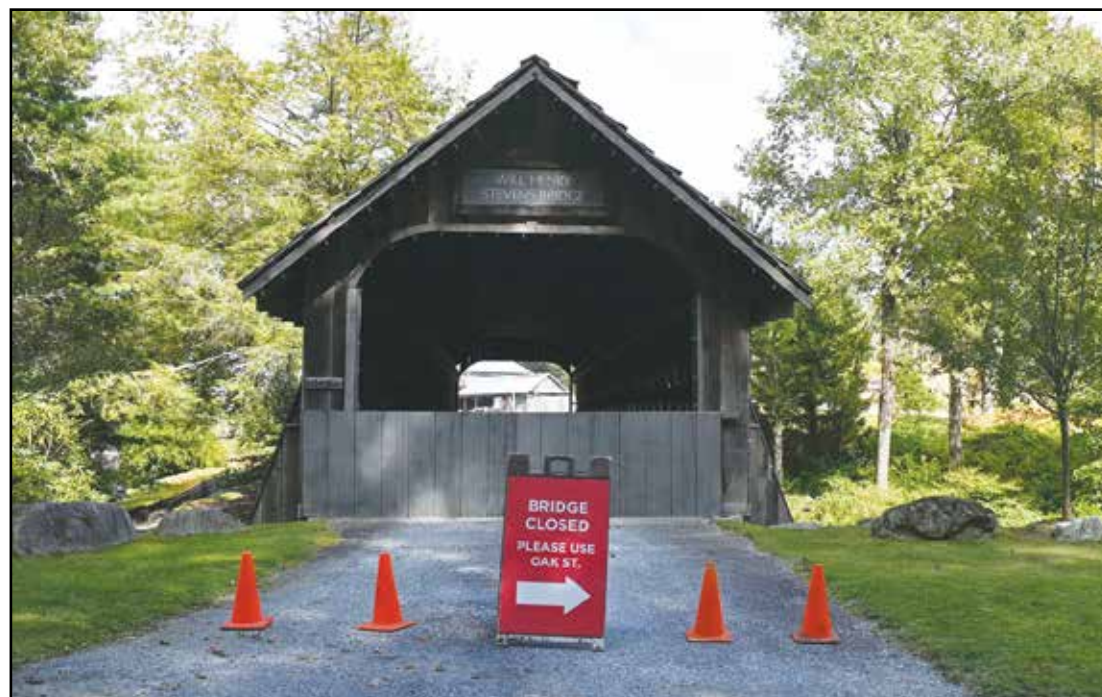


Highlands Newspaper

Volume 20, Number 38

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Sept. 21, 2023



The gateway bridge to The Bascom campus will hopefully be open by the end of the year.

- Photo by

Bridge at The Bascom closed for repairs

By Brian O'Shea

The Will Henry Stevens Bridge that makes up the main entrance at The Bascom has been closed since August to undergo repairs. Billy Love, deputy executive director at The Bascom said they hope to reopen the bridge in November or December of this year.

"Over time, water intrusions have weakened the bridge's underlying structure, rendering it unsafe for automobile and pedestrian traffic," said Love. "To safeguard this piece of national

and local heritage, and to restore the useability of the main entrance to our campus, we must conduct repairs to restore the bridge's underlying structure."

Preliminary assessments and engineering plans for repairing the Bridge began in May, and construction began in August.

Repairs are estimated to cost \$250,000. So far, 70% has been raised.

"We are grateful to those who have contributed financial resources to the preservation of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge," said Love.

"There has been an outpouring of generosity to ensure this project is completed this year and we look forward to welcoming visitors to the campus by way of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge."

History of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge

Love said dating from the early 1800s, the handcrafted-wood structure began its existence as the Bagley Covered Bridge in Warner, New Hampshire, where it spanned the Warner River.

• See BRIDGE page 12

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The staff of the PAC Educational Theatre from left: Lee Trevathan, associate director, Joi Chapman, co-artistic director and music director and Erik Bishop, co-artistic director. Sign up is Sun., Sept. 24 at 2 p.m., at PAC.

PAC's new Educational Theater program will teach everything 'theater'

Theater education in Highlands has taken many forms over the years - mainly through Highlands School - as far back as when final productions were held on the stage at the Highlands Playhouse.

Different teachers have picked up the baton - sometimes the French teacher, sometimes

others but most recently Highlands School music teacher Joi Chapman has donned the cap.

After two heart-warming middle school productions last year that debuted on the Performing Art Center stage, PAC realized the need for expanded theater

• See THEATER page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

Tonight's Town Board agenda and more

Thursday night is the monthly Highlands Town Board meeting. It will start at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field. But before this official business meeting, there will be a board workshop that will begin at 6 p.m. at the same location.

This new workshop format will allow the board and staff to discuss upcoming town issues, and it will be open to the public. This first workshop will review several items. First on the agenda will be a presentation by Principal Holdbrooks about placing an illuminated sign at the Highlands School. Another item will be a review of street lighting policies followed by a discussion of the need to pave Arnold Road, a private road just outside the town limits. It is the road to the town sewer plant.

The agenda for the 7 p.m. board meeting is very full. Top on the agenda will be a one-year lease agreement for the Chamber of Commerce Building. This lease will be a temporary measure as we continue a review of room tax revenues and how they can be



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

spent.

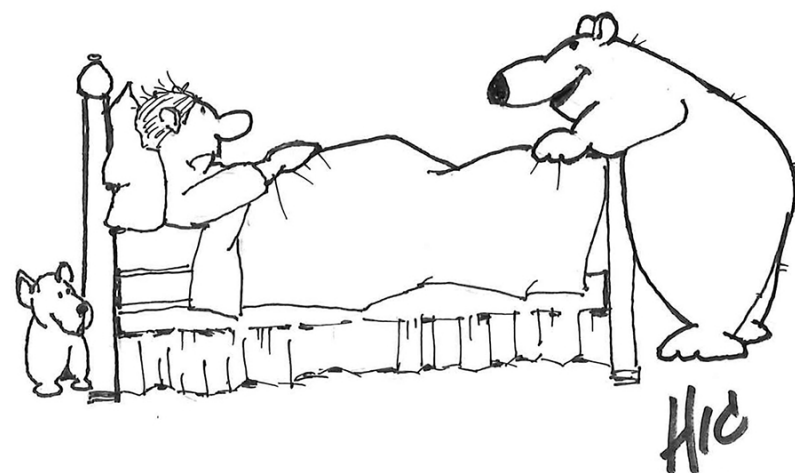
The board will hear a report from Josh Ward, our Town Manager, concerning meetings with NCDOT officials concerning the proposed section of the NC 106 sidewalk that would be located on the Shelby Place property. After hearing the report, I anticipate the board deciding where to locate the sidewalk and how to proceed.

The board will also review the final plat for the Sanctuary Subdivision on 1st Street. Our Zoning Director, Michael Mathis, will report to the board on 160D state compliance amendments concerning Article 16: Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance changes. These changes are being driven by state updates that the town must comply with in our ordinances.

The agenda also has an encroachment agreement request for a property on 5th Street and several financial matters. A budget amendment for the Little Bear Pen caution light will be done.

The board will go into a closed session to get an update concerning the Huff et al. versus Town of Highlands lawsuit. Several months ago, the town entered into a court-approved stay with the Huff litigants, where both parties agreed to take no legal action before August 27. Our Town Attorney, Bob Hagemann, has had discussions with the Huff attorneys since the end of the stay. He will update the board on the status of the case.

Finally, and I hope it's finally, let me provide a legislative update. The NC House and Senate were to convene on the first of last week to approve the state budget. The stumbling block was the issue of casino gambling. Things fell apart, and both houses adjourned. At the time of this writing, they were to convene this week to resolve their differences and approve the new budget. What is in it for Highlands remains to be seen. I was very optimistic that the town would get some needed support from the state, but as this process has gone awry, I'm not so sure. Anything can happen in protracted budget negotiations far away in Raleigh.



"Good morning neighbor. Thought I might stop by and discuss your trash collection."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 21-Sep	Fri, 22-Sep	Sat, 23-Sep	Sun, 24-Sep
68°F 48°F	70°F 49°F	70°F 48°F	72°F 53°F
Partly sunny	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Partly sunny and nice	Mostly sunny and beautiful
RealFeel® High 74° Low 51°	RealFeel® High 76° Low 49°	RealFeel® High 73° Low 51°	RealFeel® High 78° Low 48°

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Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

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• INK PENN •

Will your next read take you to coastal South Carolina or to Europe?

I was fortunate enough to visit both in one week—South Carolina in a cozy mystery and Europe in a nonfiction book about a traveling cat. What do these books have in common beyond the ability to transport you to a new locale? Both were inspired by an author's passion.

All is Now Lost
by Laura Elizabeth

When I read the opening pages, I was suddenly standing outside of Books & Brew, a new bookshop on Mongin Island. An ocean breeze and a bookshop on a lazy, laid-back island? I was hooked.

The inspiration for this fictional island comes from the author's many visits to Daufuskie Island, off the coast of South Carolina. I've heard of it and seen the signs for the ferry on my visits to Hilton Head, but never made it across the water to visit. Now I finally have, thanks to Book I in Laura Elizabeth's new mystery series.

The main character is a successful Atlanta businesswoman who had long planned to retire to Mongin with her husband. It's not a spoiler to let you know that her husband's sudden death puts paid to that dream. The pithy description has stayed in my mind. "Then, on one unseasonably cold morning in April, I woke up and Rob did not."

The author's husband is alive and well, so it's not a tragic death that inspired the novel. It's her dismay at the island's deterioration. A July article in "Babson Magazine" captures the circumstances that led Laura Elizabeth to put pen to paper.

"One Woman's Mission to Help Save a Neglected Resort" describes the island's current state, and the author's efforts to turn back the clock.

"For 15 years, the Melrose Resort has waited for a second chance. A once vibrant vacation spot sitting on the Atlantic Ocean, it is now a shell of its former self, 400 lonely acres on secluded Daufuskie Island in South Carolina."

For a description of her efforts to return the island to its former idyllic state, check out the article at <https://entrepreneurship.babson.edu/help-save-a-resort/>.

The novel isn't about her mission. It's



Kathy Manos Penn

an ode to a place she loves wrapped in the trappings of a cozy mystery. Read it for the descriptions of sunsets and marsh views. Read it for intriguing details about searching for rare books and stocking a bookshop.

Nala's World
by Dean Nicholson

The idea of an author having a passion made this book pop to mind. I read

the enchanting tale when it came out in 2020. On a quest to bicycle around the world, Dean Nichols found an abandoned kitten in the mountains between Montenegro and Bosnia. The 30-year-old Scotsman rescued her, named her Nala, and became an Instagram sensation. His pics of Nala riding in the bicycle basket and on his shoulders made millions smile. They cycled and camped their way through country after country. Nala even had a pet passport.

Now, with a knee injury limiting Dean's cycling, he and Nala travel in Nessie, a VW camper van. I follow them on Instagram and know he hopes one day to return to cycling. As I write this, they're in Estonia, country #34 for Nala. I can't get enough of them on Instagram @1bike1world.

But he didn't stop at rescuing Nala. Traveling in Serbia this spring, Dean found a partially paralyzed, abandoned dog on the side of the road and took her to a local vet. Months later, the dog, who'd been shot, learned to walk again, and was adopted by a loving family. Yasuki's care involved extensive vet care and physiotherapy, all paid for by a GoFundMe account started by Dean. As that tale unfolded, his followers alerted him to other abandoned dogs, and he worked to find homes for as many as he could.

What inspired Dean Nicholson to write "Nala's World?" I don't have an answer to that question, but it's clear he has a passion for animals. I imagine the proceeds from the book initially helped to fund his travels. Now, he's leveraging his followership to fund animal rescue efforts worldwide. I think he's found his calling.

I'm hoping for a sequel to "Nala's World" with more detail than I can get from following Instagram posts, and I've

• See INK PENN page 7



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This stunning mountain contemporary home offers a picturesque blend of mountain and river views, nestled within a secure gated community between Highlands and Cashiers. With ceilings that reach for the sky and walls of glass, living here feels like residing in a treehouse. Step onto the expansive outdoor decks, where you can enjoy the sounds of the river behind the home. The kitchen's spacious island and cozy window seat make it the heart of the home. The great room boasts wood ceilings and gleaming wood floors, complemented by a corner fireplace. Meticulously maintained and featuring an encapsulated crawl space, this home is in impeccable condition.




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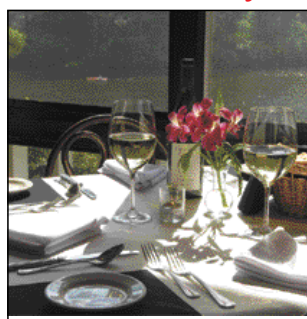
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• LETTERS •

Agree with clarification

Dear Editor,

I write not to dispute Matthew Eberz' condemnation of censorship in his letter-to-the-editor in the Sept. 14 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled, "Ban the Books" but to clarify a few details about an alleged American hero.

In 1876 G.A. Custer was a Lt. Colonel who had been breveted Maj. General during the War Between the States. I learned this in 1955 while reading a highly critical magazine article as I awaited a haircut. It required little effort to further discover most historians, even in that ingenuous era, considered the "General" a brave but semi-competent officer. It was widely known that only Hollywood could glamorize a commander who, facing a numerically superior foe, would choose to split his force into thirds.

The Errol Flynn character in "They Died With Their Boots On," released in 1941, might have been named Jack Armstrong given this movie is 10% factual.

Crazy Horse is a "noble savage" who abets Custer leading his men to certain disaster in order to foil a nefarious scheme of politicians and businessmen to enrich themselves by exploiting treaty specified Indian lands. The Indians were neither savages nor villains in this fictional entertainment.

In sum, the censors were not doing a very good job in the Macon, Georgia of my youth.

**T Len Perkins
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Response to 'Is God guilty of hate speech?'

Dear Editor,

Last week's Spiritually Speaking column, by Pastor Mark Ford and his congregation at First Baptist Church of Highlands entitled "Is God guilty of hate speech," shocked me on so many levels. The attack on the LGBT community, the accusation that the theater "...normalizes what God opposes," that our community leaders promote "...aberrations of God's word and nature itself," and that God is the one guilty of "Hate speech."

I will get into all that, but first, let me address his introductory statement that "...He (God) is already getting 'canceled' by our secular 'woke,' progressive culture." I love a good debate, one based on facts, truth, and logic, and if this is the author's justification for his article, then the debate is already over.

Let's review that statement. Secular means denoting attitudes, activities, or other things that have no religious or spiritual basis, like sports, work, and the US Constitution. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Progressive means happening or developing gradually or in stages and advocating or implementing social reform. Much like the progressive reform from 1774 to 1833, that ended the persecution of the Baptist Church in Virginia. (Yes, that one is specifically added for the edification of the author).

The third element of the statement is Woke. The definition of Woke is an adjective meaning to be "alert to racial prejudice and discrimination." Beginning in the 2010s, it came to encompass a broader awareness of social inequalities such as sexism and LGBT rights (Source: African-American Vernacular English (AAVE). To be "woke" politically in the Black community means that someone is informed, educated, and conscious of social injustice and racial inequality (Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Woke is the greatly misunderstood term that is used by some to denigrate those wishing to have the truth of history be told, that our society did things in the past that were targeted against certain classes of people, just like in the article. I am somewhat confused why someone, especially

a leader of a church, would not want to be aware of social injustice and racial inequality.

As for the author of the article, it is obvious to me that he is locked in the Old Testament – fire and brimstone. Leviticus 25:44, "...allowance of the purchase of slaves. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, "For women are not permitted to speak in church but should be in submission, as the Law also says." Deuteronomy 21: 18-21 allows for the stoning to death for being "A stubborn or rebellious son." All these practices don't exist anymore, at least here, so I think the "secular, progressive culture" has made progress for the good. So, to the secular, progressive culture, I say, go team.

I myself am more of a New Testament man. Jesus Christ said, "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). I am quite sure Jesus did not segregate who to love.

As we all do, we temper our positions on our experiences. I was a soldier for what seemed like a lifetime. I served with whites, blacks, Christians, muslims, heterosexuals, and homosexuals, and never once did I get any directive from the Department of Defense stating that only God-fearing heterosexual Christians were allowed to die for their country. If gays and lesbians are allowed to serve and die for their country to keep it free, don't you think they ought to be able to live in their country free from harassment?

Yes, there is hate speech, and last week's article was a prime example of that. The people the author vilified broke no laws, hurt no one, and their only "crime" was that they were not like the author, and for that, I can say thank God. But this is America, and the author has a right to his opinions. As a believer in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, I will fight to give this man the right to express his opinions - and be wrong. He has the right to speak, but I also have the equal right not to listen.

I am not sure of the author's intent was for his article. But my intent is to say we live in a free society and until I become perfect in all ways, I will not condemn people for their lifestyle as long as it is peaceful. So, to the author I say if you want to pontificate, to convince others of your position, my advice is to have your facts straight. To throw out hate speech is just crap. Thus ends the lesson.

**Matthew Eberz
Highlands**

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

Leaves are falling but not our prices

I just returned from a writers' conference in Destin last week and didn't recognize the town! When my sweet Pat was living it was a favorite destination for us with the snow-white sand and turquoise water and warmth in the winter months. To bake our white bodies into medium rare even with a wide umbrella overhead was simply a fun day at the beach! Then off to eat fried

shrimp at Harbor Docks and partake of a margarita on the rocks with salt was the ending to a perfect day.

It has been probably 12 or more years since we were there, and I would not have known I was in the same town. So many changes evolving from growth has occurred. Traffic is rerouted from the small but adequate airport of Ft Walton about a 25-minute

Uber ride away. Fancy restaurants, sophisticated boutiques galore, shopping centers to assure all your touristy needs are met, and more activities than you have time for are all there for the taking. But the one thing that has not changed is the beauty of sunsets over the glistening water and the white powdery sand that you simply must sink your toes in.

This made me think of Highlands and the changes I have seen in my 28 years here as a fulltime resident with voting rights. The Highlander and Mountaineer restaurants

that served the absolute best burgers with vinyl covered booths or meat and 3 that filled our bellies were favorites of all of us...locals or not. The Central House Restaurant -now Madisons- had the best chicken salad ever and was served by waitresses with little white ruffled hats, reminiscent of Williamsburg. In the evening anyone could walk through and grab a warm chocolate chip cookie and sit by the fireplace.

Our town grew quickly with the purchase of the Old Edwards Inn. The spa was featured in numerous magazines and won awards, giving exposure to our town. It was taken to a new level that many objected to initially. I remember meeting Richard Delany at a cocktail party at Bob Fisher's mansion in Sage Woods - and being outspoken as I'm known to be- proceeded to tell him that to have a sign on the door of the inn: "for registered guests only" further alienated locals and created ill-will for the Williams name. I also encouraged him to become more involved locally by joining a ball team and Rotary and network with locals



Pat Allen BIC
Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group.

letting them know they were here to enhance the community -not control it. You can see by the multi-millions the Williams have contributed with the pool improvement, redoing the ballfield dugout, a huge contribution to the PAC and so many other local non-profits that Highlands is better off because of them.

We will continue to grow and recently received the #1 Small Mountain Town in the Country award by Travel and Leisure Magazine. Our values have risen exponentially, and it will continue. Our average

buyers 3-4 years ago were in the \$500K to \$1.5 million range with almost 4 years of inventory and now my calls are for \$2-\$5 million or more and our inventory is at an all-time low! I have a buyer who said he will go to \$20 million! If you bought years prior, you made a great investment! We are now Aspen of the Appalachians!

My comparison to Destin is this: their growth didn't take away the golden sunsets and gorgeous beaches and our growth won't take away the beauty of our majestic mountains, cascading waterfalls, flowing rivers, and glorious sunsets. It's all in what we focus on, and we have a natural kaleidoscope of beauty no one can take away.

• Pat Allen is the broker-in-charge of Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group in the downtown office at 295 Dillard Road. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, a consistent award-winner, and a top producer every year for her real estate career of 19 years. You may reach her at 828-200-9179 or email her at pat.allen@allentate.com

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Shred event raises funds for local nonprofits

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC hosted its annual community shred event Thursday, August 31 to provide a secure and environmentally friendly method for residents and business to dispose of sensitive documents.

There was no charge for the event but donations in the amount of \$1,827 were received on-site to support two local organizations, The Gordon Center and Highlands Child Care Development Cen-

ter.

"We were delighted to extend this invaluable resource to our community," said Kaye

McHan, Executive Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

"The impressive turnout speaks volumes about the genuine need it fulfills."

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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Something for HCH and ELC to take pride in: Creating a safe work environment for our team

When we think about hospitals and care facilities, the first things that come to mind are often patient care, advanced treatments and technology, and other factors that influence a patient's care experience — including, of course, the expertise and compassion of the caregivers they come into contact with.

If we think a bit more deeply about patient safety, another critically important question arises: How safe is the facility itself, both for patients and as a working environment for care teams?

This month, I'd like to talk about how Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and the Eckerd Living Center (ELC) were designed and built, and now maintained, to keep patients safe, and that safety protocols we use within the facilities as we care for patients are under continuous review and refinement.

We are serious about protecting our team, and take diverse steps to do that. We approach environmental safety in a multi-pronged way, by taking a strategic and preventive approach, as well as having ever-evolving systems in place to address workplace safety risks and emergency situations.

We collaborate with all stakeholders, from those providing direct patient care to administrators, environmental services staff, security personnel, and more to give input into the security plans we create. This is important because if the person enforcing a safety protocol hasn't walked in a nurse's shoes, for example, a disconnect will occur, and reduced chances of developing a successful safety strategy.

Another important component to workplace safety is everyone being on the same page, so providing education and meeting regularly about safety is a must. As I noted before, creating a culture of safety isn't putting strategies in place that never change. Instead, they evolve as we learn from experience. When we put this philosophy into practice, we can apply it to many things that impact hospital safety, from infection prevention and cleanliness protocols to mock situations where employees practice



Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital

defusing a volatile situation.

We have also made multiple improvements to our campus and facility to assure it is accessible to all patients and visitors. HCA Healthcare invested \$3.9 million to comply with the ADA (The Americans with Disabilities Act), which will impact the experiences of all who work, visit, or are treated here. If an employee or patient lives with a disability, they will be able to move through our facilities well, comfortably, and with ease.

Our parking areas and outdoor walkways underwent redesign and alterations so that their grade was not too steep and wouldn't pose any risks for those with mobility issues, and our bathrooms were redesigned and retrofitted to meet accessibility standards. Special attention was paid to making many things we take for granted as being accessible, truly accessible. This includes changes made to how we hang mirrors, situate paper towel holders, and mount coat hooks.

I would also like to announce that Western North Carolina has a new, state-of-the-art specialty care center — the Mission Burn and Wound Center in Asheville. Prior to its opening, patients in need of these services had to travel as far as Winston-Salem and Augusta, Georgia to access them. Now they can take advantage of the impressive \$7 million investment in community health that's close to home. The Center offers 14 exam rooms devoted to treatment, spaces for occupational therapy and physical therapy, and two hyperbaric chambers, which are rooms for a type of oxygen therapy that aids in wound healing. The facility has also been built with growth in mind, as it will be able to accommodate additional exam rooms and hyperbaric chambers in the future.

Everyone at HCH and ELC remains grateful that our community puts their faith in us to provide their care. We always strive for excellence and are invested in creating care environments that are safe and secure for all.



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...BRIDGE continued from page 1

Estimated to have been built in 1807, the bridge was the oldest covered bridge from New Hampshire, one of the oldest in the United States, and is known to have carried many notable people, including General Lafayette, President Theodore Roosevelt, and President Franklin Pierce.

In the 1960s, the Bagley Covered Bridge was in significant disrepair, and it was deemed unfit for vehicular and pedestrian use. Officials in Warner were considering demolishing it when Arnold M. Graton, a fourth-generation bridge wright and restoration conservationist, purchased the structure for one dollar, numbered the parts, disassembled the bridge and put the parts into storage.

In 2007, Franklin, NC native Wayne Yonce located the bridge and recommended it to The Bascom's Board of Directors as a potential signature feature for the organization's planned campus.

The Bascom hired Arnold M. Graton Associates, Inc. of New Hampshire to move the Bagley Covered Bridge to Highlands and undertake the restoration and reconstruction of the structure for the art center's use.

The bridge was reconstructed, retaining the lattice style design that was patented by Ithiel Town in 1820 and 1835. Graton's reconstruction process was meticulous, using centuries-old craft techniques and replacing rotten, insect-ridden, or unstable parts. Rough-hewn parts were constructed out of white pine, oak, Douglas fir, and other old-growth native species. Other than the nails in the floor,



The bridge was reconstructed, retaining the lattice style design that was patented by Ithiel Town in 1820 and 1835. Graton's reconstruction process was meticulous, using centuries-old craft techniques and replacing rotten, insect-ridden, or unstable parts.

- Photo by Brian O'Shea

no metal fasteners or screws, nuts or bolts were used in the bridge construction, only wood. Tree nails, trunnels, or dowels joined the wooden parts together. Once reconstruction was complete, the bridge moved into place by oxen May of 2009.

The Bascom renamed the structure the Will Henry Stevens Bridge in honor of a notable New Orleans painter and teacher, and a pioneer of modern art in the American South who lived from 1881 to 1949 and painted and taught in Highlands and in the surrounding area, as well as in New Orleans, his hometown.

Dorothy and Jimmy Coleman and Dian and Tom Wingerder supported the bridge reconstruction in honor of Will Henry Stevens.

Dorothy Coleman studied with Will Henry Stevens at Sophie Newcomb College. Like

many New Orleans natives, her daughter and family have a home in Highlands.

The Bascom's bridge was the subject of a community celebration on Saturday, May 23, 2009, when a large crowd gathered for the bridge inauguration, ribbon cutting and a drive-over in the late Alan Lewis' antique car.

"The ribbon cutting and adaptive reuse of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge is a historic moment for Highlands and The Bascom," said Bob Fisher, board chairman at the time. "This is one of the oldest covered bridges in the nation, and we are exceedingly proud to feature it as the entrance to our stunning new center for the visual arts."

Today, the striking, rough-hewn 87 ft. 5 in. long covered bridge serves as the main entrance to The Bascom's 6-acre, 3-building visual art destination in Highlands.

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Photo by Brenda Lopez

Highlands Middle School Swim Team swims well in Franklin

By Steve Hott
Head Coach

On Thursday, September 7, 2023 the Highlands Middle School Boys and Girls Swim Teams traveled to Franklin to swim in a quad swim meet against Macon Middle School (MMS), Rabun Gap Nagoochee School (RGNS), and Blue Devil Swim Club (Brevard Middle School).

Led by Justin Powell (51 pts 4 2nd place finishes) the 6 person boys team finished 2nd (251 pts) to MMS's 529 pts. Blake Kenter scored 48 pts and three 2nd places, Ian Batista 40.5 pts and two 2nd place finishes, Aleks Petric-Sakonjic 39.5 pts a 2nd and a 3rd. Alex Lopez had 38.5 pts and Ivan Shcheglov won 33.5 pts. They both had a 2nd place finish.

The girls team of one was Emilina Hernandez. She scored 27 pts and had 2 personal records (PR's).

Also on the team, but unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict with the Girls Middle School Volleyball Team are Corena Dearth, Cassie McDowell, Penelope McRae, and Miley Zagal.

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...THEATER continued from page 1

education in Highlands to include all ages. Now, it's jumped into the mix to offer its newly formed PAC Educational Theater to students and adults.

The three-person team - Joi Chapman, co-artistic and music director, Erik Bishop, co-artistic director and Lee Trevathan, associate director - are ready to instill their love of everything theater to anyone in the Highlands/Cashiers communities who wants to join them.

The Educational Theater program is a seven-month program starting this Sunday, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m., with sign-ups, parental

permission forms (if under 18) and a \$100 fee.

The program will start with workshops and then transition into rehearsals for a full production of "Oliver" at the end of April. Children ages 5 and up as well as adults are encouraged to join.

Students and adults have long been performing with the Highlands-Cashiers Players and the Highlands Playhouse but it's been a "learn as you go" approach which works well for those with a bit of talent but it's not for everyone.

PAC's Educational Theater will be

teaching how to act, how to project, how to move, breathe - everything. As Bishop said skills learned through the program can be applied to life skills whether it be auditions or interviews or public speaking, because it's not just for those who want to pursue a career in theater.

Besides Chapman, whose day job is Highlands School music/theater teacher, Bishop is PAC's full-time Technical Director and Facility Manager and Trevathan is PAC's Audience Service Manager.

Bishop's mother, Tanya Bishop has been a professional costumer for 20 years and will be "dressing" the shows beginning with "Oliver."

All have had extensive education and experience in all aspects of theater - front of the house, back of the house and on stage - and they are ready to impart it to all who are interested.

Bishop spent much of his youth doing his homework backstage in various theaters while his mother worked and soon wanted to learn it all.

After graduating from college, he hit the pavement in Los Angeles and ultimately in New York City running the audition gamut. He also worked for the Metropolitan Educational Theatre Network - a national network dedicated to enhancing a child's view of self and his or her ability to relate effectively to others by listening, speaking, observing and body coordination all through theater arts - much like the mission of the newly formed PAC Educational Theater.

Trevathan worked for The Alley Theatre in Houston - the oldest professional theatre company in Texas and the third oldest resident theatre in the United States teaching elocution which is the skill of clear and expressive speech, as well as breathing and movement.

Their enthusiasm for what could be here in Highlands is contagious and they hope it takes off in a big way because they are ready to produce shows that require hundreds of child and adult actors.

If interested, sign up on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Performing Art Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands.

Scholarships and payment plans are available for the \$100 fee. The group doesn't want financial restrictions to hinder anyone from joining.

- Kim Lewicki

In-Person Early Voting Begins

The one-stop early voting period for the October 2023 municipal elections begins today, Thursday, September 21.

The in-person early voting period ends at 3 p.m. Saturday, October 7.

During the early voting period, voters may cast a ballot at any one-stop site in their county. Eligible individuals may register and vote at the same time.

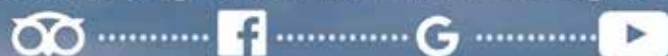
Voters will be asked to show photo ID. Most voters will simply show their NC driver's license, but many other types of photo ID will be accepted.

Voters without an acceptable ID can get a free photo ID from their county board of elections. Voters can also get a "No Fee ID Card" from the NCDMV.

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Fall Home Improvement

Keep Your Home Cozy in Cool Weather With These Upgrades

(StatePoint) When the temperatures drop and the precipitation turns cold, efficiently keeping your home cozy and warm is likely a top

priority.

As you make home upgrades this fall, be sure to use materials designed to withstand extreme weather

events and which help manage indoor climate control. Doing so will mean greater comfort and more affordable energy bills, not only when it's cold, but all year long.

Roofing

As your first defense against all kinds of weather, your roof sustains a lot of wear and tear. Consider prioritizing durability, strength and weather resistance in a new roof by opting for metal. The good news? You can get a classic appearance with this material, thanks to updates in roofing technology. For example, the energy-saving metal roofing offered by ProVia has the textured appearance of natural slate or shake shingles, but is constructed of highly durable 26-gauge steel, for added strength and lifetime protection from wind, rain, hail and corrosion.

Siding

Is your home is ever drafty or chilly when the temperatures drop and the wind kicks up? The culprit may be insufficient insulation. Keep in mind that most wall insulation is placed only between the studs, and wall studs make up to 25% of the wall surface of an average home. You can fill in these insulation gaps with insulated vinyl siding that's been tested and proven to increase the R-value (a measure of a material's resistance to heat flow) of an exterior wall. One of the most energy-efficient exterior claddings on the market, CedarMAX insulated vinyl siding is one such choice that can help reduce your energy bills. Plus, its strong, rigid foam

backing offers greater impact resistance against rain, hail, sleet and snow, making a siding upgrade a good project to consider before the first winter storm.

Windows

Windows are a common point of heat transfer, and as such, they play a huge role in the comfort of your home. It's not often that you have to purchase windows for your home, but when you do, you'll want to ensure that they deliver the best in energy efficiency and comfort. ProVia's vinyl windows, for example, are ENERGY STAR-certified, to help keep your home warm in winter (and cool in summer).

Interior Décor

You may not think about your interior decorating choices as something that could potentially improve your home's energy efficiency, but many such updates will not only make your home look more cozy, they'll actually help keep it warm. Thick area rugs are a good place to start, as they provide insulation underfoot. Likewise, cellular shades or Roman shades can help stop heat transfer around windows, and wall tapestries or fabric-like wallpaper can provide a touch more insulation on walls.

To learn more about building and renovating with comfort and energy savings in mind, visit provia.com.

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Fall Home Improvement

4 Factors to Consider When Determining How Much Home You Can Afford

(StatePoint) Figuring out how much home you can afford is one of the most important questions you'll need to answer before you begin house hunting. But as home prices and interest rates have increased in the past few years, you may be wondering how your buying power has changed.

To get a rough estimate of what you can afford, most lenders suggest you spend no more than 28% of your monthly income — before taxes are taken out — on your mortgage payment, which includes principal, interest, taxes and insurance. In addition to having a firm grip on your income and expenses, it's important to understand the role the following factors play in how much home you can afford:

Your Credit

Lenders look closely at your credit score when determining whether you qualify for a loan. Generally, the higher your credit score the more options will be available to you, including better loan terms and a lower interest rate. Because of the large role credit plays in the home-buying process, make sure you understand how your credit score is compiled, how to get a copy of your credit report and how to build strong credit.

Current Mortgage Rates

It's important to watch mortgage rates carefully, because when rates are lower you may be able to afford a larger mortgage. Although 26

million mortgage-ready potential homebuyers had the capacity to afford a \$400,000 mortgage at a 3% interest rate, the total falls by 3 to 4 million with each percentage point gain, according to Freddie Mac research. In short, a small increase in rates can make a home that was once affordable, unaffordable.

Bear in mind that similar borrowers may receive notably different rates based on the lender, so you may want to shop around to increase your buying power. In fact, you can potentially save \$600-\$1,200 annually by applying for mortgages from multiple lenders, according to Freddie Mac.

Your Down Payment

Typically, homebuyers need to make a down payment of at least 3%, and generally between 5% and 20%, of their home's purchase price to qualify for a mortgage. That means as home prices go up, so do down payment requirements. Talk to your lender about all the down payment options available and explore assistance programs.

Each year, many state, county and city governments provide financial

assistance for people in their communities who are well-qualified and ready for homeownership. Requirements vary, but if you are eligible you could receive down payment assistance ranging from a few thousand dollars to larger amounts, depending on your needs, your qualifications and where the home is located. Additionally, many programs specifically benefit veterans, Native communities and workers employed in education, health care, law enforcement and firefighting. Your lender or housing counselor should be able to point you in the right direction of these programs.

Fees and Other Closing Costs

Don't forget that when you get a mortgage, you'll need to pay closing costs, which likely include an appraisal fee, credit report fee, tax services fee and more. These costs will generally run between 2% and 5% of your purchase price.

To crunch the numbers, start by using Freddie Mac's Homebuying Budget Calculator, then learn more about the homebuying process with Freddie Mac's

CreditSmart. Visit creditsmart.freddiemac.com to get started.

If you think you're ready for homeownership, you'll want to work closely with your lender to determine what you can comfortably afford. It's their job to cover all bases so that your final number is within your means and aligns with your financial goals.



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Fall Home Improvement

Everything You Need to Know About Storm Doors

(StatePoint) After extreme weather events, it's common to evaluate exterior home products and to feel a sense of urgency about replacing them if they're not providing proper protection. One addition

that homeowners should consider is a storm door, however, experts say it's important not to rush the decision.

"Storm doors provide insulation, curb appeal, and weather protection for the

entry door, but they are not one-size-fits-all," says Brandon Morris, entry and storm door product manager at ProVia, a manufacturer that carries several brands of customizable aluminum storm doors. "Before making a purchase, first determine your needs and style preferences."

To help homeowners make sense of their options, ProVia is offering this round-up of essential factors to consider:

Construction

To reap the maximum benefits a storm door can provide, take thickness and construction into consideration. Those offered by ProVia all feature an alu-



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minum wall thickness 20% greater than industry standard, to provide greater protection to your entry door, along with stability and durability for long-term use. Most brands they carry also have multi-hollow construction, which translates to greater strength and security than standard storm doors.

Style

Storm doors are not always just functional. Certain manufacturers understand that they are a home element that can boost curb appeal, too. Decorative storm doors come with options like beveled glass, stained glass, and privacy glass, adding visual appeal, and a unique artistic statement where you least expect. Different colors and multiple options in hardware styles and finishes allow the storm door to blend in with your exterior design, whether that's traditional and understated or ultra-modern and eye-catching.

Glass

The type of glass you choose can maximize energy efficiency. Low emissivity (Low-E) glass doors, for example, have a thin, invisible coating that reduces infrared and ultraviolet light coming through the door glass. In winter, Low-E glass lets radiant heat pass through, but doesn't allow it to come back out, for a cozier interior. And in summer, it helps keep heat out. Low-E glass also features UV protection

that can prevent fading of items inside your home.

Storm doors with removable glass panels and retractable screens enable airflow and crucial ventilation between the storm and entry doors, while letting the design of the entryway shine.

Accessories

Accessories can create additional functionality for your storm door. Have a furry friend who needs regular outdoor access? Consider a doggie door so they can come and go as they please. Some manufacturers offer this option in multiple sizes to fit your pet's needs. No streetside mailbox on your property? Add a mail slot to your storm door.

Other optional features, such as a piano hinge and bottom expander, and an easy release closer, can help your storm door operate more smoothly, while ensuring it's custom-fit to eliminate drafts.

For more storm door tips and recommendations, visit provia.com/doors/storm-doors/.

Like many home elements, there's a lot to consider when selecting storm doors. By weighing your style preferences and security needs, and by determining what add-ons your household can benefit from, you can make a decision you won't regret.

viding you with the funds needed to repair a damaged property to its condition prior to an incident. Here, coverage can vary greatly depending on the company and plan you choose. To avoid surprises, it's important to review your policy carefully and make sure you understand what is and is not covered. For example, flooding is not generally covered by homeowner's insurance, so if you live in an area at risk of flooding, consider a separate flood insurance policy. Working with your insurance agent or broker can help you determine the types of plans and coverage that make sense for your budget, property and possessions.

Keep in mind that after a disaster strikes, you will need to list your possessions and verify any losses for an insurance claim. Taking a home inventory beforehand will make the process much easier.

Establish a Saving Strategy

Create an emergency fund with a goal of saving enough money for three to six months of regular expenses. It's best to keep your emergency fund separate from your regular savings account unless there's an extreme need. While this can be challenging for any family, households that have emergency budgets in place tend to be better prepared to face disaster. Any resources you can put away will help you be more resilient if the time comes.

Secure Your Home

Regular home maintenance can help protect against the dangers of natural disasters, such as flooding and hurricane-force winds. Cleaning gutters and drains, for example, can prevent water from col-

lecting around your home. You should also be sure you have a sump pump in good working order, and that your foundation and roof are in good condition. If a storm is in the forecast, clear your lawn of items that may be damaged, destroyed, lost, or cause damage to your home. You should also cover windows and shut off utilities. Many of these precautions can also protect against tornadoes, which can develop quickly and often arrive without warning.

Make Safety Upgrades

Before buying a particular house, you may want to consider the area's history of natural disasters, and take

stock of the home to ensure it's up to code and has the safety features needed to protect you and your family.

Whether you're a current or prospective homebuyer, you can reference in-

formation provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (known as FEMA) to help you assess which hazards could impact your home, and identify

• See PREPARE page 20

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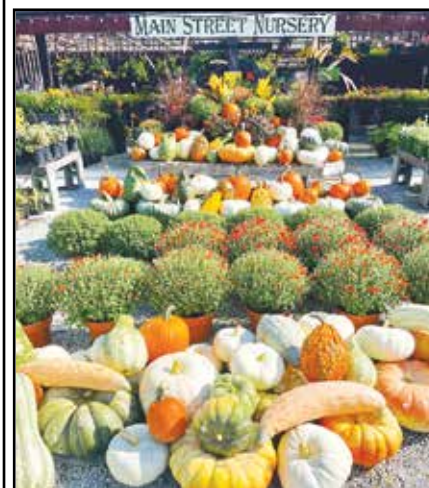
How to Prepare Physically and Financially for Severe Weather

(StatePoint) Severe weather can have a sizable impact on your home and your savings. Taking steps to prepare can help you maintain peace of mind should a hazard impact you. Fred-

die Mac offers the following preparation tips for homeowners:

Protect Your Investment

A home insurance policy is an important layer of protection, generally pro-



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...PREPARE

continued from

page 19

tify relevant safety upgrades that can strengthen its defenses. For example, earthquake damage may be mitigated by installing flexible gas line connections to prevent leaks and fires and by securing exterior structures like decks, porches, garages and carports. Homes at risk of storm surge could benefit from reinforced garage doors that can withstand water and high winds, storm shutters, high-impact glass windows, and flood-resistant insulation and flooring.

Depending on the scope of renovations, you may consider taking out a loan to cover the costs. There are a variety of refinance products available that allow you to leverage your home's value to fund renovations. Talk to your lender to find the right financing option for you.

For additional emergency preparation tips, check out Freddie Mac's collection of homeowner resources found at myhome.freddiemac.com.



The Church of the Incarnation's 1st place winning display.

The Dahlia Parade in living color

The Best of Show judges award and \$500 went to The Church of the Incarnation and their "Four Seasons of Learning" designed by Stephanie Reeves. Second place went to Anna Wear by Anna Herz, 3rd place to Secret Garden by Christy Curcuro.

Then there was the single bloom at the Bascom, which was almost twice as large as it has ever been.

There were 43 growers who entered, plus four professional growers. A total of 403 mesmerizing, dahlias of every color, (except blue), as small as golf balls and as big as dinner plates.

Many, many ribbons were awarded Best of Show in amateur Single Bloom went to Mary Dotson for her perfect Formal Decorative Salamander; she won Best of Show year before last also!



Judges 2nd place went to Anna Wear.



Judges 3rd place to Secret Garden.

PLANET
by Lauren G

pj harlow
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eva varro
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First place People's Choice went to Fern of Highlands.



Second place People's Choice went to The Secret Garden.



Third place People's Choice went to The Vineyard at High Holly.



Photo by John Dotson

The biggest winner at The Bascom display of dahlias was Mary Dotson who had 18 entries and 17 ribbons, including Best of Show.

Mark your calendars for next year's Dahlia Festival "Flower Power" Sept 7, 2024 with Steel Toe Stiletto's returning for that night's Music in the Park.

- Photos by Marty Boone

Read Highlands Newspaper for free from everywhere ... on the street or on the web. Go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on Local News. Delivered and uploaded every Thursday AM

Three Potters Symposium

Free to attend. Register online at TheBascom.org

Sept 29-30

Featuring Ceramic Artists: Joey Sheehan, Eric Knoche, and Will Dickert

Keynote by
Michael Sherrill

Sherrill is a nationally recognized and critically acclaimed artist who works in mixed media to create botanical sculptures that are celebrations of natural beauty and demonstrations of immense technical ability.



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HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NEW POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6-9:45a, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18 years old+, Mon.-Thurs 11a-1:30p; Public Swim Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ONGOING

• The "Kids Hike Highlands" trail passport program has been refreshed for the 2023

season. pick up a copy of the Kids Hike Highlands passport map at one of the four prize locations or you can download a copy at www.highlandsbiological.org.

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested

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On the corner of 3rd & Spring

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 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817 2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

Second Mondays

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

1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30pm at the Hudson Library.

2nd Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more info, call 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556

for more info.

Tuesdays

• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings. For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers - Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required - just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526 - 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Tues. & Thurs.

• Zumba class with Gay Chaplin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thurs-Sat. thru October

• Highlands Historical Society Museum at 320 N. 4th Street is open 10a to 4p.

Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open 10a-1p through October.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• Gentle Mat Yoga - Thursdays from 10-11 AM. Looking for greater strength? More flexibility? Time to focus on YOU? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience, Dana Thiele is here to lead you in gentle, yet highly beneficial yoga routines.

3rd Fridays

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to

Chestnut Hill,

a residential retirement community on a quiet mountain top in Highlands, NC, has spacious Assisted Living Apartments.

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For further information call Linda Tiffany at
828-526-5251 or 904-514-4896
www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8 p.m. through Sept. 3. 828-506-0125.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

Through October

• Mountain Findings, Highlands, 10-. Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Fri. Sept. 22

• At PAC, "Artrageous" at 7:30 p.m. For tickets go to Highlands PerformingArts.com. School performance is at 10 a.m.

Sat., Sept. 23

• Warriors Walk. Veterans and the public are invited to celebrate the second-year anniversary of 828Vets by gathering for the annual Warriors Walk on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Beginning at Franklin's Little Tennessee Greenway Tasseer Shelter, at 877 Ulco Drive, the walk will continue for approximately 828 meters along the Little Tennessee River on the Greenway in honor of local Veterans and all that the 828Vets organization has accomplished in the community. Walkers will return to Tasseer Shelter for food, fellowship, and fun. With a round-trip distance of about a mile, all are welcome to join this easy trek.

• The annual Mountain Monarch Festival will be at Gorges State Park, Sapphire, NC, Saturday from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. As the park lies along the monarch's migratory route, butterflies can be seen in late September annually flying over the park's visitor center on their way south to the high-elevation fir forests of Mexico's Neovolcanic Mountains, where they overwinter until early spring.

Sun., Sept. 24

• The 12th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser - a collaboration between the International Friendship Center and the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands to raise money for the Highlands Food Pantry. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://https://www.internationalfriendshipcenter.org/empty-bowls-2023>

or at the Highlands Food Pantry, on the bottom floor of the HUMC, accessible via Spring street, on Mon., Tues., and Thurs. 10a to 5p.

• PAC Educational Theater is starting a 7-month educational workshop. In person sign up is Sunday, at 2 PM. The program will start with workshops and then transition into rehearsals for full production of Oliver at the end of April. For children and adults.

Thurs., Sept. 28

• The annual Alpha Delta Pi "Alumni on the Mountain" luncheon at Wildcat Cliffs CC at 11:30 a.m. Gate Code is #3030. Mail your check for \$42 which is your reservation to Vesta Jones, 1420 Whiteside Mountain Road, Highlands, NC 28741. Please RSVP by sending check by Sept. 23. For more information, contact Emily Buskirk at 828-787-1015 or ebbuskirk@gmail.com.

Fri.-Sat., Sept. 29-30

• At The Bascom, Three Potters Symposium. Register at TheBascom.org.

Fri., Sept. 29

• Community Coffee with the Mayor at Hudson Library at 11 a.m., State legislators Representative Karl Gillespie and Senator Kevin Corbin will be there to discuss issues.

• Hudson Library is welcoming author Jeffrey Dale Lofton on Friday at 4 PM for a wine and cheese Books & Bites event. Jeffrey will be talking about his debut novel Red Clay Suzie.

Oct. 6-28

• "The Rocky Horror Show" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets www.mountaintheatre.com.

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 6-8

• Cashiers Valley Leaf Festival at The Village Green. A free 3-day festival featuring 90 artisan vendors spread throughout The Village Green park. The Leaf Festival will start on The hours are 10am - 5pm on Fri. and Sat., and 10am - 3pm on Sun.

Fri., Oct. 6

• The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center's annual fundraising banquet will be held Friday in the Faith & Fellowship Center of the Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main St, Highlands, NC. Guest speaker is author and recording artist Steven Holland, who will share his unusual and inspiring life story. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

to view raffle items donated from businesses in Highlands, dinner at 6. Please pre-register by October 1. Call 828-349-3200, or go to SmokyPartners.com.

Wed., Oct. 11

• The Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) signature fall event - its second-ever Carpenter Lecture. Established in honor of Sonya Carpenter, former director of HBF, the Carpenter Lecture series aims to educate our community about the environment while inspiring stewardship of the natural world. This year's program is in partnership with The Bascom: and will feature Florence Williams, acclaimed author of The Nature Fix, as she presents "Your Brain on Nature: Why Being Outside Makes Us Feel Happier, Healthier, and More Creative." 11 a.m. at The Bascom's covered terrace. Space is limited. To register go to www.highlandsbiological.org.

Thurs., Oct. 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will meet in the Macon County Library, on Siler Road in Franklin at 6 p.m. Norm & Rochelle Morris tell the true story of his (Jingles) AT hike from GA to ME while Rochelle

(SherpaShell) provides her support from the backroads in their camper van. All are welcome to participate in a FREE raffle! This program is co-sponsored by the library and NHC. <https://wildmansbooks.com/product/jingles-promise/>

Sat., Oct. 14

• A Hike on the Historic Kelsey Trail. The public is invited to join one of three groups of hikers, 25 in each, on the morning of Saturday. Shuttles to Whiteside will leave from Founders Park at 8:30, 9, and 9:30. The walk is mostly downhill from Whiteside, taking 4 hours, at a casual pace. Water and snack bars will be provided along the trail. As a fundraiser for the Highlands Plateau Greenway, a \$75 donation is requested from each hiker in support of the Greenway trail system of the town of Highlands. Register at www.highlandsgreenway.com.

Tues, Oct. 17

• Highlanders for Good Government is sponsoring a Candidate Forum in the Community Building at 7 p.m. It will be two hours long will have six subjects to be asked by moderators. Public can send their questions, concerns or comments to info@highlandersforgoodgovernment.com.



Family Classes at Scaly Mountain Crafters

Pen Turning Class

Learn how to make your own wooden pen!

Choose from 5 different pen styles. Cost: \$40-50 per person and includes laser engraving.

Bird House/Bird Feeder & Bat House Classes

Learn how to make a Bird House,

Bird Feeder or Bat House!

Choose from 5 different Bird House styles, 2 different Bird Feeder styles or a Bat House.

Cost: \$20-\$45 per person

Call 828-526-8800 or email scalymtncrafters@gmail.com to schedule a class!

Each class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.



Oct. 6-28

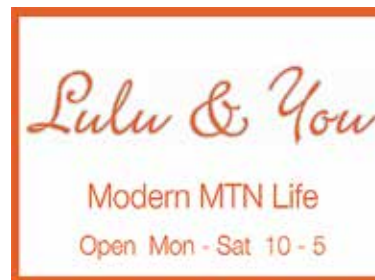
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142 HWY 107, Cashiers, NC 28717 • 828-482-5011 • Open Year Round

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS •



High School Boys Soccer

Inman Ahrens, Aiden Crook, Aiden Dendy, Blaine Dendy, Finn Garner, Landon Green, Cooper Hall, JD Head, Connor Huges, Bryan Jarquin, Chase Kenter, Henry Lopez, Kris Maglioca, Aniah McKim, Paolo McRae, Jesus Mendoza, Peyton Naron, Stephen Pierson, Jim Rex,

Photos by Highlands School Yearbook Staff



Varsity High School Volleyball

Olivia Cole, Olivia Corbin, Catelynn Couch, Karen Gomez, Aislynn Wyatt-Luck, Cayden Pierson, Mallory Shriver, Caitlin Tingen.



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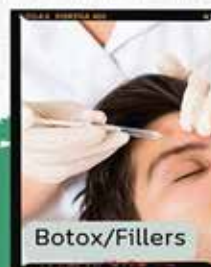
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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS •



JV High School Volleyball

Jordyn Borino, Katie Earp, Sadie Green, Taylor Hays, Shirley Diaz-Ovando, Birdie Sherwood, Hannah Valerio, Charlotte Westendorf, AE Woods, Claire Worley.



High School Cross Country

Francisco Gooch, Claire Worley, and not pictured: Jim Rex.



Girls High School Golf Team

Brooke Fogarty, Anna Maria Silverthorn and Evangeline Silverthorn.



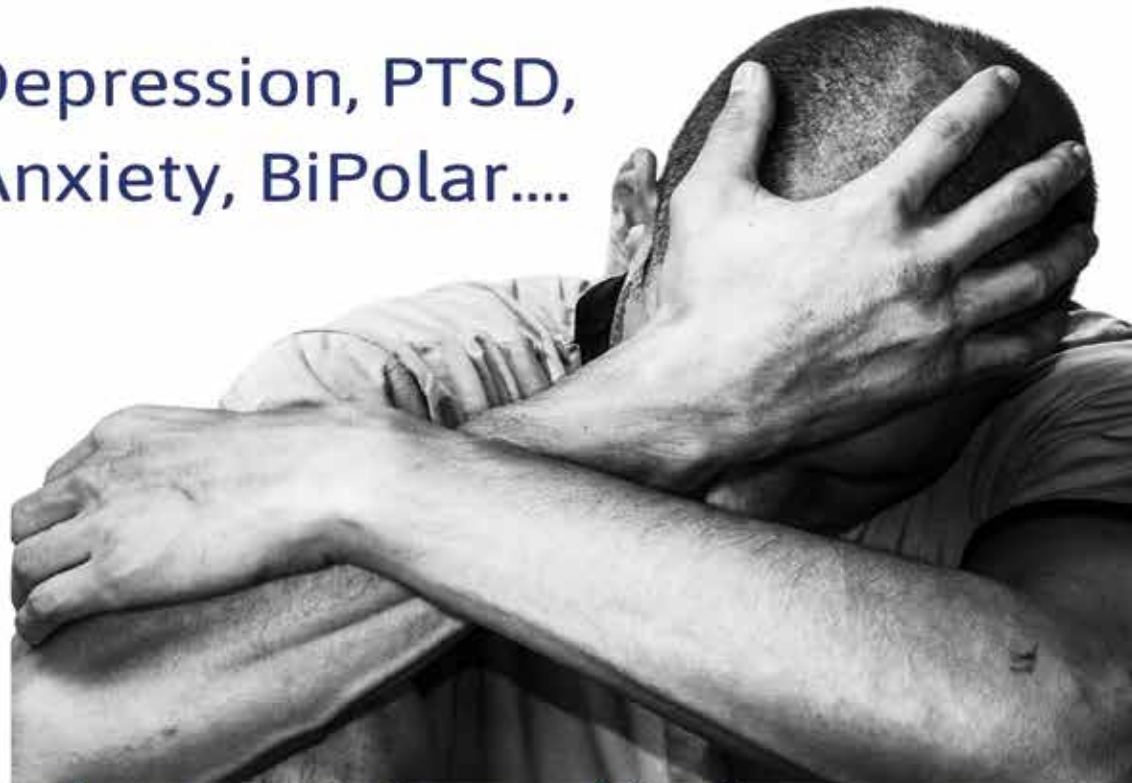
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
Methodist Church

Letting Go

Autumn officially arrives this weekend. However this week's delightfully cool mornings in Highlands have served notice that fall is chomping at the bit to get started. Some leaves are changing color and some have probably already landed in your yard. Welcome fall!

For much of my adult life, fall has been my favorite season of the year. No disrespect to winter, spring or summer, but for my money it's just hard to beat a crisp autumn morning and the beauty of the colors that will soon be on full display. And with the breathtaking views here in the mountains of Western North Carolina, we have a front-row seat to some of the Almighty's most extravagantly gorgeous handiwork.

In addition to all the aromas, sights and tastes of the season that delight my senses, the adult version of myself has grown to appreciate more fully the seasonal rhythms of God's good creation, specifically the message that autumn annually brings. Even as we enjoy the brilliant colors that will soon thrill us all, residents and visiting leaf-lookers alike, we know the changing of the colors will precede the trees' annual letting go of the leaves.

Through the years I've come to appreciate autumn's gentle rhythmic message of letting go. Every year when late September rolls around I find myself pondering the importance of paying attention to the season's subtle invitation.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the call of the first disciples. In both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, when Jesus calls the fishermen Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, they immediately leave their nets and follow him. It seems to me that's a really good object lesson in letting go. Imagine how silly they would have looked trying to follow Jesus while dragging their nets behind them!

For the contemplative and reflective folks of faith among us, autumn invites us to consider the things in our lives we've perhaps been holding onto too long. I suspect most of us have held onto our share of unhealthy practices or attitudes in different seasons of our lives. Maybe we've held onto anger or bitterness over a past wound, with the refusal to forgive forming a spiritual ulcer in our souls.

Perhaps we've allowed ourselves to become much too comfortable with our prejudices. Maybe there are harmful attitudes and behaviors of which we need to let go. We're all pretty adept at the art of justifying our self-perceived stellar opinions, and susceptible to engage in

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore. Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 28717
www.christanglicancashiers.com

9:30am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship Service. Mon. Night

Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am. S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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

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

Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &

Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

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

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

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

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguenc.com.

Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for

schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar Barn is open Fri. & Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Aug. 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Aug. 1

• At 4:10 p.m., items were reported missing from the drop off at Mountain Findings.

Sept. 2

• Julian Vilardo, 33, of Franklin, was arrested for DUI when he was pulled over for speeding and driving left of center on US 64 east. He was issued a \$800 secured bond. His trial date is Nov. 8.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Sept. 11

Sept. 11

• At 7:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ridge Lake Circle.

• At 1:52 p.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 12

• At 11:57 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hummingbird Lane.

• At 7:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Chestnut Hill Drive.

Sept. 13

• At 10:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Chestnut Hill Drive.

Sept. 14

• At 8:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Chestnut Hill Drive.

• At 1:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Court.

• At 10:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Johnwood Road.

Sept. 15

• At 7:37 p.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a call of a power line down on Ridge Drive.

Sept. 16

• A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Talley Road.

• At 9:52 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on BlueValley Road.

• At 12:06 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Turtle Pond Road.

• At 7:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an electrical fire at a residence on Walhalla Road.

• At 8:30 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Main Street.

Sept. 18

• At 1:54 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Johnwood Road.

• At 8:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Owl Gap Road.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

the toxic tendency to demean, diminish or discount those who disagree with us. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pointed out the absurdity of fixating on the speck in our neighbor's eye while failing to notice the sequoia in our own. Ouch!

I think the most helpful thing is for each of us to be open to the possibilities in our own lives. My list is my list. Your list

in your list. My simple invitation is to consider what these delightful autumn days may teach us if we pay attention, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear. Are there life-draining things we're holding onto with white-knuckled fervor that are negatively impacting us, inhibiting our ability to live faithful, fruitful and flourishing lives? Are there attitudes and behaviors that are inconsistent with Jesus'

command to love God and our neighbor?

Are there nets we should have left in the boat? Could God be calling us to loosen our grip on some things? Is there a need for some letting go in our lives? Just a little something to ponder, while sipping your pumpkin spice latte on the back porch tomorrow morning.

• OBITUARY •

Dennie 'Danny' Allen Davis



Dennie "Danny" Allen Davis, 81, passed away, Friday, September 15, 2023. Mr. Davis was born September 21, 1942, in Christian, Co. KY. to the late Wilford "Dutch" Davis and Ruth Woodruff Davis. Danny worked and retired from UPS after 30 years of service and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. Mr. Davis was a Deacon and a very active member of Highlands First Baptist Church. He was an avid fly fisherman and loved woodworking.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Marie Davis of the home; two daughters, Lori Flowers (Van) of Lebanon, TN. and

Lisa Oberst (Dan) of Bowling Green, KY; and three grandchil-

dren, Georgia Flowers, Davis Oberst, and Danielle Oberst.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Davis is preceded in death by three siblings, Cora Ann Davis, Velma Cox, and Jr. Davis.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks all memorials go to Highlands First Baptist Church, 220 Main St. Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com

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Highlands Festival pays it forward

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, members of Highlands Festivals, Inc., the non-profit organization that produces both the Highlands Food & Wine Festival and Bear Shadow music festival, donated \$20,000 to the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue. The donation represents a significant portion of proceeds from this year's Bear Shadow music festival and is part of Highlands Festivals, Inc.'s ongoing commitment to the environmental conservation and preservation of The Highlands Plateau. Additional proceeds will be donated to the Resource Institute.



Pictured from left: Debra Marlow, Jeff Marlow, Fire Chief Ken Sigler, Asst. Fire Chief Jamie Chastain, David Bock, Debi Bock, and Steve Mehder.

Rotary hears about the dramatic life story about a portrait of George Washington

Lauren Hall, Conservator in the US Office of Cultural Heritage in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, has a job that takes her all over the world, focusing on the conservation of significant objects owned by the US Department of State.

The Office of Cultural Heritage was established to care for Department of state-owned culturally significant properties and heritage collections located overseas. The office's two primary programs are preservation of built heritage, sites and structures; and curation and care of movable objects. Currently there are 266 properties and a collection of objects appraised at over \$310 million.

Recently Hall told Rotary Club of Highlands members the fascinating story of proving the provenance of a portrait of George Washington, attributed to Charles Willson



From left: Dave O'Harra, Rotary Club of Highlands President; Lauren Reynolds Hall, Conservator, U.S. Department of State; Mayor Pat Taylor, Host

Peale, 1779.

Also known as the "Laurens-Albemarle portrait" this nearly life size, full-length portrait depicts Washington calmly leaning on a cannon on the battlefield at Princeton. The dramatic "life story" of the painting included a capture on the high seas during the Revolution, a 146-year "hiatus" in East Sus-

sex, England, and forensic analysis including an x-ray examination at the Louvre's conservation lab.

Eventually the provenance of this inscrutable portrait, originally intended as a diplomatic gift for the Dutch, was proven and it now welcomes visitors at the US ambassador's home in Paris.

Member Chmar entertains Rotary with tales of Antarctica

The Rotary Club of Highlands was pleased to hear from one of our own members this week, retired Air Force Colonel Mark Chmar on his recent cruise to Antarctica.

Mark and his wife Janet boarded the Viking Polaris cruise ship in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Mark explained to the club that there are several ways of exploring Ant-

arctica and the different types and sizes of ship available for the experience. They chose a ship that is smaller and capable of getting closer in and with less than 400 passengers as opposed to some of the ships that can carry thousands. And interestingly, we learned that only 100 people can be visiting the continent at one time. This requires a lot of planning and coor-

dination between all the ships and excursions that visit Antarctica.

Mark came equipped with slides of amazing wildlife like seals, several different varieties of penguins, birds, and of course whales. His photos also captured beautiful scenery of icebergs and the rugged land that is Antarctica.

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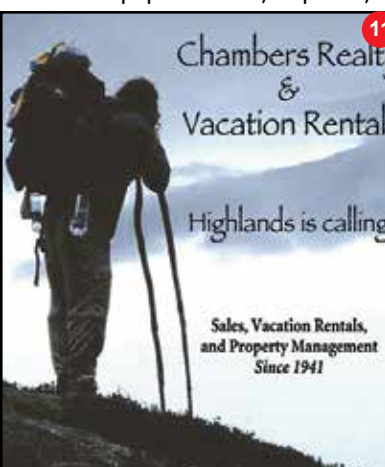
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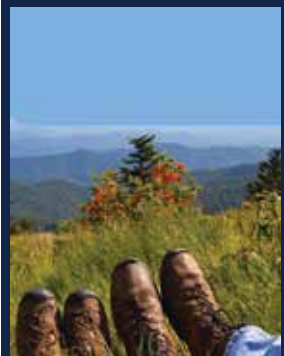
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