in the Valley. Sundays: 10 a.m. service includes contemporary praise and worship, sermon, communion and special prayer following the service. Wednesday night dinner (6 p.m.) and meeting (7 p.m.) during the season. Call 828-743-9814 for more info or visit www.gracecashiers.com. Steve Doerter, Pastor.

Pine Creek Baptist Church
Pine Creek Baptist Church at 4338 Pine Creek Road, Cullowhee, welcomes you to join us for Sunday school at 10 a.m. and an 11 a.m. worship service. Pastor Aaron Langston.

St. Jude Catholic Church
www.stjudeofsapphirevalley.org — Saint Jude Catholic Church 3011 Hwy. 64 East, Sapphire (across from Sapphire Valley Resort.) Tel: 828-743-5717. Mass schedule for summer months: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, 5:30 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m. (English Mass), Friday, 9:30 a.m. (Latin).

813987
WORSHIP WITH US IN PERSON OR ONLINE AT
Cashiers United Methodist Church
See website www.cashiersumc.org for links to:
• Weekly Worship Services
• Meditative Music by Bryan Heller
• Mission & Community Connection
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE IN ACTION

CFWNC facilitates Blue Ridge Health grant

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina has facilitated a $42,000 grant to Blue Ridge Health to purchase Pulmonary Function Testing equipment and related supplies for its pediatric pulmonology office. The grant funding was quickly provided by longtime CFWNC fundholders and supporters who understand the need for this essential diagnostic tool to manage lung disease for some of the region's youngest patients.

Dr. Steven Julius recently joined BRH as part of its growing pediatric specialty group. Dr. Julius is one of only two board-certified pediatric pulmonologists in Western North Carolina. BRH has been providing pediatric neurology care for almost five years under the direction of Dr. Lisa Abraham, a child neurologist, who is one of only three child neurologists in WNC. This summer, BRH will welcome its first pediatric endocrinologist, who will be the only pediatric endocrinologist in this region.

"The acquisition of high-level equipment to perform Pulmonary Function Testing for children in Western North Carolina represents a significant investment in the health and well-being of our pediatric patients," said Dr. Julius.

Blue Ridge Health's CEO, Dr. Richard Hudspeth, added, "We are grateful to CFWNC for being our community partner in helping us meet this need in such a timely manner. The support of our community helps us expand our impact on the health and well-being of our state."

CFWNC works with families, businesses, and nonprofits to strengthen communities through the creation of charitable funds and strategic grantmaking. A permanent charitable resource, the Foundation manages over 1,200 funds and facilitated $34 million in grants last year, bringing total distributions to more than $362 million since its founding in 1978. Learn more at www.cfwnc.org.

Blue Ridge Health is a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center that works closely with its local communities to meet the ever-changing healthcare needs with high-quality, comprehensive, and affordable healthcare services. Over 50,000 patients are served per year. With 66 locations in clinics, public schools, and other sites throughout ten Western North Carolina counties, BRH offers primary care, dental, discount pharmacy, behavioral health, and nutrition services that prioritize the patient care experience and promote health awareness and education. For more information, visit www.brchs.com.

Submitted photos

Volleyball double-take

The identical twin daughters of James Yaskiewicz, of Highlands, have signed letters of commitment to Reinhardt University for volleyball. They recently graduated from Tallulah Falls with over a 4.0 GPA, and will begin their college volleyball career in the fall.

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MOUNTAIN HOUSE
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EVERY SUNDAY | MUSIC 10:30 - 12:30
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"Brass @ The Bascom with the All-Star Brass Quintet"
The Bascom: Center for the Visual Arts – Highlands
Sunday, June 30th @ 5 PM
Kevin Lyons
Gabe Colby
Hakeem Bilal
Scott Nadelson
Juan Berrios
The All-Star Brass Quintet, led by trumpeter Kevin Lyons, perform music by Bach, Gershwin and Piazzolla.
Wine & hors d'oeuvres will be served.
Sponsored by J. F. & Peggy Bryan and Phyllis & Tom Davis.
Price: $80/person. Call 828-526-9060 for required reservations.
Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival
Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival
www.h-cmusicfestival.org
hccmfnc@gmail.com | (828) 526-9060
906248

Club

From page 1B

new building, the mood jovial.

The opening of the new campus will hopefully be a boon for working parents who need a safe and fun environment for kids over the summer while school is out. Because of living costs in the Town of Highlands, many workers in town must commute from surrounding areas, and those with children have trouble finding childcare that can accommodate them.

"Summer is kind of a no man's land for kids," Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation president Charlotte Muir said, recounting her own experiences in the last few years. "You'd have to piece together a bunch of different summer camps."

Muir thought the opening of the new club building in Highlands would "change the lives of Highlands parents."

First Presbyterian Church Pastor Emily Wilmath was in attendance with her son and said the new building would be a big help for their family.

"We need all kinds of childcare, and we can all work together to provide it," she said. "We can't bring all the kids to church – we all need to help each other."

Local parent Devin Allio attended the ribbon cutting with his wife and child and said they would also benefit from the new campus.

"Being a young family, having two working parents, it's incredibly helpful to have [the Boys and Girls Club]," he said. "My daughter goes to Highlands School, and we've been taking her to Cashiers. It's helpful to have a place here. It allows my wife and I to work and allows [my daughter] to socialize. I couldn't be happier."

Allio said he was happy for the convenience to both "live and work in Highlands."

Fees

From page 1B

retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and used these funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites. The resource derived through collection of fees helps provide quality recreation opportunities that meet the modern expectations of visitors and creates a more financially sustainable developed recreation program for the benefit of future generations.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed fee changes by July 2, 2024. For more information visit our webpage at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsnc/recfeeproposals.

To provide comments about these fee proposals for the RRAC to consider, please comment online at our Recreation Fee Proposal Mapping Tool or contact Logan Free at 828-257-4256, by email at SM.FS.NFsNCfees@usda.gov, or by mail at:

ATTN: Recreation Fee Proposals
160A Zillicoa Street
Asheville, NC 28801

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Featuring steaks, fresh local seafood & seasonally-inspired cuisine
Enjoy views of beautiful Lake Sequoyah!
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www.ontheverandah.com
905982

Pair of authors to discuss their recent works at local events

Author Brent Martin will sign copies of his new cultural history and naturalist guide "A Hiker's Guide to the Bartram National Recreation Trail in Georgia and North Carolina" at the Highland Hiker in Highlands from 2 - 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 15, and at the Highland Hiker in Cashiers (at the crossroads) on Wednesday, June 19, from 2 - 4 p.m. There will be refreshments at each signing.

This guide to the Bartram Trail, illustrated with more than 30 maps and a pair of Bartram's watercolors, is a comprehensive account of the Bartram National Recreation Trail. More than just detailing day hikes, interesting spurs, and loop hikes on trails connected to the Bartram, Brent Martin also incorporates illuminating cultural and natural histories into each section.

Martin's guide is perfect for those hiking the entire trail as a single experience and for those making day trips. It includes locations for outdoor supplies, lodging, parking, and other relevant outdoor experiences, such as canoeing the Little Tennessee River or visiting the historic Cherokee town sites of Cowee and Nikwasi.

MARTIN is the executive director of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy and the owner of Alarka Expeditions in Franklin, North Carolina. He is the author of several books, including "George Masa's Wild Vision."

Brown at Hudson Library

Alabama author James Ray Brown will give a talk about his recent release Death in McComb; the J Patrick Allen Story on Friday June 7 at 11 a.m. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free program.

James Ray Brown, born and raised in Autaugaville Alabama, has taken a roundabout path to authorship. As a youth he assisted his father and oldest brother as a mechanic's helper, and later as a farmer's helper. His own career included 23 years in the classroom before he turned to writing.

His first book, The Nursing Home Book, is a novel inspired by his mother's last years. This was followed by Junior Brown: A Man and His Family, a biography of his father.

Death in McComb: The J. Patrick Allen Story mirrors the reality often faced by those who have lost a loved one at an industrial site. This story, set in southern Mississippi, begins on the first day of COVID protocols four years ago as men and women stand six feet apart and have their temperatures taken. One of those in this long line loses his life that day as an operator turns on the wrong machine, a dreadful mistake that costs a man his life and leaves his wife and three children widowed and orphaned.

For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031. Hudson Library, 554 Main Street in Highlands, is open 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Submitted photo

Brent Martin will discuss his new guide to the Bartram Trail at events in Highlands on June 15 and Cashiers on June 19.

Fitzpatrick to talk cybersecurity at CLE

During her career as a FBI special agent, Meredith Fitzpatrick has seen it all. She has thwarted cyber attacks from Russia, stopped theft of intellectual property by China, and led investigations into cryptocurrency laundering and investment fraud schemes.

Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick led arrest operations in Nigeria, across Europe, and domestically within the United States. As well as working to protect national security, Fitzpatrick has offered her investigative expertise to companies experiencing data breaches or falling victim to ransomware and has even offered her assistance to individuals devastated by personal identity theft.

She has since moved into the private sector working as the Director for Cryptocurrency for Forensic Risk Alliance, a law firm that works with clients from around the world. Fitzpatrick now assists entities such as the Department of Justice and the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control to investigate illegal cryptocurrency enabled money-laundering schemes and market trading practices.

On Tuesday, June 11 she will be visiting the Highlands-Cashiers Center For Life Enrichment where she will be telling all you need to know about cybersecurity.

The FBI estimated that in 2022 Americans lost $10.3 billion dollars to cybercrimes varying from scams to personal online attacks. In a digital age it is more important than ever to be technologically literate.

Fitspatrick has said that "The explosive growth of the blockchain technology and cryptocurrency industries has produced exciting new technologies and financial products." However, she notes the new challenges these technologies posed as "it has also completely transformed the way companies need to think about the ever-increasing regulatory environment, and risk, Anti Money Laundering and Sanctions exposure." Fitzpatrick will cut through the confusion and tell attendees what they need to know to keep their businesses, families, and themselves safe for cybercrimes.

Admission to her lecture costs $30 for CLE members and $40 for non-members. For more information on programs and registration, please visit www.clehighlands.com, call 828-526-8811, or visit the office anytime Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Center for Life Enrichment's mission is to provide life enriching opportunities through educational lectures and to stimulate curiosity and creativity by offering art workshops and culinary/nature programs to residents and visitors to the Highlands-Cashiers plateau.

St. Andrews releases worship leader lineup

St. Andrews By-the-Lake Chapel in Lake Toxaway announces worship services this season begin on Sunday, June 16, and conclude on Sunday, Sept. 8. The schedule of guest ministers is as follows:

June 16 - Rev. Dr. Kent Reynolds, leadership development, professor and retired Methodist pastor

June 23 - Rev. Dr. Bob Edmunds, retired Presbyterian pastor

June 30 - Rev. Dr. Billie Hanks, Jr., founder of International Evangelism Association

July 7 - Rev. Dr. David Brown, pastor of A Place At The Table, non-denominational church in Charlotte, NC

July 14 - Rev. Shelly Webb, Executive Director of Sharing House in Brevard and ordained elder of WNC Conference of the United Methodist Church

July 21 - Rev. Dr. John Boggs, retired Methodist pastor; former Blue Ridge District Superintendent of WNC Conference of the United Methodist Church

July 28 - Rev. Dr. Kent Reynolds, leadership development, professor and retired Methodist pastor

Aug. 4 - Rev. Lathrop Mosley, Vicar of The Episcopal Church of the Ridge in Edgefield, SC

Aug. 11 - TBA

Aug. 18 - Rev. Kevin Lynch, Chaplain at Acts Retirement-Life Community at Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC

Aug. 25 Rev. Dr. Billie Hanks, Jr., founder of International Evangelism Association

Sept. 1 - Rev. Bill Walker, retired assoc. Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Parish; former interim rector of St. Philip's Episcopal church in Brevard, NC

Sept. 8 - Rev. Toby Summerour, Chaplain of Summer Chapel in Whiteside Cove, NC; adjunct priest at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers, NC

All are welcome at St. Andrews By-the-Lake Chapel in Lake Toxaway where ministers from different denominations as well as nondenominational churches conduct services. The chapel is located on Route 281 North, 0.6 mile from U.S. 64 West, at 546 Blue Ridge Road.

905997
LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP BOIL
TO BENEFIT
Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
— SAVE THE DATE —
SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH
5:00 – 8:00 PM • Dinner at 6 PM
Rain or Shine, Tented Event at Oak & Pine Streets, Highlands, NC
$85 TICKET Includes Tasty Low Country Boil Dinner, Dessert and 3 Drinks.
LIVE MUSIC by Back Porch Orchestra
— TICKETS AVAILABLE —
www.foundersparkhighlands.org | The Driy Sink on Main Street
Hosted by Friends of Founders Park, a 501(c)3 organization, www.foundersparkhighlands.org

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BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY JIM JACOBS AND WARREN CASEY
JUNE 5 - 22
WWW.MOUNTAINTHEATRE.COM
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"Grease" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company. www.concordtheatricals.com
"You're the One That I Want," "Sandy," "Hopelessly Devoted to You," and "Grease" by arrangement with Robert Stigwood.

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906246

The Highlander CLASSIFIEDS

The Highlander Classifieds Sell today - gone tomorrow

Small costs, BIG results

For a classified advertisement of 10 words or less, the cost of one publication is only $9. For each word over 10 add 30 cents per word. Classifieds deadline is 10am Tuesday for the current week's edition.

To place a classified call (828) 526-4114

Online ad placement 24/7 at highlandsnews.com

Expand your reach! Ask about CNI newspapers in neighboring communities.

Corrections - Check your advertisement for accuracy the first time it appears in the newspaper so that any necessary corrections can be made. The Highlander will not be liable for mistakes in an advertisement beyond the first publication. If a mistake is found, please call 526-4114.

Editor's Note - The Highlander reserves the right not to publish classified advertisements it considers to be in questionable taste. And, the publication of an advertisement is not an endorsement of the worthiness of the product or service being offered.

Fair Housing Act - All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Classifieds Categories

0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS
0105 Lost & Found
0110 Personals
0115 Thanks
0120 In Memoriam
0125 Miscellaneous

0200 SERVICES
0205 Landscape/Yard Wk
0210 Home Repair/ Maintenance
0215 Construction
0200 Housekeeping
0230 Childcare
0235 Instruction
0240 Transportation
0245 Miscellaneous Services

0300 EMPLOYMENT
0305 General
0310 Food Services
0315 Medical
0320 Retail
0325 Education
0330 Part Time
0340 Business Opportunities
0345 Work Wanted

0400 FOR SALE
0405 Yard Sales
0410 Antiques
0415 Auctions
0420 Appliances
0425 Farm & Heavy Equipment
0430 Firewood
0435 Furniture
0440 Lawn & Garden
0445 Misc. For Sale
0450 Wanted to Buy

0500 TRANS. & REC.
0505 Autos
0510 Trucks
0515 SUVs
0520 Vans
0525 Motorcycles
0530 ATVs
0535 Boats/Marine
0540 RVs/Campers
0545 Classic Cars
0550 Parts & Accessories
0555 Wanted to Buy

0600 PETS & ANIMALS
0605 Pets/Animals for Sale
0610 Lost Pets & Animals
0615 Free Pets/ Animals
060 Wanted to Buy

0700 REAL ESTATE RENTALS
0705 Homes for Rent
0710 Apartments for Rent
0715 Vacation Rentals
0720 Seasonal Rentals
0725 Condos for Rent
0730 Cabins for Rent
0735 Mobile Homes
0740 Commercial
0745 Lots for Rent
0750 Warehouse/Storage
0755 Wanted to Rent

0800 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
0805 Homes for Sale
0810 Land & Lots
0815 Cabins for Sale
0820 Condos for Sale
0825 Farms/Farmlandd
0830 Commercial
0835 Real Estate Wanted

0900 LAKE PROPERTY
0905 Lake Property
0910 Lake Property/Rent
0915 Lots & Acreage

1000 MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE
1005 Mobile Homes/Land
1010 Mobile Homes w/o Land

1510 LEGALS

LANDSCAPING / YARD WORK

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING Services - Design, install and maintain. Fall cleanup, gutter cleaning, leaf blowing, rock work, tree removal, underbrushing, pruning, pressure washing, drainage correction, driveway grading. Licensed and insured. 828-526-2251

LANDSCAPING, INSTALLATION, maintenance, clean-up. Year round caretaking. All your needs. (828)743-2806

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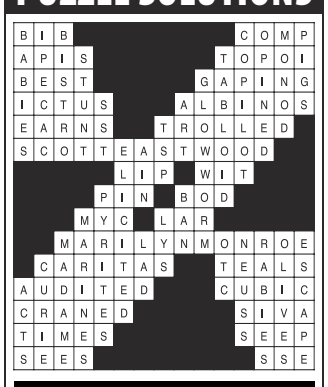
I DO IT ALL!
Professional painting, remodeling, roof repairs, decks, concrete walkways, pressure washing. 37 years experience. Jerry (828342-7993

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL KNIFE/ SCISSOR sharpening. Monday through Saturday. Kitchen Sink, Inc. (828)524-2956.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



6	5	9	4	1	3	2	8	7
4	1	8	2	7	5	3	9	6
2	3	7	8	9	6	4	5	1
5	7	1	3	2	9	8	6	4
3	6	4	1	5	8	7	2	9
8	9	2	7	6	4	5	1	3
7	2	6	5	3	1	9	4	8
9	4	3	6	8	2	1	7	5
1	8	5	9	4	7	6	3	2

GENERAL EMPLOYMENT

CONSTRUCTION HELPER, dependable, transportation; start pay $15 per hour. J. Edwards 828.421.8252

MHC Family

DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF & TEACHER POSITIONS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the life of a child. Methodist Home for Children is seeking Direct Support Staff (multiple positions available) and a Teacher to work with teens in Franklin. We offer excellent benefits, paid time off, competitive salaries and advancement opportunities. Apply online at www.mhfc.org

ESTABLISHED CUSTOM HOME BUILDER in Highlands / Cashiers area looking for project superintendent to manage multiple sites and subcontractors. Please send resume to JW Underwood Construction LLC, PO Box 147, Highlands, NC 28741, or email john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com

HIGHLANDER ROOFING is seeking a full time Lead Repair Technician. Roofing and Carpentry skills are required for this position. We offer vacation, Holiday pay and Life insurance. We service many counties in Western Carolina and we offer a high pay scale (based on skill level). Please contact Shanna Williams at 828-524-7773 or message us on Facebook (Highlander Roofing Services) We look forward to hearing from you.

EDUCATION

MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS has an employment vacancy for an Agriculture Teacher at Highlands School for the 2024-25 School Year. North Carolina Certification is required for this position. Applications are available online https://5il.co/1ial0 or at the Macon County Schools Administrative Office. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Macon County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ANTIQUES

ANTIQUE LOG CABINS
Small, medium, large and AIRB&B. Can deliver and erect. Call: Paul Levi 828.712.9808

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BAZAAR BARN
UPSCALE RESALE
Offering gently used home furnishings. A ministry of Church of Good Shepherd, all proceeds go to local charities. Thurs, Fri & Sat 10am - 2pm. 1846 Hwy 107N, Cashiers. Call Skip for more info or to donate 828-226-2588.

COMMERCIAL SHIPPING CONTAINERS for sale. 8x8x20. Local, excellent condition. $6500.00. 828.743.0811

Convenience store, restaurant and office space for sale. It's a great family operation and details of price, terms and operations are available when looking it over. 17863 Rosman, Highway, Sapphire, NC 28774. Call Jim, Owner/Broker at wncproperty.com at 828-966-4960, Eves: 828-553-1674.

HOMES FOR RENT

FULLY FURNISHED 2BR/2BA located in Cowee, Franklin, NC. C/H/A, w/d, garage. Quiet, safe, clean & private. Monthly, short term rates and long term rates available. (828)332-2090.

CABINS FOR RENT

MIRROR LAKE SUNRISE VIEW
Highlands, NC. References. No smoking. 404-435-9877

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

WORKFORCE HOUSING FOR RENT
2 bedroom/2 bathroom, yearly rentals. Located between Highlands & Cashiers off 64. Includes fiber optic high speed internet and water.
Contact Marcy at 706-982-0444 or 828-482-4239

LEGALS

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Notice of Candidacy filing is hereby given Not withstanding G.S. 163-106(c) for Macon County Board of Education and Soil and Water Conservation for the November 5, 2024, General Election. Candidacy Filing will begin 12:00 noon on Monday, June 10, 2024 and will close 12:00 noon on Friday, July 5, 2024.The open seats for filing at the Macon County Board of Elections office at 5 W Main St., Franklin, North Carolina are:
Board of Education District 1 (Highlands): One (1) seat open
Board of Education District 3 (Nantahala): One (1) seat open
Board of Education District 4 (County At Large): One (1) seat open
Soil and Water Conservation: One (1) seat open
The filing fee for all seats is $5.00 and all seats are non-partisan. For additional information contact Macon County Board of Elections at 828-349-2034.

Melanie D. Thibault Director
Macon County Board of Elections

06/05/2024-06/19/2024 #818749

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget for the Town of Highlands has been presented to the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk at Town Hall from 8:00am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the **Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners** at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 North Fourth Street, on the **20th day of June 2024,** beginning at 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed budget. All interested residents / citizens are encouraged to attend and be heard.

06/06/2024 #817832

JOIN our TEAM as the Business & Member Services Manager!

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC is seeking a dynamic and dedicated individual to fill the role of a

Full-Time Business & Member Services Manager

This crucial position acts as the liaison to our business community.

Key Responsibilities:
- **Membership Recruitment and Retention:** Engage with and grow our member base.
- **Program and Event Development:** Plan, execute, and manage impactful events and programs for our members.
- **Data Tracking and Reporting:** Maintain detailed records and provide insightful reports.

Ideal Candidate:
- **Highly Organized:** Ability to manage multiple tasks efficiently.
- **Sales Acumen:** Proven skills in sales and engagement.
- **Tech Proficient:** Comfortable with standard office practices, computer fundamentals, and business software.
- **Effective Communicator:** Skilled in compiling data, and preparing correspondence, reports, and presentations.

Why Join Us?
- **Collaborative Environment:** Work with a supportive team dedicated to enhancing the community.
- **Impactful Work:** Play a key role in making Highlands a better place to live, visit, and do business.

006/288

HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC

READY TO MAKE A Difference? Visit us online to learn more and apply: www.highlandschamber.org/live-work/job-board

Cashiers Highlands Humane Society

Sleepy has a Hollywood namesake

Pinto Colvig had a lot to do with the inspiration for the name of this week's featured canine. You remember Pinto Colvig, don't you? Sure you do. To be fair, Pinto was a stage name so he might be more familiar to you by his birth name, Vance DeBar Colvig. Still doesn't ring a bell? Hmm, let's see if this helps...

The first animated feature film produced in the United States premiered at the Carthay Circle Theatre in Los Angeles on December 21, 1937. It became the highest-grossing film of 1937, and also held the record of the highest-grossing animated film for 55 years. The film? Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. As for Pinto Colvig? He provided the voice for the perpetually drowsy and most relaxed of the dwarfs, Sleepy.

Sleepy is a six-month-old male German Shepherd mix who arrived at our no-kill shelter in January along with his six other siblings. Unlike his brother Happy, who was featured in this column last month, Sleepy's name doesn't quite live up to his personality.

Oh to be sure, Sleepy does sleep at night. But that's about it. He is a pup, after all. True to his breed mix and young age, this dog is very energetic and loves to go for brisk walks and jogs. Sleepy gets along with absolutely everyone, whether two-legged or four-legged. He adores playing with toys and he is very treat motivated. Sleepy would make the perfect canine companion for someone who lives an active lifestyle.

Sleepy's adoption includes already being neutered, microchipped, up-to-date on vaccinations and flea/heartworm preventative, a free starter bag of food, and a free ID tag.

When it's time for "Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho, it's home from work you go," this loving and loyal pup will greet you at the door with an enthusiastic wag, affectionate kisses, and a lifetime of unconditional love. Please complete the adoption application on our website at chhumanesociety.org or call us at 828-743-5752 for more information.

Rabies Vaccinations

Getting your pet vaccinated against rabies is not only a good idea, it's the law. North Carolina law requires rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats starting at the age of four months. The rabies vaccine must be administered only by a veterinarian, a registered veterinary technician under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, or a trained and certified rabies vaccinator.

North Carolina has only about 350 certified rabies vaccinators in the entire state. Two of those 350 are on the staff of the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. We can help keep your pets safe and in compliance with North Carolina law.

Rabies shots are just $10 and include a rabies tag and completed rabies vaccination certificate. Call 828-743-5752 to make an appointment for your pet.

Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society is located at 200 Gable Drive in Sapphire, one and a half miles east of the Cashiers Ingles supermarket in between Cedar Creek Club and Lonesome Valley on Highway 64 East. CHHS is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

David Stroud
CHHS Executive Director

Photo by Marty Boone

Unlike his brother Happy, who was featured in this column last month, Sleepy's name doesn't live up to his personality.

Highlands Rec News

Pickleball

The Recreation Department is excited to have the three indoor pickleball courts and six outdoor courts open once again. Pickleball will be played at the Recreation Department Gym every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. indoors for the winter.

Classes

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday – Wednesday and Friday, 8:30-9:30 am. We have a new instructor Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information. The cost for the class is $25 per month.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers– Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8-9 a.m.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane – Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. This will be a combination class with many different type of exercise.

• Strength training (Tuesdays, 8:15 a.m., until 9:15 a.m.) Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

• Kickboxing (Thursdays, 8:15 a.m., until 9:15 a.m.) An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Learn the proper form and technique to execute jabs, hooks, uppercuts and front and side roundhouse kicks in a non-contact setting.

• Zumba with Gay Chalpin (Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30 -5:30 p.m.)

• Ballet in the Mountains classes: text 828-421-6720 for questions. Email sweetmagnoliadance@gmail.com to enroll. Monthly membership is $45.

• Story Ballet-a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations. Saturday 5:30-6:30.

• Adult Ballet- crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexability and coordination while having fun. Saturdays 6:30-7:30.

Pool Schedule

• Lap Swim, Monday through Friday, 6 - 9:45 a.m. six lanes. Monday through Thursday, 5-7 p.m., two lanes. Saturday, 10-11 a.m.

Lap swimmers must be out of the pool by 9:45 a.m. on weekday mornings.

• Adult swim (age 18 and over) – Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

• Public Swim – Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1-6 p.m.

• Water Aerobics – 18 years and older, Monday through Friday from 10 -11 a.m. with Karen Chambers.

• Aqua Fit – Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m., to 12:30 p.m., with Autumn Lucas. Kick up your water workout a notch with this aqua based cardio and strength class.

Call the pool at 828-526-1595 if you have any questions concerning the pool.

Adult softball

Schedule
Thursday, June 6
6:15 p.m. – DP Seamless Gutters vs. OEI
7:15 p.m. – K9s vs. Tailgaters
8:15 p.m. – The Regulators vs. Short Strokes
Monday, June 10
6:15 p.m. – Tailgaters vs. Essential Power
7:15 p.m. – Short Strokes vs. Cullasaja Glovers
8:15 p.m. – The Regulators vs. First Baptist Church

For any additional information call Lester Norris or Janice Mathis at 828-526-3556.

This fabulous home is only one and a half miles from the center of Highlands. This home is in move-in ready condition with all furnishings included. The main level spacious primary bedroom and bath complete with double vanities and walk in shower. Lower level has two more bedrooms and a bath with a soaking tub.

OFFERED AT $1,300,000. MLS #104361.

Country Club Properties
www.ccphighlandsnc.com
828-526-2520 Office

903263

Desirable Webbmont area
This 3 bedroom/3 bath has old house charm and has been updated for easy living. Living area has a great room concept with a stone fireplace, cooks kitchen with quality finishes and appliances. Sunroom brings the outdoors in and there is both a deck and porch.

OFFERED AT $1,250,000. MLS #104330.

Country Club Properties
www.ccphighlandsnc.com
828-526-2520 Office

903264

Highlands Country Club Community close to downtown Highlands. 3 Bedrooms 2 1/2 baths. The Great Room includes a Dining Area, two Seating Areas and a Card Area. The adjoining "Eat in" Kitchen with upscale appliances includes 2 wall ovens and a Bar Area. One Level Living continues throughout the entirety of the home.

OFFERED AT $1,799,000. MLS #104406.

Country Club Properties
www.ccphighlandsnc.com
828-526-2520 Office

903265

What's Happening

June 6

Community: The Highlands Chamber of Commerce will host a volunteer fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Center on Thursday, June 6. Stop by to hear about opportunities to give time and talent to Highlands-area nonprofit organizations. For more information, email events@highlandschamber.org, call 828-526-5841 or go to visithighlandsnc.com.

Festival: The annual Highlands Motoring Festival will run from June 6-9 at locations around town. The festival features four days of automotive-themed events including driving tours, a Main Street car parade, and the always-popular "Cars in the Park" car show on Saturday, June 8 at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. For more information, visit highlandsmotoroingfestival.com.

June 8

Theatre: The Highlands Performing Arts Center will continue its National Theatre Live schedule with a showing of "Fleabag" at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 8. With family and friendships under strain and a guinea pig café struggling to keep afloat, Fleabag suddenly finds herself with nothing to lose. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit highlandsperformingarts.com.

Concert: Bill Mattocks will take the stage for a "Saturdays on Pine" concert at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 8 at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. The event, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, is free and open to the public.

June 12

Community: The Village Green in Cashiers will host a volunteer expo from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12 at Lewis Hall on the campus of The Village Green. The event is an opportunity to connect local nonprofit organizations with potential volunteers.

Upcoming

Literature: Author Brett Martin will sign copies of his latest book "A Hiker's Guide to the Bartram Recreational Trail" at The Highland Hiker from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 15.

Art: The Bascom Center for Visual Arts will host an artist talk with Eric Mace at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 15. Mace is a visual artist who uses photography, graphic design, and book arts as his tools of inquiry. Many of his projects germinate from specific personal memories and grow into deeper discussions of place and identity, while other bodies of work are born from a general sense of wonder. The event is free and open to the public.

Fundraiser: The Friends of Founders Park Low Country Shrimp Boil will take place from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, June 15. All proceeds benefit Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park maintenance and beautification. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.foundersparkhighlands.org.

Fundraiser: Cashiers Highlands Humane Society will host its annual "Gala for Shelter Pets" at The Country Club of Sapphire Valley at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 17. All proceeds form the event benefit the shelter and the pets who call it home. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit chhumanesociety.org.

Concert: Old Edwards Inn will host an "Orchard Session" concert with Andrew Wooten and Caroline's Roost at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 20 at The Farm at Old Edwards. Wooten seamlessly blends ear-catching vocals and genuine lyrics into a song that will leave you wanting more. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit https://oldedwardsinn.simpletix.com.

Ongoing

Hymn sing: Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, Highlands hosts a Sunday evening traditional hymn sing from 7-8 p.m. weekly from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend (Sept. 1). Call or text Gwyn Hardin at 919-523-7067 for information or directions. All are welcome.

Music: There is a "Community Jam Session" the second and fourth Sunday of each month at the Albert-Carlton Library in Cashiers from 2 - 4 p.m. Participants bring their guitar, banjo, harmonica, mandolin, fiddle or rhythm instrument to join the fun at an informal jam session at the public library in Cashiers. All skill levels welcome.

Support: Adult Children of Alcoholic or Dysfunctional Families. The Cashiers Area Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families meets weekly at the Cashiers Library, located at 249 Frank Allen Road. (Use side entrance). Meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. Meetings are open to all. Please join us. Call or text 828.507.5347 for more information.

ESL classes: There are free weekly English as a second language classes, sponsored by The Literacy and Learning Center, on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Highlands. Snacks are provided and no registration is required. For more information, visit www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org or email info@theliteracyandlearningcenter.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday at 7 p.m., Friday and Sunday at 5 p.m., and Saturday at 9 a.m. For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

AL-ANON Meetings: The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. An in person meeting is held each Thursday at noon at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday at 10:15 a.m. ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member of AL-ANON call 828-342-6866.

Clinic: The Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers is a free medical clinic providing services to uninsured, low-income residents on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4 – 9 p.m. The clinic is located at the ballpark on Buck Creek Road. Call 828-526-1991, Monday through Friday, to schedule an appointment.

Counseling: The Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands has offices in the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 S. Fifth St., in Highlands. Call 828-482-0304 for more information.

Emergency Council: The Highlands Emergency Council is available for assistance from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The office/warehouse is located at 71 Poplar St. For more information or assistance, call 828-526-HELP. Donations of food, clothing, appliances, linens and furniture are also accepted during these hours.

International Friendship Center: The International Friendship Center and the Highlands Food Pantry address food insecurity and facilitate access to human and social services, such as medical care, education and immigration services. The IFC is a non-profit organization and serves people who live or work in the plateau area. For more information, visit www.internationalfriendshipcenter.org or call 828-526-0890.

Clubs and Groups

Woodturners: The Western North Carolina Woodturners meet on the second Saturday of Each month at The Bascom. The Western North Carolina Woodturners are a group of craftsmen committed to sharing and learning the art of woodturning. For more information about the schedule or to join, contact Club President Don Marks at 828-524-6282 or at donemarks@dnet.net.

American Legion: The Highlands American Legion Post 370 meets the third Saturday of each month at the Highlands United Methodist Church located at 315 Main St. in the community room/909 Chapel. Breakfast is served at 9 a.m. and the meeting follows at 9:45 a.m. For more information email ncpost370@gmail.com.

Bridge Club: The Highlands Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Wednesday and Friday at the Highlands Rec Center at 1 p.m. Cost to play os $5 for members and $10 for nonmembers. Annual membership is $20.

Quilters: The Cashiers Quilters group meets each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at St. Jude Catholic Church. All are welcome. For more information, visit cashiersquilters.com.

Rotary: Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

Rotary: The Rotary Club of Highlands meets Tuesdays at noon at Highlands United Methodist Church.

DINING GUIDE
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